BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

PROGRAM BRIEF

JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION PROGRAM

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) promotes innovative cross-system collaboration. Awards from $100,000 to $750,000 are available for planning, training, partnerships, technology, and other activities. Visit www.bja.gov to learn about funding opportunities.

What is JMHCP?

The goal of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program is to support cross-system collaboration among law enforcement and behavioral health providers to improve responses and outcomes for people who have mental illnesses (MI) or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse (CMISA) who come into contact with the justice system. The program promotes officer and public safety through the coordination of system resources for people who are accessing multiple services, including hospital emergency departments, jails, and mental health crisis services. JMHCP also promotes cross-discipline training for justice and treatment professionals; and facilitates communication, collaboration, and the delivery of support services among justice professionals and treatment and related service providers. For fiscal year (FY) 2018, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is providing support for systemwide improvements in policies and practices at the local and state levels.

Since FY 2006, BJA has awarded more than $98 million to 435 jurisdictions.

JMHCP Grant Award Categories and Examples of Grantees

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<tr>
<th>Category 1: Collaborative County Approaches to Reduce the Prevalence of Individuals with Serious Mental Illness in Jails</th>
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<tr>
<td>The objectives are to increase and maintain jail capacity for people being held for violent offenses and to develop a systemwide, coordinated approach to safely reduce the prevalence of low-risk individuals with MI and CMISA in local jails.</td>
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<th>Category 2: Strategic Planning for Police and Mental Health Collaboration</th>
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<td>The objectives are to free up law enforcement time to focus on responding to violent crime and to improve officer and public safety during calls for service involving people with MI and CMISA.</td>
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<th>Category 3: Implementation and Expansion</th>
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<td>The objective is to increase public safety and reduce recidivism among high-risk people with MI and CMISA. Category 3 grants can support law enforcement, prosecution, court-based programs, and corrections-based programs.</td>
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How Can JMHCP Help You?

JMHCP provides grants and technical assistance to states, local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes. Projects must be jointly administered by a criminal or juvenile justice agency and a mental health agency. In FY 2017, JMHCP grantees achieved the following successes:

- Fifty-four percent of mental health calls for service were responded to by a specialty trained officer.
- A total of 5,436 new participants were served from October 2016 to September 2017.
- A total of 18,062 people were diverted from the criminal justice system into the appropriate treatment/diversion programs, compared to 494 who were arrested (for the JMHCP programs that provide direct services).
- As of September 2017, 23 jurisdictions received JMHCP funding to train their law enforcement and other staff members.

JMHCP Partners

Criminal Justice Agencies
Partner with mental health agencies to increase access to appropriate community-based treatment.

- Promote universal screening and assessment for mental illness and substance abuse (along with criminogenic risk and needs) and use of validated assessments to inform decisions.
- Train staff and officers on recognizing and responding to indications of mental health and criminogenic needs.
- Strengthen health and community partnerships to promote connections to health care services.

Mental Health Agencies
Partner with criminal justice agencies to provide treatment and alternatives to incarceration.

- Employ case plans and referrals in coordination with supervision agencies.
- Deliver evidence-based treatment models tailored to meet assessed needs.
- Assess and enhance treatment capacity and quality and level of treatment.

Policymakers

Promote development and implementation of systemwide changes.

- Establish leadership structures and processes for strengthening and sustaining cross-system collaboration.
- Identify policy options to address gaps in services or areas for program improvement.
- Expand diversion and reentry programming to minimize contact or deeper involvement by people who have MI or CMISA in the criminal justice system.

Researchers

- Support JMHCP-awarded agencies with data analysis and evaluations to inform programs and policies.
- Analyze local data and document how people who have MI or CMISA move through the justice system.
- Conduct a local evaluation of an existing, collaborative criminal justice-mental health program.

Endnote


ABOUT BJA

BJA helps to make American communities safer by strengthening the nation’s criminal justice system: Its grants, training and technical assistance, and policy development services provide state, local, and tribal governments with the cutting-edge tools and best practices they need to reduce violent and drug-related crime, support law enforcement, and combat victimization. To learn more about BJA, visit www.bja.gov or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs.