



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

BYRNE-JAG PURPOSE AREAS 2022-24

A. Multi-jurisdictional Task Forces

OPM seeks to award Byrne JAG funds to assist with stipends, overtime, or other personnel costs incurred by state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies that participate in multi-jurisdictional task forces aiming to prevent and reduce any of the following: gun violence; trafficking of illegal firearms, ghost guns, and narcotics; motor vehicle theft; violent crime; and other crime challenges.

Objectives

1. Fund active and ongoing multi-jurisdictional task forces tasked with the projects listed above.
2. Track outcomes from funded taskforces and provide added support to successful projects.
3. Assist in the initial setup of multi-jurisdictional task forces receiving Byrne JAG.

B. Community Gun Violence Reduction Strategies

Provide state-level support and coordination to local strategies and regional partnerships to reduce community violence

Objectives

1. Collect, analyze, and report more real-time data involving crime, arrest, and other front-end criminal justice system information;
2. Engage law enforcement, community organizations, and other stakeholders in cities and neighborhoods with heightened or rising levels of violence to identify factors contributing to the increased violence and to implement effective strategies to intervene, reduce, and prevent;
3. Coordinate Byrne JAG funds in conjunction with other available state and federal grants to support data-driven, evidence-based community violence intervention strategies;
4. Assess needs for prevention programs and services, particularly involving those serving youth, to make investments to avoid juvenile justice system involvement and victimization; and



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5. Track outcomes from interventions and provide added support to successful interventions.

C. Criminal Court Accumulated Cases

Contribute to efforts to reduce the number of criminal cases that have accumulated since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and help the criminal justice system prepare to manage anticipated increases in future cases.

Objectives

1. Monitor data involving criminal justice system data, including arrests, arraignments, Department of Correction (DOC) pretrial admissions, and admissions to the DOC sentenced population, and engage stakeholders through the CJPAC and other boards and commissions;
2. Support and coordinate inter-branch efforts among prosecutors, public defenders, the courts, and other criminal justice system stakeholders to help resolve accumulated cases;
3. Provide resources and assistance to strategies to utilize pretrial services, supervision, diversion programs, and other options to provide tailored responses to people with pending cases; and
4. Analyze and document effective outcomes from these efforts and inform further criminal justice system improvements.

D. Use of Technology and Data to improve Victim services and Increase Public Safety

Support expanded innovation using technology and data to deliver improved and expanded services to victims and to help law enforcement investigate cases.

Objectives

1. Assess both gaps in and successful utilization of technology and data systems with emphasis on victim services and law enforcement since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. Identify case studies in which technology helped service providers reach victims using technology during periods of sheltering in place and social distancing and maintain essential operations despite disruptions caused by the pandemic;
3. Apply similar analysis to state and local law enforcement use of technology, such as National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) machines to analyze bullet



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shell casings and rapid DNA analysis, to carry out investigations, especially those related to gun violence; and

4. Use needs identified during the pandemic to inform support with technology and data needs and help inform future investments.

E. Improved Outcomes for People with Behavioral Health Needs in the Criminal Justice System

Expand strategies to divert people with behavioral health needs and low-level charges to effective community treatment as needed.

Objectives

1. Contribute to the analysis of data to identify rates of people with assessed behavioral health needs who enter the criminal justice system with low-level charges;
2. Support efforts within judicial districts with higher relative rates of people with behavioral health needs with convening stakeholders around strategies to improve public health and safety outcomes; and
3. Support the implementation of strategies, including expansion of diversion programs, to connect suitable populations swiftly to effective treatment.

F. Workforce Development Strategies for People with Criminal Records

Improve employment outcomes for people returning to the community following incarceration.

Objectives

1. Partner with state-level efforts under the US DOJ Adult Reentry and Employment Services (ARES) grant, Connecticut Governor's Workforce Council, and other workforce-development efforts to support people returning the community seeking long-term, meaningful employment;
2. Engage stakeholders, such as employers through Industry Business Advisory Group convened in Connecticut under the ARES grant, to receive recommendations on strategies to improve employment outcomes among people with criminal records and to help highlight the advantages of hiring from this applicant pool.