



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION

Meeting Minutes

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for Local Governments

January 27th, 2017

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Room 2A at OPM, 450 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT

Purpose of the Meeting: Discuss allocation of federal grant funds to be distributed to local governments for purpose of law enforcement response to violent crime.

OPM provided an overview of the federal **Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) State Formula program**. **The JAG grant is a federal formula grant based on the state's population and violent crime rate.** OPM is the state administrative agency (SAA) for Connecticut's JAG Grant. Federal regulations require the state to "**pass-through**" 36% of its JAG grant to local governments. This pass-through component is known as **JAG Variable Local Pass-Through (VPT)**. The state must also allocate funds to local jurisdictions under the "**Less Than 10K (LT10K)**" category. The annual JAG VPT & LT10K allocation is relatively small. So, several years of accumulated federal funds are combined for distribution state-wide in 2-3 year cycles. The federal agency has a separate JAG grant program, **the Direct Local JAG**, which awards federal funds directly to high crime jurisdiction based on violent crime data. In FY14-16, seventeen Connecticut cities received Direct Local Jag awards.

In accordance with federal program regulations, **\$2,278,460 JAG funds** are available within two eligibility categories; the federal agency defines the type of eligible recipients and determines the funding levels:

- **\$1,767,000 JAG VPT (Variable Local Pass-Through):** Eligible recipients are local governments with organized police departments. **Excludes** state police patrol towns and resident state trooper (RST) towns.
- **\$511,460 JAG Less-Than 10K (LT10K):** Eligible recipients are local governments with organized police departments (93), state police patrol towns (26) and Resident State Trooper (54) towns. Excludes larger cities and towns which received **Direct Local JAG** funding.

OPM reviewed three options for allocation of funds to local organized police departments: Option A, B and C.

Option A and C have the same set of local police department recipients except Option C is based on a higher allocation of funds to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) State-wide Narcotics Task Force (SNTF) Stipend pool. The purpose of the SNTF Stipend pool is to provide funding to local police departments so that local officers may participate in the State-wide Narcotics Task Force.

Option B is based on a competitive grant process for regional projects. The group commented the regional approach would require a complex administrative structure to manage cross-jurisdictional operations and financial transactions. The group commented it wouldn't make sense to invest resources in building the administrative capacity for a small one-time funding grant.

The representatives from Groton noted an error in the allocation sheets and requested correction. OPM will revise the allocation sheets to indicate three separate allocations for Groton town, Groton city and Groton Long Point.

DESPP provided a brief overview of a \$1.5 million grant from the USDOJ COPS Office to support an Anti-Heroin Task Force. The federal agency requires recipients of federal grants to coordinate and leverage federal funds available from multiple federal programs. The DESPP Anti-Heroin grant will support state police enforcement and training activities which are not addressed through the JAG grant program.

The group indicated support for Option C to allocate \$1,767,000 JAG VPT funds to local organized municipal police departments (PDs) and \$300,079 VPT funds to the SNTF Stipend pool. Consistent with past practice, OPM will pass the Stipends funds to DESPP to pay out stipends to local PDs. The stipend will re-imburse the local PD for assigning an officer to SNTF operations. DESPP determines the "per officer" re-imburement level. During the past few years, the stipend ranged from \$850 to \$1,500 per officer depending on availability of funds. DESPP has an active JAG Stipend grant (\$136,000) for period of January 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017. The proposed allocation for \$300,079 JAG VPT funds for SNTF Stipends has a 21-month grant period October 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. If the federal JAG program remains "as is" under the new USDOJ administration, there will be no JAG VPT funds available for distribution to CT local PDs and SNTF Stipend pool until February 2021.

OPM will establish a 6-month grant period for lower-crime towns (2 Year VCR<3 per 1,000 pop.). The higher crime towns will have a 12 month grant period given the higher allocation level and possibly more complex projects.

The group discussed the "Less than 10K" (LT10K) category of funds- \$511,460. The federal rules exclude Direct Local JAG recipients from the LT10K category but includes towns receiving services from state police (patrol towns and resident state trooper towns) as well as the towns with organized PDs. OPM suggested allocating approx. 50% of the LT10K funds to the lower crime local organized police departments (PDs) (2 Year VCR<3 per 1,000 pop.) and 50% to towns with state police as the primary law enforcement agency.

OPM reviewed the federal policies and mandates pertaining to JAG funded equipment and technology. JAG funded equipment and technology must directly support the goal of the federal grant program—reduction in violent crime. OPM distributed a list of federally prohibited equipment and federally controlled equipment.

OPM will prepare a list of eligible equipment and technology based on local PD's expenditures from the previous JAG funding cycle as well as federal agency guidance and mandates. JAG funded purchases are limited to the equipment on the eligibility list. Equipment with no direct connection to violent crime reduction is not eligible for the list. For example, traffic cones, uniforms, boots, defibrillator, television, projectors, screens, ice machine, coolers and building security systems are not JAG eligible. Officer-worn body camera systems are not eligible for JAG funds given that state bond funds are available for the body cameras and storage systems.

OPM will ask the Connecticut Police Chief Association (CPCA) assistance in drafting statements to justify each piece of equipment/technology as a tool for violent crime reduction. This will help local PDs avoid administrative burden of drafting statements individually and expedite the grant application process.

Next steps;

1. OPM will revise the OPTION C allocation table.
2. CPCA Board will review the allocation plan at their upcoming meeting and forward comments to OPM.
3. OPM will work with DESPP to develop LT10K allocations for resident state trooper towns.
4. OPM will prepare a list of eligible equipment.
5. CPCA will review the list of eligible equipment and provide comment on purpose of equipment with regard to violent crime reduction.
6. OPM will release the grant application package by April 1, 2017 for higher-crime town applicants.
7. OPM will release the grant application package by July 1, 2017 for lower-crime town applicants.

Meeting Participants

Michael Colavolpe, Wallingford Police Department
Kathryn Dube, Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Paul Gately, Groton Town Police Department
Michael Lawlor, Office of Policy and Management
Michael Lombardo, Trumbull Police Department
Mike Muszynski, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities
Mike Perruccio, West Hartford Police Department
Arielle Reich, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
David Rosado, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
John Salvatore, Connecticut Police Chief Association
Lisa Secondo, Office of Policy and Management
Steven Sinagra, Groton Town Police Department