

# 2021 BYRNE JAG STATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Connecticut's Proposal Narrative

DRAFT



Submitted by:  
**State of Connecticut**  
**Office of Policy & Management**  
**Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division**

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## **I. Introduction**

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) is the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The Byrne JAG Program provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives and mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams.

The State of Connecticut has a centralized and unified criminal justice system. Connecticut is divided into 169 municipalities. There is no county government. There is no overlap of functions such as might arise with county government or a multi-tier court system. The Judicial Branch operates a single tier, unified court system with an intermediate appellate court and a supreme court. Except for local police services in the larger communities, all criminal justice functions are provided by state agencies.

All the criminal justice formula grant programs emanating from the U. S. Department of Justice, except the Victims of Crime Act, are administered by the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM CJPPD). The Office of Policy and Management, the state administrative agency (SAA) for the Byrne JAG grant, is well positioned to coordinate the Byrne JAG Grant activities with other federal and state initiatives given that it is the state's budget and planning agency.

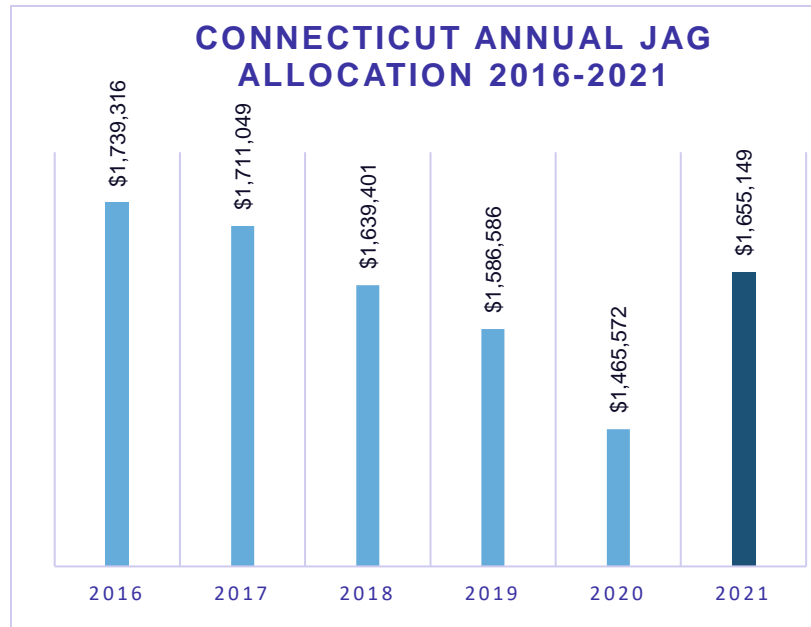
In addition to serving as the SAA for the Byrne JAG grant, OPM CJPPD is statutorily required to develop strategic plans to improve the outcomes and operation of the criminal justice system. OPM CJPPD collaborates with the state criminal justice agencies and local governments in assessing and analyzing existing functions and identifying opportunities for improvements in services to promote greater public safety. The OPM CJPPD Undersecretary serves as the chair of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC). By statute (Sec. 4. Section 18-87j), the CJPAC is directed to:

1. Develop and recommend policies for preventing prison and jail overcrowding;
2. Examine the impact of statutory provisions and current administrative policies on prison and jail overcrowding and recommend legislation to the Governor and the General Assembly;
3. Research and gather relevant statistical data and other information concerning the impact of efforts to prevent prison and jail overcrowding and make such information available to criminal justice agencies and members of the General Assembly; and
4. Advise the undersecretary of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division on policies and procedures to promote more effective and cohesive state criminal

justice and juvenile justice systems and to develop and implement the offender reentry strategy.

## A. Historical use of Funds

Connecticut's allocation of its annual Byrne JAG award of between \$1.6 and \$1.7 million dollars is generally dependent upon an analysis of: the agency or entity requesting funding, the nature of the project being proposed, whether and how project performance metrics can be adequately measured, and the decision point at which the criminal justice system will be measurably impacted through increased process flow efficiencies, sustainable cost reductions, and safe, effective diversion from the criminal system.



Those allocation decisions may be further impacted by current criminal justice priorities, current or unforeseen crime events, federal mandates, issue areas and priorities emanating from the Connecticut General Assembly, or recommendations from the wide variety of criminal justice policy and planning groups that are meeting regularly to examine criminal justice issues in Connecticut. Particularly in CJPAC, which the OPM CJPPD staffs and the undersecretary chairs.

OPM CJPPD holds a unique place in the Connecticut criminal justice system owing to its enabling legislation in 2005 (see Public Act 05-249 and codified in Sec. 4-68m through 4-68r of the Connecticut General Statutes). OPM CJPPD has been given deep and broad statutory authority and mandates to coordinate criminal justice policy, planning and data collection activities across the Executive and Judicial branches of government.

To help Connecticut remain a national leader in its data-driven criminal justice policy, statutory mandates structure OPM CJPPD's planning and program evaluation analyses consisting of producing: a monthly indicator document of system variables (which have been tracked since 2006), an annual prison population forecast report, and an annual recidivism study of Connecticut offender, among other reports.

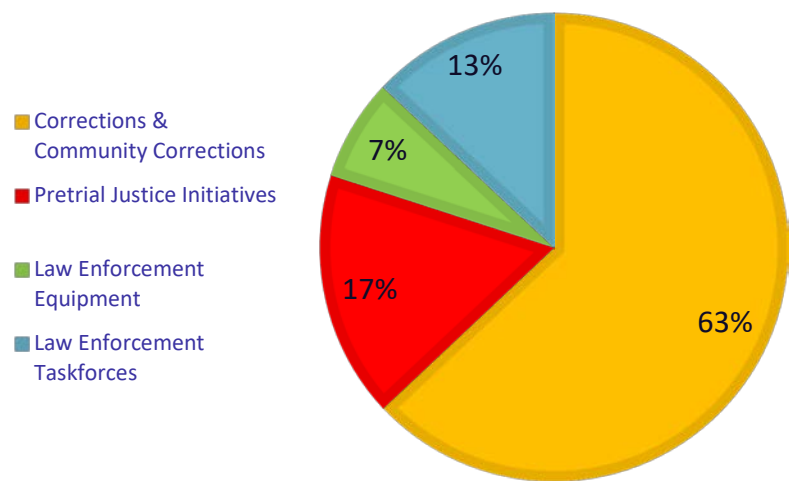
## B. Funding Priorities

Byrne JAG funds may be used to support the eight priority areas listed below. The first three areas listed reflect the major components of the criminal justice system: law enforcement, courts, and corrections. The remaining five reflect types of programs, practices, or initiatives that can be supported at the state or local level.

### Byrne JAG Priority Areas

1. Law enforcement programs
2. Prosecution and court programs, including indigent defense
3. Corrections, community corrections and reentry programs
4. Prevention and education programs
5. Drug treatment and enforcement programs
6. Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs
7. Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation)
8. Mental health programs and services

**CONNECTICUT'S BYRNE JAG INVESTMENTS  
BY PROJECT TYPE  
(2016-2020)**



From FFY 2016-2020, the state sought to allocate 80% of state-level discretionary funding to the “Corrections, Community Corrections” and “Pretrial Justice Initiatives” categories, and 20% toward a combination of the two law enforcement-based programs (equipment and task forces). Since 2017, due to litigation involving immigration-related conditions attached to Byrne JAG funds, the state has been unable to accept funding under this grant program and therefore complete projects highlighted in previous strategic plans. Following a change in policy instituted by the Biden-Harris Administration in May 2021, OPM CJPPD has worked with its partners at the US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and other to prepare the needed documentation to accept these retroactive awards, however. Table 1 below highlights the purpose areas the state seeks to fund with its FFY 2021 Byrne JAG allocation.



**Table 1: Connecticut Purpose Areas**

<b>Program Description</b>	<b>Byrne JAG Priority Area</b>	<b>Program Description</b>
<b>Community gun violence reduction strategies</b>	Law enforcement programs and Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation)	Provide state-level support and coordination to local strategies and regional partnerships to reduce community gun violence
<b>Criminal court case backlog</b>	Prosecution and court programs, including indigent defense and Corrections, community corrections and reentry programs	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.
<b>Use of technology and data to improve victim services and increase public safety</b>	Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation) and law enforcement programs	Support expanded innovation using technology and data to deliver improved and expanded services to victims and to help law enforcement investigate cases.
<b>Improved outcomes for people with mental health needs in the criminal justice system</b>	Mental health programs and services	Expand strategies to divert people with mental health needs and low-level charges to effective community treatment as needed.
<b>Workforce development strategies for people with criminal records</b>	Corrections, community corrections and reentry programs	Improve employment outcomes for people returning to the community following incarceration.

## **II. Priority Byrne JAG Policy, Planning and Program Areas**

### **A. Introduction**

Connecticut will use federal Byrne JAG grant funds to analyze, evaluate, and implement evidenced based programming to address one or more of the following activities relative to improving and enhancing the Connecticut criminal justice system:

1. Advise and assist the General Assembly in developing plans, programs for improving the effectiveness of the Connecticut criminal justice system;
2. Determine the long-range needs of the Connecticut criminal justice system and recommend policy priorities for the system;
3. Identify critical problems in the Connecticut criminal justice system and recommend strategies to solve those problems;
4. Determine long-range information needs of the Connecticut criminal justice system and acquire that information;
5. Analyze and assess the cost-effectiveness of the use of state and local funds in the Connecticut criminal justice system;
6. Provide for the support of victim advocacy and enhanced victim resources to provide more transparent and understandable information
7. Fund, analyze , evaluate and measure the success of community-based services and programs in reducing recidivism in the Connecticut criminal justice system;
8. Fund, analyze, evaluate and measure services and programs to build and implement a comprehensive reentry strategy for Connecticut criminal justice system;
9. Fund, analyze, evaluate and measure services and programs to address the opioid and heroin addiction epidemic within the Connecticut Criminal Justice system, with a focus on fentanyl detection;
10. Fund, analyze, evaluate and measure services and programs in the criminal justice system to address the COVID-19-pandemic, to the extent that there are needs beyond what can be covered by the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding grant;
11. Fund, analyze , evaluate and measure services and programs to ensure community safety and prevent gun violence through the support of multi-jurisdictional Task Forces to ensure community safety and prevent gun violence

through enforcement of firearms laws and reduction in trafficking of illegal firearms; support evidence-based gun violence intervention and prevention strategies;

12. Fund, analyze, evaluate and measure services and programs to address the National Incident- Based Reporting System (NIBRS) promulgated by the FBI in order to achieve compliance by the nation Year 2020 deadline.

## **B. Program Areas: Objectives & Analysis**

**Program Priority 1:** Provide state-level support and coordination to local strategies and regional partnerships to reduce community gun violence

**BJA Area of Emphasis:** *Community Violence Intervention*

### **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; and
4. Track outcomes from interventions and provide added support to successful interventions.

**Program Priority 2:** 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.

**BJA Area of Emphasis:** *Sustaining COVID-19 Criminal Justice Innovations*

### **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.

**Program Priority 3:** Support expanded innovation using technology and data to deliver improved and expanded services to victims and to help law enforcement investigate cases.

***BJA Area of Emphasis: Sustaining COVID-19 Criminal Justice Innovations***

**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 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.

**Program Priority 4:** Expand strategies to divert people with mental 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 mental 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 mental 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.

**Program Priority 5:** Improve employment outcomes for people returning to the community following incarceration.

## **Objectives**

1. Partner with state-level efforts under the BJA 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; and
3. Assist ongoing efforts and contribute to additional areas where needed.

## **III. Capabilities and Competencies**

### **A. Introduction**

OPM CJPPD is responsible for planning interagency programs and coordinating policy development initiatives to improve Connecticut's criminal justice system and enhance community safety. It plans and manages the allocation of federal grant funds to support initiatives and projects that use a coordinated multi-disciplinary approach to ensure victim safety, improve offender accountability and reduce re-victimization.

OPM CJPPD has the experience required to oversee the administrative aspects of this grant. The division is the SAA for numerous federal grants, including the Violence Against Women (STOP) Grant, the Sexual Assault Services Program Grant (SASP), the Sex

Offender Registry Notification Act (SORNA) grant, the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Grant, and the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) Grant. Staff have knowledge and experience in collaborating with teams, designing programs, collecting data, and implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the use of federal funds. In order to create the best plan for the Byrne JAG dollars, the division will engage criminal justice system stakeholders and utilize evidence-informed approaches.

## **B. Criminal Justice System Stakeholder Involvement**

Many criminal justice stakeholder policy and planning groups meet regularly to analyze and evaluate Connecticut's criminal justice system from unique and alternative points of view. Project proposals for the use of Byrne JAG funds can emanate from the deliberations of these statewide criminal justice policy and planning groups.

Coordination of Byrne JAG funding will engage these existing criminal justice stakeholder groups, including those involved in the CJPAC. CJPAC agencies and organizations include the Department of Correction, the Judicial Branch, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Division of Public Defender Services, the Division of Criminal Justice, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Connecticut's allocation of Byrne JAG will be generally dependent upon an analysis of which agency or entity may be requesting funding, what is the nature of the project being proposed, does the project have performance metrics that can be adequately measured, and how, and at what decision point, will the criminal justice system be measurably impacted.

Those allocation decisions may be further impacted by current State or Federal Administration criminal justice priorities, current or unforeseen violent crime events, Federal mandates, issue areas and priorities emanating from the Connecticut General Assembly or the wide variety of criminal justice policy and planning groups that are meeting regularly to examine criminal justice issues in Connecticut, including the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), the Connecticut Sentencing Commission, the Criminal Justice information System (CJIS) Governing Board, and the Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board.

OPM CJPPD works intensively with CJPAC, which includes the state and local government agencies and non-profit community-based organizations listed below along with several others. CJPAC has met regularly, virtually every month, since 2006. CJPAC's full roster, agendas, meeting minutes, presentations, and meeting videos are available at this [web address](#).

**1. Department of Correction**

All jails and prisons in Connecticut are operated under authority of DOC.

**2. Judicial Branch Courts**

All criminal courts in Connecticut are operated under authority of the Judicial Branch.

**3. Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division**

CSSD oversees pretrial services, family services, divorce and domestic violence, probation supervision of adults and juveniles as well as juvenile residential centers including Juvenile Detention. CSSD also administers a network of statewide contracted community providers that deliver treatment and other support services

**4. Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services**

DMHAS is responsible for publicly funded mental health and substance abuse services statewide. DMHAS Forensic Division (DMHAS DFS) funds services and housing for people with mental illness and/or addictions who are justice involved.

**5. Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection**

DESPP includes the Division of State Police and serves as the local law enforcement agency for sixty-eight small local government jurisdictions.

**6. Division of Public Defender Services**

DPDS provides legal counsel to “indigent” accused adults and juveniles state-wide.

**7. Division of Criminal Justice (Prosecutors)**

All criminal matters in Connecticut are prosecuted under authority of DCJ.

**8. Connecticut Police Chiefs Association**

Represents local government law enforcement perspective criminal justice policy and planning.

**9. Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

CCADV is a non-profit organization which advocates for policy reforms to protect victims of domestic violence.

**10. Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence**

The Alliance is a non-profit organization which advocates for policy reforms to protect victims of sexual violence.

**11. Public Members**

The Governor has statutory authority to appoint public members to CJPAC.

## **C. Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Development and Governing Board**

The Connecticut Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) was established to design and implement an information technology system to be used by Connecticut Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to share Criminal Justice information in a secure environment, thereby enhancing informed decision-making.

As part of the changes put forth by P.A. 08-01 (later codified as CGS 54-142s), the CJIS Governing Board was charged with designing and implementing a comprehensive, State-wide system to facilitate the sharing of information between all Criminal Justice Agencies. A plan for a new information sharing system, the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS), was established.

Now operational, the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS) is a comprehensive, state-wide criminal justice information technology system that provides the ability to electronically share offender information within Connecticut's criminal justice community. CISS will take data input from criminal justice databases and make it searchable to law enforcement and justice officials with the proper security clearance and credentials. This information includes data capture of offender violations, as well as the retrieval of judicial, criminal offender, and DMV information. Data can be in text, audio, video, and graphical format. Connecticut's criminal justice community consists of eleven criminal justice agencies with over 23,000 staff members and utilizes fifty-two information systems to support its business needs.

A comprehensive presentation of the benefits of this system is available at this [web address](#). The development of this project has been supported by a \$60 million investment of State bond funds.

The CJIS Governing Board, created by Public Act 99-14, in 1999 was charged with the following: "design and implement a comprehensive, state-wide system to facilitate the immediate, seamless and comprehensive sharing of information between all state agencies, departments, boards and commissions having any cognizance over matters relating to law enforcement and criminal justice, and organized local police departments and law enforcement officials."

Additionally, P.A. 08-01 expanded the membership of the governing board and added provisions for an executive director and staff to fulfill the requirements of the statutory mandates. The new system was established as the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS). CISS is the technical capability to be used by agencies with criminal justice responsibilities to improve the sharing of actionable information to those agencies involved in the management of crime data and criminal offenders.

CJIS Governing Board stakeholder agencies include the following State agencies and organizations. Each of the organizations listed below is hyperlinked to their home page to provide for a more detailed evaluation and analysis of their core criminal justice functions in Connecticut State government.



A more complete and comprehensive explanation of the CJIS Governing Board is available at this [web address](#).

#### **D. Connecticut Sentencing Commission**

The Connecticut Sentencing Commission has been established by Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 54- 300.

The mission of the organization is also articulated within the enabling statute:

*“ . . .the mission of the commission shall be to review the existing criminal sentencing structure in the state and any proposed changes thereto, including existing statutes, proposed criminal justice legislation and existing and proposed sentencing policies and practices and make recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly and appropriate criminal justice agencies.”*

The Commission is made up of members from the Judicial Branch, Executive Branch criminal justice stakeholder agencies, police chiefs, private sector citizens and includes the Undersecretary of Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division of the Office of Policy and Management. The complete membership list is available at this [web address](#).

A more complete and comprehensive explanation of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission is available at this [web address](#).

#### **E. Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC)**

The Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) was established by Section 79, of Public Act 14-217 "to evaluate policies related to the Juvenile Justice system and the expansion of juvenile jurisdiction to include persons sixteen and seventeen years of age".

The JJPOC has met regularly (every 4-6 weeks), beginning in October of 2014. In addition, the JJPOC includes 4 major working groups encompassing approximately 100 participants across all the major juvenile justice stakeholder agencies and Connecticut child advocacy organizations: 1) Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup; 2) Recidivism Reduction Work Group; 3) Incarceration Work Group and 4) Diversion Work Group. The work of the committee is facilitated by its research partner: Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences.

A more complete and comprehensive explanation of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), the membership list, agendas, meeting minutes, presentations and meeting videos are available at this [web address](#).

#### **F. Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board**

The Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act (Public Act 99-198) was first enacted in 1999 in the State of Connecticut. The law prohibits any law enforcement agency in the state from stopping, detaining, or searching motorists when the stop is motivated solely by considerations of the race, color, ethnicity, age, gender, or sexual orientation of that individual (Connecticut General Statutes Sections 54-11 and 54-1m).

In 2012, the Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board was established to advise the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in adopting the law's standardized methods and guidelines. The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) at Central Connecticut State University was tasked to help oversee the design, evaluation, and management of the racial profiling study mandated by Public Act No. 12-74 and Public Act No. 13-75, "An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information." The project staff worked with the state's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) to develop a system to collect consistent and universal traffic stop information and submit it to CJIS electronically on a monthly basis.

The Advisory Board is made up of members from Executive Branch criminal justice stakeholder agencies, the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, the Connecticut Department of Transportation, police chiefs, members of the Connecticut General Assembly and human rights and opportunities advocacy organizations - both internal and external to state government. The complete membership list is available at this [web address](#).

A more complete and comprehensive explanation of the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project, its annual reports and data repositories is available at this [web address](#)

## **G. Evidence-Informed Approach to Funding Decisions**

OPM CJPPD contains a Research Unit – led by the director of the state Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). The work of the unit is generally defined by (1) regular (mandated) scheduled reports and (2) special studies and statistical analyses - generally original research - aimed at (1) identifying critical policy and planning issues through the examination of the demographics or criminogenic behaviors or risk factors of a particular cohort of the incarcerated (or paroled, etc.) inmate population or, (2) endeavoring to understand baseline business process flows of the stakeholder agencies within the Connecticut criminal justice system and the impact of those business process flows on the efficient movement of offenders into and out of the system.

The work of the Research Unit is used regularly to evaluate, or in fact discover, issues regarding process flow and/or measurable statistics which can be used to improve, enhance or evaluate suggested sub recipient grant projects.

The Research Unit's Monthly Indicators report, which has been produced every month since 2006, is a critical resource to provide evidenced based decision making regarding proposed or recommended sub grant projects. Research produced by the Unit has provided the statistical underpinnings necessary to gain a grasp of the Opioid epidemic

in Connecticut – and it is anticipated that their work will similarly help the state gain an understanding of how COVID-19 is affecting the criminal justice system, and how that system can be better supported during these challenging times.

The complete work of the Research unit can be found (or referenced) on the home page of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division at this web address.

#### **IV. Performance Measures and Data Collection Plan**

##### **A. Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (Grantium**

##### **GMS)**

All Byrne JAG sub-recipient grant management activities are conducted through the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division GMS known as Grantium. The implementation of Grantium encompasses beginning-to-end management and administration of grant programs and sub-recipient grant projects in a secure web-enabled workflow-driven system. Key grant administration business process outcomes supported include:

- Password protected access control and user account management for applicants and sub-recipients,
- Online application submission,
- Online submission of Progress, Quarterly Financial and Performance Management reports such as Time Accountability reports and Property/Equipment Inventory lists,
- Online submission of Payment Requests,
- Inclusion of all grant related correspondence, including e-mail, word processing documents, notes, portable document files, etc.,
- Automated grantee and grantor-initiated Amendments and/or Grant Adjustment Notices (GAN), and
- Automated Final financial Reconciliation and Grant Close-Out.

##### **B. Death in Custody Reporting Act Compliance**

Beginning with FFY 2019 Byrne JAG awards, recipient states will be required to report quarterly data on deaths occurring while in custody, per the Death in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA). In accordance with Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) guidance, as DCRA reporting is a component JAG performance reporting, “the SAA is ultimately responsible

for setting up their own policies and procedures to ensure that DCRA reporting is completed.” OPM CJPPD serves as the SAA for the Byrne JAG grant for the State of Connecticut. In keeping with practices established by BJA and other states, OPM CJPPD will coordinate quarterly reporting of DCRA data to satisfy both DCRA and Byrne JAG requirements.

*Overview of DCRA reporting requirements:* An overview of DCRA required reporting fields can be seen [here](#). DCRA requires states to report the death of any person in law enforcement custody. Specifically, state reporting must include “information regarding the death of any person who is detained, under arrest, or is in the process of being arrested, is en route to be incarcerated, or is incarcerated at a municipal or county jail, state prison, state-run boot camp prison, boot camp prison that is contracted out by the state, any state or local contract facility, or other local or state correctional facility (including any juvenile facility).”

In accordance with the Byrne JAG performance reporting requirements, DCRA data will be reported each quarter of the FFY, with data entered into PMT within 30 days following the end of the quarter. All information about known deaths, even if incomplete, should be reported by that time frame. PMT however will allow states to “add decedents in a subsequent quarter if the reportable death was not reported in a previous quarter.”

In order to assess state capacity to respond to DCRA requirements, OPM CJPPD has met with both the Department of Correction and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to consider current death in custody reporting capabilities. Both agencies subsequently provided OPM CJPPD with records extracted from their agency administrative systems containing custody deaths occurring within calendar year 2020. OPM CJPPD staff reviewed these reports and have determined that combined data from both of these administrative sources should be capable of generally meeting the DCRA data requirements. OPM is unable to truly assess the completeness of reported deaths occurring while in municipal police or other local law enforcement custody. However, given the presence of such deaths appearing in the OCME data, we believe the available data to generally be inclusive of all such deaths across the state.

*Proposed Reporting procedure:* Following our review of supporting agency data materials, OPM CJPPD proposes the following reporting steps for future DCRA reporting activities:

1. Following the conclusion of each FFY quarter, OPM CJPPD requests that DOC and OCME reports be provided to OPM CJPPD by the 15th. Reports should be provided to OPM CJPPD in a comparable format to the sample 2020 reports previously provided to us. See Table 2 for a tentative reporting schedule. Reports provided to OPM CJPPD should cover the recent quarter as well as the previous quarter, in case records need to be updated.
2. Upon receipt of these data, OPM CJPPD staff, with support from our Research Unit, will review the data to check for consistency and alignment with requirements.

OPM CJPPD will then combine these data, remove duplicate records across the two sources, and prepare a combine set of records for the quarter. To support these preparation activities, OPM CJPPD will develop standard scripts to combine and reshape the quarterly report data into a submission format compatible with PMT reporting needs.

By the 30th following the end of the quarter, OPM CJPPD will then submit required DCRA records into PMT per the reporting deadline. If possible, records will be batch submitted into PMT from the assembled file. OPM CJPPD will also review the prior quarter and add/update any records from the prior quarter subsequently reflected within state data sources.



**Table 2. Proposed DCRA reporting cycle**

Federal Fiscal Quarters			DCRA Reporting Date	
Number	Quarter Start Date	Quarter End Date	OCME/DOC Reporting	OPM CJPPD PMT submission
1	October 1st	December 31st	January 15th	January 30th
2	January 1st	March 31st	April 15th	April 30th
3	April 1st	June 30th	July 15th	July 30th
4	July 1st	September 30th	October 15th	October 30th

Next steps: With a reporting procedure identified, we highlight some key follow up activities, including:

1. OPM CJPPD will develop supporting scripts in R or other software in order to combine reports and finalize data for reporting.
2. DOC and OPM CJPPD will collaborate to set up an FTP script to easily transmit death in custody reports by the 15<sup>th</sup> following each quarter.
3. OCME, as feasible, will coordinate with OPM CJPPD to continue to assess over time the extent to which OCME deaths in custody data reflect events occurring outside of state correctional facilities, such as during arrest, temporary detentions, etc.

### **C. The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Performance Measurement Platform (PMP)**

Because OPM CJPPD has been the SAA for the Byrne JAG grant since its inception, staff are fully aware of the [Performance Measurement Tool](#) requirements that are also being utilized with the grant. Sub-recipient progress reports are crafted to collect the necessary Byrne JAG data to fulfill the PMT requirements of each sub-recipient grant project.