

Illinois' FFY09 ARRA-JAG Program

Application #2009-F1301-IL-SU

Program Narrative

Introduction

The State of Illinois, utilizing the resources and offices of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), has consistently pursued specific planning processes to develop integrated approaches for its strategies that address drug and violent crime issues. To this end, the ICJIA held a series of meetings in March 2009 for the development of a multi-year strategic plan for the use of its American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds. The meetings utilized the input from a broad spectrum of both the public and criminal justice experts from all areas of the criminal justice, law enforcement, victim services, and the practitioner and research communities, through solicitations as well as ICJIA Board and committee meetings and other appropriate means. Additionally, past funding initiatives, recent data on drug and violent crime in Illinois, and new criminal justice issues that have arisen in the last several years were taken into account, as well as, information collected through a needs-assessment survey introduced at the ARRA-JAG planning meetings. Another planning meeting was held on May 4, 2009 at which certain revisions were made to the original plan.

In the past, Anti-Drug Abuse Act (ADAA) or Byrne Formula program funds have been utilized to support government programs that enable the enforcement of Illinois drug laws and help decrease the likelihood of violent crime. Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) program funds have been utilized to provide units of local government with funds to underwrite projects to reduce crime and improve public safety. As approved by the ICJIA Board in the

ARRA-JAG strategic plan, ARRA-JAG funds will be designated to preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery, within the JAG purpose areas. In order to extend grant dollars, ICJIA normally requires subgrantees to supply match, however, in recognition of the current economic situation and ARRA's intent to expeditiously dispense ARRA funding, match will not be required for ARRA JAG funding. Programs may be funded up to 48 months

Needs-assessment survey

Initiated in late 2005, ICJIA distributed a needs-assessment survey to approximately 1,700 practitioners in the Illinois criminal justice system, and included court clerks, detention center administrators, judges, police chiefs, probation, public defenders, state's attorneys, and victim service providers. While the surveys for each agency contained some of the same sections, the surveys were also tailored to address those issues that pertain specifically to the component of the system being surveyed. For example, the survey for detention centers offered questions regarding security issues, medical care and in-house programs; while the probation survey offered questions on assessment tools and supervision.

Multiple strategies were employed to encourage survey participation. A total of 602 questionnaires were returned for an overall response rate of 38.6%. Results indicate that law enforcement feel that domestic violence crimes, property crime and juvenile crime are the most significant contributors to their workload. Respondents from probation and court services indicated that in addition to supervision duties, pre-sentence investigations comprise a significant part of their workload, as do working with clients that present treatment and drug or alcohol use issues.

Drug cases comprised a significant portion of the workload for both public defenders and state's attorneys, as did domestic violence and juvenile crime cases. Additional or timelier crime

lab processing was also noted as factor in the efficient movement of cases. The need for drug treatment, employment opportunities and youth prevention programs was noted by both the prosecution and defense sides, as well as victim service providers, as actions that may reduce drug use or violence.

This JAG strategic planning process also represented a continuum in which current funding initiatives can be related to the results of the evaluation of institutional experience based upon and resulting from prior, foundational efforts, including, but not limited to those of the statewide planning assembly convened by the ICJIA in 2000, supplemented by further JAG planning efforts in 2006 and most recently with a series of meetings in March 2009 in relation to ARRA-JAG funding. The strategic plan approved by the ICJIA Board in March 2009 will guide the use of all ARRA-JAG funding in the future.

Statewide Priorities

The Authority has established nine priorities for the use of ARRA-JAG funds designated to the State of Illinois. This set of priorities is the product of several strategic planning sessions using recent data on drug and violent crime trends in Illinois, as well as, analysis and identification of current and/or future resource gaps.

1. Law Enforcement Programs Priorities:

Support programs which pursue violent and predatory criminals.

Support efforts with law enforcement, prosecution, and probation to combat and disrupt illegal drug use, violent crime, illegal gun and gang activity and test drug users.

Support programs which provide law enforcement agencies throughout the state with necessary means to prevent, deter, or investigate crime through staffing, training, special projects or equipment in order to improve public safety and quality of life.

2. Prosecution and Court Programs Priorities:

Support prosecution efforts which focus on prosecuting violent and predatory criminals and drug offenders.

Support programs which contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice court system at state and county levels in all facets: the judiciary, clerks, prosecution, defense, probation and victim services.

3. Prevention and Education Programs Priorities:

Support proven or innovative prevention or intervention programs for juveniles and adults identified as at risk for involvement or already involved with the criminal justice system to provide services aimed to mitigate risk factors that are recognized as contributing factors of violent crime, drugs, gangs, guns or other criminal behavior.

4. Corrections and Community Corrections Programs Priorities:

Support juvenile and adult re-entry programs and programs that enhance jail or correctional facility security and safety.

Support proven or innovative programs for those already involved in the criminal justice system, those incarcerated, or those on probation which are targeted to address recognized risk factors for recidivism by mitigating risk factors that contribute to criminal behavior.

5. Planning, Evaluation and Technology Improvement Programs Priorities:

Support efforts to implement integrated justice information systems throughout the state to ensure that each component of the criminal justice system has access to timely, complete and accurate information necessary to informed decision-making at each state of the criminal justice process.

6. Drug Treatment and Enforcement Programs Priorities:

Support programs which combat and disrupt criminal drug networks and programs which provide substance abuse treatment.

7. Crime Victim and Witness Programs Priority:

Restore state-use funds to victim services programs that have been cut out of the state's budget.

ICJIA **approved** a staff recommendation that ARRA JAG state-use funds may be issued to continue, restore, and/or support statewide delinquency prevention, violence prevention and intervention, victim services, and juvenile and adult re-entry and “no-entry” diversion programs in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), and the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ).

Local-Use Funds

ICJIA **approved** a staff recommendation that \$4.4 million of the ARRA JAG local-use funds be set aside to support multi-jurisdictional narcotics units, consisting of Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) and Task Forces, and multi-jurisdictional drug prosecution programs.

ICJIA **approved** staff recommendations that the remaining \$25.6 million be distributed:

- Throughout the state, serving diverse communities and populations.
- Used to maintain effective evidence-based programs subjected to state and/or local budget cuts.
- In accordance with the following percentages described in the table below:

Component	Percentage	Amount (Estimated)
Law Enforcement	30 percent	\$7,680,000
Prosecution and Court Programs	30 percent	\$7,680,000
Corrections and Community Corrections	8.33 percent	\$2,132,480
Drug Treatment and Enforcement Programs	8.34 percent	\$2,135,040
Prevention and Education Programs	8.33 percent	\$2,132,480
Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement	15 percent	\$3,840,000

ICJIA **approved** a staff recommendation that programs be funded first and that after consideration of program proposals, remaining law enforcement JAG funds support law enforcement in the form of an equipment purchase request for proposals (RFP), either work-ready squad cars or LiveScan machines, and will adhere to the \$40,000 per entity funding cap that was agreed to at the March 24, 2009 Budget Committee meeting.

ICJIA **approved** a staff recommendation that:

1. A third of the funds for technological improvements be allocated through an RFP to local law enforcement agencies with the goal of allowing them to interface with the Illinois State Police’s I-CASE system.
2. A third of the funds for technological improvements be allocated through an RFP to local law enforcement agencies for the purchase and operation of Starcomm radios to allow the agencies to interface with the Illinois State Police.
3. A third of the funds for technological improvements be made available for other integrated justice projects.

Project Objectives/Performance Measures

Because of federal reporting requirements, ICJIA will require fiscal and progress reports from subgrantees on a monthly basis while adding to normal JAG reporting the performance measures specific to ARRA. These measures will capture the number and types of jobs saved and number and type of jobs created by use of ARRA funds. Subgrantees will be required to submit this data in a prescribed manner as to allow enough time to allow ICJIA to aggregate and report to the Bureau of Justice Assistance within 10 days of each quarter's end.

Timeline

The ICJIA recognizes the mandate for ARRA-JAG funding to be expeditiously distributed. ICJIA also recognizes the importance of providing thorough and accurate review and oversight of all proposed projects. The ICJIA will assiduously work to ensure that each of these responsibilities is efficiently and effectively performed. As a guide, the following timeline for fund review and distribution has been developed.

Project Timeline

ACTIVITY	COMPLETION DATE
Project Start Date	March 1, 2009
Register ARRA-JAG application.	March 6, 2009
Develop announcement of available funds. List who can apply, purposes of funds, restrictions on funding, required performance measures and reporting requirements specific to ARRA-JAG funding.	April 1, 2009
Develop ARRA-JAG subgrant application.	April 15, 2009
Subgrant Application Submission Deadline	June 15, 2009
Send copies of applications to review committee. Projections will be made for the number of jobs that will be retained or created from ARRA-JAG awards.	June 22, 2009
Host funding conference to make initial funding decisions for ARRA-JAG awards.	July 20 – 24, 2009
Notify applicants of initial funding recommendations.	July 27, 2009
Request for Reconsideration Deadline	August 12, 2009
Budget Committee Meeting to discuss applicants for reconsideration	August 17 – 20, 2009
Project Director/Financial Officer Training for all subgrantees. Outline responsibility for managing an ARRA-JAG subgrant at a fiscal and programmatic level, including required performance measures and reporting requirements.	December 18, 2009
Project End Date	April 30, 2013

Draw Downs

The ICJIA will track ARRA-JAG draw downs separate from all other awards. In addition, ICJIA will use cost centers with objects of expenses to differentiate between grants.

Coordination Efforts

Coordination is an integral and intentional part of the Illinois crime prevention strategy. It is pursued and achieved through a number of methodologies and structural interfaces. The Authority is a statutorily created and independent state agency charged with improvement of the administration of justice within the state. Its Board is comprised of the Illinois Attorney General; the Directors of the Illinois Department of Corrections and State Police; the sheriffs of

Cook and a downstate county; the state's attorneys of Cook and a downstate county; the clerks of the circuit courts of Cook and a downstate county; the President of the Cook County Board; the Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department; the chief of a downstate police department; the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor; the State Appellate Defender; the Director of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board; and 6 members of the general public. Thus, the Authority Board brings together representatives of the major stakeholders in criminal justice administration, policy and planning, including the courts, prosecution, defense, victim advocacy, corrections, research and law enforcement communities, and members of the public at large. Through its meetings as a whole and through its committees, both general priorities and specific initiatives are reviewed, analyzed and discussed as an essential part of both strategic and short term planning.

The Authority, through its Federal and State Grants Unit, oversees many of the principal federal and state assistance programs in Illinois, which relate to the administration of justice. The Authority administers nine federal programs including the Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne Formula) Program, Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program, National Criminal History Improvement Program, National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act Program, Project Safe Neighborhoods Anti-Gang, Project Safe Neighborhoods Anti-Gun, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Violence Against Women Act Program, and the Victims of Crime Act Program.

The Authority's Budget Committee oversees the grant award procedures of the Authority and through this committee's oversight, applications, awards and administration are coordinated. Coordination efforts are supported by the participation of the same members in funding and program decisions across a number of otherwise distinct programs. Funds from different

programs can be used to ensure that the entire spectrum of the criminal justice system receives funding that is complementary, rather than duplicative, and can also be concentrated where tactically or strategically desirable to achieve specific goals or address critical problems. The Authority is additionally responsible for a leading role in the area of integration of criminal justice information systems across the state, and also functions as a principal planning and research entity.

Conclusion

Illinois' current strategy is consistent with national priorities, including combating drug trafficking, expanding treatment services for offenders, assisting local communities in developing effective prevention programs, and reducing domestic drug-related crime and violence. Much progress has been made in combating drug and violent crime in the State. However, these problems remain significant challenges to public safety and security in Illinois.

The programs funded through the Byrne Formula and LLEBG programs have had a measurable impact on the criminal justice system in Illinois. With ARRA-JAG funding, and the new multi-year strategic plan, the Authority hopes to continue the administration of these programs in a way that ensures systemwide planning and builds upon its past successes of effective criminal justice planning.