



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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300 W. Adams Street • Suite 700 • Chicago, Illinois 60606 • (312) 793-8550

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Authority Members

**FROM:** John C. Chojnacki, Associate Director, Federal & State Grants Unit

**DATE:** April 30, 2009

**RE:** **Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Planning**

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This memo describes staff recommendations for proposed adjustments to plans for the expenditure of JAG ARRA funds. These proposed adjustments are in light of clarifications from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Office of the Governor. These proposed adjustments are in keeping with the Governor's Office's recommendations that JAG ARRA funds be used to maintain jobs currently funded by this year's state budget, but not contained in SFY10's budget as well as Governor-supported initiatives aligned with authorized Byrne JAG purposes. Additionally, in light of further guidance from BJA that the ARRA JAG funds need not be disbursed on a competitive basis, the Authority has requested a change in Illinois's ARRA JAG plan and will submit changes consistent with Budget Committee action at this third planning meeting. In many cases, ARRA JAG funds may be used to restore recent funding cuts to existing programs, thereby allowing the programs to retain or re-hire laid-off personnel.

As previously indicated, the Authority's ARRA JAG award is \$50,198,081, 8.5 percent of which (\$4,266,836) will be used for administrative purposes, leaving \$45,931,245 for state and local funding. Up to 34.49 percent of the ARRA JAG award (\$15,841,686) may be used for statewide programs, however, a minimum of 65.51 percent of the ARRA JAG award (30,089,558) must be allocated to local units of government.

## **JAG Purpose Areas and ARRA-Related Priorities**

Staff recommends that the Budget Committee consider the following priorities within the ARRA JAG purpose areas. Additions or modifications to the language of the priorities approved at the last Budget Committee ARRA JAG planning meeting are italicized.

### **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 Priority:**

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 Priority:**

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 Priority:**

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.*

**State-Use Funds**

Up to 34.49 percent of the JAG ARRA award (\$15,841,686) may be used for statewide programs. Staff recommends, based on the Governor's Office's request, that ARRA JAG state-use funds can 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**

A minimum of 65.51 percent of the JAG ARRA award (\$30,089,558) must be allocated to local units of government. Staff recommends that \$4.4 million be set aside to support multi-jurisdictional narcotics units, consisting of Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) and Task Forces, and multi-jurisdictional drug prosecution programs.

This would leave approximately \$25.6 million for other programming. Staff recommends that this \$25.6 million be distributed throughout the state, serving diverse communities and populations. In light of the state's 9.1 percent unemployment, staff recommends maintaining effective evidence-based programs subjected to state and/or local budget cuts. In order to distribute these dollars equitably across the many areas of criminal justice, staff recommends that this \$25.6 million allocated in accordance with the following percentages:

Law Enforcement	30 percent
Prosecution and Court Programs	30 percent
Corrections and Community Corrections	8.33 percent
Drug Treatment and Enforcement Programs	8.34 percent
Prevention and Education Programs	8.33 percent
Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement	15 percent

Although JAG ARRA funds will not generally be awarded on a competitive basis, JAG funds in support of law enforcement in the form of an equipment purchase request for proposals (RFP), either work-ready squad cars or LiveScan machines, will adhere to the \$40,000 per entity funding cap that was agreed to at the March 24, 2009 Budget Committee meeting.

Additionally, in order to expedite the benefits of integrating information systems, staff recommends that 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 and another third 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. The final third would be available for other integrated justice projects.

Staff will be available at the meeting to answer any questions.