

## **THE ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY REQUESTS PUBLIC INPUT FOR PROMOTING SUCCESSFUL AND EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING**

The purpose of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is to preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery, to assist those most impacted by the recession, provide investment needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health, invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits, and stabilize state and local government budgets to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive state and local tax increases.

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), the administering state agency for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne Formula), is seeking public input on its application for ARRA Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds.

The JAG Program allows state and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system. The program provides agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most.

JAG funds have supported government programs that enable the enforcement of Illinois drug laws and help decrease the likelihood of violent crime, allowed units of local government to underwrite projects to reduce crime and improve public safety, and enabled county and state criminal justice agencies to enhance services. Programs that focus on prosecution, defense, corrections, and victim services also have been supported with JAG funding. ARRA JAG funds will be designated to fund programs that preserve and create jobs.

### **PROMOTING SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMMING**

ICJIA has consistently pursued processes to plan integrated approaches to address drug and violent crime issues across the state. In March 2009, ICJIA held several meetings to develop an ARRA JAG strategic plan, including funding purpose areas and priorities. These meetings garnered input from a broad spectrum of individuals, including experts from all areas of the criminal justice system, including, law enforcement, prosecution, practitioners, corrections, victim services, and research communities, as well as members of the general public.

Also explored were past funding initiatives, the latest drug and violent crime data in Illinois, emerging criminal justice issues, and information collected in a needs assessment survey conducted on behalf of ICJIA.

### **JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PURPOSE AREAS AND PRIORITIES**

ARRA JAG funds can be used for state and local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice in any of the following purpose areas:

- Law enforcement programs.
- Prosecution and court programs.
- Prevention and education programs.
- Corrections and community corrections programs.
- Planning, evaluation and technology improvement programs.

- Drug treatment programs.
- Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation).

In its application for these funds, ICJIA will submit a program narrative outlining priorities recently approved by the ICJIA Board. These priorities reflect drug and violent crime trends indicated by data presented at planning sessions for the development of the multi-year strategic plan.

**1. Law enforcement program priorities:**

*Support programs that pursue violent and predatory criminals.*

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

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

**2. Prosecution and court program priorities:**

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

*Support programs that 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 program priorities:**

*Support proven or innovative prevention or intervention programs for juveniles identified as at risk for involvement or already involved with the criminal justice system to provide services aimed to mitigate risk factors recognized as contributors to violent crime, illegal gun and drug use, gang affiliation, and other criminal behavior.*

**4. Corrections and community corrections program 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 that are targeted to address recognized risk factors for recidivism by mitigating risk factors that contribute to criminal behavior.*

**5. Planning, evaluation and technology improvement program priorities:**

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

## **6. Drug treatment and enforcement program priorities:**

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

The application is available on the ICJIA website: [www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us).

### **REQUEST FOR INPUT**

You are invited to comment on these priorities. All input will be considered. This is your opportunity to inform ICJIA of emerging criminal justice issues, crime problems, and possible interventions, and to help guide ICJIA's administration ARRA JAG funding.

Submit comments by e-mail, fax, or U.S. Mail. Submission of comments does not constitute an application for grant funding. ICJIA must receive your comments by April 30, 2009.

Public comments may be e-mailed to [john.chojnacki@illinois.gov](mailto:john.chojnacki@illinois.gov).

Or faxed to the attention John Chojnacki at: 312.793.8422.

Written public comments may be mailed to:

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