

## THE ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY REQUESTS PUBLIC INPUT FOR PROMOTING SUCCESSFUL AND EFFECTIVE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMMING

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), administering state agency for the federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne Formula), is seeking public input on its federal fiscal year 2007 (FFY07) application for Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds.

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant 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. JAG replaces the Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) programs with a single funding mechanism that simplifies the administration process for grantees. The JAG program is designed to streamline justice funding and grant administration. It blends the previous Byrne Formula and LLEBG grant programs to provide agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most.

Byrne Formula program funds supported government programs that enable the enforcement of Illinois drug laws and help decrease the likelihood of violent crime. LLEBG program funds allowed units of local government to underwrite projects to reduce crime and improve public safety. If granted, FFY07 JAG funds will be designated to continue programming for previously funded Byrne formula and LLEBG programs throughout the state.

### PROMOTING SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMMING

ICJIA has consistently pursued processes to plan integrated approaches to address drug and violent crime issues across the state. In the summer of 2006, ICJIA held a series of meetings to develop a multi-year strategic plan for the use of JAG funds in Illinois. The meetings garnered input from a broad spectrum of individuals, including experts from all areas of the criminal justice, law enforcement, victim services, practitioner, and research communities, as well as members of the general public.

Also addressed were past funding initiatives, the latest data on drug and violent crime in Illinois, new criminal justice issues that have arisen in the last several years, and information collected through a recent needs assessment survey conducted on behalf of ICJIA.

### JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PURPOSE AREAS AND PRIORITIES

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.
- Drug treatment programs.
- Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs.

In FFY05, Illinois' funding from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (for Byrne Formula and LLEBG programs) was reduced by approximately 25 percent, with a JAG allocation of \$14.3 million. In FFY06 it was reduced by approximately 40 percent, with a JAG allocation of \$8,501,000.

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

## PRIORITIES

### Priority 1

Support prevention programs that help youth recognize risks associated with violent crime and drug use and target youth to reduce their use of violence, illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products.

### Priority 2

Support programs statewide that target prevention of crime and early intervention for juveniles, with particular emphasis on the principals of balanced and restorative justice.

### Priority 3

Support programs that enhance drug treatment effectiveness, quality, and services so that those who need treatment can receive it.

### Priority 4

Support research that identifies what works in drug treatment and the prevention of drug use, of violent crime, and their consequences.

### Priority 5

Support programs that promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

### Priority 6

Support efforts to implement an integrated justice system in Illinois that includes all components of the criminal justice system and includes every jurisdiction within the state.

Priority 7

Support efforts with law enforcement, prosecution, and probation to combat and disrupt drug trafficking and test drug users.

The application can be found on the ICJIA website: *www.icjia.state.il.us*.

REQUEST FOR INPUT

ICJIA welcomes your comments on these priorities and will consider all input as it develops JAG funding priorities for federal fiscal year 2007. This is your opportunity to inform ICJIA of emerging criminal justice issues, crime problems, and possible interventions, and help guide ICJIA's administration of federal funds for the next year. You may 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 Tuesday, February 20, 2007.**

Public comments may be e-mailed to:

**[linda.taylor@illinois.gov](mailto:linda.taylor@illinois.gov)**

Or faxed to the attention of Linda Taylor at:

**312-793-8422**

Written public comments may be mailed to:

**Linda Taylor**

**Federal & State Grants Unit**

**Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority**

**120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1016**

**Chicago, IL 60606**

QUESTIONS

Questions may be directed to Linda Taylor by:

Toll-free phone: 888-425-4248

E-mail: **[linda.taylor@illinois.gov](mailto:linda.taylor@illinois.gov)**

Or fax: 312-793-8422