

Application # 2008-F0413-IL-DJ
Illinois' FFY08 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

Program Narrative

Introduction

The State of Illinois, utilizing the resources and offices of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), has consistently pursued intentional processes of planning to develop integrated approaches to the development of its strategies to address drug and violent crime issues. To this end, the ICJIA held a series of meetings in the summer of 2006 for the development of a multi-year strategic plan for the use of its 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, practitioner and research communities, through solicitations as well as ICJIA Board and committee meetings and other appropriate means. Additionally, past funding initiatives, the latest 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 JAG planning meetings.

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 JAG strategic plan, Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 JAG funds will be designated to continue programming for previously funded ADAA and LLEBG programs throughout the State of

Illinois. The plan requires a minimum of 25% cash match for all funded programs, and the 48-month program limit established under ADAA was maintained for all grants with the exception of Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotics Units, Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Prosecution Programs, and ICJIA In-House programs for evaluations and Criminal History Record Improvement. As part of the JAG multi-year strategic plan, the continuation of the seven priorities, previously established under ADAA, was also approved for future JAG funds.

Needs Analysis

Initiated in late 2005, the needs assessment involved the distribution of surveys 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.

The Authority has recently received the results of the survey in a draft report. After multiple strategies were employed to encourage 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. Law enforcement also noted a need for resources and training related to methamphetamine investigations. 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.

Many of the respondents also noted the need for increased resources to combat identity theft, an increased need for bi-lingual personnel or language translation, and the need for better access to computerized information or information sharing systems. While the final results are still being studied, the responses and the final report have become an integral part of the JAG planning process.

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. The strategic plan approved by the ICJIA Board in June 2006 will continue to guide the use of all JAG funding in the future.

Statewide Priorities

In the past, the Authority had identified several current and/or future resource gaps and needs in the areas of youth prevention and early intervention programs; drug and violent crime research, prevention and treatment; prosecution and multi-jurisdictional law enforcement; and

integrated justice systems. These resource gaps lead to the establishment of seven priorities, which are consistent with and build on the National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS), as well as the JAG purpose areas. Using the current data on drug and violent crime trends in Illinois, which was presented at the JAG strategic planning sessions, these priorities will again be used in our planning process for the new JAG multi-year strategic plan.

- 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. (NDCS priority #1 & JAG purpose area #3 - *Prevention and Education Programs*).
- Priority 2: Support programs statewide that target prevention and early intervention for juveniles, with particular emphasis on the principals of balanced and restorative justice. (NDCS priority #1 & JAG purpose area #3 - *Prevention and Education Programs*).
- Priority 3: Support programs that enhance treatment effectiveness, quality, and services so that those who need treatment can receive it. (NDCS priority #2 & JAG purpose area #5 - *Drug Treatment Programs*).
- Priority 4: Support research that identifies what works in drug treatment and the prevention of drug use, violent crime, and their consequences. (NDCS priority #'s 1 & 2, and JAG purpose area #3 - *Prevention and Education Programs* & #5 - *Drug Treatment Programs*).
- Priority 5: Support programs that promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system. (NDCS priority #3, and JAG purpose area #2 - *Prosecution and Court Programs* & #4 - *Corrections and Community Corrections Programs*.)
- 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. (NDCS priority #3, and JAG purpose area #4 - *Corrections and Community Corrections Programs* & #6 - *Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement Programs*.)
- Priority 7: Support efforts with law enforcement, prosecution, and probation to combat, disrupt, and test drug users. (NDCS priority #3, and JAG purpose area #1 - *Law Enforcement Programs* & #2 - *Prosecution and Court Programs*.)

Selected Programs

The following are examples of programs currently supported under the Byrne Formula program. The ICJIA Board, as part of the JAG multi-year strategic plan, approved continued funding of these programs under JAG.

Expanding Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotic Units: Twenty multi-jurisdictional narcotic units exist across the state. They are made up of law enforcement agencies within one county or within multiple counties. The units conduct primarily covert operations to stop the flow of illegal drugs in Illinois by targeting drug distributors and dealers. The goals of this program are consistent with and build upon NDCS priority #3 and JAG purpose area #1.

Local Law Enforcement Equipment Program: Many local law enforcement agencies across the state receive grants to purchase much-needed equipment that promote officer and public safety. The goals of this program are consistent with and build upon JAG purpose area #1.

Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Prosecution Programs: Seven multi-jurisdictional drug prosecution programs are funded to support the prosecution of offenders arrested by the multi-jurisdictional narcotics units. The goals of this program are consistent with and build upon NDCS priority #3 and JAG purpose area #2.

Probation Initiatives--Juvenile Reporting Centers: The Juvenile Reporting Centers address the supervision and treatment needs of at-risk juveniles. The goal of the

day/evening reporting center programs is to provide community-based intensive intervention programming for juvenile probationers at risk of placement in detention, and is consistent with NDCS priority #2 and JAG purpose areas #'s 3 and 4.

Probation Initiatives--Innovative Probation Initiatives: As a result of the Innovative Probation Initiative request for proposals, four counties and two judicial circuits were chosen to receive funding for innovative probation projects. These programs affect 18 counties in Illinois and bring research-based best practices to areas of the state not able to implement these programs on their own. Additionally, four of the six programs aim to implement the recommendations of the Illinois Attorney General's Sex Offender Management Board. Without exception, all the programs are designed with new and innovative components that elevate and enhance the practice of probation in the county or circuit in which they will be implemented. This initiative ties NDCS priority #2 and JAG purpose area #4.

Probation Initiatives--Community-based Transitional Services for Female Offenders: Three community-based transitional services for female offenders programs exist, based in probation departments. The programs provide gender specific services to address substance abuse and the trauma of sexual and physical abuse. The focus is to promote health and independence and to reduce arrest rates and technical violations. The programs are consistent with NDCS priority #2 and JAG purpose area #'s 4 & 5.

Evaluation--Drug Strategy Impact Evaluation: This project funds staff and other resources for both internal and external evaluations of funded projects and for data

collection, research and other activities supporting the administration of program funds.

This project is consistent with JAG purpose area #6.

Coordination Efforts

Coordination is an integral and increasingly 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 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.

Strategic coordination of programs, resources and information in the context of cooperative and interdependent relationships are thus not only a critical part of the Illinois strategy but are a part of its process of development and implementation by structural design and operational choice.

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 FFY 2008 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.