

Attachment #1
FY 2022 JAG Program Narrative

The FY 2022 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) award will be administered by Franklin County acting as the fiduciary and administrative agent on behalf of the cities of Reynoldsburg, Columbus and Whitehall, Ohio. Initiatives selected for funding support will align with the Franklin County Criminal Justice Strategic Plan CY 2020 – 2024, the Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan (CAFCAP) and/or the Franklin County Rising Out of Poverty Blueprint and be administered in accordance with local, state and federal guidelines and statutes.

The Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board is composed of the elected and appointed officials having critical roles within the criminal justice system (Judges, Sheriff, Police Chief, Safety Director, Probation, Corrections, Community, Faith-based, Victim, Public Defender, Prosecutor). The Board develops, adopts and updates the Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan every four years, to ensure emerging trends and conditions are addressed. The Criminal Justice Planning Board is staffed by the metropolitan criminal justice planning agency (Office of Justice Policy & Programs (OJPP)) which represents all 42 local political sub-divisions in Franklin County and is responsible for system-wide, strategic justice planning, technical assistance, and efficient and effective application of local, state and federal grant funding. Staffing from OJPP has extensive grants and project management experience overseeing large-scale, multi-agency and multi-disciplinary initiatives. OJPP is well versed in required local, state, and federal financial guidelines, OMB Cost Principles and Auditing standards, and procurement requirements. This award will be used to continue successful projects and/or implement new projects in alignment with the Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan, the Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan (CAFCAP), and/or the Franklin County Rising Out of Poverty Blueprint (reference Strategic Justice Plan for CY2020 - 2024)

FY 2022 JAG funds will be coordinated with multiple local, state and federal funding streams to leverage other available resources addressing the priorities identified in the planning documents referenced above. All projects funded will be tracked for fiscal and programmatic compliance and required to report fiscal and programmatic activity quarterly.

Franklin County and the cities of Reynoldsburg, Columbus and Whitehall are deemed disparate by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and have historically filed a joint application. Because the Franklin County Office of Justice Policy and Programs (OJPP) serves as the regional planning unit for the metropolitan area and is the administrative agency of the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board, of which the cities of Columbus and Whitehall have board representation, each of the jurisdictions has agreed to designate OJPP as the applicant and fiscal agent for the JAG grant. Upon notice of award, the cities of Reynoldsburg, Columbus, and Whitehall will each receive sub-awards based on the funding plan approved by the Memorandum of Understanding.

In developing the FY 2022 Justice Assistance Grant application, the following conditions were identified as key priority areas:

Issue #1:

OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS: Similar to other large urban areas around the country, Franklin County continues to experience an unprecedented number of deaths related to overdose from opioids and other drugs of abuse now being mixed with fentanyl. During CY 2020, the Franklin County Coroner reported 797 drug-overdose deaths with indications that the number of overdose deaths in

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2021 will exceed this figure. The far reaching consequences of this public health crisis have taxed our first responders, devastated families, overwhelmed our social services and filled our jails.

Issue #2:

DISPROPORTIONATE INCREASE IN OPIOID OVERDOSE RATES AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS: Until 2019, the non-Hispanic White population consistently demonstrated a higher rate of unintentional overdose deaths than the non-Hispanic Black population. In 2019 and 2020, rates for the Black population exceeded those of the White population with 81 and 71 deaths per 100,000 population, respectively. While the rate of deaths among non-Hispanic Whites increased by 164% between 2015 and 2020, **the rate among non-Hispanic Blacks increased by 395%** during this same time frame, demonstrating a clear and widening racial disparity in deaths due to unintentional drug overdose.

Issue #3:

VIOLENT CRIME: Social unrest, isolation and frustration resulting from the coronavirus pandemic along with rampant opioid and cocaine abuse were likely feeders of the alarming violence rates in Franklin County and the city of Columbus in 2020 and 2021. 2021 set a grim record milestone of 204 homicides toppling the record set the previous year of 175. (2020) Data analysts are predicting the homicide rate will remain at record levels again for CY2022.

Crime in the cities of Reynoldsburg and Whitehall, specifically as it relates to crimes committed by youth has increased considerably. The violent crime rate for Whitehall in 2019 was 596.2 per 100,000 residents and 189.2 per 100,000 residents in Reynoldsburg. In Cy2021, Columbus Police arrested and booked 7,578 individuals, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office booked 3,936 individuals, Whitehall booked 1,305 and Reynoldsburg booked 515 individuals into the Franklin County Correctional Center.

Issue #4:

REENTRY and HOMELESSNESS: Pervasive barriers continue to prevent successful re-integration of justice-involved individuals returning to Franklin County from local, state and/or federal incarceration. Despite significant strides gained over the past five years, barriers still include high under/unemployment rates, lack of affordable housing, high poverty rates, behavioral health challenges, and physical health concerns. Of the bookings into the Franklin County Jail in CY2021, 1,512 individuals reported being homeless and only 70 individuals were released from the Franklin County Jail with a transition plan (reflects total population released, not just those indicating homelessness)

Issue #5:

GEO-SPECIFIC VIOLENT CRIME: According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the city of Whitehall, OH continues to have one of the highest violent crime rates per capita in the state of Ohio.

Issue #6:

VEHICLE SAFETY VIOLATIONS: Too often, low income individuals don't have disposable cash to have car safety lights repaired when headlights, taillights, license plate lights or brake lights are broken or burned out. The result is unsafe vehicles on the road and opportunities for folks to be pulled over and ticketed for safety equipment violations – tickets that cost money (on top of repair costs) and could result in unpaid fines leading to suspended licenses or worse. In the city of

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Columbus, a disproportionate number of vehicle safety violations are issued to resident's in the City's most economically challenged neighborhoods.

Issue #7:

AGING CRIME LAB EQUIPMENT: The Drug Identification Section of the Columbus Police Crime Laboratory is currently using aged instrumentation for the analysis of controlled substances. Instruments are nearing their life expectancy as parts for some of the models are no longer manufactured or kept in stock and therefore may not be available to remedy an issue. Software supporting the gas chromatograph mass spectrometer (GC/MS) systems is antiquated and not compatible with newer version of Windows.

Program Description

To address the identified issues above, FY 2022 JAG funding will support the following criminal justice related initiatives:

A. Overdose Epidemic

- The Franklin County Sheriff's Office will continue to utilize JAG funding to support the employment of a civilian Drug Analyst dedicated to the efforts of the HOPE Task Force which stands for Heroin Overdose Prevention and Education.
- The civilian analyst position will be available to provide investigative, analytical, and digital forensic support to the HOPE Task Force members, which consists of 18 area law enforcement agencies.
- A significant number of individuals booked into the Franklin County Jail are screened for an opioid use disorder (OUD). Individuals identified as at risk for OUD may visit the Rapid Resource Center upon release for treatment linkage, assignment to a Peer Support Specialist, assistance with benefits applications, vouchers to procure a birth certificate and/or state ID and to secure personal hygiene and warm weather clothing.
- The City of Columbus will procure updated Drug Identification instrumentation to analyze evidence for the presence of controlled substances including a Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS) and an Attenuated Total Reflectance System (FTIR/ATR). This new equipment will also support the Lab's effort to move to a paperless workflow.

B. Stepping Up and Reentry Related Initiatives

- Contracts with Peer Support Specialist(s) to assist justice-involved individuals in transition planning and early recovery management. Peers will be positioned in the Franklin County Rapid Resource Center to ensure immediate linkage to individuals as they are released from the Jail.
- Supportive services funding to include transportation services from the Franklin County Jail which is not located on a bus line, the purchase of bus passes for dissemination to justice involved individuals in need of transportation assistance

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to and from treatment appointments, and funds to support securing of necessary identification documents like birth certificates and state identification cards.

- On any given day, upwards of 20 or more homeless individuals are released from the Franklin County Jail with no clothing, personal hygiene items or protection from inclement weather. Kits will be created and distributed to inmates indicating homelessness. Kits will include Narcan (purchased with other funding), basic toiletry items, under garments, and harm reduction information. Tents and air mattresses will be available on a limited basis.
- JAG funding will support the printing and distribution of resource materials sent to inmates incarcerated with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and slated to return to Franklin County within the following three months.
- Support of the annual Restored Citizen's Summit in Franklin County hosted by the Ohio Restored Citizens Collaborative in collaboration with the Columbus Coalition of the Homeless.

C. Crime Prevention

- The city of Whitehall will utilize FY 2022 JAG grant funding to continue support of their Youth Violence Crime Reduction Initiative which allows their police department to deploy both uniformed and undercover officers throughout the city of Whitehall to increase youth safety and curb the incidence of juvenile crime and delinquency.

The city of Reynoldsburg will utilize FY 2022 JAG grant funding to expand its fixed license plate reader camera system. The camera system will help to provide evidence related to thefts, robberies, and shootings in the area and hopefully serve as a deterrent to some.

- Funding will be allocated to continue support of Project Taillight, an innovative outreach program designed to reduce further escalation of justice involvement for individuals cited for minor traffic offenses due to vehicle safety violations. Eligible recipients must be screened at 200% or greater poverty and can receive basic automobile repairs including broken taillights, headlights, turn signal malfunction, etc.

D. Warrants Enforcement

- The Franklin County Sheriff's Office will continue to allocate funding to overtime to support dedicated enforcement of outstanding felony criminal warrants.

E. Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

- FY 2022 JAG funding will continue to support overtime for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force which joins ten law enforcement jurisdictions in identification and investigation of internet crimes targeting youth. Funding also supports a subscription for digital forensic software and the ability for task force members to attend relevant annual training.

F. Training and Education

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Recognizing the value of on-going training and information sharing/networking with other local public safety jurisdictions, funding will be allocated to support travel and training related costs for public safety, community corrections, reentry personnel, prosecution and victim services staffs.

Anticipated Conference and Training Events include annual conferences sponsored by the National Criminal Justice Association, National Association of Counties, BJA's COSSAP annual conference, and other reentry-related educational opportunities.

G. Management and Administration

The Office of Justice Policy & Programs, (the Regional Planning Unit) will utilize administrative funds totaling 10% of the direct allocations to Franklin County and city of Columbus. M&A funding will support the following:

- Grants administration of the JAG program including relevant planning, training, fiscal and programmatic oversight, assessment, performance data collection and reporting.
- Timely data collection in compliance with a performance-based system aligned with the BJA performance measures. Individual projects will report quarterly to the Office of Justice Policy & Programs (Administrative Agent)
- Analysis and reporting of individual and aggregate level data for reporting to internal and external stakeholders and the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Proposed Outcomes:

In addition to collecting quarterly data in support of the performance metrics required by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the following outcomes will be monitored for program impact:

- 1) Increased access to harm reduction education, peer support, and supportive services like state ID and birth certificate vouchers, transportation, hygiene supplies, etc.. It is anticipated a minimum of 400 justice-involved individuals will receive support in their transition from a carceral setting to the community;
- 2) Reduced incidents of violent and property crime involving youth in Whitehall as measured by increased law enforcement engagement, the number of youth arrested for serious property and violent crimes, the number of youth enrolled in a diversion program operated by the Juvenile Court and the number of juveniles reported missing recovered;
- 3) Increased investigative capacity as a result of additional license plate readers deployed in Reynoldsburg, Ohio;
- 4) Increased investigative capacity of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office HOPE Task Force as a result of the addition of a Drug Analyst;
- 5) Improved drug identification capability and efficiency as a result of upgraded instrumentation procured by the Drug Identification Section of the Columbus Police Crime Laboratory;
- 6) Increased identification, investigation and prosecution of individuals committing internet crimes against children;

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- 7) Increased apprehension of individuals charged with violent crime with outstanding active warrants;
- 8) Increased number of individuals referred to Project Taillight for minor vehicle repairs in lieu of a non-moving traffic violation;
- 9) Increased treatment compliance by individuals identifying as LGBTQ and court-ordered to receive specialized batterers' intervention services and education;
- 10) Decreased delay in probation assignment of probationers sentenced by the Franklin County Municipal Court as a result of increased capacity to perform screening and assessments utilizing a validated risk instrument.

FY 2022 sub-award recipients, including the cities of Reynoldsburg, Columbus and Whitehall will be required to submit programmatic and fiscal reports quarterly to the Franklin County Office of Justice Policy and Programs. The Franklin County Office of Justice Policy and Programs (OJPP) will be responsible for review of quarterly reporting and aggregating of JAG supported efforts and entry into the BJA portal quarterly and DOJ JustGrants system semi-annually. OJPP will monitor sub-award recipient progress and conduct field visits where able post COVID. Quarterly desktop monitoring will be conducted to reconcile funding to the sub-recipient approved budget and application.