

Attachment #1
FY 2020 JAG Program Narrative

The FY 2020 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) award will be administered by Franklin County acting as the fiduciary and administrative agent on behalf of the cities of Columbus and Whitehall, Ohio Initiatives, projects and individuals programs selected for funding will align with the Franklin County Criminal Justice Strategic Plan CY 2020 – 2024 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 have 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 accordance with the Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan. (reference Strategic Justice Plan for CY2020 - 2024)

FY 2020 JAG funds will be coordinated with multiple local, state and federal funding streams to leverage other available resources addressing the priorities identified in the Franklin County Comprehensive Strategic Justice Plan. 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 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 to the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board, of which both the cities of Columbus and Whitehall have board representation, each of the jurisdictions have agreed to designate OJPP as the applicant and fiscal agent for the JAG grant. Upon notice of award, the cities of Columbus and Whitehall will each receive sub-awards based on the funding plan approved by the Memorandum of Understanding.

In developing the FY 2020 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 and carfentanyl. During CY 2019, the Franklin County Coroner reported 543 drug-overdose deaths with indications that the number of overdose deaths in 2020 will far exceed this figure. First quarter 2020 overdose deaths exceed overdose deaths during this same quarter in 2019 by 55.3%. The far reaching consequences of this

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public health crisis have taxed our first responders, devastated families, overwhelmed our social services and filled our jails beyond capacity.

Issue #2:

VIOLENT CRIME: Social unrest, isolation and frustration resulting from the coronavirus pandemic along with rampant opioid and cocaine abuse are likely feeders of the alarming violence rates trending in Franklin County and the city of Columbus in 2020. As of July 2020, the city of Columbus has reported 75 homicides with 41% (or 31) occurring in June and July alone. 69% of the homicides reported this year involved a gun and 20% involved a juvenile suspect.

Issue #3:

REENTRY: 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 and physical health concerns.

Issue #4:

ANTIQUATED CRIME LAB EQUIPMENT: Current crime lab equipment and aging computers are unable to support the software upgrades needed to move the laboratory towards a paperless analysis system. The majority of the computers in the lab are running Windows 7 which is no longer supported.

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.

To address the identified issues above, FY 2020 JAG funding will support the following criminal justice related initiatives:

A. Opioid Public Health Crisis

- To address the high rate of overdoses of individuals recently released from the local jail, Naloxone will be purchased for distribution to individuals upon release from the Franklin County Jail. Kits will be distributed along with harm reduction information and treatment options in property bins of individuals screened as high risk for an opioid use disorder by the MAT Coordinator.

B. Stepping Up and Reentry Related Initiatives

- Continuation of a contract with a Data Reentry Specialist to assist in data collection and analysis of our Reentry and Stepping Up initiatives.
- Transitional housing for justice involved individuals released from local and/or state incarceration and actively engaged in treatment services.
- Contracting of one Peer Support Specialist to assist justice involved individuals in transition planning and early recovery management.

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- Supportive services funding to include the purchase of bus passes for dissemination to justice involved individuals in need of transportation assistance,

funds to purchase state identification documents, and personal hygiene supplies for individuals recently released from incarceration. Some funds will be used to support printing costs of resource booklets sent to the local and state institutions for distribution to individuals returning to Franklin County.

C. Computer Equipment, Digital Camera System and Software Upgrades for the Columbus Division of Police Crime Lab

- The city of Columbus intends to purchase computer equipment, software upgrades and a Mideo camera system to support the Division of Police Crime Laboratory. Current computer equipment is outdated and unable to support software upgrades. Purchase of a Mideo digital camera system will allow for the direct input of latent print images into their server and AFIS.

D. Youth Delinquency and Crime Prevention

- The city of Whitehall will utilize FY 2020 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.

E. Community Outreach and Education

- The Franklin County Sheriff's Office will continue implementation of several highly regarded community outreach and prevention programs including:
 - (a) *Operation Street Smarts* Personal Safety education programs and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)
 - (b) *Citizen's Academy*
 - © *Project Lifesaver*

F. Warrants Enforcement

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

G. Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

- FY 2020 JAG funding will continue to support overtime for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force which joins nine law enforcement jurisdictions in identification and investigation of internet crimes targeting youth.

H. Training and Education

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.

Specialized training for Franklin County Sheriff's Office corrections personnel on the topics of suicide prevention, trauma informed care, and inmate mental health will be offered during CY2020.

I. 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 Bureau of Justice Assistance required performance metrics, the following outcomes will be monitored for program impact:

- 1) Increased access to transitional housing, harm reduction education, peer support and distribution of naloxone to justice involved individuals;
- 2) Reduced incidents of violent crime involving youth in Whitehall.
- 3) Increased participation in community prevention and education programs offered through the Franklin County Sheriff's Office;
- 4) Reduction in recidivism rates of justice involved individuals receiving pre- and post-release reentry and supportive services;
- 5) Increased efficiency of the Columbus Division of Police Crime Laboratory as a result of software and equipment upgrades;
- 6) Increased identification, investigation and prosecution of individuals committing internet crimes against children.
- 7) Increased apprehension of individuals charged with violent crime with outstanding active warrants.

FY 2020 sub-award recipients, including the cities of 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 GMS system semi-annually. OJPP will monitor sub-award recipient progress and conduct field visits where possible. Quarterly desktop monitoring will be conducted to reconcile funding to the sub-recipient approved budget and application.