

Tennessee Narrative Statement for 2023 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

The Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) manages a systematic, year-round cycle for tracking problems surfacing in the criminal justice system, monitoring trends in Tennessee's communities, assessing the condition of the state's resources, setting program priorities, making grant allocation decisions, managing those funded projects, measuring the performance of, and evaluating the results of those decisions. Our strategic program management process looks several years ahead of daily grants management activities at the changing needs of Tennessee's justice system. The process helps OCJP focus its future program descriptions, set its funding priorities, prepare its budget requests, and direct its limited resources into areas that promise the best return for the public's investment.

As in most states, most Tennessee's criminal justice dollars continues to be funded by tax revenue and spent on local and state criminal justice priorities and problems. Crimes are committed locally, and that is where most offenders are apprehended, defendants tried, sentences determined and carried out. It is also where services are provided for both the victims of the crime and offenders. Because the Statewide Multi-year Strategy serves as the blueprint for all coordinated drug and violent crime control efforts in the State, the rehabilitative services for those that commit those crimes and the reparative services for those victimized, it is imperative that the State utilize a strategic planning process that reflects the perspectives of these practitioners. It must be as inclusive as possible. To that end, the Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) takes a data-driven approach and proactively seeks input from practitioners on the local, state and federal levels for the development of the strategy. OCJP gathers practitioner information through a variety of planned information gatherings, training conferences and webinars, as well as through informal meetings and surveys. This strategy document reflects this information which combines both state and national data.

OCJP's JAG application takes the overall strategic plan and attempts to address some of the systemic issues present. This is done by addressing community needs identified through current relevant data around crime and victimization with a goal of implementing projects on both the local and state levels. OCJP attempts to leverage all State and Federal fund sources to maximize the individual strategies in addressing the issues.

The data contained in the 2023 Five Year Strategic Plan and more recent addendums to the previous plan demonstrates the following areas of need:

- A focus on domestic violence and sexual assault to continue the positive progress that has been gained in enhancing services in these areas
- Gang intelligence and the use of a coordinated approach to apprehension and prosecution of violent crimes and drug offenses
- Data-driven, location-based strategies to reduce crime and address trauma
- Meeting basic infrastructure issues such as technology and equipment enhancements
- Providing evidence-based training to criminal justice and victim service practitioners' training related best practices, policy development, data analysis, and in other subject matter gaps identified by our stakeholders
- Continued enhancement of trauma informed victim services, focusing on best practices for unserved and underserved victims
- Providing evidence-based pretrial reform efforts in local communities

OCJP is excited about the opportunities this plan provides to impact criminal justice issues in Tennessee over the next five years. OCJP will continue to seek information and input from our local and state level peers to enhance our understanding of the current needs and issues Tennessee faces over the course of this multi-year plan and each year, specific strategies will be developed to address the most pressing issues.

OCJP Project Descriptions	# of Projects	JAG Priority Areas	2023 Funding Amounts
Correctional Programming	6	Corrections and Community Corrections Programs	\$428,981.00
Multi-Jurisdictional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	16	Drug Treatment and Enforcement Programs	\$1,345,580.00
Law Enforcement Programs	1	Prevention and Education	\$240,000.00
Victim Services - Family Justice Centers	3	Planning Evaluation and Technological Improvement Programs	\$39,500.00
Criminal Justice Professional Enhancement Training	3	Law Enforcement Programs	\$313,542.00
Criminal Justice Professional Enhancement Training	1	Prosecution and Court Programs	\$28,000.00
Pretrial Services	4	Prosecution and court programs	\$380,068.00
Innovations in Criminal Investigations	1	Prosecution and court programs	\$75,000.00
Innovations in Criminal Investigations	2	Planning Evaluation and Technology Improvement Programs	\$200,000.00
Court Support	8	Prosecution and court programs	\$648,760.00
Crime Victim and Witness	1	Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement	\$240,000.00
Crime Victim and Witness	2	Crime Victim and Witness	\$59,917.00