

Criminal Justice Programs Solicitation

The Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's Office is soliciting applications for projects that reduce crime and improve the criminal justice system during the state fiscal year 2013 grant cycle.

Purpose: The purpose of this solicitation is to reduce crime and improve the criminal justice system.

Available Funding: Federal funds are authorized under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) (42 U.S.C. 3751(a)). JAG funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation to the United States Department of Justice. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Funding Levels:

Minimum amount is \$10,000

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: None

Standards: Grantees must comply with the standards applicable to this funding source cited in the *Texas Administrative Code* (1 TAC Chapter 3), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

Prohibitions: Grant funds may not be used to support the following services, activities, and costs:

- 1) supplanting or use of grant funds to replace any other existing federal, state or local funds;
- 2) inherently religious activities such as prayer, worship, religious instruction, or proselytization;
- 3) lobbying;
- 4) any portion of the salary of, or any other compensation for, an elected or appointed government official;
- 5) non-law enforcement vehicles or equipment for government agencies that are for general agency use;
- 6) weapons, ammunition, explosives or military vehicles;
- 7) admission fees or tickets to any amusement park, recreational activity or sporting event;
- 8) promotional gifts;
- 9) food, meals, beverages, or other refreshments;
- 10) membership dues for individuals;
- 11) fundraising;
- 12) construction, renovation or remodeling;
- 13) medical services;
- 14) transportation, lodging, per diem or any related costs for participants, when grant funds are used to develop and conduct training; and
- 15) legal services for adult offenders.

Eligible Applicants:

- 1) State agencies;
- 2) Units of local government;
- 3) Independent school districts;
- 4) Native American tribes;
- 5) Public universities;
- 6) Public colleges; and
- 7) Community supervision and corrections departments.

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Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) Projects must focus on reducing crime and improving the criminal justice system;
- 2) Eligible applicants must provide law enforcement, corrections, or judicial services;
- 3) In order for an applicant to be eligible, the county (or counties) in which the applicant is located must have an overall 90% average on reporting adult criminal history dispositions to the Texas Department of Public Safety for calendar years 2006 through 2010. This requirement must be met by August 1, 2012;
- 4) Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR) and must have been current for the three previous years;
- 5) Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency, to request a DUNS number, go to <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>; and
- 6) Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database located at <http://www.ccr.gov> and maintain an active registration throughout the grant period.

Project Period: Grant-funded projects must begin on or after September 1, 2012 and expire on or before August 31, 2013.

Application Process: Applicants must access CJD's grant management website at <https://eGrants.governor.state.tx.us> to register and apply for funding.

Preferences: Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate cost effective programs focused on a comprehensive and effective approach to services that compliment the criminal justice system.

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications: All applications must be certified via CJD's grant management website on or before February 24, 2012.

Selection Process:

- 1) For eligible local and regional projects:
 - a) Applications will be forwarded by CJD to the appropriate regional council of governments (COG).
 - b) The COG's criminal justice advisory committee prioritizes all eligible applications based on identified community and/or comprehensive planning, cost and program effectiveness.
 - c) CJD will consider priority listings that are approved by the COG's executive committee.
 - d) CJD will make all final funding decisions based on COG priorities, reasonableness, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.
- 2) For state discretionary projects, applications will be reviewed by CJD staff members or a review group selected by the executive director. CJD will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.

Contact Information: If additional information is needed, contact the eGrants Help Desk at eGrants@governor.state.tx.us or (512) 463-1919.

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Memorandum

To: Criminal Justice Division (CJD) Grant Recipients of Future Funds
From: Christopher Burnett, CJD Executive Director
Date: December 14, 2011
Re: IMPORTANT CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE GRANTS

While most counties have made great strides over the last few years in reporting criminal history dispositions as required by Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 60, to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), the State Auditor's September 2011 audit of the reporting requirement system shows that more needs to be done. To assist this effort, the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) is taking the following steps:

Effective September 1, 2012, each county must comply with Chapter 60 reporting requirements in order for the county or any political subdivision within that county to be eligible for grants under CJD's Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. This means that by August 1, 2012, each county and any political subdivision within that county that has applied to CJD for JAG grants must provide CJD with a criminal history disposition completeness report documenting that it has reached a 90% disposition completeness rate for adult arrests for calendar years 2006-2010, as measured by DPS. All jurisdictions, such as cities, in a non-compliant county will be ineligible for JAG funds regardless of whether the county itself applied to CJD for JAG.

Effective September 1, 2013, any entity, public or private, in a county that does not report at 90% or above will be ineligible to receive grants from any state or federal fund sources managed by CJD.

CJD will discuss possible grant funding to help counties get into compliance.

Criminal histories must be reported correctly and promptly to DPS as required by Chapter 60. Many public and private employers use criminal histories as part of the review process when hiring persons for sensitive positions. Texas and national law enforcement officers need complete criminal histories during traffic stops or during other contacts. Also, this information is vital for judges to make proper decisions regarding magistration and sentencing. For these reasons, the Texas Legislature has stressed the need for timely and complete information and has established timelines for counties to achieve average compliance reporting at 90% or above.

I urge you to pay close attention to how these reporting requirements may affect your entire county's eligibility to receive future grants from CJD. Please contact Judy Switzer (judy.switzer@gov.texas.gov) for CJD and JAG questions.

If you have technical questions regarding the Chapter 60 data reporting requirements, please contact Angie Kendall at the Texas Department of Public Safety at angie.kendall@dps.texas.gov.

Click [here](#) for a list of counties and their criminal history reporting averages with DPS.

Sincerely,



Christopher Burnett
Executive Director
Criminal Justice Division