

State of Georgia Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program 2016 Program Narrative

The State of Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is pleased to submit this application for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for Byrne JAG funds. The General Assembly of Georgia created the CJCC in 1981 "to provide the necessary leadership to coordinate the major components of the criminal justice system by establishing a statewide coordinating body which represents all components and all levels of the criminal justice system" (O.C.G.A. § 35-6A-1). CJCC's 26 Council members, as statutorily defined, include representatives from every facet of the criminal justice system at the state and local levels, in addition to citizen members appointed by the Governor. The representatives provide insight and direction to Council staff regarding the coordination and update of the state's strategic plans for drug and violent crime control, crime victim services, violence against women, and statistical analysis and evaluation.

In addition to Byrne JAG, CJCC is designated as the SAA for several other federal formula and competitive grant programs. SAA operations are supported, in part, by administrative funds originating from these grants, such as the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Program, the STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program, the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Program, and the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program. CJCC also includes Georgia's designated State Analytical Center, the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC).

Statement of the Problem

For the 2016 Byrne JAG funds, the State of Georgia is committed to continue funding for its vital law enforcement and public safety efforts in accordance with the following priorities:

1. Drug interdiction and strategic planning efforts around the significant rise of heroin consumption and the recalcitrant methamphetamine usage problem;
2. The State's commitment to substance abuse programs and the availability of correctional facility spaces designated for the rehabilitation of returning citizens;
3. Coordination of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies through the sharing of relevant crime and trend data;
4. A statewide strategic plan to determine the needs of local law enforcement and assess the best use for the less than \$10,000 funds.

Georgia's final federal allocation for Byrne JAG FY 2016 formula grant is \$5,314,492, a 44% cut over the past seven years. Initiatives funded by Byrne JAG run the gamut from substance abuse treatment and law enforcement training at the state level to drug task force and crime reduction projects at the local level. The decrease in funds will undoubtedly have a diminished impact on the state's responsivity to local issues and state-led projects. However, staff will employ a strategic planning process to identify gaps in services and allocate funds to target those service areas. In addition, staff will: 1) evaluate proposed and existing activities to assess the extent of relevance to the state's funding priorities; 2) utilize performance data to evaluate current initiatives; and 3) review program goals and resources to determine sustainability.

Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces

Georgia continues to place a high priority on funding multi-jurisdictional drug task force agencies (MJDTFs) to counter drug-related crime in both rural and metro areas. As an economic and transportation hub, Georgia has become the nexus for gang-related drug activity in the Southeast. In response to the constant expansion of illegal drug activity, CJCC and MJDTFs

have established three shared goals: 1) to disrupt illicit drug markets by investigating drug distributors and/or drug trafficking organizations; 2) to broaden awareness as to the trends, threats, myths, and consequences associated with illegal drug use; and 3) to participate in the local drug enforcement strategy through law enforcement intervention with drug abusers. The MJDTFs are committed to addressing and decreasing the current level of drug-related crime within Georgia.

The MJDTFs target three levels of drug distribution that vary in volume among the jurisdictions, including major, mid-level, and street-level distributors. At present, 17 local and regional MJDTFs are funded across the state—including two K-9 Units. MJDTFs provide crucial drug enforcement support throughout Georgia. Two of these MJDTFs—West Metro Regional Drug Enforcement Office and Southeastern Regional Drug Enforcement Office—are regional agencies that have combined their individual resources into a unified task force, enabling them to target a larger geographic area—much of which was previously without coverage. For example, the West Metro Regional Drug Enforcement Office is a first-of-its-kind work-unit housed in the City of Carrollton that combines assets from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) with assets from local law enforcement authorities to create the State of Georgia’s first state and local drug task force. Its partners include several city police departments, county sheriffs’ offices, a county police department, the GBI, and the Coweta Judicial Circuit’s District Attorney’s Office. This regional MJDTF currently serves 26 counties, to include the entire Metro Atlanta area. It functions as a hybrid between a traditional GBI Regional Drug Enforcement Office and a local MJDTF working to address drug enforcement by closing the gap between local law enforcement and federal enforcement efforts. The recently formed Southeastern Regional Drug Enforcement Office (SRDEO) is also a law

enforcement/drug enforcement collaborative effort between state and local governments that has combined local drug task forces with the GBI's Regional Drug Enforcement Office. This Regional Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force is currently serving an area of 27 counties in Southeast Georgia, comprising 20% of the geographic area of the State. The SRDEO collaborates with federal, state, and local agencies by sharing intelligence and jointly conducting investigations, search and seizures, and undercover drug buys. This collaboration not only ensures that a greater service area is being covered, but also works to enhance intelligence sharing and ensure that services are not duplicated.

Regional K-9 Multi-Jurisdictional Resource Teams

Regional K-9 resource teams are an invaluable resource to the state's MJDTFs and local law enforcement agencies. The expense of acquiring and maintaining K-9 resource teams for each MJDTF or law enforcement agency is cost prohibitive. The two regional K-9 resource teams located in Chatham (Savannah) and Dawson (North Georgia) counties have assisted local, state, federal, multi-jurisdictional, and private agencies throughout the course of their existence. The K-9 resource teams and K-9 training facility continue to support the following law enforcement activities: safe school searches (narcotics and firearms); street sweep operations (narcotics and firearms); neighborhood drug activity suppression (narcotics); traffic safety checks (narcotics and firearms); service of search warrants (narcotics, firearms, explosives); recovery of evidence (narcotics, firearms, explosives), school and community drug education/detection demonstrations (narcotics); participation in multi-level narcotics interdiction efforts (narcotics); narcotics sweeps of correctional facilities (narcotics); and explosive detection (threat response, physical security, VIP protection). Since the events of September 11, 2001, the

K-9 resource teams have also provided support to counter-terrorism investigations at the deep water port of Savannah and small regional airports throughout Georgia.

Together the MJDTFs and the K-9 resource teams have successfully seized large quantities of a variety of illicit drugs over the past two years as shown in the table below.

<i>Total Seizures by Drug Seized and Year</i>			
Drug Seized	2014 (Grams)	2015 (Grams)	Change in Seizures from 2014 to 2015
Methamphetamine	95,301	166,179	74%
Cocaine	164,281	228,203	39%
Marijuana (Commercial and Hydroponic)	896,727	858,637	-4%
Crack	4,924	1,141	-77%
MDMA/Ecstasy	1,567	1,515	-3%
Heroin	793	18,253	2,201%
Prescription Medications	17,278	43,674	153%

Also, more than 85% of MJDTF and K-9 team offender arrests have resulted in either State or Federal Prosecution.

<i>Total Arrestees by Year</i>	
2014	2,476
2015	2,348

<i>Total Prosecutions by Year and Jurisdiction</i>		
Jurisdiction	2014	2015
State	2,099	2,024
Federal	93	91

Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC)

Byrne-JAG will be used to fund employment positions within the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC). This award will further the mission of protecting the public and providing adequate training to peace officers in the state. In an effort to collaborate with others, GPSTC works with subject matter experts to analyze and develop curricula to address training needs.

Drug Enforcement

Currently a significant portion of training addresses the complex issue of illegal drug crime. Training public safety professionals in the detection, disruption, dismantlement, and prosecution of illicit drug and gang-related criminal enterprises supports law enforcement in areas where drug and gang-related activity has increased.

The state of Georgia has become a regional and national hub for drug distribution. Access to two major airports in both Atlanta and Savannah, as well as the Brunswick and Savannah ports, makes the state a prime distribution center for high-level drug trafficking. Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) continue to operate in Atlanta due to its diverse and expansive transportation system. A majority of these shipments are arriving in Atlanta via commercial and personal vehicles, but in an attempt to diversify shipping methods and hinder investigative efforts, DTOs are increasingly sending smaller and more frequent shipments of narcotics.¹ Although the illegal drug trade encompasses an array of drugs in the state, methamphetamine and heroin are becoming more prevalent and lethal. Research from 2011 through 2014 shows a significant increase in drug overdose deaths and seizures from methamphetamine and heroin. There has been a 786% increase in methamphetamine seizures and a 152% increase in heroin seizures, as well as a 36% increase in methamphetamine-involved overdose deaths and a 556% increase in heroin-involved deaths.² The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) Crime Lab reported the following numbers for heroin submissions: in 2011, 276 cases were submitted, in 2012, 356 cases were submitted (a 29 % increase), in 2013, 717 cases were submitted (a 101%

¹ Atlanta-Carolinas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. Atlanta-Carolinas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area 2015 Threat Assessment and 2016 Strategy.

² Toward a State Drug Enforcement Strategy: A Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (2015). Quick Facts of Methamphetamine and Heroin Data. Page 9. Retrieved from: http://cjcc.georgia.gov/sites/cjcc.georgia.gov/files/related_files/document/ApprovedforRelease_FinalReport.pdf.

increase), and in 2014, 863 cases were submitted (a 20% increase).³ The SAC reports that total drug seizures increased from 2014 to 2015 by 11%.

The current methamphetamine market of Georgia is saturated. It is believed that readily available supply of methamphetamine increased in the past year, because Mexico-based sources have increased their production levels. By doing this, sources are able to produce a methamphetamine with a higher profit margin and do not have to acquire product from another source country. Mexico-based DTOs are also increasingly shipping large amounts of heroin to distributors operating in metropolitan Atlanta to meet current local market demands.⁴ For multiple law enforcement agencies, heroin is currently the top or greatest increasing drug threat as abuse and availability have increased in several parts of the Atlanta area. Investigators believe, based upon current trends, that larger and more frequent shipments of heroin will be sent to the Atlanta area to meet the growing demand, and overdose deaths will increase due to Atlanta's younger heroin users' inexperience and the increase in heroin mixed with fentanyl.⁵

In addition to the upward trend of heroin and methamphetamine availability and seemingly insatiable demand in the state, the ever-increasing presence of synthetic and designer drugs has further complicated drug enforcement. The consistency of synthetic drugs changes with each new formulation. As a result, regular training is critical to ensure officers can identify designer drugs, as well as behavioral patterns that result from its use.

³ Georgia Bureau of Investigation (2015). Heroin Submissions to GBI Crime Lab Increase. Retrieved from: <https://gbi.georgia.gov/press-releases/2014-04-24/heroin-submissions-gbi-crime-lab-increase>.

⁴ Atlanta-Carolinas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. Atlanta-Carolinas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area 2015 Threat Assessment and 2016 Strategy.

⁵ Ibid.

Mental Illness

Mental illness is a major concern affecting a significant portion of the United States population. Many adults in the U.S. have had experiences with or continue to experience a variety of mental illnesses. Data that was collected by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that 18.5% or 43.8 million adults in the U.S. experience mental illness every year. Of that population, one in five adults has experienced issues related to mental illness in the past.⁶ Adults who have experienced substance abuse of narcotics, such as methamphetamines, heroin, and cocaine, have an increased likelihood of experiencing mental illness. Among the 20.2 million adults in the U.S. who have experienced substance abuse disorders, 50.5% or 10.2 million have had a co-occurring mental illness.⁷ It is estimated that 26% of adults who are homeless and/or staying in shelters live with a mental illness, and 46% of that population live with both a mental illness and a substance abuse disorder.⁸ Moreover, 90% of people who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness.⁹

Mental illness has significantly impacted incarceration rates of state and federal prisons and local jails. Each year, approximately 2 million mentally ill Americans are incarcerated. A report gathered by the Treatment Advocacy Center indicates that approximately 356,268 inmates in American prisons and jails have been diagnosed with a severe mental illness, 10 times the number of people with mental illness in psychiatric hospitals - approximately 35,000.¹⁰ About 15% of state prisoners and 24% of jail inmates report experiencing symptoms of psychiatric

⁶ National Alliance of Mental Illness (2015). Prevalence of Mental Illness. Retrieved March 1, 2016 from <https://www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-By-the-Numbers>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Number of mentally ill Americans end up in prison reports from 2012. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/04/30/a-shocking-number-of-mentally-ill-americans-end-up-in-prisons-instead-of-psychiatric-hospitals>

disorders.¹¹ At least 83% of jail inmates with a mental illness do not receive treatment according to NAMI.¹²

The Crisis Intervention Treatment (CIT) program will improve law enforcement's understanding of individuals who may suffer from a mental illness and/or substance abuse problem. CIT trains law enforcement on how to best identify and address individuals who may become irate in circumstances that escalate to law enforcement involvement, as well as provide the proper resources to assist with individual needs.

The SAC is currently conducting a study to better understand the connection between victims of mental illness and the criminal justice system. In partnership with the Forsyth Mental Health Task Force, the SAC will assess the scope of interaction between people with serious and persistent mental illness and the criminal justice system. The goal of the initiative is to limit incarcerations, provide necessary treatment for persons with mental illness, and ensure that law enforcement, 911 dispatchers, and the courts can direct patients and their families to appropriate resources in Forsyth County. The key objective is to develop a needs assessment to identify requirements that can effectively ensure persons with mental illness (PMI) are diverted from the criminal justice system to crisis intervention and/or treatment. The needs assessment will document and evaluate the path of diversion a PMI can follow at the first two points of contact with the criminal justice system. The first contact point is first responders—including 911 dispatchers, law enforcement, and emergency personnel. The second contact point includes intake at the county jail following an arrest along with the initial court hearings.

¹¹ Number of mentally ill Americans end up in prison reports from 2012. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/04/30/a-shocking-number-of-mentally-ill-americans-end-up-in-prisons-instead-of-psychiatric-hospitals>

¹² National Alliance of Mental Illness (2016). Jailing People with Mental Illness. Retrieved March 1, 2016 from <https://www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-Public-Policy/Jailing-People-with-Mental-Illness>

A comprehensive review done by the Urban Institute states there is mounting evidence that criminal justice-involved individuals with mental illness are more likely than those without a mental illness to experience adverse outcomes, such as misconduct and accidents in prisons, as well as recidivism.¹³ Helping criminal justice-involved people stay out of trouble will not only benefit the individual; it will also hold high the promise of saving significant costs in criminal justice spending and reducing associated victimization costs.

Department of Driver Services (DDS)

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reports that 11,384 incidents of identity theft occurred in the state of Georgia in 2014.¹⁴ The most heavily-reported type of identity theft—by a wide margin—was for government documents or benefits fraud. In addition to the impact identity theft has on its victims, states and local communities are negatively impacted by the use of fraudulent documents to obtain false identities, typically in the form of state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards. The FTC's Consumer Sentinel Network (CSN) collects information about consumer fraud and identity theft from numerous organizations, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Secret Service, Attorney General Offices, and various state and local law enforcement agencies. Of the 2.5 million complaints reported to the CSN in 2014, 13% were related to identity theft. According to the CSN Data Book, Georgia ranks second in the nation for reported consumer fraud cases and fifth for identity theft complaints. Victims frequently suffer the impacts for months, if not years, after the initial incident. One popular case in 2014 involved a Georgian who was convicted on several identity theft charges such as wire

¹³ Urban Institute (2015). Exploring a new opportunity to help mentally ill individuals in the criminal justice system. Retrieved March 1, 2016. <http://www.urban.org/urban-wire/exploring-new-opportunity-help-mentally-ill-individuals-criminal-justice-system>.

¹⁴ Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book for January – December 2014, Federal Trade Commission, March 2016, page 32.

fraud, filing false claims, and money laundering. He filed over 5,000 tax returns using names and social security numbers of victims who were unaware of their stolen information.

Illegally obtained identification enables undocumented immigrants to obtain employment, vehicles, housing, property, bank accounts, and governmental social services. The annual cost of this theft to taxpayers is staggering. In addition, it is estimated that identity theft costs U.S. banks well over a billion dollars annually through theft of bank deposits, unauthorized credit purchases, fraudulent loans, etc. Unfortunately, the problem extends beyond white collar crime, as these false identification documents are used to further a wide variety of violent criminal activity, such as smuggling immigrants into the country, human trafficking, narcotics, sexual exploitation of minors, terrorism, and organized crime.

Reported Cases

DDS opens thousands of identity theft and/or fraud cases each year. Many cases are due to victims misrepresenting their own information or loss of identification. DDS's main objective in identity theft or fraud cases is to work to retain skilled and trained personnel who can assist in preparing fraud cases for investigators and closing cases successfully. To this end, DDS uses Byrne JAG funds to employ administrative staff to adequately review all cases. These administrative staff will determine if further investigating is required for cases. If needed, all cases needing more investigation will be given to the fraud investigator for more intensive review for potential fraud.

In addition, DDS uses a specialized records management system, Spillman, to provide all statistical information needed to document the unit's achievement of these goals and to gather data for reporting purposes. The system records cases and outcomes, among other data, and provides thousands of pre-formatted reports to help document law enforcement activities and

transmit statistical reports to federal and state crime statistics databases.¹⁵ There are several factors in which cases are closed:

- **Clear by Arrest:** An arrest was made for a case in which a person who is using someone else's information unknowingly is placed in jail.
- **Clear by Cancellation:** A case is canceled, because no further action is required or actions have been fulfilled.
- **Inactive:** No action has occurred related to a case.
- **Unfound:** A case has no suspect of fraud implications.
- **Closed:** A case does not have enough information regarding any fraud implications.

The department's core goal of 70% was established in 2007, but because of the substantial increase in cases to the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) and Secure Automated Fast Friendly Easier Driver's License (SAFFE-DL), the unpredicted volume prevented the unit from achieving this goal (although substantial progress has been made). As reported for FY 2015, the number of cases closed pertaining to identity theft within DDS has increased to 55% from 50% in FY 2014. Though this goal has not yet been achieved, DDS anticipates that within a 12-month period, they will be able to attain their goal of 70%, if the case load remains stable.

Georgia Department of Corrections

Between 1990 and 2011, Georgia's prison population more than doubled to nearly 56,000 inmates. State spending on corrections soared as well, from \$492 million to more than one billion dollars annually. Despite this substantial investment, Georgia's 30% recidivism rate

¹⁵ "Police Database Records Software: Spillman," (2016). Integrated Public Safety Software. Retrieved from <https://www.spillman.com/police/records/>

remained virtually unchanged for a decade. A five-year projection forecasted additional growth in the incarcerated population and another \$264 million in prison costs prior to the adult corrections and juvenile justice reforms of 2012 and 2013.¹⁶ The data identifies that low risk offenders such as drug and property offenders account for nearly 60% of Georgia jail and prison admissions totaling 3,200 admitted offenders.

The Governor's Office of Transitional Support and Reentry and the Georgia Department of Corrections collaborates to support the Georgia Prison Reentry Initiative (GA-PRI) and decrease recidivism rates, reduce victimization, and create efficiencies and cost savings for the reentry system by implementing a program to help low risk offenders who are serving a sentence of five years or less. The primary goal of this initiative is to promote public safety by reducing the threat of harm to persons, families, and their property by citizens returning to their communities from prison and increasing success rates of returning citizens who transition from prison.

The Coastal State Prison Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program has modified the framework of GA-PRI by assessing the needs of low level offenders. The program is an intensive and highly structured residential therapeutic treatment community where participants are housed separately from the rest of the offender population. All offenders have a history of chronic substance abuse. The goal of the RSAT program is to ensure participants successfully complete the program and return to society as self-supporting, pro-social, law-abiding citizens. To this end, RSAT provides evidence-based programming consisting of psycho-educational, process groups, individual counseling, and group activities, along with aftercare

¹⁶ Report of the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform (2014). Number of Georgia incarceration rate. Page 2. Retrieved from https://gov.georgia.gov/sites/gov.georgia.gov/files/related_files/document/GA%20Criminal%20Justice%20Reform%20Council%20Report.pdf.

linkage for the program graduates. Within nine months of treatment, participants gain valuable knowledge involving disease modeling, handling offender confrontation, family dynamics, employment and sexual abuse.

A data collection system quantifies the success of the program, using metrics such as percentage of offenders who successfully complete the program and attend aftercare, percentage of offenders who complete the program and do not attend aftercare, and percentage of offenders who had positive drug screens during treatment and aftercare. Standardized valid assessment tools are used pre- and post-treatment, as well as at intervals after program completion. Monthly reports with information about implementation, performance, and management allow for a system of continuous quality improvement and program oversight. Also, a Consolidated Annual Program Report is provided to document site-by-site and aggregate intakes, washouts, graduates, and other dispositions that are necessary. The report also provides information on staffing issues, changes, training, supervision, and certification.

Georgia Information Sharing Analysis Center (GISAC)

As crime becomes more and more complex, it is increasingly difficult for law enforcement to combat. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Data (UCR), total violent crime in Georgia increased from 35,131 reported cases in 2013 to 36,873 cases in 2014. Furthermore, total property crime (including burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson) increased from 326,179 cases in 2013 to 329,076 cases in 2014.¹⁷ Compounding the problem of increasing crime rates is the fact that the face of terrorism has changed dramatically since 9/11.

¹⁷ Georgia Crime Information Center (2015). Georgia Uniform Crime Reporting Program: Summary Report. Page 3. Retrieved from http://gbi.georgia.gov/sites/gbi.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/2014CrimeStatisticsSummaryReport.pdf.

Byrne JAG funding will continue to support the Georgia Information Sharing Analysis Center's (GISAC) plan to update its technology software and improve information-sharing tools. Technologically advanced reporting and analysis software is imperative to collecting information in an investigation. The combination of laptops, tablets, virtual private networking, and wireless cards enables GISAC staff to provide the same level of service regardless of their physical location while maintaining security and integrity for sensitive data sources. These tools give GISAC the ability to discover trends, map cell phone data, conduct geospatial analysis, and more, thereby increasing the value of the information they collect. Additionally, these software tools enhance the way GISAC communicates intelligence to identify, prevent, and disrupt criminal and terrorist activities, as well as provide the most effective presentation of the intelligence during the adjudication process.¹⁸

GISAC's goal is to collect as much data as possible to communicate information about all criminal activity that poses a threat. GISAC will continue to participate in, improve, and expand the National Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative, as well as increase awareness to Georgia law enforcement. Implementing more knowledgeable class and online Peace Officer Standard and Training (POST) trainings, GISAC will expand training for analysts using hardware, software, and mobile technology tools to ensure the ability to provide services regardless of location. It will also expand the organization's scope and training for each Community of Interest on the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) as a primary means for distribution of intelligence products. Collecting data from assessment investigations, incoming intelligence analyst service requests, the number of people trained for HSIN, and reports created and posted on HSIN will enhance the level of output.

¹⁸ GISAC Byrne Funding Application (2015). Statement of Problem. Page 1

GISAC will continue to help coordinate protective security and other specialized law enforcement operations in response to known or predicted criminal activity, terrorist threats, and other major disasters. They will provide support to coordinating national Terrorist Screening Center notifications as well as increase support of maritime region intelligence coordination. GISAC will also help promote cyber security through threat briefing and situation awareness, and reduce the backlog and improve efficiency of the sex offender leveling process.

Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia (PAC)

The Georgia General Assembly has found that the state is in a crisis caused by violent criminal street gangs whose members threaten, terrorize, and commit a multitude of crimes against the peaceful citizens of their neighborhoods. These activities, both individually and collectively, present a clear and present danger to public order and safety.¹⁹ The number of street gang violence and gang-related activities have increased in many areas of Georgia. Law enforcement agencies are doing what they can to reduce the amount of gang-related issues within their jurisdictions, but are limited in capacity.

The general assembly has found an effective means of punishing and deterring criminal street gangs through forfeiture of the profits, proceeds, and instrumentalities acquired, accumulated, or used by criminal street gangs.²⁰ Defined by Code Section 16-15-3, street gangs refer to “the criminal activity in the means of commission, attempted commission, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation, coercion, or intimidation of another person to commit any criminal offense related to stalking, racketeering, rape or statutory rape, and aggravated sodomy.”²¹

¹⁹ LexisNexis. Title 16 crimes and offenses chapter 15 street gang terrorism and prevention (2015). Code Section 16-15-2 Retrieved April 4, 2016. <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/gacode/Default.asp>

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

People who are either employed by or associate with any criminal street gang and participation in any gang-related activities which violates Code Section 16-15-3 shall be deemed unlawful.

The Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia (PAC) has proposed a statewide gang prosecution and investigative case management pilot program which will result in more effective methods to stop gang violence. This proposal intends to support all major areas in the state where gang violence is most prevalent by using a software program that can help all law enforcement agencies work together. All information acquired from this new system will be shared between the district attorney, sheriff, and police departments. As such, most areas will consist of three installs/modules that include the district attorney's office, the sheriff's office/jail and another local law enforcement agency. Certain judicial circuits could have multiple law enforcement agencies and sheriffs' offices that require more than three installations. It is assumed, but subject to review of size and scope, that the smaller departments surrounding the larger agencies will be allowed access to the larger agency installation at no additional cost. For example, in the Chatham Circuit, towns such as Bloomingdale, Tybee Island, and Thunderbolt would have access to Savannah Metro Police's installation, but would not pay for access. In the Augusta Circuit, there may be a requirement for both Richmond and Columbia Counties to have multiple law enforcement agencies participate for optimal coverage.

The chart below presents a general conception of how the system will track gang-related individuals who have been arrested and/or accused, as well as previous offenses if any:



Gang presence and related violent crimes are becoming an increasing problem. The need for this software is vital to lower gang violence in Georgia. Not enough information is collected or shared to see which areas of the state are affected and capture the extent of the problem. Gang-related information collected by different law enforcement districts can be scattered with limited sharing techniques to combine and present precise data. This new software will be used in a multitude of ways to handle the new aspects of gang violence such as improving cooperation and communication among law enforcement agencies and establishing a central repository to ensure all shared information can be viewed and collected.

Subgrant Award Process and Timeline

Upon award, CJCC staff will draft and release a 2016 competitive grant solicitation for existing state and local initiatives. Funding criteria will include, but not be limited to: 1) whether the proposed program activities are aligned with state priorities as outlined above; 2) implementation of evidence-based or evidence-informed programs; 3) the outcome of funded activities to date (if applicable); and 4) a feasible sustainability plan. Staff will review proposals in accordance with the identified funding criteria, as well as federal guidelines. After approval by the Council, funds will be awarded. The proposed timeline for the subgrant award process is as follows:

October 1: Receive and accept Byrne JAG award

October 15: Release state and local Requests for Proposals

November 15: Deadline for proposals

November 15 – 30: Review applications and draft recommendations for Council

November 31: Make recommendations to Council for review and approval

December 1 – 15: Award subgrantees in accordance with Council approval

January 1, 2017 – December 31: Monitor awards, conduct site visits, and provide technical assistance as needed

Project Design and Implementation

Last year, CJCC engaged in a comprehensive strategic planning process to identify priorities and appropriate funding strategy. The SAC created and distributed a survey to 1,416 stakeholders, 437 of whom responded. At 54%, the majority of respondents were subgrantees, though over a quarter were from a local criminal justice government agency and 17% were from state criminal justice agencies. The stakeholders' priorities are varied and include advocacy for

crime victims and training for criminal justice professionals, such as the aforementioned training needs related to drug enforcement and intelligence sharing tools. In particular, the stakeholders identified a few acute needs, including “Improving law enforcement/community relationships” and “Addressing the needs of mentally ill offenders.” Again, funds will be used to address the aforementioned issues of mentally ill offenders and training to improve law enforcement such that they can improve performance in their communities.

Additionally, CJCC continues to engage its Council members, as well as members of multiple Committees on which CJCC provides representation. CJCC is in the unique position of administering accountability court and juvenile justice grants under the guidance of the Judicial Council of Judges and Juvenile Justice Funding Committees, respectively. Also, CJCC provides representation on Committees and Boards purposed for reentry, addiction studies, human trafficking, and sexual assault and domestic violence. As such, staff will use these avenues to solicit input on gaps in services, underserved populations, current initiatives, and available resources.

Staff will work with the Governor’s Office, criminal justice services, victim services, and public service agencies to ensure initiatives under consideration resulting from the strategic planning process do not conflict with, nor duplicate, efforts. The ultimate goal of the strategic planning process is to determine how to maximize Byrne JAG funds to obtain the most effective and efficient outcomes.

Capabilities and Competencies

CJCC is the recipient of multiple formula and competitive grants, including: RSAT, SASP, STOP VAWA, VOCA, Capital Case Litigation Initiative (CCLI), Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), and a 2014 competitive Adult Drug Court Discretionary grant. Our

superlative record in successfully managing these myriad federal grant programs demonstrates our technical ability to oversee these additional funds. Indeed, CJCC staff regularly conducts site visits, desk reviews, and offers technical assistance for our subgrantees. Moreover, CJCC recently received a round of federal audits from BJA, OCFO, and OVC resulting in minimal findings and exceptional praise from our federal program managers on our compliance monitoring plan for subgrantees.

Coordination among criminal justice entities in Georgia is supported through the active involvement of the CJCC and its diverse membership which includes: police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, judges, court personnel, and representatives from the State Executive and Judicial Branches; the Office of Homeland Security; the Administrative Office of the Courts; the State Board of Pardons and Paroles; the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; the Departments of Corrections, Community Affairs, Education, Juvenile Justice, and Public Safety; as well as the Judicial Council and Prosecuting Attorneys' Council. CJCC also provides and receives strategic planning input through membership on many other relevant committees and task forces. The agency's Executive Director, Division Directors, and Program Directors serve as members on numerous criminal justice system bodies that provide forums for meaningful exchanges of information relevant to the control of violent and drug-related crime.

CJCC is the SAA for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG), Title II Formula Grant, and the state-funded Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant. The agency administers state domestic violence funds and coordinates several statewide committees and taskforces, such as the Human Trafficking Task Force and the committee that manages the state's disproportionate minority contact (DMC) work. CJCC's position within the state ensures that information about

state and local collaborative efforts reaches the appropriate audience and that funding decisions are made with regard to state priorities and efficiency.

Performance Measures

To demonstrate program progress and success, CJCC will collect performance measures on a quarterly basis through BJA's Performance Measurement Tools (PMTs). These data provide a detailed analysis of the various programs and allow CJCC to evaluate performance.

Additionally, CJCC has staff dedicated to helping subgrantees complete their PMT reports and ensuring they are valid and accurate. Staff will continue to offer technical assistance as part of desk reviews and site visits as well. This process ensures Byrne JAG funds are used effectively.

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