

**BRIAN P. KEMP**  
GOVERNOR



**JAY NEAL**  
DIRECTOR

**State of Georgia FY 2021  
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Narrative**

The State of Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is pleased to submit this application for the 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for JAG funds. As provided in CJCC's enabling statute (O.C.G.A. § 35-6A-1), CJCC was created to "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 levels of the criminal justice system." CJCC's 27 Council members, as statutorily defined, includes 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 CJCC 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 JAG, CJCC is designated as the SAA for several other federal formula 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, STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program, Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Program, and Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program. CJCC also includes Georgia's designated State Analytical Center (SAC).

## **Statement of the Problem**

For 2021 JAG funds, the state of Georgia is committed to the continued funding for its vital law enforcement and public safety efforts in accordance with the following priorities:

1. Drug prohibition and strategic planning efforts around the continuous rise of methamphetamine and opioid usage;
2. Coordination of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies through the sharing of relevant crime and trend data;
3. Planning to determine the needs of local and state law enforcement and assess the best use of funding.

Georgia's federal allocation for JAG FY 2021 formula grant is \$5,388,518. CJCC proposes to use the FY 21 JAG funding to support multiple initiatives including law enforcement training at the state level for currently funded drug task forces as well as crime reduction projects at the local level. In addition, CJCC is requesting to use funding to support an innovative multi-level statewide crime reduction project led by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) to: 1) identify risks of human exploitation and trafficking within the massage parlor industry, 2) establish a gang task force to work to identify and analyze gang symbols in an effort to identify potential violent repeat offenders, and 3) expand the child exploitation case triage through jurisdiction routing and cyber tips. CJCC staff will also employ a strategic planning process to identify potential gaps in services and work to 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.

### *Program Identifiers*

- Taskforces
- Drugs
- Gangs
- Training – Use of Force
- Training – De-Escalation
- Training – Racial & Ethnic Bias
- Terrorism Preparedness

### *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. Currently, 13 local and regional MJDTFs are funded across the state— including two K-9 Units. MJDTFs provide crucial drug enforcement support throughout Georgia. Four of these MJDTFs (West Metro, Southeastern, Appalachian, and Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Offices) are regional agencies that have combined their

individual resources into a unified task force. The unification enables the task forces 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 GBI with assets from local law enforcement authorities to create 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 Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Office (SRDEO) is the newest 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 41 counties in Southwestern Georgia. With its dual purpose, this office responds to general requests for assistance from local law enforcement, as well as has responsibility for the GBI's drug enforcement effort within a designated area of Georgia's more rural counties. 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 covers a once underserved area but also works to enhance intelligence sharing to 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 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 four years as shown in the following table.

<i><b>Total Seizures by Drug Seized and Year</b></i>							
<b>Drug Seized</b>	<b>2017 (Grams)</b>	<b>2018 (Grams)</b>	<b>2019 (Grams)</b>	<b>2020 (Grams)</b>	<b>Change in Seizures from 2017 to 2018</b>	<b>Change in Seizures from 2018 to 2019</b>	<b>Change in Seizures from 2019 to 2020</b>
Methamphetamine	278,606	161,817	1,037,415	204,602	-42%	541%	-80%
Cocaine	107,578	687,570	498,443	1,769,595	539%	-28%	255%
Marijuana (Commercial & Hydroponic)	391,129	1,476,238	923,084	9,166,065	277%	-37%	893%
Crack	1,276	2,976	2,214	1,400	133%	-26%	-37%
MDMA	3,383	2,094	6,743	10,248	-38%	222%	52%
Heroin	5,437	33,940	6,336	17,821	524%	-81%	181%
Prescription Medications	16,777	16,741	6,400	31,344	-0.2%	-62%	390%

Also, approximately 73% of MJDTFs and K-9 teams' arrests have resulted in either State or Federal prosecution for the 2020 calendar year.

<b>Total Arrestees by Year</b>	
2017	2,720
2018	2,321
2019	2,126
2020	4,211

<b>Total Prosecutions by Year and Jurisdiction</b>				
Jurisdiction	2017	2018	2019	2020
State	2,051	2,034	1,892	2,913
Federal	151	100	65	152

*Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC)*

Concerns over law enforcement use of force has been at the forefront of social justice movements over the past few years. As accusations of excessive or incorrect level of force become more prevalent in the media, more focus is being place on law enforcement training and tactics. In 2020, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center's (GPSTC) TASER program was updated to include the use of new advanced devices allowing law enforcement training in use of force alternatives and allowing previously trained personnel to obtain recertification.

Through the use of the state JAG funds, CJCC will continue to support the GPSTC drug enforcement and TASER training programs. The taser, a conducted electronic weapon (CEW), is recognized as an efficient non-lethal option for law enforcement. If used correctly, the taser provides a safe alternative to other non-lethal force options. Someone struck by a taser experiences a stimulation of sensory nerves and motor nerves, resulting in strong involuntary muscle contractions. Tasers do not rely on pain compliance, except when used in the "drivestun" mode.

The purpose of the taser is to reduce officer injuries, suspect injuries, excessive force complaints, and prevent a possible escalation of force. Research shows officer injuries decreased by 76% when a taser was used. CEWs are a popular use of force option as thousands of police agencies have purchased them for officers. Additionally, industry representatives report more than 15,500 law

enforcement agencies in more than 40 countries are using CEWs. Tasers provide a safety benefit for police officers as they have a greater deployment range than expandable batons, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, or empty-hand techniques.

With the evolving nature of law enforcement, training instructors are tasked with continuously monitoring the validity of the curricula. Some of the curriculum changes which have been implemented over the years have included: Street Gang ID and Awareness replaced with Gang Recognition and Identification Training Course to incorporate a more hands-on approach, the Gang Investigator Course replaced with Gang Investigation and Prosecution Training which encompasses additional material involving investigations to prosecution of gang and drug related cases. Last year, Verbal Defense and Influence was replaced with a very proactive, scenario-based course: Tactical Diffusion Strategies. The newer course provides officers with the latest theories in verbal communication and situational de-escalation techniques.

With this federal funding, GPSTC will further the mission of protecting the public and providing adequate training to peace officers throughout the state. To collaborate with others, GPSTC works with subject matter experts to analyze and develop curricula to address training needs. Continued funding of these programs will allow GPSTC to better foster professionalism, competency, and safety within the ranks of the Georgia's Public Safety Community by developing, delivering, facilitating, and supporting training that meets its customer's needs. GPSTC's vision is to be recognized by the members of Georgia's Public Safety Community as providing the highest quality public safety training in the nation.

#### *Georgia Information Sharing Analysis Center (GISAC)*

The state of Georgia is home to a unique variety of critical infrastructure, private sector assets, key resources, contains numerous vital military installations, hosts 357 of the Fortune 500 companies, and maintains offices for every federal agency. Additionally, the Atlanta Metropolitan area is

home to the busiest airport in the nation, one of the five largest convention centers in the US, and serves as the headquarters for CNN, a global news source. All the structures, businesses, and facilities that comprise Georgia's critical infrastructure could be considered targets for cyber or terrorist actors. Moreover, to compound the issue further, there may be significant overlap between criminal networks and terrorist or extremist networks. This potential nexus between terrorist/extremist networks and traditional criminal networks (i.e. illegal drug operations, gangs, major theft, fraud, etc.) signifies the need for an approach that incorporates terrorism and other high-risk threats into the existing reporting framework. Such an approach ensures that possible precursor crimes are analyzed for connections to larger-scale terrorist or extremist crimes.

The Georgia Information Sharing Analysis Center (GISAC) facilitates connectivity between local, state, and federal agencies in Georgia. The purpose is to share resources and information in a way that enhances the capacity to identify, detect, mitigate, prevent, and respond to criminal activity. As an all-crimes Fusion Center, GISAC works both criminal intelligence and counterterrorism related incidents. This approach incorporates terrorism into the existing criminal intelligence framework to ensure that all possible precursor crimes are analyzed for links to larger-scale terrorist activity. GISAC's efforts to collect information from state and local sources ensures greater availability and integration of information from those sources.

As the intelligence clearinghouse for the state of Georgia, GISAC is the central repository for Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) at the state level. Vetting of suspicious activity reports via GISAC promotes collaboration and coordination between federal, state, and local partners to ensure that appropriate investigative action has been taken to address SAR information and to minimize potential intelligence gaps. In addition to the processing and vetting of SARs, GISAC has continued to play a major role in training local and state police officers regarding suspicious activity and defining what information should be reported pursuant to its overarching terrorism



prevention strategy. GISAC analysts also utilize SARs to compare information from Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) notifications. GISAC ensures other state and local agencies receive bulletins and assessments produced by federal agencies that are relevant to their areas of responsibility. Funds from this grant will assist GISAC in purchasing wireless mobile devices that are necessary for GISAC to provide these program activities on a 24/7 basis. Additionally, JAG funds support GISAC's daily operational costs such as internet and other vital telecommunications, critical analytical software, and supplies that allow GISAC to provide real time support throughout the state.

JAG funding will continue to support the GISAC's primary goal of collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information with an all-crimes approach that incorporates terrorism into the larger framework. JAG funds enable GISAC to provide investigative support to law enforcement in Georgia for all criminal activity. GISAC will also continue to expand the National SAR Initiative through training, Watch Desk, and Regional Terrorism Specialists (RTS). GISAC will expand its network of public safety, law enforcement, and private sector relationships to include implementation of an Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO). In an effort to serve as a single point of access for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of tips and leads concerning emerging, imminent, or existing threats, GISAC will also work to enhance capability of Watch Desk personnel, as well as upgrade existing software and deploy new analytical software to keep analysts up to date with latest technological advances. GISAC will continue to expand the existing product line using updated software. GISAC also aims to enhance proactive intelligence and outreach through the attendance of private and public sector meetings/briefings, increased collaboration with locals via GBI Regional Threat Specialist, and the promotion and promulgation of enhancements to the SAR mobile application.

With the dedication of Byrne JAG funding, the GBI is piloting three innovative crime fighting work units within the agency: The Human Exploitation and Trafficking Unit (HEAT), The Gang Task Force (GTF) and The Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit (CEACC). Specifically, the goal is to:

4. Enhance the data relating to human trafficking, involving both sex and labor trafficking investigations, as found in massage parlor investigations and other illicit businesses participating in these crimes.
5. Enhance and maximize the utility of currently available and future data gathered as evidence in criminal street gang investigations.
6. Automate and integrate data enrichment in the current child sex exploitation case triage process.

#### *Massage Parlor Industry: Identifying Risks*

JAG funding will allow the GBI to enhance the multitude of datasets queried to better identify and target massage parlors involved in sex and labor trafficking, allowing the GBI to become more proactive in their efforts to prevent and mitigate human trafficking tied to gangs and other racketeering organizations. The enhancement will likewise ensure the current initiatives with CJCC and the GBI HEAT Unit can better identify and target human traffickers who utilize online advertising to facilitate their crimes by incorporating data sets from Yelp, Rubmaps, and other online advertisers into new and existing online investigative tools that allow computers to analyze the text in the advertisements to identify and retrieve relevant results. Enhancements to the data sets will provide the GBI a powerful investigative resource to work more proactively to identify and mitigate human traffickers and reduce victimization before it can occur. As a result, this project will allow the GBI to increase productivity and enhance the ability of the HEAT Unit to focus its enforcement efforts on large-scale human trafficking operations.

Currently, there are more than 9,000 suspected illicit massage businesses open in America. Their exploitation of human capital generates more than \$2.8 billion in illicit revenue. According to Trafficking Matters and Rubmap data, there are around 183 suspected illicit massage businesses operating in Georgia. To combat the sex and labor trafficking taking place in these massage parlors and to conduct a thorough criminal investigation, an enhanced data system obtained via this project will be utilized to filter through the various sources looking to identify high risk business, human trafficking hot spots, and ads posted by the massage establishments. Using state-of-the-art data enhancement will allow the GBI and its other law enforcement partners to work through the hidden data to not only provide victim centered investigations but conduct a thorough investigation to ensure the gangs and organizations running these illicit businesses are captured and put out of business.

#### *Image Analysis-Gang Signals*

Funding will allow the GBI to analyze data for keywords, hand signals, or symbols such as tattoos to identify network affiliations and to connect cases, which will expedite linking victims and gangs/traffickers. The enhancement, utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI), will improve intelligence gathering, decrease the amount of manual sifting, which will likely result in faster case triage, which ultimately will result in the GBI's GTF Unit's ability to investigate more criminal cases.

O.C.G.A. § 16-15-2 declares that: "the State of Georgia is in a state of crisis which has been 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 and are not constitutionally protected." In an effort to combat the crisis that criminal street gangs present to the citizens of the state of Georgia, the GBI, at the direction and with the support of

Governor Kemp, established a state-wide gang task force for the purpose of defeating the proliferation of criminal street gangs through the aggressive investigation and prosecution of the criminal acts perpetrated by criminal street gangs throughout state.

The GBI recognizes that criminal street gangs operate in all jurisdictions of the state and routinely cross jurisdictional boundaries in the furtherance of their criminal activities. The GBI further recognizes that the incursion and prevalence of criminal street gangs throughout the state and their propensity to cross jurisdictional boundaries to commit criminal gang activity necessitates the formation of a multijurisdictional, multi-agency, anti-gang task force to readily combat their rising threat to the State of Georgia. The GBI Gang Task Force (GTF) currently consists of 31 Regional Gang Specialists (Special Agents), 13 GTF Agents, three GBI Intelligence Analysts, and an informal partnership with the United States Department of Homeland Security Investigations to include three Special Agents.

To achieve the mission, the GTF aggressively focuses on identification, investigation, and utilization of best practices under O.C.G.A. § 16-15-1 et seq., the Georgia Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act for the dismantling of criminal street gangs and their criminal gang activities within the State of Georgia. The task force uses a targeted enforcement strategy which focuses its limited resources on the most violent and/or nuisance gangs. This strategy leans heavily on electronic surveillance (court ordered and public domain). These tactics include video surveillance, mobile tracking, analysis of social media activity, call detail records, court authorized telephone seizures, analysis of data from seized phones, and wire/social media taps. This is an intelligence driven strategy which allows agents and prosecutors to sharpen the focus of their investigations and prosecutions thus maximizing personnel and monetary resources. Using aggressive, proactive investigative techniques and prosecution, the GTF systematically dismantles each gang it investigates. Agents know that most if not all criminal street gangs have

some level of involvement in drug trafficking. Therefore, Agents proactively target the drug trafficking of those gangs covertly using the means listed above to penetrate the organization. From the inside, Agents follow trails of evidence to the various other offenses in which the organization is involved. The most common drugs trafficked by criminal street gangs in the State of Georgia are marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and various pharmaceuticals (the most popular of which seem to be opioid based and alprazolam). In furtherance of these crimes, the gangs almost always use violence and intimidation to protect and promote their illegal activities. This includes murder, kidnapping, aggravated assault, battery, witness intimidation, armed robbery, and terroristic threats, to name a few.

Criminal Street Gangs have evolved into organized and lucrative criminal enterprises, leveraging technology and social media for both recruitment and illicit criminal activity. Modern gangs are increasingly violent threats to law enforcement as gangs often target members of the public safety community as a means of initiation or as retaliation. Officer involved shootings or excessive use of force incidents are flashpoints for gang threat rhetoric against law enforcement. During the summer of 2020, during the height of the violent civil unrest in Atlanta, multiple incidents of attempted or successful law enforcement vehicle arsons were linked to gang activity. In 2020, the GBI Investigative Division opened 492 cases with a gang nexus. This covered a range of crimes related to assaults, burglaries, death and drug investigations, fugitives, corruption, robberies, terroristic threats and acts, theft, and use of force issues. For reference, last year in 2019, the Division opened 156 cases with a gang nexus and 2021 continues to trend in the same direction. In 2020, GBI Agents opened gang cases in 104 of Georgia's 159 Counties. In 2019, the GBI opened cases in 63 of the 159 counties and 2021 continues to trend in the same direction. In 2020, the Investigative Division developed 720 intelligence reports. Two hundred (200) of the 720 had a nexus to gang activity. This number doubled from the prior year, 2019, when the division logged

100 gang intelligence reports (out of 501 total reports for the year) and 2021 continues to trend in the same direction.

Over the last several years, the GBI has continued to evolve the standard by which the agency prioritizes Criminal Street Gangs training. More than 50 GBI Agents have completed the basic Criminal Street Gangs investigations training. Additionally, these Agents have received advanced training in the field of Criminal Street Gangs investigations. Several of those Agents now teach Criminal Street Gangs investigations and are called to present to national Law Enforcement Organization (LEO) audiences. The GTF recognizes there is a lack of the tools available to combat criminal street gangs (specifically the sorting and analysis of voluminous amount of data collected during LEO investigations). The GTF also understands criminal street gangs are organized crime at the highest level. They are "la cosa nostra" of days past yet more prolific.

The concept of maximizing the available and future data gathered will allow the GTF and LEO partners to focus an intelligence based unified effort to:

- a. Create a Unified Policing effort to address Georgia's largest security threat – Gangs.
- b. Focus the counter-gang efforts of officers from Local, State, and Federal agencies.
- c. Orient operations on common goals, objectives, and priorities.
- d. Pool manpower, expertise, intelligence, and technical assets to make operations more effectively mass interagency effects without usurping jurisdictional authorities.

The GTF is only manually able to link digital evidence to gang investigations. This is a tedious, time consuming process which takes longer than any other facet of the investigation. If able to use AI to link this rich, mine of digital information to investigations, it would save time and create richer, evidentiary holdings. Investigative chores such as image analysis or conversation threads for keywords, hand signals, or symbols such as tattoos to identify network affiliations again are

labor intensive. The GTF will use the AI component to aid in connecting cases to speed up apprehension of violent Criminal Street Gangs offenders and link other crimes across jurisdictional boundaries.

*Child Exploitation Case Triage, Jurisdiction Routing and Cyber Tips*

Funding will allow for the analysis of data collected from internet service providers that result in cybertips. These cybertips can then be better prioritized based on business rules, linkages, previous history, and any other pattern recognition. The data analysis will also assist in jurisdiction routing of the cybertips. Combined, these efforts are expected to result in faster case triage, lower manual sifting, increase case productivity and improve intelligence gathering withing the Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit.

The CEACC works to provide internet safety education to the community, educating and training law enforcement on indicators of human trafficking and investigative techniques related to all online child exploitation crimes, and assisting with computer crimes investigations related to intrusions into the state of Georgia network. Many Agents and Digital Forensic Investigators (DFIs) also serve on numerous boards and attend and speak at a variety of other task force meetings and community and civic events to educate citizens and build and foster relationships. Additionally, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation is the grant holder for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). As such, the GBI CEACC Unit manages and operates the Georgia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (GA ICAC TF) using federal grant funds. The GA ICAC TF currently has over 250 affiliate agencies who are members of the task force. Using ICAC grant funds, the GBI CEACC Unit trains and equips law enforcement officers from these agencies to work child pornography and child sex trafficking cases. After these officers are trained, the GBI provides investigative leads related to online child exploitation to these GA ICAC TF

affiliate agencies and officers who then review and investigate these leads.

Internet Service Providers (ISP) and Electronic Service Providers (ESP) are required by law to report instances of child exploitation they find on their networks to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). These reports may include horrific images and videos of child pornography and/or instances of sextortion, or sexually inappropriate conversations between an adult and child. These reports are called cybertips. NCMEC also operates a toll-free hotline where instances of child exploitation can be reported. Once information is reported to NCMEC, the Center then determines to which ICAC Task Force in the United States it resolves and sends it there for review and investigation if needed. Currently, there are 61 ICAC Task Forces in the United States.

In calendar year 2020, the GA ICAC TF received an average of almost 1,000 cybertips per month. The below chart demonstrates the steady, annual increase of cybertips received by the GBI for calendar years 2016-2020 and the first four months of 2021:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of Cybertips</b>
2016	3,204
2017	4,847
2018	6,651
2019	7,079
2020	11,654
2021 (through April)	5,107

As illustrated, there has been a steady increase in cybertips every year. If the rate of cybertips continues at its current pace, Georgia will receive over 15,000 cybertips in 2021. This trend is



only expected to increase as ISPs and ESPs become even more committed to assisting law enforcement with child exploitation cases and utilize increasingly advanced software to assist with finding exploitation content on their networks. Additionally, the internet is used more and more by those engaging in illegal practices including those persons that engage in exploiting and abusing children. Offenders always have phones with them which also makes the production, distribution, and possession of child sexual abuse images (child pornography) even easier.

Cybertips are received and downloaded by the GBI CEACC Unit via a secure website through a VPN. Each cybertip must be reviewed by a person to determine if the allegations are against Georgia law and to determine where in Georgia the crime occurred. The person processing each cybertip must determine to which jurisdiction in Georgia the GBI CEACC Unit should provide the information. This often requires numerous subpoenas be served to various ISP and ESP companies to determine a physical address where the criminal activity possibly occurred. Below is a chart depicting the rise in the number of subpoenas issued and managed by our Cybertip Program Manager.

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of Subpoenas Served</b>
2016	1,105
2017	2,112
2018	2,687
2019	3,045
2020	5,743
2021 (through April)	2,686

As shown above there has been an increase in cybertips resulting in the need for more subpoenas to be issued. The purpose of the issuance of subpoenas is to determine a physical location where

the allegations received in each cybertip occurred. After service, the subpoenas must be followed and tracked, and many times companies contacted directly to obtain the information. The information received via subpoena service must be received, reviewed, organized, analyzed, scanned into ICAC Data Systems (IDS), and passed to the appropriate entity. Some cybertips require multiple subpoenas be served to multiple companies to obtain the needed information. This process is very time consuming and currently slows our response time to possible victims. The ramifications of not reviewing each cybertip in a timely manner, and determining where the crime occurred or is occurring, could be catastrophic for multiple children. The initial examination of these tips is crucial to triage and investigate the most egregious of these tips in a timely manner. The cybertip management process has been examined and modified many times over the years to improve and maintain efficiency and effectiveness.

The number of cybertips received has reached a level that cannot be managed by one full time and one part time employee. As of May of 2021, the cybertip review process was approximately one (1) month behind. The delay in triaging cybertips can lead to the loss of information from Internet Service Providers as they only keep information for a limited amount of time. Additionally, there are children being sexually abused that are associated with some of those cybertips. The delay in processing cybertips ultimately leads to the delay in rescuing children, leaving them in horrific situations of ongoing sexual abuse. Of the over 11,600 cybertips received by the GBI CEACC Unit in 2020, 2,013 were assigned to affiliate agencies, 348 were assigned to Agents at CEACC and 55 cybertips were assigned to Agents in GBI Regional Offices. With the additional funding, GBI can reduce the delay in case review and escalate those cases when applicable for further investigation.

#### *Sexual Offender Registration Review Board (SORRB)*

House Bill 1059 was passed in 2006 and created the current Sexual Offender Registration Review

Board (SORRB), which is comprised of 15 Governor-appointed voluntary professionals from across the state and paid agency staff. It details registration requirements and the classification process for individuals convicted of a Sexually Dangerous Offense on or after July 1, 2006; sex offenders convicted of criminal acts against minors who were incarcerated as of July 1, 2006; and sex offenders who are new residents of Georgia. O.C.G.A. § 42-1-13 and 42-1-14 specifically outlines the responsibilities of the SORRB, which includes determining the risk posed by a sex offender via a risk assessment that places a sex offender in one of three increasing risk levels for potential to reoffend: Level 1 – low risk; Level 2 – moderate risk; and Sexually Dangerous Predator – high risk. SORRB conducts risk assessments on sex offenders in Georgia to determine the danger they present to the communities and assist law enforcement/management agencies in that effort. Evaluation/Assessments are done both individually (each sex offender is assessed) and agency wide. Currently, the staff consists of five full-time clinical evaluators and two full-time administrative staff members. The Evaluators are experts in the field of sex offender behavior and risk, and with the support of the administrative staff, in 2020 were able to complete 665 cases for the Board to determine final classification. In addition, with support of JAG funding, over 1000 cases were prevented from being added to the backlog. Despite complications associated with the COVID Pandemic, reduction in assistance from GBI, and a reduction in State budget funds, SORRB has been able to complete new cases on a regular basis, and prevent additional cases being added to the backlog. As of December 1, 2020, the State of Georgia has 34,347 sex offenders that are registered.

#### *Deaths in Custody Data Reporting*

Beginning October 2019, state administering agencies like CJCC were vested with the

responsibility for collecting Deaths in Custody Data (DICRA reporting) to report to the Bureau of Justice Assistance via the Performance Measurement Tool. Previously, the SAC collected Arrest- Related Data for the Bureau of Justice Statistics' data collection, the division forged a partnership with the GBI Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) to identify deaths in the presence of law enforcement. Based on the MEO's report, the SAC would contact the law enforcement agency for completion of the CJ-11A form, which was used at the time to collect the statistical data. To comply with the DICRA reporting requirement, the SAC has engaged with the GBI's medical examiner and metro-Atlanta medical examiner's offices to identify deaths in law enforcement presence or custody. Through these efforts, the SAC worked out reporting partnerships with the Georgia Department of Corrections, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and four metro medical examiner's offices. Based on MEO reports, the SAC contacts the identified agency to collect the data elements necessary to comply with DICRA reporting.

To confirm decedent records and check for overall reporting quality, the SAC forged a working partnership with the Department of Public Health and was able to execute a data sharing agreement to share death certificate data. Each month the SAC receives a year-to-date file of all death certificates from the beginning of the year to the current reporting period. This file is used to check for report quality and to confirm cause/manner of death for decedents. This data has also been used to report previous decedent records that were not collected through the specified means above.

#### Subgrant Award Process and Timeline

Upon award, CJCC staff will draft and release a 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 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 December 4:

Make recommendations to Council for review and approval December 4 – 15: Award subgrantees in accordance with Council approval

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021: Monitor awards, conduct site visits, and provide technical assistance as needed

### **Project Design and Implementation**

CJCC periodically engages stakeholders in strategic planning to identify priorities and appropriate funding strategy. The stakeholders' priorities are varied and include advocacy for crime victims and training for criminal justice professionals, such as the training needs related to drug enforcement and intelligence sharing tools, such as the gang intelligence system.

In addition, CJCC continues to engage its Council members, as well as members of multiple Committees on which staff provides representation. CJCC is in the unique position of administering accountability court and juvenile justice grants under the guidance of the Council of Accountability Court Judges and the Council, respectively. Also, CJCC provides representation on Committees and Boards purposed for reentry, combatting opioid use, addiction studies, human trafficking, and sexual assault and domestic violence. 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 to not conflicting with, nor duplicate, efforts. The goal of the planning process is to determine how to maximize JAG funds to obtain the most effective and efficient outcomes. CJCC staff will work to develop a similar strategic planning process for 2021 and beyond.

### **Capabilities and Competencies**

As the SAA for the state of Georgia, CJCC is the eligible entity to apply for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program and has the experience and capacity to administer the award in accordance with federal guidelines. Moreover, CJCC is the recipient of multiple formula and competitive grants, including: JAG, RSAT, SASP, VAWA, VOCA, Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program, Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), multiple competitive Adult Drug Court Discretionary grants, multiple Body-Worn Camera Grants, multiple Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program, and a competitive Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Family Treatment Drug Court Grant. CJCC's superlative record in successfully managing a myriad of federal grant programs demonstrates the agency's technical ability to oversee these additional funds. CJCC will provide fiscal management for the grant program by monitoring the budget and approving expenditures per federal guidelines. The agency has well-established systems, policies, and procedures to ensure proper administrative oversight of federal funds. In addition, CJCC staff regularly conducts site visits and desk reviews and offers technical assistance 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; Administrative Office of the Courts; State Board of Pardons and Paroles; Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Department of Community Supervision;

Public Defenders; Departments of Corrections, Community Affairs, Education, Juvenile Justice, and Public Safety; as well as the Judicial Council and Prosecuting Attorneys' Council. CJCC provides and receives strategic planning input through membership on relevant committees and task forces. The agency's Executive Director, Deputy 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.

### **Performance Measures**

To demonstrate program progress and success, CJCC staff will collect performance measures on a quarterly basis through PMT. This data provides a detailed analysis of the various programs and allows CJCC to evaluate performance. Additionally, CJCC has specific staff members who are 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 will ensure JAG funds are used effectively.

As discussed above, the SAC will assist with Death in Custody Reporting Act (DICRA) on BJA's Performance Measurement Tools (PMT) Data Collection. Under the Georgia Death Investigations Act (OCGA 45-16-20) any death occurring in the presence or custody of law enforcement, including in a penal institution, must be referred to a medical examiner for investigation. Additionally, the SAC Programmer created the data collection tool in Interviewer Server Administrator to capture data from reporting agencies, completes the quarterly PMT report, and conduct follow-ups with reporting agencies to obtain report completion.