

BRIAN P. KEMP
GOVERNOR



JAY NEAL
DIRECTOR

State of Georgia FY 2025

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 FY2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Serving as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for numerous federal formula and competitive grant programs, CJCC is a statewide body originally established to build consensus and unit among the state's diverse and interdependent criminal justice system components.¹

Description of the Issue

According to the Georgia Crime Information Center's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Report, it was estimated that a violent crime was committed every 15 minutes and 44 seconds in the state in 2024.² The calculated violent crime rate for 2024 was 318.9 per 100,000 people, which was slightly lower than the national violent crime rate of 359.1 per 100,000 people.³ To continue its efforts of combatting violent crime, Georgia is committed to continued support for its vital law enforcement and public safety efforts.

For 2025 JAG funds, the state has identified 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; and

¹ O.C.G.A. § 35-6A-1

² [2024 Crime Statistics Summary.pdf](#)

³ [UCR Summary of Reported Crimes in the Nation 2024.pdf](#)

3. Planning to determine the needs of local and state law enforcement and assess the best use of funding.

Georgia's federal JAG allocation for FY 2025 is \$5,700,414. CJCC proposes to use the FY 2025 funding to support multiple initiatives, including law enforcement training at the state level for drug interdiction, as well as crime reduction projects at the local level. In addition, CJCC is requesting to use funding to support the use of Confidential Funds. This will allow CJCC to continue to prioritize funding to counter drug-related crime in both rural and metro areas. The JAG program is the leading source of federal criminal justice funding to Georgia and is critical in providing necessary support to a range of programs throughout the state. To help prioritize the state's criminal justice needs and grant funding decisions, CJCC, in FY24, completed a robust strategic planning process. This process identified potential gaps in services and will allow the agency to work towards allocating funds to target those service areas. Over the next year, staff will evaluate proposed and existing activities to assess the extent of relevance to the state's strategic priorities, utilize performance data to evaluate current initiatives, and review program goals and resources to determine sustainability.

Program Identifiers

Program identifiers include the following: task forces, drugs, gangs, trainings (including drug and gang enforcement courses, leadership program, special victims investigations, and instructor training), terrorism preparedness, and school safety.

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 a 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) are Regional Drug Enforcement Offices (RDEO) 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 RDEO is a first-of-its-kind work-unit housed in the City of Carrollton; it combines assets from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) with assets from local law enforcement authorities create Georgia’s first state and local drug task force. Partners include city police departments, county sheriffs’ offices, a county police department, the GBI, the Coweta Judicial Circuit’s District Attorney’s Office, and the West Georgia Judicial Circuit District Attorney’s Office. This regional MJDTF currently serves 36 counties, including 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 West Metro RDEO is

designed to directly impact the drug flow within the 36-county area of responsibility by attacking those drug distributors that do not generally warrant federal investigative efforts but are outside of the scope or capabilities of local law enforcement efforts.

The Middle Georgia Gang Task Force (MGGTF), a collaborative effort between the GBI and local law enforcement agencies, provides a centralized hub in middle Georgia for investigation and collaboration. MGGTF expanded in 2025 to include two regional task forces, Ocmulgee and Oconee Drug Task Force. The Oconee Drug Task Force voted in 2025 for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to assume command of the task force and fall under the umbrella of the Middle Georgia Gang Task Force. Oconee DTF has expanded its law enforcement/drug enforcement collaborative efforts between state and local governments covering 12 counties and 4 cities.

The Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office (ARDEO) is a one-of-a-kind work unit combining assets from the GBI, Department of Public Safety, the Georgia National Guard, and local law enforcement agencies. Due to the growing nexus between drug trafficking and gang-related activity, ARDEO has four Regional Gang Specialists (RGS) to conduct gang investigations and dismantle criminal drug trafficking organizations.

Confidential Funds

CJCC plans to continue to allocate confidential funds to four GBI RDEOs: Southeastern, based in Metter, Georgia, Southwestern, based in Dougherty, Georgia, the Ocmulgee Drug Task Force in Milledgeville, Georgia and the Oconee Drug Task Force in Dodge County, Georgia. The Ocmulgee Drug Task Force and Oconee Drug Task Force are GBI RDEOs under the umbrella of the Middle Georgia Gang Task Force, based in Macon, Georgia. These RDEO's and multi-jurisdictional task forces, Southwestern, Southeastern, Ocmulgee and Oconee serve a dual

purpose: 1) to respond to general requests for assistance from local law enforcement, and 2) to have general responsibility for the GBI's drug enforcement efforts within a designated area of the State's more rural counties. These RDEO's and multi-jurisdictional task forces collaborate with federal, state, and local agencies by sharing intelligence and conducting joint investigations, search and seizures, and undercover drug buys. In addition to servicing a once under-served area, this collaboration also works to enhance intelligence sharing to ensure that services are not duplicated.

The GBI led task forces adhere to GBI-established policies and procedures related to confidential PE/PI. In addition, the task force commanders have signed and submitted the Confidential Funds Certification. Due to these task forces reliance on confidential funds to execute investigations, it would be highly doubtful that CJCC would be able to fund this portion of the project through another source. This will likely lead to a decrease in viable investigations which, in turn, would lead to a decrease in the state's efforts to eradicate the illicit drug and gang presence throughout Georgia.

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 several years. Approximately 34% of MJDTF and K-9 team arrests have resulted in either state or federal prosecution for the 2023 calendar year.⁴

Table 1: Total Drug Seizures by Year

	2021 (Grams)	2022 (Grams)	2023 (Grams)	2024 (Grams)	Change in Seizures from 2021 to 2022	Change in Seizures from 2022 to 2023	Change in Seizures from 2023 to 2024
Methamphetamine	2,401,226	3,368,962	9,125,170	3,876,581	40%	171%	-57%
Cocaine	128,365	278,010	423,346	2,039,350	117%	52%	381%
Marijuana (Commercial & Hydroponic)	2,627,128	467,444	481,779	935,233	-82%	3%	94%
Crack	2,093	3,233	3,447	26,583	54%	7%	671%
MDMA	4,391	52,034	5,481	6,196	1,085%	-89%	13%
Heroin	51,658	3,261	2,369	18,871	-94%	-27%	696%
Prescription Medications	28,557	25,232	12,305	12,866	-12%	-51%	4.5%

⁴ MJDTF_SemiAnnual_2019-2024. Georgia Statistical Analysis Center. March 2026.

Table 2:
Total Arrests

2020	4,211
2021	4,201
2022	3,943
2023	3,959
2024	3,174

Table 3:
Total Prosecutions

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
State	1,892	2,913	2,922	1,380	1,266	1262
Federal	65	152	165	113	68	56

Georgia Public Safety Training Center

With JAG federal funding, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) will further the mission to keep Georgians safe by delivering innovative, high-quality training to law enforcement professionals throughout the state. GPSTC has identified potential areas of improvement for its drug and gang enforcement courses, leadership program, and instructor training courses, which need to be addressed to sustain the high demands of Georgia’s professional law enforcement community. These programs allow GPSTC to better foster professionalism, competency, and safety within the ranks of the Georgia public safety community by developing, delivering, facilitating, and supporting training that meets officer needs.

With the evolving nature of law enforcement, training instructors are tasked with continuously monitoring the validity of the curricula. The GPSTC Instructor Training Course has been fully revamped and now consists of five levels of certification: Level I-Basic/In-service Instructor, Level II-Advanced Instructor (formerly general instructor), Level II-D-Designated Instructor (formerly specialized instructor), Level III-Senior Instructor, and Level IV-Master Instructor. Instructor level I and II are the required training components of the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council's General Instructor Certification. This Instructor Certification process assists

in developing qualified, professionally trained, ethical, and competent law enforcement instructors who maintain public trust, highest integrity, and good reputation. Under the rules of the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council, GPSTC is one of the few locations where a person seeking this certification may receive the required training. These programs 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.

The GPSTC's Drug and Gang Enforcement program provides training for law enforcement officers to effectively target and combat the ever-increasing threat of a variety of drugs, and the societal impact they have within our communities. In the world today, American's face drugs like fentanyl, that currently has the highest overdose rate, to prescription drugs, that have long-term high addiction qualities that effect millions of Americans daily. Regardless of what type of drug plagues our communities, the ripple effect is that drug related criminal activity will always accompany it. Unfortunately, Georgia remains a national, and regional, hub for drug distribution. The vast interstate highway system, two international airports, and two deep water ports of entry, are utilized by drug cartels and couriers to transport their illegal cargo into and throughout the United States on a continual basis. Virtually all drugs, drug related products, and US currency associated with drug trafficking in the Southeastern United States, pass through Georgia through one of these systems enroute to their destination. In recent years, Georgia has experienced a leveling of heroin seizures to combat the increase in heroin

related overdose deaths. And now, Fentanyl is being found in its purest form, and in everything drug related. This is causing significant issues for law enforcement and in public safety in general. This program develops, instructs, and coordinates twenty (20) various drug enforcement courses to combat the drug problem in Georgia.

Georgia Information Sharing Analysis Center

The Georgia Information Sharing Analysis Center (GISAC) facilitates connectivity between local, state, and federal agencies by sharing resources and information in a way that enhances the capacity to identify, detect, mitigate, prevent, and respond to criminal activity. As Georgia's central hub for criminal intelligence and counterterrorism information, GISAC operates as an all-crimes fusion center, integrating terrorism-related intelligence with broader criminal activity to identify and address precursor behaviors linked to large-scale threats. GISAC aims to improve information sharing with its partners by transforming raw data into actionable intelligence. The unit operates 24/7, analyzing tips from citizens and requests from federal, state, and local partners to mitigate and respond to potential threats. Analysts deploy to command posts during major incidents, produce intelligence bulletins and threat assessments, and ensure that law enforcement, public safety, emergency management, and private-sector partners receive timely information to enhance situational awareness.

As the state's central hub for criminal intelligence and counterterrorism efforts, GISAC is experiencing a significant surge in activity and demand related to a rise in criminal activity related to illicit narcotics, along with a surge in threats directed toward public officials and government agencies. The increase in threats to public officials and government agencies poses serious challenges for those tasked with ensuring the safety

of individuals in public service. It is critical for the community, along with government officials, to continue to work collaboratively to find effective solutions to this pressing problem. For this reason, GISAC analysts are committed to identifying potential threats and preventing violent attacks. Watchdesk analysts evaluate tips, check criminal databases, and analyze reports to support law enforcement and communicate critical information to GBI's public safety partners. From July 2024 through June 2025, Watchdesk analysts processed and evaluated 31,371 reports. Of these, more than 9,800 actionable tips were submitted through the "*See Something, Send Something*" mobile application. Over 20,800 Requests for Information (RFIs) were received from law enforcement partners.⁵ The JAG funding assists in meeting the agencies essential needs, including telecommunications, critical analytical software, supplies, and network security, but as demand continues to grow, as it manages an ever-increasing volume of intelligence and public safety data, GISAC requires ongoing financial support to maintain its 24/7 operations.

In addition to the Watchdesk operations, GISAC has specialized units: Airport Operations, the GEMA/HS GBI Task Force Officer Program, the Regional Threat Specialist (RTS) Program, and the Terrorist Screen Center (TSC) operations. As the intelligence clearinghouse for the state of Georgia, GISAC is the central unit for Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR). Vetting 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, minimize potential intelligence gaps, and mitigate potential threats.

⁵ Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center. 2025 Byrne-JAG Program Narrative. 6 October 2025.

Sexual Offender Risk Review Board

On July 1, 2006, House Bill 1059 was passed and created the current Sexual Offender Risk Review Board (SORRB), that includes 15 governor-appointed, voluntary professionals from across the state and paid agency staff. It also 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 42-1-14⁶ specifically outline the responsibilities of SORRB, which include determining the risk posed by a sex offender by using risk assessment and placing 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. Georgia chose this process rather than “tiering” sex offenders. Tiers are based on conviction alone and research has shown is not a true estimate of risk for sexual re-offense. From July 1, 2006, through mid-2007, SORRB was assisted by their parent agency, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and did not have a budget. It was a year before skeletal staff (2 Admin and 3 part time Clinical Evaluators) and policies and procedures could be put in place and classifications begin to be processed. Over the next several years, the backlog grew substantially. There are over 25,000 sex offenders on the Georgia registry, and each year the number of registrants grows significantly (approximately 1500 new sex offenders each year).⁷ The overall backlog currently totals

⁶ <https://gbi.georgia.gov/document/document/ocga-42-1-12/download>

⁷ Sexual Offender Risk Review Board, 2025 Byrne-JAG Program Narrative, 28 October 2025.

4,094 Georgia cases (down 166 from last year, a decrease 9.6%)⁸, JAG funding has assisted in keeping up with the new cases and reducing the backlog allowing SORRB to reduce investigation backlog by 10% each year; and increase completion of investigations for immediate priority cases (those where the offender has more than one sex offense).

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) work with local, state, and the federal government, in partnership with the private sector and faith-based community, to protect life and property against man-made and natural emergencies. A primary challenge facing Georgia's educational facilities is the growing risk of targeted violence - premeditated acts directed at specific individuals, groups, or locations. This violence is often preceded by observable behaviors and online indicators which, if missed, result in tragic outcomes. This reality was underscored by the devastating 2024 Georgia school shooting, where a student killed four and injured nine people at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia. The tragic failure to intercept the key pre-attack indicators displayed by the student prior to that incident - such as digital leakage, obsessive fixation, pathway research/acquisition of materials, and explicit communication of intent - highlights the necessity of the grant-funded School Safety Intelligence Analyst position. The School Safety Intelligence Analyst is crucial to enhance online threat identification, information sharing, and specialized assessment capabilities, allowing the state to disrupt the ideation, planning, preparation, and implementation stages of targeted school violence before another crisis occurs.

⁸ Sexual Offender Risk Review Board, 2025 Byrne-JAG Program Narrative. 28 October 2025; 2024 Byrne-JAG Narrative 02 February 2025.

The analyst has effectively integrated JAG grant-funded threat intelligence tools, leveraging the platforms to perform proactive threat hunting across the deep, dark, and surface web. In 2025 the school safety analyst achieved the following highlights: 143 school threat reports collected; 33 open-source intelligence requests (school safety specific) fulfilled; 8 site threat and response audits supported at K-12 schools; 6 intelligence bulletins produced; 5 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) classes supported with intelligence inject at K-12 school districts; and 3 targeted speaking engagements at K-12 and university events.⁹

Deaths in Custody Data Reporting

Beginning October 2019, SAAs, like CJCC, were vested with the responsibility of collecting Deaths in Custody Data to report to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) via the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT). Previously, the SAC collected arrest-related data for the Bureau of Justice Statistics' data collection, and 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 Death in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA) requirement, the SAC has engaged with the GBI's medical examiner and metro-Atlanta MEOs to identify deaths in law enforcement presence or custody. Other collaborative partners include the Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Public Health, and five metro medical examiner's offices. Based on MEO reports, the SAC contacts the identified agency to collect the data elements

⁹ Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, 2025 Byrne-JAG Program Accomplishments. 30 October 2025

necessary to comply with DCRA 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. A detailed State Implementation Plan for DCRA reporting in Georgia is enclosed with this application package.

Subgrant Award Process and Timeline

In September of 2026, 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 proposed 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 review and approval by the full Council, funds will be awarded. The proposed timeline for the subgrant award process is as follows:

TBD	09/26/2026	10/31/2026	11/07/2026	12/09/2026	12/17/2026	CY 2027
Receive and accept federal award	Release state and local Requests for Proposals from previous funding years	Deadline for subgrant proposals	Begin application review and draft recommendations for Council	Present recommendations to Council for consideration	Award subgrants in accordance with Council guidance	Monitor awards, conduct site visits, and provide technical assistance as needed

Project Design and Implementation

CJCC frequently engages stakeholders in strategic planning to identify priorities and appropriate funding strategies. In 2023, to prepare for Georgia’s FY 2025-2029 criminal justice strategic plan, CJCC, with guidance from the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) and the Georgia SAC, released an online survey to partners across the criminal justice field to solicit the identification of, and solutions to, the state’s most pressing criminal justice issues. The survey was shared with nineteen unique stakeholder types, including, but not limited to, law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, and local levels; victim service providers; judges and court personnel; universities and research institutions; behavioral health providers; indigent defense; and locally elected officials. Through the survey, CJCC successfully engaged 391 individual respondents at a 64% completion rate. The results, which were later shared during CJCC’s in-person stakeholder meetings to gain further insight and clarification, proved very fruitful. 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. Other priorities included mental health and youth prevention and intervention services. In addition,

CJCC continues to engage its Council members, as well as members of multiple external 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 do not conflict 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. A copy of the full FY 2025 to FY 2029 Strategic Plan is included with this submission and details the stakeholders, priorities, goals, and methods utilized.

Capabilities and Competencies

As the SAA for Georgia, CJCC is the eligible entity to apply for Byrne JAG 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 the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program, Sexual Assault Services Program, Violence Against Women Act Program, the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program, Project Safe Neighborhood Program, multiple competitive adult drug court discretionary grants, multiple body-worn camera grants, multiple comprehensive opioid

abuse programs, and a competitive Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration 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 this funding. 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. Additionally, Georgia's CJCC also houses the state's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), which provides data collection and analytical support to all agency divisions, as well as independent research and evaluation to state and local programs. SAC has the capabilities necessary to collect the required research and evaluation data. They also have a superlative record of coordinating large scale evaluation studies. Examples include the Disproportionate Minority Contact Identification and Assessment¹⁰ and the Forsyth County Mental Health Needs Assessment: Diverting from the County Criminal Justice System Using the Sequential Intercept Model.¹¹

Performance Measures

From the initial development stages of CJCC's criminal justice strategic plan (which encompasses the Byrne JAG plan), the SAC has been an integral partner; they have provided key input and direction, from the buildout of the initial stakeholder survey to the priority identification process of the planning stage. As CJCC looks to continue its justice efforts through the JAG priority areas, the SAC will aid with the development

¹⁰ [Disproportionate Minority Contact in Georgia's Juvenile Justice System, March 2018](#)

¹¹ [Forsyth County Mental Health Needs Assessment, September 2018](#)

and/or improvement and collection of measurables to meet all data reporting requirements.

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 DCRA reporting requirements on BJA's PMT Data Collection. Under the Georgia Death Investigations Act (O.C.G.A. §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, complete the quarterly PMT report, and conduct follow-ups with reporting agencies to obtain report completion.

SAC also gathers semi-annual data for the task forces. Each multi-jurisdictional task force has a secure login code to access the reporting document. The task forces report on January-June metrics in July and July-December metrics in January. The semi-annual report collects a variety of data from subgrantees, including investigations, arrests, offender data, charges, prosecutions, drug seizures, warrants, forfeitures, and other seizures, interdictions, training/outreach, K-9 missions/utilizations.

A data dictionary is provided to assist the subgrantees in information gathering.

Information about seizures is collected at the county level. Additional data includes the average price MJDTF's pay for street purchases of prescription drugs. Information on arrests is collected by type of arrest - street-level to high-level arrest. Warrant outcomes to capture whether the MJDTF's issue resulted in actionable information useful for criminal justice processes. The data is processed and provided back to the CJCC Criminal Justice division to help with development and strategic planning.

Conclusion

The State of Georgia remains committed to strengthening its criminal justice system through strategic investment, data-driven planning, and collaboration across local, state, and federal partners. The initiatives supported by the Byrne JAG Program range from multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement and intelligence-sharing operations to training, school safety efforts, and specialized risk assessment and address critical public safety needs identified through Georgia's statewide strategic planning process.

Through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's established capacity, longstanding partnerships, and rigorous oversight practices, Georgia is well-positioned to administer the FY25 Byrne JAG Program effectively and responsibly. Continued funding will allow the state to sustain evidence-informed programs, reduce service gaps, and support innovative approaches that enhance public safety, reduce crime, and improve outcomes for communities across Georgia.