

**PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**  
**FY 2024 Federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program**  
**Federal Grant Application #[to be determined]**

The Kansas Governor is the chief executive officer of the State and designated the Kansas Governor's Grants Program (KGGP) staff to serve as the state administrating agency for the Federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. The Kansas Legislature established the Kansas Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (KCJCC), which oversees criminal justice issues in the State. The KCJCC includes the Governor or designee, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or designee, the Attorney General or designee, the Secretary of Corrections, the Superintendent of the Highway Patrol, and the Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. The KCJCC prioritizes the purpose areas for JAG funding and determines grant awards. In June 2019, the KCJCC formally adopted the Kansas Statewide Strategic Plan (five-year plan) to address strategies and approaches to prevent and control violent and drug-related crimes. The JAG Program will assist the State in implementing and enhancing its efforts to address the priorities identified by the KCJCC through 2028.

**Description of the Issue**

Kansas communities maximize every state and local dollar to help combat violent and drug-related crimes. JAG funding is critical to assist government and community-based programs in addressing these issues. Without federal funding assistance, the criminal justice community's challenges would escalate. Providing the necessary personnel and resources to respond to crime and access modern technology is critical to maintaining an adequate response to crime.

The most current crime rate data is available in the Kansas Bureau of Investigation's 2023 Kansas Crime Index Report. The violent crime index has decreased by 4.3 percent from 2022 but is significantly above the 10-year average at 9.8 percent. In addition, the report noted the

incidences of murders are 3.3 percent above the 10-year average. Domestic violence murders accounted for 20.4 percent of murders in 2023 and rapes are 6.0 percent below the 10-year average.

The JAG funds are awarded to criminal justice system partners in addressing crime and improving public safety. The KCJCC created a strategic planning process to ensure the best use of JAG funds to optimize efficiency, maximize impact, and achieve positive, measurable results. The process involved background research on the current condition of the Kansas criminal justice system and the delivery of a stakeholder survey tool to identify needs and priorities. The KCJCC identified the following three priorities:

- 1) Comprehensive response to mental illness;
- 2) Comprehensive response to substance use (opioids/methamphetamine/other drugs) disorders; and
- 3) Intimate partner violence and crimes against children.

The annual subgrant award process will begin in July. The subgrant award project period will be 12 months, from October 1 to September 30. For the State's 2025 application cycle, it is anticipated the solicitations will be made available in late July, with an application deadline in early September. The KCJCC utilizes outside reviewers with expertise in the JAG purpose areas to provide the initial review of JAG applications. The KCJCC will meet in September to discuss applications, review recommendations, and make final award decisions. The KGGP will make grant award announcements following the acceptance of the federal 2024 JAG award. Any grant funds not obligated will be made available the following year for subgrant awards.

The funded programs must meet the solicitation criteria established by the KCJCC and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Additionally, the applicants must describe how they will address one or more Kansas Statewide

Strategic Plan priorities. The applicants also must demonstrate the implementation of evidence-based programming or practices approved for subgrant projects that address one or more of the KCJCC priorities and improve or enhance any of the following nine program areas:

- Law Enforcement Programs;
- Prosecution and Courts Programs, including Indigent Defense;
- Prevention and Education Programs;
- Corrections and Community Corrections Programs;
- Drug Treatment and Enforcement Programs;
- Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement Programs;
- Crime Victim and Witness Programs (other than compensation);
- Mental Health Programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams; and
- Implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives, including, but not limited to, mental health courts, drug courts, and veterans' courts.

Kansas has not experienced barriers to accessing data or cross-system information sharing. The Kansas Incident-Based Reporting System is fully compatible with the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Incident-Based Reporting System.

### **Project Design and Implementation**

Kansas' strategic planning process began in the Spring of 2024 when the KCJCC determined the steps to be taken in developing the updated Plan for the state. It was determined the KCJCC members would each appoint at least one person from their respective agencies to form a Subcommittee to assist in drafting the Strategic Plan and KGGP would coordinate with the

National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) to provide technical assistance with the strategic planning process.

The KGGP worked with the Subcommittee members and the NCJA staff to develop and distribute a 46-question online criminal justice stakeholder survey to gather the data from state and local criminal justice stakeholders. The survey took place during March 2024. Input from stakeholders on the needs and concerns of local communities was essential to the comprehensive planning process. The survey was distributed to a wide range of interested parties in the criminal justice community, including representatives of state and local law enforcement, county and district judges, county and district attorneys, criminal defense personnel, court personnel, city and county government officials, representatives throughout the corrections field, mental health professionals, and legal professionals. Participants were also asked to forward the survey on to any other professionals in the criminal justice field. More than 150 responses were received from the survey.

The KCJCC oversees the criminal justice federal funding made available to Kansas through BJA. In addition to the JAG Program, the funding oversight includes the National Criminal History Information Program, Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Prison Rape Elimination Act Reallocation, and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. The KGGP provides the staffing for the KCJCC and the day-to-day management of Bureau of Justice Assistance grant programs.

The KGGP staff administers other federal grant programs, including but not limited to the U.S. Department of Justice's Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program, Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Program, STOP Violence Against Women grant, and Sexual Assault Services Program. Furthermore, Kansas has developed uniform, statewide domestic violence and sexual assault training, and model policies and protocols for all criminal justice professionals' responses

to domestic violence and sexual assault. Therefore, the staff of the KCJCC can provide coordination of services and eliminate duplication of efforts. The management and oversight of these various grant programs ensure the coordination of funding strategies to maximize state and local efforts.

### **Capabilities and Competencies**

The KGGP mission is to remove obstacles in Kansas communities, neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and homes to ensure the safety and security of all Kansans. By administering federal and state grants to units of state and local government; Native American Tribes; and nonprofit community and faith-based organizations, including underserved and culturally specific populations throughout the state, the KGGP aims to enhance the criminal and civil justice systems, improve public safety, and support crime victim services and violence prevention programs.

In implementing the JAG Program, Kansas recognizes that state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and nonprofit, community, and faith-based organizations must collaborate and cooperate to impact drug abuse and violent crime positively. Members of the KCJCC work closely with other federal agencies and initiatives to combat violent crime and drug interdiction efforts. They are routinely in contact with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Corrections Association, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

#### *Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area*

Coordination and collaboration efforts continue between Kansas and surrounding states in the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program. Midwest HIDTA includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and the Illinois counties of Madison and St. Clair (east St. Louis area). The Office of National Drug Control Policy formed

HIDTA in 1996 to combat the phenomenal increase in the importation, distribution, and clandestine manufacturing of drugs with a primary emphasis on methamphetamines. The Midwest HIDTA coordinates drug investigations, intelligence, and prosecution efforts.

### **Plan for Collecting Data Required for Performance Measures**

Subgrantees must submit performance measurement data directly to the Bureau of Justice Assistance Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) website no later than 15 days following the end of each calendar quarter. Webinar training is provided to subgrantees regarding the instructions for and submission of the PMT data and complying with state grant assurances.

Accompanying each quarter's PMT data submission is the Death in Custody report. The KGGP is provided death-in-custody reporting act data from the Kansas Department of Corrections every January, April, July, and October for the preceding calendar quarter. The KGGP continues to communicate with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation regarding the need for a centralized, electronic method for reporting and collecting this information.