

2009 American Recovery and Investment Act Justice
Assistance Grant (JAG) Grant Programs

REENTRY Projects

Guidance for Potential Applicants

presented by

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Introduction and Agenda Overview

- Purpose of JAG funding
- Overview of Ohio JAG Grant Program
- Overview of Ohio Re-Entry Efforts
- How to Apply
- Grantee Selection Process
- Scoring Matrix
- Tips (*How to Avoid Common Mistakes*)

The Purpose of JAG Funding

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program was established by passage of the fiscal year 2005 omnibus spending measure. The program is federally administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. JAG funds are designed to allow states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions.

Ohio's ReEntry Efforts-

State Agency Offender Reentry Coalition (HB130)

April 1, 2009-Governor Strickland signed bill

Mission Statement- *The mission of the Reentry Coalition is to ensure successful offender reentry, reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. The Coalition will achieve these goals through collaborative partnerships with government entities, faith and community-based organizations, and other stakeholders. It will utilize a holistic evidence-based approach that starts at the point of contact with the criminal justice system and includes an emphasis on education, families, health services, alcohol and other drug treatment, employment, mentorship and housing*

Provide evidence of collaboration with state and local stakeholders

Developed a comprehensive strategic reentry plan that contains annual and 5 year performance outcomes with a goal of reducing recidivism by 50%.



OCJS and JAG ARRA Grant Programs

- The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. By statute, OCJS is the lead justice planning and assistance office for the state, and is responsible for administering millions of dollars in state and federal criminal justice funding every year. OCJS also evaluates programs and develops technology, provides training, and products for criminal justice professionals and communities.
- OCJS has been designated by Governor Ted Strickland to administer 2009 Recovery and Investment Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program funds.
- Emphasis is on Job Creation and/or Job Maintenance.

JAG Reentry Grant Program *(cont)*

- **Administered by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services**
- **<http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/funding/reports.htm>**
- **No match required**
- **Partnership between OCJS and Statewide Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coalition**
- **Funding for 20 months**

JAG Reentry Grant Program

- **4.7 million dollars is available from the ARRA JAG funds specifically for community reentry programs.**
- **This solicitation will fund programs under two categories.**
 - Category I is for existing county or regional reentry task forces so that they can add programs to better accomplish their five year strategic plan.
 - Category II is for counties or regions that wish to develop reentry task forces and develop their five year strategic plan.
- **The maximum award that an agency may apply for under this RFP is one million dollars.** *The number and amount of awards will be determined by the number of qualified grant applications.*

Program Purpose

- **Applicants can only apply under one category**
- **Applicants will be expected to integrate best practices into their proposed service delivery models, and/or develop strategies to establish, develop, and maintain viable Re-Entry Taskforces, and assess and develop services to respond to the needs of offenders re-entering their communities.**

While such programs should be founded on best practices and proven elements, they should be led by collaboratives indigent to the community and designed according to local needs and resources Second Chance Act

- Five Key Elements

Program Purpose *(cont.)*

Only one application per county as represented by the local county Re-Entry Task Force *(one that has been recognized as the established one for Category I applicants – Please see list available for verification of contact information and county.)*

Category I *Applicant eligibility*

- Must be an established and operational Re-Entry Task Force;
- Inclusive of members required under Second Chance Act;
- Must have a 5-year strategic plan with a goal of reducing recidivism by 50%;
- Reflect 5 key elements;

Category I *(cont.)*

- **Must focus on create new jobs or retain positions that would have otherwise been lost if not for funding**
- **Individual agencies cannot apply as lone entity or sole source of program** *must be on behalf of countywide task force or as part of a comprehensive grant project proposal.*

Category II *Applicant eligibility*

- Can be those Counties interested in developing a countywide/regional reentry task force;
- Development of plan to incorporate a needs assessment;
- Create new jobs or retain positions that would have otherwise been lost if not for funding

JAG Re-Entry Project Overview

- **Application:** For technical assistance on any part of the JAG application, call OCJS at: 614.466.7782 or e-mail: bamiller@dps.state.oh.us.
- **Award:** If awarded, notifications will be faxed to selected projects. Before final approval, projects must complete and return all required forms. All awards will be for 20 months of funding, operating from March 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011.
- **FOCUS on JOBS!** This is a unique funding stream one that emphasizes job creation and/or job maintenance. The required objectives are included in the objectives section.
- **5 – DAY Reporting Period** – grantees will only have 5 days to submit programmatic and financial reports.

Ohio's JAG Grant Program- How to Apply

Read the 2009 JAG Re-Entry program announcement

(released December 10, 2009)

- **Make sure your organization is eligible**
- **Develop your project strategy** - Category I or Category II eligible?
- **Write your application**- Be sure to provide all the requisites as outlined in the RFP. Use scoring matrix as guide.
- **Submit your application** - Original and 4 copies must be received by January 15th, 2010 to the Office of Criminal Justice Services. Fax copies will not be accepted.

JAG Re-Entry – Who is eligible to apply?

- **All JAG applicants must have an organization, or sub-grantee, that will serve as the fiduciary agent and assume overall responsibility for the grant.** *Eligible JAG sub-grantees include a unit of local government or council of governments. A unit of local government has legislative autonomy, jurisdiction, and authority to act in certain circumstances. Units of government include a city, county, township, or village. If two or more jointly apply, they must designate one body to take the lead role and identify that agency's fiscal officer.*
- **Statewide and local nonprofit or faith-based associations.** *Projects implemented by courts, law enforcement agencies, and mental health boards may not act as their own subgrantees.*

JAG Re-Entry Grant Program *(cont.)*

Who is Eligible?

Those who are interested in submitting a proposal must register with the Governor's Office through www.recovery.ohio.gov and submit a Statement of Interest by January 15, 2010 by 5:00 pm.

Applicants that have not registered on the Governor's website will not be considered for funding.

Writing the Application

- **Application must include Title Page, Executive Summary, Project Narrative, and Budget Pages**
- **Application should be:**
 - single-sided pages
 - 12-point font
 - double-spaced
 - 1 inch margins on all sides
- **An original and 4 copies must be submitted with binder clips (*no notebooks*)**
- **Faxed copies of your application or any part of the proposal will not be accepted.**

Submitting Your Application

Proposals must be postmarked or received by OCJS by 5:00 p.m. January 15, 2010.

Applications received after this date and time will be classified as late **and may not be considered for funding.**

JAG Re-Entry Funding

- All costs must directly relate to the goals and objectives of the proposed project.
- OCJS reserves the right to modify project budgets that were submitted or provide partial funding for applications selected for funding.
- Receiving previous funding does not guarantee funding for this year.
- Funding of projects through OCJS is subject to availability of federal pass-through funding resources.

OCJS' 3-prong Grantee Selection Process

OCJS Grant Coordinator's Review

- a) Ensures they were received by the closing date and time and they have complied with the basic requirements as outlined in the program solicitation.
- b) Verifies requested amount doesn't exceed the limitations detailed in the RFP.
- c) Ensures subgrantee is compliant with all reporting requirements.
- d) Ensures subgrantee has 5 year strategic plan in place

OCJS Outside Review Applications that pass the initial Grant Coordinator's review will be subjected to outside review and rated by an outside panel based on the program elements and review criteria as presented in the full program announcement. The basis for this review is outlined and detailed in the scoring matrix.

Directors Review: Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Director and final funding recommendations will be forwarded on to the Director of Department of Public Safety and the Governor for final approval.

OCJS Scoring Matrix

PROBLEM STATEMENT *(22 points)*

The level to which applicant clearly identifies the problem to be addressed including adequate statistics documenting the problem or need for assistance and it is consistent with ARRA (up to 6 points).

The level to which the applicant identifies the target population to be served and provides documentation or detail as to how the services proposed are appropriate. In addition the problem to be addressed should clearly relate to the identified target population and information regarding size and characteristics of the population should be included in the application (up to 6 points).

The level to which the applicant has provided data and other information demonstrating both short term and long term consequences that will impact the community (up to 4 points).

The level to which the applicant provides information showing that there are no other resources available to address the problem and the link to Recovery Act funds for job creation and job retention clearly established (up to 6 points) .

PROJECT DESCRIPTION *(28 points)*

The level to which applicant clearly demonstrates how the response follows from the problem to be addressed and shows how it will adequately address the problem (up to 6 points).

The level to which the applicant's program activities and response includes the one or more of the five key principles? (up to 6 points).

The level to which the resources identified by the applicant are correct for the response to the problem (up to 4 points).

The level to which the applicant provides information showing that the program strategy or response is evidence based or that independent evaluations have found the response is effective in addressing the problem detailed in their proposal (up to 8 points).

The applicant's basis in professional experience for why the response will be effective is consistent with the reviewer's professional experience. (up to 4 points).

PROJECT OBJECTIVE (20 points)

Whether or not the Mandatory Jobs Objectives are clearly stated and consistent with requirements for Recovery Act funds, and the Mandatory Programmatic Objectives are the most appropriate objectives for the proposed project

The level to which the applicant has detailed the accomplishments or changes anticipated in the objectives and has demonstrated how they are likely to result from the response and the key components (up to 6 points).

Each of the performance measures follow from and are the most appropriate measures for their respective objective (up to 4 points).

The level to which the applicant's response includes baseline information that documents the existing level for each performance measure (up to 4 points).

The level to which the amount of accomplishment or change detailed in the objective is ambitious, yet is realistic so that it can be achieved (up to 6 points).

TIMELINE & ACTIVITIES (6 points)

- Describe how project activities and objectives will be reasonably achieved in the given project period given the nature of the problem, the target population, and the approach/response discussed in earlier sections of the application (up to 3 points).
- Level and extent to which applicant presents a comprehensive, thorough timeline that is well-defined and specifies what will be done, who (individuals and organizations) will do it, and when it will be accomplished. if applicable, includes any other deliverables that will be created and/or used throughout the project (up to 3 points).

ORGANIZATION / STAFF CAPACITY

(12 points)

The level to which applicant clearly demonstrates the implementing organization's composition and history and indicate how it is likely to successfully implement the project and accomplish its objectives (up to 4 points).

The level to which the applicant reentry task force and agencies participating in the local initiative have the staff, including volunteers, to successfully implement the project and accomplish its goals (up to 4 points).

The level to which the applicant clearly details how the reentry task force and agencies participating in the local initiative have the resources (e.g. computers and other electronic) and infrastructure (e.g. facilities) to successfully implement the project and accomplish its goals (up to 4 points).

COLLABORATION BOARD *(8 points)*

The level to which applicant clearly demonstrates that the organizations on the collaboration board are the ones needed to help the implementing organization accomplish its objectives (up to 4 points).

The level to which the applicant provides clear details on when the regular meetings of the collaboration board will occur and how the implementing agency will use board input to improve the project (up to 4 points).

BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION *(8 points)*

The level to which the applicant clearly demonstrates that the budget costs and expenses are logical and directly related to the problem statement, project description, and objectives previously discussed in the application (up to 3 points).

The level to which all costs within each budget category add up to the total requested in that section and the overall budget is correct (up to 2 points).

The level to which the budget expenses/costs are reasonable based on the objectives of the proposed program (3 points).

Grantwriting Tips

(How to Avoid Common Mistakes)

- **Read the correct program announcement.**
- **Follow the format guidelines**
- **Include all necessary parts and correct number of copies of your application.**
- **Submit your application with enough time to get it to OCJS before the deadline.**

Additional Questions?

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