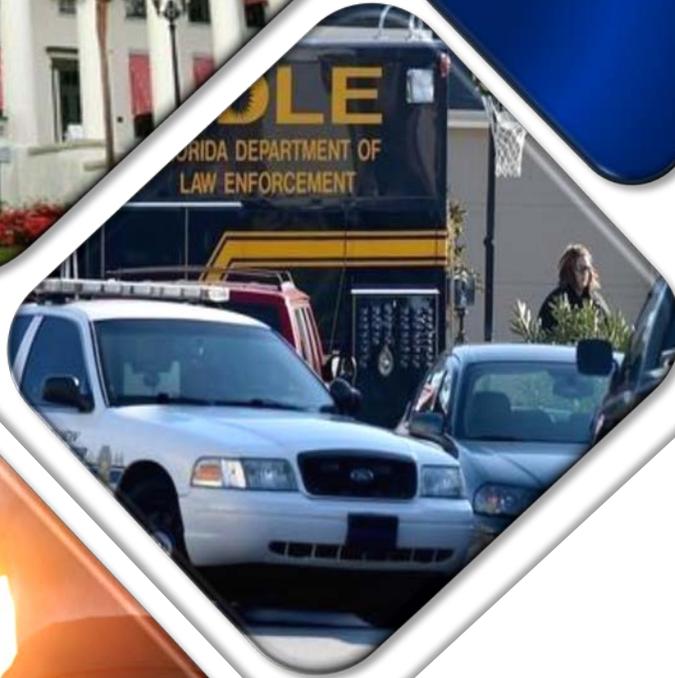


STATE OF FLORIDA

BYRNE JAG

STRATEGIC PLAN

2019



Prepared by:
The Florida Department of
Law Enforcement
Office of Criminal Justice Grants



2019 Byrne / JAG Strategic Plan for Florida

Introduction

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) was created in 1967 with the goal of merging the duties of several statewide criminal justice entities into one central agency. The mission of FDLE is, “To promote public safety and strengthen domestic security by providing services in partnership with local, state and federal criminal justice agencies to prevent, investigate, and solve crimes while protecting Florida’s citizens and visitors.”

FDLE is headed by a Commissioner who is appointed by the Governor, with approval from the Cabinet and confirmed by the Florida Senate. FDLE employs approximately 1,900 members statewide who work at headquarters located in Tallahassee or one of the agency’s Regional Operation Centers in Pensacola, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa Bay, Fort Myers, or Miami.

FDLE’s duties, responsibilities and procedures are mandated through Chapter 943, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 11, Florida Administrative Code. FDLE has earned accreditation from the National Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, and the American Society for Crime Lab Directors.

FDLE serves as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for various federal grant programs authorized by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and is the designated pass-through entity for Florida’s Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). In addition to federal award management, FDLE’s grant administration activities include developing subgrant solicitation(s), reviewing and processing subgrant applications, performing risk assessments, conducting monitoring activities, coordinating and submitting progress and financial reports, processing and managing grant and subgrant adjustments, providing training and technical support to subrecipients, performing the accounting/auditing functions associated with subawards, and processing fund disbursements. These processes ensure all projects comply with the applicable federal and state regulations governing DOJ program awards.

Statewide Priorities

Florida’s State Comprehensive Plan¹, as required by statute, is updated by the Florida Legislature biennially, and covers a wide variety of issues including public safety. In addition, each state agency is statutorily² required to develop a Long Range Program Plan. Long Range Program Plans are in effect for five years and updated annually.

FDLE reviewed the strategic or long range program plans for various state agencies, associations, and councils in the criminal justice sector to identify a common set of priorities. Plans examined include those published by the Office of the Attorney General, the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Information Systems (CJJIS) Council, the Florida Commission on Offender Review, the Florida Department of Corrections, the Department of Children and Families, Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Florida Department of Health, the Florida Defense Support Task Force, the Domestic Security Oversight Council, the Florida Sheriffs Association, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

¹ Florida Statutes, §186

² Florida Statutes, §216.013

Commission, the Office of the Governor, the Department of Military Affairs, the Supreme Court, and the Florida Bar.

From this review, FDLE identified the following common priorities:

- Improve communication and collaboration
- Talent creation and development
- Improve service delivery
- Public safety

Improving communication and collaboration between various government agencies, non-government organizations, and communities is a complex issue. Through better communication and collaboration, duplication of effort is reduced and decision making processes are improved. Florida's JAG program supports this priority by funding projects which improve information sharing and collaboration, such as multi-jurisdictional task forces, community policing, and technology improvements. Drug treatment programs involving law enforcement, the courts, corrections, and treatment providers are also an example of collaborative projects.

Talent creation and development is a challenge experienced across all sectors of government, not just within the criminal justice community.³ Hiring and retaining qualified personnel requires an investment of both time and money⁴ which is often limited in the public sector. Furthermore, the higher salaries offered by many public sector employers lead to increased turnover rates in some professions. One way governments can help reduce this issue is through providing ongoing training to keep their work force engaged and productive. Specialized training in crisis intervention, digital evidence recovery, intelligence analysis, and critical incident response are examples of activities funded under Florida's JAG program which support talent creation and development.

The positive impact of improved service delivery cannot be overstated. Florida's JAG program funds technology upgrades, such as computer aided dispatch systems, to help improve response times and allow multiple agencies (police, fire, EMS) to be dispatched through a central point. Additionally, programs providing counseling and support services to individuals re-entering communities from state or local correctional facilities increase the opportunity for a successful, productive transition to society.

Keeping Florida safe for the people who live, work, and play in the state is paramount. Florida is the third most populous state in the nation⁵ and a large sector of its economy is dependent upon tourism⁶. Florida's JAG program supports public safety throughout the state by funding projects that help make communities safer for Florida's citizens and visitors.

³ <https://www.cgma.org/resources/reports/improving-government-performance-through-talent-management.html>

⁴ <https://www.policefoundation.org/recruiting-selecting-and-retaining-law-enforcement-officers/>

⁵ <http://worldpopulationreview.com/states/>

⁶ <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/011316/floridas-economy-6-industries-driving-gdp-growth.asp>

Florida's Historic JAG Funding Strategy

While Florida has a robust strategic planning process at the state level, it does not drive funding decisions for the local share of JAG funding. As prescribed by Florida Administrative Rule 11D-9,⁷ allocations to Florida's 67 counties are formula driven based on population and crime statistics. This process has several advantages. First, it allocates funding in a manner allowing all counties to benefit from JAG funding. Second, it compels community-based planning as cities and counties must identify the most significant needs of their jurisdictions. Third, it creates buy-in among subrecipients as they are able to fund their identified priorities. Finally, it involves a wide spectrum of stakeholders in communities across the state including law enforcement agencies, correctional institutions, courts, non-profit organizations, and faith-based and community groups.

Rule 11D-9, Florida Administrative Code addresses the local planning process required for participation in Florida's JAG Countywide program. Planning at the county level requires identification of criminal justice priorities for the county, strategies to address the priorities, and evaluation of revenue sources to ensure funds are directed to the programs or issues needing them most.

FDLE's sub-solicitation encourages units of government to request funding for projects which support the priorities of DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance, such as violent crime reduction, border enforcement, responding to the opioid crisis, and officer safety and wellness. Although subrecipients are encouraged to support these priorities, FDLE does not mandate the types of programs to be funded, as long as projects and activities are allowable under the federal JAG guidelines.

Program Areas and Previous Funding

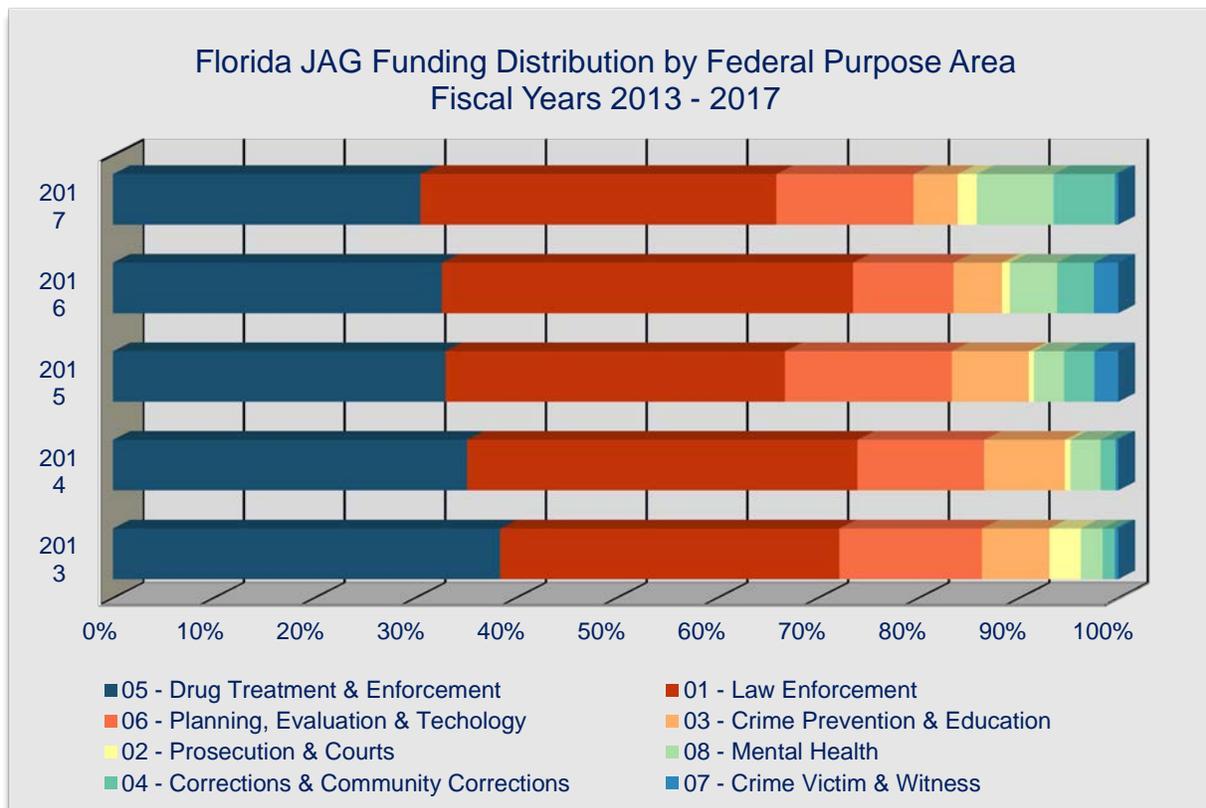
The Crime Control and Safe Streets Act authorizes activities in eight program areas for the Justice Assistance Grant. These areas include:

- Law Enforcement Programs are implemented by law enforcement agencies for a variety of purposes including: salaries for law enforcement officers, overtime for targeted enforcement initiatives, community policing, training, and equipment purchases.
- Prevention and Education Programs include drug and gang prevention and education, community crime prevention, case management services for at-risk youth, firearm safety education for children in public schools, and community crime prevention and education initiatives.
- Prosecution and Court Programs support teen courts, community courts, and family or dependency courts, and diversion programs.
- Corrections and Community Corrections Programs include intensive post-release supervision, drug suppression in correctional facilities, prison industry programs, halfway houses, and other projects which support the priority of recidivism reduction.

⁷ <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=11D-9>

- Drug Treatment and Enforcement Programs include projects related to substance abuse, drug treatment, drug courts, and targeted investigation and enforcement.
- Planning, Evaluation and Technology Improvement Programs include projects that support purchasing technology equipment (body-worn cameras, license plate readers), computer hardware and software, and funding positions to plan, evaluate, oversee, and coordinate the subrecipient’s grant program.
- Crime Victim and Witness Programs provide assistance to victims and witnesses by paying overtime or contractual services for victim advocates to provide case management and treatment services to victims and their families.
- Mental Health Programs provide screening, intake, case management, counseling, referrals, psychosocial and/or psychiatric services to mental health clients.

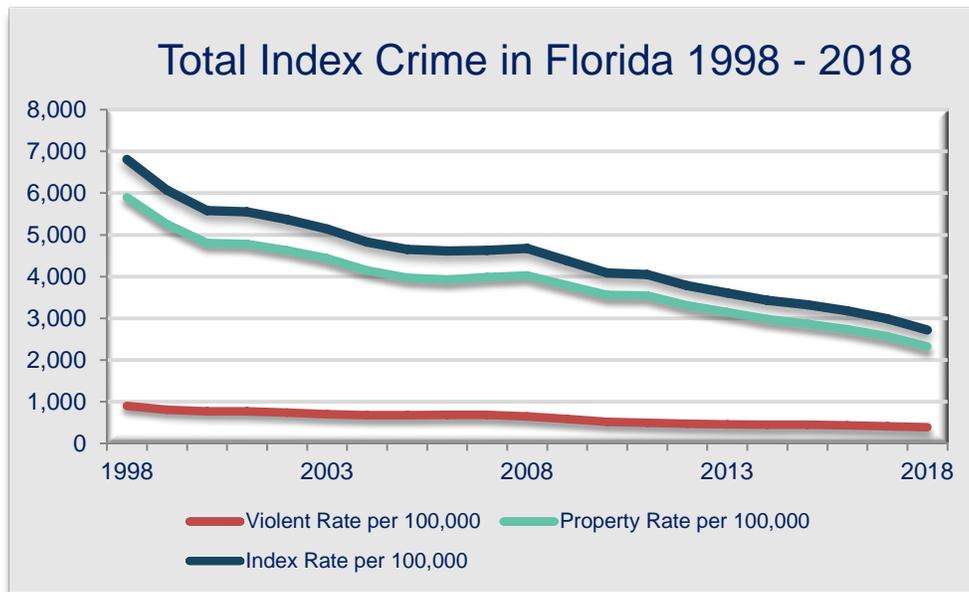
FDLE typically receives subaward applications in all eight program areas. The following chart shows a breakdown of funding by program area using data from the five previous fiscal years.⁸



⁸ FY2017 figures are estimates based on applications submitted and/or approved as of May 2019.

Crime in Florida

As noted in the most recent crime data report, Florida's population increased 38.9% over the past twenty years while experiencing a significant decline in both the number and rate of reported Total Index Crimes. The Total Index Crime data is comprised of violent crime (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and property crimes (burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft).



The JAG Subgrant Award Process

Florida's tourism industry is bolstered by miles of coastline, abundant freshwater lakes, world-renowned amusement parks, and pleasant climate. In addition to tourism, Florida enjoys a booming agricultural sector and its major gateway ports enable a healthy international trade. These elements contribute to a steadily growing, diverse population, but also make Florida an attractive haven for criminal activity. JAG funds continue to play a vital role in the state's overall strategy to reduce the impact of crime on the state's population and criminal justice system.

As previously noted, FDLE encourages subrecipients to submit applications addressing the areas of emphasis identified by the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA). However, Florida also has a longstanding and intentional strategy which recognizes the range of needs in the state and supports locally-driven funding decisions. Florida's diversity in terms of geography, population density, and economic opportunity is reflected in the variety of JAG programs funded.

Our subaward process empowers and encourages local governments to work together to reach consensus about programs which best address the criminal justice needs of their jurisdictions. JAG funds assist in creating a safer, more secure Florida by enabling units of local government to provide targeted programs, services, and equipment to improve the safety of citizens, deter and reduce crime, prevent and treat drug addiction, enhance prosecution of crime, and increase

and improve the technology and other material resources available.

Much like federal award allocations, Florida’s JAGC subaward allocations are determined using a formula based on county population and crime data. This funding process is outlined in Florida Administrative Code.⁹ FDLE requires units of local government in each county to reach a consensus concerning the expenditure of the JAGC funds. As prescribed by Florida Administrative Code, counties must submit written documentation of consensus on projects to be funded, allocation amount, and the party responsible for implementation.

BJA determines eligibility for JAG-Direct (JAGD) funds by using the latest available Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data. If a unit of government is eligible for more than \$10,000, BJA awards funds directly. Remaining JAGD funds are awarded to FDLE as a lump sum to pass through to eligible units of local government in awards of \$10,000 or less. Florida allots JAGD funds on the basis of population and reported crime statistics.

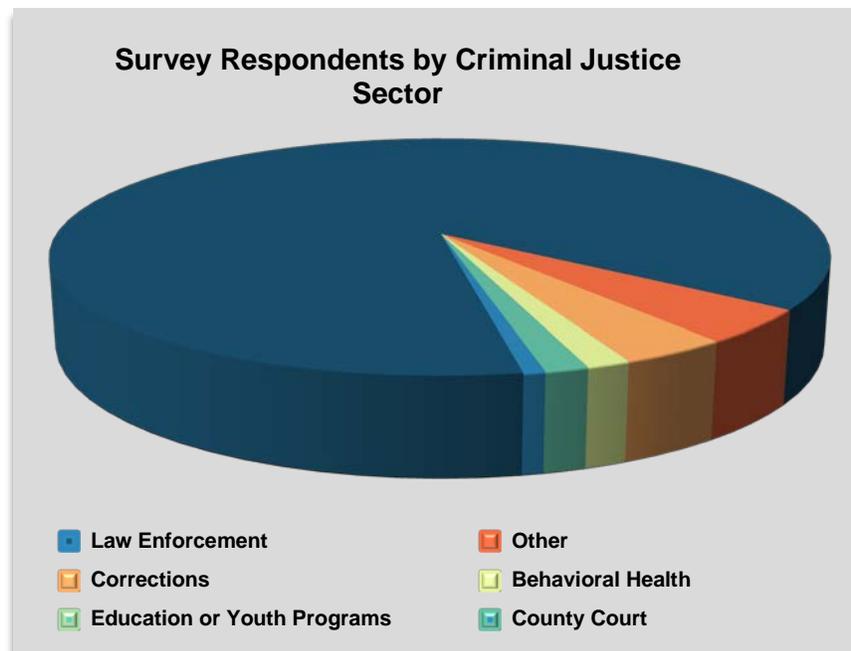
In an effort to streamline the SAA responsibilities, FDLE uses an electronic grants management system for grant administration. The system provides grant management capability to both the SAA and subrecipients throughout the entire grant life cycle.

Strategic Planning and Survey

To comply with the statewide strategic planning requirements outlined in federal “Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016,” FDLE created a survey seeking input from our criminal justice partners. The purpose of the survey was to help identify a set of funding priorities and determine the trend of needs in the statewide criminal justice community.

FDLE released the survey on March 18, 2019 and it was available until April 5, 2019. Notice of the survey was provided to all parties required by the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016.

Responses were received from 133 participants; the graph at right provides an overview of the number of responses received across the criminal justice sectors. Respondents to the survey overwhelmingly identified themselves as members of



⁹ Fla Administrative Code 11D-9.002

the law enforcement sector. We note that some sectors were unresponsive.

In addition to general questions about their organization and jurisdiction, participants were presented with a series of questions addressing each of the eight federal program areas. Respondents were asked to choose the four areas of greatest need in each area.

Survey Priorities Identified by Program Area

After analyzing the survey results, FDLE has identified the following statewide priorities for subawards based on the JAG program area selected.

Program Area 1 - Law Enforcement

In many jurisdictions local funds aren't sufficient to provide even the basic operational needs for law enforcement. A majority of JAG funds provided under the Law Enforcement program area are used to supplement local budgets. The top four areas of need identified by survey respondents are equipment, training, traffic enforcement, and community policing and engagement.

In the wake of increased active shooter incidents, grant funds have been used to buy active shooter kits which include heavy plate ballistic tactical body armor vests, helmets, tourniquets and rifle magazines, and protective outerwear such as face masks, throat collars, and groin protectors. These purchases align with BJA's emphasis on officer safety and wellness.



JAG funds provide a variety of specialized training to help improve investigative techniques, communication skills, and forensic capabilities. Training with simulation scenarios increases the ability of officers to react appropriately in dangerous and life threatening situations.

According to the Florida Integrated Report Exchange System, there have been approximately 1,400 traffic fatalities, and nearly 185,000 reported crashes in the first six months of 2019.¹⁰ To address traffic enforcement, grant funds have been used to purchase speed trailers, license plate readers, and RADAR equipment.

JAG funding has also been used to pay salaries and benefits for community oriented police officers focused on addressing community needs through outreach, targeted law enforcement, and creative problem solving. The officers work in partnership with community members, youth programs, schools, governmental departments and non-governmental agencies to build relationships and help bring resources to the community.

¹⁰ <https://firesportal.com/Pages/Public/QuickStats.aspx>

Program Area 2 - Prosecution and Courts

Court programs funded through JAG often seek to reduce criminal offenses by addressing the underlying issues of an offender while seeking to preserve public safety and due process.¹¹ The top four areas of need identified by the survey include Pre-trial Diversion, Recidivism, Training, and Property/White Collar Crime initiatives.

Historically, JAG funds under the Prosecution and Courts Program Area have been used to fund a number of diversion programs, such as one offered through a Mental Health/Veterans court. Grant funds have been used to provide temporary housing, case management services, and psychosocial assessments to individuals with behavioral health disorders who have been charged with low level offenses.



The U.S. Department of Justice published a manual identifying the major objectives of pretrial diversion programs.¹² The goal of court driven diversion programs is described as preventing future criminal activity, saving court resources, and providing a means of restitution for victims and communities.

Recidivism is a long-standing national issue. The Florida Department of Corrections Quarterly Recidivism Report indicates the rate for state prisoners experiencing rearrests, conviction, incarceration, or revocation within three years was approximately 60%.¹³

Training targeted for prosecutors often strengthens relationships between prosecutors, law enforcement, and the community. Specific training topics enhance the ability for prosecutors to effectively try criminal cases which are historically difficult to prosecute.

According to the most recent Uniform Crime Report (UCR)¹⁴ released from FDLE's Statistical Analysis Center, there were approximately 485,000 property crimes reported in 2018. Although property crimes are trending downward in the state, it is far from a negligible issue.

White collar crime statistics are not reported through UCR. However, due to the complex nature of white collar crime, successful prosecution requires resources which may not be available locally.

Program Area 3 - Prevention and Education

Crime prevention serves to reduce and deter crime and often starts with education. Prevention

¹¹ <https://www.nij.gov/topics/courts/pages/specialized-courts.aspx>

¹² <https://www.justice.gov/jm/jm-9-22000-pretrial-diversion-program>

¹³ <http://www.dc.state.fl.us/pub/recidivism/2018-2019/Recidivism2018-Q2.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/Crime-Trends/Total-Index-Crimes>

and education programs provide information on the impact crime has on individuals, families, and communities. Within the Prevention and Education Program Area, the following four priorities were identified: Anti-Drug Programs, School Violence Prevention, Domestic Violence Prevention, and Pharmaceutical/Substance Abuse.

It is commonly known there is an opioid epidemic plaguing the United States, and Florida is no different. The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports the 2017 national rate of drug overdose deaths was 21.7 per 100,000 persons.¹⁵ Florida experienced an above average rate of 25.1 deaths per 100,000 persons. Although there has been significant media coverage of the opioid crisis, it is worth noting cocaine and methamphetamine use in Florida contributes to the increase in drug related deaths.¹⁶ As a result of these alarming trends, it is clear why respondents chose anti-drug programs and pharmaceutical and substance abuse as priorities.

The Naval Postgraduate School's K-12 School Shooting Database, reports 97 incidents of school shootings in 2018,¹⁷ including the mass shooting incident at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. There have been 36 school shooting incidents in the first six months of 2019. Predictably, School Violence Prevention was identified as a funding priority and aligns with the increase in school shooting incidents nationwide.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics report *Police Response to Domestic Violence, 2006-2015* estimates 716,000 domestic violence incidents were reported and approximately 582,000 instances were unreported.¹⁸ The

same report indicated victims of domestic violence often do not report the crime due to privacy implications, protecting the offender, and fear of reprisal. Programs targeting domestic violence prevention and education may provide the necessary information and resources to empower victims to report their abuse.

Program Area 4 - Corrections and Community Corrections

Florida's state prison population ranks third in the nation at a rate of 513 inmates per 100,000 adult residents.¹⁹ Behavioral Health Services (17%), Workforce (11%), Recidivism (11%), and Diversion (7%), were the priority funding areas identified by the survey responses. Both recidivism and behavioral health appear to be priorities across program areas.

¹⁵ <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-summaries-by-state/florida-opioid-summary>

¹⁶ <https://frost.med.ufl.edu/frost/>

¹⁷ <https://www.chds.us/ssdb/incidents-by-year/>

¹⁸ <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/prdv0615.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.project180reentry.org/statistics/>

Subgrants funded under this program area have been primarily focused on the areas of behavioral health services and recidivism reduction. Local agencies have used grant funds to pay salaries and benefits for a vocational instructor to teach employment skills to incarcerated offenders and to pay unit costs for contractual service providers for case management and behavioral health services. Both of these programs are focused on reducing recidivism.



Project 180, a non-profit Florida Reentry provider, indicates approximately 17% of inmates in state prisons receive ongoing mental health care. The Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) is beginning to recognize this priority and operates mental health units in ten facilities across the state.

Workforce hiring and retention for corrections and community corrections has been at a priority for Florida during the past few legislative sessions. In 2017, Florida increased the base salary for correctional officers and classified them as law enforcement in an effort to decrease the vacancies and turnover rate plaguing the profession. Furthermore, during the 2019 session, the minimum age for employment was lowered to 18 to increase the pool of potential applicants.

As previously discussed under Program Area 2 – Prosecution and Courts, recidivism and diversion are priorities in many areas of criminal justice.

Program Area 5 - Drug Treatment and Enforcement

As previously discussed in Program Area 3 – Prevention and Education, the state’s alarming drug related death rate fosters the need for drug treatment and enforcement programs. The top



four priorities identified for the Drug Treatment and Enforcement Program Area are as follows: Surveillance Equipment (18%), Drug Enforcement in a single agency or jurisdiction (17%), Drug Enforcement via multi-jurisdictional task forces or pharmaceutical partnerships (13%), and First Responders, Crisis Response, Stabilization, Antagonists, Detox (8%).

These priority areas are in line with BJA’s emphasis on responding to the opioid crisis and supporting law enforcement actions in addressing the supply of both prescription drugs and

illegal drugs, as well as supporting first responders as they encounter overdoses.

Support of drug eradication task forces have been a priority since the national war on drugs began in 1971. Florida has many established multi-jurisdictional and single-jurisdiction task forces operating in counties throughout the state. With local budget restrictions, these task forces rely heavily on federal funding to sustain positions, fund overtime, and purchase necessary equipment.

Opioid epidemic has increased the need for first responders (police, fire, etc.) to carry opioid antagonists, such as naloxone. According to FDLE's 2018 Criminal Justice Agency Profile Report, 51% of sheriff's offices and 40% of police departments in Florida issue naloxone to officers. Due to the cost of naloxone, local agencies rely on federal funding to assist in the procurement of this lifesaving medication.

Program Area 6 - Planning, Evaluation and Technology

Advances in technology are integral to the progress made in multiple areas of criminal justice. Information can be rapidly provided in areas across the spectrum from basic driver license checks to outstanding warrants and DNA analysis results. Identified priorities for Program Area 6 include Technology Upgrades (15%), Investigative and Surveillance Technology (14%), Crime Statistics Reporting (12%), and Grant Management (9%).



Rapid advances in the technology field aid in the commission of crimes which are increasingly more sophisticated. As a result, the criminal justice arena must upgrade existing technology on a frequent basis. As mentioned previously, local budgets are often unable to support costly upgrades leaving communities vulnerable to victimization.

Rapidly advancing video technology makes the purchase of cameras concealed in everyday items affordable. These items, along with other surveillance technologies, help provide valuable evidence in criminal investigations.

As the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) becomes the crime data reporting standard for the nation, Florida's criminal justice agencies recognize NIBRS compliance as a priority. Helping local agencies meet the technical requirements necessary to transition to incident-based reporting is a priority for FDLE's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) division. Additionally, implementation of computer aided dispatch and record management systems (CAD/RMS) allows local crime data to be available on real-time basis.

With the current structure of Florida's JAG funding, heavily populated counties often receive large allocations and fund complex programs. Personnel dedicated to grant management help mitigate risk of noncompliance with federal guidelines and ensure proper assessment, evaluation, and monitoring of multitier subrecipients or contractual service providers.

Program Area 7 - Crime Victim and Witness

Over the past five years, FDLE has seen an increase in requests for funding under this Program Area. Programs have included providing child abuse prevention and education services, paying salaries for a victim advocate coordinator, and providing treatment services to child victims and their families. These programs are in line with the priorities identified by survey respondents.

The greatest areas of need for the Crime Victim and Witness Program Area were identified as Behavioral Health Services (15%), Advocacy Services (15%), Counseling/Clinical Services (12%), and Children Exposed to Violence, Abuse, and Neglect (11%).

The behavioral health priority spans multiple federal program areas and is clear priority for the state’s JAG funding. According to the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), crime victims and witnesses benefit from specialized services, including counseling and clinical services, to successfully heal from trauma sustained from incidents.²⁰



As mentioned under Program Area 3 – Prevention and Education, a significant number of domestic violence incidents go unreported. Unreported crimes result in trauma and damage to individuals, families, and communities. Through the support of advocates, victims may gain the courage required to cooperate with officials in the prosecution of the offenders.

Florida’s children experience an uphill battle in regard to exposure to violence, abuse, and neglect. Nationally, it is estimated 7 to 14 million children are exposed to domestic violence each year. Furthermore, the child abuse rate in homes where domestic violence occurs is 9 to 15 times higher than the national average.²¹ With a population of approximately 4.7 million individuals between 0 and 19 years of age,²² these national statistics indicate protecting and providing for Florida’s children is a significant priority.

²⁰ https://www.ncjrs.gov/ovc_archives/factsheets/mentalHE.htm

²¹ Jeffrey L. Edleson, Amanda L. Ellerton, Ellen A. Seagren, Staci L. Kirchberg, Sarah O. Schmidt, Amirithini T. Ambrose, Assessing Child Exposure to Adult Domestic Violence, Children and Youth Services Review 2 (2007). 2. Todd Herrenkohl, Cynthia Sousa, Emiko A Tajima, Roy C. Herrenkohl, and Carrie A. Moylan, Intersection Between Child Abuse and Children’s Exposure to Domestic Violence, Trauma, Violence and Abuse (2008).

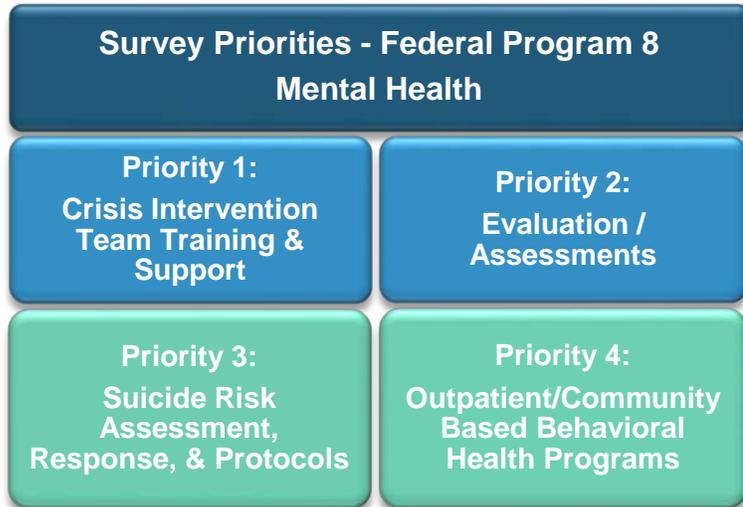
²² Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States, States, Counties, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and Municipios: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018
2018 Population Estimates

Program Area 8 - Mental Health

As indicated throughout all program areas, mental health is a distinct priority. Within the Mental Health Program Area, the following four priorities were identified: Crisis Intervention Team Training and Support (22%), Evaluation/Assessments (20%), Suicide Risk Assessment, Response and Protocols (15%), and Outpatient Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs (11%).

These areas of need reflect a trend in Florida’s JAG funding. Over the past five years (fiscal years 2013-2017), there has been an increase in funding requests for mental health programs.

Publicly documented interactions between law enforcement officers and mentally ill individuals which were poorly executed illustrate the importance and need for CITs and proper training for law enforcement officers. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and support is critical to improving the way law enforcement officers respond to individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis. CITs can forge valuable, ongoing partnerships between law enforcement professionals, mental health providers, and the families and individuals affected by mental illness.



Assessment and evaluation is a key component of mental healthcare and allows providers to adequately assess an illness and determine the best course of treatment. With the frequent changes in mental health classifications and treatment recommendations, it is imperative for providers to use up-to-date assessment tools to determine treatment options. Furthermore, adequate evaluation and assessment of mental health conditions assists law enforcement offices in delivering better service and care to individuals in the system.

Often when responding to calls for service, members of the criminal justice community are unaware an individual may be experiencing suicidal thoughts.²³ However, with the proper training and resources, criminal justice professionals may be able to easily assess a situation which could lead to suicide. With proper training and resources, agencies can improve both response protocols and outcomes.

Outpatient, community-based behavioral health programs play an important role in healthy communities. For individuals involved with the criminal justice system, these programs can be of paramount importance and funding these outpatient programs is crucial in the reduction of incarcerating individuals with mental illness.²⁴ Furthermore, the availability of these programs aids in reducing recidivism by diagnosing and treating underlying disorders which may

²³ <https://www.sprc.org/settings/law-enforcement>

²⁴ <https://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/issues/mental-health-and-criminal-justice-issues>

contribute to criminal activity.

Conclusion

FDLE believes the priorities defined above reflect cohesion with those identified through review of existing state agency long range program plans and published strategic plans from criminal justice councils and associations.

Subrecipients will be strongly encouraged fund projects addressing at least one of the priorities outlined above. FDLE will continue to allow subrecipients to use JAG funds to address the areas of need for their specific jurisdictions, continue to promote coordination and planning at the local level, and provide guidelines for funding that align with Florida's criminal justice priorities.

A copy of this plan will be published to the FDLE OCJG website.

This document was prepared by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Grants.

For additional information, please visit our website at www.fdle.state.fl.us/grants or call us at (850)617-1250.

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