

2022

COLORADO

JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG)

ANNUAL REPORT



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Department of Public Safety

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In 2021, the state of Colorado continued to navigate its way through the COVID-19 pandemic. The criminal justice response to the pandemic continued to evolve and improve on our systems new efficiencies. Many agencies across the state began to identify areas of reform and best practices in arrest, incarceration, courts, and re-entry. The daily average populations were remaining low in our jails, detention centers, and prisons. As we celebrated the successes of this forced reform, the state also experienced an increase in crime rates. The Colorado Office of Research and Statistics compiled their annual [crime statistics](#) and reported a 32% increase in the rate of murders, 40% increase in both commercial burglary and motor vehicle theft between 2019 to 2020. In response to these alarming numbers, Colorado is implementing a [comprehensive public safety package](#) aimed to make Colorado one of the safest states in the nation. By using a multi-faceted approach that engages all stakeholders involved in, and/or impacted by, the criminal justice system, Colorado seeks to collaboratively address public safety through both prevention and early intervention strategies. The State hopes to empower local communities to implement evidence-based, innovative programs that meet their specific public safety needs. The public safety package will include multiple grants to assist in this mission. They are as follows:

SB22-001 [Crime Prevention through Safer Streets Grant](#)

SB22-145 [Resources to Increase Community Safety Grant](#)

- Multidisciplinary Crime Prevention and Crisis Intervention Grant
- Law Enforcement Workforce, Retention, and Tuition Grant
- SMART Policing Grant

SB22-196 [Health Needs of Person in Criminal Justice System](#)

HB22-1003 [Delinquency Prevention and Young Offender Intervention Grant](#)

HB22-1326 [Fentanyl Accountability and Prevention](#)

The seven different grant programs will provide over \$40 million in state funding to law enforcement and our local communities. The JAG Board will review all the new legislation and funding opportunities to coordinate efforts while meeting in the fall to discuss the upcoming year and strategic plan. There will be representation from the JAG Board on the multiple funding advisory committees created for each funding opportunity. Over the next two years Colorado will evaluate the effectiveness in reducing the crime rate and identify best practices going forward.

After the nationwide movement of Black Lives Matter and a focus on the need for Law Enforcement Reform, the state of Colorado passed Senate Bill 20-217 Law Enforcement Reform Bill. Within the bill, it requires all Colorado Law Enforcement agencies to utilize body worn camera's and to make recorded data available to the public when requested. Below is a brief summary of the Body Worn Camera requirement.

Beginning July 1, 2023, the act requires all local law enforcement agencies and the Colorado state patrol to issue body-worn cameras to their officers, except for those working in jails, working as administrative or civilian staff, the executive detail of the state patrol, and those working in court rooms. A peace officer shall wear and activate a body-worn camera when responding to a call for service or during any interaction with the public initiated by the peace officer when enforcing the law or investigating possible violations of the law. A peace officer may turn off a body-worn camera to avoid recording personal

information that is not case related; when working on an unrelated assignment; when there is a long break in the incident or contact that is not related to the initial incident; and during administrative, tactical, and management discussions. A peace officer does not need to wear or activate a body-worn camera if the peace officer is working undercover. The act creates inferences, presumptions, and sanctions for failing to activate or tampering with a body-worn camera. The act requires all recordings of an incident be released to the public within 21 days after the local law enforcement agency or Colorado state patrol receives a complaint of misconduct. The act allows for redaction or nonrelease of the recording to the public if there is a specified privacy interest at stake. (<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb20-217>)

The Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee requested information from the DCJ regarding funding available for law enforcement to purchase body worn cameras. The question was presented to the Colorado JAG Advisory Board and it was decided to set aside \$1.9 million in the next funding conference for Body Worn Camera applications. During the 2021 Legislative Session, the General Assembly appropriated an additional \$4 million to the State Body Worn Camera Fund, and in HB21-1250 Measures to Address Law Enforcement Accountability an additional \$2 million was appropriated to the state Body Worn Camera Fund. This new legislation also moved up the date of compliance to July 1, 2022. With state appropriation total at \$6 million and the JAG Funds at \$1.9 million, the State of Colorado will have available \$7.9 million to ensure the compliance with SB20-217 and HB21-1250. With those combined funds, the DCJ was able to award funds to 110 Law Enforcement Agencies this year to assist them in complying with the new legislation.

The Colorado JAG Advisory Board continues to recognize the need to balance state needs as well as local needs and will use this lens when making funding decisions within the JAG

Program Areas. The Colorado JAG Advisory Board continues to support the philosophy of funding programs/applications within all JAG purpose areas and prioritizing those projects that adhere to their overarching goal of:

To support implementation of sustainable programs or provide resources that prevent or reduce or address crime, delinquency, recidivism, or improve outcomes for those affected by crime, using innovative, multidisciplinary, evidence-based, promising or best practices.

The Colorado JAG Advisory Board continues to explore ways to target areas of need that are identified through crime data and analysis in addition to their current practices. The board is in the process of developing a new survey for criminal justice stakeholders to identify possible new areas of need. The board members will review the results of the Stakeholder Survey at their fall retreat in October 2022 and will utilize those results to guide their funding decisions in the upcoming solicitation.

This year Colorado is participating in an Equity in Grants Administration and Strategic Planning Pilot Project with NCJA. The DCJ is in the middle of the process but has received some initial feedback in ways the state can ensure their grantmaking process is equitable. We are excited to learn from the process and will review the final findings at the 2022 Fall Retreat. These findings will then be entrenched in our strategic plan and goals and objectives.

Goal 1: Establish and maintain a quality JAG Subgrant Application, Review and Award Process that supports projects in alignment with the established JAG Board goal:

Objective 1.1: Maintain JAG Board membership to assure state and local representation of the diverse systems which assist in the administration of adult and juvenile justice.

- **Update:** The Colorado Governor, Jared Polis, has made a commitment to ensure diversity within the Governor Appointed Boards and Commissions. The DCJ management team worked on creating a supplemental application to give perspective board members an opportunity to share their lived experiences as well as their professional experiences and they may offer a unique or diverse perspective to the board. The DCJ management team are also exploring new recruitment techniques and identifying community organizations to partner with to make new connections.

Objective 1.2: Schedule annual training with JAG Board members to include a “State of the State in Adult and Juvenile Justice” to inform members about critical adult and juvenile justice issues being discussed.

- **Update:** The JAG Board engaged in the “State of State” presentation at their fall retreat in October 2021.

Goal 2: To ensure JAG subgrant projects are successful in meeting their established goals and objectives and that such successes or challenges, when they occur, are communicated to the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Objective 2.1: Provide clear instructions and technical assistance about how to develop a quality application and how to structure proposed projects that align with Implementation Science.

- **Update:** The DCJ is working on developing a new technical assistance curriculum and training for grant applicants and awardees. This new training will provide resources and examples of how to structure their projects to be in line with evidence-based practice. The DCJ has also partnered with a volunteer

grant writer to help those agencies that need more comprehensive technical assistance.

Goal 3: Assure that JAG subgrant funds are managed and spent in alignment with approved application and that mandatory subgrantee financial and programmatic reporting is completed timely to DCJ and to BJA.

Objective 3.1: Provide grant management training to all JAG subgrantees to include information regarding special conditions attached to their subgrant and mandatory reporting requirements.

- **Update:** The DCJ is developing new training and curriculum to assist subgrantees in following special conditions and reporting requirements.

In the Fall of 2021 the Colorado JAG Advisory Board reviewed the current Strategic Plan and agreed that their current direction of funding all JAG Purpose Areas met the needs of the criminal justice community and state of Colorado. This continued philosophy provided the structure for the development of the FY22 funding solicitation.

As our state continues to move past the pandemic, begin initiating our law enforcement reform initiatives and implement the public safety package, the Colorado JAG Advisory Board will continue to assess the states criminal justice needs and adapt accordingly.