

2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Oklahoma District Attorneys Council Proposal Narrative

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE

A 1. Overview

The Oklahoma District Attorneys Council (DAC) has served as the state administering agency for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program since 1986. The DAC utilizes a board that provides general oversight for the JAG program, approves the state strategy, prioritizes purpose areas for funding, reviews grant proposals, and determines awards.

Comprised of 16 voting and non-voting members, the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Board represents a cross section of state and federal criminal justice agencies in Oklahoma.

The following agencies have representatives that serve on the JAG Board:

Voting Members

- A District Attorney
- Oklahoma Midwest City Police Department
- Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police
- Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control
- Oklahoma Department of Corrections
- Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Oklahoma Department of Public Safety
- Oklahoma District Attorneys Council
- Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security
- Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs
- Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association
- Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation
- The Office of the Attorney General
- The Office of the Governor

Non-Voting Members

- Drug Enforcement Administration
- U.S. Attorneys for the Western, Eastern, and Northern Districts of Oklahoma

The JAG Board leverages federal funding to best allocate the state's resources in responding to Oklahoma's most pressing needs, such as controlling drug trafficking, limiting violent crimes, and focusing on the most serious offenders. The District Attorneys Council has developed a five-year state strategic plan that charts the JAG Board's goals and objectives; the plan has guided Oklahoma's JAG grant expenditures until this point but will be superseded by the 2026-2030 state strategic plan this year.

A 2. Gaps and Challenges

Like most states, Oklahoma could use additional funding to address the expansive needs in law enforcement, criminal justice, and other related areas.

Domestic violence is a widespread issue within the state. According to The Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (DVRFB) 2025 annual report, in 2024 there were 77 cases in which one or more people were killed in a domestic violence event – 87 victims and 87 homicide perpetrators. While the number of domestic violence fatalities is still too high, 2024 is tied with 2018 for the second lowest number of domestic violence fatality victims since 2015. (DVRFB). This is encouraging evidence that the combined efforts of people across the state are having a positive impact to prevent DV homicides.

One of the primary challenges reported by law enforcement in Oklahoma is the hiring and retention of qualified officers. Rural police departments and smaller departments find it difficult to keep qualified officers, and as these employees gain experience, they often leave for other areas and for departments that can pay them more. The pay for officers in general is low, and resources are sparse. At DAC, the JAG Local Law Enforcement (LLE) award helps supply equipment and lifesaving items such as vests, radios, computers, and body cameras. However,

resources are still needed to provide salary increases for rural officers and to hire additional officers so that departments are not operating understaffed.

Substance abuse and mental health are two very pressing needs for the state. From 2020-2024, Oklahoma had 5382 people die of drug overdose. According to the Oklahoma Department of Health's Drug Overdose Data Dashboard, 74% had a history of substance use and 24% had a history of mental illness. In 2024, 1137 people died from drug overdose in Oklahoma – a decrease from 2023. However, even with the dip in drug overdoses, 2024 still ranks among the deadliest in the past five years (following a sharp rise from 2020–2023). Oklahoma needs more substance abuse treatment programs and in-patient clinics that are accessible to everyone in the state. In the absence of these options, people who need substance abuse or mental health treatment often end up in jail or prison instead because the services they need are unavailable. JAG funding could help fund some of these treatment and diversion programs. Poor mental health services and no substance abuse treatment often led to recidivism, so supporting these programs also means supporting the criminal justice system. While the task forces receive training on these topics, patrol officers across the state also need mental health training so they can best handle situations where a victim or offender is experiencing a mental health event that may impact their behavior.

Plans to improve the administration of Oklahoma's criminal justice system revolve around adhering to the state strategic plan, revisiting it yearly to ensure it still captures and reflects the state's needs, and conducting outreach to the community, state and local agencies, and all other stakeholders for feedback.

A 3. State Strategy and Funding Priorities

From a careful review of the data and analysis during planning for the currently active 2021-2025 State Strategic Plan, certain goals were established to address the most pressing needs of the state. In retrospect, some of these goals were not realistically achievable with the limited amount of funding and resources available to JAG. Until a new strategic plan is finalized, the overall strategic goals for these funds have been pared down to the most essential for the funding stream:

1. Increase collaboration between law enforcement agencies, specialized task forces, and community agencies in working cases and sharing resources.
2. Support law enforcement agencies by awarding eligible local law enforcement equipment awards (maximum \$10,000) of Department of Justice-approved items.
3. Reduce the number of violent crimes occurring in Oklahoma by funding specialized task forces whose sole aim is to identify, arrest, and prosecute perpetrators of these crimes.
4. Enhance the ability of specialized task forces to identify, investigate, and prosecute drug-related crimes.
5. Improve awareness of the prevalence of domestic violence, circulating relevant and productive resources to law enforcement about effectively investigating and prosecuting these cases.
6. Identify and nurture alternative sustainable funding sources for drug and violent crime task forces.
7. Heighten the ability of prosecutors to efficiently investigate and charge offenders of gang violence, domestic violence, and/or drug related crimes.

8. Improve the ability for JAG programs across all purpose areas to respond to drug treatment and rehabilitation needs, improving access to residential in-patient programs, and alternatives to incarceration.
9. Seek out training opportunities and resources for law enforcement officers, encouraging recipients of JAG awards to utilize and expand their training on issues such as offender re-entry, mental health training, and trauma training.
10. Develop programs to upgrade technology and databases, improve information sharing equipment, and pursue new technology for use by law enforcement personnel.

DAC is currently researching and writing the 2026-2023 State Strategic Plan to determine the critical issues and problems criminal justice, and related agencies are facing in Oklahoma.

Preliminary data suggests that funding for personnel and equipment are among the most pressing needs for stakeholders. Current subrecipient projects are being funded by previous fiscal year awards. Those subrecipient project periods will end on June 30, 2027, and July 1, 2027, will mark the beginning of new subrecipient projects to be funded with FY2025 JAG funding. The funding decisions at that time will be based on the next strategic plan.

A 3. Progress and Challenges

For the 2025/2027 subgrant cycle, the JAG Board awarded funding to 15 multijurisdictional task forces, two prosecution and court programs, thirteen law enforcement programs, one corrections and community corrections project, and one technology improvement projects. All task forces work daily with local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies to work cases, share intel and resources, and help with assists as needed. The following trainings have been conducted for the drug and violent crime task forces (DVCTFs): de-escalation training, trauma-informed approach, PTSD and law enforcement, racially biased policing, community policing,

white-collar crime, active gangs in Oklahoma, the illicit marijuana industry in Oklahoma, and public corruption. Prosecutors for the district attorneys' offices receive regular training through DAC conferences, bootcamps, and other events.

The most notable element of the DVCTFs is the level of communication and collaboration between various agencies, from tiny rural police departments, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), to tribal law enforcement. The 2020 McGirt Supreme Court decision ruled that much of eastern Oklahoma is still Native American land per the reservations Congress never disestablished. This decision has changed how law enforcement and prosecution in the state works cases. State and local law enforcement rely more heavily on relationships with their federal and tribal contacts in the wake of this decision. Inter-agency cooperation is vital, and the task forces have already built strong relationships.

The local law enforcement equipment grant was awarded in 2025 and 2026 and will be awarded again in 2027. Over the past two years, DAC awarded \$1,144,708.58 to local law enforcement agencies to purchase vital equipment. Nearly 700 letters were sent out to local law enforcement agencies across the state to notify them of available funds for equipment purchases.

There have not been significant issues in the administration of previous fiscal years' JAG funds, other than a highly competitive environment among subaward applicants. Increased scarcity in federal funding combined with flat or reduced budgets at the state level has driven interest in any available funding. This resulted in increased interest in the JAG program during the last subaward application cycle in 2025, and requests for funding from those applications. Oklahoma had \$4,977,982.85 available to distribute to subrecipients from FY 2022, FY2023, and FY 2024 federal awards. There were 25 applications submitted, totaling \$8,255,804,04 in

federal funds requested. DAC and the JAG board had to make difficult funding decisions between these projects, so increased JAG allocations are welcome and much needed.

B. PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

B 1. State Strategic Planning Process and Community Engagement

The Oklahoma JAG board has created a subcommittee of its members to guide the planning and implementation process for the upcoming 2026 – 2030 State Strategic Plan. To engage stakeholders across the state, a wholly revised and improved survey was sent to a diverse group of stakeholders across criminal justice fields and throughout the entire state. DAC has access to a wide variety of stakeholders due to our integration with the 27 District Attorneys' Offices across the state, and because of the contacts we have developed as the State Administrative Agency (SAA). DAC has structured the administration of our grant programs around various boards comprised of members that represent the statutory JAG purpose areas. These boards have representatives from program areas including, but not strictly limited to, prosecution, defense, victims' services, law enforcement, corrections, courts, mental/behavioral health, drug treatment and enforcement, criminal justice planning and technology. The survey was sent to all board members and to individuals across our substantial mailing lists.

The survey aims to capture lesser heard voices, particularly local agencies. Coordination challenges revolve around keeping individuals engaged in the process, and reaching communities previously ignored or with low response percentages. The latest survey was designed to gather demographic data about each respondent's service area and the primary role of their agency. Respondents were asked about their experience with JAG funding, either as a subrecipient or as a direct recipient of Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Respondents were also asked about their collaborative efforts with other agencies, and their ability to access data to plan, evaluate

programs, and/or determine outcomes. Further, the respondents were asked to rate or rank the most significant concerns in their area, and the level of need among JAG program areas and various types of projects within those purpose areas. The survey was open for two months, and DAC encouraged contacted stakeholders to forward the survey to anyone in the field. Ninety-three (93) surveys were completed and returned. The survey was anonymous, and no identifying information was collected. We are currently in the process of writing the next strategic plan for 2026, including evaluating the data gathered. FY2025 funding will be used to fund the strategy to be outlined in the 2026 – 2030 state strategic plan.

B 2. Coordination with State and Related Justice Funds

Efforts to coordinate the JAG program with other federal programs continue. This is accomplished with the various boards, who provide oversight as well as increased collaboration with other state agencies that implement and/or receive federal funding to reduce duplication and maximize resources.

Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP)

The State Crisis Intervention Advisory Board provides oversight for the Byrne SCIP award in Oklahoma. The Byrne SCIP grant program, as authorized by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022, seeks to reduce gun violence and improve the multidisciplinary response to behavioral health crises and crisis intervention services. This grant program directly supports Purpose Area 8 in the state by providing funding to state-wide domestic violence intervention initiatives, crisis intervention teams, and court diversion programs.

National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)

The Criminal Justice Information System Task Force, a subcommittee of the JAG Board, provides oversight for the NCHIP award in Oklahoma. The NCHIP grant program aims to improve the

nation's safety and security by enhancing the quality, completeness, and accessibility of criminal history record information and by ensuring the nationwide implementation of criminal justice and non-criminal justice background check systems.

National Criminal History Improvement Program (NICS) Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP)

The Criminal Justice Information System Task Force, a subcommittee of the JAG Board, also provides oversight to the NARIP grant in Oklahoma. This is a two-year award that exists to improve the completeness, automation, and transmittal of records to state and federal systems used by the NICS.

Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Act Grant (NFSIA)

The oversight body for the Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant is the Forensic Sciences Improvement Task Force, a subcommittee of the JAG Board. The purpose of the Forensic Sciences Improvement Task Force is to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science services to the criminal justice system in Oklahoma and to reduce the backlog of forensic science cases. Because forensic labs are indelibly intertwined in the types of crimes that JAG is focused upon, it is a coordinating effort that functions well and maximizes the funding efforts for both grant programs.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT)

A representative from the Department of Corrections serves on both the JAG Board and the RSAT Board and as such coordinates federal funding in providing residential substance abuse treatment for incarcerated offenders. Through these boards, the District Attorneys Council ensures coordination between the RSAT program and the JAG program. In addition, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections continues to coordinate RSAT funding with JAG and other funding

sources to continue current RSAT programs while adding additional prison-based treatment programs using evidence-based models.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)

The Oklahoma District Attorneys Council is awarded three grants with the PSN funds, one for each of the three (3) U.S. Attorneys' Offices in Oklahoma. The PSN grant has a narrower scope than JAG does, requiring a 30% gang set-aside, so there isn't much overlap with JAG funding. Current programs funded by PSN grants include: overtime for officers to patrol hot spots; an equipment grant to the 14th District Attorney's office for overtime and pole cameras; a dedicated prosecutor working with Oklahoma City Police Violent Crime Apprehension Team; and a Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA).

Coordination with other Agencies

The Fusion Center, located within the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation OSBI, is a partner with the task forces across the state. Information from the Fusion Center is available to the task forces while they funnel information to the Fusion Center for dissemination. Representatives from the Fusion Center are present at most of the quarterly task force meetings. The JAG task forces also work closely with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs and the Regional Organized Crime Information Center (a Regional Information Sharing System). Both organizations as well as the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) have representatives that participate in the quarterly task force meetings.

B 2. Subgrantee Award Process and Timeline

The JAG Board utilizes two separate award processes: one for JAG programs, and one for the JAG LLE grant. DAC applies through DOJ for the federal allocation of JAG each year. Subrecipients for JAG apply every two years, while subrecipients for the LLE grant apply every

year. The JAG Board meets in May of award years to review the JAG applications and make funding decisions. For JAG LLE, decisions are made in November.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for JAG is sent out in March or February every other year to all current subgrantees and interested applicants through a maintained mailing list. The JAG LLE grant program is the established method for distributing the required less-than-\$10,000 local pass-through funding. Jurisdictions which are not eligible to apply directly with BJA for JAG funding are eligible to apply through DAC for the JAG-LLE program. Awarded jurisdictions are reimbursed for allowable equipment purchases up to \$10,000. The application process for both grants is through the Oklahoma Grant Exchange (OGX), our online grant management system. The application period is open for 30 – 45 days.

A new JAG award cycle began on July 1, 2025, for a two-year project period that will end June 30, 2027. Grant recipients must make significant progress on their goals and objectives for the entire 24 months. Failure to do so can lead to award termination. The JAG awards are competitive in Oklahoma, with many applicants vying for the chance to have their program funded. To be eligible for funding, the applicant must meet the grant program requirements, be in good standing with all previous and current grant awards and meet the requirements of the application process.

The JAG LLE grant is a six-month award running from January 1st to June 30th. To be eligible for funding, the applicant must be eligible under the grant program requirements, be in good standing with all previous and current grant awards, and meet the requirements of the application process, including the reporting of crime data to OSBI. The need for funding in comparison to all other grant requests and funding history is also considered.

For both award processes, DAC staff reviews the applications and provides information to the board on programmatic and fiscal compliance. The JAG Board reviews the submitted applications and meets to make the funding decisions based on staff reviews and the goals previously listed. Prior to the JAG program award meeting, the board provides an opportunity for applicants to answer any questions that the board may have and offer additional information as needed. For JAG LLE awards, the board meets in November to review staff recommendations and assess all submitted applications before making award decisions.

Applicants are notified of the board's decision through OGX, and by correspondence with the assigned Grant Programs Specialist. Awards are also posted on the DAC website. Awarded applicants are required to complete an award packet through the OGX management system and attend a financial and administrative training course prior to funds being released.

C. CAPABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES

The District Attorneys Council has served as the administering agency for JAG since 1986, and the JAG board has been responsible for the oversight of the program since its inception in 1987. The DAC Federal Grants Division will continue to manage both fiscal and programmatic responsibilities of JAG and serve as the liaison with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). As the state administering agency, the DAC Federal Grants Division oversees 13 formula and discretionary grants for the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office on Violence Against Women, showcasing its capability in grant administration.

The Federal Grants Division Director oversees these grant programs, including fund disbursement, federal and programmatic reporting, and advising the JAG Board. Key staff include the Director of Grants Programming who serves as the Administrator, the Grant

Financial Manager, responsible for fiscal integrity and financial reporting, the Grant Programs Specialist, who monitors subrecipients, and the Grant Programs Assistant, who handles various administrative tasks subrecipient inquiries, and scheduling and coordination of the JAG board meetings.

DAC will utilize the experience of the grants division staff to provide programmatic and fiscal guidance to the JAG Board as well as to current or prospective subrecipients to aid in developing effective programs. JAG has a designated Grant Programs Specialist (GPS) assigned who serves as the main point of contact for the subrecipients and performs required monitoring. The GPS completes a risk assessment for each subrecipient and in January of each year, creates a monitoring plan for the year, and prioritize site visits based on their level of risk. The monitoring plan is reviewed and approved by the Director of Grants Programming, then reviewed again each quarter to ensure that required monitoring is being performed and on schedule.

Currently, the District Attorneys Council requires a semi-annual progress report and a quarterly PMT report from the subrecipients to collect and report performance measurement data. For the semi-annual narrative progress report, the subgrantees submit a report based on the funded project and the approved goals and objectives. In addition, narrative information on grant successes and barriers is required. Multijurisdictional drug and violent crime task forces also submit the following information as part of their semiannual progress report:

- Federal agency coordination
- State agency coordination
- Local agency coordination
- Assists to law enforcement agencies
- Number of full-time personnel funded
- Number of part-time personnel funded
- Number of cases prior to reporting period
- Number of cases initiated
- Number of cases closed
- Number of cases dropped

- Number of cases pending
- Number of non-drug arrests
- Type of violent crimes investigated
- Number of search warrants served
- Number of meth related investigations
- Number of arrests per drug offense type
- Number of firearms seized
- Number of meth seizures and dumpsites
- Amount/type of drugs seized
- Number of prevention programs conducted, and number of professionals trained
- Number of law enforcement trainings provided, and number of law enforcement professionals trained
- Number of wiretap investigations initiated
- Number of wiretap investigations assists

The project director of each subgrant completes this progress report online in the OGX grant management system. The report is due 30 days after the end of the second and fourth quarter or January 30th and July 31st, respectively. Submitting the semi-annual progress report is a special condition of the grant and a requirement of the subrecipients. If this performance measure data is not provided, subrecipients are placed on draw hold and are not allowed to draw any funds until the report is submitted.

In addition to the semiannual progress report, subgrantees are required to complete the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) on a quarterly basis. The reporting of the performance measures is comprised of two (2) sections: numerical data and narrative information. The numerical data is reported by the subgrantee for activities that occurred during the previous quarter, and the narrative information is reported on a semi-annual basis by the subgrantee.

Once the PMT data is completed by the subgrantee, the DAC Grant Programs Specialist reviews the information and creates a report from the data entered. By January 30th and July 31st, the PMT report containing six months of numerical and narrative information is submitted through the federal grants management system, JustGrants. The subgrantee's report is individualized based on the approved budget categories for each subgrantee. JAG local law

enforcement (LLE) grant data is entered entirely into PMT by the Grant Programs Specialist. If this performance measure data is not provided, subrecipients are put on draw hold and are not allowed to draw any funds until the report is submitted.

DAC reports quarterly through the PMT system in compliance with the Deaths in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA). The full implementation plan is included in this application.

The multi-jurisdictional task forces in Oklahoma have been funded by JAG for several years, and their success is easy to measure in the number of illegal narcotics that they are responsible for seizing and the violent and dangerous criminals who are tried, convicted, and incarcerated based on their investigations. The JAG-LLE program provides critical equipment to small, rural, underfunded law enforcement agencies across the state, places where even a relatively small \$10,000 grant award can have an enormous impact on public safety. These are both long-running, evidence-informed and successful programs where JAG funding is a cornerstone of public safety in Oklahoma. Their impact is apparent. However, DAC recognizes that it is important to diversify JAG funding whenever possible and award programs which fall under other program areas. The work currently being undertaken for the next strategic plan is focused on identifying specific and actionable areas where JAG could fund evidence-informed, critical programs that will complement the programs that have traditionally been funded.

Resources

Oklahoma Attorney General, Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, “Domestic Violence Homicide in Oklahoma: Annual Report 2025,” 2025.

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, Office of Criminal Justice Statistics, “Crime in Oklahoma: 2025,” March 24, 2026, <https://okcrimestats.osbi.ok.gov/>

Oklahoma State Department of Health, “Drug Overdose Data Dashboard.”

<https://oklahoma.gov/health/health-education/injury-prevention-service/drug-overdose/data/drug-overdose-data-dashboard.html>

Violence Policy Center, “When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2023 Homicide Data,” September 2025.