

**EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL
Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
Drug Courts Application Solicitation
15PBJA-24-GG-04253-MUMU**

CFDA 16.738

Background

The Division of Public Safety Planning has limited funds available to support area Drug Court programs from the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ). All applicants must complete and return the application, data sheet, FY 2024 Certifications and Assurances by the Chief Executive, SAM registration and checklist no later than **Monday, December 15, 2025.**

Applications must address the following in an abstract: (1) Describe and document the problems facing the drug court programs and the need for assistance under this program; (2) Address cases involving substance abusing parents and children who are involved in the court system; (3) Address cases involving parents who are in danger of losing custody of their children due to the parent's inability to deal with their alcohol and drug addictions; and (4) how the court will infuse substance abuse treatment and counseling that will benefit persons enrolled in the youth and family drug court programs. **Applications that are incomplete will not be considered for funding.**

Program Purpose Areas

The purpose of this funding is to provide drug court programs with the funds to underwrite projects to assist certified drug court programs with the most pressing needs of their agency. These funds can be used for a wide variety of purposes including salaries, fringe benefits, training, equipment, travel, and supplies. Funding is based on the amount of state allocation available for this funding category.

Targeted Areas

Funds can be used in the following targeted areas:

- Drug Court Personnel Support
- Training
- Operating Expense (Drug Testing kits)
- Treatment

Ten (10) Key Components of Drug Courts

In the formation stage of drug courts, the Office of Justice Drug Courts Program developed ten key components to which each drug court follows to be eligible for federal funding. The ten key components provide an outline of drug court philosophy and requirements. *The following components must be addressed within the application submitted to the Division of Public Safety Planning:*

1. Drug Court integrates alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.

Drug court promotes recovery through a coordinated response to offenders dependent on alcohol and other drugs. Realization of these goals requires a team approach including cooperation and collaboration among judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, probation authorities, law enforcement, treatment providers and other community agencies.

2. Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.

To facilitate an individual's progress in treatment, the prosecutor and defense counsel must shed their traditional adversarial courtroom relationship and work together as a team. Once a defendant is accepted into drug court, the team's focus is on the participant's recovery and law-abiding behavior, not on the merits of the underlying criminal offense.

3. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in drug court.

An arrest can be a traumatic event in a person's life. It creates an immediate crisis and can force substance-abusing behavior into the open, making denial difficult. The period immediately after an arrest provides a critical window of opportunity for intervention and introduces the value of substance abuse treatment. Judicial action, taken immediately after the arrest, capitalizes on the crisis nature of both the arrest and the booking process.

4. Drug court provides access to a continuum of alcohol, drug and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

In drug court, the process begins in the courtroom and continues throughout the participant's drug court involvement. While primarily concerned with criminal activity and substance abuse, the drug court team also needs to address other issues such as mental illness, medical problems, homelessness, educational deficits, and unemployment. If these issues are ignored, they could impact the participant's program compliance and success in treatment. Research has demonstrated that coerced treatment is effective.

5. Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing, including evenings and weekends.

Frequent and random court-ordered drug testing is an essential tool for the participant to remain clean and sober. An accurate testing system is the most objective and efficient way to establish a framework for accountability and to gauge each participant's progress. Drug testing makes the participant an active and involved part of the treatment process rather than a passive recipient of services.

6. A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.

Many participants exhibit a pattern of positive urine tests within the first months following admission. When this occurs, immediate sanctions are applied. Because addiction takes a long time to develop, and many factors contribute to chemical dependency, it is rare that an individual stops using when treatment begins. Although drug court professionals recognize that relapse may be part of recovery, continued use is not condoned and a coordinated strategy, including a continuum of responses to each relapse or other issues of non-compliance is essential. Drug courts must reward cooperation as well as response to non-compliance. Small rewards, such as praise from the Drug Court Commissioner, increased privileges, and lessened restrictions, have an important effect on a participant's sense of purpose and accomplishment.

7. Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.

The Drug Court Commissioner is a member of the drug court team. Drug Court Commissioners conduct drug court sessions and staffing, monitor and review the participant's progress in drug court, encourage and reward appropriate behavior, and discourage and sanction inappropriate behavior. Ongoing judicial supervision communicates to participants, often for the first time, that someone in authority cares about their progress and program success.

8. Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of drug court goals and gauge effectiveness.

Coordinated management, monitoring, and evaluation systems are fundamental to the effective operation of a drug court. Drug courts strive to demonstrate tangible outcomes and cost-effectiveness; thus, there are systems in place to monitor daily activities, evaluating the quality and effectiveness of provided service, and producing longitudinal evaluations.

9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.

Interdisciplinary education exposes criminal justice professionals to treatment issues and treatment professionals to criminal justice issues. It also develops a shared understanding of the values, goals, and operating procedures of both the criminal justice and treatment components.

10. Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generate local support and enhance drug court effectiveness.

Because of its unique position in the criminal justice system, Drug Court is well suited to develop coalitions among community-based service organizations, public criminal justice agencies and treatment delivery systems. Drug Court is a partnership among organizations dedicated to a coordinated and cooperative approach to the drug addicted offender.

SPECIAL GRANT CONDITIONS

Availability of Funds and Application Deadline

Funds are available after completing the attached application with instruction, returning it to DPSP and receiving an executed grant award document. All applicants are expected to complete and return the application no later than **Monday, December 15, 2025**

Grant Period

The grant award period is from **January 01, 2026, to December 31, 2026**. All funds must be expended by the end of the contract period. *Please note that funding is **not guaranteed**. We anticipate a significant increase in applications during this fiscal year, resulting in a highly competitive selection process. All requests will be carefully reviewed and prioritized based on program needs, justification, and available funds. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit thorough and well-supported proposals to enhance their likelihood of receiving an award.*

Certifications and Assurances by the Chief Executive of the Applicant Government

A State or unit of local government that receives an award under the FY 2024 Byrne JAG Program will be required (by award condition) to obtain a properly-executed certifications and assurances by the Chief Executive of the Applicant Government from any proposed subrecipient that is a unit of local government or a "public" institution of higher education (i.e., one that is owned, controlled, or directly funded by a State or unit of local government). The specific certification required from a unit of local government may differ from the specific certification required from a "public" institution of higher education. *(this form will be provided to your agency and must be signed by your Mayor, Board President, or School President)*

ELIGIBILITY

JAG Program grants are intended for use by the State to provide funding to eligible applicants that include offices and agencies of state government and of local government, particularly for drug court programs who are in danger of losing state funding which will include losing staff or prohibiting the effective operation of the drug court.

In order to avoid supplanting of federal funds, each Drug Court is required to submit a copy of their award letter received from the State Drug Court Advisory Committee and a budget breakdown of allowable cost along with their applications.

Special Grant Conditions

- This is a one-year grant award, once funds are expended, the grant will expire.
- If you are receiving assistance from any other federal agency, there can be no duplicate purchases from such funds. In other words, funds cannot be used by separate agencies to make the same purchase.
- Recipients are required to adhere to the guidelines and procedures specified in the original application. Any changes or deviations must receive prior written authorization from the Division of Public Safety Planning. Expenditures incurred prior to the actual start date will not be approved. Supporting documentation must have valid and verifiable dates.
- Applicants are now required to have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number which is assigned to an entity by SAM.gov. Please note that organizations must update or renew their UEI number at least once a year to maintain an active status. Please include a copy of your UEI number verifying an active status along with your application.
- Organizations are required to register with the System for Award Management (SAM) using their DUNS number. Please note that applicants formerly used the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database for this purpose. SAM is a government-wide registry for vendors doing business with the federal government which requires annual renewal. The SAM centralizes information about grant recipients and provides a central location for grant recipients to change organizational information.
- Handwritten applications will not be accepted.
- [FY 2024 Byrne JAG – Certifications and Assurances by the Chief Executive of the Applicant Government](#) *(This will be provided to you)*

Non-Supplant Requirement

Funds available under this program may not be used to supplant (replace) existing local funds. These funds must be used to supplement the level of funds from non-federal sources that would, in the absence of these funds, be made available for programs or activities funded under a similar program.

Monitoring

Each subgrantee will receive an on-site compliance monitoring visit at least once during the grant period. Each successful subgrantee must retain records, receipts, invoices, and other documents for review during the monitoring visit. All equipment purchased with federal funds must be properly tagged and verified by monitors during scheduled monitoring visits. Guidelines and/or procedures listed in the original application must be adhered to and deviations from those guidelines must have prior written approval by the Division of Public Safety Planning.

Budget

The total 12-month budget allotted for the subgrantee of this RFP will be based on the number of applicants.

NO MATCH IS REQUIRED, unless you need additional funds to cover personnel cost.

Application Submission Requirements

All applications should be submitted to the official OJP email address at ojp@dps.ms.gov. Only applications submitted to this designated email address will be accepted for review.

***If you have questions, please contact Mary Shearrill at MShearrill@dps.ms.gov.**