



DCJS ARPA Equipment Grant Program: Frequently Asked Questions

Presentation Material

Is there a copy of the webinar informational session?

A recording of the informational session will be posted on our website under the funding opportunities.

Grant Approval

Is this funding dependent on the CJSB Board? Should we appear in person to lobby for our city?

The grant awards must be approved by the CJSB. The amount listed on the spreadsheet is the set amount per locality, jail, or higher education entity. The funding levels are dependent on the passage of the state budget.

Is this grant competitive? Or if the application is within scope, will the locality be awarded their allotted amount?

This grant is a noncompetitive grant. If the expenses are allowable and within the scope of the grant program the locality will be awarded their allocated amount, upon approval of the CJSB.

Is this funding dependent on approval by the CJSB? In the past there has been opposition by some board members to approve law enforcement requests. Is this a formula grant like 599 or is there a need to be approved by the CJSB?

Approval is required by the CJSB board for this grant funding opportunity.

How will we know if we are in the clear for purchasing and reimbursement of those items listed in the application?

Notification will be made after the CJSB meeting on May 11th, 2023 and award packages will be sent out after the CJSB meeting.

If it is decided an item is not allowable, will DCJS allow us to adjust our grant to fully use our funding

Yes, if a requested item is not allowable, the application will be sent back to make appropriate changes.

Once the CJSB approves our application, does that mean we can proceed with any purchases or claims for reimbursement?

Yes.

Decision Matrix determination

Do you have a recommendation on where to find the most up-to-date crime statistics for our locality?

The most up to date crime statistics can be located on the Virginia State Police website.

For institutions of higher learning is demonstration of need based on increased violent crime in the county, the campus itself, or both?

If the funds are listed for the Higher learning, it will be that institutions violent crime, not the county.

How was the decision matrix calculated for regional jails?

Each regional jail received a base allocation of \$25,000 plus an additional \$1,500 per certified jail officer.

Grantee Information & Eligibility

Is this 100% Federal funding? or is there a local match requirement?

There is no match for this grant program and it is federal funding.

If our sheriff's office applies as well as our police dept will both be approved for the grant?

Only the primary law enforcement entity for the locality can apply for the funding opportunity. The local law enforcement entity may delegate funding to the sheriff's office if they choose to do so. Please notate this within the application and it will be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

If we are submitting for Higher Education as Campus LE, should we do the Higher Education Equipment or LE Equipment?

The Higher Education funds should also be used to support the campus law enforcement agency. Please check the spreadsheet to see how your agency is categorized.

We are a private university in Hampton. Can we apply independently?

Yes, private colleges with a law enforcement agency can apply directly for this funding opportunity if they are listed on the allocation matrix. The only organizations that can apply have already been listed in the spreadsheet.

Since Regional Criminal Justice Training Academies cannot apply for these grants, will there be additional ARPA funding for Regional Criminal Justice Training Academies in the future?

Regional CJA's were previously awarded ARPA funds. There may be future grant funding opportunities through other federal sources.

Where can we find the spreadsheet that shows the allocations to those eligible for the funding opportunity?

All the decision matrices can be found under the funding opportunity on the DCJS website (under grants) and under the funding opportunity in OGMS.

<https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/grants>

Will training funds ever be made available?

Additional funding may be made available in the future through other federal funding sources. Details will be available if additional funding sources are identified.

Where would I find the award letter?

Award packages with the official award letters are sent after the CJSB meeting on May 11th.

Is supplantation allowed under this grant program?

Yes it is allowed.

Are K-12 Schools able to apply for the ARPA grant funding opportunities?

Unfortunately, the ARPA funding opportunities are not open to K-12 schools or school divisions.

Grant Period

If we purchased something now, would we be able to apply for reimbursement, assuming that the program is approved? Has the purchase period started?

Yes, you are eligible for reimbursement if the project is approved. The purchase period is retroactive to July 1st, 2022.

What is the grant period for this grant? End date is June 30, 2024, but can you share the start date?

The grant period is retroactive to July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024.

If the equipment has a yearly cost, can the grant be used to pay now to “prepay” for the next 3 or 5 years?

The receipt of goods can fall beyond the June 30th, 2024 grand period end date but expenditures must be made prior to June 30th, 2024.

If we receive the grant, I understand we must purchase the "item" by 6/30/23. Do we need to take receipt of the "item" by 6/30/23?

The purchase needs to be made by June 2024. This does not necessarily include taking receipt of the equipment or technology, but the expense must be incurred by this deadline.

With a project, are we allowed to include annual maintenance service as part of the purchase? (Example - three years of maintenance service)

Any and all grant projects need to occur during the grant period. If items such as service contracts or warranties are included within the equipment purchase price that is acceptable, but these service agreements cannot be purchased separately.

Qualifying Equipment

The limit is \$70k per vehicle. Any limit on the number of vehicles that can be purchased assuming we don't exceed our award amount? If for example, we purchase two vehicles and they exceed \$70k, can the locality pay the difference?

Vehicles over \$70K per vehicle will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis. If the request is approved, the grant funding will cover the cost of the vehicle if the award amount is greater than the cost of the vehicle. If the request is rejected the organization would be required to pay for the vehicle cost.

Does the \$70,000 per vehicle include the cost to outfit the vehicle or should those items be requested separately?

Additional equipment not included or provided by the vehicle manufacturer should be itemized and proposed separately.

Can ARPA funds be used for any building upgrades or renovations?

No, the ARPA grant funding opportunity is for Law Enforcement equipment only.

We want to purchase new vehicles, but the state contracts are not out. What do you suggest we use for pricing?

You can use the prior year prices as an estimate.

Would a patrol K-9 for narcotics/firearms be acceptable under the grant?

K-9s would be permissible under ARPA as long as there is a detailed description and reasonable justification on how a K-9 would help ensure safe communities and aid in the reduction of violent crime.

Are Indirect costs allowed?

No, unfortunately, this grant is only for equipment.

Can we use grant funds to "lease" equipment, or is required to purchase? Many vendors are now using leasing models.

If equipment is leased, the lease period cannot extend beyond the grant period.

Are In Car Cameras that have integrated License Plate Reader (LPR) technology allowable?

Practically any type of equipment is permissible under ARPA, but it does need to have a nexus to ensure safe communities and help in the reduction in crime. The only items not permissible include armored vehicles and body worn cameras. A detailed description and reasonable justification must be provided for each item requested.

What about purchasing multiple cars that are individually less than \$70,000 but in total are more than \$70,000? Also, can this be used for body armor?

Both would be allowable if there is a need that has been justified in your application. Practically any type of equipment is permissible under ARPA, but it does need to have a nexus to ensure safe communities and help in the reduction in crime. The only items not permissible include armored vehicles and body worn cameras. A detailed description and reasonable justification must be provided for each item requested.

Our radio system is in dire need of upgrade. This would go toward improving all avenues of public safety. Is this eligible?

The equipment must address the community violent or reducing the crime. The awarded amount for your locality can be used towards that system if the justification is approved. Practically any type of equipment is permissible under ARPA, but it does need to have a nexus to ensure safe communities and help in the reduction in crime. The only items not permissible include armored vehicles and body worn cameras. A detailed description and reasonable justification must be provided for each item requested.

Are training programs allowable expenses?

No, unfortunately, this an equipment grant.

Are guns and rifles allowed to be purchased with these grant funds? What about non-lethal weapons, such as Bolowrap or Taser?

Practically any type of equipment is permissible under ARPA but it does need to have a nexus to ensure safe communities and help in the reduction in crime. The only items not permissible include armored vehicles and body worn cameras. A detailed description and reasonable justification must be provided for each item requested.

I heard the justification is related to reducing or addressing violent crime. Have there been any suggestions as to how a jail can accomplish this aside from targeted programming. I would prefer to use the grant for transportation vehicles and vehicles for our litter crews.

Practically any type of equipment is permissible under ARPA, but it does need to have a nexus to ensure safe communities and help in the reduction in crime. The only items not permissible include armored vehicles and body worn cameras. A detailed description and reasonable justification must be provided for each item requested.

Are uniforms an allowable expense?

Practically any type of equipment is permissible under ARPA, but it does need to have a nexus to ensure safe communities and help in the reduction in crime. The only items not permissible include armored vehicles and body worn cameras. A detailed description and reasonable justification must be provided for each item requested.

Application Related Questions

Is it beneficial to add additional documentation like the proposal of the equipment we are seeking that was sent to the agency? Which includes break down cost as well for further support of the OGMS application

Additional documentation is not required as an attachment in your grant application. A break down / itemized budget is required when filling out the application. Yes, this information is required in the budget portion of the application.

In the equipment section it as for cost per items/monthly rate? are we required to break it down monthly? Or can we just place the cost of the entire item? Since it is a flat purchase?

If the equipment is a one-time purchase, the applicant would submit the cost of the item.

Do we have to already have equipment quotes to provide for the application or can we just request an amount that we estimate the equipment will cost?

Estimates are allowable.

In the application, who should be listed as the Finance Officer. This is for a county in VA, is this the Finance Director or Treasurer who receipts the funds and holds the county's funds?

The person who handles all financial aspects of the grant should be listed as the finance officer on the face sheet and should have a finance role with the agency/ organization.

We are a small community college, and the allocated funding amount is relatively small. Can we use grant funds to fund a portion of a larger purchase and fund the rest through institutional funds?

Yes, you can use the funds for a portion of a larger purchase and supplant funds for your budget/ agency.

Who can be listed as the Project Administrator on the face sheet?

The project administrator must be the person who is able to accept the grant award on behalf of a locality/ organization, e.g. Mayor, County/Town Manager, Director, Superintendent, etc.

In the budget section of the application, it is broken down into federal, state, and special, which one do we chose?

Please put funds in the federal column of the budget within OGMS.

Are we able to request more than one equipment item, if it doesn't exceed the amount in the matrix? And can be justified?

Yes, you may apply for multiple types of equipment if the requested amount does not exceed the funding allocated to your organization and the request is justified.

I log into OGMS and unable to see the funding opportunity for my agency to apply. Why is that?

If you are unable to see the specific funding opportunities for which your agency is eligible to apply, please contact the ARPA email. DCJS staff will add you the funding opportunity as needed.

Reporting Requirements

What did you say the reporting requirements are regarding the OBBL data dashboard?

At some point during the reporting process, grantees may be required to submit metrics as per special conditions on the grant award. Please refer to the funding opportunity and grant conditions on additional information for reporting requirements.