**Department of Criminal Justice Services**

**Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Scholarship Program**

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services is pleased to announce the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Scholarship Program. Under this program eligible multi-disciplinary, public-sector teams from Virginia localities may receive a scholarship providing financial support for participation in intensive learning and certificate programs. In addition, juvenile justice and child welfare professionals are also eligible to apply for and receive scholarships to participate in other approved training and conferences.

***Eligible Programs and Scholarship Recipients for Multidisciplinary teams***

Eligible Programs and Scholarship Recipients for multi-disciplinary teams from Virginia localities that have been accepted by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at Georgetown University into a 2016 certificate program or a similar program offered elsewhere that address:

* Multi-system integration and coordination
* Diversion
* Reducing ethnic and racial disparities in juvenile justice
* Information sharing among systems/partners
* School/justice practices and partnerships to address school-to-prison pipeline issues

A final project approved and reviewed by the program, extending up to a year or more following on-site instruction, is a required component of the program in order for it to be determined eligible. Teams that attend other approved programs must agree to fulfill any post training requirements and, if not required by the certificate granting program, develop a project in their locality based on the expertise and knowledge gained as the result of the training. Only one team per certificate or similar program per locality will be considered.

Teams must be:

* Multi-disciplinary, including members from more than one public sector agency at the local level; and
* Led by a public sector employee working at the local level.

Teams *may not be led* by individuals from central or regional offices of state agencies. (Team participants may include an individual from a central or regional office of a state agency. However, such participants are *not* eligible for financial support through this scholarship program.)

Due to the funding source, resulting system-improvement projects must link to one of the following areas in some manner:

* Developing, implementing, and administering graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders;
* Establishing and maintaining training programs for law enforcement and other court personnel with respect to preventing and controlling juvenile crime;
* Establishing and maintaining a system of juvenile records designed to promote public safety;
* Establishing and maintaining interagency information sharing programs that enable the juvenile and criminal justice systems, schools, and social services agencies to make more informed decisions regarding the early identification, control, supervision, and treatment of juveniles who repeatedly commit serious delinquent or criminal acts;
* Establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs designed to reduce recidivism among juveniles who are referred by law enforcement personnel or agencies;
* Establishing and maintaining programs to conduct risk and needs assessments that facilitate effective early intervention and the provision of comprehensive services, including mental health screening and treatment and substance abuse testing and treatment, to juvenile offenders;
* Establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs that are designed to enhance school safety, which programs may include research-based bullying, cyberbullying, and gang prevention programs;
* Establishing and maintaining restorative justice programs;
* Establishing and maintaining programs to enable juvenile courts and juvenile probation officers to be more effective and efficient in holding juvenile offenders accountable and reducing recidivism;
* Establishing and maintaining training programs for detention personnel, to improve facility practices and programming; or
* Establishing, improving, and coordinating pre-release and post-release systems and programs to facilitate the successful re-entry of juvenile offenders who are released from state and local custody to the community.

***What the Scholarship Includes***

Each scholarship includes the following:

* Reimbursement of registration fees for up to 5 eligible team members for each multidisciplinary team.
* Reimbursement for hotel room and applicable taxes for individuals and up to 5 team members for the number of nights required to attend the training - paid to the individual team member upon submission of the travel reimbursement request form with paid hotel receipt after the on-site portion of the program. [Payment to a locality may be an option, but arrangements must be made in advance with DCJS.)

The scholarship does NOT include funding or reimbursement for mileage, other travel, meals that are not provided as part of the program, or any expenses that may be necessary to develop and implement the system-improvement project. These will be the responsibility of the participants and/or their sponsoring agency.

***Team Members Eligible for Financial Support***

Teams may include as many representatives as allowed by the program, but the scholarship will only cover eligible expenses for up to 5 members.

The following parameters apply to all scholarship applicants:

* Up to 5 eligible team members must be public sector employees, working at the local level.
* If a local non-profit organization is critical to a team and the project, one of the team members considered for financial support may be from the non-profit organization.
* Unless waived by DCJS, no more than two individuals on a team from the same agency will be eligible financial support.
* Team members working in regional or central state agency offices are not eligible for financial support.

***What is Required of Scholarship Teams***

Selected teams must agree to the following:

* Commit to attending the entire on-site program;
* Commit to working as a team;
* Commit to completing all program requirements, including the system-improvement project and working towards its implementation;
* “Capstone” projects may not be dependent upon securing grant funds. Though there is no prohibition to seeking grant funds to support a project, the successful completion of the project and its implementation should not depend on such funds;
* Provide DCJS with copies of any deliverables submitted to CJJR or the sponsoring organization and updates on the project’s implementation;
* Provide DCJS with information and data as needed for the completion of progress reports;
* If requested, present on the team’s participation in the on-site program and the project to DCJS and the Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice; and
* Serve as a resource for others in Virginia who may be interested in implementing measures similar to those implemented as a result of program participation.

**What is required of individual juvenile justice and child welfare professionals who receive scholarships to attend approved training or conferences**.

* Serve as a resource for others in Virginia who may be interested in the subject matter or topic.
* Present on the training and subject matter sponsored by the JABG Scholarship to DCJS and the Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Prevention
* Provide DCJS with information and data as needed for the completion of progress reports

***Scholarship Approval Determination***

Scholarship approvals will be on a first-come basis using the following criteria:

* Funding availability;
* Eligibility criteria specified herein; and
* Acceptance into an approved program;
* Paid Registration for an approved conference or training event.

DCJS may also take the following additional elements into consideration:

* Geographical representation;
* Program diversity;
* Grant funding history.

***Applying for the Scholarship***

Potential scholarship applicants are encouraged, but not required, to contact DCJS before applying to CJJR, another program, conference or training event to express their intent to apply and seek a scholarship. To notify DCJS of an intent to apply, or for questions, contact:

Laurel Marks

804-786-3462

laurel.marks@dcjs.virginia.gov

*When to Apply*

There is no specified due date for the scholarship program. Those interested in a scholarship should apply as soon as they are able to apply for the program, training or conference

Scholarship applicants may apply to DCJS for preliminary scholarship consideration following application into a program. Final approval of the team scholarship will not be made until after the team is accepted into the program. Individual applicants for scholarships may apply for a scholarship after acceptance into an approved program, training or conference.

*What to Submit to DCJS*

1. A completed DCJS JABG Scholarship Program Application Form;
2. A list of all team members and agencies they represent (identify which team members will have their registration fees paid and hotel reimbursed through the scholarship);
3. A copy of the team application submitted to CJJR or other sponsoring agency and answers to other team-related questions not included in the program application (specified in the following section);
4. A letter of assurance from the director of the lead agency specifying agreement to the individual elements identified under a letter of commitment by each potential team members to the program and project process.

Individual Applicants

1. Completed DCJS application form;
2. Description of the training or conference request;
3. Endorsement by your organization or agency Director or designee;
4. Statement of commitment to DCJS requirements, including post training and or conference activity.

Application packages may be mailed to:

Laurel Marks

Department of Criminal Justice Services

1100 Bank Street

Richmond, VA 23219

Or, e-mailed to:

Laurel.Marks@DCJS.Virginia.gov

If e-mailing, put Scholarship Application in the subject line and include all required documents in the one e-mail. Do not send documents in separate e-mails.

*Approval Process*

Scholarship applicants will be notified as soon as possible of their preliminary approval status. Additional information may be requested of applicants prior to any determination.

Once a scholarship applicant is notified of *acceptance or denial* into a program, that notice must be forwarded to the DCJS contact as soon as possible.

DCJS will make every effort to make a final determination of scholarship approval within 10 business days of being notified of a program acceptance, or completed conference or training event

Should an application for a scholarship be submitted after a team, or an individual is accepted or registered for a program, DCJS will make every effort to make a final determination of scholarship approval within 20 business days.

***Team Application Requirements***

Include a copy of the team application submitted to the certificate program. If any of the following general elements are not included in the certificate application in some manner (specific question wording may be different), include a response on a separate sheet. Or, if the program does not require a team application, provide a response to each of the following questions:

* What do you hope to achieve (as a team) by participating in this certificate program? Please be as specific as possible. When describing your goal, please provide any relevant data regarding the issues within your jurisdiction that your goal seeks to address, as well as how you might collect and analyze data moving forward to assess whether you are achieving that goal.
* Please discuss any previous efforts your team members have initiated or participated in that required partnerships with other systems (including law enforcement), community groups, families, or constituents that relate to the certificate program topic.
* What barriers or challenges have your team encountered when undertaking system-improvement efforts specifically related to the certificate program topic?
* Please comment on the role and importance of each team member in terms of your team’s ability to lead or influence system improvement within your jurisdiction in regard to the certificate program topic.

***JABG Scholarship Application Form***

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| --- | --- |
| **Team name:** |  |
| **Applicant Locality:**  |  |
| **Name of certificate program:** |  |
| **Name of program’s sponsoring organization:** |  |
| **Website address for certificate program information:**  |  |
| **Dates of the on-site portion of the program:** |  |
| **Does the program require a final/capstone project:**  | **[ ]  Yes** **[ ]  No** |
| **Cost per person for registration:** |  |
| **Total number of team members:** |  |
| **Number of team members requesting financial support** **via the scholarship:** (no more than 5) |  |
| **Number of nights on-site in a hotel per person necessary:** |  |
| **Project lead contact information:** |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Title:** |  |
| **Agency:** |  |
| **Phone:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |
| **Team member information (list ALL team members):** |
| **Name** | **Agency Name** | **Scholarship financial support** (place an “X” for those for whom scholarship support is requested; up to 5 members) |
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***Individual JABG Scholarship Application Form***

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| --- | --- |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Applicant Locality:**  |  |
| **Name of certificate/conference program:** |  |
| **Name of sponsoring organization:** |  |
| **Website address for certificate program information:**  |  |
| **Dates of the on-site portion of the program, or Conference** |  |
| **Does the program require a final/capstone project:**  |  **[ ]  Yes [ ]  No** |
|  **Registration Cost** |  |
| **Estimated Lodging Cost** |  |
|  |  |
| **Number of nights on-site in a hotel per person necessary:** |  |

*Individual Application Response (on a separate sheet)*

What do you hope to achieve by participating in this training event or conference? Please be as specific as possible.

When describing your goal, please provide any relevant data regarding the issues within your jurisdiction that your goal seeks to address, as well as how you might collect and analyze data moving forward to assess whether you are achieving that goal.

Please discuss any previous conferences or training that you have participated that relate to the training or conference focus.

Please identify any barriers or challenges in your locality that the training event or conference will address and how the training will assist you and your organization in overcoming those barriers and dealing with those challenges.