

DCJS Grants Committee Meeting

November 28, 2017

Richmond, VA

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Ms. Cookie Scott. Members in attendance were:

Mr. Andrew Block, Director, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice
Chief Craig Branch, Germanna Community College Police Department
Ms. Angie Carrera, Citizen Representative
The Honorable Vanessa Crawford, Sheriff, City of Petersburg
Ms. Francine Horne, Victims of Crime Representative
Mr. David Johnson, Executive Director, Virginia Indigent Defense Commission
Mr. Edward Macon, Assistant Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia
Mr. Bobby Russell, Superintendent, Western Virginia Regional Jail
Ms. N.H. 'Cookie' Scott, Deputy Director of Administration, Virginia Department of Corrections
Chief Jim Williams, Staunton Police Department

The first order of business was for the Committee to select a new Chair and Vice Chair. The current Chair position was vacant; the current Vice Chair was Ms. Scott. After a brief discussion, Ms. Scott agreed to the unanimous nomination and accepted the position of Chair; Chief Williams agreed to the unanimous nomination and accepted the position of Vice Chair.

As there were several new Committee members in attendance, Ms. Janice Waddy, Manager of DCJS Grants Administration, briefly explained the DCJS grant solicitation, review and award process.

The Committee was meeting to review and recommend grants to the full Criminal Justice Services Board from the following DCJS grant programs:

Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)

Ms. Kassandra Bullock, Manager of DCJS Victims Services, explained that this program, administered by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) in the U.S. Department of Justice, was authorized in 2005 through the Violence Against Women Act as the first federal funding stream dedicated to the provision of direct services to victims of sexual violence.

The 38 applications considered were for continuation grants – the second year of a three-year cycle. All applications were reviewed by agency staff and all were recommended for the full amount of funding requested.

Based on discussion and the information provided, a motion was made by Mr. Russell and seconded by Sheriff Crawford that the full Criminal Justice Services Board accept the Committee's recommendation and approve the 38 CY18 applications totaling \$465,311. There were no oppositions. Recusals came from Chief Williams (New Directions Center, Inc.) and Chief Branch (Rappahannock Council Against Sexual Assault and Services to Abused Families, Inc.).

Violence Against Women Act Program (VSTOP)

Ms. Julia Fuller-Wilson, DCJS' Violence Against Women Program Administrator, explained that this funding, awarded to states and territories, enhances the capacity of local communities to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women, and develops and strengthens victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. Each state and territory must allocate 25% for law enforcement, 25% for prosecutors, 30% for victim services (of which at least 10% must be distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations), 5% to state and local courts, and 15% for discretionary distribution.

The 95 applications considered were for continuation grants – the third year of a three-year cycle. All applications were reviewed by agency staff and all were recommended for the full amount of funding requested. It was noted that many of these programs have been funded long-term and there was a change in policy in 2007 that at the tenth year of funding programs would take a 15% cut. The policy change was recommended by the VSTOP State Team and implemented by DCJS as a cost assumption strategy. This change will affect the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council, the Tahirih Justice Center and Northern Virginia Family Service, Inc. In addition, a local match is required of all programs except organizations that provide services to victims of crime.

Based on discussion and the information provided, a motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Block that the full Criminal Justice Services Board accept the Committee's recommendation and approve the 95 CY18 applications totaling \$4,038,436. There were no oppositions. Recusals came from Mr. Macon (Supreme Court of Virginia) and Chief Branch (Culpeper County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, Rappahannock Council Against Sexual Assault and Services to Abused Families, Inc.).

Underserved Populations Learning Collaborative (UPLC)

Ms. Cassandra Bullock then explained a new, unique opportunity the Department has a chance to be a part of entitled the Underserved Populations Learning Collaborative (UPLC). The UPLC is a collaborative endeavor between DCJS, the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance and the Virginia Department of Social Services, and was created to enhance outreach, services, and community partnerships in shelters, dual agencies and sexual assault crisis centers throughout Virginia. The funds designated for this award are reverted VSTOP monies that must be utilized before December 31, 2018.

Through this effort, the Action Alliance and 25 programs across the Commonwealth will engage in an 18-month process of assessment, planning, and implementation of its commitment to engage community-based organizations to enhance access and improve service provisions to underserved populations, including individuals who have limited English-speaking communication skills, the LGBTQ community and others. These populations will be identified based on the community's profile and service area.

The cost is approximately \$169,730 in federal funds, plus a 25% in-kind match. This includes salary for two full-time staff, fringes, training, travel and technology costs. It also includes participation for up to 25 programs to cover cost for staff, travel, and additional costs for national technical assistance providers.

Based on discussion and the information provided, a motion was made by Chief Williams and seconded by Sheriff Crawford that the full Criminal Justice Services Board accept the Committee's recommendation and approve an award totaling \$169,730 in federal VSTOP funds for CY18 to support the Underserved Populations Learning Collaborative project. There were no oppositions or recusals.

Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Program Title II (JJDP)

Mr. Ed Holmes, DCJS Juvenile Justice Program Analyst, explained that this funding is allocated to localities by the federal JJDP Act. The Virginia Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice's Three-Year Plan develops priority areas of funding, for example: reducing behavioral health issues for at-risk and system-involved youth, reducing disproportionality in the juvenile justice system, and serving at-risk and system-involved youth in their home communities.

The four applications considered were for continuation funding. All applications were reviewed by agency staff and all were recommended for the full amount of funding requested. It was noted that funding is decreased by 25% for each year of program funding. The second year of funding was at 75% of the original award, the third year of funding will be at a 50% of the original award. Since this is the third year of funding, CY18 funding will be at 50% of the original award.

Based on discussion and the information provided, a motion was made by Mr. Block and seconded by Mr. Macon that the full Criminal Justice Services Board accept the Committee's recommendation and approve the four CY18 applications totaling \$98,745. There were no oppositions or recusals.

Byrne/Justice Assistance Program

Ms. Waddy explained that this program, named in honor of Officer Edward R. Byrne, an NYPD officer killed in the line of duty in 1988, is the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The program provides critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, crime victim/witness initiatives, and mental health programs.

The two CY18 solicitations issued covered several purpose areas –

Solicitation #1

- Systems Notification of Upcoming Court Hearings and Related Meetings
- Systems Assessment to Identify Disparities in Discipline and Justice Outcomes for Students with Disabilities and Minority Students
- Community Criminal Justice Board Comprehensive Planning
- Police Officer Safety and Wellness

Solicitation #2 (Virginia Response to Violent Extremism, Domestic Terrorism and Hate Crime)

This solicitation was more in line with issues that came out of the Charlottesville rally

- Law Enforcement and First Responder Cooperative Response Training
- Development of training curricula for regional academies on countering violent extremism, domestic terrorism and hate crime.
- Implementation of Projects Which Increase Cultural Exposure to Promote Community Resilience in Youth

- Community Engagement to Reduce Radicalization, Domestic Extremism, and Youth and Young Adult Violence
- Violence Focused Crime and Information Analysis

The 50 applications considered were for new and continuation funding. All applications were reviewed by agency staff. Thirty-nine (39) were recommended for the full amount of funding requested totaling \$1,384,067.00. Eight (8) denied applications are eligible for appeal. Other funds are available if the denials are overturned.

The eight (8) denials were explained as follows:

- An application from the City of Hampton Police Department requested \$20,000 in continuation funding to equip an additional community education and training room. Staff recommended no funding as the City will receive an extension on the current year's grant.
- The Radford City Police Department requested \$17,160 in continuation funding to support its Communications Center with necessary equipment to maintain operations and the safety of officers and citizens of the City of Radford. Staff recommended no funding as the application was incomplete.
- The application from Caroline County requested \$25,052 in new funding to purchase 52 active shooter kits to better protect officers during a terrorist attack, school shooting, abduction situation, etc. Staff recommended no funding as the application did not meet the grant guidance.
- The application from Clever Communities in Action requested \$50,000 in new funding to support Project Read the Way, an initiative that addresses literacy, personal development and resiliency needs for children, youth and adults residing in low-income communities within Hampton Roads. Staff recommended no funding as the application was not responsive to the solicitation.
- An application from the City of Portsmouth requested \$25,000 in new funding to improve upon previous efforts to build better relationships between police and youth by purchasing a Use of Force Simulator. The simulator would be used to give youth a better understanding of what an officer experiences while on duty and the split-second decisions they make on a daily basis. Staff recommended no funding, as the projected program activities are outside of the intended scope of the solicitation. In addition, the project as written lacks a curriculum and/or evidence to support successful outcomes. Other concerns include the possibility of exposing participants to trauma as a result of the program activities.
- An application from Prince William County requested \$6,383 in new funding for gang education in county schools. Staff recommended no funding as the application was not responsive to the solicitation.

- Another application from Prince William County requested \$25,000 in new funding to reduce violent crime related to gang activity in their community. The goal was to engage with the community to bring awareness and to prevent youth and young adult violence. Staff recommended no funding. Community engagement involves additional enforcement (overtime-\$20,000) in communities with known gang and crime concerns. The remaining funding was requested to provide community giveaways (\$5,000).
- The application from the Smyth County Sheriff's Office requested \$11,275 in new funding to purchase 35 tactical trauma kits for all patrol cars for use by deputies in the event of a traumatic incident to provide life-saving techniques for other deputies, as well as citizens of Smyth County. Staff recommended no funding as the grant application did not meet the grant guidance.

Three (3) applications were recommended for reduced funding as follows:

- The application from the Roanoke County Police Department, in collaboration with the Roanoke Police Department, Salem Police Department, Vinton Police Department, Virginia Western Police Department and Roanoke College Police Department, requested \$142,619 in new funding to create a Regional Field Force Team. The goal of the team would be to combine resources to prepare for violent/non-violent demonstrations that may arise in the Roanoke Valley. The equipment requested included a grenade launcher, the cost for which \$3,146.00 was denied, bringing the recommended award to \$139,473.
- The application from the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Academy requested \$149,930 in new funding to create a regional response program that will assist the 57 training academy member agencies in the event of violent extremism, hate crime or domestic terrorism. The funding requested included \$1500 for refreshments, which was denied, bringing the recommended award to \$148,430.
- An application from the Hampton Police Division requested \$150,000 in new funding to implement a two-pronged approach to combatting violent extremism, domestic terrorism and hate crimes within Virginia. The funding requested included monies for a passenger bus, the cost for which \$78,457.00 was denied, bringing the recommended award to \$71,543.00.

Based on discussion and the information provided, a motion was made by Mr. Block and seconded by Chief Branch that the full Criminal Justice Services Board accept the Committee's recommendation and approve the 42 CY18 applications totaling \$1,743,513.00. There were no oppositions. Recusals came from Chief Williams (Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Academy) and Mr. Johnson (Virginia Indigent Defense Commission).

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.