**ATTACHMENT 2**

**VIRGINIA APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FY 2017 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING—PROGRAM NARRATIVE**

***Statement of the Problem***

Virginia’s State Administering Agency, the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), has broad statutory responsibilities for criminal justice planning and coordination of programs.

The FY’17 JAG funds will be used to support local and state projects and activities that address issues and needs identified in the strategic plan and subsequent work noted below. As part of our ongoing effort to promote the use of evidence-based practices (EBP), **all** applicants for funds for new projects will be required to incorporate them into the projects they propose; and DCJS grant guidelines will provide links to EBP resources available from the Justice Department and other sources.

We expect to award grants in these areas:

**Law Enforcement**

Evidence-based projects that:

1. improve the effectiveness of law enforcement by promoting professionalism, better system coordination, and efficiency, and/or projects that help agencies identify and respond to emerging criminal justice issues, including heroin and opioid drug abuse;
2. support efforts that encourage community partnerships, trust and engagement and include a thorough evaluation;

**Prosecution, Indigent Defense, Courts**

Evidence-based projects that:

1. support state-level and multidisciplinary training that enhances the quality and effectiveness of indigent defense, prosecution or judicial handling of criminal cases in the Commonwealth;

**Prevention and Education**

Evidence-based projects that:

1. address juvenile delinquency and crime prevention;
2. provide youth-focused, gang-related prevention and education programs, services and practices;
3. develop and implement measures to prevent crime and enhance safety and security in schools and on college and university campuses, and in school-related activities;
4. support best practice in drug abuse prevention programs and activities;
5. prevent juvenile crime through coordination of and collaboration with community stakeholders.

**Corrections and Community-Based Programs for Adults and Juveniles**

Evidence-based projects that:

1. reduce reliance on expensive and less effective facility-based sanctions by diverting non-violent offenders to more appropriate supervision;
2. implement or improve re-entry and aftercare efforts;
3. provide for pretrial and pre-adjudicatory services for defendants; or
4. intervene with defendants and offenders involved with the justice system as a result of serious mental illness or chronic substance abuse.

**Substance Abuse Treatment**

Evidence-based projects that:

1. provide community-based treatment that targets populations which are jail-bound, have co-occurring disorders, are misdemeanants, and/or are frequently in and out of the criminal justice system;

***Application Process***

DCJS will post a notice about the availability of JAG funds on our website, with a link to grant guidelines that provide a timetable and details for potential applicants about how to apply and the requirements that must be met.

We will use a two-step application process. Interested localities or state agencies will first submit concept papers that respond to criteria set out in DCJS guidelines. DCJS staff will review the concept papers and those which best respond to the guidelines will then be invited to submit full grant applications with thorough explanations of the problem or need to be addressed based on up-to-date available data, detailed descriptions of their proposed projects including timelines, goals with measurable objectives, and itemized budgets. All applicants will be required to base their proposals on proven program models. The grant guidelines we issue will refer them to evaluation and evidence-based practices information available from BJA, OJP and other sources.

DCJS staff will review the applications with a committee of the Department’s policy board, the Criminal Justice Services Board, and the committee’s recommendations on them will then be presented to the full Board for final action.

As is the case with any JAG grants awarded by DCJS, successful applicants will receive formal notification via statements of grant award which they are required to sign and return, indicating their acceptance of the award and their commitment to comply with **all** conditions and required assurances/certifications. No funds will be disbursed until we have received their signed acceptances. The additional certifications and assurances required of sub-grantees to DCJS related to this solicitation will be obtained prior to completion of the award process.

This process will be initiated in late 2018 when we issue program guidance and solicit concept papers. Successful applicants will receive 12 month grants for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Based on project performance and availability of funds, approved projects may be eligible for continuation funding for up to a total of four years. Applicants requesting continuation funding after the first year will be required to submit scaled back applications updating their projects’ objectives and summarizing accomplishments to-date.

***Project Design and Implementation***

The Department’s 2010 strategic plan, **“Setting A Course for the Future of The Criminal Justice System in Virginia: Virginia’s Statewide Criminal Justice Plan,”** (PDF copy attached) identified priority areas that span the entire criminal justice system:

* *Collaboration and coordination in the criminal justice system*
* *Information sharing in the criminal justice system*
* *Technology in the criminal justice system*
* *Diverting nonviolent offenders from jail and prison*
* *Prisoner reentry into society*
* *Recruiting and retaining criminal justice system personnel*
* *Multidisciplinary training for criminal justice system personnel*
* *Standardized training and testing for law enforcement officers*
* *Juvenile delinquency and crime prevention*
* *Improving the juvenile justice system*
* *Preventing crime*
* *Security at schools and college/university campuses*
* *Domestic preparedness and the criminal justice system*
* *Mental health and the criminal justice system*
* *The impact of drugs on the criminal justice system*
* *Drug prevention and treatment*
* *Knowing what works in criminal justice*
* *Equality and consistency in the criminal justice system*
* *Immigration and the criminal justice system*
* *Victims of crime and the criminal justice system*
* *Public awareness and the criminal justice system*

In the ensuing years, DCJS has augmented the input obtained through that planning process through surveys and data analyses conducted by our Research Center (Virginia’s Statistical Analysis Center) on many topics and issues, including gangs, human trafficking, school safety, crime trends, jail and prison populations. We have also surveyed practitioners to determine training needs in numerous areas.

In late 2016, DCJS completed an updated strategic plan, “**Enhancing the Future of Criminal Justice in Virginia January 2014 – December 2017: A Comprehensive Approach”** (PDF copy attached). This document builds on the planning and work done for the previous strategic plan and in the years since, and identified priorities to be addressed that expand upon and complement those noted above:

* *Enhancing law enforcement professionalism*
* *Preventing wrongful convictions*
* *Evidence-based decision-making for more effective criminal justice*
* *Preventing and responding to sexual assaults on college and university campuses*
* *Keeping kids in classrooms and out of courtrooms*
* *Reducing firearms violence*
* *Responding to the prescription drug and opioid epidemic*

In addition, agency staff and management have led or served on workgroups and task forces focused on: implementing evidence-based practices in community corrections, pretrial services and offender reentry services; prescription drug and heroin abuse, campus sexual assault, improving mental health services and crisis response, use of body worn cameras by law enforcement, reducing gun violence and other emerging issues. This has included consultation with stakeholder groups representing many of the agency’s constituencies. These efforts have informed our training and technical assistance work as well as our grant-making.

***Capabilities and Competencies***

In addition to its responsibility for managing Virginia’s state allocation of Justice Assistance Grant funds, the Department of Criminal Justice Services also plans for and administers most of the other federal justice assistance formula funds that come to the state. This includes funds from the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant, Victims of Crime Act, Children’s Justice Act, Violence Against Women Act, and Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Act.

The Department also administers state funds appropriated for victim-witness assistance programs, services for sexual assault and domestic violence victims, local community corrections and pretrial services programs, school resource/school security officers, offender reentry programs, court appointed special advocates (CASA), and Internet crimes against children task forces.

DCJS has ongoing relationships with all of the state agencies that have criminal justice, juvenile justice or related responsibilities. These include the Departments of Corrections, Juvenile Justice and Forensic Science, the State Police, the Commonwealth’s Attorneys’ Services Council, the Indigent Defense Commission, the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Social Services. We also collaborate with the private organizations and associations that represent our varied constituencies.

We work with these agencies and organizations on an ongoing basis in an effort to make the most effective use of available state and federal funds. In addition, Department staff members serve on task forces and committees formed to specifically address a number of issues and topics, including gangs, adult and juvenile offender reentry, drug courts, substance abuse treatment for adults and juveniles, and services for crime victims.

***Plan for Collecting and Reporting Data Required for Performance Measures***

As a condition of their grant awards, all recipients will be required to submit quarterly progress and financial reports to DCJS. This will be structured to assure that sub-grantees provide DCJS with the data we need to submit to BJA’s performance measure reporting system, and to provide additional information to DCJS on project implementation and anecdotal evidence of progress and impact.