



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services


Francine C. Ecker
Director

August 25, 2017

1100 Bank Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-4000
TDD (804) 386-8732

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Terrence McAuliffe, Governor

FROM: Francine C. Ecker, Director 

THROUGH: The Honorable Brian J. Moran,
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

RE: Application for Federal Funds Available Through the Justice Assistance Grant Program

The Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) provides federal funding to the states and localities to support a variety of criminal justice system improvements. In accordance with the method for distributing funds prescribed in the JAG enabling legislation, some funds are awarded directly to selected localities by the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and some funds are awarded to the states for their use in making grants to state agencies and localities.

The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is responsible for applying for and administering those JAG funds designated for Virginia that are not to be awarded directly to localities by BJA. BJA determined that DCJS is eligible to apply for \$3,353,534 in federal fiscal year 2017 funds.

Federal guidelines require that we provide you with a copy of the application (attached) we submitted to BJA on August 25 and that you certify to the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), of which BJA is a part, that Virginia will comply with the requirements stated in the attached "Certifications and Assurances by the Chief Executive." They are, for the most part, the same as or similar to those I have signed as Director in previous years. However, one new assurance (no. 7) that was added this year concerns compliance with federal immigration law. It requires that you review and adopt as your own a "Certification of Compliance" executed by the Attorney General as the chief legal officer of the Commonwealth. We have provided a copy of this application and the Certification of Compliance to the Office of the Attorney General for their review and action.

Assurance number 3 in the attached Certifications and Assurances concerns review of the application by the "governing body" of the state and parenthetically suggests the legislature as an example of the governing body. We have always treated the submission of the application to the Governor as satisfying that assurance and have always stated that in our applications. This, as far as we know, has always satisfied BJA and OJP, and we've been advised by the Acting Director of BJA that that remains the case. So we consider our submission of this application to you as fulfilling that requirement. Additionally, in response to assurance no. 4, we posted a notice about the application for JAG funds on our agency's website on August 25 inviting public review and comment.

Application for Federal Funds Available Through the Justice Assistance Grant Program

August 25, 2017

Page Two

Our deadline for submitting it to BJA was August 25, 2017. As in the past, we were required to file the application online and I am enclosing for your information those components that we uploaded when we applied: 1) a brief abstract that summarizes the application; 2) a Program Narrative describing our planning process and indicating in general terms how we will use the JAG funds; 3) a Budget and Budget Narrative; 4) the required Indirect Cost Rate Agreement; 5) documentation showing that we have satisfied JAG's review requirements; 6) a statement that we do not have any pending applications for federal funds for the same projects to be supported with JAG funds; and 7) a copy of the required Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire.

We will need to send signed copies of the Certifications and Assurances by the Chief Executive and the Certification of Compliance by the Attorney General to BJA once all reviews have been completed. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this material or the JAG program in general, please contact me.

c: Victoria Cochran
Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Attachments