

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency | Office of Victims' Services

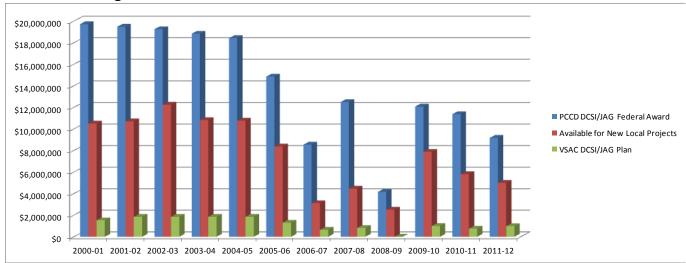
JAG FUNDING STREAM

Justice Assistance Grant Program

History

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program through the United States Department of Justice was established by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. It is a partnership among federal, state and local governments to create safer communities by improving the functioning of the criminal justice system – with emphasis on violent crime and serious offenders – and enforce state and local laws that establish offenses similar to those in the federal Controlled Substances Act.

Historical Funding Overview of Funds for Victim Services



^{*}Does not include ARRA

Program Description

- JAG is a broad-based federal program with 29 purpose areas of which assistance to victims of crime (other than compensation) is an eligible activity.
- Pennsylvania receives a state allocation of JAG which varies from year to year. The Commission adopts a plan on how the funds are used in Pennsylvania.
- JAG funding is intended as "seed money" to start new programs and move them towards self-sufficiency. It is distributed on a competitive basis and the number and types of programs funded with JAG vary from year to year.
- JAG grants range from one to three years and must provide cash match regardless of their duration. Multi-year grants are required to assume an increasingly larger share of the project's total cost over the three-year period. For example, an agency seeking to implement a \$50,000 project would have to provide a 25% cash match in year one; 50% cash match in year two; and a 75% cash match in the third year.

^{**}See third bullet on Page 2 for 2012/13 funding information

Programmatic Overview

- In 2009 and 2010, the Commission used funding received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act JAG and Regular JAG to mitigate funding shortfalls in the state Victims of Juvenile Offenders (VOJO) Program.
- Until 2011, the commission used a process of competition and negotiation to determine the amount of JAG funding allocated to each advisory committee.
- In 2012, PCCD engaged in an agency-wide collaborative strategic planning process to identify the trends, opportunities and challenges facing Pennsylvania's communities and criminal justice system. This planning resulted in the adoption of an agency wide, five-year strategic plan. The PCCD Strategic Plan became the driving force behind the JAG allocation process. A single, agency-wide JAG solicitation was released to the field soliciting concept papers under eight of the 13 objectives in PCCD's Strategic Plan. Since each of the objective areas aligned to the work of one or more of the commission's advisory committees, the process assured that a wide array of projects would be funded covering all facets of the justice system. The objectives are:
 - o Empowering Communities Through Collaboration
 - Protecting and Supporting Crime Victims
 - Enhancing Law Enforcement
 - o Justice Reinvestment
 - o Breaking the Cycles of Mental Illness, Substance Abuse, and Crime
 - Evidence-Based Programming, Practices, and Innovations
 - Innovation in Technology and Information Sharing
 - Justice Training and Technical Assistance
- VSAC has traditionally used JAG to fund a variety of projects that were ineligible for support under other victim service-related funding streams (i.e. federal STOP Violence Against Women Act, federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), state Rights and Services Act (RASA) and state Victims of Juvenile Offenders Program (VOJO)).
- PCCD continues to uphold Pennsylvania's commitment to victims of crime by seeking to identify
 innovative and collaborative approaches to enhance service delivery to victims. JAG has been used
 to help victim service organizations build their organizational capacities; support skill enhancing
 training for victim advocates and allied professionals at the local, state and regional levels; fund
 projects piloting innovative methods of service delivery and prevention, and projects that provide
 services to underserved populations of victims.
- Additionally, JAG funding has been used for projects with statewide impact including development of
 outcomes for victim services, evaluation of the hotline services offered by individual victim service
 agencies across the state and a statewide campaign to prevent child sexual abuse. PCCD will
 continue to use JAG funds to reduce the impact of crime on victims. In so doing, it will look for
 projects that protect and support crime victims through innovation, collaboration, research or
 promising practices and that are cost-effective, sustainable and replicable.
- All JAG funded programs are monitored for programmatic and fiscal compliance through review of quarterly reports, telephone calls and on-site monitoring.