

Office of Highway Safety and Justice
Programs



south carolina
DEPARTMENT *of* **PUBLIC SAFETY**
PROTECT. EDUCATE. SERVE.

**FFY 2027 Justice Assistance
Grant (JAG) Solicitation**

Release Date:
Applications Due:

February 6, 2026
April 3, 2026

I. Introduction

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the leading source of federal criminal justice funding to states and units of local government. The South Carolina Department of Public Safety's Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs (OHSJP) has been designated as the State Administrative Agency (SAA) of the JAG Program for the state of South Carolina. The purpose of the JAG Program is to support state agencies and units of local government in carrying out specific programs, which offer a high probability of improving the criminal justice system. JAG funds may be used to provide additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice purposes. Nine authorized federal program areas define the nature and scope of eligible programs and projects. The program areas are as follows:

- A. Law enforcement programs
- B. Prosecution and court programs
- C. Prevention and education programs
- D. Corrections and community corrections programs
- E. Drug treatment and enforcement programs
- F. Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs
- G. Crime victim and witness initiatives (other than compensation) programs
- H. Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams
- I. Implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives (i.e. mental health courts, drug courts, veteran's courts, etc.)

II. Eligible Applicants

The JAG Program is open to state agencies, local units of government, tribal governments, and non-profit agencies. A "local unit of government" is defined as any city, county, town, township or other political subdivision of a state.

In addition, the following points should be noted regarding eligible applicants:

- A. Police departments and sheriffs' offices are not eligible to apply directly, but would be the implementing agency for the grant. A city or county would be the legal applicant/recipient and manage grant funds on behalf of the implementing department or agency.
- B. State courts (courts of general jurisdiction) are eligible to apply for funds. However, local courts (magistrate and municipal courts) similar to police departments would have to apply through their local units of government.
- C. A solicitor's office, for grant purposes, is funded as an office within a lead county.

The lead county must meet the following requirements:

- a. Maintain the financial records for the grant

- b. Include the solicitor's office in its payroll records; and,
- c. Include the financial records of the grants to the solicitor's office in its organization-wide audit.

D. Information for the following individuals will be required on the Grant Application:

- a. Project Director – Implementing Agency/Department Head, or person involved in the daily operations of the project.
- b. Financial Officer – City or County Finance Director, or state agency Chief Financial Officer.
- c. Official Authorized to Sign – Mayor, City or County Administrator, or state agency director.

III. Funding Policy

Projects may be funded on a yearly basis for a period not to exceed three years, based on an annual evaluation of current-year grant performance. Exceptions to this policy are narcotics multijurisdictional task force (NMJTF) projects, and regional multijurisdictional task force (RMJTF) projects, which are eligible for a maximum of five years of funding. However, funding for these projects are also considered on a yearly basis, based on an annual evaluation of the current-year grant performance and availability of federal funds. There is never a guarantee of continuation funding for any program or project. To expand or enhance an existing program, the current level of program activity must be maintained.

IV. Distribution of Grant Funds

A minimum of 67.5 percent (subject to change) of South Carolina's entire allocation of JAG grant funds is required to be awarded to local programs. This allocation is referred to as the "variable pass-through requirement," and equals the local share of total criminal justice expenditures in the state. In the past, the state has awarded local units of government much more than the minimum amount specified by the pass-through requirement.

V. Matching Requirement

Grants made under the JAG program require a 10% cash match (non-federal) of total line-item costs. Federal grant funds cover 90% of the project costs. The following points should be noted regarding the non-federal match:

- A. The non-federal portion of the expenditures must be paid in cash.
- B. Existing appropriated resources available for drug law enforcement and criminal justice system improvement may not be used as matching funds. The non-federal portion of the cost of each program or project shall be in addition to funds that would otherwise be made

available by the recipient of the grant funds. Federal funds may not be used to supplant state or local funds.

- C. A state agency or local unit of government can use drug-forfeiture funds as match. In addition, program income generated by prior or existing grants may be used as cash match upon proper notification to the Office of Grants Accounting, S.C. Department of Public Safety.
- D. Expenditures need to be charged proportionately to the federal and non-federal funds over the life of the project with a line-item match.

VI. Guidelines for the Use of Grant Funds

A. Allowable Expenses:

- 1. Personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice, or civil proceedings, including for any one or more of the authorized program areas. All expenditures must be related to the implementation of an actual program. This program must be defined in the program narrative sections of the application.
- 2. All grant-funded personnel must have one hundred percent of their time dedicated to grant activities (See also all non-supplanting provisions in the Grant Terms and Conditions).

B. Unallowable Expenses:

- 1. JAG funds may not be used (directly or indirectly) for security enhancements or equipment for nongovernmental entities not engaged in criminal justice or public safety. Additionally, JAG funds may not be used (directly or indirectly) to pay for any of the following items:
 - Vehicles (*excluding police cruisers), vessels (*excluding police boats), or aircraft (*excluding police helicopters)
 - Luxury items
 - Real estate
 - Construction projects
 - Any similar items
 - Drones are an unallowable aircraft.

* JAG funds may purchase police cruisers (marked or unmarked). For the purposes of this grant program, a police cruiser is defined as a vehicle that is used in the ordinary course for performing routine patrolling duties. Depending on the jurisdiction, a police cruiser could include sedans, pickup trucks, sport utility vehicles (SUVs), motorcycles, ATVs, UTVs, and Segways, etc.

2. Any expenditure that is not a part of an approved program or project (within the authorized program areas) is unallowable.
3. Grant funds may not be used to supplant existing state or local criminal justice funds. Any grant expenditures must increase the existing amount of funds available for eligible activities.
4. "Buy money" used in narcotics enforcement is an unallowable expense. For example, allowing funds to be used by confidential informants involved with a narcotics operation is not allowed.
5. JAG funds may not be expended to purchase, lease, rent, or acquire any of the following: ammunition, association fees, vehicle insurance, and maintenance.

C. Financial Requirements

An assurance that JAG funds will not be used to supplant local funding must be provided in the application as stated in Grant Terms and Conditions. This certification attests that federal funds will be used to supplement existing funds for program activities, not replace funds already appropriated for the same purpose. Potential supplanting will be the subject of post-award monitoring and audit. If there is a potential presence of supplanting, the applicant or subgrantee will be required to supply documentation demonstrating the reduction in non-federal resources occurred for reasons other than the receipt or expected receipt of federal funds. Violations of this requirement can result in recoupment of monies provided under this grant in addition to possible civil, and/or criminal penalties.

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety's (SCDPS) Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs (OHSJP) is considered the prime award recipient and pass-thru entity for these federal funds. Awards issued by the OHSJP under this solicitation are considered subawards. The OHSJP does not authorize subgrantees to issue further subawards with program funds. Please contact Grants Accounting at GrantsAccounting@scdps.gov with budget questions regarding your application.

VII. Suspension or Termination of Funding

The SAA may suspend (in whole or in part), terminate funding for, or impose another sanction on a subgrantee for any of the following reasons:

- A. Implementing substantial program changes to the extent that, if submitted originally, the application would not have been approved for funding.
- B. Failure to submit reports (programmatic and/or financial) in a timely manner.
- C. Filing a false certification in this application or other report or document.

VIII. Application and Funding Review Process

All applications, whether new or a continuation, will be reviewed equally by the Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs staff. **LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Applications are carefully reviewed to ensure that only projects with a significant chance of success are funded. The OHSJP staff use the following criteria in the development of funding recommendations for the South Carolina Public Safety Coordinating Council.

A. Documentation of need

1. Program Definition - Any funds requested must be for the implementation of a program eligible under one of the program areas. The program must address the activities as identified in the grant area selected.
2. Project Impact - The program should be designed to address the problems and needs of the area to be served. An analysis of how these problems could be improved through the project should be shown.
3. Budgetary Review - Each application will be reviewed to ensure costs are allowable, reasonable, and allocable.
4. Project Feasibility - Applicants should describe sufficiently and clearly how the project will be implemented.
5. Multijurisdictional Cooperation - Where applicable, proposals should indicate what type of coordination will be established between the applicant and other jurisdictions in the development and implementation of the project. Written agreements should be included where possible.
6. Project Evaluation - Specific, measurable objectives should be presented, and each objective **MUST** be matched with a performance indicator. The performance indicators describe how the grant's objectives will be documented or monitored. The project evaluation measures the effectiveness of your program by comparing your objectives with actual accomplishments.

B. Geographical areas of greatest need

C. Jurisdictions with limited resources

D. Current or past grant performance

E. Probability of success

F. Projects whose goals are self-sufficient within three years

G. Effective utilization of resources

H. Requested grant amount

IX. Funding Priorities

The OHSJP has established the following priorities for JAG funding (Priority will be given to agencies that do not receive direct JAG awards).

1. Law Enforcement Programs that focus on at least one of the following:
 - a. Narcotics/Gangs/Violent Crime Enforcement (Task Forces and Specialized Investigators)
 - b. Law Enforcement Training/Equipment
 - c. Forensic Laboratory training/equipment

2. Prosecution and Courts Programs that focus on one of the following:
 - a. Specialty courts
 - b. Gun, violent crime, and gang prosecution
 - c. Court technologies

3. Mental Health Programs and related Law Enforcement/Corrections Programs that focus on at least one of the following:
 - a. Officer wellness/suicide prevention
 - b. Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT)

X. Additional Information Requirements and Programmatic Conditions:

A. Multijurisdictional Task Forces

All grant applications for Narcotics, Violent Crime, or Regional Multijurisdictional Task Forces **MUST** include letters of support from all agencies related to or involved in the composition, implementation, and operation of the task force, including the solicitor's office. These supporting documents are essential for consideration of funding.

Applications for Narcotics, Violent Crime, or Regional Multijurisdictional Task Forces **MUST** also be accompanied by a draft of the written inter-agency task force agreement (no signatures required on draft). The task force agreement that has been submitted must be approved by the OHSJP to ensure all issues regarding personnel, seizures and forfeitures, and program income have been addressed.

B. Drug Analysis Laboratories

All grant applications for Drug Analysis Laboratories must include a statement indicating intent to provide drug analysis services to all law enforcement agencies within the respective jurisdictions. These services should be provided at no cost to the agencies.

Drug Analysis Laboratory applications must also include a detailed statement indicating the proposed location of the laboratory, if funded. In addition, an estimated period for completion of any renovation/construction projects needed to house the drug laboratory must be included. Potential applicants should be aware of the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) and Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) guidelines that govern projects of this type. Please be reminded that costs for renovation or construction are not allowable under JAG guidelines.

C. Body Armor Requirements

Please be aware that all applicants requesting ballistic-resistant and/or stab-resistant body armor must have a written "mandatory wear" policy in place for all uniformed officers. There are no requirements regarding the nature of the policy other than it being a mandatory wear policy for all uniformed officers while on duty. Applicants must submit a copy of the agency's "mandatory wear" policy signed by the head of the agency as part of its official JAG application.

If your agency participates in the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP), please be aware that JAG funds cannot be used to pay for the portion of the body armor (50%) that is not covered by the BVP.

Body armor purchased with JAG funds may be purchased at any threat level, make, or model, from any distributor or manufacturer, as long as the vests have been tested and found to comply with NIJ ballistic or stab standards. In addition, all body armor purchased must be made in the United States.

D. Technology Requirements

Applicants requesting to purchase technological equipment, artificial intelligence software, predictive analytics, and other data-driven technological enhancements should ensure the projects utilizing grant funds address the tenants of digital trust to include:

1. How technology will be carefully implemented through training of personnel and the setting and enforcement of policies governing its use to ensure that it contributes to positive outcomes for public safety, the community and/or the criminal justice system or in civil proceedings.
2. How the recipient will safeguard privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties throughout the duration of the project period.

XI. Notification Process

Applicants will be notified in writing by the OHSJP whether their application has been approved or denied for funding. Notices of these decisions are tentatively scheduled for publication in October 2026. The FFY 2027 grant period is currently scheduled for October 1, 2026– September 30, 2027.

XII. Application Process –IntelliGrants

The grant application must be completed using the OHSJP’s web-based grants management system, IntelliGrants. This can be accessed at <https://scdps.intelligrants.com>, as well as through the South Carolina Department of Public Safety website at <http://www.scdps.sc.gov/ohsjp/>.

IMPORTANT NOTE: NEW Agency Administrator users must submit their registration requests no later than **March 20, 2026**. The person with day-to-day responsibility for managing grant applications should be the only person submitting the user registration request at this time. This person can add additional users at a later time.

The application must be fully complete and submitted via IntelliGrants prior to the application deadline, which is **April 3, 2026**. Supporting documents, letters of cooperation, and appendices relating to the application may be uploaded as attachments to an application on IntelliGrants.

Please be aware IntelliGrants will **only** allow application submissions until **5:00 PM** on the application due date.

*Applicants are encouraged to contact OHSJP Program Coordinators for technical assistance. If requested in a timely manner, we will conduct a one-time application review prior to submittal and provide specific feedback.

For programmatic questions, you may contact Melissa Vail (MelissaVail@scdps.gov) at (803) 896-7640 or Jennifer Sandidge (JenniferSandidge@scdps.gov) at (803) 896-8708. For any financial questions contact Grants Accounting via email at GrantsAccounting@scdps.gov.

****Please be advised, the OHSJP expects additional guidance to be forthcoming from the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) regarding eligibility requirements, allowable and unallowable costs, or other relevant changes that could impact the contents in this document. The OHSJP will communicate any applicable changes to subgrant recipients as necessary.**

Grant Application Check List

The following items explain the standards by which each application is evaluated. Past experience has shown that projects are successful because one person or a group of people have identified a problem, developed a solution, and carefully designed a plan to arrive at the solution. The grant application leads the grant applicant through a structured approach to problem solving. Successful applicants use these pages to help the reviewer see the problem and easily understand the proposed solution. Please note that, if an application is missing any required information or documentation, that application may be automatically denied.

Budget and Description –

- Proposed expenditures are reasonable, adhere to application guidelines
- Equipment/personnel is documented as necessary
- Each expenditure is explained in detail in the budget narrative

Problem Statement –

- The problem and/or need the project will address is defined exactly as it exists in your community (focus on the needs of your area and how the project will meet those needs)
- Local information and statistics are provided to support the request for funding (do not use statewide information alone to support the development of a local level project)
- Existing efforts, current resources, and programs being utilized to deal with the problem are thoroughly addressed

Project Purpose –

- At least one distinct purpose/goal has been identified
- Project purpose/goal is S.M.A.R.T. (specific, measureable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound)

Project Objectives –

- The objectives are specific and measureable to show how the goal will be achieved
- There is at least one objective per goal listed

Performance Indicators –

- There is a performance indicator per project objective identified
- Each indicator shows how each objective will be measured and what methods will be used to evaluate progress towards achieving the objectives and goals

Training Requirement:

- A minimum of two (2) courses identified for grant-funded personnel

Project Evaluation –

- Explain who will examine the project's objectives and performance indicators
- Explain how that person will determine the extent to which the entire project has solved the stated problem
- Evaluation is supported by the performance indicators and includes a comprehensive plan to provide an overall assessment of project effectiveness

Other Relevant Requirements –

- The implementation schedule should contain information on the timing of activities
- The total project area population and number of certified officers (if applicable) must be provided and letters of support from all entities involved in multijurisdictional projects should be attached
- The name, title, address, phone, and email information must be completed on the online application for the Project Director, Financial Officer, and Authorized Official. Signatures will only be required once a grant award is made.