

Grant Funds Available for Smaller Police Agencies; OJA Seeks Proposals

The Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) is seeking input from smaller police and sheriffs' departments on how grant dollars could best be used to enhance the agencies' ability to prevent crime and build safer communities.

Larger jurisdictions receive federal Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) through direct awards or through drug task force funding. Smaller agencies, whose jurisdictions' cover the majority of the state, have traditionally had fewer opportunities to apply for JAG and other state and federal law enforcement grants.

An opportunity currently exists, however, for smaller agencies to apply for JAG funds to better provide services and reduce crime in their communities. Police Chiefs and Sheriffs are encouraged to communicate their ideas to OJA for how a one-time grant of up to \$10,000 would be used to improve their law enforcement capacity.

Following federal requirements, larger jurisdictions, which receive direct Byrne/JAG awards, are ineligible for this funding opportunity. While recent cuts to the Byrne/JAG program have threatened the viability of a number of programs across the state, this current round of funding must be distributed to smaller agencies which do not receive direct awards

OJA is disseminating this preliminary solicitation so that Police Chiefs and Sheriffs may provide input on their particular needs before submitting an application by the proposed June 25, 2008 deadline.

While grant applications will be considered from any smaller law enforcement agency, priority will be given to departments comprising between five and 15 full-time sworn officers, and from municipalities with populations of 10,000 or fewer. Priority will also be given to multi-jurisdictional programs collaborating on a common problem.

Acceptable grant uses will vary widely; however, OJA is not looking for proposals to begin or enhance drug enforcement programs. Funds for this purpose are already allocated through the drug task forces and other programs throughout the state.

Funds from this grant will not require a match of any kind but must not supplant regular and customary budget items or costs.

Any ideas, proposals or other thoughts may be sent to the Project Coordinator, Jerry Jansen, at OJA. Look for more information and the grant announcement after May 30, 2008 on the OJA web site, www.oja.wi.gov.

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