



Criminal Justice Services Board Grants Committee Meeting

Department of Criminal Justice Services
1100 Bank Street, Richmond, VA 23219, In-person Meeting

Minutes

September 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

Greg Hopkins, Chair
Mr. Adam Blevins (Virtual)
Mr. Russell (Rusty) McGuire
Sheriff Jeremy Falls
Ms. Maria Jankowski
Chief Travis Christian

Members Absent

I. Call to Order

Mr. Greg Hopkins called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Mr. Hopkins asked Wendy Lohr-Hopp to conduct Roll Call. Wendy stated there was a quorum with (6) members present. Mr. Blevins joined the meeting by electronic communications.

III. Introductions/Opening Comments

Mr. Hopkins officially welcomed guests and any agency dignitaries. Department of Criminal Justice Services Director Ashaki McNeil welcomed the members and thanked them for their time and dedication to the committee.

IV. Approval of Minutes of May 28, 2026

Mr. Hopkins called for corrections, deletions, and/or additions to the minutes from the May 28, 2026, meeting. A motion was made by Sheriff Falls to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mr. McGuire. The motion passed by majority vote. Ms. Jankowski abstained.

V. Grant Approvals

a) Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)

The purpose of the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) is to support the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of rape crisis centers and other nongovernmental or tribal programs and projects to assist individuals who have been victimized by sexual assault, without regard to

the age of the individual (34 U.S.C. §12511(b)(2)(B)). SASP funding originates from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

This SASP CY2027 funding opportunity is a competitive funding opportunity. Through a comprehensive grant application review process, the following determinations were made:

- **19 applications were recommended for funding**, with three applicants recommended for partial funding.
- **17 applications were recommended for denial** due to one or more of the following reasons: ineligibility, unallowable staffing levels in proposed projects, low application scores, a lack of intentional sexual assault-specific services, and limited funds available.

Requested items for funding include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) personnel (counselors, victim advocates, volunteer coordinators); 2) supplies (office supplies, printing costs, victim emergency clothing); 3) consultants (translation and interpretation services, victim therapy or counseling services); 4) travel (staff mileage and per diem reimbursement for meetings, court accompaniment, hospital accompaniment, and trainings); 5) indirect costs in accordance with a federally negotiated indirect cost rate or the de minimis rate; and 6) training costs (training funded by this grant program may be used to train paid staff and volunteers on how to provide services to victims of sexual assault).

In summary, **DCJS staff request approval to fund 19 grant applications for the 12-month period (1/1/2027 – 12/31/2027) totaling \$1,089,182**, using federal SASP funds allocated for this purpose.

There was no discussion. A motion was made by Mr. McGuire, seconded by Ms. Jankowski. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Any recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

b) Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (BJAG) – Gun Violence Awareness and Prevention

The purpose of this Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) Gun Violence Awareness and Prevention funding opportunity is to support evidence-informed gun violence awareness, prevention, intervention, and reduction efforts.

Five (5) grants were recommended for funding. BJAG funds will support the purchase of safe storage, programming, outreach, and evidence-based training. Two applications had reductions, one to remove stipends and the other to remove a specific consultant cost for training, as it was excessive and not justified. Other reductions came from adjusting the match.

Five (5) applications were recommended for denial:

- One was ineligible
- One, from the Juvenile Detention Commission, was missing elements, including match, but had also submitted applications in response to the JJDP Act solicitations
- Three had multiple priority areas not conducive to a Byrne/JAG grant, lacked sufficient justification, and/or failed to demonstrate sufficient need

In summary, **DCJS staff request approval to fund five (5) grant applications for the 22-month period (11/1/2026 – 08/31/2028) totaling \$309,626**, using \$246,297 in federal funds allocated for this purpose and \$63,329 in subrecipient provided match.

There was discussion regarding Operation Ceasefire, as one of the summaries referenced some Ceasefire activities. DCJS staff confirmed that while the funding for Ceasefire was not

continued, the Ceasefire model remains an evidence-based model that is eligible for funding through FVIP funding.

A motion was made by Mr. McGuire, seconded by Sheriff Falls. The motion passed by majority vote. Chief Christian abstained from the vote. Ms. Jankowski voted no for Hampton and yes for all other application recommendations. Any recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

c) Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund (FVIP)

The purpose of this Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention (FVIP) Grant is to reduce violent crime within the Commonwealth of Virginia by funding effective and sustainable intervention and prevention programming designed to interrupt and prevent local cycles of violence. Violence intervention and prevention programs avert interpersonal violence by collaborating with a range of community stakeholders to provide support and intervention to those at the highest risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence.

20 applications were recommended for funding. This grant funding supports targeted youth prevention solutions that keep young adults from entering the cycle of violence through early intervention. Additionally, the grant covers essential wraparound connections—linking high-risk individuals directly to housing, employment, and education—while expanding trauma-informed community care in areas with high concentrations of violence. To further aid in combating violent crime, the funding supports hiring dedicated prosecutors, crime analysts, and victim services professionals to strengthen response, analysis, and support efforts.

Nine (9) applications were recommended for denial for one or more of the following reasons:

- Applications did not meet eligibility requirements or program priorities
- Incomplete applications (e.g., missing non-profit assessment, goals, or required documentation)
- Requests lacked sufficient justification or demonstrated need

There were no reductions or increases in awards to consider.

In summary, **DCJS staff request approval to fund 20 grant applications for the 24-month period (1/1/2027 – 12/31/2028) totaling \$4,946,175**, in state funds allocated for this purpose.

There was discussion noting that FVIP language allows for activities previously funded by other state funding sources. Also, DCJS staff confirmed that subrecipients must complete programmatic and financial quarterly reporting that is reviewed by program staff.

A motion was made by Mr. McGuire, seconded by Chief Christian. The motion passed by majority vote. Mr. Hopkins abstained from the vote for the Richmond City application. Any recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

d) Hate Crimes Grant Program (HCGP)

The FY2027 Combating Hate Crimes Grant Program - Funding Opportunity #574682 provides state funds through a competitive process to localities to help reduce bias-motivated incidents. The program supports institutions and nonprofit organizations at risk for targeted violence based

on race, religious conviction, color, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or national origin.

10 applications were recommended for funding.

13 applications were recommended for denial because:

- Requests lacked sufficient justification or direct nexus to the goals of the grant program, or
- Limited funds prevented approval of all qualified applications.

In summary, **DCJS staff request approval to fund 10 grant applications for an 8-month period (11/01/2026-06/30/2027) totaling \$996,608**, using state funds allocated for this purpose.

There was discussion on whether any applicants demonstrated a need by explaining a history of threats made towards their organization or actual incidents. DCJS staff confirmed that several did have specific examples.

A motion was made by Ms. Jankowski, seconded by Sheriff Falls. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Any recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

e) Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (BJAG) – Training and Equipment

The purpose of the FY2027 BJAG Training and Equipment funding is to provide localities with the flexibility to support a broad range of initiatives designed to prevent and control crime in accordance with state and local priorities and conditions.

As the State Administrative Agency (SAA), DCJS is responsible for coordinating, administering, and distributing JAG funds in a manner that strengthens and enhances the overall criminal justice system of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Awards under this competitive solicitation will be made for a 10-month project period and must align with one of the identified priority focus areas: Public Safety Technology and Information Systems; Workforce Development, Training, and Technical Assistance; Operational Equipment and Forensics Capabilities; and Victim-Centered Response and Criminal Justice Collaboration.

35 applications were recommended for funding. 12 applications were reduced. Seven applications were reduced due to the applicant requesting more in total funds than the total cost of their requested Supplies. Two applications were reduced due to requesting unallowable items. One application was reduced due to exceeding the Match amount. Two applications were reduced due to having a tied score; therefore, the remaining allotted funds were split between the two.

50 applications were recommended for denial. Seven applications (one detention center, two criminal justice training academies, one regional jail, two colleges, and one police department who did not apply under the locality) were ineligible because they are not classified as a unit of local government. Eight applications were ineligible because the applications were incomplete or they only requested unallowable items. The remaining 35 applications were denied for general reasons such as:

- Applications did not meet eligibility requirements or program priorities;

- Requests lacked sufficient justification or demonstrated need; and
- Limited funding availability prevented full consideration of all qualified applications.

In summary, **DCJS staff request approval to fund 35 grant applications for the 10-month period (11/1/2026 – 8/31/2027) totaling \$1,016,829**, using \$762,000 in federal funds allocated for this purpose and \$254,829 in subrecipient provided match.

There was discussion on negotiating applications approved at reduced amounts, noting that if the proposed expenses are allowable, they may still be funded. DCJS staff confirmed that budgets and expenditure narratives must be provided, reviewed, and approved by DCJS staff prior to the award being provided to the subrecipient.

A motion was made by Mr. McGuire, seconded by Chief Christian. The motion passed by majority vote. Ms. Jankowski voted no for the Chesapeake and Winchester applications. Mr. Hopkins abstained from the vote for the Richmond City application. Any recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

f) SRO, SSO, SSP Grant Programs – Calendar Year Supplemental Funding

The purpose of the School Resource Program is to fund School Resource Officers (SRO), School Security Officers (SSO), and School Safety Personnel (SSP).

In October 2025, DCJS awarded 26 SRO grants, nine SSO grants, and three SSP grants for a 12-month calendar year grant period from January 1 – December 31, 2026. To align these grants with the Fiscal Year grant cycle beginning July 1, 2027, DCJS recommends extending the current award period by six months, through June 30, 2027, and increasing each award by 50% of its original award amount. This one-time adjustment will result in an 18-month initial award period for the CY2026 cohort. The program normally provides continuation funding within a four-year grant cycle. As a result of this six-month extension, the CY2026 cohort will have a potential grant cycle of 4.5 years. Beginning July 1, 2027, these grants will align with the program's Fiscal Year funding cohorts.

The SRO Supplemental Recommendations reflect a current awarded amount of \$5,095,408, including match, with an additional \$2,547,712 in recommended supplemental funding. This results in a revised recommended total of \$7,643,120.

The SSO Supplemental Recommendations reflect a current awarded amount of \$769,975, including match, with an additional \$384,989 in recommended supplemental funding, resulting in a revised total recommended amount of \$1,154,964.

The SSP Supplemental Recommendations include a current awarded amount of \$326,171, including match, with an additional \$163,086 in recommended supplemental funding, resulting in a revised total recommended amount of \$489,257.

Funds will be used to support personnel positions funded through the CY2026 funding opportunities. Specifically, it will provide six months of additional funding to:

- SRO positions in 19 primary schools, four combination primary/secondary schools, and 27 secondary schools for a total of 50 positions;
- SSO positions in seven primary schools, one middle school and seven secondary schools, for a total of 15 positions;

- Three division level School Safety Personnel, including one Division Safety Coordinator, one Law Enforcement Liaison Officer, and one Division Threat Assessment Coordinator.

In summary, **DCJS staff request approval to extend a total of 38 current SRO, SSO, and SSP CY2026 grants through June 30, 2027, and to provide supplemental funding totaling \$3,095,787** in special funds and subrecipient provided match, representing an approximate 50% increase over current approved funding. This action will align the cohort with the Fiscal Year grant cycle that begins July 1, 2027.

DCJS staff confirmed that the vote pertained solely to the recommended supplemental funding.

A motion was made by Mr. McGuire, seconded by Chief Christian. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Any recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

VI. Old Business

No Old Business was brought forth at this meeting.

VII. New Business

No New Business was brought forth at this meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

No Public Comment was brought forth at this meeting.

IX. Announcements

Mr. Hopkins announced that next meeting is on November 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Recusals

Mr. Jeffrey Adam Blevins

- N/A

Chief Travis Christian

- Application #577433- Petersburg City Sheriff Jeremy A. Falls

- N/A

Mr. Hopkins

- Application #577446- Richmond City
- Application #577380- Richmond City

Ms. Maria Jankowski

- N/A