



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller
Director

Tracy Louise Winn Banks, Esq.
Chief Deputy Director

Washington Building
1100 Bank Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-4000
www.dcjs.virginia.gov

Criminal Justice Services Board Grants Committee Meeting

May 2, 2023

Members Present

Chief Craig Branch, Chair

* Ebony Clark

Officer Bennie Evans, Jr.

Sheriff Brian Heatt

Maria Jankowski

Edward Macon

Abbey Philips

I. Call to Order

Chief Craig Branch called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM

II. Roll Call

Chief Branch asked Ms. DeAndrea Williams to conduct the Roll Call. Ms. Williams stated there was a quorum with six members present. Ebony Clark was not in attendance.

III. Introductions

Chief Branch opened the floor for any brief remarks. DCJS' Director, Jackson Miller officially welcomed guests and agency dignitaries in addition to thanking staff for quickly moving the ARPA funds.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Chief Branch called for corrections, deletions, and/or additions to the minutes from the December 1, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Edward Macon to approve the minutes and was seconded by Officer Bennie Evans, Jr.

V. Grant Review

a. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Law Enforcement Equipment and Training – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section, Tracy Matthews

Included in the State Budget for Fiscal Year 2023, was an allocation of \$75 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the Department “to make one-time grants to state and local law enforcement agencies located in the Commonwealth, including colleges and universities, and, local and regional jails, for the purpose of training and purchasing equipment and supplies to support law enforcement related activities excluding equipment from which one time equipment grants were appropriated from the General Assembly in item 406 chapter 552 of the 2021 Acts of the Assembly. This item refers to the state funding of \$6.5 million allocated to support Body Worn Cameras and related equipment needs.

The above budget language required that grant funds be included to provide for the support of law enforcement agencies on college and university campuses throughout the Commonwealth. As a result, the Department made funds available for colleges and universities through the ARPA Higher Education Equipment Grant Program.

The ARPA Law Enforcement Grant Program is a formula-based grant opportunity, many factors were taken in account, with the intention of having a fair and equitable disbursement of the funds. These factors included crime rates, population, financial stress, and police officer population, to determine the maximum amount of the award for each locality. The Department, with the support of a qualified contractor, created a funding matrix which distributed the funds according to the factors above, making 245 localities eligible for \$50,961,000 in funding.

Of the 245 eligible localities, 237 submitted applications prior to the original March 24th deadline. Seven (7) agencies are still in the process of finalizing their budgets and equipment categories and will do so by the secondary deadline of May 4th. The budget proposals will be reviewed and awarded in compliance with the established equipment categories in the guidelines. Also included in this total is an award of \$2,414,000 to DCJS’ Active Attack Training Program to purchase equipment and to facilitate training throughout the Commonwealth. This total includes an award of \$135,000 for law enforcement training to the Crater Criminal Justice Training Academy.

This budget funds all the eligible localities included in the matrix, except for those agencies that elected not to apply and accept funding. At this time the only confirmed declination is the Town of Courtland.

DCJS staff request approval to fund a total of 246 grants (which includes a combine application for Giles County and the towns therein) for the ARPA Law Enforcement Equipment Grant Program totaling \$53,500,000. These grants will have a retroactive grant period of July 1, 2022 - back to the beginning of the enabling budget language - through June 30, 2024.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed. The motion was opposed by Abbey Philips. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

b. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Law Enforcement Higher Education Equipment – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section, Tracy Matthews

The ARPA Higher Education Grant Program is a formula-based grant opportunity, that provided a base allocation to each eligible agency, plus added an additional allocation for each sworn law enforcement officer. The Department, with the support of a qualified contractor, created a funding matrix which distributed the funds according to the factors above, making 41 colleges and universities eligible for \$2,733,000 in funding.

Of the 41 eligible colleges and universities, 36 submitted applications prior to the original March 24th deadline. Four (4) agencies are still in the process of finalizing their budgets and equipment categories and will do so by the secondary deadline of May 4th. The budget proposals will be reviewed and awarded in compliance with the established equipment categories in the guidelines.

This budget funds all the eligible colleges and universities included in the matrix, except for those agencies that elected not to apply and accept funding. At this time the only confirmed declination is the University of Virginia.

DCJS staff request approval to fund a total of (40) grants for the ARPA Higher Education Grant Program totaling \$2,553,000. These grants will have a retroactive grant period of July 1, 2022 - back to the beginning of the enabling budget language - through June 30, 2024.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Sheriff Brian Hieatt. The motion passed. The motion was opposed by Abbey Philips. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

c. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Law Enforcement Regional Jails Equipment – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section, Tracy Matthews

The ARPA Regional Jail Equipment Grant Program a formula-based grant opportunity, that provided a base allocation to each eligible agency, plus added an additional allocation for each certified jail officer assigned to the correctional facility. The Department, with the support of a qualified contractor, created a funding matrix which distributed the funds according to the factors above, making 23 regional jails, detention centers, or security centers eligible for \$3,984,500 in funding.

Of the 23 eligible facilities, 22 submitted applications prior to the original deadline. Staff continues to work with one additional agency to submit their completed applications. This budget funds all the eligible agencies included in the matrix.

DCJS staff request approval to fund a total of 23 grant awards for the ARPA Regional Jail Equipment Grant Program totaling \$3,984,500. These grants will have a retroactive grant period of July 1, 2022 - back to the beginning of the enabling budget language - through June 30, 2024.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Sheriff Brian Hieatt, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed. The motion was opposed by Abbey Philips. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

d. Drive to Work (DTW) – Adult Justice Programs Section, Cynthia Nwarache

The purpose of the Drive to Work Program (DTW) is to provide assistance to low income and previously incarcerated individuals to restore their driving privileges so they can drive to work and keep a job. DTW is the only organization which provides legal assistance to help individuals whose licenses are suspended by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to reinstate their driver's license. They also provide educational services to individuals wishing to have their licenses reinstated.

This funding opportunity is a continuation grant awarded to the Drive to Work Program.

DCJS staff request approval for funding one application totaling \$150,000, using \$75,000 of State Funds and \$75,000 of Federal Funds allocated for this purpose.

A motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Maria Jankowski. The motion passed. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

e. Virginia Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund (FVIPF) – Juvenile and Child Welfare Section, Greg Hopkins

DCJS invited applications from nonprofit community-based organizations and received 21 applications totaling \$1,460,594. The request for funds from the applicants exceeded the funds available for this grant program. Sixteen applications are not recommended for funding. DCJS received seven applications from current and recent DCJS grantees and received one ineligible application from a local government agency-

The review team recommended to not fund seven current or recent DCJS grantees. The seven applicants are all relatively new grantees with DCJS with limited performance reported. The review team recommended giving them time to develop a history of performance by executing the existing program before approving funding for program continuation.

As for the eight additional applicants that were not recommended for funding:

- Two applications provided limited information to support the need for the project.

- Two applicants requested substantial funds in indirect cost which was unallowable under this solicitation, leaving very little eligible funds in their request.
- One was not a local community-based organization.
- Three applicants project are all relying on external partnerships with local facilities but failed to provide supporting commitment letters from the facilities.

DCJS staff request approval to fund five projects for the 12-month period 07/01/23-6/30/24, totaling \$199,587, using State General Funds allocated for this purpose.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Abbey Philips. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

f. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) – Adult Justice Program Section, Jennifer MacArthur

The purpose of the RSAT for State Prisoners Program is to break the cycle of drug addiction and violence by reducing the demand for, use, and trafficking of illegal drugs. RSAT's objectives are to 1) enhance the capabilities of states and units of local and tribal governments to provide residential substance abuse treatment for incarcerated individuals and 2) prepare individuals for reintegration into communities and assist individuals and communities through the reentry process by delivering community-based treatment and other broad-based aftercare services.

RSAT funds are administered to the Commonwealth of Virginia from the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. DCJS has been awarded RSAT funding for programming that are currently funded through Federal Grants 2019-J2-BX-0058, 2020-J2-BX-0042, 2021-15PBJA-21-GG-00086-RSAT, and 2022-15PBJA-22-GG-00499. Grantees are required to provide a 25% match in cash or in-kind. Federal funds under this award may not cover more than 75% of the total cost of the project.

RSAT programs are required to provide quarterly and annual reports demonstrating progress toward meeting annual performance measures and outcomes. All RSAT programs are required to complete the federal BJA Performance Management Tool quarterly report and a quarterly work plan for review.

DCJS requests approval to award \$601,809 in federal RSAT funds to six agencies. The total funding for all six agencies is \$802,408, which includes \$200,599 in local match funds. All six agencies are currently receiving RSAT funding and are in compliance with program expectations.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Abbey Philips. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

g. Sexual Assault Services Program – Victim Services Section, Kristina Vadas

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.

This State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 funding is a one-time competitive funding opportunity for a 12-month grant. DCJS received 26 applications with requests totaling \$516,816. The requests for funds from the applicants exceeded the funds available to award, which total \$276,028. Applications were scored separately by two DCJS staff members. Twelve applications are not recommended for funding due to the lack of available funding and how their applications scored.

DCJS staff request approval to fund 14 projects for the 12-month period (7/1/2023–6/30/2024), totaling \$276,028, using federal SASP funds designated for this purpose.

A motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Maria Jankowski. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

h. School Resource Officer (SRO)/ School Security Officer (SSO) – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section, Tracy Matthews

The purpose of the SRO/SSO Incentive Grant Program is to continue funding and establish new funding for School Resource Officer and School Security Officers positions in Virginia public schools. School Resource Officer positions provide law enforcement and security services to schools across the Commonwealth and School Security Officer positions maintain order and discipline, preventing crime, and investigate violations of school board policies. Funding originates from §9.1-110 of the *Code of Virginia*.

For State Fiscal Year 2024, DCJS staff request approval to award \$16,571,698 for SROs and \$4,077,487 for SSOs for a total of \$20,649,185 in state funds. This includes the funding of 154 continuation and 39 new grants, which funds a total of 298 SRO positions and 135 SSO positions in school divisions throughout the Commonwealth.

This budget funds all the continuation grants and 39 out of 41 new applications. One of the applications was ineligible because the organization did not meet the criteria as a public school. The other application is requesting to supplant local funds which is unallowable.

DCJS staff request approval to fund a total of 193 SRO and SSO grants for FY24 (July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024) totaling \$20,649,185 in Special Funds with a local match totaling \$10,821,696.

A motion was made by Officer Bennie Evans, Jr., seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed. The motion was opposed by Abbey Philips. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

i. Victims Services Grant Program – Victim Services Section, Kristina Vadas

The purpose of the Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) is to support the delivery of direct services to victims of crime. The majority of funding for this grant program comes from federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime. These awards include funding for sexual assault and domestic violence core services. In accordance with VOCA guidelines, direct services to victims of crime include efforts that:

1. “respond to the emotional, psychological, or physical needs of crime victims;
2. assist victims to stabilize their lives after victimization;
3. assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; OR
4. restore a measure of security and safety for the victim.”

This is a 12-month continuation for current VSGP subrecipients. DCJS received 96 applications totaling \$25,074,192. As this is a continuation grant, zero applications were denied.

DCJS staff request approval to fund 96 projects for the 12-month period (7/1/2023–6/30/2024), **totaling \$25,074,192**, using VOCA funds (\$22,641,300) and State General Funds (\$2,432,892) allocated for this purpose.

A motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Abbey Philips. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

VI. Old Business

No New Business was brought forth at this meeting.

VII. New Business

In preparation of the CJSB, Maria Jankowski asked for additional information regarding ARPA funding for license plate readers.

VIII. Public Comment

No Public Comment was brought forth at this meeting.

IX. Announcements

Chief Branch announced the future meeting dates: June 1, 2023; September 28, 2023; and November 20, 2023 at 11am at DCJS.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:51am. A motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Abbey Philips. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachment A: Recusals

Chief Craig Branch		
LE ARPA	510447	Caroline
	509047	Culpeper
	508983	Fredericksburg
	510593	Orange
	510346	Spotsylvania
	510641	Stafford
	509505	Town of Culpeper
	510459	Germanna Community College
	510166	Mary Washington College
		Central Virginia Regional Jail
	510448	Rappahannock Regional Jail
SRO	508195	Culpeper
	508986	Fredericksburg
	508985	Fredericksburg
	509262	Spotsylvania
SSO	509218	Spotsylvania
VSGP	508154	Empowerhouse
	508667	Mary Washington Healthcare
	508996	Rapp. Council Against Sexual Assault
	508369	Rappahannock Area CSB
	508812	Services to Abused Families
Officer Bennie Evans, Jr.		
LE ARPA	510513	Alexandria
	509601	Arlington Co. Police Department
	510363	City of Falls Church
	509273	Fairfax
	510901	Fairfax City
	509957	Loudoun
	510198	Manassas
	510464	Manassas Park
	509451	Prince William
		Northern VA Community College
	510147	Prince William
SASP	509608	Alexandria
SRO	509129	City of Falls Church
	508810	Manassas Park

	5094468	Manassas Park
SSO	508636	Loudoun
VSGP	507969	Alexandria
	508255	Fairfax
	508265	Fairfax Co. Domestic & Sexual Violence Srvs.
Sheriff Brian Hiatt		
LE ARPA	509481	Tazewell County
	509485	Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority
SRO	508187	Tazewell County
	508435	Tazewell County
SRO	508457	Tazewell County
	508485	Tazewell County
Abbey Philips		
FVIP	508922	The Uhuru Foundation
VSGP	508857	Legal Aid Justice Center