



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller
Director

Tracy Louise Winn Banks, Esq.
Chief Deputy Director

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Criminal Justice Services Board Grants Committee Meeting

November 20, 2024

Members Present

Chief Craig Branch, Chair
Sheriff Brian Hiatt
Maria Jankowski
Edward Macon

Members Absent

Officer Bennie Evans, Jr.
Ebony Clark

I. Call to Order

Chief Craig Branch called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Chief Branch asked DeAndrea Williams to conduct the Roll Call. DeAndrea stated there was a quorum with four members present. Officer Bennie Evans, Jr. and Ebony Clark were not available to attend.

III. Introductions

No remarks were shared from the floor.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Chief Branch called for corrections, deletions, and/or additions to the minutes from the September 28, 2023, meeting. Correction noted for minutes to reflect Kristi Wright as "Proxy" for Karl Hade. A motion was made by Maria Jankowski to approve the minutes and was seconded by Sheriff Brian Hiatt.

V. Grant Review

- a. Hate Crimes Grant Program (HCGP) – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section, Tracy Matthews**

The Combatting Hate Crimes Grant Program makes \$1.5 million available for competitive grants to localities to combat hate crimes, including but not limited to target hardening activities, contractual security services, critical technology infrastructure, cybersecurity resilience activities, monitoring, inspection and screening systems; security-related training for employed or volunteer security staff; and terrorism awareness training for employees. The funds are distributed to localities that have established a partnership program with institutions or nonprofit organizations that have been targets of or are at risk of being targeted for hate crimes.

There were two applications received through this funding opportunity. DCJS recommended funding one of the applications in the amount of \$77,520 to Dickenson County. The grant period for this award would be from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. DCJS did not recommend funding the application submitted by the Town of Haysi. Their application, in the amount of \$44,575, was for the installation of surveillance equipment. This was not specifically associated with an at-risk institution or non-profit organization.

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

b. Juvenile Justice Delinquency Program (JJDP) – Juvenile and Child Welfare Section, Greg Hopkins

The purpose of the Virginia Youth Violence Prevention and Substance Use Grant is to provide federal funds through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act Title II Formula Grants Program to local units of government, state agencies, and juvenile detention centers. The goal of this funding initiative is to provide applicants with an opportunity to request funds to implement programs designed to build or support safe communities, including but not limited to projects designed to address youth violence, and the Fentanyl crisis.

DCJS estimated that approximately \$1,000,000 would be available through this solicitation. DCJS received 16 applications totaling \$ 4,569,811.12. On November 9, 2023, DCJS staff presented the grant summaries to the Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and Prevention (ACJJP). The ACJJP, after considerable discussion and review, recommended approval of 10 grants totaling \$1,517,096.

Because there were insufficient funds available for the requests, cuts were required. Six requests for funding were not recommended for funding approved. One applicant was ineligible. Three applicants requested continuation funds for projects funded from other DCJS funding initiatives. One application had insufficient information for approval, and one was requesting funding for a program similar to a project previously funded.

The ACJJP recommended funding 10 requests for a total of \$1,517,096 for the period January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025.

No action was required by the Grants Committee.

c. Firearm Violence Intervention Program (FVIP) – Juvenile and Child Welfare Section, Greg Hopkins

DCJS issued grant guidelines inviting applications for the 2024 Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program to support evidence-informed strategic planning and assessment. Localities were invited to apply under two categories:

Category I supports local efforts to develop, implement, expand and/or enhance violent crime funding and strategic planning coordination. Under this category, funding will support hiring a local coordinator, criminal justice planner or create a new local position dedicated to local violent crime funding and coordination.

Category II supports local assessment. Applicants were encouraged to partner with local institutions of higher learning or an established organization to conduct local violent crime assessments.

DCJS received nine applications totaling \$1,970,233. After reviewing the grants, DCJS recommended approval of six grants totaling \$1,025,594. Of the three applications not recommended for funding, two were submitted to fund personnel inconsistent with the solicitation requirements, and one was submitted by a nonprofit organization, an ineligible applicant.

DCJS staff recommended approval to fund six projects for the 24-month period 1/1/24-12/30/25, totaling \$1,025,594, using State General Funds allocated for this purpose.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Ed Macon, seconded by Sheriff Brian Hieatt. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

d. Operation Ceasefire Grant Program (OCGP) – Juvenile and Child Welfare Section, Greg Hopkins

Since State Fiscal Year 2022, The Operation Ceasefire Grant Fund (OCGF) has been allocated to DCJS to support services for the purposes of implementing violent crime reduction strategies, law-enforcement training, prosecutorial resources, and equipment for law enforcement agencies. OCGF funding currently supports the Counties of Lancaster, Lee, and the City of Chesapeake Commonwealth Attorney's Offices.

Three grantees inadvertently submitted a budget for just one year instead of the two years of grant funds that were offered under the 2023 funding opportunity. DCJS requests approval to increase their awards to include the second year of funding, which will extend the three current grant awards through December 31, 2024. This will enable Lancaster, Lee County, and the City of Chesapeake Commonwealth Attorney's Offices

to continue their ongoing efforts to reduce violent crime by way of investigations, prosecution, and enforcement.

DCJS staff requested approval to increase the grant awards for a total additional amount of \$185,918 to cover the second year of the grant.

The Grants Committee requested confirmation of grant period. A motion was made by Ed Macon, seconded by Brian Heatt. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

e. Virginia STOP Violence Against Women Act (VSTOP) – Victim Services Section, Kristina Vadas

The VSTOP Grant Program is supported by federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds through the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The goals of the VSTOP program are to promote a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women; to encourage the development and strengthening of effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to address violent crimes against women; and the development and strengthening of victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women.

For the CY 2024-2025 funding opportunity, guidelines were drafted to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of long-standing VSTOP projects as well as offer a competitive application process to new applicants. On October 23, 2023, this funding opportunity was re-opened to allow additional current CY 2023 recipients to apply. DCJS received an additional nine (9) applications under the re-opened funding opportunity. One continuation applicant formally indicated their intent not to apply (Lancaster County Sheriff's Office). Applications were submitted via the DCJS On-Line Grants Management System (OGMS) and received a comprehensive review based on elements indicated within the grant guidelines.

Additionally, DCJS staff requested to increase the award previously approved for the Supreme Court of Virginia to ensure compliance with the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2013, which indicates that 5% of STOP money shall go to courts. To meet the 5% requirement, it is requested that the total award to the Supreme Court of Virginia be increased from to \$413,832 to \$480,499.

Due to the availability of funding, no applications were denied for funding.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund nine additional projects and increase the award amount of one project for the 24-month period (1/1/2024-12/31/2025), totaling \$1,397,124, using federal STOP funds and program-provided matching funds allocated for this purpose. The total award is comprised of \$973,228 in federal STOP funds and \$423,896 of local matching funds.

A motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Sheriff Brian Hieatt. The motion passed unanimously. Ed Macon recused himself from the increased award to the Supreme Court of Virginia. 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

Chief Branch announced the future meeting dates for 2024.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:51a.m. A motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Ed Macon. The motion passed unanimously.

Recusals

(If there are any additional Recusals, please email them to DeAndrea Williams at DeAndrea.Williams@dcjs.virginia.gov)

Ed Macon

- VSTOP – Increase to the Supreme Court of Virginia