STATE OF LOUISIANA

FY 2025 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

The Governor of the State of Louisiana is the chief executive officer of the state and designated the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) as the State Administrative Agency (SAA) for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program., and various other federal grant programs. LCLE provides a forum for all elements of the criminal justice system to come together in common cause and to develop multi-agency programs which serve the needs of a wide range of criminal justice organizations, support proven, critical, or innovative operational initiatives

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant provides resources to help Louisiana agencies fight the drug epidemic and violent crime. In 2021 there were 15,598 violent crimes in the state. There was a total of 393 murders in Louisiana in 2021, the highest murder rate of any state. Louisiana's violent crime rate was also higher than average. As of 2021, there were a total of 663 violent crimes reported for 100,000 people, the fifth highest rate of any state in the country. The nationwide violent crime rate was 399 per 100,000 people. The violent crime rate climbed by 14.3% in Louisiana in 2021, nearly three times the national increase of 5%.

Along with challenges, there has been progress. Louisiana saw a decline in crime during 2022.

(Source FBI)

2022	Violent Crime	Murder
Louisiana	-5.2%	-17.8%
National Average	-1.6%	-6.5%

The State of Louisiana would suffer a great loss without JAG funding to enhance the collaborative efforts among all levels of government and all aspects of the criminal justice system throughout the State.

Louisiana has identified 3 State Priority Areas. The following priorities will be used to address the areas of greatest need in an effort to enhance evidence based anti-crime and drug control services in the State of Louisiana:

PRIORITY ONE The State's first priority is to establish and/or continue programs to improve drug control, the enforcement of laws against violent and non-violent crime, and the related prosecution of offenders in local jurisdictions across Louisiana.

PRIORITY TWO Louisiana's second priority addresses recidivism by strengthening those areas of the criminal justice system that focus on prevention of crime and on drug abuse intervention, treatment and rehabilitation.

PRIORITY THREE The State's third priority responds to the need for specialized law enforcement and prosecution training. This provides for law enforcement, prosecution and judicial systems improvement, and for the enhancement of forensics laboratories.

TIMELINE:

Receipt of Federal Award	TBD
Districts are Notified of Allocation Amounts	May – August 2026 - Pending Special Condition Holds
Application for JAG Funds Submitted Quarterly by Units of State and Local Government Agencies	Quarterly – May 2026 – March-2028
DCVCPB and Commission Review of All Applications. Board Meeting with Applicants Commission makes final funding decision.	Quarterly – September 2025 - June 2027

PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

Louisiana has a program management process that uses District Planning Councils to gather information and determine specific needs in various regions of the State. The parish councils are comprised of local law enforcement, criminal justice, juvenile justice, district attorneys' offices, victim service providers, and parish government. Input from each district's Planning Meetings, as well as information collected by the LCLE staff and policy board, are used to assess the needs and resources available to meet those needs. The State uses this data to determine which programs would be most effective in promoting law enforcement, prosecution and adjudication efforts necessary to provide for a safe and drug-free society. This information also helps to identify the violent crime and other criminal justice issues that most seriously affect a community.

The Drug Control and Violent Crime Policy (DCVCP) Board (informally termed the Drug Policy Board) is an advisory board that provides oversight of this program and is composed of state and local criminal justice experts. This Drug Policy Board's composition is as follows: three (3) Sheriffs, one each from the eastern, the western, and middle areas of the State; three (3) District Attorneys, from the eastern, the western, or the middle areas of the State; three (3) Chiefs of Police, one each from the eastern, the western, and the middle areas of the State; and five (5) at-large members who are private citizens and/or former members of the State Judiciary and who are active in community drug control and prevention. The other four Board members are the Superintendent of the Department of Public Safety, the Executive Director of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association, the Executive Director of the Louisiana District Attorney's Association, and one constable or marshal selected from any area of the State. The Board's mission is to provide policy direction to all law enforcement agencies relative to Louisiana's drug control and crime problems. The Board helps to guide statewide drug control and crime strategy, and to make recommendations to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement for implementation.

The members' secondary task is to review (and recommend for approval by the Commission) those grant applications that fall under the priorities and JAG purpose areas. The Board meets quarterly to review and recommend approval to the Commission of applications that are submitted using LCLE/s Egrants online grants management system.

LCLE subawards Byrne JAG funds to units of local government and state agencies to hire additional personnel and/or purchase equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice, including for any one or more of the JAG program areas

CAPABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES - STATE AGENCIES

The Mission of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) is to improve the operations of the criminal justice and juvenile justice system and promote public safety by providing progressive leadership and coordination within the criminal justice community. LCLE collaborates with the following stakeholders:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS – Within this Department, the Louisiana State Police participates with an Integrated Criminal Apprehension Program, whose purpose is to provide aggressive detection and apprehension of violent criminals involved in child abductions and pornography, illicit drugs, weapons and currency violations, and other serious felonies.

DIVISION OF ADULT PROBATION AND PAROLE - The Division of Adult Probation and Parole functions as a community services and supervision division and consists of twenty district offices strategically located throughout the State and a Headquarters Office in Baton Rouge.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - The Office of the Attorney General (AG) in Louisiana continues to operate a statewide violent crime and drug offender prosecution program. The Cyber Crime Unit at the Louisiana Department of Justice has successfully implemented a program charged with the investigation and prosecution of those criminals who use technology to perpetrate the exploitation of and sexually abuse children. The forensics examination of digital media seized to produce evidence to be used in the courts to prosecute those predators charged

with these crimes and the dedicated forensics acts as a repository for evidence that cannot be destroyed until after all appeals for those convicted have expired. Coordinated funds have helped the Cyber Crime Unit maintain state-of-the art investigative and forensic tools.

DHH - HEALTH STANDARDS SECTION - The Controlled Dangerous Substance program is one of approximately 40 programs overseen by the Health Standards Section of the Department of Health and Hospitals. The Health Standards Section licenses physicians, dentists, veterinarians, or any professional who stores, dispenses or prescribes narcotics in the State; the function of this Section is regulatory in nature.

FEDERAL AGENCIES – In addition to the Bureau of Justice Assistance within the U.S. Justice Department, many other Federal agencies are involved in Louisiana's anti-drug efforts through interdiction and investigative efforts. These agencies work with and assist state and local law enforcement organizations in combating the drug problem.

THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) - The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is the lead agency responsible for the development of overall Federal drug enforcement strategy, planning, programs and evaluation. The DEA coordinates and cooperates with other Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies on mutual drug enforcement efforts. In addition, the DEA collects, analyzes and disseminates strategic and operational drug intelligence information. To reduce the demand for (and the trafficking of) illicit drugs, the DEA uses non-enforcement methods, such as training and demand reduction programs. The DEA's New Orleans Field Division encompasses the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Three of these states, including Louisiana, border the northern Gulf of Mexico and afford considerable maritime access to the interior portion of the region.

U.S. CUSTOMS - The U.S. Customs Service has jurisdictional responsibility for 400 separate Federal Statues and Acts and functions as the principal protector of our Nation's borders. Put simply, any person or thing that comes into or leaves the United States, its territories or possessions does so under Customs purview and supervision. The main thrust of the New Orleans office is focused toward the interdiction of contraband and narcotics and the dismantling

of the attendant organizations involved. Additional investigations involve illegal money movement into or out of the United States, money laundering, illegal export of high technology items, munitions, arms and or strategic materials, fraudulent importation of merchandise or commodities; exportation of stolen property, especially vehicles and heavy equipment, and the importation of and trafficking in child pornography. There are also Customs sub-offices in Louisiana located in Houma, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles and Shreveport. The New Orleans office also oversees additional offices in Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama and Tennessee.

THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) - As reported by their New Orleans Office, the FBI has investigative responsibility for over 270 Federal crimes. Offices are located in seven cities across Louisiana. In 1986, the FBI created an Anti-Drug Program as one of its top priorities in its Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Program (OCDETF). The New Orleans Field Office and Louisiana's Residence Agencies priorities include public corruption, organized crime, drug trafficking and violent crime. There is also a community outreach program that supports the Bureau's investigative mission to address multiple interrelated societal issues – including crime, drugs gangs' terrorism and violence.

U.S. COAST GUARD - The U.S. Coast Guard has drug interdiction responsibility of seaborne drug trafficking near shore and conducts patrol along the U.S. Coastline, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. The Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans covers all or parts of 26 states, including the Gulf of Mexico coastline from Floridia to Mexico, the adjacent offshore waters and outer continental shelf, as well as the inland waterways of the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and Tennessee River system. In addition, there are group offices (located in Alabama Mississippi, and Texas) that directly manage law enforcement operations conducted by the stations and patrol boats strategically located along the Gulf coast. The Coast Guard, under the Department of Transportation, performs a variety of functions besides drug interdiction that include: conducting search and rescue for people in distress; enforcing U.S. laws at sea; protecting the marine environment form pollution; monitoring marine operations in U.S. ports, harbors and waterways; promoting safety aboard commercial vessels; maintaining navigational aids to guide mariners; defending U.S. security from foreign threats as the nation's fifth armed force; and breaking ice to open shipping lanes.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY & U.S. BORDER PATROL - The DHS is charged with enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States. In the course of fulfilling this mission, the Border Patrol often encounters narcotics problems. In cases such as these, the Border Patrol has the authority through the DEA to make arrests and refer cases to the DEA for further investigation and disposition. Three Border Patrol Stations are located in Louisiana - New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Lake Charles. Because both legal and illegal aliens are often involved in narcotics, the Border Patrol is available to work with Federal, state and local agencies in addressing special operations or investigations.

U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE - The U.S. Marshals Service is the first Federal law enforcement agency to receive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The U.S. Marshals Service's Special Operations Group (SOG) is based at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, Louisiana. The main functions of the Marshals Service include the protection of courts and Federal witnesses, apprehending Federal fugitives, transporting and maintaining custody of Federal prisoners, and seizing assets. The Marshals Service's primary role in anti-drug abuse efforts is the apprehension of the DEA fugitives and the seizing, managing, and disposing of forfeited properties and assets from major drug cases.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) - CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION - The Criminal Investigation Division (CID) of the IRS plays a role in dealing with the narcotics problem in Louisiana in three ways. First, the Division reports that it works with law enforcement agencies and confidential sources to develop information on individuals earning income from narcotics trafficking. When such information warrants an investigation, it will be carried out to ensure that taxes are assessed and collected on this activity. Secondly, CID participates with the U.S. Attorney's Offices in Louisiana in the President's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). Each participating agency pursues violations enforced by their agency. CID develops evidence of criminal violations of tax laws, and assists in developing evidence for use in conspiracy and RICO prosecutions. Finally, CID plays a role in the Federal Government's continuing effort to prosecute individuals for laundering proceeds of illicit activity.

ARMY & AIR NATIONAL GUARD - The National Guard in Louisiana receives funds to assist in halting the flow of drugs entering the country. National Guardsmen do not serve as law enforcement officers, but rather provide valuable services such as surveillance, intelligence analysis, linguistic assistance, cargo and mail inspection, and case support. Louisiana sheriffs and police chiefs, the Louisiana State Police, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Marshals, and diverse drug task forces throughout the State feel the impact of the Guard's worthwhile assistance.

CAPABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES – LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In Louisiana, there are nine (9) districts: eight regional law enforcement planning districts and one state-level planning district (i.e., the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement). These eight regional districts have planning councils comprised of sheriffs, chiefs of police, judges, district attorneys, crime lab directors and other criminal justice stakeholders. Each council conducts open meetings to resolve issues relative to the prioritizing and funding of the law enforcement and anti-drug programs within its region. Once the planning councils have made their recommendations, the planning district staff prepares the proposed allocations and then forwards their plans to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement staff for review and submission to the Drug Policy Board. This advisory board oversees the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program for the State. In this capacity, the Board reviews all subgrant proposals that have been submitted, along with staff recommendations, and then prepares its recommendations and submits them to the full Commission for final approval. The Governor appoints the members of the Drug Policy Board by executive order. The 59 members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor, as well as several ex-officio members in accordance with R. S. 15:1202; they are confirmed by the Louisiana Senate.

This process, begins with specific allocations being provided by the Commission on Law Enforcement. The submission of these applications to the Commission staff, and the ensuing staff review, allows a thorough analysis before Subgrants are awarded to the local law enforcement Agencies or state-level organizations, following Board and Commission meetings.

PLAN FOR COLLECTING THE DATA REQUIRED FOR THIS SOLICITATION'S PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) includes in the award packet of each approved subgrant project a special condition that requires project performance data be entered into the Bureau of Justice Assistance (**BJA),** Performance Metrics Tool (**PMT)** reporting system. As required by BJA, subgrantees are required to enter mandatory information on their project's progress quarterly during the project period. Subgrantees also complete an LCLE Egrants JAG Quarterly Program Report that captures accomplishments and any barriers they may have encountered.

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement is responsible for the DCRA data collection within the state of Louisiana. The LCLE works with justice system stakeholders through effective informal agreements that provide information regarding death-in-custody cases. These stakeholders include but are not limited to the police departments, sheriff offices, juvenile facilities and the Louisiana Department of Corrections. The LCLE also retrieves information from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)-Louisiana Highway Safety Commission police pursuit fatality crash report regarding deaths resulting from a traffic collision during a pursuit with law enforcement. The DCRA information collected is entered into a secure database https://lclelsac.com/deathincustody/. Using the information from the Access database, the LCLE uploads the appropriate information to the BJA PMT website as required.