

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

FY 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

BRISTOL COUNTY MASSACHUSETTS DISPARATE JURISDICTIONS

Bristol County, Massachusetts is comprised of 4 cities and 16 towns with a population of over 524,000 people living within its boundaries. The needs of each city and town are varied. For example New Bedford and Fall River, are former industrial cities with serious economic issues. Fall River and New Bedford continue to experience gang and drug problems along with an increase in illegal immigrant populations. The City of Taunton has many of the same problems emerging, as well as a heroin overdose epidemic at this time. The population is only about half of either New Bedford or Fall River. The City of Attleboro and many of the surrounding towns have seen a rise in population as a result of the widening of bedroom communities around Boston. The Cities and Towns certified as disparate share some similarities but they are very different in population size and demographics. While each of these communities does have Mutual Aids compacts in place the projects propose here will not have any cross-jurisdictional purposes. We will be utilizing the recommended individual allocations for Bristol County as listed on the AGF, and they are as follows:

Attleboro - \$14,043

Fall River - \$94,386

New Bedford - \$99,178

Taunton - \$26,309

One thing that each community does have in common is the reduction in local aid to the state and the economic realities of the state and the country. Byrne JAG funding will assist the communities in dealing with these harsh economic times by helping to stabilize budgets by providing funds to pay for the overtime needed to conduct investigations, targeted patrols, and purchase much needed equipment and upgrade existing technology and police supplies. The

jurisdictions identified as disparate in Bristol County, Massachusetts have entered into an agreement to file an application in response to the 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Local Solicitation. The Police Chiefs and Mayor's of each jurisdiction have agreed to use funding to address crime through the provision of services directly to communities and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement and the criminal justice systems.

Recognizing that this funding is to help to stabilize local government budgets, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services, the jurisdictions have gone back to their governing bodies (city, town, and county) and proposed budgets that will meet the following goals:

Goals: The main goals under this proposal are:

1. To provide comprehensive public safety to the disparate communities in Bristol County.
2. To reduce crime and violence in each jurisdiction
3. to employ data driven collaborative, community oriented approaches to crime prevention, intervention and enforcement
4. To institutionalize the principles of problem solving and community oriented policing strategies.

Bristol County's disparate jurisdictions will achieve these goals through the following objectives: The intention of this grant application is to address concerns about drug and/or gang related criminal activity on a regional basis. The waterfront areas of the South Coast of Massachusetts present an attractive and easily accessible target for drug smugglers. Waterfront communities such New Bedford, Fall River and Dartmouth tend to have a concentrated drug activity, which invariably leads to other related crimes. Also, where there are drug smugglers, there are usually a high number of drug users. In the Bristol County communities of New Bedford, Fall River, Attleboro and Taunton, the admission rate to treatment facilities is much

higher than the state average. In the Bristol County House of Correction, approximately 90 percent of the inmates are admitted addicts, and 70 percent are sentenced for drug crimes. It is a well-established fact drug abuse is not a victimless crime. Addicts will engage in a variety of related crime such as breaking and entering, prostitution, and larceny to support their habits. Byrne funding will allow local police to target all of these crimes in the past and will continue to target the perpetrators of these and other crimes. At the Bristol County correctional facilities approximately 152 inmates, who are currently incarcerated, are identified as gang members. Another 200 are suspected or known associates. Taunton police officers also have documented a disturbing trend in gang activity in their city.

The gang problems spill over to the suburbs. The gangs are moving huge amounts of drugs in the area. A lot of the dealers in our member agencies are getting their drugs from the different gangs. As enforcement and suppression efforts in cities like New Bedford and Fall River are increased, gang members and drug dealers are moving out of the cities where they are known and infiltrating the smaller communities surrounding these cities.

Each of the jurisdictions has identified gang activity and related crime as a problem in their community. The departments will obligate funding from the 2014 Byrne grant to pay for overtime costs incurred from a variety of law enforcement directed initiatives throughout the city, particularly in high risk areas, to address gang, drug and gun related violence. Depending upon the needs of the police department throughout the life of the grant, other initiatives may be funded to address those needs as they arise. For example, should there be a spike in the number of robberies and home invasions overtime may be authorized to address the issue.

All funding will be used by local jurisdiction within the JAG purpose areas. The breakdown of the allocations is detailed in the Budget and Budget Summary section. All spending will be tracked by the City of New Bedford and the New Bedford Police Department and annual audits will be conducted by an independent auditor. The team managing and tracking

these funds are well versed in federal procedures and have experience managing millions of dollars in federal, state, and local grants and service contracts.

Abstract and Project Identifiers

The jurisdictions identified as disparate in Bristol County, Massachusetts have entered into an agreement to file a joint application (New Bedford Police Department designated as the grant applicant and Administrator) in response to the 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Local Solicitation. The Police Chiefs of each jurisdiction (New Bedford, Fall River, Taunton and Attleboro) have agreed to use funding for the following goals: Provide comprehensive public safety to the disparate communities in Bristol County; Reduce crime and violence in each jurisdiction; Employ data driven collaborative, community oriented approaches to crime prevention, intervention and enforcement; Institutionalize the principles of problem solving and community oriented policing strategies.

Strategies include, but are not limited to, strategic overtime enforcement to address youth and gang violence, drug dealing, sex offender compliance and violent crime. Each jurisdiction will address the more prevalent issue for their respective communities. Equipment and supplies will be purchased to assist in crime fighting efforts such as computers, technology upgrades, software and hardware to increase performance and other items on an as needed basis. Conferences and trainings will be attended based upon the need and relevance to each community's goals and strategies.

The cities of New Bedford, Fall River, Taunton and Attleboro have identified the following JAG Project Identifiers: Career Criminals, Community Based Programs, Community Policing, Computer software/hardware, Conferences and Training, Crime Prevention, Drug Market Intervention, Equipment-General, Gangs, Homicide, Intervention Programs, Overtime, Reentry, Sexual Offender, T and TA, Violence – Violent Crime and Violence-Violent Crime Offenders.

New Bedford Police Department
FFY 2014 Byrne JAG Narrative and Budget
Eligible Amount \$99,178

The New Bedford Police Department will utilize \$50,000 of the allocation to pay for overtime incurred from a variety of prevention and enforcement efforts throughout the community. These efforts are designed to combat emerging crime patterns and to detect problem areas in the city. Specific Units will utilize these funds to increase and enhance their efforts, especially the Family and Juvenile Unit in warrant apprehension and sex offender checks. Overtime rates of pay will range from \$50/hour to \$57/hr, thus providing a minimum of 1000 hours of overtime enforcement hours.

\$ 49,178 of the allocation will be used to upgrade and enhance crime fighting technology and equipment. Items such as desktop and laptop computers, hand held radios, spare and replacement batteries for hand held radios, software and hardware for computers, and other law enforcement equipment and supply needs that may come up throughout the grant period.

The allocation breaks down as follows, but is not limited to these items as the needs may change over the course of the grant period, however, we will request permission before such purchases:

15 Hand Held Radios @ \$1,700 per radio = \$25,500
15 tasers @ \$1,500 per taser = \$22,500
1 laptop @ \$1,178

Fall River Police Department
FFY2014 Byrne JAG Narrative and Budget
\$94,386

The Fall River Police Department is seeking approval for the purchase of a command center vehicle for a cost of \$100,000. \$91,528 of our FFY13 funds would be used for the purchase, and \$8,472 of our FFY14 award would be used to make the \$100,000. Additional FFY14 funds will be used to retrofit the command center and are listed below. Other purchases beyond the command center are listed below as well.

The items listed below that will be used for special units and operations, as well as everyday police duties for patrol, detectives, traffic, tactical, special operations and command staff:

- \$8,472.00 to complete the command center purchase.
- \$24,397.00 to retro fit the command center with cameras, computers and communication devices.
- \$23,257.00 for 1 Ford Taurus Police Cruiser.
- \$21,033.00 for 1st Look robotic system with camera mount.
- \$2,995.00 for a 2600 Tactical Pole Camera.
- \$369.00 for High Intensity IR/Color camera head.
- \$369.00 for 36" under door viewing device.
- \$89.00 for NiMH rechargeable battery.
- \$13,494.00 for Rescue Phone Sentinel Video System

The Attleboro Police Department will utilize our allocation (\$14,043) of the FFY14 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant to purchase digital cameras for the patrol force. A quote for 40 cameras is attached to this message.

The cameras (Nikon 1820826467 AW120 waterproof with soft case and sd card) are valued at \$349.95 per unit. We will purchase 40 units for a total expense of \$13,998.00. The remaining \$45 will also be used on the shipping charges for the purchases and local funds will cover any remaining shipping charges.

These cameras will remain property of the Attleboro Police Department and will be issued to officers in the patrol division much like their portable radio. Officer will utilize these cameras to record images at crime scenes and motor vehicle crashes. The images will then be attached to reports and available for later use during follow-up investigation or prosecution. Ready access to photography resources promotes operational efficiency and investigative thoroughness. Efficiency and thoroughness contributes to effective public safety/law enforcement service to the community.

The Taunton Police Department will utilize our allocation (\$26,309) of the FFY14 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant to purchase a microwave link radio system. The total cost of the 4.9GHz microwave system is \$73,654.24, of which Taunton will be responsible for the remaining \$47,345.24.

Moving our radio system to microwave links will provide us with a more robust and reliable radio communication system. Currently, our radio circuit is connected via Verizon paper wrapped copper lines. Verizon has to be called for service after each rain and other major storm to repair a downed or noisy line. Moving to microwave links will eliminate this need, as well as monthly reoccurring Verizon bills. Microwave will also allow us to add other data streams such as video and/or data between radio circuit sites.