

FFY 2025 Byrne JAG State Allocation - Maryland

Description of the Problem

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (Office), as Maryland's State Administering Agency (SAA) for the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) Program, is responsible for identifying statewide public safety needs and strategically allocating resources to address gaps across the criminal justice system. Maryland continues to experience complex and evolving public safety challenges that require coordinated, data-driven responses across law enforcement, courts, corrections, behavioral health systems, and partner organizations.

In preparation for this application, the Office conducted a comprehensive assessment of statewide needs, incorporating Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) priorities and Areas of Emphasis, Maryland-specific crime data, stakeholder engagement, and ongoing programmatic outcomes. Maryland's public safety strategy is supported by a combination of federal and State-funded initiatives that address key areas such as violent crime reduction, behavioral health response, violence intervention, and justice system reform. Programs such as the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIPP), Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN), and Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) investments collectively strengthen Maryland's public safety infrastructure by supporting enforcement, prevention, behavioral health, and reentry efforts.^{1,2,3}

While these investments have significantly enhanced statewide capacity, they do not fully address all needs identified across jurisdictions. BJAG funding plays a critical role in filling these gaps by supporting flexible, data-driven, and locally responsive strategies that complement

¹ <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/vipp/>

² <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/mcin/>

³ <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/councils-commissions-and-workgroups/justice-reinvestment/>

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existing State efforts, particularly where funding remains limited, emerging needs exist, or pilot and innovative approaches are required.

Maryland's geographic and demographic composition contributes to varied public safety needs across jurisdictions. The State includes 23 counties and Baltimore City, with a population exceeding six million residents and is among the most demographically varied on the East Coast. According to the United States Census Bureau, the population consists of 56.7% White, 31.6% Black or African American, 7.3% Asian, and 4.4% identifying as another race. Individuals of Hispanic or Latino origin represent approximately 13.3% of the population, which is comparable to the national average.^{4,5}

Maryland is geographically bisected by the 200-mile-long Chesapeake Bay, with nine jurisdictions located on the Eastern Shore and the remaining jurisdictions on the Western Shore. The Eastern Shore includes Ocean City, one of the State's largest tourism destinations, where the population of 7,000 residents expands to over 320,000 vacationers during summer months, placing additional demand on public safety resources.^{6,7,8} The Western Shore includes a mix of urban, suburban, and rural areas, including the State capital of Annapolis and Baltimore City, the largest jurisdiction. Baltimore City, also known as Charm City, houses the Inner Harbor which is famous for its National Aquarium. Charm City is also home to national sports venues, such as Oriole Park at Camden Yards and the M&T Bank Stadium.

Baltimore City continues to experience disproportionately high levels of violent crime relative to other jurisdictions; however, recent data reflects significant progress. In 2025,

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *QuickFacts: Maryland*. Retrieved April 2, 2026, from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/MD/RHI825224#RHI825224>

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *QuickFacts: United States*. Retrieved April 2, 2026 from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/RHI725224>

⁶ <https://www.maryland.com/regions/marylands-eastern-shore/>

⁷ <https://www.ococean.com/media/>

⁸ <https://planning.maryland.gov/Documents/OurWork/PBP/compplans/17-CMP-OceanCity.pdf>

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Baltimore City recorded 133 homicides, the lowest number in 50 years, representing a reduction of over 30% from 2024 and a substantial decline from prior peak years. Non-fatal shootings also decreased notably during this period.⁹ These trends suggest that coordinated enforcement, prevention, and intervention strategies are contributing to meaningful improvements in public safety outcomes, while also reinforcing the importance of sustaining and scaling these efforts. At the same time, suburban and rural areas face distinct challenges related to service access, behavioral health infrastructure, and resource capacity.

This geographic and jurisdictional diversity contributes to varying public safety needs across the State. While recent trends indicate stabilization and modest declines in some crime categories, violent crime, particularly firearm-related violence, remains a significant and persistent concern.

According to Maryland State Police data, total crime decreased by 0.9% between 2023 and 2024, and violent crime decreased by 2.5% during that same period. Notably, homicides declined by 11.8%, reflecting meaningful progress in targeted enforcement and prevention efforts. Robbery and aggravated assault decreased by 4.5% and 1.8%, respectively. However, despite these improvements, the statewide violent crime rate remains elevated at approximately 440.7 per 100,000 residents in 2024, higher than rates observed in several prior years.¹⁰ National comparisons indicate that Maryland ranks among the higher states for violent crime, placing 9th overall, and reports the highest robbery rate in the country, at approximately 123.7 per 100,000 residents.¹¹ These trends underscore the continued need for targeted, data-informed strategies focused on the individuals, locations, and patterns driving serious crime.

⁹ [Mayor Brandon M. Scott Releases Homicide and Non-Fatal Shooting Numbers for Beginning of 2026 | Baltimore City](#)

¹⁰ [CRIME IN MARYLAND](#)

¹¹ Crime rates are based on 2024 Maryland Uniform Crime reporting data, which incorporates both summary and incident-based reporting during the ongoing transition to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

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Property crime trends also reflect mixed progress. While overall property crime declined slightly by 0.5% from 2023 to 2024, certain offenses such as larceny increased by 4.8%, reflecting a consistent upward trajectory since 2021. Motor vehicle theft, which saw sharp increases in prior years, decreased by 18.7% from 2023 to 2024, suggesting that recent targeted enforcement and prevention efforts may be yielding positive results.¹² However, rates remain elevated compared to pre-2020 levels, indicating an ongoing need for sustained intervention. See *Table 1* for 2020-2024 Maryland Uniform Crime Report crime rate comparisons. See *Table 2* for overall crime trends.

Table 1. Source: Maryland State Police.

	Crime Rates per 100,000 Population					Rate Change
Crime Rate	2,038.4	1,880.1	2,069.2	2,413.7	2,386.6	-27.1
Violent Crime Rate	412.2	424.0	430.9	453.4	440.7	-12.7
Murder Rate	9.5	10.5	9.7	8.4	7.4	-1.0
Rape Rate	31.2	37.6	33.3	33.6	34.0	0.4
Robbery Rate	119.6	110.1	115.5	129.9	123.7	-6.2
Agg Assault Rate	252.0	265.8	272.4	281.4	275.6	-5.9
Property Crime Rate	1,626.1	1,456.1	1,638.3	1,960.3	1,945.9	-14.4
Breaking or Entering Rate	246.5	177.0	182.3	179.9	174.5	-5.3
Larceny Rate	1,203.2	1,098.3	1,261.0	1,396.9	1,460.4	63.5
MV Theft Rate	176.4	180.8	195.0	383.5	310.9	-72.6
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	

¹² [CRIME IN MARYLAND](#)

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Table 2. Source: Maryland State Police.

Statewide 5 Year Crime Trends						
Crime Trends						% Change
Total Crime Index	123,439 115,913 127,557 150,766 149,477					-0.9%
Violent Crime	24,964 26,141 26,564 28,321 27,602					-2.5%
Murder	573 649 601 525 463					-11.8%
Rape	1,891 2,318 2,055 2,100 2,130					1.4%
Robbery	7,240 6,786 7,118 8,116 7,748					-4.5%
Aggravated Assault	15,260 16,388 16,790 17,580 17,261					-1.8%
Property Crime	98,475 89,772 100,993 122,445 121,875					-0.5%
Breaking or Entering	14,927 10,914 11,237 11,236 10,932					-2.7%
Larceny	72,865 67,713 77,737 87,254 91,469					4.8%
MV Theft	10,683 11,145 12,019 23,955 19,474					-18.7%
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	

Firearm-related incidents continue to drive a disproportionate share of violent crime in Maryland. According to the CDC’s Wide-ranging ONline Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER) database, there were 5,448 firearm-related deaths in Maryland between 2018 and 2024, including 3,416 homicides and 1,949 suicides.¹³ Firearms remain the leading mechanism of violent death in the State, accounting for over 68% of total violent deaths.¹⁴ While Maryland’s firearm suicide rate remains lower than the national average, the State’s firearm homicide rate continues to exceed national levels.¹⁵ These trends reinforce the need for coordinated prevention, intervention, and enforcement strategies that address both immediate public safety concerns and underlying contributing factors.

¹³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2026). *National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 2018–2024* [Data set]. CDC WONDER. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10-expanded.html> (accessed April 6, 2026).

¹⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online] [cited Year Month (abbreviated) Day]. Available from URL: www.wisqars.cdc.gov

¹⁵ Gun Violence Archive. *An Atlas of American Gun Violence: Maryland*. <https://www.thetrace.org/2023/02/gun-violence-map-america-shootings/?place=Maryland>.

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Maryland also faces a critical intersection between behavioral health needs and justice system involvement. Individuals with behavioral health conditions and substance use disorders (SUDs) are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system, often due to gaps in treatment access, crisis response infrastructure, and coordination between public safety and public health systems. According to SAMHSA's National Surveys on Drug Use and Health for 2022 and 2023, 17.9% of Maryland residents ages 18 and older were classified as needing substance use treatment, while only 3.92% of the total adult population reported receiving treatment. Among those identified as needing care, approximately 78.2% did not receive treatment, highlighting a substantial gap in access to services.¹⁶ National research indicates that untreated SUDs are strongly associated with repeated system involvement.¹⁷ In addition, while 5.5% of Maryland residents ages 18 and older are classified as having a serious behavioral health condition, State studies have found that at least 39% of Maryland's local jail inmates have behavioral health disorders.¹⁸

Access to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment remains a critical gap, particularly for justice-involved populations. Research demonstrates that initiating or continuing treatment during detention or incarceration, combined with coordinated reentry planning and post-release recovery support, significantly improves outcomes and reduces recidivism.¹⁹ However, treatment availability, continuity of care, and system coordination remain inconsistent across jurisdictions,

¹⁶ SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Surveys on Drug Use and Health, 2022 and 2023.

https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt56188/2023-nsduh-sae-state-tables_0/2023-nsduh-sae-stat-e-tabs-maryland.pdf

¹⁷ Maruschak, L. M., Bronson, J., & Alper, M. (2021). Indicators of Mental Health Problems Reported by Prisoners. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

¹⁸ <https://www.ma4jr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Mental-Health-Focus-Group-2018.pdf>

¹⁹ Hunter, B. A., Lanza, A. S., Lawlor, M., Dyson, W., & Gordon, D. M. (2016). A Strengths-Based Approach to Prisoner Reentry: The Fresh Start Prisoner Reentry Program. *International journal of offender therapy and comparative criminology*, 60(11), 1298–1314. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X15576501>

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highlighting the need for investments that strengthen treatment capacity and service integration across the justice continuum.

These gaps in treatment access and crisis response infrastructure necessitate investment in diversion and reentry. Research demonstrates that housing stability significantly reduces recidivism. However, according to the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), of the 1,865 individuals currently scheduled for release from Department of Corrections custody in FY 2026, 36.8% are expected to return to jurisdictions without formal reentry agreements, limiting access to housing and employment.²⁰ Access to these services remains uneven, and coordination across systems continues to present challenges, particularly for emerging adults ages 18 to 25, who experience the highest recidivism rates.²¹ Research supports the effectiveness of positive youth development, restorative practices, and locally-driven intervention models in reducing delinquency and improving long-term outcomes.²² Similarly, comprehensive reentry strategies that include access to housing, behavioral health services, employment supports, and case management are associated with reduced recidivism and improved reintegration outcomes.²³

In administering prior BJAG awards, the Office has identified several issues that affect program effectiveness and inform future funding priorities. Demand continues to exceed available resources; in the most recent subaward cycle, the Office received approximately \$6.2 million in requests for only \$2.0 million in available funds. This gap highlights significant unmet needs across jurisdictions and program areas. In addition, variability in data collection and

²⁰ [DPSCS Community Releases](#)

²¹ https://counciloncj.org/recidivism_report/

²² [Restorative Justice Diversion: A Better Way to Provide Meaningful Accountability for Youth](#)

²³ J. Buck Willison, Measuring Reentry Success Beyond Recidivism (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2023):

https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Look%20Beyond%20Recidivism_March%2029%202023.pdf.

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reporting capacity among subrecipients has limited the State's ability to consistently measure outcomes and assess program effectiveness. Implementation challenges, including staffing limitations, procurement delays, and administrative capacity constraints, have also affected project timelines and fund utilization.

To respond to these identified trends, the Office will utilize BJAG funding to support a strategic yet flexible portfolio of investments across federal purpose areas. Funding will prioritize efforts that reduce violent crime, particularly firearm-related violence, enhance system coordination and behavioral health response, strengthen reentry and treatment infrastructure, and improve data, technology, and information-sharing capabilities. At the same time, BJAG funding will retain the flexibility to support jurisdiction-specific operational needs, including equipment, technology, personnel, and training that enhance public safety capacity and effectiveness. Through this approach, the Office ensures that BJAG funding addresses critical gaps in Maryland's criminal justice system, aligns with federal priorities and allowable uses, and remains responsive to the evolving needs of jurisdictions across the State.

Project Design and Implementation

Enhancing public safety efforts across the State of Maryland requires a coordinated, data-driven, and multi-sector approach that aligns law enforcement, courts, behavioral health systems, corrections, reentry providers, victim service organizations, and local partner stakeholders. As Maryland's SAA, the Office will implement the BJAG program to directly address the critical gaps identified in the preceding section – particularly those related to violent crime reduction, firearm violence, behavioral health system gaps, reentry, and data-driven decision making – while maintaining alignment with *Maryland's Comprehensive State Crime Prevention Plan 2025-2027* and the Office's 2025-2028 BJAG Strategic Plan.²⁴

²⁴ [EX ORD 01.01.2024.05 E: GOCPP: Maryland's Comprehensive State Crime Prevention Plan 2025 - 2027](#)

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The Office's approach is grounded in research-informed and data-supported practices that recognize crime and harm as complex issues shaped by individual, local, and system-level factors. Research consistently demonstrates that the most effective public safety strategies combine enforcement, prevention, intervention, and system coordination. Accordingly, the Office's BJAG funding strategy emphasizes targeted violent crime reduction, coordinated behavioral health diversion, reentry and workforce integration, and practical data and technology enhancements that improve decision-making and accountability across the justice continuum.

To reduce violent crime, particularly firearm-related violence, the Office will continue to support programming that is nationally recognized as a best practice and informed by data. This includes approaches such as focused deterrence, place-based interventions, and problem-oriented policing. In implementing these strategies, the Office coordinates with statewide partners, including the Maryland Department of Health's Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention, to align funding strategies, reduce duplication of efforts, and identify critical gaps across enforcement, prevention, and response systems.²⁵ Focused deterrence strategies have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing serious violence by concentrating enforcement and service resources on high-need individuals, groups, and locations, while also offering pathways away from criminal involvement.²⁶ Similarly, place-based strategies allow jurisdictions to identify persistent crime concentrations and tailor interventions to local conditions, improving both efficiency and impact.²⁷

At the same time, the Office recognizes that violent crime does not occur in isolation. Research and practice continue to show that violence is often concentrated in places facing

²⁵ [Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention](#)

²⁶ Braga, A. A., Weisburd, D., & Turchan, B. (2019). Focused deterrence strategies effects on crime: A systematic review. *Campbell systematic reviews*, 15(3), e1051. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cl2.1051>

²⁷ Mark Manning and Matthew Hammer, "A Framework for Collaborative Crime Prevention: Expanding the Violence Reduction Toolkit," Police Chief Online, November 26, 2025.

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long-standing challenges such as housing instability, limited access to services, economic disinvestment, and prolonged exposure to violence.²⁸ As a result, the Office's BJAG strategy supports not only enforcement efforts, but also coordinated approaches that involve partner organizations and service providers to address the underlying drivers of violence. This approach aligns directly with the State's strategic emphasis on locally-driven prevention, research-informed policing, and targeted violent crime reduction.

The Office also recognizes the continued need to strengthen Maryland's response to individuals with behavioral health needs who come into contact with the criminal justice system. Data and stakeholder feedback demonstrate that gaps in treatment access, crisis response infrastructure, and coordination between public safety and public health systems contribute to repeated justice system involvement.²⁹ These challenges are further compounded by limited behavioral health provider capacity in certain regions of the state. In response, the Office will support targeted investments that improve crisis response, expand diversion opportunities, and strengthen coordination between law enforcement, courts, and treatment providers. These efforts may include enhancements to Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs, development or expansion of diversion models, and initiatives that improve system navigation and service linkage. Research indicates that diversion programs, particularly those implemented at pre-arrest and pre-bookings stages, can significantly reduce unnecessary incarceration while improving individual outcomes and reducing system burden.³⁰

²⁸ Jacoby, S. F., Dong, B., Beard, J. H., Wiebe, D. J., & Morrison, C. N. (2018). The enduring impact of historical and structural racism on urban violence in Philadelphia. *Social science & medicine* (1982), 199, 87–95. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.05.038>

²⁹ Gideon L. (2013). Bridging the gap between health and justice. *Health & Justice*, 1, 4. <https://doi.org/10.1186/2194-7899-1-4>

³⁰ Wang, Leah & Quandt, Katie Rose (2021). *Building exits off the highway to mass incarceration: Diversion programs explained*. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/diversion.html>

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Reentry and successful community reintegration remain central to the Office's BJAG strategy. Individuals returning from incarceration continue to face significant challenges related to employment, housing, behavioral health support, and continuity of care. These challenges increase the likelihood of recidivism and underscore the importance of coordinated, research-informed programming. Research demonstrates that comprehensive reentry interventions, particularly those that address both individual needs and broader environmental conditions, are effective in reducing recidivism and improving long-term outcomes.³¹ To address these needs, the Office will support reentry strategies that emphasize workforce development, structured employment pathways, housing stability, and wraparound services. These efforts prioritize programs that demonstrate strong cross-sector partnerships and the ability to provide sustained support throughout the reentry process. In addition, the Office recognizes the critical role of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment in reducing recidivism and improving public safety outcomes. Accordingly, the Office will support initiatives that enhance the capacity of jurisdictions to provide or coordinate SUD treatment during detention or incarceration, initiate or continue treatment prior to release, and ensure continuity of care through post-release treatment and recovery support services.

The Office's strategic approach also prioritizes investments in data, technology, and information sharing. Effective data systems are essential to identifying crime trends, allocating resources, measuring outcomes, and coordinating across agencies. Prior funding rounds and stakeholder feedback have identified gaps in data infrastructure, interoperability, and reporting capacity across jurisdictions. To address these challenges, the Office will support practical, implementable solutions that improve how data is collected, analyzed, and shared across the

³¹ Martin, E. & Garica, M. (2022) *Reentry Research at NIJ: Providing Robust Evidence for High-Stakes Decision-Making*, nij.ojp.gov: <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/reentry-research-nij-providing-robust-evidence-high-stakes-decision-making>

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justice system. This may include enhancements to dashboards, real-time data access tools, information sharing platforms, and performance measurement systems that support research-informed decision making and alignment with statewide initiatives. Importantly, the BJAG program will continue to be administered with a high degree of flexibility to ensure responsiveness to local needs. As a flexible funding source, BJAG plays a critical role in supporting both strategic initiatives and essential public safety functions, including projects that enhance law enforcement effectiveness, investigative capacity, and operational readiness.

Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Planning

The Office's BJAG funding strategy is informed by a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process that includes representation from across the criminal justice continuum, including law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, courts, corrections, behavioral health providers, victim service organizations, and local partner stakeholders.

As part of the strategic planning process, the Office conducted a statewide stakeholder survey and outreach process to identify priority needs across all federally defined JAG purpose areas. Responses from hundreds of entities highlighted consistent needs related to violent crime reduction, behavioral health and crisis response, reentry services, youth intervention, services for individuals impacted by crime, and data and technology improvements. In addition to formal engagement efforts, the Office maintains ongoing communication with stakeholders through grant monitoring, site visits, technical assistance, and coordination with advisory bodies and partner agencies. These interactions provide critical insight into emerging trends, implementation challenges, and evolving jurisdictional needs.

The standard annual timeline for the subaward process begins in the spring with a review of crime data and legislative priorities to establish the criteria for the annual Notice of Funding

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Availability (NOFA). The BJAG NOFA is released in the summer, supported by technical assistance for potential applicants. Following the application deadline, a multidisciplinary review process evaluates applications based on project design, need, and research-informed rigor.

Awards are typically issued in early fall for a performance period beginning October 1. This structured yet flexible process ensures that Maryland remains responsive to the varied needs of its jurisdictions while adhering to the rigorous standards of federal grant administration.

Capabilities and Competencies

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.2024.05, the Office is the designated SAA for Maryland.³² In this role, the Office oversees the application for and administration of federal and State funds for public safety, crime prevention, and victim service programs, and presides over comprehensive criminal justice planning and policy within the State. The Office also functions as the State's primary coordinating body for identifying public safety challenges, fostering system collaboration, and supporting the development and implementation of policies and programs that address those challenges. In this role, the Office is responsible for directing funds in a manner that addresses the needs of statewide and local entities. In SFY 2025, the Office demonstrated its robust administrative capacity by managing and distributing over \$270,000,000 in grant funding which consisted of 1,007 awards to 394 unique subrecipients.³³

As Maryland's SAA, the Office remains committed to advancing a comprehensive crime reduction strategy that is rooted in collaboration, research-informed decision making, and strategic investment. With the cooperation and collaboration of other State agencies, the Office prepares and maintains a three-year *Comprehensive State Crime Control and Prevention Plan* (Plan). The most recent plan for 2025-2027 serves as Maryland's roadmap for strategic planning

³² The State of Maryland, Executive Department. [*Executive Order 01.01.2024.05: Establishing the Governor's Office for Children and the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy.*](#)

³³ <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/interactive-grant-map/>

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and coordination.³⁴ The Plan provides a series of tasks aimed to achieve the following objectives:

(1) develop criminal justice strategies that are coordinated at the local, state, and federal level; (2) improve services for individuals impacted by crime in Maryland; (3) improve the well-being for all Maryland children and youth; (4) maximize the public safety returns on Maryland's corrections spending; and (5) increase the availability of data to support data-driven approaches to criminal justice issues in Maryland.

The Office has well-established systems for collecting, analyzing, and utilizing performance data to inform funding decisions and monitor program effectiveness. The Office utilizes both quantitative performance measures and qualitative progress reporting to assess subrecipient performance, identify effective practices, and address gaps in services. This data-driven approach supports continuous improvement and helps ensure that funding is directed toward programs that demonstrate measurable impact and alignment with statewide priorities.

In addition, with respect to fiscal accountability, the Office maintains strong fiscal management and oversight practices to ensure compliance with all federal and State requirements. The Office reviews and updates its internal policies and procedures pertaining to grant management as needed to align with the State's policies and procedures as well as the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women, Community Oriented Policing Services' *DOJ Grants Financial Guide*.³⁵

As the applicant for this grant solicitation, and once federal funding is received, the Office will: (1) award and monitor the subawards in its electronic Grants Managements System (GMS); (2) serve as the fiscal agent with responsibility for tracking and reporting all grant expenditures in the Financial Management Information System (FMIS); (3) collaborate with

³⁴ [EX ORD 01.01.2024.05 E; GOCPP; Maryland's Comprehensive State Crime Prevention Plan 2025 - 2027](#)

³⁵ [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#)

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subrecipients to ensure compliance with reporting requirements; and (4) review and submit information in the federal Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) as required. The Office also adheres to best practices for every award, including maintaining each award in the GMS as a distinct funding source and assigning each federal award a unique accounting code.

Staffing and Organizational Capacity

The BJAG Program is supported by experienced staff with expertise in grant management, policy development, and data analysis. The Grant Specialist Lead (Program Manager) oversees BJAG implementation and has over seven years of experience managing federal, State, and local grants, including subrecipient monitoring, compliance, and program oversight. The Program Manager is responsible for leading the Grant Specialist, a position the Office is in the process of staffing; both staff will work together on pre- and post-award activities including, but not limited to, subaward monitoring with programmatic and financial deliverables, award compliance, subrecipient monitoring including technical assistance, routine communication with internal and external stakeholders, and closeouts in the GMS.

The BJAG Policy and Data Analyst (Analyst) has over eight years of research and data experience and has served in this role for two years. The Analyst is responsible for overseeing program development and implementation by conducting research on effective and promising practices across all JAG federal purpose areas, preparing funding recommendations based on policy and practice review, and analyzing performance measure data from the State's electronic grant management system and federal PMTs.

Current BJAG staff have completed the DOJ Financial Management Training course and continue to pursue professional development opportunities to ensure compliance with evolving federal requirements and best practices in grant administration. Together, these roles support the

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development of funding strategies, NOFA solicitations, and statewide planning efforts in coordination with the Office's Executive Team.

Subrecipient Award and Oversight Process

The Office administers all funding opportunities through a structured, transparent and competitive NOFA process. Each NOFA is posted on the applicable webpage of the individual program, listed on the publicly accessible homepage of the GMS, and advertised on social media platforms including X (formerly known as Twitter) and LinkedIn.^{36,37} The NOFA, much like federal solicitations, provides an overview of the types of projects and initiatives that can be funded through the specified grant program, as well as basic programmatic guidelines and requirements for those funds. Applicants must submit an application containing all requested information as directed in the NOFA. Elements to be addressed in the application include a narrative covering organization information, the problem statement and needs justification, the program purpose area, the implementation plan and service delivery model, description of cross-sector collaboration & stakeholder involvement in the project, applicant-specific and federally required performance measures, management capabilities, and sustainability planning. Applicants must also submit a project timeline and a detailed spending plan with line-item budget.

It is a fundamental goal of the Office to ensure that all applications receive a fair and impartial review. The Office strives for openness, competitiveness, and transparency in the grant application process. There is a three-tiered review process for most competitive applications, including BJAG. The process is as follows:

³⁶ [Office of Crime Prevention & Policy \(@MarylandGOCCP\) / Posts / X](#)

³⁷ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/governor-s-office-of-crime-prevention-and-policy-7a218316b?>

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1. Internal Staff Technical Review: This review ensures that the technical requirements of the application have been met and that proposals adhere to federal program funding requirements.
2. Peer Review: A multi-disciplinary group of selected reviewers, who are knowledgeable about the relevant funding source and allowable program and purpose areas of the submissions, reviews and scores each application.
3. Final Review: The Program Manager/Grant Specialist uses all findings to make funding recommendations for each application. The Program Manager prepares a summary document with this information and presents it to the Analyst for review and final recommendations, which are then provided to the Office's Executive Team.

This structured approach ensures that funding decisions are objective, data-informed, and aligned with both federal requirements and statewide priorities.

Performance Measurement and Data Collection

The Office recognizes the importance of collecting program-related data and outcome-based performance measures to identify effective practices, service gaps, and program effectiveness through the normal quarterly reporting process. As a result, the Office is well-positioned to promote sound practices and work collaboratively with partners to address gaps through program modifications and quality improvement efforts. The Office uses two types of programmatic reports to determine progress and program effectiveness: a performance measurement report (quantitative measures) and a progress report (qualitative measures). The Office uses the reports to monitor how well a program is meeting its goals and objectives. The performance measure data collected varies based on the type and scope of the funded program. The Office uses these measures to assess program performance, determine whether assistance is

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needed, and document what was achieved with awarded funds. All award packages include a copy of the subgrant performance measurement and progress report questions. Subrecipients are expected to tailor their data collection to answer the questions.

The Office requires subrecipients to submit quarterly progress reports and performance measurement reports in January, April, July, and October through its GMS. Requests for funds will not be processed if either report has not been submitted or has been deemed unacceptable by program staff. All quarterly reports, including progress, performance, financial reporting, and request for funds, must be submitted online via the Office's reporting system. The Office sends reminders and conducts consistent follow up with subrecipients on a quarterly basis to ensure timely submissions of federal PMT performance measures.

Financial reports are reviewed for accuracy, alignment with the approved budget, and consistency with reported programmatic progress to ensure appropriate use of funds.

The Office may also require supplemental or annual reporting to assess long-term outcomes and ensure alignment with the State's strategic plan. Failure to meet reporting requirements may result in delays in funding disbursement, reinforcing accountability and compliance.

Strategic Coordination and Continuous Improvement

The Office actively coordinates BJAG funding within a broader network of federal and State public safety investments to ensure resources are deployed strategically, efficiently, and in alignment with identified statewide and local needs. As Maryland's SAA, the Office administers and oversees multiple grant programs that collectively address enforcement, prevention, behavioral health, reentry, and system improvement, including the Violence Intervention and

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Prevention Program (VIPP), Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN), and Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) investments.

This structure allows the Office to take a comprehensive, systems-level approach to public safety funding. For example, MCIN supports intelligence-led enforcement and multi-jurisdictional coordination; VIPP funds hospital-based and partner-led violence intervention efforts; and JRA investments focus on reentry, behavioral health, and recidivism reduction. Ongoing coordination across these streams allows the Office to identify where existing resources are concentrated and where gaps remain. BJAG funding is then strategically deployed to address those gaps and strengthen, rather than duplicate, existing efforts. This includes supporting jurisdictions or program areas with limited access to other State funding, piloting new approaches, and providing flexible funding for operational needs such as personnel, equipment, technology, training, or contractual support.

Coordination efforts are supported by continuous engagement with stakeholders across the justice continuum, including law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, courts, corrections, and local partners. These stakeholders contribute to strategic planning efforts through formal processes such as statewide surveys, advisory input, and routine collaboration. This engagement helps ensure that funding priorities reflect current needs across jurisdictions while remaining aligned with statewide policy goals.

In addition to coordination, the Office maintains a strong framework for continuous quality improvement that informs funding decisions and oversight. All subrecipients are required to submit quarterly financial, progress, and performance measurement reports through the State's GMS and the federal PMT. Staff review these reports to assess programs, identify implementation challenges, and evaluate performance against objectives. The Office uses this

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information to identify trends and common challenges, such as staffing delays or data collection variability. When issues arise, the Office provides targeted technical assistance to support subrecipients in program design, budget management, and reporting compliance.

Performance data and monitoring findings also inform broader strategic decisions, including refinement of funding priorities, development of future solicitations, and identification of areas where additional investment or coordination is needed. For example, prior cycles identified gaps in data infrastructure and performance reporting, which directly informed the current emphasis on data-driven strategies and improved information sharing. Through this integrated approach, the Office ensures that BJAG funding is administered in a strategic and adaptable manner that maximizes federal impact while maintaining the flexibility necessary to support varied, jurisdiction-specific needs.

Conclusion

Funding under the BJAG Program has been instrumental in helping Maryland address crime, particularly violent crime. Although significant strides have been made, much work remains. Continued funding under BJAG will help Maryland sustain many of the successful strategies described in this application, while also supporting additional research-informed, data-supported, and operationally sound practices that have demonstrated value in reducing violent crime and strengthening public safety outcomes.