

Funding Webinar Transcript

On April 24, 2019, BJA hosted a webinar that provided an overview of this solicitation. Following is the transcript from that webinar.

KATE POINDEXTER: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar, National Training and Technical Assistance Initiative to Improve Law Enforcement Responses to People with Mental Health Disorders and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, hosted by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

MARIA FRYER: Hello and good afternoon. My name is Maria Fryer, and I'm a Policy Advisor for the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. I oversee the Justice and Behavioral Health Discretionary grant portfolio and collaborate with multiple private and federal agencies to assist states, local government, and the behavioral health service providers to better understand the relationship between the criminal justice system and behavioral health system, and people with mental illness and intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse. In this role, I assist states, tribes, and local governments to develop policies and best practices to reduce the number of people with mental illness and intellectual and developmental disability in the criminal justice system.

Next slide, please. Next, we're going to get into just a brief overview of today's presentation. This webinar is intended to provide some important application information, as the Bureau of Justice Assistance seeks a unique provider that understands how to build partnerships to support law enforcement at the state and local levels, and their response to people with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disability, and forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer's disease. Next is our agenda. In the next hour or so, we will cover items 1 through 10 and then take time for some questions and answers. If we don't get to your questions today or if they require a little more discussion, please reach out to NCJRS at grants@ncjrs.gov, and they'll be happy to forward your question to me and hopefully, I can provide a little bit more response within an email.

Next, we're going to talk about the eligibility and experience that's required. And please bear with me, I am going to read this slide, it's very important, just to be clear on eligibility. Eligible applicants are public and private organizations and nonprofit organizations, including tribal and public universities and colleges, including tribal. It is expected that the successful applicant will have significant experience with collaboration between police, law enforcement, mental health disorders, and intellectual and developmental disability, and dementia-related service delivery systems, either through demonstrated experience and expertise of existing or proposed staff, or through proposed partnerships between organizations. Applicants other than a national law enforcement organization must demonstrate partnership with a national law enforcement organization through contract, MOU, or other formal agreement as required for consideration. A competitive application must also include representation from groups representing law enforcement, consumers, and family members of people

with mental health disorders, intellectual developmental disability, and dementia-related service systems providers.

Next slide. The purpose of the National TTA Center is to improve and maintain the National TTA Center and information clearinghouse to advance state, local, and tribal policy and practices that support law enforcement agencies and their service delivery system partners. This support will help agencies plan and implement responses to people with mental illness and intellectual and developmental disabilities, and achieve key outcome measures. The prospective TTA provider is expected to actively provide TTA using an approved set of criteria in coordination with BJA to a select number of competitively selected jurisdictions. They're also expected to receive, triage, and act as a clearinghouse of best practices and resources, and respond to requests for TTA, including working with states to facilitate the implementation of best practices at the local level. They are also expected to develop and implement strategies to support law enforcement, schools, and healthcare agencies in the prevention of, and response to, missing individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer's disease or IDD such as autism, who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments.

Next slide. Next, we have Objective 1, to set up and operate a National TTA Center and information clearinghouse that advances state, local, and tribal policy and practice to support law enforcement agencies and their service delivery system partners as they plan, implement, and work toward four key outcome measures to respond to people with mental illness and IDD. Objective 1 deliverable. One is to ensure the TTA Center has on staff experienced individuals with skills and expertise in the following areas: law enforcement human service professionals and the ability to plan and implement collaborative response strategies, prosecutorial expertise, and the ability to offer best practices for district attorney, self-advocate, peers, and direct service professionals, justice analysis staff, administrative personnel, and also, to manage BJA's 10 existing law enforcement mental health learning sites. And part of managing those sites, the TTA provider will be expected to professionalize, promote, and facilitate BJA's expanded law enforcement mental health learning site. They'll also be expected to organize, track and collect, and report data to inform BJA regarding requests for TTA, provided through the law enforcement mental health learning sites. They'll also be expected to expand the scope of best practice available to visiting agencies, inquiring law enforcement agencies through the learning sites, expand sites to include peer-to-peer learning through law enforcement disability response team, and--as developed by the National Arc's Pathways to Justice program where appropriate.

Another deliverable is to serve as a thought leader and information clearinghouse for relevant research and best practices in providing TTA. And under this section of the objective, the TTA provider is expected to create and disseminate products, such as fact sheets and webinars, and disseminate them through BJA's network. They'll also be expected to convene law enforcement stakeholder organizations to explore best practices, and to maintain and oversee and keep current the online content of the--of the Police-Mental Health Collaboration Toolkit as a main source of best practice for law enforcement agencies, as they design a collaborative response towards people with

mental illness and intellectual and developmental disability. And finally under this objective, the TTA provider would be expected to coordinate all training and technical assistance activities with BJA's National Training and Technical Assistance Center.

Objective 2, actively conduct training and technical assistance using an approved set of criteria in coordination with BJA to select a number of competitively selected jurisdictions with specific or combination of TTA needs. The baseline number--one of the--under this objective, one of the activities is the collection of baseline number of calls for service that law enforcement agencies are fielding involving people with mental illness, just as a starting point, and other indicators of police-mental health collaboration effectiveness. Another activity under this objective is to provide TTA using the four key outcome measures found in the Police-Mental Health Collaboration Framework for local communities to develop policy and practices that respond to people with mental illness and intellectual and developmental disability.

Another activity under this objective is to grow strategies that facilitate information sharing between all systems that make frequent contact with people who have mental illness and intellectual and developmental disability. And another activity, of course, is to convene local leaders and policymakers to design active training and technical assistance to invite jurisdictions, including major stakeholders such as 911 dispatch, hospitals, courts, corrections, and housing, or utilize a pre-existing team of leaders, relevant stakeholders, and decisionmakers from multiple agencies to engage in the planning process to design a state, tribal, and local response. The next activity under this objective is to facilitate exercises to demonstrate the flow of people with mental illness and intellectual and developmental disability in and through the justice system, such as model--such as the Sequential Intercept Model, SIM mapping, policy and process analysis, inventory of services, or other types of service capacity analysis. And last, create and implement an information delivery system to convey important actionable information to the field that assists mental health authorities and justice system stakeholders about products, services, and funding opportunities.

Next is Objective 3, to receive, triage, and act as a clearinghouse of best practices and resources to respond to requests for training and technical assistance, including working with states to facilitate the implementation of best practices at the local level. Examples of these deliverables are to assist local law enforcement with specific requests that involve activities to conduct gap analysis, also to design a plan to address gaps with activities such as tracking calls for service, policy and procedure in law enforcement agencies, performance data analysis, training needs, and data sharing. Another activity is to convene state leadership to discuss policy and practice. And also to explore options to build training and technical assistance centers of excellence within states. And also to review training curriculum. Another example is to select a number of states that have successfully completed state policy work to support training in a local response that solves problems for law enforcement and replicates their statewide policies and delivery systems in other states as a TA strategy. Continued under Objective 3 are additional deliverables such as identifying a program that can assist with outcome data for co-responder--for co-responder programs, and how it is

disseminated to stakeholders, discussing record management systems, and best practices for data collection and information sharing.

Next, we'll talk about Objective 4, to develop and implement strategies to support law enforcement, school, and healthcare agency--agencies, the prevention of and response to missing individuals with forms of dementia such as Alzheimer's disease or developmental disabilities such as autism who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments. Grant applications must allocate 1.7 million of the total budget to this objective, 1,700,000.

So, a little bit about this fourth objective, this fourth objective will begin the implementation of Kevin and Avonte's Law. Based on past experience implementing cross-system collaboration efforts, the Bureau of Justice Assistance approach is to follow an arc that convenes relative stakeholders, learn--to learn what works, develop models and assessment protocol, and then invest in implementation at the state and local level.

As such, the deliverables for Kevin and Avonte's Law will be--and there is a long list of deliverables under Objective 4, but I'll go ahead and read them aloud. To convene subject experts including law enforcement and other first respond--responder leaders, health--mental health clinicians, school administrators, community service providers, and representatives of organizations representing family members and people with lived experience. Also, to identify and/or develop best and evidence-based practices for the prevention of, response to, and rescue and recovery of individuals due to their dementia or IDD may wander from safe environments. Next, for law enforcement, school, family, and healthcare providers, to identify and develop model prevention programs, response, policies, and protocols, and notification communication systems for alerts, advisories, or other information dissemination to rescue and recover missing individuals with dementia and IDD. To develop assessment tools for the use by these entities to assess the extent to which their current policies and practices meet the identified best--or evidence-based policies and practices. Next, to make all relevant information available online and consult with and present to stakeholders affiliated with the subject matter, and their respective partners and key constituents.

Also, to identify training curricula elements deemed critical to increase awareness and successful implementation of models, prevention, and response policies and protocols among the key constituency groups. Participate and assist in any Office of Justice Programs efforts to develop standards and best practices for the use of noninvasive and nonpermanent tracking devices where a guardian or parent has determined that such a tracking device is the least restrictive alternative to locate individuals that we've described under this objective. Pursuant to the development of such tracking device standards and best practices, develop model policies and procedures for healthcare providers, school, and state, and local law enforcement agencies to assist in designing, establishing, and operating tracking technology programs for individuals with forms of dementia and IDD who have wandered from safe environments. And under this objective, I'd just like to note that in future funding, if future funding is made available,

BJA anticipates supplementing this award to develop and disseminate the curricula mentioned above and make subawards available to law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, schools, to the selected provider to adopt and implement the policies, procedures, and training developed through this project.

So, on to Objective 5. That was a big objective. Okay. Objective 5 is to conduct outreach and identify states for training and technical assistance engagement to improve state policy, practice, and resource allocation to support local efforts to improve law enforcement responses and outcomes for people with mental illness and IDD. Under this objective, the training and technical assistance provider is expected to provide advice to states on health policy options to increase treatment availability. They are also expected to assist with state policies that reflect on that definition and its use in the development and delivery of crisis services. To also leverage data to examine community options for an increase in the community-based treatment in those communities. And also to work with selected states to design ways to increase community-based service response models that help support law enforcement prosecutors and mental health responses. They're also expected to explore and support a prosecutor's role in local districts to respond to people with mental illness and intellectual and developmental disability, and respond to public safety needs through an increase in treatment availability. And also to explore wider options for treatment and service delivery systems for people with mental illness and intellectual and developmental disability.

So next we'd like to provide some existing BJA resources. We talk a lot about coordinating training and technical assistance with what is already existing at BJA and making it available to the field. One of the first resources listed is the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, which is--the very basis of the portfolio is the collaboration between these two complex systems. Listed below is the link for the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program that just went live yesterday, and it's a great resource and insight into the program itself and the major tenets of the program.

The next resource is the National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability, which has been a sentinel program for BJA in responding to people with intellectual and developmental disability since 2012.

The next group of resources, beginning with the Police and Mental Health Collaboration Toolkit, which was launched in 2016 to provide a centralized learning site detailing how to plan, implement, manage, sustain, and evaluate police-based responses to people with mental illness, this year in 2019 it's undergoing additional content updates to include collaboration from a behavioral health perspective and also guidance on responding to people with intellectual and developmental disability. And also the inclusion of people with lived experience and people who have mental illness, and their perspective on encounters with the justice system.

The next resource is the Stepping Up Initiative, which is a partnership aimed at reducing the number of people with mental illness in jails. And over 483 counties to date have passed resolutions to develop action plans to achieve county system changes. Next resources. The Police-Mental Health Collaboration Framework Document is a recent product released by BJA and our cooperative agreement partners for law enforcement leadership and management, to increase and enhance their comprehensive system responses using four key outcome measures that has been established as the most important indicators of a comprehensive response. Through an extensive literature review and focus groups, inclusive of the nation's top researchers in law enforcement-mental health response, and discussion, the following outcomes are the basic indicators. Increased connections to resources, reduced repeat encounters with law enforcement, minimize arrests, reduce use of force with people who have mental health needs.

Effective Community Responses for Mental Health Crisis: A National Curriculum for Law Enforcement Based on Best Practices from CIT Programs Nationwide was conceptualized and solely funded by BJA, and was launched publicly in August of 2018. This 25-module, 40-hour curriculum can be adopted by communities nationwide seeking to start or refresh a training program to support a comprehensive, community-based response to people with mental illness who come in contact with law enforcement.

Next we'll touch on the overall TTA requirements for potential applicants. Again, this is to recap some of the expectations for training and technical assistance providers. One, they must coordinate with NTTAC. And also performance is very critical. We always expect coordination with other training and technical assistance providers to leverage what is currently existing, and to be careful not to duplicate, but to expand upon what has already been established and to grow and innovate in new directions. And of course, anything that we do expand upon, we do that together with significant input from BJA. And of course data and best practices always kept in mind.

Next slide. So what an application should include, this is just a checklist that can be referenced when putting your application packet together. It's also in the back of the solicitation, which is generally very helpful as you're making sure that all the pieces and parts are included for a successful application submission. Some of the most important pieces--well, they're all important. But of course, we have additional attachments specific to this program, which are found here as the project timeline and task plan, position descriptions and resumes, letters of support/memoranda of understanding, work product examples, applicant disclosure of pending applications, research and evaluation independence and integrity.

And next, we have the actual application process. And this talks about in the solicitation actually how to apply, and the steps that you need to go through in order to submit your grant in Grants.gov. One part of this application process that I'd like to note and highlight is how to acquire or maintain a registration with SAM, which is very important and it changed slightly last year. Any applicant for an OJP award creating a new entity registration with SAM or updating or renewing a registration in sam.gov must submit an

original signed, notarized letter appointing the authorized entity administrator within 30 days of the registration activation. Notarized letters must be submitted via U.S. Postal Service mail to sam.gov. So, that's really important to mention. It's a little bit a different process than it's been in the past. And it does require some time since the solicitation is posted for 60 days and SAM registration is required 30 days out. I would just suggest that this begins very soon after this webinar and just encourage you to start your application early and submit it early so that you can troubleshoot any unforeseen circumstances.

So, next we have the review criteria. And this is basically how the application will be scored and the weight that is given to the various parts of the application. Description of the issue is weighted at 15% and the project design and implementation is weighted the largest amount at 40%. Capabilities and competencies at 30%, plan for collecting the data 5%, budget and budget narrative at 10%. It can be found on page 32 of the solicitation.

So, again, this is a little bit of information about the award. The first bullet, of course, is the authorizing legislation and the second bullet provides the dollar amount. And it's up to what you see on your slide. The award will be made in the form of a cooperative agreement. And I would just like to note that a cooperative agreement is a little bit different than a grant and that cooperative agreement involves the car--we carry out the award together. It's more like a partnership between BJA and the award recipient. So, BJA will be very involved in all the deliverables and the activities and reviewing of the products and the design of the products and--in all aspects of carrying out the training and technical assistance. So, now I'd like to hand it over to Kate, who's going to tell you a little bit about the National Criminal Justice Reference Service.

KATE POINDEXTER: Thank you, Maria. The application assistance, you can find the application assistance and support services through NCJRS, National Criminal Justice Reference Service Res--Service Response Center at www.ncjrs.gov. If you're not familiar with NCJRS, please go ahead and avail yourself of the resources there. There's solicitation support and general assistance and helpful links to all current OJP funding opportunities. The email address for NCJRS regarding grants is grants@ncjrs.gov. And there's a web chat feature, toll-free phone number, and you can get that information off of the slides. The NCJRS Response Center hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. eastern time. And that's Monday through Friday.

And there's some other recommended resources. The BJA Grant Applicants Education Series is a series of four previously recorded webinars designed to assist potential applicants interested in applying for BJA funding opportunities. And you can find these webinars at www.bja.govfunding--/funding/webinars.html. So, you might want to avail yourself of these important resources and help you through this process.

All right. Some other resources that are available to you, the OJP Funding Resource Center, the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, DOJ Grants Financial Management Online Training, 2019 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, and NIJ's Crime Solutions.gov.

All of these are very helpful resources for those of you who are in the application process.

At this point, we will check and see what questions have come in and Maria will be here to address some of your questions. Let's see here. Okay. "Is the expectation that the curriculum be developed and completed during the course of the award under Objective 4?"

MARIA FRYER: Are you referencing the Effective Community Response Curriculum?

KATE POINDEXTER: It doesn't say. Okay. Any during the course of the award under Objective 4?

MARIA FRYER: Yes. So, any deliverable that you see listed in the solicitation would--that would be the activity that would be expected to be completed during the project period. Yes.

KATE POINDEXTER: Okay. "In reviewing the objectives and deliverables, it looks like there are five convenings referenced throughout. Is the expectation that these would be in person? Could there be a potential to combine these convenings as appropriate?"

MARIA FRYER: Kate, can we go back to that previous question? Or--okay.

KATE POINDEXTER: Okay.

MARIA FRYER: Yes. Okay. And then I'm going to have you read that one again. I apologize.

KATE POINDEXTER: Certainly.

MARIA FRYER: Okay. So, we were talking about Objective 4 and the curriculum was the result of that arc. So, that was actually not within the project period. I misspoke. That would be actually in the course of supplemental funding. So, the first cooperative agreement goes well and things progress and then the supplemental funding, then that arc that the curriculum would culminate is a part of that as a result of that. So--okay. So, I want to make that correction.

KATE POINDEXTER: Sure.

MARIA FRYER: Because typically, all activities that you see listed are expected to be completed during the project period. But that one is just slightly different. So, I just wanted to make that correction. And then if you could read that next question again.

KATE POINDEXTER: The next question is, "In reviewing the objectives and deliverables, it looks like there are five convenings referenced throughout. Is the expectation that these would be in person? Could there be a potential to combine these convenings as appropriate?"

MARIA FRYER: Okay. So, that is going to be--I'm going to have to--I'm going to punt that back to the person writing the question because that's where you can design your project and get creative and, you know, you let us know what your thoughts are on that and how you would like to design that into your project. That might be a challenge. And that's what I'm kind of sensing. You're like going, "Okay. How are we going to do all that?" So, I'd be very interested in reading about that. But we do encourage in person and the use of technology, both. Some meetings are, you know, you can get a lot more done in person. It depends on what you're trying to accomplish, but I'm going to--I'm going to let you put that into your--the design of your project. Kate?

KATE POINDEXTER: Yes. We have another question that's come in. "What are the expectations for the TTA provider's role in terms of data collection and analysis including any data matching? Would the TTA center be expected to work more intensely in communities to conduct a data analysis for jurisdictions?"

MARIA FRYER: Yes. Specifically where there's going to be some competitive--where the TTA provider would have to design a process to select some communities and jurisdictions to kind of go into and provide training and technical assistance. Data analysis is definitely part of that group of activities. And so, you know, we would need the expertise to be there to assist jurisdiction states and local communities in conducting some data matching in order to identify the prevalence of the problem and to figure out next steps. So, yes, that would be a major part of the activities.

KATE POINDEXTER: So, we don't have any other questions at this time. Maybe we'll wait a moment or two to see if somebody wants to ask another question. I would remind you that we're--we would like you to submit your questions in the Q and A section rather than the chat section. So, if you've submitted a question in chat, you want to take it on over to the Q and A section, we would appreciate that, and we'll take a moment to see if we get another question or two.

And in the meantime, while we're waiting to see if anybody has another question, we want to remind you about how you can stay connected via social media with Facebook, Twitter, RSS, and BJA's website, of course, which is www.bja.gov. We also remind you to check out the resources at ncjrs.gov. You can find solicitation support and general assistance and links to OJP funding opportunities. This is a place where you can find funding notices. And we--you can sign up for--to receive things right into your inbox. You can sign up to receive the biweekly JUSTINFO newsletter as well as the weekly Funding News from NCJRS. So, make sure you avail yourself of these services. NCJRS is available for your use. So, make sure that you make note of these websites and these phone numbers, www.ncjrs.gov.

And it does look like we may have another question coming in. And here it is. "Is the reference to a public safety model approach referencing something specific of--in Objective 2, Item 2? If so, is the reference to a public safety model approach referencing something specific?"

MARIA FRYER: Well, yes and no. Not a very good response, but what is--there is--there is a model approach considered best practice I would encourage you to explore. I can't get into more detail other than if you're, you know, broadly talking about public safety. There are some folks out there that kind of specialize in that. I would just encourage you to explore that a little bit. And that's about all I can say on that.

KATE POINDEXTER: All right. We currently do not have any other questions at this time. So, on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Assistance and our presenters, thank you for joining and have a great rest of your day.