

State of Alabama
Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division

401 Adams Avenue, Post Office Box 5690
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program
FY 2023 State Solicitation

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Introduction

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division (LETS), as the State Administering Agency (SAA), continues to provide guidance and assistance to qualified subgrant programs for the State of Alabama's FY 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

Program Overview

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. ADECA / LETS, as the State Administering Agency (SAA) for this program, ensures JAG funds support various components of the criminal justice system to include prevention, education, and early intervention programs, specialty courts, and multi-jurisdictional drug and violent crime task forces. The implementation process of ADECA / LETS allows units of local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions.

ADECA / LETS as the SAA for this program places great emphasis on accountability and transparency in the distribution of grant funds.

Statement of Problem

In today's law enforcement community, law enforcement officers are finding that their role and job duties are constantly changing. Law enforcement officers are responding to calls where they are being asked to engage with those in need in a variety of ways. They are not only serving as an officer of the peace, but they are asked to be the drug treatment experts, mental health experts, domestic violence experts, etc. A lot of the calls for assistance are connected to mental health or co-occurring health disorder issues that involve substance abuse.

Currently there is a national discussion on how our country should be attacking substance abuse and the issues that are related to it. The argument seems to be centered on the issue of supply vs. demand. Beginning in the 1980's, America began its "War on Drugs". This effort was an attempt to begin ridding our country of illegal narcotics by attacking the supply of those narcotics and their path into our country. This model centered solely on the enforcement

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aspect of drug control. While this had an impact on the availability of illegal narcotics, it did nothing in the way of addressing the demand of these drugs in our country.

This serves as evidence that current strategies are not completely addressing the problem. Continuing to fund failing strategies that cost huge sums of money will seemingly exacerbate the problem. Identifying multifaceted strategies based on evidence and data collected from partner agencies will better guide funding decisions with the potential for more successful outcomes.

While enforcement is the first step in the process, identifying multiple ways to solve the drug addiction problem has shown positive results. A multi-faceted approach to the substance abuse problem is a proven method. This would include treatment, prevention, and intervention methods.

Treating drug addiction as a health issue, as well as a public safety issue could save taxpayers money. Improve public health and public safety initiatives could help better control violence and crime in our communities. Many people have died from overdoses and drug-related diseases, including HIV and hepatitis C, because they did not have access to cost-effective, life-saving solutions. There have also been several deaths related to the violence that coincides with the drug trade in this state, and this nation.

Drug Use Trends in Alabama

Drug Use in Alabama

According to data collected among the state funded Drug Task Forces (DTFs) and the Gulf Coast HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas) the following drugs have impacted Alabama the most:

Fentanyl and other Opioids

In 2021, fentanyl and other opioids became the greatest drug threat by law enforcement, outranking methamphetamine by only 3%. Treatment and prevention respondents ranked fentanyl as the second greatest drug threat, followed closely behind methamphetamine. According to the 2023 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, forty-seven law enforcement respondents ranked fentanyl just above methamphetamine as the drug of greatest threat. The largest increase in mental health admission data was attributed to fentanyl in 2021 according to The Department of Mental Health. The overdose death rate in Alabama continues to increase. Jefferson County

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alone reported 316 fentanyl related overdose deaths in 2021, a 68% increase from 188 fentanyl related overdose deaths in 2020.

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine was reported as the second greatest drug threat by forty seven percent of law enforcement respondents. However, the majority (39%) of treatment and prevention respondents reported methamphetamine as their greatest drug threat in 2021. Methamphetamine was also reported as the greatest contributor to violent crime, property crime, and law enforcement resources used by law enforcement respondents. In 2021, there was one methamphetamine laboratory seizure in Alabama according to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC).

Heroin

Both law enforcement and treatment and prevention respondents reported heroin as the third greatest drug threat in Alabama. The Alabama Department of Mental Health also ranked heroin as the third most abused illegal drug based on treatment admissions. Law enforcement respondents also reported an increase in heroin availability, demand, and distribution in the State.

Controlled Prescription Drugs

Hydrocodone (lortab and vicodin) and oxycodone (oxycontin, roxycontin) continue to be the most frequently abused pharmaceutical drugs in Alabama as reported by the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Alprazolam (Xanax) and Percocet are also heavily abused. Pharmaceutical diversion remains the primary method of obtaining pharmaceuticals; however, pharmaceuticals transported into the state by vehicle or postal packaging also persists. There is a moderate to high availability of controlled prescription drugs in Alabama according to law enforcement respondents. Law enforcement respondents also reported the level of availability, demand, distribution, and transportation remained the same this year.

Cocaine

Cocaine remains available in Alabama; however, cocaine poses a lower threat compared to other illicit drugs in Alabama. Cocaine was ranked as the fourth greatest drug threat according to law enforcement respondents, and the sixth greatest drug threat according to treatment and prevention respondents on the GC HIDTA Survey of 2023. According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health admissions data, cocaine has now dropped to sixth behind

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methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin, and controlled prescription drugs within the Alabama Threat Assessment.

Marijuana

Both law enforcement respondents and treatment and prevention respondents report Marijuana as the second most available drug in Alabama, behind methamphetamine. The Alabama Department of Mental Health lists marijuana as the number two illegal drug according to treatment admissions, based on the drugs monitored by the Gulf Coast HIDTA. Marijuana related mental health treatment admissions slightly decreased from 5,086 admissions in 2020 to 5,045 admissions in 2021. Marijuana is reported as the third greatest contributor to violent crime and law enforcement resources used in 2021. The Marijuana Eradication Program eradicated a total of 24,426 plants both indoor and outdoor in 2021.

New Psychoactive Drugs

The Alabama Department of Mental Health, as well as the Department of Forensic Sciences list gamma hydroxybutyric (GHB) and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) as new psychoactive drugs encountered in Alabama although not commonly. Synthetic cannabinoids such as Spice are most commonly encountered new psychoactive substance in Alabama. The Department of Forensic Sciences has seen a big increase of the synthetic drug 5-fluoro MDMB-PICA which went from 2,124.86 grams analyzed in 2020 to 9,412.29 grams analyzed in 2021. The Alabama Department of Mental Health showed a decrease in the new psychoactive drugs which went from 480 individuals seeking treatment in 2020 to 270 individuals seeking treatment in 2021.

Money Laundering

Law enforcement continues to see various methods of money laundering across Alabama. According to FINCEN the most suspicious activity reports (SARs) filed in Alabama in for 2021 were from Depository Institutions. The second highest group of SARs were filed by the Money Service Businesses. The primary reason on the Depository Institutions was due to transactions with no apparent economic, business, or lawful purpose and the primary reason for Money Service Businesses was transactions below BSA recordkeeping threshold. Casino activity regarding SARs saw an increase from 159 in 2020 to 205 in 2021.

Capabilities and Competencies

Goals

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The ADECA / LETS Division's goals for the FY2023 Edward Byrne JAG Program include the following:

1. To provide a program that will deliver law enforcement and crime prevention training. This will assist cities and counties to remove or reduce the opportunity for crime within their communities and across the state.
2. To provide local law enforcement elements with funding to upgrade and/or enhance law enforcement equipment including, but not limited to law enforcement computers, police radios and communications equipment, weapons and body armor, and other equipment.
3. Establish and/or support regional drug and violent crime task forces across the state and continued support for our statewide regional drug task forces.
4. To support various State projects in an effort to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services.

Project Design and Implementation

State Strategic Planning Process Defined

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs / Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division (ADECA/LETS) supports state and local criminal justice projects by sub-granting federal dollars from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG). To facilitate the efficient use of public funds, ADECA/LETS has developed a strategic plan to guide funding priorities and to identify problem areas that must be addressed by criminal justice stakeholders through these grant funds.

The Division's coordination with federal, state, and local criminal justice partners, along with the statewide strategic plan and program performance measures will help Alabama to distribute public funds responsibly and effectively through a variety of proven and effective programming areas.

Strategy Development Coordination

In the development of Alabama's FY2019-2023 State Strategy, a variety of information-gathering techniques were utilized to identify successful federal, state and local efforts and to

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respond to the specific needs and concerns of the Criminal Justice Community throughout Alabama. Throughout this process, the Division endeavored to include as many points of view as possible and all significant interests. This information was compared to criminal justice data gathered over a period of years. This plan examines the nature and extent of the identified problems, drug trends in the state, summarizes current efforts and promotes coordination of efforts.

Over a period of months in 2018, as part of the state's planning process for its federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) allocation, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division (LETS) worked with the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) to develop a useful cost effective stakeholder engagement strategy. As part of this engagement strategy, LETS sought input from traditional and non-traditional partners from across the state on:

- 1) priority project types and initiatives within the eight Byrne JAG purpose areas,
- 2) priority purpose areas for funding,
- 3) previous strategic planning priorities, and
- 4) most pressing state and local issues.

Working together with the NCJA, a survey instrument designed to gather input from across the stakeholder community was developed. On behalf of ADECA/LETS, NCJA distributed the survey to state and local stakeholder groups through list-serves, professional associations and e-mail databases beginning on November 1, 2018. The survey closed on December 7, 2018 with 243 responses from around the state and across all elements of the justice system. The research staff at NCJA collected and tabulated the results and provided a detailed analysis for ADECA/LETS to utilize in its planning efforts.

The survey was designed so that responses could be sorted by function within the criminal justice system. Analysis focused on finding consensus around state and local issues, the Byrne JAG purpose areas most in need of limited funds and determining which projects in each purpose area were viewed as most critical to Alabama's state and local criminal justice systems.

Coordinating JAG funds with State and Related Justice Funds

A key mission of ADECA/LETS as the SAA for the Byrne JAG Program is to ensure that JAG funds are coordinated with State and related Justice funds in criminal justice planning efforts and programs. To accomplish this, ADECA/LETS engages in an open dialogue with primary agencies and law enforcement associations within the state. As a result, the joint effort of many organizations working together produces a greater impact than any single agency acting alone. In these cases, positive effects such as improved efficiency in operations, greater exploitation of

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opportunities, and improved utilization of resources occur. When utilizing Byrne JAG funds in conjunction with related justice funds, technology enhancements, safety improvements, and information sharing capabilities are all enhanced and demonstrate a clear and fiscally responsible use of funds.

Strategies and Funding Priorities for FY2023 JAG Funds

ADECA/LETS recognizes the ongoing economic issues have resulted in significant pressures on state and local criminal justice systems. To maximize the effectiveness of Byrne JAG funding, ADECA/LETS ensures local JAG subrecipients are aware of the purpose areas of allocation and any priorities that may have been established.

ADECA/LETS strongly encourages potential subrecipients to consider programs that are evidence-based and have been proven effective through rigorous evaluation. Due to limited resources, it is critical that funds are distributed to programs who have a history of success. However, ADECA/LETS recognizes that some programs have the potential to be innovative and can be models for other localities addressing difficult problems.

Ranking Purpose Area Initiatives

Law Enforcement

<i>Ranking</i>	<i>All Respondents</i>	<i>Law Enforcement</i>	<i>Non-Law Enforcement</i>
1	Training (41%)	Equipment (72%)	Crisis Intervention/MH/ Suicide Prev. (42%)
2	Equipment (39%)	Training (53%)	School/youth-related (34%)
3	Drug enforcement (35%)	Drug Enforcement (53%)	Law enforcement training (27%)

Training, equipment and drug enforcement were viewed as significant issues within the Law Enforcement purpose area. Equipment purchases was especially important to law enforcement respondents. Non-law enforcement ranked behavioral health and youth programs as much more significant than equipment purchases or drug enforcement programs.

Courts/Prosecution/Indigent Defense

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<i>Ranking</i>	<i>All Respondents</i>	<i>Law Enforcement</i>	<i>Non-Law Enforcement</i>
1	Specialty Courts (35%)	Not applicable (45%)	Specialty courts (51%)
2	Not Applicable (32%)	Training (33%)	Training (20%)
3	Training (27%)	Drug/violent crime (26%)	Not applicable and pretrial risk assessment/monitoring (19%)

Respondents did not appear to feel all that strongly about any particular initiative within Purpose Area 2. This is likely due to the small number of responses from those employed in courts/judicial positions and absence of representatives from the indigent defense field.

Prevention and Education Programs

<i>Ranking</i>	<i>All Respondents</i>	<i>Law Enforcement</i>	<i>Non-Law Enforcement</i>
1	Substance abuse prevention/education (48%)	School violence prevention/education and substance abuse education/prevention projects (47%)	Substance abuse prevention/education (48%)
2	Domestic violence prevention (40%)	Domestic violence prevention (45%)	Juvenile delinquency (41%)
3	Juvenile delinquency prevention (37%)	Juvenile delinquency prevention (37%)	Domestic violence prevention (36%)

Substance abuse prevention/education, domestic violence prevention, and juvenile delinquency prevention (37%) were the top three ranked initiatives within this purpose area. Law enforcement respondents also ranked school violence as a significant issue (47%).

Corrections/Community Corrections

<i>Ranking</i>	<i>All Respondents</i>	<i>Law Enforcement</i>	<i>Non-Law Enforcement</i>
1	Not applicable (46%)	Not applicable (65%)	Community-based offender treatment (38%)
2	Community-based offender treatment (26%)	Workforce (19%)	Reentry programs (33%)
3	Jail/prison-based offender treatment (23%)	Jail/prison-based offender treatment (18%)	N/A (28%)

Nearly half of respondents said that corrections/community corrections initiatives were not applicable to their role or agency. Of those for whom this Purpose Area applies, offender-based treatment is a significant issue.

Drug Treatment & Enforcement

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<i>Ranking</i>	<i>All Respondents</i>	<i>Law Enforcement</i>	<i>Non-Law Enforcement</i>
1	Mental illness and other chronic health conditions/services (36%)	Drug enforcement and interdiction (49%)	Co-occur. mental illness and chronic health (48%)
2	Not applicable (30%)	Not applicable (36%)	Community-based treatment (39%)
3	Drug enforcement and interdiction (30%)	Co-occur. mental illness and other chronic health (24%)	Corrections-based treatment (35%)

Co-occurring mental illness and other chronic health conditions/services and drug enforcement/interdiction were ranked as significant issues within the Drug Enforcement Purpose Area. About a third of respondents, however, said that these initiatives did not apply to them. Drug enforcement and interdiction was a top issue for law enforcement (49%) while co-occurring mental illness and chronic health conditions was a top issue within the non-law enforcement group. Treatment was also a significant issue for the non-law enforcement group.

Planning, Evaluation and Technology

<i>Ranking</i>	<i>All Respondents</i>	<i>Law Enforcement</i>	<i>Non-Law Enforcement</i>
1	Training (48%)	Training (56%)	Automated info sharing with community services (44%)
2	Forensic science lab enhancements (37%)	Forensics lab improvements (44%)	Training (39%)
3	Automated information sharing projects with justice system partners and community services (33% each)	Database and technology upgrades (39%)	Automated information sharing with justice system partners (30%)

Training, forensic lab improvements and automated justice information sharing were among the top concerns within the Planning, Evaluation and Technology Purpose Area. Database and technology upgrades were also a major concern among law enforcement.

Crime Victim and Witness

<i>Ranking</i>	<i>All Respondents</i>	<i>Law Enforcement</i>	<i>Non-Law Enforcement</i>
1	Behavioral health/trauma-informed care (42%)	Training and education for CJ practitioners (43%)	Behavioral health services/trauma-informed care (54%)
2	Child advocacy centers (38%)	Child advocacy centers (43%)	Children exposed to violence (37%)

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3	Children exposed to violence (35%)	Children exposed to violence (33%)	Child advocacy centers (33%)
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Behavioral health/trauma-informed care and youth victimization appear to be major issues overall. Law enforcement ranked training and education for criminal justice practitioners a top priority.

Mental Health

<i>Ranking</i>	<i>All Respondents</i>	<i>Law Enforcement</i>	<i>Non-Law Enforcement</i>
1	Evaluation/assessment of mental health and co-occurring disorders (55%)	Training (58%)	Evaluation/assessment (57%)
2	CIT Training and support (48%)	Evaluation/assessment (53%)	Residential inpatient behavioral health treatment (55%)
3	Training (39%) and residential inpatient behavioral health treatment programs (38%)	CIT training/support (51%)	CIT training and support (45%)

Respondents ranked evaluation/assessment of mental health and co-occurring disorders, CIT training and support, and general training among top concerns within the Mental Health Purpose Area (behavioral health treatment programs were nearly ranked third). Again, law enforcement viewed general training as a top priority.

Ranking Purpose Areas

Rank	All Respondents	Law Enforcement Only	Non-Law Enforcement
1	Law enforcement (60%)	LE Program (84%)	Mental Health (71%)
2	Mental health (60%)	Mental health (48%)	Prevention/education (48%)
3	Prevention/education (43%)	Prevention and education (36%)	Drug treatment (41%)
4	Drug Treatment (38%)	Drug Treatment (35%)	Law enforcement (37%)
5	Planning, evaluation and technology (33%)	Planning, evaluation and tech (33%)	Court/prosecution/indigent defense (35%)
6	Crime victim and witness (29%)	Crime victim and witness (25%)	Crime victim and witness (35%)

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7	Court/Prosecution Indigent Defense (28%)	Court/prosecution/defense (21%)	Planning, evaluation and tech (34%)
8	Corrections and community corrections (25%)	Corrections and community corrections (21%)	Corrections and community corrections (29%)

Law Enforcement, Mental Health and Prevention/Education were identified as the top 3 most important Purpose Areas. Not surprisingly, most law enforcement respondents viewed the Law Enforcement purpose area as the most critical. Most non-law enforcement respondents said Mental Health was a top concern and Drug Treatment was ranked as more significant than the Law Enforcement Purpose Area. Corrections and Community Corrections were viewed as the least important (respondents from the corrections field did not participate in the survey).

Note: there is an error in the survey instrument in which respondents were asked to rank Purpose Areas in order from 1 to 8 with 1 being the most important. However, the question contains checkboxes rather than ranking fields, and therefore respondents could only select rather than rank critical Purpose Areas.

Performance Measurement Data

ADECA/LETS's plan for collecting and submitting performance measurement data required by BJA will be through the collection of quarterly reports from subrecipients.

Financial Reporting

In order to obtain financial information concerning the use of federal funds, subrecipients must submit timely reports for review. LETS, "Subgrant Fiscal Report" was established to be submitted on a quarterly basis as previously described. These reports are signed by the Financial Officers or Authorized Officials and reflect the actual receipts and expenditure of funds for the period covered. The report also contains the Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Report for subrecipients needing to report such data.

Progress Reporting

Evaluation of projects is important. The goals and objectives of the subgrant project must always be paramount in the minds of personnel conducting the project and those monitoring the progress. To enable the project to be monitored and evaluated, subrecipients are required

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to submit a quarterly progress report. These reports are prepared according to a template developed by the LETS Division. The performance measures, shown by activity type, are applicable for most purpose areas, and are designed to incorporate the reporting requirements of the Performance Measurement Tools (PMT). The intent of this report is to assist the SAA, local criminal justice planners, practitioners, researchers, and evaluators in: 1) conducting evaluations and performance measurement that will address the effectiveness and efficiency of projects and 2) using evaluation information to improve program planning and implementation.

UCR Reporting/NIBRS

In order to ensure compliance with BJA for the collection of required performance measurement data, all subrecipients must be current with all NIBRS.

PMT Reporting

In order to ensure compliance with BJA for the collection of required performance measurement data, all subrecipients will be required to submit reports to ADECA/LETS with information for the BJA Performance Measurement Tool (PMT).

Application Process

Acquiring an Application

Subrecipients may check our new online Grants Management System called **Alabama Grants** to see what programs are open for applications. Once they are registered in our system, they can apply for any of the programs for which they are eligible if it is during an open application period.

General

All subrecipients of the ADECA/LETS Division are bound by uniform award, payment, and financial reporting requirements. LETS policy letters describe the procedures to be followed by subrecipients to properly initiate subgrant activities, receive advancement and reimbursement for expenditures, and report on subgrant activities.

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Financial questionnaires must be completed by all subrecipients. This includes a review of the accounting system and a determination that periodic audits are performed to ensure fiscal integrity. New awards are not made to applicants with unresolved audits, delinquent financial or progress reports or other unresolved issues of fiscal integrity, or those debarred or suspended from Federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits under Federal programs and activities.

Request for Proposal Training and Review Process

For the main purpose areas that Byrne JAG will focus on in the upcoming year, ADECA/LETS has developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) for each.

Receipt

Grant applications are initially received in the **Alabama Grants** system. The Program Manager(s) review the application for completeness and to determine if the application is acceptable in its current form. All portions of the application must be included, and all required certifications and attachments must be properly signed and attached.

Once an application is deemed acceptable, the Program Manager will then setup the application for review by program staff and/or outside reviewers.

Subgrant Evaluation

Once the application is accepted the Program Managers will complete detailed reviews and evaluations of the application. These will include a further review of required application completeness and attachments, to determine if the activity is allowable under federal guidelines; confirm that the program defines measurable terms; confirm that the budget is appropriate for the proposed program; confirm that the budget does not contain unallowable items per federal and state rules or regulations. The application will then move through the different levels of review.

RFP Review and Award Process

Each application will be reviewed by program staff that have knowledge in that purpose area. Each application will have a scoring mechanism that staff will use when assessing applications. ADECA/LETS will make awards based upon the highest scoring applications.

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Applications from less than 10k funds

This year we are distributing the less than 10k funds through an RFP process in increments of \$24,000. This will allow qualified applicants to apply for larger amounts that can be used for equipment replacement/upgrades. Qualified applicants will be notified and a deadline for applications will be set. Once applications have been received they will be reviewed by program staff and scored. The highest scoring applications will be funded until all funds have been exhausted.

State Awards

All awards provided to State entities from the state allocable portion of the award will be primarily based on available guidance from the Office of the Governor. Absent specific priority guidance from the Governor's Office, funding recommendations are also based on their nexus to established funding priorities and how the projects support those priorities. State entities making application are subject to the same scoring guidelines as the Non-Formula Awards.

Approval Routing

Once the application is deemed complete and has been evaluated, it is routed through the different levels of supervision which eventually reaches the division chiefs office. From there it's sent to Financial Services, to the Legal Section, to the Audit Section and finally the Director of ADECA for review and concurrence from each. Anyone along this process is empowered to request additional information or clarification of the application.

Once the application has completed this process it is forwarded to the Governor's Office for final approval. Once approved, the award documents are sent to the subrecipient for acceptance of the award and signature.

Time Line for Funding

ADECA /LETS requests annual grant applications in June/July and will accept grant applications anytime throughout the year for State entities and/or local law enforcement entities making application for "Less than \$10K Funding". With the exception of the "Less than \$10K Awards" all grants are made for a period of twelve months. Reports are required on the 15th day of the month following the end of the quarter. Annual grants are funded to begin on October 1 with application being accepted beginning in August.

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Jul – 2023	Prepare and submit federal application
Aug – Sep 2023	Request subgrant applications for State projects and annual grants; Subgrant applications awards for annual grants calculated and awarded
Oct – 2023	Annual subgrant awards begin (State and Local)
Nov – 2023	Begin Accepting Applications for Less than \$10K Grants
Oct – Dec 2023	Closeout of 2020 subgrant awards
Dec – Jan 2024	Identify de-obligated funds and unobligated balances
Jan – 2024	Quarterly Reports Due
Apr- 2024	Quarterly Reports Due
Apr – May 2024	Grant Application Prepared and Submitted
Jul – 2024	Quarterly Reports Due for 2023 sub-grants
Aug – Sep 2024	Awards for annual grants calculated and awarded
Oct – 2024	Quarterly Reports Due
Dec 2024	Final Reports Due for 2023 annual sub-awards

DCRA Data Collection

While Alabama does not have a state law requiring the reporting of deaths in custody, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) established a condition to the subrecipient awards that states the following:

DEATH IN CUSTODY REPORTING ACT (DCRA). The Death in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA) of 2013 requires a State that receives allocations under specified provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to report certain information regarding the death of any person in law enforcement custody. This may include individuals who are detained, arrested, en route to incarceration, or incarcerated in State or local facilities or a boot camp prison. The Subrecipient agrees to notify ADECA of any reportable deaths involving the implementing agency under this agreement. The DCRA reporting form can be found at <https://adeca.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/Death-in-Custody-Reporting-Act-DICRA-Form.pdf>. Please contact your ADECA Program Manager, if you have questions regarding applicability of this requirement to your entity.

The state of Alabama has 293 secure confinement facilities. While we strive to train the appropriate entities on the importance of reporting deaths in custody there is no way for us to ensure that all facilities are reporting timely and accurate information. When possible, ADECA provides training to entities on how to accurately report death in custody data.

ADECA has established a dedicated email address for all DCRA reports to be submitted. After data is submitted program staff uploads the information into the PMT system on a quarterly basis. We have

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trained the state department of corrections and local coroners/medical examiners on how to submit data. The challenge ADECA faces with collecting timely and accurate data is that there is no incentive for locals to submit the data and ADECA doesn't have any authority over the reporting agencies.

ADECA designed a fillable PDF document for agencies to report DCRA data. ADECA manually enters data into PMT system. ADECA tracks all records that are entered into PMT and update with additional info when it becomes available.