



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller
Director

Tracy Louise Winn Banks, Esq.
Chief Deputy Director

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Criminal Justice Services Board Grants Committee Meeting

May 29, 2025

Members Present

Chief Craig Branch, Chair
Sheriff Brian Hieatt, Vice Chair
Ebony Clark
Maria Jankowski
Russell "Rusty" McGuire

Members Absent

Officer Bennie Evans, Jr.

I. Call to Order

Chief Craig Branch called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM

II. Roll Call

Chief Branch asked Wendy Lohr-Hopp to conduct Roll Call. Ms. Hopp stated there was a quorum with five members present. All members joined the meeting by electronic communications.

III. Introductions/Opening Comments

Chief Branch officially welcomed guests and any agency dignitaries.

IV. Approval of Minutes of April 24, 2025

Chief Branch called for corrections, deletions, and/or additions to the minutes from the April 24, 2025, meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Jankowski to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mr. McGuire. The motion passed by majority vote with one abstention.

V. Grant Approvals

a) Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund (HVIPP New)

The purpose of the Hospital Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (HVIPP) funding opportunity for new projects is to support the implementation of proven strategies that will result in reducing violent crime within the Commonwealth while implementing effective and sustainable solutions to intercept and eliminate local cycles of violence. HVIPPs are multidisciplinary programs that combine the efforts of medical staff with trusted community-based partners to provide safety planning, services, and trauma-informed care to victims injured in gun violence and their families.

One (1) application is recommended for denial as it did not provide justification for the personnel and equipment line items, and although a letter of support from the hospital was attached, it did not mention the applicant.

Funding requested through this funding opportunity supports the expansion of HVIPP programs.

In summary, DCJS staff request approval to fund one (1) grant application for the 24-month period (7/1/2025-6/30/2027), totaling \$3,550,675 using the Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention funds allocated for this purpose.

There was discussion on the difference between Firearm Violence and Prevention Fund and the Hospital Violence Intervention and Prevention Program. A motion was made by Ms. Jankowski and seconded by Mr. McGuire. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

b) Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund (HVIPP Continuation)

The purpose of the Hospital Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (HVIPP) Continuation Grant is to improve public safety and health outcomes for victims of gun violence. The HVIPP programs serve patients with injuries from firearms, stabbing and assault, to reduce incidents of re-injury, retaliation, recidivism, and victim mortality by augmenting services and resources available to victims during and after their hospital stay.

This solicitation invited continuation of the FY2024-2025 grant. This continuation opportunity was only open to the one organization that currently receives DCJS funding to support HVIPP projects. Further, this funding requires coordination of the establishment or enhancement of HVIPP projects in multiple hospital locations statewide.

This funding opportunity supports the continuation of the HVIPP programs currently operating in six hospitals across the Commonwealth.

No applications were denied.

In summary, DCJS staff request approval to fund one (1) grant application for the 24-month period (7/1/2025-6/30/2027), totaling \$5,000,000, using the Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention funds allocated for this purpose.

There was a discussion on the difference between the New and Continuation grant funding opportunities. A motion was made by Ms. Jankowski and seconded by Sheriff Hieatt. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

c) Comprehensive Community Corrections Act and Pretrial Services Act - Regional Jail Expansion (CCCA/PSA Jail Expansion)

The purpose of Pretrial Jail Expansion Earmarked Funding Opportunity is to support expanded Comprehensive Community Corrections and Pretrial Services Act (CCCA/PSA) Programs for localities belonging to the Central Virginia Regional Jail Authority and the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority. Programs are established and operated under the authority of the Comprehensive Community-Corrections Act for Local Responsible Offenders (CCCA, § 9.1-173) and the Pretrial Services Act (PSA, § 19.2-152.2) of the *Code of Virginia*.

Award amounts are designated in the Appropriation Act and reflect 75% of the costs projected for expanded services in the community-based correction plan submitted by each Authority at the time of their jail expansion. In accordance with the Appropriation Act, the localities are required to provide the remaining 25% as a condition of receiving these funds.

No applications were denied.

These funds are proposed to be expended on salaries and fringe benefits of sworn pretrial officers, office supplies, VCIN software, drug testing supplies, rent for office space, and telephone costs for operations.

In summary, DCJS staff request approval to fund two (2) grant applications for the 12-month period (7/1/2025-6/30/2026) totaling \$1,100,000, using \$825,000 in state general funds allocated for this purpose and \$275,000 in subrecipient match contribution.

There was discussion on the eligibility of the applicants and the requested amounts based on the Appropriation Act. A motion was made by Mr. McGuire and seconded by Ms. Jankowski. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

d) Comprehensive Community Corrections Act and Pretrial Services Act (CCCA/PSA)

The purpose of the CCCA/PSA funding opportunity is to support local community-based probation and pretrial services agencies established and operating under the authority of the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act for Local-Responsible Officers (CCCA) and the Pretrial Services Act (PSA), as specified in the *Code of Virginia*. Funding is open to existing agencies meeting the requirements set forth in the *Code*.

The CCCA authorizes the creation of local, community-based probation agencies. First established in 1995, these agencies provide a sentencing option for courts to use for individuals convicted of certain misdemeanors or non-violent felonies for which sentences would be 12 months or less in a local or regional jail. Local community-based probation agencies provide services or referrals to services to include community service, assessment, education and/or treatment, and substance abuse testing.

Pretrial services agencies were first created in Virginia in 1989, pursuant to authorizing language in the Appropriation Act. In 1995, pretrial services agencies were authorized by statute with the passage of the PSA. Pretrial services agencies provide information, to include risk of failure to appear for court hearings and risk to public safety, to judicial officers (judges and magistrates) to help them make release decisions. Pretrial services agencies also supervise those released to the community and ordered to pretrial supervision pending trial.

Pretrial services assist court-ordered individuals in meeting the conditions of their bail, such as compliance with substance abuse testing and electronic monitoring.

There were no applications denied. Funding recommendations account for the base award from FY2025, plus increases accounting for need and available funding, as well as bonuses and raises directed through the Appropriation Act for state funded local employees.

Grant awards are primarily for the salaries and fringe benefits of sworn pretrial and local probation officers. Additional expenses include office supplies, VCIN software, drug testing materials, office space rent, telephone service for operations, and memberships or professional trainings for staff.

In summary, DCJS staff request approval to fund 37 grant applications for the 12-month period (7/1/2025-6/30/2026), totaling \$33,032,615 using state general funds allocated for this purpose.

A motion was made by Sheriff Hieatt and seconded by Ms. Clark. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

e) Jail Substance Use Treatment (JSUT)

The purpose of the Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment and Transition Grant Program is to increase access to substance use disorder treatment and transitional services for individuals incarcerated in local and regional jails in Virginia. Funded programs may include medication assisted treatment therapies, addiction recovery and other substance use disorder services, reentry and transitional support, or a combination of these services. This program is currently funded by the 2024 Appropriation Act, which includes the remaining amount of \$498,486 available for award from the Commonwealth Opioid Abatement and Remediation Fund.

Two (2) applications were denied due to ineligibility, as these programs are already receiving Jail-Based SUD Treatment and Transition Grant Program funding. All applications were reduced because the funding requested exceeded the total funds available.

The majority of applicant funding requests were allocated towards Personnel, Consultants, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) resources, and Supplies and Other Expenses needed to successfully implement and carry out grant activities. Funding requests include Community Services Board (CSB) consultant expenses, reentry and peer support specialists, SUD medications, group materials, evidence-based practices training for project staff, and program supplies.

In summary, DCJS staff request approval to fund five (5) grant applications for the 36-month period (7/1/2025-6/30/2028), totaling \$498,486 using state special funds allocated for this purpose.

There was discussion about the funding available for this funding opportunity. A motion was made by Ms. Jankowski and seconded by Sheriff Hieatt. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

f) Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for Prisoners (RSAT) Continuation

The purpose of this grant funding opportunity is to continue to support existing programs that provide evidence-based Residential Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Programs, which may include Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services within juvenile detention centers, local and regional jails, or prisons. The funding may also be used for aftercare SUD treatment programs that serve individuals who are transitioning from a SUD treatment program in a jail or detention center.

This was a level funded, continuation funding opportunity and there were no applications denied. One (1) grant was reduced to the level funded, allowable amount.

Funds are used to support personnel and consultants that provide direct services to incarcerated individuals, staff training relating to substance use disorders and evidence-based curriculum, as well as medications and reentry supplies.

In summary, DCJS staff request approval to fund 5 grant applications for the 12-month period (7/1/2025-6/30/2026), totaling \$556,180, using \$416,598 in federal funds and \$139,582 in subrecipient match contributions.

There was a discussion regarding services provided for co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders. A motion was made by Ms. Jankowski and seconded by Ms. Clark. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

g) Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF)

The purpose of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF) Grant Program is to make funds available to local prosecutors for the cost of attorneys and/or to further dedicate resources to prosecute felonies and misdemeanors involving domestic violence, sexual violence/abuse, stalking, and family abuse. In addition, this grant program supports projects that provide advocacy and medical services to victims of and/or children affected by domestic violence, sexual violence/abuse, stalking, and family abuse. This grant program is supported by state funds and was established in *Code of Virginia* § 9.1-116.1.

One (1) application was denied during the preliminary review as the applicant was not eligible to apply, since this funding opportunity was only open for current FY2025 VSDVVF grantees and not open to new applicants. The requested amounts of two (2) applicants were increased as they mistakenly requested incorrect amounts in their initial applications. During the negotiation and verification process, their requested amounts were updated to reflect the correct maximum total award amounts.

The requests for funding will support personnel expenses for prosecutors, advocates, legal services, forensic nurse examiner (FNE) salaries and FNE equipment, and culturally specific services to underserved populations including counseling, shelter placement, and outreach.

In summary, DCJS staff request approval to fund 49 grant applications for the 12-month period (7/1/2025-6/30/2026), totaling \$2,259,760, using state general and special funds allocated for this purpose.

There were discussions on the need for additional resources for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and Forensic Nurse Examiners across the state. Discussion also included mention of an upcoming legislative study, federal funding available, and the Compensation Board. A motion was made by Ms. Jankowski and seconded by Ms. Clark. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

h) Victim Witness Grant Program (VWGP)

The purpose of the Victim Witness Grant Program (VWGP) is to provide financial support to 112 local and 3 statewide victim assistance programs. These programs provide direct services, information, and assistance to victims of crime as required by the *Code of Virginia* § 19.2-11.01. Approximately half of the funding for this grant program comes from federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds administered to DCJS by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime. In addition to federal funds, state general funds, and Virginia Crime Victim-Witness Fund special funds also support this grant program.

No applications were denied. One applicant's requested amount was reduced as they requested \$8.00 more than the maximum allowable award amount. Additionally, the requested amounts of nine (9) applicants were increased as they mistakenly requested incorrect amounts in their initial applications. During the negotiation and verification process, their requested amounts were updated to reflect the correct maximum allowable award amounts.

Requested items for funding include, but are not limited to, personnel expenses, supplies, travel costs, and emergency assistance for victims of crime. Services provided by these funded projects include victim advocacy, criminal justice assistance, court accompaniment, crisis intervention, referral information, and other related services.

In summary, DCJS staff request approval for 115 grant awards for the 12-month period (7/1/2025-6/30/2026), totaling \$20,779,087, comprised of federal VOCA funds, state general funds, and Virginia Crime Victim-Witness Fund special funds allocated for this purpose.

A motion was made by Sheriff Hieatt and seconded by Ms. Jankowski. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

i) Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (BSCI)

The purpose of this grant funding opportunity is to provide applicants with an opportunity to increase program capacity, program acceptance rates, and graduation rates for recovery courts, behavioral health dockets, and veterans' treatment dockets (specialty dockets).

Two (2) applications were denied and deemed to be ineligible because they were not submitted by local governments.

Funds will be used to support personnel and consultants that provide direct services to the participants enrolled in the specialty docket programs, which will expand program capacity. Additionally, funding will be utilized for ancillary services such as housing support, vocational/educational services, and community collaboration activities.

In summary, DCJS Staff request approval to fund two (2) grant applications for the 22-month period (9/1/2025-6/30/2027), totaling \$240,200, using federal funds allocated for this purpose.

There was a discussion on the services provided by consultants under this funding opportunity and staff clarified that they are treatment providers. A motion was made by Mr. McGuire and seconded by Ms. Jankowski. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

j) Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (BJAG)

The purpose of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (“JAG”) funds is to allow states and units of local government, including tribes, to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own state and local needs and conditions. As the State Administrative Agency (SAA), DCJS has the responsibility of managing the coordination and distribution of JAG funds in a manner that supports and improves the overall criminal justice system of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This competitive funding opportunity was open to all local law enforcement agencies and public campus law enforcement agencies. Applicants were invited to submit applications with a project to purchase equipment that improves or enhances the delivery of daily law enforcement services to the community and/or ensures the safety of citizens and officers.

Priority was given to those applicants who could spend the money by September 30, 2025, as some federal funding for this funding opportunity ends in September. Seventy (70) applications were denied; five (5) applicants were deemed ineligible and sixty-five (65) did not meet criteria, e.g. asked for items not allowable, asked for items that were outside the grant period, or had an incomplete/poor application. Eighteen (18) applications were reduced in funding due to unallowable expenses and/or insufficient justification.

This funding opportunity was for law enforcement based equipment and supplies only. Items that were recommended for funding included items such as Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs), first aid kits/Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs), ballistic shields and helmets, bicycles, cameras, radar detections, etc.

In summary, DCJS staff requests approval to fund seventy-five (75) grant applications for the six-month period (7/1/2025-12/31/2025), totaling \$3,792,514 using \$2,844,365 in federal JAG funding allocated for this purpose and \$948,149 in subrecipient match contribution.

There were discussions on the types of equipment requested by applicants. A motion was made by Mr. McGuire and seconded by Sheriff Hieatt. The motion passed by majority vote with one opposed. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

k) Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (BJAG Critical Incident)

The purpose of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds is to allow states and units of local government, including tribes, to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own state and local needs and conditions. As the State Administrative Agency (SAA), DCJS has the responsibility of managing the

coordination and distribution of JAG funds in a manner that supports and improves the overall criminal justice system of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The current award will provide funding and support personnel for critical training initiatives for law enforcement throughout the Commonwealth. The DCJS Critical Incident Preparedness and Response Training Program, formerly the Active Attack Program, trains citizens to become “immediate responders” during critical incidents and first responders to support communities during and after active attack incidents.

No applications were denied.

In summary, DCJS staff request approval to fund one (1) grant application for the 12-month period (7/1/2025-6/30/2026) totaling \$869,000, using federal JAG funding allocated for this purpose.

A motion was made by Mr. McGuire and seconded by Ms. Clark. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

I) Office of First Responder Wellness Grant Program (OFRW) (Reconsideration)

The purpose of the Office of First Responder Wellness Grant Program is to provide resources to first responder agencies and non-profit organizations to fund first responder wellness training for agency employees; fund registration fees, lodging, and per diem for agency employees to attend first responder wellness conferences; fund support costs for therapy/support dogs; fund the purchase of therapeutic wellness equipment; and provide funding for non-profit agencies to provide wellness training, resources, or direct services to first responders in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Executive Order 38 directed DCJS to award up to \$2,700,000.

The Criminal Justice Services Board previously approved seventy-seven (77) grant applications for \$1,588,597 in May 2025 out of available funding of \$2.7 million for FY2025. DCJS is requesting that three (3) applications be reconsidered for approval. Upon further communication and consideration into the requests for the mobile Guide Application (App) it was determined that this mobile application provides first responder wellness training which aligns with the goals of the funding opportunity. Staff recommends funding the applications for the Department of Corrections and Lynchburg.

Staff recommends an increase of \$10,500 to the previously approved award to the Town of Vinton, to support their request for the Guide App for their community. Other items from their original application to support physical training gear purchases are not being reconsidered.

In summary, DCJS Staff requests approval to fund three (3) grant applications for the 12-month period (7/1/2025–6/30/2026), totaling \$81,364 using state funds allocated for this purpose.

There were discussions on summaries provided by applicants and that the reconsideration was requested by DCJS. CJSB Committee Members also requested additional training for grantees and technical assistance to improve the quality of the grant project descriptions. A motion was made by Ms. Clark and seconded by Sheriff Hieatt. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

VI. Old Business

No Old Business was brought forth at this meeting.

VII. New Business

No New Business was brought forth at the meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

No Public Comment was brought forth at this meeting.

IX. Announcements

Chief Branch announced that the next Grants Committee meeting will be held September 25, 2025.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 PM. A motion was made by Mr. McGuire and seconded by Ms. Clark. The motion passed unanimously.

Recusals

Russell “Rusty” McGuire

- Application #553717 - Louisa County

Chief Craig Branch, Chair

- Application #549821 – Culpeper, County
- Application #549761 – Fredericksburg, City
- Application #549704 – Rappahannock Regional Jail
- Application #550725 – Empowerhouse
- Application #551160 – Fredericksburg, City
- Application #551149 – Madison, County
- Application #551037 – Rappahannock Council Against Sexual Assault
- Application #552626 – Services to Abused Families, Inc.
- Application #552625 – Spotsylvania, County
- Application #551166 – Stafford, County
- Application #553698 – Culpeper, County
- Application #553981 – Fredericksburg, City
- Application #553690 – Madison, County
- Application #553822 – Orange, County
- Application #554318 – Spotsylvania, County
- Application #550338 – Culpeper, County
- Application #551610 – Culpeper, Town
- Application #550649 – Fredericksburg, City
- Application #551927 – Spotsylvania, County