

## State of Minnesota- FY 2023 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Strategic Plan

### Strategic Plan Background Information

Minnesota has implemented very robust strategic planning processes in previous JAG application years. These processes included multiple stakeholder surveys with over 900 responses, convening stakeholders to review data, and having targeted discussions regarding funding priorities. OJP has had diminished capacity to complete a strategic planning process that matches previous years' planning process standards due to staff turnover, lack of Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) staff who will be crucial to plan development.

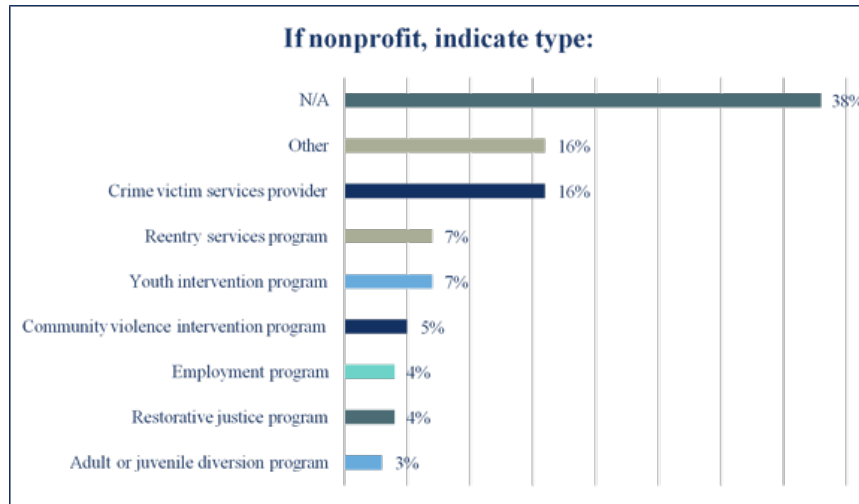
Because of these challenges, OJP partnered with the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) to develop and distribute a stakeholder engagement survey in Spring 2023 to inform the state's JAG priorities. NCJA and OJP collaborated to create and distribute a logic-based survey to a broad spectrum of criminal justice system partners to inform statewide criminal justice priorities. The survey sought input from stakeholders on criminal justice challenges and priority project types and initiatives within JAG purpose areas.

### Stakeholder Engagement Survey Overview

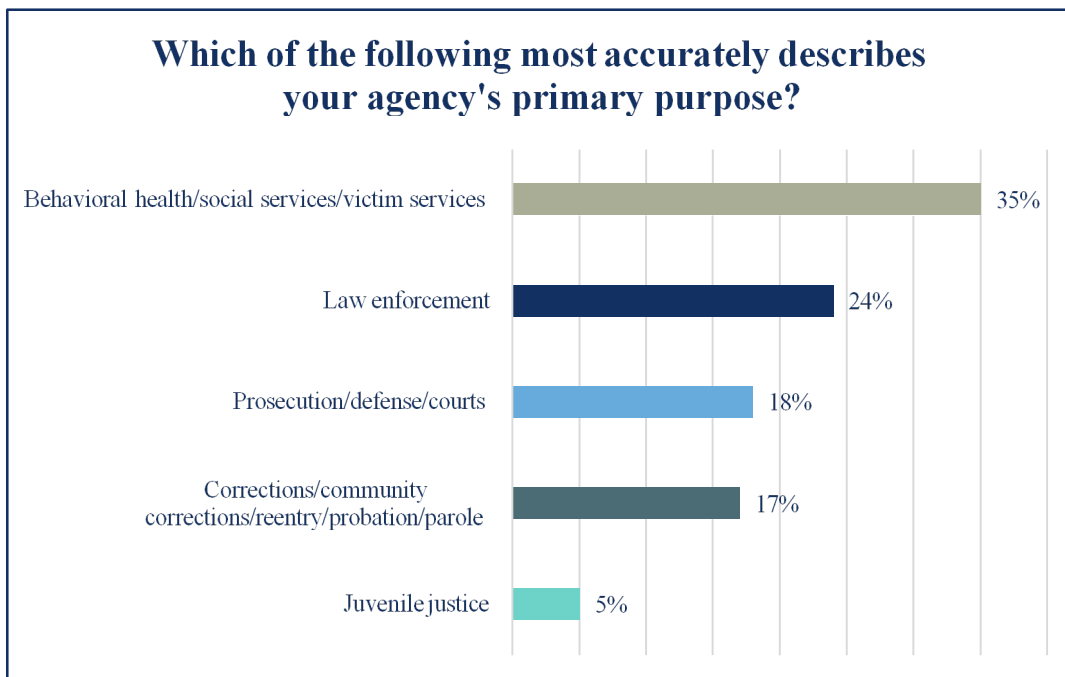
The 37-question survey was distributed to partners and stakeholders via email beginning on March 27, 2023. The survey closed on May 31, 2023, with 307 responses across the state's criminal justice system, including from law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim services and assistance, social services, behavioral health, education and youth programs, juvenile justice, and more. The survey's overall completion rate was 90%, indicating that the vast majority of individuals beginning the survey also completed it. It was noted that OJP received 60% less survey responses than that last time OJP conducted the survey, even though OJP used the same distribution channels.

Survey analysis aimed to find points of consensus across the state's criminal justice system and provide guidance on where limited JAG funds are most needed. The survey did not aim to rank the JAG purpose areas in order of greatest need, but rather to determine primary challenges within the state and projects and initiatives that are most in need of funding. Questions were grouped through logic for several reasons: to reduce the amount of time it took to complete the survey, to ensure individuals received questions that aligned with their areas of expertise and to parse out differences between stakeholder groups.

The largest entity type represented in this survey was nonprofits, with a majority of those being crime victim services providers. The following graph depicts the types of nonprofits.



The survey aimed to identify the respondent’s agency’s primary role within the criminal justice system. In terms of agency roles, the primary role was law enforcement (24%), followed by victim services/assistance (22%). Defense had one statistically insignificant response (.33%).



The survey’s overall completion rate was 90%, indicating that the vast majority of individuals beginning the survey also completed it. Upon reaching this question, splitting stakeholders into their distinct paths, the number of survey participants decreased from 307 to 293. As participants were routed down their individualized stakeholder paths, participant numbers did not continue to decrease at the same rate: a few additional respondents didn’t complete the survey, but total responses per path stood similarly to the numbers below:

- Behavioral health/social services/victim services: 103 responses
- Law enforcement: 71 responses

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- *Prosecution/defense/courts*: 54 responses
- *Corrections/community corrections/reentry/probation/parole*: 50 responses
- *Juvenile justice*: 15 responses

### Survey Limitations

NCJA described the following most pertinent survey barriers and limitations to the survey results,

- 307 survey responses were collected as part of this survey, which represents a small sample of the state's criminal justice community. Missing significant feedback from corrections, community corrections, courts, juvenile justice with none from defense.
- The two top stakeholder paths represented in this survey were law enforcement and behavioral health/social services/victim services with the behavioral health/social services/victim services path composed of 35% of respondents, while the law enforcement path made up 24% of survey respondents. These two largest paths consisted of 59% of all survey responses, which may have skewed the survey data.
- Only one individual indicated that defense was the primary role of their agency, meaning that defense and indigent defense were heavily underrepresented in this survey, despite the prosecution/defense/courts stakeholder track making up 18% of survey responses. This track was swayed toward prosecution, considering 9% of total survey respondents represented prosecution.
- Juvenile justice was also underrepresented in this survey—with only 5% of respondents, or approximately 15 responses.

### Survey Results

The survey results showed that stakeholders identified the following needs:

- More treatment options, programming, services, and resources for those struggling with mental illness and/or substance use disorders.
- More diversion programs, including specialty courts and juvenile-specific programming.
- An increased need for reentry programs and services, including those offering behavioral health services as well as those addressing basic human needs such as housing.
- Programs aimed at preventing mental health issues/substance use disorders, including for youth.

The survey highlighted the need for a holistic approach to addressing behavioral health issues, noting the ways in which behavioral health needs touch all aspects of the criminal justice system. A large need for culturally specific programming was identified, and a pressing need for housing, specifically sober and transitional housing options. Staffing within and across criminal justice system agencies was identified as a major challenge throughout this survey.

### Minnesota's 2023-2024 Legislative Investments

During the period that the strategic planning survey was being implemented, Minnesota's Legislature made an historic investment in criminal justice and criminal justice adjacent initiatives. These include and are not limited to:

- \$64 Million- Community Crime Intervention and Prevention Grants
- \$3 Million- Domestic and Sexual Violence Housing grant program to provide resources for survivors of violence to access safe and stable housing.
- \$22 Million- Federal Victims of Crime Funding Gap fund services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and other crimes. This is a onetime appropriation.
- \$2 Million- Crossover and Dual-Status Youth Model Grants to local units of government to initiate or expand crossover youth practices model and dual-status youth programs that provide services for youth who are involved with or at risk of becoming involved with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- \$10 Million- Ramsey County Violence Prevention grants to develop new and further enhance existing community-based organizational support through violence prevention and community wellness grants. Grantees must use the money to create family support groups and resources to support families during the time a young person is placed out of home.
- \$10 Million-Intensive Comprehensive Peace Officer Education and Training Program
- \$8 Million- Restorative Practices Initiatives Grants
- \$750,000- Community supervision; targeted innovation grants. Targeted innovation grant account to issue grants to fund innovative probation initiatives.
- \$844,000- to fund four new treatment courts.
- \$7.4 Million- Courtroom Technology Enhancements
- \$2.6 Million- Staff and operating costs to support the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension-led Minnesota Human Trafficking Investigator's Task Force.
- \$300 million in one-time public safety aid for local governments in response to violent crime and other public safety issues.
- \$4.3 million for Attorney General Keith Ellison to hire more criminal prosecutors that most often help county attorneys in rural areas with complex cases like murder.
- \$160 million in funds will improve supports for Minnesotans facing homelessness through grants to nonprofits and local and Tribal governments to provide shelter and outreach, transitional housing and other services supporting access to housing.
- \$6.5 million for reducing recidivism for people re-entering the community from correctional facilities. Housing Support will become available to people with disabilities who are leaving incarceration without stable housing, providing a Housing justice: Taking critical steps forward in Minnesota 2transition period of up to three months. This will prevent homelessness, increase housing stability, and reduce recidivism.
- \$20 million for supporting people to move out of homelessness. The Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness program, or PATH, serves people who have complex needs and face barriers to housing by helping to connect them to services and transition out of

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- homelessness. Funding will support outreach, case management, screening and diagnostic assessments, community mental health, substance use treatment and some housing supports.
- \$30 million in extra funding for the Homeless Youth Act, which provides grants for community outreach, drop-in programs, and emergency shelters to reduce the number of Minnesota children experiencing homelessness.
  - \$61 million in addressing disparities in the opioid epidemic. Grants will go to traditional healing practices, overdose prevention programs, family treatment programs, withdrawal management programs and safe recovery sites. A public awareness campaign and “bad batch” overdose text alert system will help prevent and address substance use disorders. Overdose-reversing medications such as naloxone will be required in schools, housing support settings, treatment centers and correctional facilities. Harm reduction supplies and technical assistance for culturally specific organizations will target disparities.
  - \$4.6 million for transforming the opioid treatment system. A new payment methodology for treatment providers will align with Medicare. A work group with community partners will evaluate the current treatment model and recommend changes and ways to address disparities. The state will plan for a federal waiver to add behavioral health services in prisons and jails, and traditional healing to Medical Assistance.
  - \$23 million for strengthening Minnesota’s behavioral health workforce. Grants will help recruit and retain behavioral health professionals offering culturally responsive services to Black, Indigenous and people of color communities. Other grants will help providers add staff in rural and underserved areas. More funding will go to psychiatric residential treatment facilities for start-up costs, workforce needs and specialized services.
  - \$9.7 million in improving access to peer support and recovery community services. Best-practice standards for recovery community organizations will ensure that services are high-quality, ethical, and culturally responsive. Access to services will expand with additional grant funding for training, investments to streamline provider standards and start-up grants for culturally specific recovery community organizations. A work group will continue to engage with community partners to identify future improvements
  - \$98 million for mental health funding
  - \$6 million for the next two years on grants for mental health facilities serving a cultural or ethnic minority population. The facility can use the funds for workforce development and outreach and expand their services into greater Minnesota, among other initiatives.
  - \$18 million for mobile mental health crisis grants, which fund teams to respond to people suffering from mental health emergencies.
  - \$5.4 million Special Education Homeless Pupil Aid established.
  - \$6 million in closing educational opportunity gaps grant program that ensures school environments and curriculum validate, affirm, embrace, and integrate cultural and community strengths from all racial and ethnic backgrounds; and addressing institutional racism with equitable school policies, structures, practices, and curricular offerings.

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### OJP Federal Grants

In addition to our state funding, Minnesota Office of Justice Programs currently administers the following BJA Grants that include,

- Previous Byrne JAG Grants
- Project Safe Neighborhood Grants
- Byrne State Crisis Intervention and Prevention Grants

### 2023 Minnesota Byrne JAG Strategic Plan

The local and federal initiatives and investments almost mirror exactly the areas of need in the JAG stakeholder survey results. To avoid a duplication of funding efforts, Minnesota proposes a strategic plan to leverage JAG funds for maximum impact of other state and federal funds. OJP realizes that with the amount of local investment as well as the other federal grant initiatives into community crime and violence prevention efforts, OJP has a huge opportunity to use JAG funds to fill funding gaps as well as coordinate efforts between local and state stakeholders to produce a truly comprehensive statewide public safety strategy.

The local and federal sub awards for criminal justice programming through OJP and other state agencies will not be awarded or executed until early 2024. This is a challenge in determining where there are public safety gaps and where enhancements and/or coordination efforts will be needed. Once OJP can create an updated strategic plan, OJP will name the specific JAG programs areas that will be funded. OJP's Statistical Analysis Center was also fully funded by the Legislature and will be staffed in early 2024. Once in place, the SAC staff will be able to assist in data collection and analysis to determine the next steps in this strategy. If for some reason the SAC is not staffed in time for this plan, OJP will reach out to the TTA provider to assist in determining next steps. OJP plan to build on the Byrne SCIP advisory group's work to guide the potential use of the FY 2023 JAG funds.