



CJPA Justice Bulletin

January - April 2015



CJPA Mission

The mission of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System is to provide a safe environment and to protect the lives of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) Bulletin is published to showcase Criminal Justice programs funded by CJPA and other criminal justice information. The CJPA bulletin is compiled and edited by the CJPA Statistic Analyst, Francine Atalig and includes articles and comments from other National Criminal Justice Associations.

Hon. Alexandro C. Castro, Chairman Supervisory Council

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John D. Cruz, Executive Director CJPA

The Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grants are statutory funding made available to specifically support programs that addresses Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvements, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands receives funds from the following OJJDP grant program: 1) Title II Formula Grant and 2) Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG). The purpose OJJDP grant programs is to provide support for “at-risk” youth as well as for youths who come in contact with the Juvenile Justice System.



All OJJDP Subgrant Award Notification of awards and non-award documents that were awarded by the Youth Advisory Council and Supervisory Council were sent out to the individual programs. Out of eight (8) applications submitted for the Title II Formula grant funds, only five (5) programs were awarded. Garapan Elementary School, Kagman High School, DYS Juvenile Probation, and DOC Juvenile Detention were all awarded funding and are ready to begin program implementation.

On March 24, 2015, CJPA was a major partner in the implementation of Kick Butts Day 2015, which is a national public health program, campaigning against the use of Cigarettes and Tobacco Products. The event was held at the Hopwood Jr. High School that included over 300 students and families for a day of educational fun and awareness.



The FY 2015 Title II Formula grant solicitation has been released and the due date for the updated Three Year Plan submission is June 16, 2015. The funding levels for FY 15 have not been released yet, and the solicitation recommends basing budgets at FY 14 levels until further notice.

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Annual Conference is scheduled for June 10-13, 2015 in Washington DC. The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) is a nationwide coalition of State Advisory Groups (SAGs) and allies dedicated to preventing children and youth from becoming involved in the courts and upholding the highest standards of care when youth are charged with wrongdoing and enter the justice system.



The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, provides national leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce violence against women through the implementation of the Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP), Violence Against Women Act. Established by legislation, funds through VAWA formula grant, are made available to support effort in developing programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in state, local, and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, and others.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Community Guidance Center (CHCC: CGC) is presently in its final stages of building a batterers' intervention program that addresses this need while at the same time increasing community capacity for partner agencies that work with victims and batterers. This Training of Trainers intervention program is guided by Training Director Dr. Ted German of the distinguished Emerge Program in Massachusetts. In the last year, Dr. German has trained and closely supervised our clinical providers, Wilma Villanueva and Dr. Nadine H. Sablan, have completed the coordinated pilot program known as the pilot program Ti Che'chu Lalâhi.

Dr. German completed the Ti Cechu Lalahi program observation, completed an introductory Emerge group facilitation training, and provided presentation of the Emerge Model and services to invited stakeholders: Attorney Generals Office, Karidat, CGC, DCCA DYS, Office of Adult Probation, NMCADSV, Superior Court Presiding Judge, Family Court Judge, Family Court Manager, Family Violence Task Force, Domestic Violence Intervention Center.

During Dr. Ted's visit, CHCC CGC along with the identified stakeholders gave verbal commitment that supports the coordination, planning meeting, and leveraging of resources to set up the next cycle of Ti Chechu Lalahi Program. The next meeting set for stakeholders supporting the continuation of the Ti Chechu Lalahi Program, May 28th at 10:30 am at NMCADSV office.

In April the Executive Director attended the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) 2015 STOP Administrators meeting in Jacksonville Florida. At the meeting, the Director also attended the Territories Meeting coordinated by SCESA, a technical assistance provider for OVW. The Territories present at the meeting included American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The Office on Violence Against Women, along with many of our STOP State Administrators, joined survivors, advocates, law enforcement officers, government officials, and countless others in communities and campuses nationwide for Denim Day 2015. Denim Day originated in the 1990s in response to the Italian Supreme Court's reversal of a rape conviction in which the Chief Judge argued: "because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex." People wore jeans to work on the established "Denim Day" as a way of protesting the verdict. Since then, Denim Day has become a national rape prevention campaign.



VAWA State Administrators at "Denim Day"

Established in 1984, the **VOCA, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)** oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. OVC is one of five bureaus and four offices with grant-making authority within the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice. OVC provides funding to state and territory victim assistance and compensation programs the lifeline services that help victims to heal. Furthermore, funds made available through VOCA is designed for programs whose sole purpose is to provide direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assaults, survivors of homicide and other crime victims.

There were seven programs that were awarded with the FY14 grant by the Supervisory Council. All the program notification of subgrant award packages are completed and all the programs are currently active. The second quarterly progress reports were submitted by all the programs.

The FY15 VOCA grant solicitation has not been announced yet by OVC. It is anticipated that the amount for the FY15 grant will have an increase for the CNMI. The VOCA and VAWA Grant Committee that was established on the last council meeting will meet once the grant is announce so that the committee can plan and prioritize the funding once it is available. The two council members heading this committee is the representative from PSS and the Presiding Judge. All other council members will also be invited to the committee meeting once it is set.

A new program that was funded under the FY 14 grant is the Family Court Victim Client Services Program. The program was awarded \$24,025.00 to hire a victim assistance personnel and for operations. The program is headed by the Family Court Manager Mr. Joseph Kevin Villagomez and the new assistant Ms. Lani S. Deleon Guererro. The program will provide and assist all victims of crime that come through the program.

The upcoming 2015 VOCA Administrators training and meeting will be held in Washington DC on August 25-27.

Update written by the VOCA Program Manager: John Cruz

2015 VOCA Administrators National Training Conference
August 25-27
National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators
National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards
Grand Hyatt Washington



Proposed as a mechanism to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions.

Funds under JAG program may be used to support the hiring, training, and employing of additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel on a continuing basis. Furthermore, funds can be used to procure equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions, as well as establishing crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.

For this quarter, All Justice Assistance Grant Subgrant Award Notification and non award documents were sent out to individual program. There are a total of Nine (9) sub grantees for the FY14 Justice Assistance Grant. All approved sub grantees have an active account and are ready to begin program/project implementation.

The solicitation for the FY15 John R. Justice program was released on February 17, 2015. The Criminal Justice Planning Agency has applied for the FY15 JRJ and submitted our application on April 8, 2015. The goals and objective of the JRJ project is as follows: (1) to encourage qualified attorneys to choose careers as criminal prosecutors and public defenders and to continue in that service; (2) to increase retention of qualified criminal prosecutors and public defenders by providing financial assistance for repayment of student loans, as an offset to lower salaries than those for lawyers in private practice; and (3) to reduce the disincentive to new recruit, qualified criminal prosecutors and public defenders who are seriously considering these careers. Fiscal Year 2014, there were seven (7) prosecutors from the Attorney General's Office and five (5) public defenders. Fiscal Year 2015, there are seven (7) prosecutors from the Attorney General's Office and five (5) public defenders.

Highlighted program for this quarter is the NMI Crime Stoppers. The main goal is for NMI residents calling in tips on crimes occurring in the CNMI and to provide information to local law enforcement.

In Recent years the NMI Crime Stoppers have forwarded tips that have helped law enforcement solve three (3) murders as well as numerous armed robbery, drug possession and dealing, assault, robbery and burglary.

In FY14, there were a total of one hundred sixteen (116) tips received and forwarded to law enforcement. Sixteen follow ups and five (5) charges filed. The funds awarded to the NMI Crime Stoppers will be used for announcements of the Crime of the Week, the call center, web site and for outreach programs. The program's project coordinator is Mr. Brian Clayton.

Update written by the JAG Program Manager: Paul Tenorio

New Supervisory Council Members:

CJPA's new Supervisory Council Members:

The Honorable Edward Manibusan is the new Attorney General. He is a returning member and is very familiar with CJPA as he use to be the Chairman of the Supervisory and the Youth Advisory Council.

Mr. Robert Guerrero is the new Department of Corrections Commissioner and is a new council member.

Mr. John Tagabuel is the new Carolinian Affairs Executive Director and is a new council member.

The Honorable Jerome Aldan is the New Northern Islands Mayor and a new Council member. He is also familiar with CJPA as he use to proxy for the late Mayor, the Honorable Tobias Aldan.

Welcome to CJPA.

JUSTICE PROGRAM UPDATES

House CJS Subcommittee Approves FY16 Spending Bill

Last week, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) released and marked up its draft FY16 appropriations bill. The bill contains \$51.4 billion in total discretionary funding for the agencies under its jurisdiction, an increase of \$1.3 billion over FY15 but \$661 million below the President's request for these programs. According to the subcommittee, the bill prioritizes funding for law enforcement, national security, science, and space exploration programs.

The House increased funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program to \$345 million for FY16, up from \$333 million this year. (The topline Byrne JAG number is \$409 million, but from that, \$64 million is taken in carve outs for other purposes.) For the second year in a row, the bill would dramatically increase the funding available from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to \$2.7 billion, a 14.5 percent increase over the FY15 cap on VOCA spending. Also, spending for the VAWA programs would increase to \$474 million, up from \$430 million this year.

However, not all programs fared as well. Funding was eliminated for the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program (down from \$10 million in FY15) and the grants to Indian Country (down from \$30 million in FY15). Funding also was eliminated in the House bill for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) Title II state formula grant and the Title V delinquency prevention programs. Youth mentoring grants, however, were increased to \$95 million, from \$90 million in FY15. The House and Senate usually spar over JJDPA funding. Most observers expect the Senate to restore at least partial funding in their bill.

Further, the House eliminated funding for the COPS Hiring program. In its place is a new \$50 million grant program for initiatives to improve police-community relations. Funding is also eliminated for the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Institute of Justice with the assumption that funding for the agencies can be extracted from the grant programs to fund the research and statistical analysis functions.

NCJA Hosts Executive Session for State Policy Makers and Board of Directors Meeting

Earlier this week the National Criminal Justice Association hosted an Executive Session for State Criminal Justice Policy Makers. The Executive Session was held in conjunction with NCJA's annual spring Board of Directors meeting in Arlington, Virginia.

State Agency Administrators (SAAs) from 15 states participated in the session that brought together newly appointed and veteran SAAs to network and discuss the role of the SAA as grant maker, strategic planner, and resource manager. Despite differences in agency location and structure, all SAAs are in a position to coordinate planning efforts, identify and prioritize needs, and leverage funding to meet the needs of their states.

Veteran SAAs offered advice on educating stakeholders, legislators, and other groups and what they wished they knew when they started out. They also highlighted the role the SAA can play as a neutral convener, bringing diverse state and local criminal justice stakeholders together to identify priorities, assess needs, and set policy and funding priorities.

Shifting Priorities: How California Moved from Legacy Funding to Delinquency Prevention

California's Department of Corrections (DOC) inmate population grew more than 500 percent between 1982 and 2000. By 2010 the agency was running at 167 percent of capacity while dealing with a litany of lawsuits related to overcrowding. The Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 was passed to address this severe overcrowding. A landmark piece of legislation, it fundamentally changed who the DOC housed and shifted supervision responsibility for non-violent offenders and technical violators to the local level.

As part of the state's reform efforts, in 2012, California established the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). An independent statutory agency, BSCC provides leadership to the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems, helps oversee realignment issues and is the state administering agency (SAA) for both the newly created state grant programs and many of the existing federal justice grant programs. In today's promising practices we look at how the BSCC used strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and targeted technical assistance to move away from legacy funding for a network of 72 drug and gang taskforces and toward a funding portfolio where more than 80 percent of Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) dollars are going to prevention, early intervention and alternatives to incarceration.

"When we surveyed stakeholders we came to realize what we had long suspected – that there were bigger needs out there than how the funding had been prioritized in the past, on drug task forces. But when you think about it, the new focus on reducing gang involvement, providing detention alternatives to low-risk juveniles and increasing graduation rates ultimately will be helpful in diminishing the drug problem as well," explained Kathleen Howard, executive director of the BSCC.

OJJDP and State Practices Subject of Senate Hearing

Last month, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing to discuss improving oversight of the juvenile justice grants. Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA) opened the hearing by claiming there are problems with the Department of Justice's implementation of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). He expressed particular concern that states not fully in compliance are nonetheless receiving their full grant award. Under the JJDP, states' juvenile justice systems must comply with certain federal guidelines such as not detaining juveniles in adult jails and not detaining them for offenses that would not be illegal if they were adults. If states do not comply, their federal funding is reduced.

JJDP Reauthorization Bill Introduced in Senate

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) reauthorization bill was introduced in the Senate yesterday. The bill, S. 1169, sponsored by Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT), would reauthorize and update the programs under the JJDP.

The bill puts an emphasis on supporting a continuum of programs, including delinquency prevention, intervention, mental health and substance abuse treatment, to respond to at-risk youth or juvenile offenders. The bill would phase out over three years the Valid Court Order exception that allows juvenile offenders to be detained for "status" offenses—such as running away, skipping school, or underage tobacco use—offenses that would not be crimes if committed by adults.

The bill puts heightened emphasis on trauma-informed care for juveniles and mental health and substance abuse screening, assessment, referral and treatment for juvenile offenders. States also will be asked to better understand the interactions between juveniles and law enforcement in schools and disparities based on both race and ethnicity.

The introduced version of the bill also clarifies the definitions for status offenders and the facilities in which juveniles are confined and detained.

Responding to issues raised in the recent hearing on alleged lapses in oversight by the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention ([see related story above](#)), the bill would continue to penalize states found out of compliance with one or more of the core requirements of the Act but, in a break from past practice, return a portion of that state's penalty money to the program for reallocation to states in compliance. The remaining portion of the penalty would be used for training and technical assistance to help the noncompliant state to come into compliance. The bill also adds new oversight and grants accountability provisions to the program.

Save the Date! 2015 National Forum on Criminal Justice

The [2015 National Forum on Criminal Justice](#) will take place August 2-5, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia. Building on last year's momentum, this year's conference will continue to focus on the integration of policy, research and technology to improve public safety.

The National Forum on Criminal Justice showcases programs, research and technologies that help justice practitioners and decision makers in states, local communities and tribal nations address pressing public safety issues. Sponsored by the [National Criminal Justice Association](#) (NCJA), the [Justice Research and Statistics Association](#) (JRSA), and the [IJIS Institute](#), the National Forum is the only national conference that brings together leaders from federal, state, tribal and local criminal justice agencies, top criminal justice researchers and technologists from companies providing solutions to justice agencies.

Workshop sessions will feature speakers from each discipline to showcase innovative programs and highlight how research and technology help drive good policy.

Topics include: Untangling the Rise in Incarceration and State Options for Reform; What Makes a Juvenile Justice Program Evidence-Based?; The Crime Indicators Working Group: Incident-based Crime Reporting & Measures of Community Wellness; Procedural Justice: How to Increase Public Safety through Trust; The Evidence Behind Swift and Certain Sanctions in Community Supervision; The Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Research Guiding Policy; Justice/Mental/ Health Exchanges- Lessons Learned and Plans for the Future; Strategic Approaches to Improved Outcomes Using Body Worn Cameras; FY2015 VOCA Increase- Innovative approaches to providing direct victim services within Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Agencies; Imaging Technologies: Use of Policy/Technology Framework(s); Innovative Approach to Reducing Violent Crime: DOJ's Violent Reduction Network; Increasing Public Safety through Neighborhood Revitalization; New Approaches to Drug Enforcement; Improving Victim Notification with the SAVIN Victim Notification Standard; Heroin, Prescription Drugs, and Other Opioids: Analyzing Trends and Improving Responses; Improving Tribal Access to Victim Services: Lessons from National, State, and Tribal Perspectives; Georgia Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Process and Outcome Evaluation; Assessing the Impact of Marijuana Legalization on Public Safety and Public Health in Colorado; and The National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative.

In addition, we will be offering a full day of grants management training on Saturday August 1 before the National Forum and three grants management sessions during the conference.



National Forum
on Criminal Justice

Aug. 2 - 5, 2015 | Atlanta, GA

**Programs funded by the Supervisory Council with FY14 Justice Grants on
December 12, 2014 & December 30, 2014**

**Bureau of Justice Assistance Office (BJA):
Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)**

Office of Adult Probation	\$27,377.00
Board of Parole	\$ 7,239.00
Customs K-9/Task Force	\$60,000.00
Department of Public Safety (Drug Task Force)	\$50,000.00
Department of Public Safety (Rota—Patrol)	\$15,000.00
Family Court	\$13,000.00
OAG	\$11,000.00
Crime Stoppers	\$11,238.00
Kagman Juvenile Detention	\$ 5,000.00
Total Award.....	<u>\$199,854.00</u>

**Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency
Prevention (OJJDP)**

Formula Grant

Kagman High School	\$3,183.00
Garapan Elementary School	\$800.00
DCCA DYS Juvenile Probation	\$9,000.00
DYS Juvenile Probation	\$5,000.00
DOC Juvenile Detention Unit	\$5,000.00
Total Award.....	<u>\$22,983.00</u>

**Office on Violence Against Women
VAWA Grant**

Karidat	\$142,883.00
NUTESE	\$ 15,876.00
DPS (Law Enfor.)	\$ 39,529.00
Probation Office	\$ 69,030.00
Board of Parole	\$ 23,740.00
OAG Training	\$ 6,500.00
OAG Prosecution	\$132,299.00
Family Court	\$ 26,459.00
OAG Legal Assistant	\$ 24,696.00
DPS (Discretionary)	\$ 37,804.00
Total Award	<u>\$518,816.00</u>

Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)

NUTESE	\$ 21,681.00
Karidat	\$ 20,765.00
Total Award	<u>\$ 42,446.00</u>

Office for Victims of Crime:

VOCA Grant

Karidat –Guma Esperansa	\$ 87,286.00
Karidat –Victim Hotline	\$ 30,756.00
Karidat –Victim Advocacy	\$ 56,800.00
Family Court Saipan	\$24,025.00
Family Court-Rota	\$ 20,727.00
CHC-Victim Help	\$4 ,500.00
CHC– Community Guidance	\$ 25,000.00
DYS	\$ 6,000.00
Total Award.....	<u>\$255,094.00</u>

**Total Amount Awarded To Programs by the Supervisory Council With FY14 Justice Grants
is One Million, Thirty Nine Thousand, One Hundred Ninety Three Dollars (\$1,039,193.00)**