

BYRNE/JAG AUTHORIZED PURPOSE AREA #1.

Prevention and Education

Program Title: Criminal Justice Professional Enhancement Training

A. Problem Statement

According to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's official crime statistics (known as TIBRS Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System), a significant increase in violent and drug crime occurred between 2001 and 2005. During this five-year period the frequency of weapons-related offenses rose 20% while drug violations rose 45%. For this same five-year period, the number of crimes against persons rose 12%. Solutions are being sought at state and the community level. Often criminal justice practitioners at the local level are not as well trained as those at the state level or those in agencies with larger budgets. Efforts are being made to present a coordinated approach that allows for quality training of law enforcement, court personnel and corrections officers that will enable them to be a more effective tool against the drug and violent crime problem in our communities.

B. Program Description

The projects funded in this program area seek to develop professionalism in the criminal justice system through enhanced education of the system's practitioners and planners (i.e., judges, law enforcement officers and correctional staffs). Projects in this program will increase the criminal justice practitioner's knowledge of a particular topic or area of expertise within the system, so as to make them more effective. Projects under this program will emphasize collaboration among agencies in order to leverage the scarce resources available. Ultimately, the community will benefit from better-trained, more professional criminal justice planners and practitioners.

C. Program Goal and Objectives

Goal: Improve the professionalism of criminal justice practitioners and planners and, thereby make more effective the criminal justice system's response to crime.

Objective 1: Analyze the training needs of the target audience of any training to be delivered under the program.

Objective 2: Develop all training courses using well designed instructional approaches and curricula.

Objective 3: Train and certify all trainers, and evaluate the performance of trainers supported by the program. (Train the trainer and/or certification may not be a part of a particular grant)

Objective 4: Train the maximum number of targeted professionals that funding will permit.

Objective 5. Increase the level of knowledge of criminal justice practitioners and planners.

D. Activities

Plan and implement topic- or area-specific training, aimed at increasing the knowledge level of criminal justice professionals. The need for this type of training must be shown. Proven experts with experience in the field and on the topic of instruction must be employed as facilitators of the training. Training must be advertised and be cost effective for the students. Collaboration with multiple agencies will occur.

E. Performance Measures

Measure 1.1: The percentage of training participants who indicate that the training met their needs.

Measure 1.2: The percentage of students who rate the training as relevant to their jobs.

Measure 2.1: The number of agencies that were used to plan and implement the training and their involvement level.

Measure 2.2: The percentage of collaborating agency representatives who indicate the course was well designed.

Measure 3.1: The number of trainers trained and “certified” as competent trainers.

Measure 3.2: The percentage of training participants who indicate that the trainer(s) performed well during the training.

Measure 4.1: The number of criminal justice professionals trained in each topic area supported by the program.

Measure 4.2: The number of different agencies receiving training.

Measure 5.1: The percentage of participants who state that they accomplished the courses’ stated learning objectives (i.e. increased knowledge of the topic area).

Measure 5.2: The percentage of students who rate the training as effective.

F. Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation Methods

Projects funded through this program must:

- Collect data through surveys and other on the number agencies used for planning and implementation, on number of persons and number of different agencies trained and on the percentage who say their knowledge has been increased by the training.
- Annual reports will be used to analyze the effectiveness of the program.
- Collect and report statistics and anecdotal data for possible replication of the program.
- Data collected will also be used for program evaluation purposes. The program may be modified or expanded, if such justification is indicated by the data. The data will also be used to provide a yearly update to BJA on program progress.

All projects funded may receive on-site monitoring visits.