

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DOJ USE ONLY

Applicant Hereby Applies to the DOJ for Financial Support for the Within-Described Project:

SUBGRANT #: 18546

<u>Receipt Date</u>	<u>Award Date</u>	<u>Subgrant Number(s)</u>
11/11/2023	12/28/2023	2022-DJ-01 18546

SHORT TITLE: Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group

1. Type of Funds for which you are applying.	Justice Assistance Grant (Fed. 16.738 DJ) JAG Drug Task Forces 2022 (2024)		
2. Applicant	Name Of Applicant:		County: Milwaukee
	Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office		
	Street Address: 821 West State Street		
	Address Line 2: Room 405		Address Line 3:
	City: Milwaukee		State: WI Zip: 53233-1485
3. Recipient Agencies	Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office		
4. Signatory	Name:		Title: County Executive
	County Executive David Crowley		Agency: Milwaukee County
	Street Address: 901 North Ninth Street		
	Address Line 2: Room 306		Addr Line 3:
	City: Milwaukee		State: WI Zip: 53233-1458
	Phone: 414-278-4211	Fax:	Email: david.crowley@milwaukeecountywi.gov
5. Financial Officer	Name:		Title: Financial Manager
	Ms. Anna M. Thomas		Agency: Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office
	Street Address: 821 West State Street		
	Address Line 2: Room 405		Addr Line 3:
	City: Milwaukee		State: WI Zip: 53233-1485
	Phone: 414-278-5369	Fax:	Email: anna.thomas@da.wi.gov
6. Project Director	Name:		Title: Assistant District Attorney
	Mr. Francesco G. Mineo		Agency: Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office
	Street Address: 821 West State Street		
	Address Line 2: Room 405		Addr Line 3:
	City: Milwaukee		State: WI Zip: 53233-1485
	Phone: 414-232-9923	Fax:	Email: francesco.mineo@da.wi.gov
7. Brief Summary of Project (Do Not Exceed Space Provided)	Short Title (may not exceed 50 characters) Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group		
	Funds will be used to support the Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group (MMDEG) task force, a multi-jurisdictional task force comprised of members of the Milwaukee, South Milwaukee, and West Allis police departments and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office. The MMDEG promotes interagency coordination and intelligence-sharing; and combats illicit drug trafficking in Milwaukee County through the targeting, investigation, and arrest of mid-to-major level drug dealers, and through the prosecution of felony drug offenders in specialized Milwaukee County speedy trial felony drug courts.		

8. SubGrant Budget

Sources

Categories	Federal	State Match	Category Total
Personnel	122,949.00	85,088.00	208,037.00
Employee Benefits	39,012.00	27,000.00	66,012.00
Travel (Including Training)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Supplies & Operating Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Consultants/Contractual	159,186.00	110,130.00	269,316.00
Source Total	321,147.00	222,218.00	543,365.00

9. Project Start Date: 1/1/2024 Project End Date: 12/31/2024

10. Budget Details:

Master Budgets:

By Recipient Agency	Year 1	Total
Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office	543,365.00	543,365.00
Total:	543,365.00	543,365.00

Allocation/Recipient Agency: Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office

Category:	Year 1	Total
Personnel	208,037.00	208,037.00
Employee Benefits	66,012.00	66,012.00
Consultants/Contractual	269,316.00	269,316.00
Total:	543,365.00	543,365.00

11. Budget Details:

Master Budgets:

Line Item Details for Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office

YEAR 1

PERSONNEL

Justification: Funds in this category will be used to pay the salaries of assistant district attorneys (ADAs) assigned to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group in the MCDAO felony Drug Unit. Two ADAs will be funded for the full calendar year; one will be funded for approximately 8 months. To conserve funds and extend the life of the grant, the costs of ADAs with lower salary and fringe costs may be charged against the grant as backfill for more experienced ADAs who will perform the work of the grant. **COST**

Position	Assistant District Attorney		
Name	Nathaniel McClure (backfill TBD)		
Description of your computation:	Annual Salary calculated at approximately \$37.14 per hour x 2080 hours		
	Source: Federal		45,649.00
	Source: State Match		31,592.00

Position	Assistant District Attorney		
Name	Sarah Dahdouh (backfill TBD)		
Description of your computation:	Annual Salary calculated at approximately \$37.14 per hour x 2080 hours		
	Source: Federal		45,649.00
	Source: State Match		31,592.00

Position	Assistant District Attorney		
Name	Abby Rockendorf (Backfill TBD)		
Description of your computation:	Approximately 8 months of Annual Salary; calculated at approximately \$37.14 per hour x 1360 hours		
	Source: Federal		31,651.00
	Source: State Match		21,904.00

Personnel

Year 1 Total:

208,037.00

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Justification: Funds in this category will be used to pay fringe benefits of three assistant district attorneys (ADAs) assigned to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group in the MCDAO felony Drug Unit. To conserve funds and extend the life of the grant, the costs of ADAs with lower salary and fringe costs may be charged against the grant as backfill prosecutors for more experienced ADAs who will perform the work of the grant.

COST

Position	Assistant District Attorney	
Name	Abby Rockendorf (Backfill TBD)	
Description of your computation:	Fringe benefits of one .667 FTE ADA , calculated at approximately 32% of salary costs: social security, at 7.65%; state pension fund contributions, at 10.75%; health, life, and income continuation insurance, at approximately 14%. $\$553,55 \times .32\% =$ approximately \$17,138.	
	Source: Federal	10,128.00
	Source: State Match	7,010.00
Position	Assistant District Attorney	
Name	Sarah Dahdouh (backfill TBD)	
Description of your computation:	Fringe benefits of one 1.0 FTE ADA , calculated at approximately 32% of salary costs: social security, at 7.65%; state pension fund contributions, at 10.75%; health, life, and income continuation insurance, at approximately 14%. $\$77,241 \times .32\% =$ approximately \$24,437	
	Source: Federal	14,442.00
	Source: State Match	9,995.00
Position	Assistant District Attorney	
Name	Nathaniel McClure (backfill TBD)	
Description of your computation:	Fringe benefits of one 1.0 FTE ADA , calculated at approximately 32% of salary costs: social security, at 7.65%; state pension fund contributions, at 10.75%; health, life, and income continuation insurance, at approximately 14%. $\$77,241 \times .32\% =$ approximately \$24,437	
	Source: Federal	14,442.00
	Source: State Match	9,995.00
Employee Benefits		Year 1 Total:
		66,012.00

CONSULTANTS/CONTRACTUAL - CONSULTANT

Justification:

COST

Name / Position Milwaukee Police Sgt. Amy Bartol, Officer Dorian Whittenberger; Officer Ryan Reagan

Service Provided Law Enforcement

Description of your computation:

2024 Consulting Contract with the Milwaukee Police Department in the amount of \$180,264 for services of one police supervisor and two police officers, calculated at 50% of the annual compensation of the sergeant supervisor and 34% of the annual compensation of the two officers: Bartol - 2024 salary and benefits of \$172,788 x .50 = \$86,394; Whittenberger - 2024 salary and benefits of \$141,602 x .34 = \$48,145; Reagan, 2024 salary and benefits of \$134,484 x.34 = \$45,725. \$86,394 + \$48,145, +\$45,725 = \$180,264.

Source: Federal 106,556.00

Source: State Match 73,708.00

Name / Position South Milwaukee Police Officer Matthew Kramer

Service Provided Law Enforcement

Description of your computation:

2024 Consulting Contract with the South Milwaukee Police Department in the amount of \$42,228 for services of one police officer, calculated at 34% of the annual compensation of \$124,183. \$124,183 x.34 = \$42,228.

Source: Federal 24,957.00

Source: State Match 17,271.00

Name / Position West Allis Police Officer Eric French

Service Provided Law Enforcement

Description of your computation:

2024 Consulting Contract with the West Allis Police Department in the amount of \$46,824 for services of one police officer, calculated at 34% of the annual compensation of \$137,706. \$137,706 x.34 = \$46,824

Source: Federal 27,673.00

Source: State Match 19,151.00

Consultants/Contractual - Consultant Year 1 Total: 269,316.00

YEAR 1 TOTAL: 543,365.00

12. Sections:

A BUDGET NARRATIVE

Please describe how your budget relates to the overall task force strategy and implementation plan.

RESPONSE:

The 2024 budget for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group (MMDEG) is \$543,365, consisting of the grant award of \$543,365 (\$321,147 federal and \$222,218 state penalty assessment funds). We estimate we will end 2023 with a surplus of approximately \$45,000 from the JAG Drug Task Forces 2021 (CY 2023) federal award. On November 3, 2023, our request a carryover of the 2023 surplus to supplement the 2024 DOJ MMDEG grant award was approved. Those carryover funds are not reflected in the 2024 grant budget, but are factored into the project, as described below.

The 2024 MMDEG budget provides funding for law enforcement positions and prosecutor positions. The 2024 MMDEG budget maintains funding for the existing 5.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) law enforcement officer positions in the police unit; it provides for reimbursement of 50 percent of the salary and fringe benefits of the Milwaukee police sergeant who serves as the director of the MMDEG police unit, and reimbursement of approximately 34 percent to the Milwaukee, South Milwaukee, and West Allis police departments for straight-time salaries and fringe benefits of the other 4.0 FTE full-time MMDEG law enforcement officers. The MMDEG police agencies will contribute the remainder of the straight-time salaries and fringe benefits of their officers. As in past years, in 2024, all expenditures for confidential funds, vehicle repairs and maintenance, equipment, and police overtime expenses will be paid from asset forfeiture monies held, subject to an Equitable Sharing Agreement, in separate accounts by the South Milwaukee Police Department, the West Allis Police Department and the Milwaukee Police Department, pursuant to federal rules relating task forces and equitable sharing of asset forfeiture funds.

In prior years, the MMDEG budget has provided funding for 3.0 - 4.0 FTE prosecutor positions in the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s office felony Drug Unit. The 2024 grant award is not sufficient to maintain that funding at that level: at current costs, the 2024 award will provide full year funding for 2.0 FTE assistant district attorney positions and approximately 8 months of funding for a remaining assistant district attorney position. The 2024 MMDEG budget will therefore reflect funding for 2.67 FTE assistant district attorney positions. However, we project that the carryover from the 2023 MMDEG award will be sufficient to ensure that 3.0 positions are fully staffed for the 2024 calendar year.

BUDGET NARRATIVE - RELATED ATTACHMENTS:

<u>File Name</u>	<u>File Description</u>
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B PROJECT NARRATIVE

All applicants should describe the local drug task force program in detail, including what will be accomplished in 2024. Describe how the task force operates collaboratively between multiple jurisdictions.

RESPONSE:

The Milwaukee County District Attorney’s Office is the lead agency of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group (MMDEG). MMDEG’s mission is to disrupt illicit drug traffic in Milwaukee County by focusing investigative efforts on mid-to-upper level drug trafficking organizations and violent drug trafficking offenders.

The task force is comprised of members of the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s Office, the Milwaukee

Police Department, the South Milwaukee Police Department, and the West Allis Police Department. The MMDEG Supervisory Commission directs task force activities and meets bi-monthly to oversee MMDEG activities. William Jessup, the South Milwaukee Police Chief, is the chair of the Supervisory Commission. The task force is comprised of a legal unit, staffed by state prosecutors, and a police unit, staffed by sworn law enforcement officers. In 2024, Milwaukee County Assistant District Attorney Francesco Mineo, under authority from District Attorney John Chisholm, will be the project director and the director of the legal unit; the police unit will be directed by Sergeant Amy Bartol of the Milwaukee Police Department.

The MMDEG police unit consists of five full-time law enforcement officers from the Milwaukee, South Milwaukee, and West Allis police departments. It is collocated with the North Central High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and works closely with HIDTA officers and HIDTA member agencies on drug enforcement efforts. The police unit focuses on supply reduction through interdiction operations, dismantling drug trafficking organizations, and closing down marijuana grow locations. The police unit accomplishes this mission by gathering and reporting intelligence data relating to drug trafficking; cooperating with and sharing information with other law enforcement agencies; conducting undercover operations and other drug investigations; executing search warrants, electronic surveillance warrants, subpoenas for documents and other legal process; and arresting and seizing the assets of mid-to-upper level drug dealers.

The nature of the MMDEG's mission—targeting mid and upper level drug traffickers—means that investigations generally cross jurisdictional boundaries. Sworn members of the MMDEG task force deconflict investigative targets through the Milwaukee Police Department and the HIDTA Watch Center.

Sworn MMDEG officers are fully trained in the use of the case management system of ACISS; they use ACISS for report writing and de-confliction, both as a requirement of the Byrne grant and for efficiency of reporting and collaboration. Members of the MMDEG task force are in full compliance with the ACISS reporting standards and all agencies are compliant with the Uniform Crime Reporting requirements.

The MMDEG legal unit, supervised by Assistant District Attorney Mineo, is housed in the District Attorney's Violent Crimes – Drug Unit. It is collocated with the District Attorney's Office's HIDTA and felony Gun Units. Its mission is two-fold: to prosecute felony drug offenders in specialized speedy trial drug courts, with the goal of completing cases in a timely fashion, with a conviction rate of 85 percent or higher; and to divert lower level offenders whose criminal activity is motivated by addiction or mental illness into treatment and rehabilitation programs. The prosecutors also assist the MMDEG police unit and other law enforcement agencies with investigations; provide legal advice to officers; draft and review applications for search warrants, subpoenas for documents, and other legal process; negotiate cooperation agreements with informants and co-conspirators; and provide training for law enforcement and prosecutors. In 2024, this Byrne JAG MMDEG task force grant will fund three of the six FTE drug prosecutors in the Violent Crimes – Drug Unit.

Milwaukee County has a drug treatment court. As noted above, the MMDEG legal unit is responsible for identifying non-violent drug trafficking offenders who are addicted to and dependent on controlled substances, and determining those cases that are appropriate for redirection into one of the drug treatment court's Early Intervention (EI) alternatives programs: diversion, deferred prosecution, drug treatment court, or Veterans' Treatment Court. The MMDEG attorneys work closely with an EI ADA—an assistant district attorney assigned to the district attorney's Violent Crimes Unit—in these demand reduction efforts, referring low-level and addicted drug offenders into treatment programs, in order to address the root causes of their criminal behavior.

The MMDEG legal unit works closely with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office's community partnership unit and community prosecution teams, assistant district attorneys who work in police districts and who work with law enforcement and community members to identify and target specific neighborhood threats. That collaboration improves the ability both to target high risk drug and violent offenders and to identify low-level offenders who are suitable for Early Intervention programming and increases community efficacy.

The MMDEG legal unit is embedded with and works closely with the District Attorney's Office's felony Gun Unit and prosecutors who are assigned to the North Central High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Unit, to ensure a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach to drug trafficking offenses involving weapons and armed traffickers.

Members of the MMDEG police unit and legal unit participate in, and coordinate with other agency members who participate in, law enforcement and community based initiatives such as the Milwaukee Police Departments Public Safety meetings, Overdose Fatality reviews, and the Violence Reduction Public Health and Safety Team (VR-PHAST) meetings. These efforts ensure information is shared as appropriate and permit MMDEG members to engage in joint problem solving to address the threats drugs and violence pose to the community.

For calendar year 2024, we estimate that the MMDEG police unit will conduct and/or assist in investigations which disrupt or dismantle at least four drug trafficking organizations; conduct and/or assist in drug investigations leading to the arrest of at least 30 drug traffickers with emphasis on mid-to-upper level distributors; make approximately 15 drug seizures; and seize and estimated \$50,000 in cash, contraband, or assets. We estimate that Milwaukee County law enforcement agencies will refer approximately 1,400 offenders to the MMDEG legal unit for felony drug charges in 2024, and that the unit will prosecute approximately 650 offenders in the Milwaukee County specialized drug courts or the Drug Treatment Court, with a cumulative average days-to-disposition rate of 130 days from initial appearance to finding of guilt or innocence, with a conviction rate of 85 percent or higher. We also anticipate that in 2024, attorneys will continue to offer low risk drug offenders diversion agreements, which—if completed satisfactorily—would keep them out of the criminal justice system, entirely. We also anticipate that unit attorneys will assist law enforcement in obtaining at least 250 search warrants or other forms of legal process.

PROJECT NARRATIVE - RELATED ATTACHMENTS:

<u>File Name</u>	<u>File Description</u>
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C ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND RESOURCES

Complete and attach the [Organizational Structure and Resources](#) document. Please note: A comprehensive application will include participation of at least the county sheriff or police department of the largest municipality in *each* county participating in the task force. On the form, provide the names of all participating jurisdictions, including the largest municipality in each county served by the task force, task force oversight board membership and personnel assigned on either a full-time or part-time basis.

Note: To attach a document to your Egrants application you must type “See Attached” in the text box to enable the document attachment tool.

RESPONSE:

See Attached.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND RESOURCES - RELATED ATTACHMENTS:

<u>File Name</u>	<u>File Description</u>
2024 MMDEG JAG Drug Task Force Organizational Structure and Resources.docx	2024 MMDEG JAG Drug Task Force Organizational Structure and Resources

D PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Clearly and concisely identify and define the drug-related problems in your area, and what has been done to combat these problems. State the need for the project and include any relevant supporting data (including risk factors identified in the Task Force Threat Assessment, description and outcome of significant past cases, dangerousness of drugs involved, level of offenders arrested, impact on community, emerging trends, etc.)

RESPONSE:

The supply and distribution of illegal drugs creates a number of problems for a community and its citizens. These problems decrease the quality of life and exert pressures on the social and justice systems within the community.

Milwaukee County is the most populated county in the state of Wisconsin. Within the county, the City of Milwaukee experiences a significant amount of drug abuse and drug-related crime and is a distribution point for drug trafficking organizations supplying drugs to other regions of the county and state. Both police intelligence and information from the medical examiner's office demonstrate that Milwaukee and the surrounding communities are experiencing a surge of more powerful and more toxic drugs, including methamphetamine, fentanyl and Carfentanil, and that these drugs pose a significant emerging threat. Illegal drug activity also contributes to violence in Milwaukee, which continued to experience a high rate of violent crime, including homicides, non-fatal shootings, robberies, and carjackings/auto thefts in 2023.

Over the past five years, Milwaukee County has also experienced a significant increase in fatal and non-fatal overdoses. Because of the lag time in obtaining toxicology results, 2023 numbers will not be finalized until sometime in early 2024; but 2022 saw an increase in overdose deaths of approximately 4% over that of 2021, which itself had an 18% increase over 2020. Through mid-August, 2023, the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner reported that over 80% of overdose deaths were opioid related; fentanyl was reported present in almost 81% of them. The Medical Examiner also has reported a significant spike in cocaine, Gabapentin, and Methamphetamine related deaths in recent years. In 2019, the Medical Examiner reported 17 methamphetamine related deaths; by 2022 that number increased to 62. Similarly, in 2019, the Medical Examiner reported 44 Gabapentin/Pregabalin related deaths; that number increased to 69 in 2022.

To address this threat, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group (MMDEG) task force will target mid-to-upper-level traffickers in cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and other illegal drugs, with an emphasis on disrupting and dismantling drug organizations and seizing proceeds from the illegal operations.

The primary drugs sold and abused in Milwaukee County are heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine. Counterfeit pharmaceuticals and club drugs are an emerging trend and are often laced with methamphetamine, fentanyl, or both. This is a significant concern, as the majority of the individuals purchasing the drugs are not aware that the material is counterfeit. MMDEG officers have made several seizures of counterfeit pills in the greater Milwaukee area in recent months, including seizure of 1,000 counterfeit Adderall pills that tested positive for both methamphetamine and fentanyl.

Heroin and other opiates, particularly fentanyl, pose the greatest threat in Milwaukee. The low cost and strength of fentanyl ensure that there is a market for the drug, while its potency creates an extreme risk for users and law enforcement officers who come into contact with it. Opiate abuse contributes to much of the property crime in the city; and opiate distribution is associated with significant amounts of other serious criminal activity—including car thefts and fleeing police. Marijuana continues to be popular and to have a strong presence within the region, and the violence associated with marijuana trafficking and the large amounts of currency generated from its distribution, continue to pose a threat. Cocaine and cocaine base remain a significant concern, and seizures of these substances remain constant.

The vast majority of drugs entering and supplied to Milwaukee County are imported and distributed by different drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) which employ sophisticated methods to supply controlled substances to the region, organized gangs, and "crews." Both gangs and crews are often involved in violence against rival groups or competitors. According to the North Central HIDTA threat assessment, DTOs from Chicago and the southwest border are the primary source of suppliers of marijuana, heroin, and cocaine in the

Milwaukee area. In addition, DTOs from West Coast states are active in supplying high-grade marijuana to Milwaukee.

The close proximity of Milwaukee to Chicago, and Milwaukee's location on major interstate highways, pose distinct challenges for law enforcement attempting to reduce the trafficking of drugs in the community. With DTOs acquiring supplies of drugs from sources in Chicago, officers must quickly identify the major suppliers in the Milwaukee area and initiate the appropriate interventions and investigations to stop the devastating effect the drugs have upon the community.

Collaboration with other law enforcement agencies is one component of reducing the drug threat. Sharing information and pooling resources increases efficiency and helps law enforcement identify and target the largest threats in the community. To that end, MMDEG continues to work with various area law enforcement agencies which share the common goal of reducing drug demand, including North Central HIDTA. Because evidence suggests that high-grade marijuana, marijuana products, and currency are coming to Milwaukee via the interstate highway system and from West Coast suppliers through parcel carriers, MMDEG cooperates closely with the North Central HIDTA, the Milwaukee Police Department, and the Wisconsin State Patrol in highway and package interdiction.

Having an efficient and effective means to prosecute offenders is another essential component in reducing the impact that drugs have on the community. We estimate that law enforcement officers in Milwaukee County will arrest approximately 1400 offenders for felony drug charges in 2024, and that the MMDEG attorneys will prosecute approximately 650 of those offenders in the Milwaukee County specialized drug courts. The pandemic has had a significant effect on the ability of to resolve cases in a timely fashion: as of October of 2023, Milwaukee County was estimated to have 11% of the entire state-wide court backlog, including a backlog of over 1,500 felony cases, more than 450 of which have been pending for more than 720 days. As a result, in 2024, we the overall project goal is to resolve cases within 130 days of the defendant's initial appearance, with a conviction rate of 85 percent or higher.

2024 Efforts to Address the Threats of Drug Trafficking and Abuse in Milwaukee County.

The Milwaukee Metro Drug Enforcement Group (MMDEG) has conducted a number of significant drug investigations to address the threats. In 2023, MMDEG officers conducted or assisted in numerous investigations of the trafficking of illicit drugs, gathered intelligence, conducted undercover operations, and utilized other methods of investigation (surveillance and UC/CI buys) that have, and will, result in effective prosecution of offenders at both the state and federal levels. Through October of 2023, MMDEG officers executed or assisted in the execution of 16 search warrants, seizing numerous firearms, a vehicle and over \$ 58,000 in currency. In addition, during 2023, MMDEG officers seized over 253 grams of heroin, over 1,580 grams of fentanyl, over 6 kilograms of cocaine powder; over 56 grams of cocaine base; approximately 7 pounds of marijuana (including high grade, vape cartridges/pens, edibles, gummies and THC wax); and approximately 370 grams of methamphetamine. From January 1, 2023, through October 2023 the MMDEG police unit has been involved with the arrests of 19 individuals for felony drug, firearm, and other charges.

Notable MMDEG investigations conducted in 2023 include,

Case #21-055 Distribution of Cocaine

This long-term investigation conducted into a local Car Club was developed through CI information, controlled buys and surveillance. In the course of this investigation, MMDEG officers purchased 302.64 grams of cocaine from the main target and subsequently executed two search warrants, which resulted in the seizure of 1859.73 grams of cocaine, 62.27 grams of methamphetamine, and \$23,906 in US Currency. The main target was taken into custody and is currently being prosecuted by the United States Attorney' Office.

Case # 23-001 Distribution of Fentanyl and Firearms

This investigation began in January 2023, when case agents received information regarding subjects distributing fentanyl and selling firearms in Milwaukee County. Three subjects—two from the Milwaukee area and one from Chicago, Illinois—were identified as main targets who had been distributing large amounts of fentanyl for years without detection. All three suspects were convicted felons with lengthy criminal records for distributing controlled substances and possession of firearms. During the investigation,

an undercover officer purchased six firearms from one target; officers executed two residential search warrants, and recovered / seized over 700 grams heroin / fentanyl, 6 firearms, and approximately \$3,000 in U.S. Currency.

Target #1 was federally indicted in the Eastern District of Wisconsin for two counts of violations of Distribution of Fentanyl, Possession with Intent To Distribute Controlled Substance in violation of Title 21.

Target #2 was the victim of a homicide in Chicago before being indicted.

Target #3 was federally indicted in the Eastern District of Wisconsin for five counts of violations of Distribution of Fentanyl, Possession with Intent To Distribute Controlled Substance, Knowingly Possess Firearm by Felon; Title 21 and Title 18 offenses.

Case # 23-019 and West Allis PD 23-021189 Distribution of Methamphetamine

This investigation started with an arrest of a convicted felon by West Allis PD for the possession with intent to deliver of approximately 400 grams of methamphetamine, over 200 grams of THC, approximately 4 grams of fentanyl, approximately 30 grams of MDMA/Ecstasy, approximately 1,300 Alprazolam pills, approximately 200 Xanax pills, approximately 30 grams of ketamine, and a firearm. The investigation revealed that the ketamine and MDMA were obtained from Chicago, and the pressed Xanax was obtained from California.

The arrested subject agreed to become an informant. The subject met with his case agent, at which time officers found him to be in possession of 1000 counterfeit Adderall pills which tested positive for methamphetamine and fentanyl. The subject was immediately arrested.

While in custody, the subject (Target #1) conspired with another subject (Target #2), who agreed to continue the distribution of controlled substances while Target #1 was in custody, and further agreed to send Target #1 controlled substances while in jail.

As the investigation progressed, MMDEG officers executed a search warrant at the residence of Target #2. Searching officers discovered a DMT lab and recovered approximately 5,000 grams of DMT, over 300 grams of fentanyl, 13 doses of LSD, approximately 50 grams of MDMA, over 170 grams of methamphetamine, and a firearm.

Target #1 and Target #2 were subsequently charged with Conspiracy To Commit Delivery of Methamphetamine, Conspiracy To Commit Delivery of Fentanyl >50 grams, Conspiracy to Commit Deliver of Designer Drugs > 10-50 grams, Conspiracy to Commit Deliver Articles To Inmate, Possession of a Firearm. Initially prosecuted in state court, this case has since moved to federal court, in the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

MMDEG continues to work cooperatively with all law enforcement agencies in the county, and with personnel from the HIDTAs, DEA, FBI, ATF, DCI, HSI, the Milwaukee District Attorney's Office, and the Wisconsin State Patrol. MMDEG also communicates and works with drug units outside of Milwaukee County. MMDEG continues to assist with investigations, debriefings, seizures of contraband, and any specialized drug enforcement needs regarding informant control and operations. MMDEG prosecutors work closely with federal prosecutors to determine whether that venue is more appropriate for prosecution given an offender's background and level of criminal activity, and with state prosecutors in other units, particularly in regard to criminal activity which is frequently associated with drug trafficking, such as fleeing law enforcement and illegal gun possession. MMDEG officers and prosecutors are also available to assist in training law enforcement personnel.

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION - RELATED ATTACHMENTS:

File Name

File Description

E GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Complete and attach the [Drug Task Force Goals and Objectives](#) document. The form lists four goals that have been identified as typical of multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement task force efforts. Add at least one local goal along with objectives and performance measures. You may add additional items as needed.

Below each goal, list objectives and performance measures that apply to your local task force efforts. The objectives and performance measures should be based upon the findings and/or conclusions derived from your task force threat assessment. Goals should be measurable and feasible given proposed staffing and resource limitations.

Note: To attach a document to your Egrants application you must type "See Attached" in the text box to enable the document attachment tool.

RESPONSE:

See Attached.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - RELATED ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	File Description
2024 MMDEG JAG DTF Goals and Objectives.doc	2024 MMDEG Task Force Goals and Objectives

F PROPOSED APPROACH

Describe your proposed strategy and how it will address the related problems listed in the "Problem Description Section." Describe how the task force operates collaboratively between multiple jurisdictions.

RESPONSE:

The supply and distribution of illegal drugs creates significant problems which decrease the quality of life in the community and exert pressures on the social and justice systems. To best safeguard community interests, it is important to consider a variety of methods to reduce the threat that illegal drug trafficking poses.

To address this threat, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group (MMDEG) task force will conduct investigations and targeting mid-to-upper level cocaine, opioid, and marijuana traffickers with an emphasis on disrupting and dismantling drug organizations and seizing their illegal drug assets. With the utilization of the ACISS case management program and North Central High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) deconfliction protocols, MMDEG personnel will be better prepared to conduct these types of investigations. Collocation of MMDEG law enforcement officers with the North Central HTDTA allows MMDEG to receive and share information more readily with other law enforcement entities, which has increased efficiency and prevented parallel investigations. In addition, MMDEG task force members and members of the MMDEG home agencies will attend multi-jurisdictional information sharing initiatives, such as Public Safety Reviews (formerly called Homicide Incident Reviews and Non-Fatal Shooting Reviews), Overdose Fatality Reviews, Overdose Public Health and Safety Team meetings, and Violence Reduction Public Health and Safety Team meetings.

A key component in reducing the threat drug trafficking has upon the community is efficient and effective prosecution of offenders. The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office's Violent Crimes-Drug Unit provides prosecutors who assist officers in drug trafficking investigations and prosecute felony drug offenses in the Milwaukee County speedy trial drug courts project. The goal is to focus prosecution efforts on individuals participating in significant drug distribution and on areas of high drug activity, which disrupt neighborhoods. The Violent Crimes-Drug Unit prosecutors review applications for search warrants,

subpoenas for documents and other court orders; provide legal advice in investigations; provide other legal assistance to police; review referrals for prosecution, issue criminal complaints, and prosecute drug offenders in court.

Milwaukee County has two dedicated felony drug courts that are assigned to the speedy trial drug court project. In 2024, six attorneys will prosecute felony drug cases in the specialized speedy trial drug courts. The COVID 19 pandemic has created a significant backlog in Milwaukee County criminal courts which has slowed the time it takes to resolve cases in court. As a result, the goal of the MMDEG in 2024 goal is to resolve cases with a cumulative average days-to-disposition rate of 130 days from the defendant's initial appearance to a finding of guilt or dismissal, with a conviction rate of 85 percent or higher. Three of the six FTE felony drug prosecutors will be grant-funded by this Byrne JAG MMDEG task force grant; the remaining three are general purpose revenue (GPR) positions. In 2024, the North Central HIDTA will fund two other prosecutors, who are collocated with the HIDTA but also maintain office space in the Violent Crimes-Drug Unit. Their presence in the Drug Unit facilitates coordination of prosecution of offenders connected to Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs), their networks, and crews.

Milwaukee County also has a Drug Treatment / Early Intervention (EI) Court, which handles the cases of low level offenders whose criminal activity is motivated by drug addiction, mental health issues, or other issues not typically well addressed by traditional criminal justice resources. Directing such offenders to treatment resources reduces their recidivism and their use of criminal justice resources. This, in turn, permits law enforcement, prosecution, and court resources to focus on commercial drug traffickers, gang members and others who pose the greatest threat to community safety. In 2024, a GPR funded EI specialist will be assigned to the MMDEG legal unit. Working with law enforcement, and criminal justice partners, he will help Drug Unit prosecutors, identify candidates for EI programming, which, in Milwaukee County, takes the form of diversions, deferred judgment agreements, drug treatment court agreements, and Veteran's Treatment Initiative agreements. The MMDEG prosecutors work closely with the EI prosecutor to help select individuals suitable for treatment referrals and to identify those whose background, gang connections, or criminal activity make them inappropriate for such resources.

The MMDEG legal director monitors the workloads of the MMDEG attorneys through PROTECT, the state-wide prosecutor case management system, and through an internal database created specifically for the Milwaukee County speedy trial felony drug courts project. The MMDEG Legal Director creates monthly reports from those databases to determine whether the MMDEG legal staff is meeting the goals of initiation-to-disposition and the 85 percent or greater conviction rate. Those reports are disseminated and discussed at the bi-monthly MMDEG Supervisory Commission meetings. The MMDEG legal director also provides and coordinates significant amounts of training for officers and prosecutors and handles a caseload of select offenders.

For calendar year 2024, we estimate that the MMDEG police unit will conduct and/or assist in investigations which dismantle at least one, and disrupt at least four, drug trafficking organizations; conduct and/or assist in drug investigations leading to the arrest of at least 30 drug traffickers with emphasis on mid-to-upper level distributors; make approximately 15 drug seizures; and seize and estimated \$50,000 in cash, contraband, or assets. We estimate that Milwaukee County law enforcement agencies will refer approximately 1,400 offenders to the MMDEG legal unit for felony drug charges in 2024, and that the unit will prosecute approximately 650 offenders in the Milwaukee County specialized drug courts or the Drug Treatment Court, with a cumulative average days-to-disposition rate of 130 days from initial appearance to finding of guilt or innocence, with a conviction rate of 85 percent or higher. We also anticipate that in 2024, attorneys will continue to offer low risk drug offenders diversion agreements, which—if completed satisfactorily—would keep them out of the criminal justice system, entirely. We also anticipate that unit attorneys will assist law enforcement in obtaining at least 250 search warrants or other forms of legal process.

MMDEG will coordinate with the various law enforcement agencies in the area who share the same common goal of reducing drug demand and prosecuting drug offenders. This will be done through intelligence sharing and with the North Central HTDTA case and subject deconfliction database. A liaison program providing a point of contact to MMDEG for local law enforcement agencies will remain in place. MMDEG as well as other city and county law enforcement groups and the HIDTA initiative will participate in the drafting of a regional threat assessment. The MMDEG will identify threats and coordinate efforts to systematically approach the drug problem by disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations with an emphasis on

coordination and not competition of drug enforcement in the region. The community prosecutors will work with local municipal attorneys to address nuisance properties involved in drug trafficking through abatement.

A community outreach component is crucial to any effort to reduce the drug threat. Making people aware of how they can help law enforcement by reporting drug traffickers is the first step in involving the public in anti-drug intervention efforts. Community members must also be made aware of early intervention strategies, drug treatment court programming, and social service resources that are available to help those who are addicted or who abuse drugs. In addition, feedback from local residents is an important way of gathering information and intelligence regarding drug trafficking threats on a neighborhood level. Community prosecutors, part of the District Attorney's Community Partnership teams, and community liaison/crime prevention officers at local police stations will work with prosecutors and MMDEG task force members to alert them of developing crime trends. Information can be disseminated to citizen groups on crime trends, crime prevention, and drug awareness through regular outreach sessions via neighborhood watch programs.

Members of the MMDEG and their home agencies will participate in Overdose Public Health and Safety Team meetings and Violence Reduction Public Health and Safety Team meetings, which emphasize community information sharing and the development of an empowered community response.

PROPOSED APPROACH - RELATED ATTACHMENTS:

<u>File Name</u>	<u>File Description</u>
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14. Approval Checklist:

- A. Have you, the grant recipient, had any discrimination findings after a due process hearing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex within the last 5 years? (federal EEOP required response)
- Yes
- No
- B. If yes, have the discrimination findings been reported to the Office of Civil Rights as required for all recipients of Federal funds? (see <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocr/>). If no, a copy should be forwarded to: Wisconsin Department of Justice, Attn: EEOP, 17 West Main Street, PO Box 7857, Madison, WI 53707-7857 (federal EEOP required response)
- Yes
- No
- N/A
- C. Have you utilized the DOJ Administrative Guide located on the DOJ website? (grants-admin-guide-2018.pdf)
- Yes
- No

D. Would you like someone from DOJ to contact you?

Yes

No

E. Are you a state or local government agency; AND have 50 or more employees; AND applying for \$25,000 or more? If yes, you are required to prepare and implement an Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEO) or Certification form (if applicable). A copy of your EEO federal approval letter must be submitted to DOJ. (More information may be found at <http://www.doj.state.wi.us/grants/grantee-civil-rights-information>) (federal EEO required response)

Yes

No

N/A

F. If this application is \$25,000 or more, did your business or organization (including parent organization, all branches, and all affiliates worldwide) receive in the previous fiscal year (1) 80% or more of your annual gross revenues in US federal contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, subgrants, and/or cooperative agreements?; AND (2) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from US federal contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, subgrants, and/or cooperative agreements? (required by The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act)

Yes

No

N/A

G. If you answered yes to the previous question, does the public have access to information about the compensation of the senior executives in your business or organization (including parent organization, all branches, and all affiliates worldwide) through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986? If you answered no to the first part of this question; you must attach to this application the full names and compensation of the top 5 highly compensated individuals of your organization as required by The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act.

Yes

No

N/A

15. **Attachments:**

List of Attachments required for submission of this Application for funding:

Section: Goals and Objectives

File Name

2024 MMDEG JAG DTF Goals and Objectives.doc

File Description

2024 MMDEG Task Force Goals and Objectives

Section: Organizational Structure and Resources

File Name

2024 MMDEG JAG Drug Task Force Organizational Structure and Resources.docx

File Description

2024 MMDEG JAG Drug Task Force Organizational Structure and Resources