

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE : August 20, 2021

TO : Marcelia Nicholson Chairwoman, Board of Supervisors

FROM : Joe Lamers, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget

SUBJECT : 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

**REQUEST**

Retroactive approval to apply for, and accept, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds for the Federal Fiscal Year 2021; and to create a new trust fund (if awarded).

**BACKGROUND**

JAG funding is awarded to municipalities based upon the average annual number of PART 1 violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault etc.) reported by the unit to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). Since Milwaukee County bears the cost of prosecution and incarceration that arise out of Part 1 violent crimes, the DOJ has declared Milwaukee County a disparate jurisdiction and therefore eligible to share in the funding awarded to municipalities located within Milwaukee County.

On June 8th, 2021 the Department of Administrative Services – Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (DAS-PSB) was notified by the U.S. Department of Justice (U.S. DOJ) that it had released applications for the 2021 JAG. DAS-PSB was notified that the deadline for the application was August 9th, 2021, prior to the scheduled September cycle Committee meetings, but after the July cycle. The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors had a legislative recess in August. Rather than request a special public meeting ahead of the deadline, DAS-PSB is requesting *retroactive* authority to apply for, and receive, the 2021 JAG Grant and to hold the public hearing and review for the application during the regular September 2021 cycle meeting. It is anticipated that a notification of intent to award from the DOJ would occur in December or January. Acceptance of that intent to award shall happen within 30 days of that notice per DOJ special condition.

To mitigate the risk of losing grant funding, DAS-PSB submitted the grant application on August 9th, 2021. Then, the public hearing and review of the application will occur at the Finance and Audit Committee on September 16th, 2021.

The funding also requires the qualifying localities to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the administration and distribution of funds. Milwaukee County is not eligible for a direct grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The following is a list of municipalities that are eligible for funding and their award amount:

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
Milwaukee County	\$508,748 <sup>1</sup>
City of Milwaukee	\$392,607
City of West Allis	\$21,380
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$922,735</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Includes the Wisconsin Policy Forum sub award of \$116,141 to fund the Community Justice Council Director as agreed to by both the COUNTY and CITY OF MILWAUKEE.

The total allocation of \$922,735 represents a decrease of \$10,524 or 1.14 percent from the FY 2020 JAG grant. After e-mail communication with Milwaukee Police Department, it was agreed that funding would first be allocated to fund the Community Justice Council Coordinator position housed at the Wisconsin Policy Forum at a 2021 cost of \$116,141, with Milwaukee Police Department and Milwaukee County each receiving one half (\$392,607) of the remaining amount.

Milwaukee County has agreed to act as the fiscal agent for the 2021 JAG grant as it has for the prior year's JAG grants.

Below is the applied for expenditure plan for the County (\$392,607) and various outside organizations:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
West Allis	Squad Car Docking Computers and Equipment	\$21,380
Wisconsin Policy Forum	CJC Director	\$116,141
MPD	10 Camera Systems (35k-50k/camera)	\$392,607
Medical Examiner	Gas Chromatography System	\$100,795
District Attorney	4 Prosecutors	\$291,812

#### **Matching Funds Requirement**

The JAG grant does not require a local match.

#### **Trust Fund Requirement**

The JAG funds, which are forwarded to the County and pursuant to grant guidelines, must be held in a separate trust account.

#### **Recommendation**

To strengthen the collective ability of local jurisdictions to combat violent crime, it is recommended that DAS-PSB be retroactively authorized to apply for and accept JAG funds. In addition, a separate trust fund must also be authorized and established to meet grant requirements and to deposit the grant monies that will be forwarded to the County.



Joe Lamers, Director  
Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget  
Department of Administrative Services