



BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

FY 1998 Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program

To increase the quality and use of evaluations conducted by State and local agencies, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, created the Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program. The program creates a mechanism for enhancing the design, implementation, measurement, evaluation, and dissemination of information in high-priority program areas.

The program seeks to enhance collaborative evaluation among State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) by making BJA funds available under the Byrne Formula Grant Program. The SAAs have principal responsibility for evaluation in coordination with funded program managers and evaluators at universities or other research organizations. This approach reinforces the efforts of SAAs to build bonds between program managers and independent evaluators.

Concept Paper Submissions

Applicants will be invited to submit concept papers explaining their evaluation proposals. Each concept paper will contain five sections: (1) a description of the Byrne-funded program to be evaluated; (2) an overview of the proposed evaluation (including the research design) and the role of all participating agencies and program personnel; (3) the applicant's written assurances; (4) a qualifications statement for the staff and evaluation team, along with a management and implementation plan, including task timetables and products; and (5) an assurance that the applicant's total funding contribution is, at minimum, equivalent to BJA's contribution. Concept papers, which are limited to 10 pages, are rated by a peer review team of evaluators, administrators, and program managers.

Awards are made by the Director of BJA on the basis of peer review assessments, geographical representation, and other considerations.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility for the Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program is limited to the SAAs, which apply individually or as coapplicants with other State and local agencies involved in planning, coordinating, administering, and/or evaluating criminal justice programs funded under the Byrne Formula Grant Program. Applicants seeking funding under this program are challenged to pledge a contribution that equals or surpasses the amount of the requested award.

Building State and Local Evaluation Capacities

The Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program is part of BJA's Effective Programs Initiative, a multitiered program evaluation strategy designed to disseminate findings of locally produced evaluations of BJA-funded projects; stimulate program evaluations at the State and local levels through evaluation capacity building, grant programs, and technical assistance; and strengthen BJA's partnership with SAAs, practitioners, and researchers, as well as other Federal agencies. Under the Effective Programs Initiative, BJA will publish a series of publications, "Results and Findings From State and Local Evaluations," highlighting BJA programs that have undergone evaluation at the State or local level. The first monograph in the series, *Improving the Nation's Criminal Justice Systems*, was recently released.

Another component of the Effective Programs Initiative is BJA's State Evaluation Development Program, which provides technical assistance to jurisdictions needing direct help with capacity building. Evaluation technical assistance and training for State and local practitioners, usually focused on specific program areas, is delivered in regional workshops, single-State settings, and multi-State workshops. A major new project is under way to

develop an Electronic Roadmap for Evaluation for program managers, researchers and evaluators, and local practitioners. Through this World Wide Web site, a new addition to BJA's home page, BJA will provide direct access to an automated, comprehensive handbook covering all evaluation topics to be completed in 1998. The site will contain extensive new material, examples, and resources, and plans are in the works to provide its contents in a CD-ROM version for distribution to State and local planners, program managers, and evaluators.

FY 1998 Solicitation

In its first year, the Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program was very successful in meeting BJA's long-range goals to

enhance evaluation capacity at State and local levels. In FY 1998, BJA will announce its second solicitation. Through a competitive process, BJA will make awards to SAAs that have forged partnerships with local evaluators. BJA will publish the findings as a major outcome of the program.

In FY 1997, BJA made 15 awards under the Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program, which involved the participation of 17 States. A total of 85 individual programs will be evaluated, as will the statewide impact of the Byrne program. The 15 awards are highlighted in the following table:

FY 1997 Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program Awards			
Applicant	Description of Project	Federal Contribution (\$)	Length of Project (Months)
California	Impact evaluation of Operation Revitalization in San Francisco	133,000	24
Colorado	Impact evaluation of the Therapeutic Community Program for Sex Offenders in Prison	150,000	36
Delaware	Evaluation of four demonstration programs operating in the State	86,000	18
Florida	Comprehensive evaluation to determine the impact of Byrne funds through two different approaches	146,000	24
Iowa	Impact evaluation of the Polk County Drug Court	50,000	24
Maryland	Process evaluation of Maryland's 35 "Hot Spots" Community Initiatives	150,000	30
Massachusetts	Evaluation of the Essex County District Attorney's Life Literacy Program	76,000	27
Montana, Idaho, Alaska	Three States will form a partnership to evaluate nine alternative detention programs	25,000	24
New York	Process evaluation of the Youth Court Program	150,000	18
North Carolina	Impact evaluation of Juvenile Day Treatment Centers	38,000	18
Ohio	Evaluation of four Byrne-funded programs in Mahoning County to determine their countywide impact	75,000	24
Oregon	Impact evaluation of 16 juvenile delinquency programs in primary and secondary schools	150,000	36
Pennsylvania	Process and impact evaluations of restrictive immediate sanctions and Philadelphia drug court programs	100,000	18
Utah	Evaluation of a juvenile drug court, a nonresidential sex offender treatment program, and the Salt Lake Electronic Diversion and Work Program	99,000	36
Wisconsin	Evaluation of treatment programs in two jails and employment reentry programs in three jails	150,000	36

For Further Information

To receive further information about the Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program, contact Robert A. Kirchner, Ph.D., program manager, at 202-616-3455. Copies of the announcement are available on the BJA home page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>.

For additional information about other BJA programs, contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480. Response Center staff are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time.

Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. eastern time. Ask to be placed on the BJA mailing list.

Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse

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FS000200

March 1998

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance

Washington, DC 20531

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DOJ/BJA
Permit No. G-91

**FY 1998 Byrne Evaluation
Partnership Program**

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