The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), has announced the availability of grant funds to local units of government through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

The JAG Program was created as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005, which merged the discretionary Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program with the formula-based Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) program.

Justice Assistance Grant awards are based on a statutory formula. Units of local government award allocations are based on their proportion of the state’s three-year violent crime average. The City of Portland, Multnomah County, and the City of Gresham will apply for an allocation amount of $480,737.

Units of local government identified by BJA as disparate must select a fiscal agent that will submit a joint application for the allocation to include all disparate municipalities. The City of Portland is the fiscal agent. Each entity will determine and manage their respective funded program.

The JAG program allows units of local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system. The funding distribution is based on population and crime statistics as well as law enforcement expenditure data.

In general, JAG funds awarded to a unit of local government under the FY 2021 program may be used to hire additional personnel and/or purchase equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice, including for any one or more of the following program areas:

- Law enforcement programs.
- Prosecution and court programs.
- Prevention and education programs.
- Corrections and community corrections programs.
- Drug treatment programs.
- Planning, evaluation and technology improvement programs.

More information may be found at FY 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program - Local Solicitation | Bureau of Justice Assistance (ojp.gov)

The application will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice by the deadline August 9, 2021. The joint application and application ordinance will be on the August 18 & 25, 2021, City Council Agendas. The Portland Police Bureau, as the lead applicant of the application, provides the opportunity for public comment on the proposals made in the application. To share comments or questions, contact Kenneth Lee, Business Services Group Manager, ken.lee@portlandoregon.gov