



Bureau of Justice Assistance Program Brief



FY 2002 Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program

For fiscal year (FY) 2002, \$340 million has been made available for the formula portion of the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG) Program, to be administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice. The purpose of the LLEBG Program is to provide funds to units of local government to underwrite projects to reduce crime and improve public safety.

Program Eligibility and Distribution of Funds

To be considered eligible for the LLEBG Program, a jurisdiction must be a general purpose unit of local government.¹ The unit of local government must report, via its law enforcement agencies, to the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The LLEBG Program is a formula program based on a jurisdiction's number of UCR Part I violent crimes reported to the FBI. The formula is computed in two stages. In the first stage, state allocations are proportionate to each state's average annual amount of UCR Part I violent crimes compared with that for all other states for the 3 most recent calendar years of data from the FBI. Each state, however, must receive a minimum award of 0.25 percent of the total amount available for formula distribution under the LLEBG Program. In the

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www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA

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About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance was established in 1984 as a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. BJA provides leadership and resources to state, local, and tribal governments and communities to reduce crime, violence, and drug abuse and to strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA provides this assistance through formula and discretionary grants, training and technical assistance, publications, and the BJA web site.

For Further Information

For information about the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program, contact:

Bureau of Justice Assistance

810 Seventh Street NW.
Washington, DC 20531
202-616-6500
Fax: 202-305-1367
Web site: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA

For publications and information on other BJA-funded programs, contact:

Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-688-4252
Web site: www.ncjrs.org

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.

U.S. Department of Justice Response Center

1-800-421-6770 or locally at 202-307-1480

Response Center staff are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time.

second stage, local awards are proportionate to each local jurisdiction's average annual amount of UCR Part I violent crimes compared with that for all other local jurisdictions in the state for the 3 most recent calendar years. Jurisdictions reporting crime rates above the formula-based threshold of \$10,000 are eligible for direct awards.

The difference remaining between the state allocation and the local allocation total is awarded to a state administrative agency (SAA) designated by the Governor. The SAA has the option of distributing award funds to state police departments or units of local government not meeting the formula-based threshold of \$10,000. Additional information about this portion of the funds is available from each state's respective SAA.

Program Purpose Areas

LLEBG Program funds must be spent in accordance with one or more of the following seven purpose areas:

- ◆ Supporting law enforcement:
 - ◆ Hiring, training, and employing on a continuing basis new, additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel.
 - ◆ Paying overtime to currently employed law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel to increase the number of hours worked by such personnel.
 - ◆ Procuring equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions.
- ◆ Enhancing security measures in and around schools and in and around other facilities or locations that the unit of local government considers special risks for incidents of crime.
- ◆ Establishing or supporting drug courts.
- ◆ Enhancing the adjudication of cases involving violent offenders, including cases involving violent juvenile offenders.



- ◆ Establishing a multijurisdictional task force, particularly in rural areas, composed of law enforcement officials representing units of local government. This task force must work with federal law enforcement officials to prevent and control crime.
- ◆ Establishing crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.
- ◆ Defraying the cost of indemnification insurance for law enforcement officers.

Program Requirements

The following requirements must be met prior to the obligation of LLEBG Program funds and prior to the Request for Drawdown (RFD) of funds. The RFD must be completed within 90 days of the posting of awards, or the funds will be redistributed in the following fiscal year.

Advisory Board. Each jurisdiction must establish or designate an advisory board to review the application. The board must be designated to make nonbinding recommendations for the proposed use of funds received under this program. The advisory board must include a member from each of the following local organizations: law enforcement agency, prosecutor's office, court system, school system, and a nonprofit group (e.g., educational, religious, community) active in crime prevention or drug-use prevention or treatment.

Public Hearing. Each jurisdiction must hold at least one public hearing regarding the proposed use of funds prior to the obligation of funds. Jurisdictions should encourage public attendance and participation.

Matching Funds. In each jurisdiction, LLEBG funds may not exceed 90 percent of total program costs. Program participation requires a cash match that will not be waived. All recipients must maintain records clearly showing the source, amount, and timing of all matching contributions.

Trust Fund. Each jurisdiction must establish a trust fund that may accrue interest in which to deposit program funds.

Expenditure Period. All federal funds, including interest, revenue, dividend, and match, must be spent within the 2-year expenditure period. Unspent funds must be returned to BJA within 90 days of program termination.

Public Safety Officers' Health Benefits Provision.

Section 615 of the FY 2002 Appropriations Act requires a unit of local government to afford a public safety officer *who retires or is separated from duty due to a personal line-of-duty injury, suffered as a direct and proximate result of responding to a hot pursuit or an emergency situation*, health benefits at the time of separation that are the same as or better than those he or she received while on duty.

To be eligible to receive the entire amount of award under the LLEBG Program, a unit of local government must be in compliance with this provision. If not in compliance, the unit will forfeit 10 percent of the eligible amount. Further information about this provision is provided on the LLEBG Internet-based application system, which may be accessed at http://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov:8003/gms/plsql/llebg_login.llebg_main.


Prohibition on Use of Funds

LLEBG funds are not to be used to purchase, lease, rent, or acquire tanks or armored vehicles, fixed-wing aircraft, limousines, real estate, yachts, or any vehicle not used primarily for law enforcement. Nor are funds to be used to retain individual consultants or construct new facilities. Federal funds are not to be used to supplant state or local funds; they are to be used to increase the amount of funds that would otherwise be available from state and local sources.

Resolution of Funding Disparities

In some cases, a significant disparity may exist between funding eligibility of a county and adjacent





municipalities. By statute, a potential disparity exists when one municipality's eligible funding amount is more than 200 percent of the adjacent county's (400 percent for multiple municipalities) and the county bears the majority of prosecution or incarceration costs for UCR Part I violent crimes reported by the municipality. If multiple adjacent municipalities meet this disparity threshold, the county also must show that funding allocations to those municipalities will likely threaten the efficient administration of justice.

The LLEBG Program addresses these situations. Once BJA identifies a potential disparity, the state attorney general (SAG) must certify whether a disparity does exist. Jurisdictions certified as disparate must agree on whether and in what proportion they will share funds. Neither BJA nor SAGs are required to take part in these negotiations. If no agreement is reached, none of the jurisdictions may apply for funding.

FY 2002 Application Process

The FY 2002 application and award processes will be administered via the Internet-based Grants Management System (GMS). Application deadlines and other LLEBG Program dates will be established in accordance with system development efforts and will

be posted online at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/llebg_00main.html. LLEBG information will also be available by calling the GMS Hotline at 1-888-549-9901, option 4. The application process will consist of the following steps:

1. BJA will notify units of government of their eligibility and provide information on the Internet-based application system for the FY 2002 LLEBG Program.
2. State attorneys general will submit disparity certifications to BJA, if applicable.
3. As required by statute, chief executive officers (CEOs) will submit a copy of the application to the Governor or designated representative.
4. CEOs will submit FY 2002 LLEBG applications via the Internet. Visit the BJA web site for additional guidance regarding the online submission of applications.
5. BJA will make awards on a rolling basis, with all FY 2002 awards completed by August 2002.

Note

1. Units of local government are counties, towns and townships, villages, cities, parishes, Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and parish sheriffs (in the state of Louisiana) that carry out substantial governmental duties.

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