

JRSA's JAIBG Technical Support Center

The Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) is working with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to provide technical assistance to states in calculating local allocation amounts under the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants (JAIBG) formula required in the JAIBG program. The Technical Support Center, with assistance from BJS, provides States with the crime and expenditure data collected by the Federal government, along with supporting documentation. The Center also maintains a Web site that provides formula calculations and allocations for each State in the form of spreadsheets that can be downloaded from the site.

The JAIBG Program

In FY 1998, Congress provided funds to establish the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants (JAIBG) program. Through JAIBG, States and units of local government can receive financial assistance to enhance their efforts to combat serious and violent juvenile crime. JAIBG encourages accountability-based reforms, and funds must be used in 12 purpose areas related to holding juveniles accountable. These purpose areas are specified in the JAIBG legislation.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) administers the JAIBG program. OJJDP awards grants to States, which are required to allocate 75 percent of the funds to eligible units of local government. A State can, however, apply for a waiver of the 75 percent requirement if it can demonstrate that it incurs more than half of the costs of juvenile justice administration in the State.

Allocation of awards to units of local government is based on a formula specified in the JAIBG legislation. The formula looks at the 3 most recent years for which data are available and takes into account the locality's relative share of law enforcement expenditures and its relative share of

Part I violent offenses. The minimum amount for a subgrant award to a locality is \$5,000.

Technical Assistance for States

Although most State JAIBG administrators have access to their State's Crime data, few have access to local expenditure data and most lack the resources or time to calculate the JAIBG formula. To help States calculate local allocation amounts, OJJDP and the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) established the JAIBG Technical Support Center, operated by the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA). With assistance from BJS, the Center provides States with crime and expenditure data collected by the Federal Government, along with supporting documentation. The Center also maintains a Web site that provides formula calculations and allocations for each State in the form of spreadsheets that can be downloaded from the site.

Resources available from the Technical Support Center include a special Web site page for each State and the District of Columbia; documentation on the JAIBG program; expenditure, crime, and tribal data used by the program; and examples of JAIBG-related documents used in other States.

In addition to providing formula calculations for JAIBG, the Center offers technical assistance to States in determining award amounts. An analyst is available to help State administrators determine whether to use data provided on the Web site or data collected in the State and to answer questions regarding local allocations. The analyst can also provide assistance with recalculating allocation amounts.

Data Sources for JAIBG

The Federal government collects both crime and expenditure data from the States and localities. Crime

data are collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census collects expenditure information through the Census of Governments survey. Although the formula requires the use of the three most recent years of data, the Census Bureau collects information for all units of local government at 5-year intervals. In order to use the most recent data possible, only the most recent year of expenditure data is used in the formula calculations. For the JAIBG program, only direct current operating expenditures for police, judicial and legal programs, and corrections are included in the formula.

Although Tribal Nations are eligible to receive JAIBG funding, neither the FBI nor the Census Bureau collects data from tribes. In order to include Tribal Nations, JRSA receives data from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). State administrators also receive these data.

State Data Pages

Each State page lists all units of local government and defines "unit of local government" as set forth in the JAIBG legislation. Allocation calculations are available in three different formats: an interactive worksheet, two spreadsheets, and a list of the localities for which there were no data. The worksheet lists each local government and its award. States that receive waivers to distribute less than 75 percent of grant money to units of local government can enter the percentage that is being distributed and have the worksheet recalculate the award amounts based on the new allocation amount. The two spreadsheets list the localities receiving awards above the \$5,000 cutoff amount - one by locality name and one by award amount.

The data files are also available to States on JAIBG's State Data Page, through which users can download both the FBI UCR data files and the Bureau of the Census expenditure data files. A combined data file that matches the data for each unit of local

government is also available. Finally, the State Data Page provides a listing of federally recognized Indian tribes in each State. Tribal law enforcement data from BIA can also be downloaded.

Each year, allocation amounts are updated to include newly available data. An additional year of crime data from the FBI is added, and Census Bureau and tribal data are updated as new data become available. Each year's data are checked to ensure that the data files are complete and represent the majority of local governments for each State.

award amounts based on the new pass-through amount. Next, spreadsheets that simply list the localities receiving awards above the \$5000 cut-off amount are provided - one that lists awards by locality name and one by award amount. Finally, a listing of localities for which there were no data is also provided.

For Further Information

For more information about JRSA's JAIBG Technical Support Center, access the Web site at www.jrsa.org/jaibg or contact Lisa Walbolt at jaibg@jrsa.org or (202) 842-9330.