Federal Funding Opportunities for Jails

The extent and severity of the use and abuse of opioids, stimulants, and other drugs, combined with recent judicial rulings, means that jails must act now to better the lives of vulnerable populations with substance use disorders (see text box). In-jail treatment, complemented by a robust pre- and post-incarceration recovery support system, reduces recidivism, increases treatment retention, and lowers overdose mortality. Various funding programs provide jails and communities with collaborative opportunities to launch and maintain treatment and recovery support services.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) within the U.S. Department of Justice provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal law enforcement in achieving safer communities. BJA currently offers the major grant programs described below, among others.

Second Chance Act Comprehensive Community-based Adult Reentry Program

The Second Chance Act Comprehensive Community-based Adult Reentry Program supports reentry programs that demonstrate strong partnerships with corrections, parole, probation, and other reentry service providers. These partnerships should develop comprehensive case management plans that directly address criminogenic risk and needs, as determined by validated criminogenic risk assessments, and include delivery or facilitation of services.

At a Glance

- At least two-thirds of individuals confined in jails meet the criteria for drug dependence or abuse, with estimates soaring to 90 percent in areas of the country hit hardest by the opioid epidemic.
- As many as 87 percent of people in contact with the criminal justice system who have serious mental illnesses also have co-occurring substance use disorders.
- Numerous lawsuits are currently pending against jails for drug withdrawal-related jail deaths, and a federal appeals court has upheld a decision requiring jails to provide buprenorphine to entering inmates.
- Adults with untreated problematic opioid use issues who are released from incarceration are 120 times more likely than adults in the general population to die of drug overdose, and overdose has been found to be the leading cause of death upon release.
Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) supports cross-system collaboration to improve public safety responses and outcomes for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse who come into contact with the justice system.

This program is authorized by the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004 (MIOTCRA) and the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008. It supports violence reduction and officer and public safety through social service and other partnerships that will enhance and increase law enforcement responses.

Federal Funding Opportunities for Jails

**FY 2020 Opportunity**

- Estimated number of awards: Up to 18
- Estimated award (average amount): Up to $750,000
- Solicitation: [https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17110](https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17110)
- Application due date: May 4, 2020

This funding promotes implementation or expansion of the following:

- Mentorship of adult offenders during incarceration through transition back to the community and post-release
- Transitional services to help reintegrate offenders into the community, such as:
  - Educational, literacy, and vocational services and the transitional jobs strategy
  - Substance use disorder treatment and services
  - Coordinated supervision and services for offenders, including physical health care and comprehensive housing and mental health care
  - Family services
  - Validated assessment tools to assess the risk factors of returning inmates
  - Training on offender and victim issues

**FY 2020 Opportunity**

- Estimated number of awards: Up to 25
- Estimated award (average amount): Up to $750,000
- Solicitation: [https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17114](https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17114)
- Application due date: May 18, 2020
Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program

The Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP), formerly known as the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP), provides financial and technical assistance to develop, implement, and expand comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, treat, and support those impacted by illicit opioids, stimulants, and other drugs of abuse.

Developed as part of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act legislation, COSSAP aims to:

• Support diversion and alternatives to incarceration programs for nonviolent individuals who encounter the justice system as a result of abusing illicit and prescription opioids or other drugs
• Promote cross-system planning and coordination of service delivery
• Reduce the incidence of fatal overdoses associated with opioid use

Category 1: Locally Driven Responses to the Opioid Epidemic awards are based on populations served:

• Subcategory 1a—An urban area or large county with a population larger than 500,000 ($1.2 million/36 months)
• Subcategory 1b—A suburban area or medium-sized county with a population between 100,000 and 500,000 ($900,000/36 months)
• Subcategory 1c—A rural area or small county with a population smaller than 100,000 or a federally recognized Indian tribe ($600,000/36 months)

Federal Funding Opportunities for Jails

FY 2020 Opportunity

• Estimated number of awards: 120
• Estimated award (average amount): $156M
• Solicitation: https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17023
• Application due date: May 21, 2020

COSSAP funds may be used for:

• Medication-assisted treatment (including medication).
• Behavioral health services in custody and in the community.
• Transportation.
• Reentry services.
• Peer recovery services.
• Diversion programs.
• Housing (capped at 30 percent).
• Pre-trial or probation-based programming/specialized caseloads.
• Opioid dockets/court-based programs.
• Program evaluations.
Endnotes


8 The 21st Century Cures Act (2016) reauthorized MIOTCRA programs.

For More Information

The Office of Justice Programs’ (OJP) [Grant Application Resource Guide](https://www.ojp.gov/direct/services/grant_applications) provides guidance on preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding, as well as information that may help potential applicants decide whether to apply for funding.