

# About the Coronavirus Emergency Relief Supplemental Funding Program

## Overview

[Read the Solicitation to apply for CESF Funding here](#)

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The CARES Act created the Coronavirus Emergency Relief Supplemental Funding (CESF) program which included \$850 million to assist states, local units of government and tribes in preventing, preparing for and responding to coronavirus.

Funding for the CESF program flows to states and local direct awardees through the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) using the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program formula. The formula is based on population and crime rate.

The state formula and sub recipient portions of the CESF grants are administered by the 56 State Administering Agencies (SAAs). States are in the process of determining priorities and needs. To learn more about potential CESF funding opportunities, please use guidance provided by your SAA.

CESF awards can be used for immediate needs as well as for longer-term implications of coronavirus on state and local justice systems.

## Who is Eligible for Funding?



States, local direct award recipients and local sub-grantees that received a Byrne JAG grant in FY19 are eligible for a CESF grant.



State, local agencies and nonprofit service providers may be able to apply for funding through their SAAs. [Find the SAA in your state here.](#)

## Direct Awardee & Sub-Recipient Process

### Direct Awardee

Every city or county that was eligible for a Byrne JAG direct allocation from BJA in FY19, including as part of a disparate allocation, is eligible to apply for and receive a CESF award.

[Local direct allocations \(sorted by state\) are available here.](#)

Applications are open through May and will be awarded on a rolling basis as quickly as possible. SAAs and local governments will receive their direct award from BJA by mid-June, many will receive them sooner.

### Sub-Recipient

Local governments whether or not they receive a direct award may also be eligible for a sub-award from their SAA.

Non-profit service providers and tribal governments may be able to apply to the state or local government for a CESF grant.

While each state's process differs, your SAA may post the process used to accept applications and award grants. Timing and process will vary by state as states are in the process of determining priorities and needs.

[You can find your SAA here.](#)



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## Allowable Uses

Funding awarded under the CESF program must be utilized to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. Allowable projects and purchases include, but are not limited to:

- Overtime
- Equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment)
- Hiring
- Supplies (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer)
- Training
- Travel expenses
- Addressing the medical needs of inmates in prisons, jails and detention centers

Additional coronavirus related needs across the justice system could include:

- Technology for video arraignment and virtual supervision services
- Jail diversion, pretrial citation and release strategies
- Support for community partners and non-profits providing services to returning citizens
- Referrals to therapy, treatment and housing
- Domestic violence support
- Juvenile support

## How CESF Differs from Byrne JAG

The CESF program is a new grant that allows recipients to take advantage of the flexibility of Byrne JAG to fund programs with a direct nexus to coronavirus and allows for the possibility to expand outside the traditional boundaries of a DOJ grant.

- Permissible uses extend beyond typical justice system activities as long as there is a nexus to coronavirus.
- Application process is abbreviated.
- Every disparate allocation jurisdiction is directly eligible for an award from BJA.
- Byrne JAG immigration-related conditions do not apply to CESF.
- Current federal reporting requirements are reduced.

## The National Criminal Justice Association

[Check out our COVID-19 resources here](#)

### NCJA has resources to help!

- Find your SAA on our website.
- Watch our webinar about the CESF program which includes an overview of eligibility, allowable uses and how to apply for funding.
- NCJA members can access our Connect2Grants library detailing available grant opportunities to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Collect and share lessons learned and prepare for future events.

Contact us anytime!

