**Insert Agency Logo & Name**

**Federal Criminal Justice Grants 101: What Can I Use the Money For?**

This document aims to provide a broad overview of what federal criminal justice grants can be used for, both in terms of types of programming and budget categories. Whether you are brand new to federal grants, have applied in the past, or are a criminal justice stakeholder or practitioner reading this document for context, this is a great place to start with the basics.

Just a note—when we refer to “federal criminal justice grants” we are referring to all federal grants specifically outlined to improve the administration of justice.

**What Types of Projects Can Be Funded?**

Some federal criminal justice grants are broad, allowing for spending across a variety of criminal justice sectors and fields, whereas other grants are smaller, more specialized or exist for specific purposes. Across a wide array of federal criminal justice grants, the following project types can be funded:

* Law Enforcement
  + - Examples: Collaborative task forces, focused deterrence programs, diversion programs, violent crime reduction, training, officer wellness, co-responder models and/or other crisis intervention initiatives.
* Courts
  + - Examples: Public defense projects, prosecution initiatives (targeted gang or domestic violence reduction initiatives, for example), specialized courts (drug courts, veterans’ courts, etc.), community justice centers, pre-trial diversion programs).
* Prevention and Education
  + - Examples: Crime prevention, specialized prevention (i.e., gang violence prevention, prevention for at-risk youth), substance misuse prevention training and outreach, community violence intervention programs.
* Corrections, Community Corrections, Reentry
  + - Examples: Probation/parole programs, alternatives to incarceration, community-based reentry programs, correctional-based substance use disorder programming, correctional-based vocational/educational opportunities.
* Technology/Systems Improvement, Planning and Evaluation
  + - Examples: Evaluating the effectiveness of a program, data analysis, improving computer-aided dispatch and record management systems (CAD/RMS), forensic crime lab improvement, systems to improve information sharing, criminal records improvement, court technology improvements.
* Crime Victim and Witness Programs
  + - Examples: Crime victim programs, crime witness programs, victims’ compensation programs, restorative justice programs, trauma recovery centers, support for Children’s Advocacy Centers, hospital-based violence intervention programs, trauma-informed training.
* Mental and Behavioral Health
  + - Examples: Crisis intervention team training, response and protocol development, assessments, mobile crisis units, sober housing units, treatment programs for individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders, medically assisted treatment.

Because there are many federal grants, all with varying requirements and specialized emphases, the above list is not intended to serve as a complete or even partial description of the many different types of projects and programs that can be funded with federal criminal justice grant money. Rather, the above list is intended to convey that pretty much any type of criminal justice project can be funded under one or more federal criminal justice grants.

**Federal Budget Categories: What Can I Spend Money On?**

* Personnel for employees carrying out grant-funded activities.
* Fringe benefits for employees being paid out of the grant. Fringe benefits refer to additional compensation to employees such as health insurance, workers’ compensation and retirement plans.
* Travel expenses for training and other key events, as long as travel will enhance the project and contribute to meeting the grant’s goals and objectives.
* Supplies relevant to the completion of the grant funded project.
* Equipment relevant to the completion of the grant funded project.
* Consultant fees not to exceed $650 for an 8-hour day, unless prior approval is received.
* Other costs tied to a specific grant award, including items such as phone expenses, janitorial or security services, and investigative or confidential funds.
* Indirect costs, which refer to expenses that are not connected to any particular federal grant but are essential to the operation of the organization conducting the funded project. This includes costs such as accounting, utilities and facility maintenance.

\*Please keep in mind that this is an introductory document and is not intended to serve as a comprehensive description of the federally allowable budget categories and their associated requirements.

**Contact Us!**

Do you have a question about the federally allowable budget categories? Reach out to [insert SAA contact’s name, email and phone number.]

Do you have a project that you’re seeking federal funding for? If so, browse our current list of funding opportunities here [insert link]!