

Strategic Planning Evaluation Matrix

A Tool to Assess the Strength and Comprehensiveness of Strategic Plans

Since 2019, after the passage of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act (JFAA), states have been required to submit comprehensive statewide strategic plans with their Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) federal grant applications. The NCJA Center for Justice Planning is the training and technical assistance (TTA) provider for the Byrne JAG grant, helping State Administering Agencies (SAAs) plan strategically for the use of these federal grant funds. In conjunction with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the NCJA Center for Justice Planning (CJP) has created a scoring matrix to assess states' strategic plans, with the intention of using the information gleaned from this evaluation process to tailor TTA opportunities to particular needs and gaps. The CJP team aims to make this evaluation matrix available so that recipients of TTA know how their strategic plans are evaluated by the team, and importantly, so SAAs can routinely assess their own plans using this framework.



Scoring Strategic Plans

Nineteen total evaluation components are used to assess the strength of strategic plans. These components derive from the following criteria:

- 1 Identification of Priorities
- 2 Engaging Stakeholders
- 3 Data to Drive Decisions
- 4 S.M.A.R.T. Goals
- 5 Action Steps or Goals
- 6 Performance Measurement

Strategic plans are scored utilizing a four-point numeric scoring formula:

Score of 4:

This component is fully defined and integrated into the plan.

Score of 3:

This component is contained in the plan but with limited detail.

Score of 2:

Although the component is referenced in the plan, no detail is provided.

Score of 1:

This component is undefined in the strategic plan.

Identification of Priorities		
Evaluation Component	Points Possible	Points Earned
The priorities to be addressed through the allocation of Byrne JAG grant funds are clearly defined in the plan.	4 points	
The priorities are supported with relevant and timely information.	4 points	
The plan includes details of how grants will be used to improve the administration of the criminal justice system.	4 points	

Engaging Stakeholders		
Evaluation Component	Points Possible	Points Earned
The stakeholder engagement strategy is explained.	4 points	
The plan includes diverse and required stakeholders, including, but not limited to: judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, corrections, indigent defense, victim services, juvenile justice delinquency prevention programs, community corrections and reentry services.	4 points	
Input from stakeholders informs plan elements.	4 points	

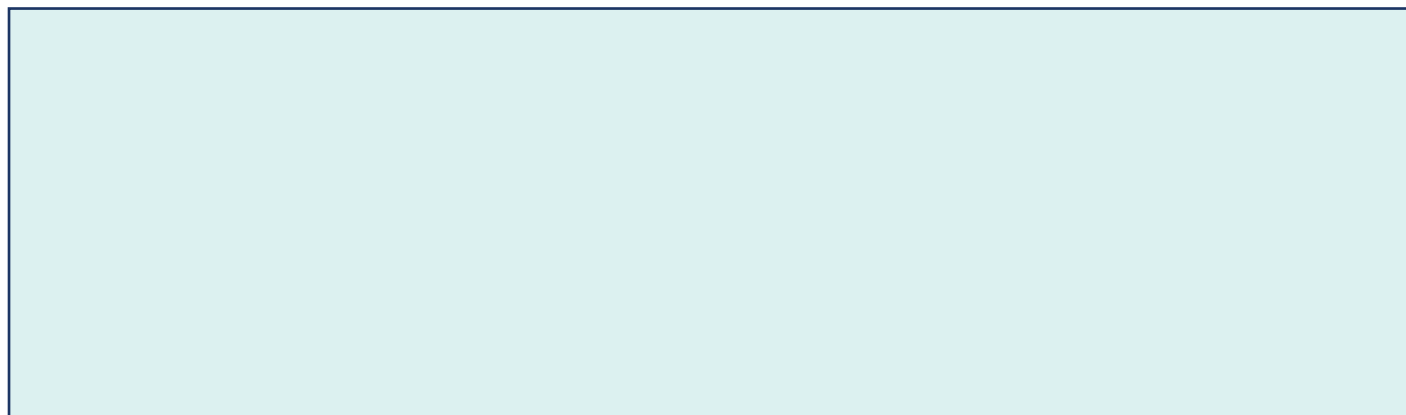
Data to Drive Decisions		
Evaluation Component	Points Possible	Points Earned
Describes the process used by the state for gathering data and/or describes any barriers at the state and local levels for accessing data.	4 points	
Included data is relevant, timely and accurate.	4 points	
Data referenced informs the priorities and goals of the plan.	4 points	

S.M.A.R.T. Goals		
Evaluation Component	Points Possible	Points Earned
Goals are S pecific and M easurable to address how the grants will improve the administration of the criminal justice system.	4 points	
Specified goals are A chievable and R elevant to the identified priorities.	4 points	
Goals are T ime-bound with established metrics.	4 points	

Action Steps or Goals		
Evaluation Component	Points Possible	Points Earned
Describes the process used by the state in employing evidence-informed and evidence-gathering approaches in support of funding decisions and/or describes barriers at the state and local levels for implementing evidence-informed approaches to preventing and reducing crime and recidivism.	4 points	
The strategic plan includes a detailed workplan for accomplishing goals.	4 points	
The plan defines how resources will be allocated within and among each of the Byrne JAG program areas.	4 points	

Performance Measurement		
Evaluation Component	Points Possible	Points Earned
Includes details of how the performance of funded activities will be evaluated.	4 points	
Baseline data is defined for performance measurement from S.M.A.R.T. goals.	4 points	
Incorporates metrics to monitor the success/impact of the plan.	4 points	
The strategic plan is reviewed on an annual basis.	4 points	

Additional Comments on the Strategic Plan Evaluated Above:



Training and Technical Assistance

The NCJA Center for Justice Planning (CJP) provides training and technical assistance (TTA) for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) and the Byrne State Crisis Implementation Program (Byrne SCIP). The CJP team can help with a wide variety of needs including identifying funding priorities, assessing criminal justice system data, working with boards and advisory councils, stakeholder engagement, evaluation advice for programs and more! To request TTA, please contact strategicplanning@ncja.org.

Resources

Direct Assistance

[The NCJA Strategic Planning Toolkit](#)

[Strategic Planning Workshops](#)

New SAA Bootcamp

[The NCJA Podcast](#)

Peer to Peer Connections

[Promising Practices and Programs](#)

The NCJA Innovation Labs

Quick Questions

Strategic Plan Evaluation and Feedback

Stakeholder Surveys

Focus Groups

Data Analysis

Board Engagement

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