Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Indiana Strategic Plan Update

2019-2024 Plan

Submitted by: Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
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Guided by a Board of Trustees representing all components of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) serves as the state's planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety, and victim services. The Institute develops long-range strategies for the effective administration of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems, and administers federal and state funds to carry out these strategies.

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Introduction

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) serves as Indiana's State Administering Agency (SAA) for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. The JAG Program is the primary vehicle of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. JAG provides states and local units of governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas, including law enforcement, crime lab/forensics, crime prevention, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, corrections, community corrections, reentry services, behavioral health, assessment and evaluation, and crime victim/witness services programs.

Last year, ICJI submitted its Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Strategic Plan for 2019 – 2024. This report evaluates the ICJI's progress towards achieving the goals outlined in the 2019 – 2024 Strategic Plan, while also providing an update on crime in Indiana since the plan's implementation.

Data

Data on violent crimes both nationally and in Indiana was gathered from the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR). 2018 UCR data is the most recent data available. This data may not be fully representative of violent crimes in Indiana, as it pulls data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) which is not yet being utilized by all law enforcement agencies in the state.

Indiana's Management Performance Hub (MPH) provided the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute with Criminal History Repository Information System (CHRIS) arrest information[1] reported by the Indiana State Police (ISP) via the Indiana Arrest Information dashboard. Available arrest data range from January of 2014 to March of 2020.

Court data was obtained from the Indiana Trial Court Statistics by County dashboard, reported by the Indiana Supreme Court and maintained by the Indiana Office of Judicial Administration.

Officer employment data was gathered from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) data updated as of April 2020 and distributed to the ICJI.
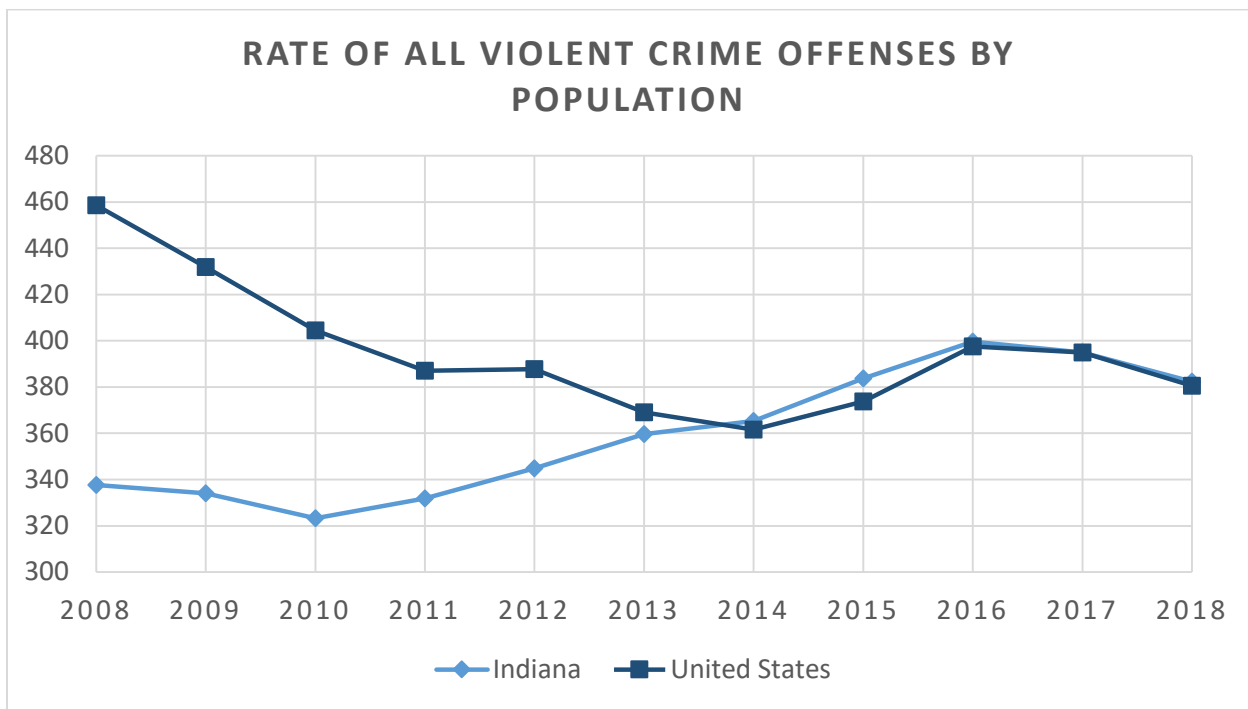
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[1] Data feeding into the CHRIS system comes from three main sources. Arrest data comes from the LiveScan system, which is used for fingerprinting and capturing other pertinent information at the time of arrest. Criminal disposition data are maintained by prosecutors in the ProsLink system, and by courts in the Odyssey system.

Violent Crime

Violent crimes are defined in the UCR Program as those offenses that involve force or threat of force. Violent crime is composed of four offenses, including murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Going forward, when the crime of murder is indicated, the reader should assume that non-negligent manslaughter is also included (UCR, 2018).

The FBI UCR data showed that the 120 law enforcement agencies in Indiana that utilize NIBRS entered a total of 1,874 incidents of violent crime and 2,133 offenses in 2018. These numbers represent nearly two times as many incidents as offenses as reported in 2017, however this is likely due to the fact that 18 additional agencies began utilizing NIBRS in 2018. 102 agencies reported violent crime data into NIBRS in 2017, and 120 agencies reported in 2018.

The figure below displays violent crime rates per 100,000 persons as obtained from the FBI UCR reporting program data. According to this data, the total volume of violent crimes have been on the decline both nationally and in Indiana since 2016 (UCR, 2018).

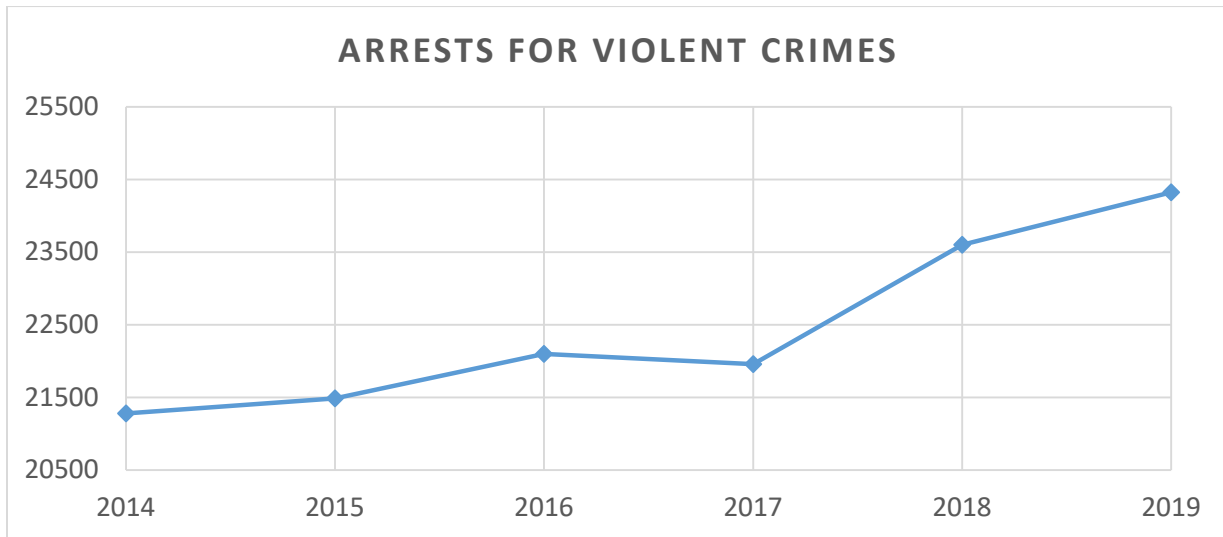*Figure adapted from the FBI UCR Crime Data Explorer Interface

Though the total number of violent crimes in Indiana has been trending downward, specific types of violent crime increased in 2018. The rate of homicide increased nearly 5% from 2017 to 2018 and the rate of aggravated assault increased roughly 3.2%. The rate of rape and robbery both decreased.
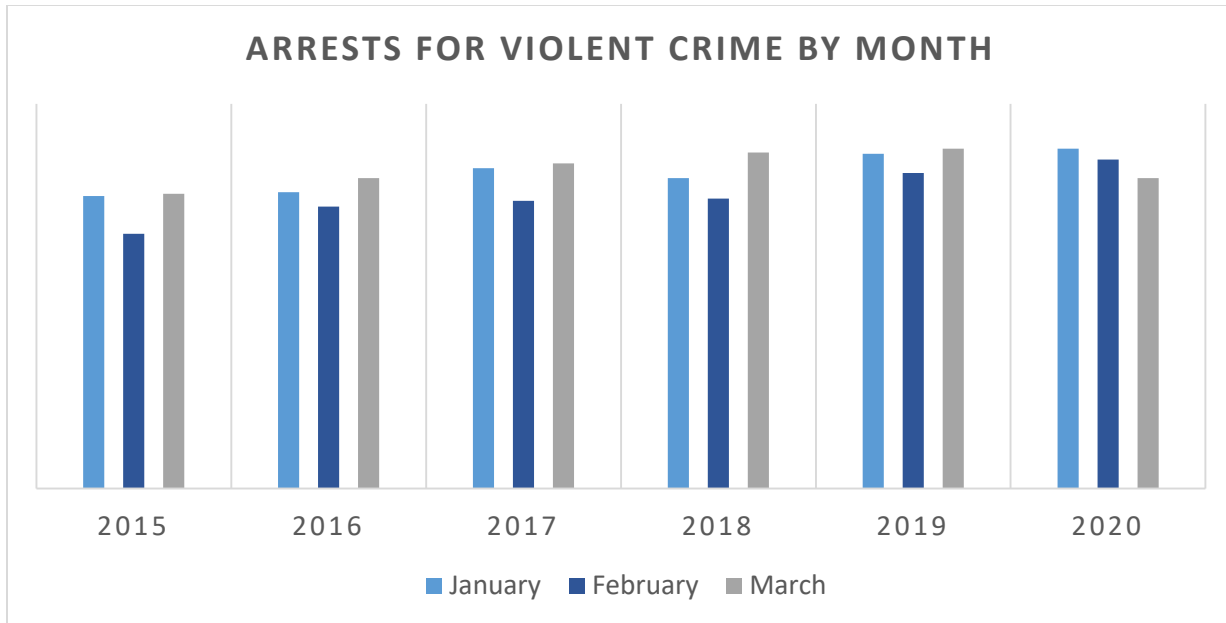
<u>Arrests</u>

The table below shows the number of arrested individuals for violent crimes between 2014 and 2019, as reported by the Indiana State Police via the Indiana Arrest Information dashboard.

Year	Arrests for Violent Crimes	Percent Change (Previous Year)
2014	21277	--
2015	21486	+1%
2016	22098	+2.8%
2017	21959	-0.6%
2018	23603	+7.5%
2019	24322	+3.1%

Arrests for violent crimes have been trending upward since 2015, despite a slight drop in 2016. 2019 saw the highest volume of arrests for violent crimes in the last five years.

ARRESTS FOR VIOLENT CRIMES

The data for 2020 is not yet complete. However, data for the first three months of 2020 is available. Below is a comparison of number of individuals arrested for violent crimes per month (January – March), from 2015 to 2020. The figure shows that arrests for violent crimes in January and February were higher in 2020, than in previous years. Though, arrests reported for March were lower than the arrests in March for the prior four years.

ARRESTS FOR VIOLENT CRIME BY MONTH

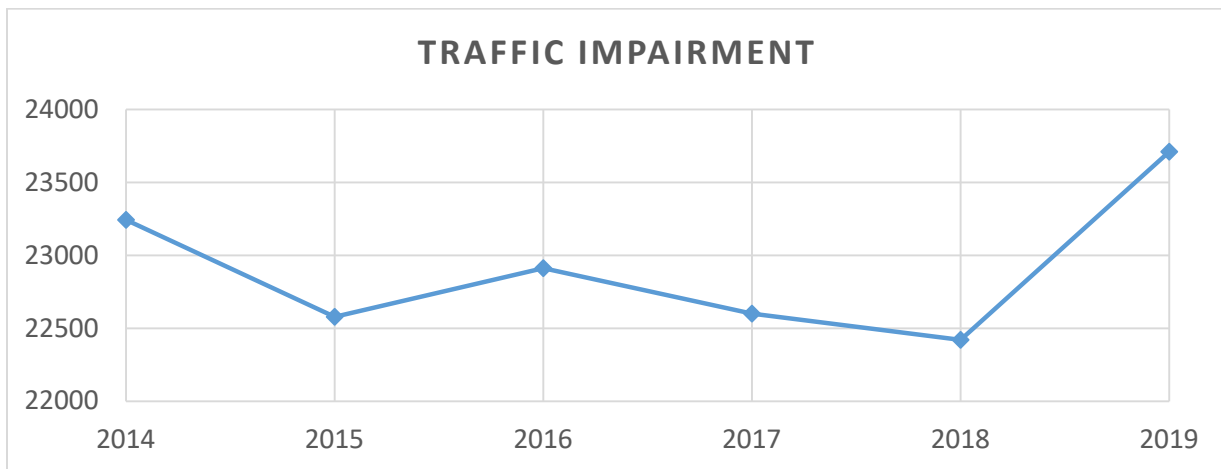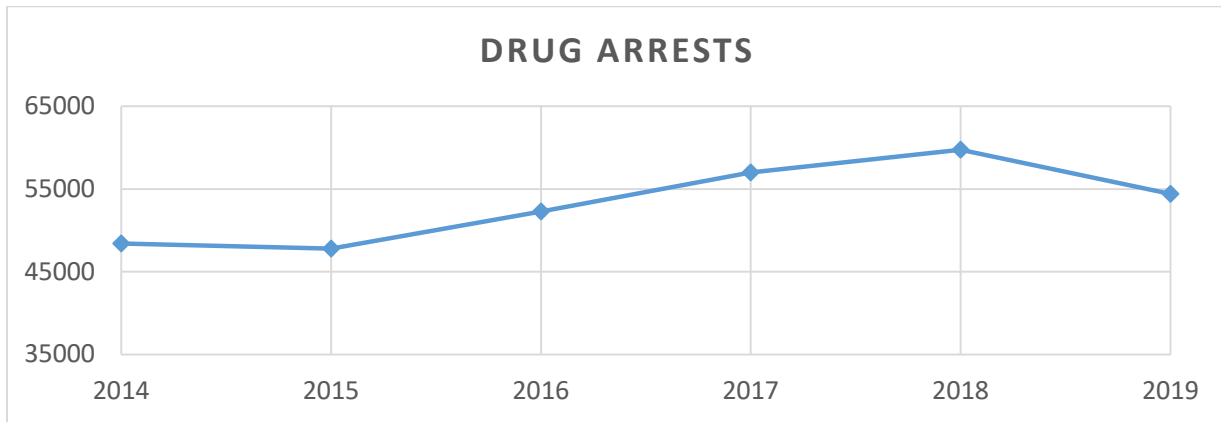Legend: ■ January ■ February ■ March

Substance Abuse Related Crime

The table below shows substance abuse related arrests over the last five years (2014 – 2019). Two types of arrests are noted in this table, drug-related arrests and traffic impairment arrests which involved the use of alcohol and/or drugs.
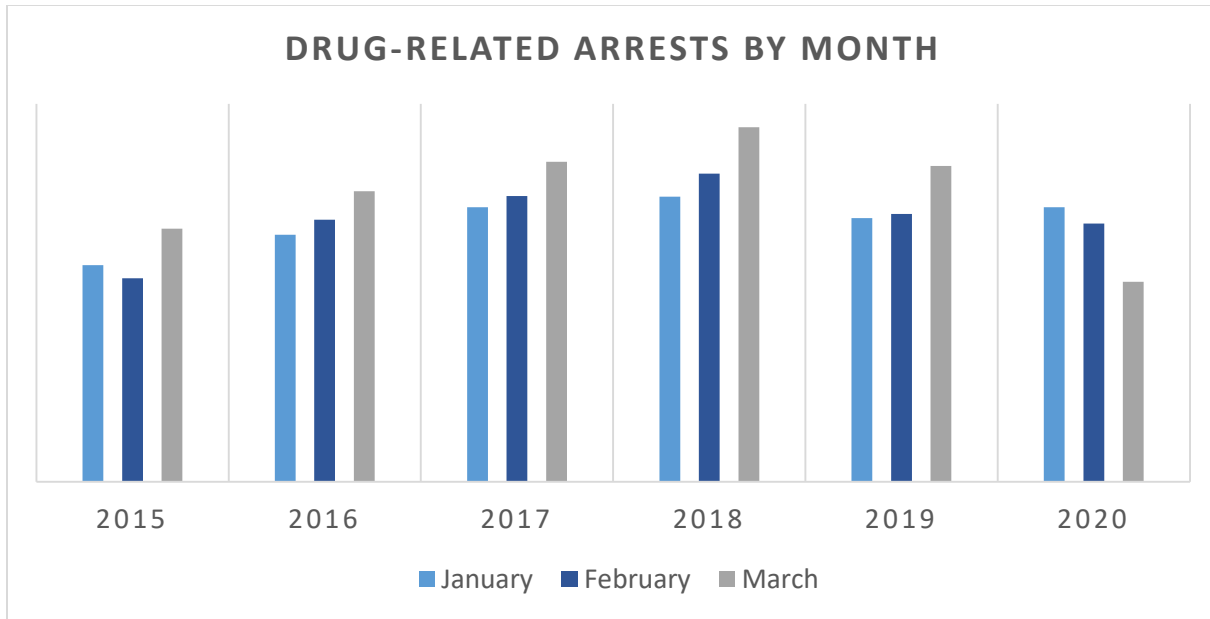
Year	Drug	Percent Change (Previous Year)	Traffic Impairment	Percent Change (Previous Year)
2014	48420	--	23243	--
2015	47794	-1.3%	22578	-2.9%
2016	52303	+9.4%	22911	+1.5%
2017	57010	+9.0%	22600	-1.4%
2018	59744	+4.8%	22421	-0.8%
2019	54425	-8.9%	23711	+5.8%

Drug-related arrests steadily increased from 2016 to 2018, before dropping nearly 9% in 2019. Traffic impairment arrests fluctuated between -2.9% and +1.5% change from 2015 to 2018, before spiking in 2019 with a roughly 6% increase from 2018.
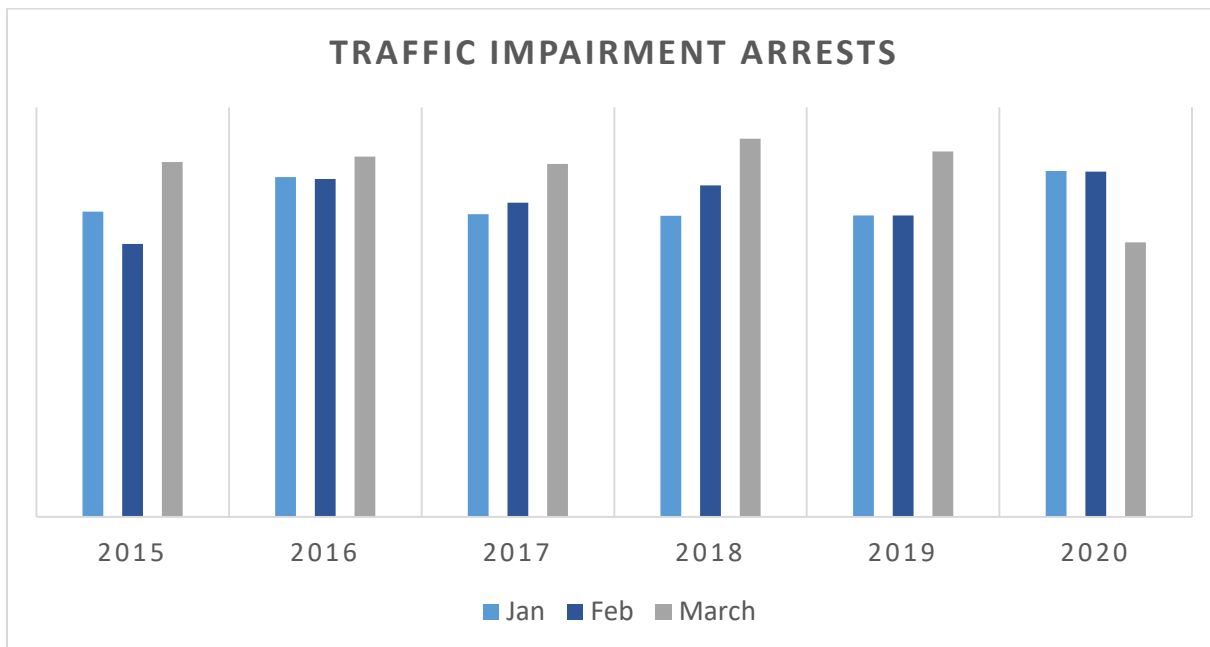
The figures below illustrate longitudinal data for substance abuse related arrests from 2014 to 2019.

DRUG ARRESTS

TRAFFIC IMPAIRMENT

Though data for 2020 is still being collected, data for January through March is available. When comparing 2020 January, February, and March drug-related arrest data with the same months the prior five years, trends can be analyzed. The data show that arrests for January 2020 were slightly higher than 2019, however, the number fell within the prior range of positive and negative fluctuations over the past five years. February 2020 data showed fewer arrested than February 2019, making 2020 the third consecutive year with a decline in arrests. March 2020 arrest data was considerably lower than years past, representing over 2,000 fewer arrests than 2019, and nearly 3,000 fewer than 2018. However, it is important to note that March 2020 was a month heavily impacted by COVID-19 and the subsequent restrictions on travel and social distancing. See data below.

DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS BY MONTH

Traffic impairment arrests were the highest in January 2020 and February 2020 that they have been in the last five years. Similarly to drug-related arrests, the data show a sharp decline in traffic impairment arrests for March 2020. These March numbers represent that lowest number of traffic impairment arrests in five years. As previously stated, it is important to remember the impact of COVID-19 related travel and activity restrictions on the 2020 data.

TRAFFIC IMPAIRMENT ARRESTS

Court Data

The Indiana Trial Court Statistics by County dashboard, maintained by the Indiana Supreme Court, displays new cases filed by year in addition to method of disposition. The most recent data available is for 2018. In 2018, there were 291,207 new criminal cases filed. Of those filed, nearly 50% were misdemeanors, ~20% were felony level 6 offenses, ~23% were miscellaneous criminal offenses, and the remaining ~7% were other varying felony level offenses. Total new criminal filings for 2018 are slightly higher (+1%) than new filings for 2017. The breakdown of misdemeanors, felony level 6 offenses, miscellaneous criminal offenses, and varying felony level offenses did not differ more than +/-1.6%.

Law Enforcement

The Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) is responsible for collecting information on police employment for the State. 2018 is the most recent year of complete law enforcement data available for Indiana, however 2019 data has been updated for roughly 170 agencies. The table below shows police employment given the agency's most recent available data.

Type of Employment	Number Employed
Full-Time	13979
Part-Time	905
Reserve	2380
Total	17264

According to the most recent available ILEA data, there were a total of 637 law enforcement agencies with 17,264 full-time, part-time, and reserve officers in Indiana. The number of officers has increased by 182 officers since the reporting of the complete 2018 data.

Strategic Plan Goals, 2019 – 2024

The ICJI outlined five goals in its 2019 – 2024 Strategic Plan. Each of these goals is outlined below. The measure used to evaluate ICJI's progress towards achieving goals one through four is the number of subgrantees and/or programs funded in each respective category. For goal five, results from ICJI's Annual Customer Service Satisfaction Survey were used to gauge progress.

Goal 1: Support evidence-based substance abuse prevention and education projects

Objective: Prioritize applications that aim to implement alcohol and other drug prevention and education efforts.

Measure: Number of subgrantees that implement alcohol and other drug prevention and education efforts.

Progress Evaluation: The ICJI awarded grant funding to 10 programs involved with drug prevention and education efforts in 2019, and 4 the following year in 2020. The number of programs funded remained the same between 2018 and 2019, though the percentage relative to the total number of programs fell in 2019 and 2020. Though, in 2020, 8% of programs funded were related to drug prevention and education efforts – these numbers do not include all programs aimed at addressing substance abuse, only those with specific dedication to education, training, and prevention.

Goal 2: Enable the development of behavioral health systems within the state justice system

Objective: Make substance abuse and mental health a priority of funding over the next five years.

Measure: Number of subgrantees that address issues of substance abuse and mental health.

Progress Evaluation: The ICJI is still working towards its goal of making substance abuse and mental health a priority of funding. 16 programs aimed at addressing substance abuse were awarded grant funding in 2019, and 14 were awarded in 2020. Of those programs, 5 (31.2%) in 2019 and 2 (14.3%) in 2020 directly addressed mental health as a component of substance abuse. Programs addressing substance abuse represented nearly 42% of subgrantees in 2018, though in 2020 they represented roughly 30% of subgrantees. In 2018, programs addressing substance abuse with an emphasis on mental health represented 33.3% of those programs, yet only represented 14.3% in 2020.

Goal 3: Empower law enforcement agencies to administer the law and protect the citizens of Indiana

Objective: Give funding priority to law enforcement agencies to support their needs.

Measure: Number of subgrantees that are law enforcement agencies.

Progress Evaluation: The ICJI administered JAG funding to 36 law enforcement programs in 2020 and 37 in 2019. Law enforcement agencies and/or programs accounted for roughly 80% of the ICJI's JAG subgrantees in both 2019 and 2020, nearly a 6% increase from 2018.

Goal 4: Provide resources that support drug-offender treatment projects in the community

Objective: Grant funding to entities who may initiate or continue evidence-based approaches to treatment that will directly benefit offenders.

Measure: Number of subgrantees that use evidence-based approaches to treatment that will directly benefit offenders.

Progress Evaluation: While the ICJI does still provide funding to subgrantees that use evidence-based approaches to treatment directly benefiting offenders, the number of subgrantees funding as dropped in the two years since implementation of the strategic plan. 6 programs were funded

in 2018, 5 in 2019, and 2 in 2020.

<u>Goal 5: Deliver excellent customer service to stakeholders</u>

Objective: Guide current and future subgrantees toward funding opportunities

Measure: Findings from the ICJI's Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Progress Evaluation:

The ICJI conducts an annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. The 2019 survey results showed an increase in the Drug and Crime Division's overall customer satisfaction score from 2018, with the division receiving the highest score among all divisions in the agency. In addition to receiving the highest overall score, the Drug and Crime Division also scored highest in grant manager response time and accuracy of grant manager responses.

Conclusion

The ICJI has been making substantial progress towards achieving its goals as outlined in the 2019 – 2024 plan. Halfway through the second year of the plan, the ICJI has already achieved 2 of 5 goals, and will continue to work towards that growth. With goals 3 and 5 being met, the ICJI will refocus on the funding prioritization of substance abuse prevention, education, treatment and evidence-based practice, in order to reach the remaining three goals and better the state of Indiana.

References

Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. (2019).

Indiana Office of Judicial Administration. (2018). *Indiana Trial Court statistics by county*. Retrieved from https://publicaccess.courts.in.gov/ICOR/

United States, Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. *Uniform Crime Reporting, Crime Data Explorer*. Retrieved from https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/explorer/state/indiana/crime