South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs

MEMORANDUM

TO: Persons and Agencies Interested in Commenting on the South Carolina Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Application

FROM: Phil Riley, Director

RE: Solicitation for Public Comment

DATE: May 29, 2015

The Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs (OHSJP) of the SC Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) is in the process of submitting its annual grant application for FFY 2015 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) division of the US Department of Justice (USDOJ). The application is due to the BJA no later than June 16, 2015. Later this year Congressional appropriations from FFY 2015 will be awarded by the USDOJ to the States. These allocations will include funds for the JAG program. South Carolina's formula portion of the JAG award, administered by the SCDPS, is expected to be approximately $3.2 million. With this announcement, the SCDPS invites public comment regarding the application submitted and the best use of these funds.

Cities, counties, state agencies and non-profit organizations, including faith-based organizations, are eligible under the federal legislation to apply for JAG funds through the SCDPS. There are seven purpose areas that may be considered for subgrant awards:

- Law enforcement programs
- Prosecution and court programs, including indigent defense
- Prevention and education programs
- Corrections and community corrections programs
- Drug treatment and enforcement programs
- Planning, evaluation and technology improvement programs
- Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation)

Within these purpose areas, JAG funds can be used to pay for personnel, overtime, equipment, travel and training. In general, these funds can be used for statewide initiatives, technical assistance, and the support of criminal justice systems in local jurisdictions. All grant awards require a 10% cash match from each recipient.

The OHSJP is also seeking recommendations on funding priorities, jurisdictions of greatest need, innovative programs worthy of replication, and general matters of public policy related to the administration of justice in South Carolina.

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Public comment will be summarized and presented to the South Carolina Public Safety Coordinating Council, the statutorily empowered body which renders final grant award decisions. The Council is composed of representatives from the Office of the Governor, the House and Senate Judiciary Committees of the South Carolina General Assembly, state and local law enforcement agencies, and a victims of crime service provider representative.

Comment is welcomed and interested parties are encouraged to learn more about the JAG program by viewing the BJA web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/. Comments and questions regarding this solicitation for public input should be submitted as soon as possible, but prior to June 16, 2015 and be directed to:

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