



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

*Bureau of Justice Assistance*

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Washington, D.C. 20531

January 26, 2022

BJA State Administering Agency Directors

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

RE: JAG Funding to Combat Threats Against Election Workers

Dear State Administering Agency Director:

The past year has seen a significant increase in threats of violence against election workers, administrators, officials, and volunteers who administer elections for federal, state, and local office in this country. To address this critical issue, in June 2021, the Justice Department issued [guidance](#) regarding threats against election workers and launched a [Task Force](#) to address the rise in such threats.

In the course of the Task Force's work, the Justice Department has received a number of inquiries regarding whether the Department's criminal justice grant programs may be used to protect election workers from violence and criminal threats of violence. This memorandum highlights the versatility of [Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\) Program](#) funding for these and other purposes. The JAG Program is a leading source of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions, helping to fill gaps in state, local, and tribal criminal justice systems. JAG is a funding source that supports a range of program areas, including law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, crime victim and witness initiatives, and mental health and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams.

The broad criminal justice purposes supported by the JAG Program permit JAG funds to be used to deter, detect, and protect against threats of violence against election workers, administrators, officials, and others associated with the electoral process. We encourage State Administering Agencies to inform stakeholders that JAG funds may be used to prevent and respond to violent threats of this kind.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. My team and I are available to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Mahoney".

Acting Director