

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Proposal Narrative

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alaska continues to face disproportionate public safety challenges driven by elevated violent crime rates, geographic isolation, and increasing drug trafficking activity. According to Alaska Department of Public Safety and FBI data, Alaska's violent crime rate remains more than double the national average. In 2024, Alaska reported a violent crime rate of 722 per 100,000, compared to 359 per 100,000 nationally (Alaska DPS Crime in Alaska Report, 2024; FBI UCR Program, 2025).

Recent Alaska Department of Public Safety annual drug reporting further illustrates the scale of the threat. In 2024, law enforcement seized approximately 1,262 pounds of illegal narcotics, including an estimated 42 million potentially fatal doses of fentanyl. In 2025, statewide seizures exceeded 518,000

grams of illegal drugs, with methamphetamine, fentanyl, and cocaine continuing to pose major threats to Alaska communities (Alaska DPS Annual Drug Report, 2024; Alaska DPS Annual Drug Report, 2025).

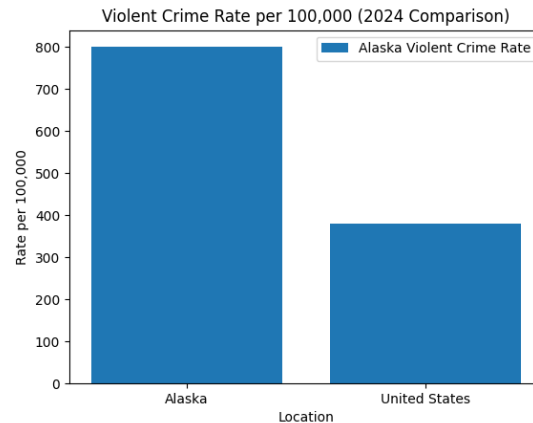


Figure 1. Alaska Department of Public Safety, Crime in Alaska Report (2024); Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program (2025).

Alaska Department of Public Safety – FFY25 JAG Proposal

JAG funding will allow DPS to sustain and strengthen intelligence-led enforcement through the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU) and Alaska HIDTA partnerships. These resources support multi-jurisdictional investigations, interdiction operations, partner agency participation, and infrastructure needed to safely store and manage seized evidence. The requested investment directly supports statewide public safety by expanding operational capacity, improving coordination, and increasing the ability of law enforcement to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations.

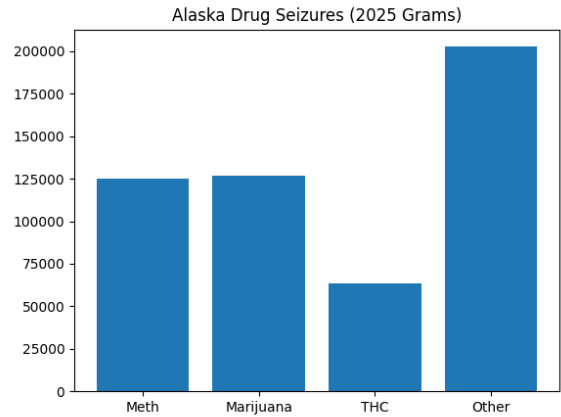


Figure 2. Alaska Department of Public Safety, Annual Drug Report (2024; 2025).

Key Performance Outcomes:

- Increase statewide drug interdictions and seizures.
- Disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations.
- Enhance multi-agency coordination through HIDTA and SDEU partnerships.
- Reduce violent crime impacts across Alaska communities.

Description of the Issue

Alaska experiences a combination of crime, geography, and infrastructure challenges unlike any other state. Communities are separated by vast distances, limited road systems, severe weather, and high transportation costs. These factors make interdiction, investigation, and prosecution more difficult, while also creating opportunities for drug trafficking organizations to exploit transportation corridors such as air cargo, parcel delivery, and marine routes.

The criminal threat is not limited to urban centers. Rural communities continue to face disproportionate harm from the importation of illicit drugs and illegal alcohol. The impact of these substances extends beyond possession and distribution offenses and contributes to domestic violence, sexual assault, child endangerment, and other violent crime. Law enforcement must therefore address both direct trafficking activity and the broader public safety consequences that follow.

Recent seizure data demonstrates that the threat remains active and evolving. Large-volume methamphetamine, fentanyl, cocaine, and marijuana seizures indicate that traffickers continue to move product into Alaska at a scale capable of harming communities statewide. These trends support the need for continued investment in proactive, intelligence-led, multi-jurisdictional enforcement strategies.

State Strategy and Funding Priorities

The State of Alaska's strategy is centered on coordinated enforcement, intelligence sharing, and targeted disruption of drug trafficking organizations. DPS uses SDEU as its primary statewide narcotics enforcement platform and aligns these efforts with Alaska HIDTA initiatives to improve efficiency, coordination, and outcomes.

Alaska Department of Public Safety – FFY25 JAG Proposal

JAG funding priorities are focused on sustaining operational capacity where it has the greatest statewide impact. This includes supporting multi-jurisdictional task forces, strengthening partnerships with local agencies, increasing interdiction efforts, and providing infrastructure necessary for evidence handling and secure storage.

DPS will continue to inform local law enforcement agencies of funding opportunities and encourage participation in approved task force efforts. Through this model, state funding priorities remain aligned with federal grant expectations while preserving flexibility to respond to changing drug threats.

Subgrant Award Process and Timeline

Subawards are made through a competitive Request for Proposal process. Notice of funding opportunities is distributed publicly and directly to eligible law enforcement agencies.

Applications are reviewed for responsiveness, programmatic value, and alignment with state strategic priorities.

Scoring emphasizes operational need, measurable impact, compliance history, and the applicant's capacity to participate meaningfully in task force operations. Applicants that previously received awards and remained in good standing may receive favorable consideration, but all awards remain subject to objective review.

This process ensures that JAG funds are distributed in a transparent, defensible manner and that supported programs contribute directly to statewide public safety objectives.

Progress and Challenges

DPS and its partner agencies have made meaningful progress in improving coordination, increasing interdiction outcomes, and strengthening intelligence sharing through SDEU and Alaska HIDTA. Local participation in joint enforcement initiatives has enhanced operational reach and improved access to resources in both hub communities and outlying regions.

At the same time, Alaska continues to face persistent operational challenges. Staffing limitations, weather delays, transportation constraints, and the cost of operating across long distances all affect response time, follow-up investigations, and evidence handling. These barriers are especially significant in rural Alaska, where law enforcement presence may be limited or entirely absent.

Continued funding is necessary not only to preserve current capabilities, but also to maintain momentum in coordinated drug enforcement efforts. Without sustained support, gains made through recent interdiction and partnership efforts could be diminished.

Description of the Programs to be Funded

JAG funding will support local agency participation in SDEU task forces and related Alaska HIDTA initiatives. By design, these task force assignments extend the reach of state and federal enforcement while providing local agencies with direct involvement in major drug investigations.

Funding will also support four long-term non-permanent DPS investigator positions assigned to interdiction and investigative functions. These investigators will focus on identifying trafficking routes, supporting coordinated operations, and disrupting organizations moving illicit drugs into and throughout Alaska.

Project Design and Implementation

DPS implements an intelligence-led enforcement model that integrates state, local, and federal partners. Through SDEU and Alaska HIDTA, agencies share intelligence, deconflict operations, and coordinate enforcement activity to maximize the impact of available personnel and resources.

Operational activity includes airport interdiction, parcel investigations, surveillance, search warrant service, and complex conspiracy investigations. The project design is intended to identify high-value targets, disrupt supply chains, and reduce the volume of illicit substances entering Alaska communities.

Stakeholder input remains a key part of implementation. Local agencies participating in HIDTA initiatives provide operational feedback on emerging threats, trafficking routes, and enforcement gaps. This allows DPS to adjust priorities in a way that remains responsive to statewide conditions while preserving grant compliance and measurable outcomes.

Capabilities and Competencies

DPS maintains the operational capability to conduct complex, statewide investigations through experienced personnel, established task force structures, and advanced data systems.

Investigators assigned to SDEU operate in diverse environments that include remote villages, regional transportation hubs, and urban areas with high case volume.

The Department relies on APSIN and ARMS to support case management, intelligence gathering, criminal history review, and information sharing. These systems enhance situational awareness, improve investigative decision-making, and help ensure accountability in grant-funded operations.

DPS also benefits from strong partnerships with federal agencies including DEA, FBI, USPIA, and HSI. These relationships provide investigative support, specialized resources, training, and access to broader intelligence networks that improve the effectiveness of statewide enforcement efforts.

Plan for Collecting Performance Data

DPS will collect and report performance data in accordance with JAG program requirements.

Performance measures will include, at a minimum, numbers of investigations supported, arrests made, quantities of drugs seized, participating agencies, and operational outputs associated with funded personnel and resources.

Data will be drawn from established systems and reporting channels, including ARMS, APSIN, internal task force reporting, and annual drug reporting processes. This ensures that performance measurement is tied to existing operational records rather than isolated, grant-specific tracking tools.

Program success will be assessed through increased interdiction outcomes, disruption of drug trafficking organizations, enhanced multi-agency coordination, and measurable improvements in enforcement capability. These indicators will help DPS demonstrate both accountability and public safety value.

References

1. Department of Public Safety (April 2026). *Crime in Alaska 2024 Uniform Crime Reporting Program Annual Report [PDF]*. [Crime-in-Alaska-2024.pdf](#)

Alaska Department of Public Safety – FFY25 JAG Proposal

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4. Alaska Department of Public Safety. *Annual Drug Report, 2025*.