



# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

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## **Arizona Criminal Justice Commission Receives Over \$9.8M in Federal Criminal Justice Grants**

### ***Grants to Fund Efforts to Improve Public Safety for Arizona's Citizens***

**Phoenix, AZ, Wednesday, October 23, 2019** – Today, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) announced that it has been awarded over \$9.8 million in grants by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs for federal fiscal year 2020. The grants will be used to fund programs to curtail drug, gang, and violent crime activities, provide substance abuse treatment for justice involved individuals, enhance training for juvenile prosecutors, modernize criminal justice systems, and provide funding for victims of crime.

"I am extremely pleased that Arizona received these grants to further our efforts to address drug, gang, and violent crime-related activities, as well as provide greater services to protect individuals who have been affected by crime in our state," said Sheila Polk, Yavapai County Attorney and Chairwoman for the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. "ACJC's role as the designated State Administering Agency for federal criminal justice funding allows us to maximize opportunities to combine federal and state dollars to create innovative partnerships that are making a real difference in our communities."

Specifically, the \$3.6 million Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant will help fund activities by Arizona law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to prevent and control drug and gang crimes in all 15 counties. ACJC also received \$2.7M to fund crime lab activities, funding for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Programs for criminal justice involved individuals, and funding to help pay the costs of being a victim of crime.

ACJC also received five competitive grants totaling \$3.5M to improve our criminal justice systems in the state. These funds will be used to provide live scan machines for DPS, local law enforcement, and coroner's offices to more quickly and accurately identify individuals, enhance training for prosecutors who deal with sensitive juvenile cases, and implement a statewide victim notification system to deliver better access to information and notification about changes in offender status and court events.

"Collaboration with our justice partners allows ACJC to understand where resource gaps exist for key criminal justice activities," stated Commission Director Andrew LeFevre. "These competitive federal grants allow ACJC to serve as a funding resource and force multiplier for our state and local criminal justice partners."

*Created in 1982, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) is a statutorily authorized entity mandated to carry out various coordinating, monitoring and reporting functions regarding the administration and management of criminal justice programs in Arizona. The ACJC serves as a resource and service organization for Arizona's criminal justice community on a myriad of issues ranging from drugs, gangs and victim assistance to criminal history and crime laboratory enhancements.*

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