



SYSTEMSTATS

North Carolina Criminal Justice Analysis Center

Governor's Crime Commission

FEDERAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE FUNDING IN NORTH CAROLINA

Overview

The North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) began its work in 1968 as the Governor's Law and Order Committee and was subsequently formally established by General Statute (N.C.G.S. § 143B-478) in 1979 as the Governor's Crime Commission within the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. This commission acts as the chief advisory body to the Governor and the Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety on all matters related to crime and justice within the state. Specifically, the GCC performs three primary functions. This agency acts as the single state criminal justice planning agency for developing, coordinating, and implementing comprehensive statewide system improvement plans. The GCC's research and evaluation section, the Criminal Justice Analysis Center, is responsible for conducting, overseeing, and disseminating the results of original research studies, program evaluations, and policy analyses. Finally, the Crime Commission is the designated recipient agency for administering all federal block grant and other criminal justice funds which are awarded to the state by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The focus of this SystemStats is to examine this third responsibility in greater detail. The type of criminal justice funds that are available, eligibility requirements, and the process by which these funds are awarded will be discussed. Statistical information concerning last year's awards as well as a profile of the funding activities over the past five years will be examined in an effort to delineate how these funds have recently been allocated across the state. Historically, significant criminal justice programs and improvements will be highlighted in an effort to demonstrate the utility and efficacy of federal criminal justice funding in North Carolina.

Organization

The Governor's Crime Commission consists of 40 appointed members who are subdivided into seven working committees. These committees are Law Enforcement (LE), Correction (CORR), Information Systems (IS), Judicial (JUD), Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP), Victims (VOCA), and the Violence Against Women Committee (VAWA). Each spring these committees establish policy and program development priorities that guide their work for the following year and consequently shape how these committees will select the most exemplary projects and programs for the receipt of federal support. For a full description of these priorities, as well as examples of exemplary projects, refer to the GCC's 1998 grant announcement publication.

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Availability of Funds

The Crime Commission receives and administers funds from four major federal grant programs each year. Drug Control and System Improvement (DCSI), or the Edward Byrne Memorial Fund, monies are awarded by the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The Law Enforcement, Judicial, Correction, and Information Systems Committees are responsible for recommending exemplary state and local proposals for receipt of DCSI funds. The federal Office for Victims of Crime awards the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds. The VOCA and VAWA Committees of the Crime Commission are responsible for recommending programs for the receipt of VOCA and VAWA grant funds. The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention allocates the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) grant funds with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee being responsible for recommending programs for these funds.

Eligibility

All local units and councils of government, state agencies, universities and colleges, independent school districts, and agencies associated with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are eligible to apply for funding under any of the four federal grant programs. Nonprofit, nongovernmental and victim service agencies are eligible to apply directly for VAWA funds but must apply through one of the eligible applicants listed above for JJDP, DCSI, and VOCA funds. Most of the federal funding programs that are administered by the GCC require the applicant to provide either a cash and/or in-kind source of matching funds. Interested applicants should consult the GCC's program announcement to determine the specific matching requirements associated with the four programs. Also, it should be noted that these funds are intended to serve as seed or start-up monies and not as a permanent source of funding. Consequently, there is a two year funding limit for most programs.

Application Process

All applicants are required to submit a pre-application to the GCC which summarizes their intended project, its operational plan, and its proposed operating budget. These pre-applications are reviewed by the appropriate Crime Commission committee and are scored based on an objective rating system. The reviewing committee then recommends whether or not the applicant should be invited to submit a full grant application which provides more thoroughly detailed project information. The committees' recommendations must be reviewed and fully approved in turn by the Executive Committee of the Crime Commission, the full membership of the GCC, and the Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety. The 1998 funding cycle is provided below.

**Table 1:
The 1998 Funding
Cycle**

Notice of Availability of Funds Mailed	November 1, 1997
Grant Writing and Technical Assistance Workshops	November 10-17, 1997
Pre-application Due Date	January 30, 1998
Pre-applications Reviewed	February / March
Notification of Selection / non-selection	April 1, 1998
Full Application Due Date	April 30, 1998
Notice of Final Grant Award	May 31, 1998
Grant Award Workshops	June, 1998
Grant Start Date	July 1, 1998

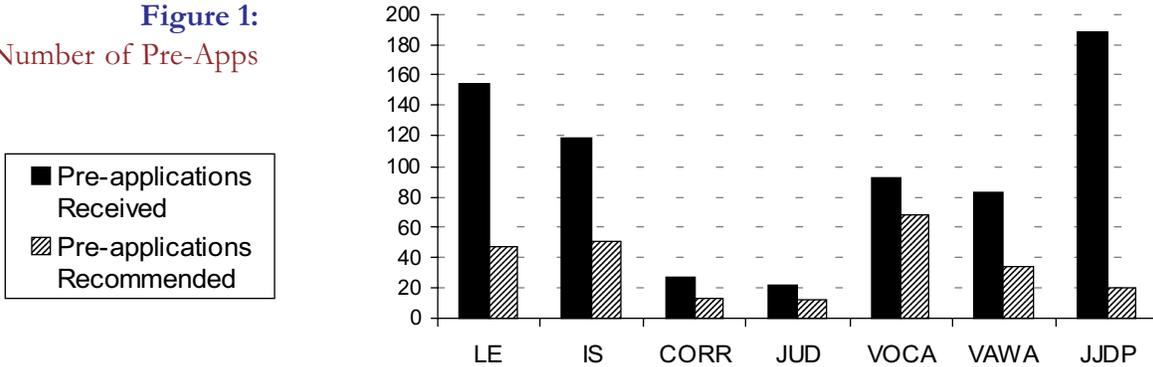
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1997 Statistical Summary

A total of 684 grant pre-applications were submitted to the GCC in 1997. The number of pre-applications ranged from a high of 188 being submitted to the JJDP Committee to a low of 22 being forwarded to the Judicial Committee. The Law Enforcement Committee received 154 pre-applications with the Information Systems Committee receiving 118. The VOCA and VAWA Committees received 92 and 83, respectively, while the Correction Committee received 27 pre-applications.

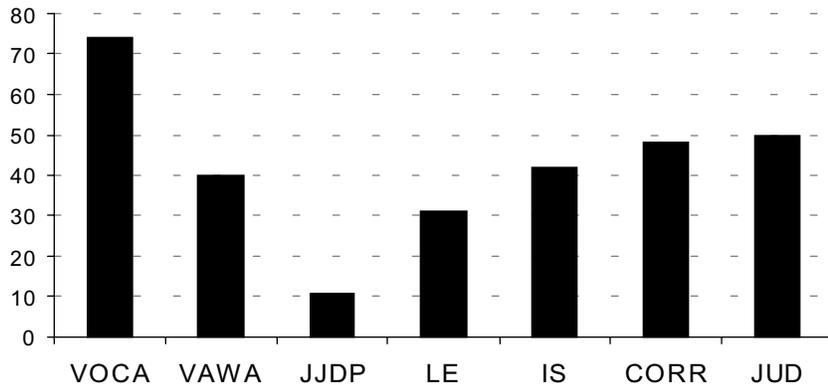
After the committees offered their recommendations and final approval was granted 242, or 35 percent, of these pre-applications were selected with their respective agencies being invited to submit a full application for funding. Geographically, the state was well covered with agencies in 78 percent of the counties receiving approval for at least one project. As Figure 1 demonstrates, the VOCA Committee recommended the greatest number of projects (68) followed by the Information Systems and Law Enforcement Committees with 50 and 47 each.

Figure 1:
Number of Pre-Apps



As Figure 2 reveals, the percentage of pre-applications that received committee approval varied from a high of 74 percent in the VOCA Committee to a low of 11 percent in the JJDP Committee. Based on the extent to which the proposals corresponded with each committee's policy and program development priorities and the amount of federal funds available, the Law Enforcement Committee recommended 31 percent of its pre-applications with the remaining four committees recommending between 40 and 50 percent of their respective pre-applications.

Figure 2:
Percentage of Received Pre-Apps Recommended for Funding by Committee



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Figure 3 provides a fiscal summary of the 1997 GCC grant cycle. The combined proposed budget of the 684 pre-applications was \$92,308,590. The largest collective amount of money was requested by those agencies submitting JJDP pre-applications (\$23,881,836) with the smallest cumulative budget existing in the Judicial area (\$3,507,458). Obviously, these requested amounts far exceeded the amount of funds available, and each committee, as well as the Executive Committee, was forced to scrutinize and significantly reduce the proposed budgets of many of the approved pre-applications.

After committee review and final approval, the 242 pre-applications which were identified as being meritorious totaled \$19,262,505. Within the DCSI Program, \$4,276,173 was recommended for information systems projects, \$3,717,582 for law enforcement projects, and \$2,493,180 and \$1,066,441 for correctional and judicial projects. The VOCA Committee recommended 68 pre-applications totaling \$3,728,811 while the VAWA Committee identified 33 projects with a total budget of \$2,330,174. The JJDP Committee recommended 20 proposals that totaled \$1,650,144.

Figure 3:
Total Federal Funds by
Committee

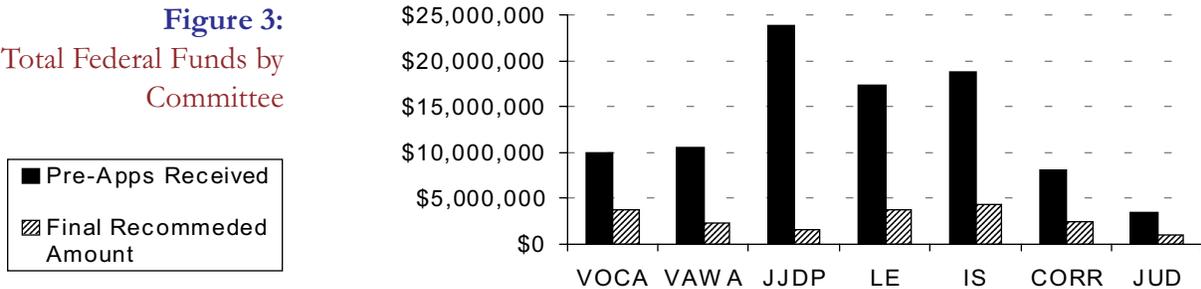
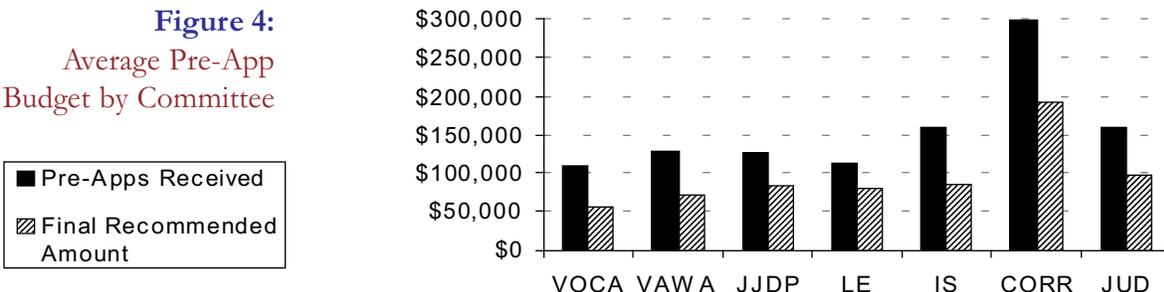


Figure 4 provides a similar fiscal analysis which depicts the average budget for those pre-applications which were originally submitted contrasted with the average budget of those exemplary pre-applications whose agencies were requested to submit a full application. The largest average proposed budget existed among those pre-applications with correctional projects (\$297,413) followed by information systems proposals (\$ 159,672) and judicial projects (\$159,429). The lowest average proposed budget occurred for the VOCA projects (\$109,060).

Of the 242 recommended pre-applications, those involving correctional proposals possessed the highest average budget (\$191,783). Judicial and information systems ranked second and third with the average budgets being \$96,949 and \$85,523 respectively. The recommended VOCA projects had the lowest average with a typical budget of \$54,835.

Figure 4:
Average Pre-App
Budget by Committee



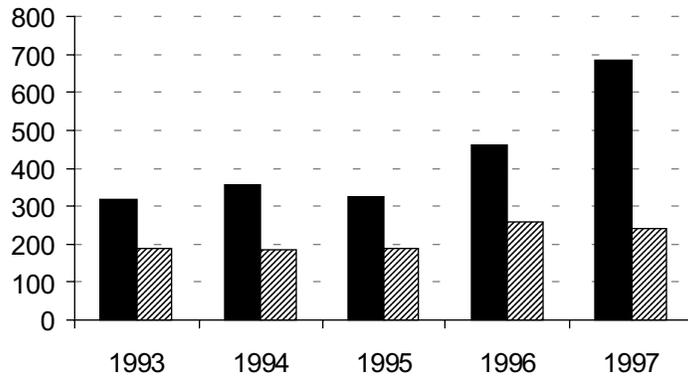
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1993 - 1997 Funding Summary

As of June 1, 1997, the GCC was responsible for administering a total of 683 active grants across the four federal programs. The majority of these were DCSI (341) and VOCA grants (187). Fifty-eight were JJDP and the remaining 97 were grants being administered under the VAWA program. These 683 active grants had a cumulative budget of \$51,710,338.

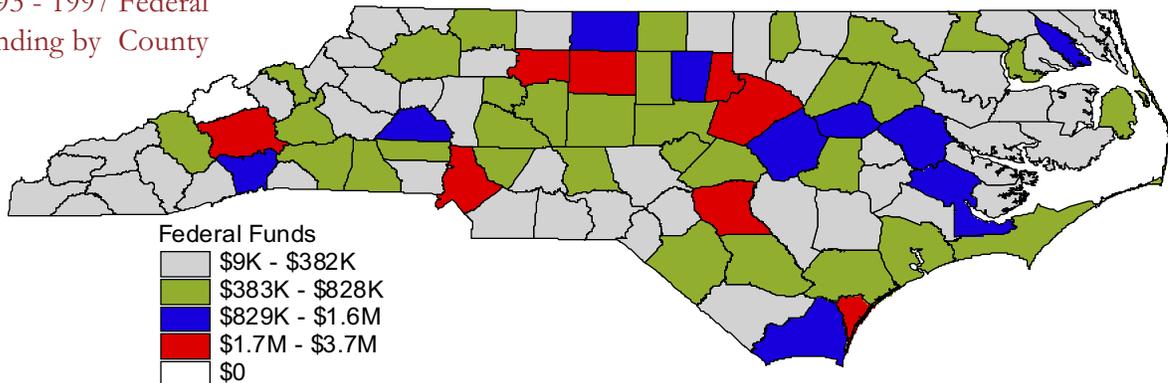
The number of pre-applications, which are submitted to the GCC, has grown from 319 in 1993 to 684 in 1997 (114 percent increase). As Figure 5 documents, the number remained relatively stable until 1996 when it jumped 40 percent over the previous year. The number of pre-applications received in 1997 was 49 percent greater than the number received in 1996. The number of pre-applications which were recommended has grown from 190 in 1993 to 242 in 1997 (27 percent increase). The percentage of the total number received which have been recommended has remained relatively constant and ranged from a low of 35 percent in 1997 to a high of 60 percent in 1993. Since 1993, 50 percent of the pre-applications have been recommended.

Figure 5:
Pre-Apps Received and Recommended



Since 1993, 99 of the state's 100 counties have applied for and received federal criminal justice funding with the average support per county being \$609,127 or approximately \$122,000 per year. As the map (Figure 6) illustrates, these funds appear to have been equally distributed across the state from a geographical perspective as well as in proportion to the counties' populations.

Figure 6:
1993 - 1997 Federal Funding by County



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Historical Profile

Since becoming the designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) for managing federal criminal justice funds, the Governor's Crime Commission or its predecessor, the Law and Order Committee, have been fortunate to have been involved with a multitude of state and local grant projects. The projects listed below represent some of the most noteworthy accomplishments that were supported with federal criminal justice funds. These projects have exerted a positive impact on the state's criminal justice agencies and their personnel and consequently have allowed the GCC to further its mission:

"to improve the quality of life for the citizens of North Carolina, enhance public safety, and to reduce and prevent crime by improving the criminal justice system."

Table 2: Examples of Federally Funded Projects in North Carolina

Alternative Education Programs for "At-Risk Youth" Automated Court Information System Community Sentencing Alternatives Coordinated Law Enforcement Radio Communications Criminal Justice Degree Programs at several State Universities Dispute Resolution Centers Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Centers Intensive Probation and Parole Juvenile Court Counselor System Juvenile Restitution Programs Multi-disciplinary Teams responding to Child Sexual Abuse N.C. Criminal Justice and Training Standards Commission N.C. Justice Academy Police Information Network Statewide Mobile Data Network Pre-Release and Aftercare Rape Victims Assistance Programs Upgrading and Expanding the S.B.I. Lab Facilities Victim Witness Coordinators in D.A. Offices N.C. Center for the Prevention of School Violence Community Oriented Policing Programs School Resource Officer Programs Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces Statewide Automated Fingerprint Identification System (SAFIS) Statewide Criminal Justice Data Sharing Standards Development
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References

North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. (Nov 1997). Announcement of the availability of 1998 federal grant funds. Raleigh, N.C: Governor's Crime Commission.

North Carolina General Statutes. § 143B-478 (1979).

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SYSTEMSTATS

A Publication of the
Governor's Crime Commission
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