

Memorandum

To: Criminal Justice Division (CJD) Grant Recipients of Future Funds
From: Christopher Burnett, CJD Executive Director
Date: December 14, 2011
Re: IMPORTANT CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE GRANTS

While most counties have made great strides over the last few years in reporting criminal history dispositions as required by Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 60, to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), the State Auditor's September 2011 audit of the reporting requirement system shows that more needs to be done. To assist this effort, the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) is taking the following steps:

Effective September 1, 2012, each county must comply with Chapter 60 reporting requirements in order for the county or any political subdivision within that county to be eligible for grants under CJD's Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. This means that by August 1, 2012, each county and any political subdivision within that county that has applied to CJD for JAG grants must provide CJD with a criminal history disposition completeness report documenting that it has reached a 90% disposition completeness rate for adult arrests for calendar years 2006-2010, as measured by DPS. All jurisdictions, such as cities, in a non-compliant county will be ineligible for JAG funds regardless of whether the county itself applied to CJD for JAG.

Effective September 1, 2013, any entity, public or private, in a county that does not report at 90% or above will be ineligible to receive grants from any state or federal fund sources managed by CJD.

CJD will discuss possible grant funding to help counties get into compliance.

Criminal histories must be reported correctly and promptly to DPS as required by Chapter 60. Many public and private employers use criminal histories as part of the review process when hiring persons for sensitive positions. Texas and national law enforcement officers need complete criminal histories during traffic stops or during other contacts. Also, this information is vital for judges to make proper decisions regarding magistration and sentencing. For these reasons, the Texas Legislature has stressed the need for timely and complete information and has established timelines for counties to achieve average compliance reporting at 90% or above.

Sincerely,



Christopher Burnett
Executive Director
Criminal Justice Division