



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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November 30, 2023

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Sarah Bannister
Secretary of the Senate
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Subject: RCW 36.28A.450, Therapeutic Interventions for Certain Criminal Justice System Involved Persons—Annual Report

Chief Clerk Dean and Secretary Bannister:

Pursuant to Chapter 378, Laws of 2019, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is submitting its annual report on Therapeutic Interventions for Certain Criminal Justice System Involved Persons, more commonly known as Arrest and Jail Alternatives (AJA) Law Enforcement Grant Program. This report is submitted in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director

ARREST AND JAIL ALTERNATIVES LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM— 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2019, the Washington State Legislature established the Arrest and Jail Alternatives (AJA) Law Enforcement Grant program. The AJA Grant program is codified in [RCW 36.28A.450](#). The program supports local initiatives to properly identify criminal justice system-involved persons with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs and engage them with therapeutic interventions and other services. The efficacy of these programs must be demonstrated by experience, peer-reviewed research, or which are credible promising practices, prior to or at the time of jail booking, or while in custody. Since its inception, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) has worked closely with the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion National Support Bureau (LEAD NSB) and the Washington Health Care Authority (HCA) to administer the AJA Grant Program.

Integral to WASPC's approach the administration of the AJA program are:

- Steadfast support for the development and implementation of strategies to improve public safety.
- Commitment to good stewardship of public funds.
- Recognition that each community is unique and that what is effective in one community may not be as effective in another for a variety of reasons. With that recognition comes a genuine effort to support solutions whose framework allows them to be adapted to meet the needs that are present in a specific community.
- A belief that we can have the greatest level of impact by engagement in meaningful partnerships that leverage existing resources whenever possible.

[RCW 36.28A.450\(9\)](#) requires WASPC to submit an annual report on the AJA Grant Program. This report highlights the AJA Grant Program and includes an ongoing timeline of major milestones. WASPC remains excited about the work of the AJA grantees. Grantees consistently report the impacts of their programs have a profound and life-changing impact on the clients they serve. We hope WASPC's enthusiasm for this program and its commitment to expand the AJA Grant Program are evident in the information included in this report.

AJA Grantees (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)

Catholic Community Services (CCS)

CCS was awarded funds to continue its program during the 2022-2023 state fiscal year. CCS maintains a partnership with the Olympia Police Department for its program. The Olympia AJA program has continued to flourish during the report period. Catholic Community Services staff work closely with cross-system partners to provide robust and holistic support to program participants to improve their lives while simultaneously reducing the strain placed on emergency services, law enforcement, and the court system.

CCS sought to expand services and partnership opportunities by seeking additional funds from other sources. These efforts were met with broad success and in 2023, CCS was awarded funds from the

National Council for Mental Wellbeing and the US Department of Justice.

In a clear demonstration of its commitment to implementation of effective strategies, a portion of the additional funds that were secured will be devoted to continued work around a process and outcome evaluation currently being conducted by Washington State University's Division of Governmental Studies and Services (DGSS). More specifically, CCS will contract directly with DGSS to conduct an evaluation of various elements of the CCS program that are not funded by WASPC.

CCS remains committed to employment and empowerment of individuals with lived experience in direct support roles. This commitment allows CCS AJA staff to make genuine connections with community members who may otherwise be difficult to reach.

CCS works closely with partners in housing, behavioral health, crisis response, primary and emergency medical care, public defense, and other supportive services. One of the most important features of the work is the close relationship established with local law enforcement and corrections agencies who are also committed to the implementation of innovative solutions. CCS's AJA program demonstrates its commitment to serve as a safety net for individuals whose behavioral health challenges may preclude them from participation in other programs—CCS prides itself on adherence to fair boundaries with participants, while finding ways to continue to serve them when they struggle to self-regulate or adhere to treatment plans.

The total AJA grant award made to CCS was \$279,247.24 with \$147,959.20 of state funds and \$131,288.04 of federal Substance Abuse Block Grant funds. CCS was successful in its efforts to reach benchmarks created for its program by engaging an average of 33 unduplicated individuals in meaningful case management services each month. This number is not inclusive of the many less structured and short-term efforts undertaken to support individuals that were not officially enrolled in services at the time of their encounter with program staff.

CCS PARTNER PERSPECTIVE

As the Outreach Services Coordinator at Olympia Police Department, I feel fortunate to work in a public safety-meets-behavioral health ecosystem that includes Catholic Community Services' Arrest and Jail Alternatives (AJA) program. My experience working with AJA has been profoundly positive. This team is professional, dedicated, and uniquely positioned (because of having lived experiences with the types of challenges they now seek to help others overcome) to help the people they serve access much-needed resources and find lasting (and sometimes quite creative) solutions to problems that oftentimes manifest within the public sphere.

Through meeting the complex behavioral health and medical needs of their clients in the community through person-centered, client-driven, compassionate care and connection, AJA reduces the burden on law enforcement, the courts, and our jails, in addition to hospital emergency rooms. The teams I supervise, Crisis Response Unit (CRU) and Familiar Faces, collaborate often with AJA. Rather than being a duplicative effort, clients receive more comprehensive services resulting from this combined approach.

Ren Emerson, Outreach Services Coordinator
Olympia Police Department

Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic (OPCC)

As noted in prior reports, OPCC is a recipient of funds awarded under the AJA program, as well as funds awarded under the Mental Health Field Response Program (MHFR) ([RCW 36.28A.440](#)). To maintain compliance with the legislature’s directive that funds awarded under the AJA program “...separate and distinct from grants awarded pursuant to RCW [36.28A.440](#)...” WASPC requires a Client Separation Plan that allows the site to delineate which fund source is being used to support services being provided to a specific person at a specific time. OPCC has repeatedly noted to WASPC staff that the unique supports offered by each grant program allows an individual in need to receive supports above and beyond those that are traditionally available and without the additional hurdles often encountered by participants as they attempt to navigate different providers and resources.

The philosophy of “meeting someone where they are at” can look different for each program in each community. OPCC applies this by engaging participants with services in a thoughtful manner and in a location that is most accessible and convenient to them. As WASPC staff have observed during routine site visits, this approach demonstrates a keen understanding of the challenges being faced by the population they serve. It also acts to lower barriers experienced by people that can lack the physical, mental, and emotional abilities necessary to engage in a more structured environment.

The total AJA grant award made to OPCC was \$243,635.10 with \$147,959.22 of state funds and \$95,675.88 of federal Substance Abuse Block Grant funds. OPCC was successful in its efforts to reach benchmarks created for their program by engaging an average of 25 unduplicated individuals in meaningful case management services each month. This number is not inclusive of the many less structured and short-term efforts undertaken to support individuals that were not officially enrolled in services at the time of their encounter with program staff.

OPCC maintains active partnerships with the Port Angeles Police Department, Clallam County Sheriff’s Office, Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, and the Sequim Police Department.

OPCC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Generally speaking, OPCC and WASPC do not allow the use or release of identifiable information. However, the individual identified in this program highlight provided clear instructions, signed a release, and expressed the hope that by being identified, his journey can provide hope for others in similar circumstances and the people that support them. We also recognize the strong sense of accomplishment, recognition, and empowerment this opportunity provides.

In the year preceding his last arrest in June 2022, Michael Fox had been contacted by law enforcement 13 times. Since his June 2022 arrest, he has not had any law enforcement interactions. He continues to meet regularly with his case manager and stated that he wants and needs to stay in case management because the support he receives is necessary to his ongoing abstinence.

Michael, in his own words (as dictated to, and transcribed by his AJA Case Manager):

I didn’t start using drugs until I was in high school. High school was really hard for me. I didn’t have a lot of friends – and I wanted friends. Schoolwork was challenging for me. I have acute dyslexia. I still struggle to this day to read and write. I’m actually telling this story right now out loud and having someone write it for me. This story – my story – is that important to me. I tell my story to anyone who will listen. I want to scream it from the rooftops.

I graduated high school and got caught up with the wrong people. That is kind of where my addiction started. I started doing weed. I went from doing weed to doing opiates, and from opiates to doing meth. My life went downhill after that. I became homeless. I tried to stop using drugs a couple times. I couldn't do it. I overdosed on accident a few times. My life hurt so badly. After I overdosed on accident I thought about committing suicide by overdose. I thought about it a lot. I was treated with cruelty. That cruelty turned into suspicion, my suspicion turned into paranoia. When I was doing meth I wasn't all there in the head. Drugs mess people up a lot. I went to jail several times since I was 18. Many of my arrests were for pay or appear, but I have been arrested between 30 and 40 times and I am only 37 years old.

All of my arrests were misdemeanors, except for this last one. When I was arrested on June 20th, 2022, it was for felony assault. It is crazy to think about now. The person I am in recovery, in my own home where I feel safe? I would never want to hurt anyone. During the 3-4 months I was in jail for my felony assault, I got clean. It felt really good. During my time in jail, I got started on Suboxone. I recently stopped taking it – I just don't feel like I need it anymore- but at the time it saved my life. From jail, I went to treatment for the first time. I'd like to say it was all rainbows from there, but it wasn't. I was medically discharged from treatment due to an issue with my leg. They just let me go and gave me a bus ticket home from Spokane. I got back to Port Angeles at like 4 in the morning. I slept where I felt safe – in front of REDisCOVERY. From there, the REDisCOVERY people helped me. I was so close to giving up and by that I mean I wanted to end my life. I was about to give up because I thought everyone gave up on me. I almost relapsed, but the folks at REDisCOVERY helped me get back into treatment. The people at PBH and my case manager at REDisCOVERY helped me find housing.

From there, my life took a good turn. I am proud to say I currently have nearly a year clean. My clean date is the day I was arrested, June 20th. I have my own house. I am engaged with mental health services and work closely with my case manager. People really showed up for me. During my 12 years of homelessness, I always thought I was alone and people forgot about me. When I was in jail, [REdisCOVERY SUDP] Leddie came to see me. She did an assessment and helped me help myself. [REdisCOVERY Case Manager] Viola came and saw me. I had support. I have been on DOC since my release and have never had one failed UA or any infractions. I am about to complete my DOC supervision. I am part of the Horizon Center and I am making new friends.



Figure 1: Michael Fox in front of his house, the first time he has been housed in twelve years.

Being housed has changed my life. I have been urinated on while I was sleeping. Someone also tried to set me on fire when I was asleep. I have been beat up. I've had a lot of horrible, scary things happen to me out there. I take responsibility for my life and my actions. I also want people to think of themselves living outside by a bus stop, trying to sleep...and having someone urinate on them or set them on fire. I was always so scared at night. Drugs numb us to these awful experiences and also create more. It is a cycle I have put a stop to today. Today I have the life I deserve. I have kept my recovery through some really hard times. Being clean means everything to me. I am not going to lose my recovery. I have a place to stay. I have something to live for. I haven't been able to see my family. Things got so bad there for a while my own mother refused to see me unless I had a year clean. I am talking to my brother occasionally and my mother plans to come visit me in my own home around the 4th of July [since telling this story, he has reconnected with his mother]. I am so thankful to the services at the jail, PBH, and REDisCOVERY. Without your support, I may not have been able to hold onto my recovery after I was released.

Comprehensive Healthcare (Walla Walla LEAD)

Comprehensive Healthcare requested a renewal of the AJA grant to continue its efforts to provide arrest and jail alternatives to the Walla Walla community. The total award made to Comprehensive was \$419,990.00 with \$149,903.33 of state funds and \$274,086.67 of federal Substance Abuse Block Grant funds. The Walla Walla LEAD program supported an average of 65 active participants each month.

The Walla Walla Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program was a partnership between local law enforcement, legal system, community service providers, and assertive case managers. Walla Walla LEAD supported individuals who committed low-level offenses, struggled with an unmet behavioral health need and/or extreme poverty gain access to support to address problems they faced. Comprehensive Healthcare and Blue Mountain Heart to Heart partnered together to build a team of case managers to work with participants to identify their needs and connect them with community supports to address needs such as legal issues, behavioral health treatment, medication assisted treatment, education and employment training, housing and so much more. Walla Walla LEAD was a voluntary, referral-based program free of time constraints that met participants where they were to support them to get on track and out of the legal system. The majority of participant engagement was in the field rather than in the office which built trust and cultivated relationships—the most powerful agent of transformation.

The Walla Walla LEAD program maintained partnerships with the Walla Walla Police Department, the College Place Police Department, and the Walla Walla County Sheriff's office, and both city and county Prosecutor's offices.

Moving Forward

WASPC remains excited about the work of the AJA grantees, and their partners, in each of their respective communities. We are pleased to have received funding to support an evaluation of the AJA Program as established in [RCW 36.28A.450\(8\)\(a\)](#). WASPC contracted with Washington State University's Department of Governmental Studies and Services (DGSS) and the Department of Health and Social Service's Research and Data Division (RDD) for an evaluation plan and subsequent evaluation of the AJA Program. A mixed-methods program Evaluation Plan was delivered to WASPC on June 30, 2022. The final evaluation was expected to be completed by June 30, 2023. Unexpected delays have pushed the expected completion date to February 2024. WASPC looks forward to sharing the final evaluation with the 2024 AJA Annual Report.

WASPC previously reported a distant gap between available and needed funding to support and expand the AJA Grant Program. WASPC is happy to report the AJA Grant Program saw a sizable increase in funds in the 2023-2025 biennium, mostly related to the adoption of Senate Bill 5536 (2023), expanding use of the AJA and other diversion programs for drug possession related criminal justice system involvement. With these funds, WASPC has expanded capacity in existing AJA programs and added a new AJA program. With funds remaining, WASPC plans to release an additional request for proposals in December 2023/January 2024.

AJA Grantees (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025)

The WASPC AJA Grant Review Committee met in May and June 2023 and awarded four grants to the following agencies for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. WASPC recognizes the challenges faced by programs that are funded on a single fiscal year basis. We hope two-year awards will allow each program to focus on service provision, rather than maintaining funding. This also provides staffing stability and allows programs to be more competitive in recruiting.

Grant Review Committee Members included: Everett Maroon (Blue Mountain Heart to Heart), Sheriff Joe Kriete (Grant County Sheriff’s Office), Jolene Kron (Salish Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization), Chief Ken Seuberlich (Bothell Police Department), Chief Ron Harding (Poulsbo Police Department), Sheriff Paul Budrow (Okanogan County Sheriff’s Office), Siobhan Brown (Community Health Plan of Washington), Jamie Weimer (WASPC), Steven Briggs (WASPC), Malika Lamont (LEAD NSB), and Chelle Wilder (LEAD NSB).

WASPC looks forward to sharing more information about the efforts of our AJA grantees in our 2024 and 2025 Annual Reports.

| Grant Awards—Lead Agency | FY’24 Award Amount | FY’25 Award Amount |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Catholic Community Services | \$623,739.83 | \$658,963.87 |
| Olympia Peninsula Community Clinic | \$904,925.90 | \$919,774.16 |
| Blue Mountain Heart to Heart** | \$472,010.58 | \$473,871.40 |
| Gateway to Freedom | \$170,510.40 | \$312,915.37 |
| Total | \$2,171,186.70 | \$2,368,524.80 |

**Blue Mountain Heart to Heart and Comprehensive Healthcare submitted competing applications to provide AJA services in the Walla Walla Community. The Grant Review Committee recommended funds be awarded to Blue Mountain Heart to Heart.

Lessons Learned

WASPC continues to hear that **infrastructure to meet the needs of AJA and other similar programs is woefully inadequate**. It is increasingly difficult to connect participants to limited housing, treatment, and other resources. We recommend the State:

- Address the lack of mental health professionals available to serve community members in crisis;
- Address the lack of treatment availability for community members with behavioral health needs and substance use disorder; and
- Address the lack of housing and resources for other basic needs for community members with behavioral health needs and substance use disorder.

AJA sites continue to report that early intervention and engagement with resources can help a person with complex needs completely avoid contact with the criminal justice system. Washington State has made historic investments in providing diversion opportunities to individuals with behavioral health needs and substance use disorder, attention should now focus to ensure meaningful resources can be found at the other end of diversion program referrals.

Additional Information

Additional information concerning WASPC's Arrest and Jail Alternatives Grant Program can be found at <https://waspc.memberclicks.net/arrest-and-jail-alternatives-law-enforcement-grant-program>.

AJA Major Milestones

July 2019-Early December 2019

- WASPC hired a contract coordinator for the AJA Grant Program. The contract coordinator worked to understand Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) and LEAD-like programs. The contract coordinator gathered information on law enforcement agencies engaged in or interested in LEAD or LEAD-like programs.
- A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was presented to LEAD NSB for its provision of technical assistance to WASPC.
- WASPC worked closely with the HCA to develop a timeline for the release of solicitations for LEAD pilot programs and the AJA Grant Program. It is important to note that the HCA was not bound to the same timeline for the release of solicitations as WASPC. The WASPC solicitation was ready for release in October 2019.
- In December 2019, WASPC submitted the [2019 AJA Annual Report](#) as required by [RCW 36.28A.450\(9\)](#), with the considerations outlined in [RCW 36.28A.450\(8\)\(b\)](#).
 - A copy of the report was forwarded to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) and the Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Division (RDD) for feedback on performance-based contracting and evidence-based evaluation framework. Without funding, WSIPP and RDD were not able to offer significant assistance in this area.

December 2019

- Changes in staffing for the AJA Grant Program occurred.
- In coordination with the release of the HCA solicitation for similar programs under [SB 5380](#), WASPC released a [request for proposals](#) (RFP) for the AJA Grant Program on December 19, 2019. The grant program is aimed at supporting local initiatives to properly identify criminal justice system-involved persons with substance use disorders and other behavioral health needs and engage those persons with therapeutic interventions and other services. As outlined in [RCW 36.28A.450\(8\)\(a\)](#), the initial expected outcomes of the grant program include:
 - To reduce arrests, time spent in custody, and/or recidivism for clients served by the program;
 - To increase access to and utilization of non-emergency community behavioral health services;
 - To reduce utilization of emergency services;
 - To increase resilience, stability, and well-being for clients served; and
 - To reduce costs for the justice system compared to processing cases as usual through the justice system.
- WASPC re-engaged the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) and the Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Division (RDD) to discuss program evaluation. Again, without funding, WSIPP and RDD were not able to offer significant assistance in this area.

January 2020

- WASPC received AJA applications from the Olympia Police Department, Port Angeles Police Department, Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Mason County Board of

Commissioners, and Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

- WASPC reviewed AJA applications with LEAD NSB to determine eligibility for grant funding.
- LEAD NSB assisted WASPC in establishing a peer review panel in accordance with [RCW 36.28A.450\(2\)](#). Panel members* included:
 - Sheriff Jim Raymond, Franklin County
 - Sheriff Mark Howie, Wahkiakum County
 - Representative John Lovick, 44th Legislative District
 - Jeanne McMinds, Director of Tribal Relations, Coordinated Care
 - Ahney King, Criminal Justice Liaison, Coordinated Care
 - Darya Farivar, Disability Rights Washington
 - Mitchell Riese, Assistant Attorney General, WA Attorney General's Office
 - Chief James Schrimpsheer, Algona Police Department
 - Chief Keven Dresker, Oak Harbor Police Department

**Not all panel members were able to participate in the review and scoring of applications.*

February 2020

- WASPC convened the review panel to score applications.
- WASPC and LEAD NSB conducted applicant interviews.
- WASPC and HCA met to discuss those applicants requesting funding under the AJA Grant Program and the HCA grant program established under [RCW 71.24.589](#). It was decided that HCA would fund those agencies that applied for funding from both grant programs and that WASPC would fund those agencies that applied for AJA funds.

March 2020

- WASPC awarded grants to the Olympia Police Department (partnering with Catholic Community Services (CCS)) and the Port Angeles Police Department (partnering with the Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic (OPCC)).

April 2020

- WASPC entered a memorandum of understanding with LEAD NSB for grantee technical assistance.
- The Port Angeles and Olympia Police Department Agreements for the Arrest and Jail Alternatives Grant Program were effective April 22, 2020. The grant agreements follow a traditional contract format with performance-based considerations. Funds for the AJA Grant Program come from a combination of state and federal Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) funds. Attention to allowable expenses and grant monitoring is demonstrated throughout each agreement.
 - WASPC confirmed that a case management system would be procured to track client engagement and metrics to be used in a performance evaluation.

May 2020

- WASPC requested price information, using internal procurement procedures, to purchase and implement a social service case management system for AJA grantees.
- WASPC released a [second request for proposals](#) for the AJA Grant Program on May 1, 2020. The second RFP was directed at eligible applicants in Eastern Washington to comply with the requirement that awards be geographically distributed on both the east and west sides of the crest of the Cascade mountain range per [RCW 36.28A.450\(7\)](#).
- LEAD NSB requested modifications to the draft memorandum of understanding for LEAD NSB's provision of technical assistance to WASPC. Upon implementation of the requested modifications, WASPC and LEAD NSB entered a memorandum of understanding for LEAD NSB's provision of technical assistance to WASPC.

June 2020

- In addition to grantee technical assistance, LEAD NSB provided limited technical assistance to interested applicants in the development of their program application for the second RFP.
 - WASPC received AJA applications from Comprehensive Healthcare (Walla Walla) and the Spokane County Regional Law and Justice Council.
 - WASPC reviewed AJA applications with LEAD NSB to determine eligibility for grant funds.
 - WASPC re-convened the review panel to score applications. Panel members* included:
 - Sheriff Jim Raymond, Franklin County
 - Sheriff Mark Howie, Wahkiakum County
 - Representative John Lovick, 44th Legislative District
 - Jeanne McMinds, Director of Tribal Relations, Coordinated Care
 - Ahney King, Criminal Justice Liaison, Coordinated Care
 - Darya Farivar, Disability Rights Washington
 - Mitchell Riese, Assistant Attorney General, WA Attorney General's Office
 - Chief James Schrimsher, Algona Police Department
 - Chief Keven Dresker, Oak Harbor Police Department
- *Not all panel members were able to participate in the review and scoring of applications.*
- WASPC and LEAD NSB conducted applicant interviews.
 - LEAD NSB provided baseline recommendations for performance metrics to be measured.
 - WASPC entered an agreement with a vendor for the implementation of a case management system on behalf of the Olympia and Port Angeles sites. The product was launched with training environments available to each site while customizations occurred.
 - WASPC understands the HCA subsequently adopted the use of the same case management system by LEAD pilot sites.

July 2020

- WASPC awarded grant funds to Comprehensive Healthcare (partnering with local law enforcement and prosecutor agencies and Blue Mountain Heart to Heart (BMHTH)).

August 2020

- The Comprehensive Healthcare Agreement for the AJA Grant Program was effective August 1, 2020. The grant agreement followed a traditional contract format with performance-based considerations. Funds for the AJA Grant Program came from a combination of state and federal Substance Abuse Block Grant funds, and attention to allowable expenses and grant monitoring was demonstrated throughout the agreement.
 - Funds were provided to Comprehensive Healthcare for the procurement of the AJA case management system. This change in contract design was in line with performance-based contracting.
- WASPC coordinated a discussion with HCA, LEAD NSB, RDD, and the case management vendor to discuss performance metrics across AJA and LEAD pilot sites and data collection.

September 2020

- WASPC finalized the performance metrics to be collected by AJA sites. Performance metrics are as follows:
 - Participant Criminal Legal System Contacts
 - Number of police contacts related to criminal behavior/suspected criminal behavior
 - Number of arrests-categorize by type
 - Number of warrants
 - Number of criminal charges-categorize by type

- Number of jail bookings
- Number of jail bed days
- Participant Emergency Medical System Contacts
 - Number of visits to an emergency room
 - Number of in-patient admits to hospital care
 - Number of contacts with fire/EMS
- Participant Services received
 - Number of times the team meets with participants-categorized by type: case management, peer counseling, and brief outreach
 - Number of referrals to services categorized by type: mental health, substance use disorder, medical, housing, insurance, benefits, food/shelter, employment, etc.
 - Number of connections to services categorized by type: mental health, substance use disorder, medical, housing, insurance, benefits, food/shelter, employment, etc.
- Readiness and progress toward goals
- Percentage of all clients that receive a [URICA](#) score
- Surveys (participant, community stakeholder, and public safety stakeholder)
 - All surveys at baseline, six months, and termination.
- WASPC understood that the HCA has adopted similar performance metrics for the LEAD pilot sites.
- WASPC coordinated a multi-site meeting of AJA grantees and the LEAD NSB technical assistance team to facilitate communication and information sharing.
- WASPC submitted funding requests to support the continuation of the AJA Grant Program and to support an evaluation of the AJA Grant Program.

October 2020—Ongoing

- WASPC works with AJA sites and case management vendor to customize the AJA case management system.
- WASPC continues to meet with AJA sites monthly and as needed, provide support.

December 2020

- In December 2020, WASPC submitted the [2020 AJA Annual Report](#) as required by [RCW 36.28A.450\(9\)](#).

January 2021

- WASPC released a statement in advance of the 2021 Legislative Session supporting balanced and meaningful law enforcement [reforms](#), including the recommendation to: "Study and establish clear expectations for investments and expansions of programs that support social services to address mental illness, substance use, and other adverse events that are shown to increase the likelihood of future criminal justice involvement." Within this recommendation, WASPC requested a \$2.8 million general fund appropriation for the biennium to support and expand the AJA Grant Program.

February 2021

- WASPC worked with AJA sites to develop a video highlighting the AJA Grant Program in the Olympia, Port Angeles, and Walla Walla communities. Please click [here](#) to view the final video.

March 2021

- WASPC worked with AJA sites and LEAD NSB to develop [service standards and definitions](#) to encompass the range of eligible services under the AJA Grant Program.

April 2021

- The Washington State Legislature allocated \$500,000 in general fund dollars for state fiscal years 2022 and 2023 and \$1,000,000 in general fund federal appropriation to maintain the AJA Grant Program (see Sec. 215 (28) of [ESSB 5092](#)).
- The Washington State Legislature allocated \$200,000 in general fund dollars for state fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to implement the AJA Grant Program (see Sec. 218 (9)(a) of [ESSB 5092](#)).
- The Washington State Legislature allocated \$300,000 in general fund dollars for state fiscal years 2022 and 2023 solely for evaluation of the AJA Grant Program (see Sec. 218 (9)(b) of [ESSB 5092](#)).

May 2021

- Without an increase in funding for the AJA Grant Program, WASPC opted to focus solely on renewal awards to existing AJA sites for the grant period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022.
 - After discussions with the cities of Olympia and Port Angeles, it was determined the Community Based Partner Organizations would submit renewal applications.
 - Catholic Community Services (CCS) (Olympia), the Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic (OPCC) (Port Angeles), and Comprehensive Healthcare (Walla Walla) submitted renewal applications.
 - The three AJA site renewal applications requested \$1,896,710 in grant funds to sustain and expand their programs.

June 2021

- Walla Walla AJA site began using the AJA case management system, which included uploading previous data on metrics collected.
- WASPC worked with LEAD NSB and HCA to transition the contracting format for the AJA Grant Program from reimbursement to performance based. Deliverables for payment include:

| Deliverable | Description | Due Date |
|--------------------|---|--|
| 4.1 | Sign agreement for Case Management and Data Collection Software platform for period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. | Within thirty (30) days of the Date of Execution |
| 4.2 | Minutes detailing all local AJA advisory board and operational workgroup meetings. A minimum of 12 meetings throughout the duration of this Contract. This includes meetings that fulfill the requirements of RCW 36.28A.450(2) regarding governing involvement of community-based organizations, local government, and law enforcement. | Meeting minutes, where appropriate. If minutes are not appropriate, WASPC will accept other documentation that the meeting occurred and an attendance roster. Due no more than thirty (30) days after each meeting is conducted. |
| 4.3 | Monthly Technical Assistance (TA) calls with the LEAD NSB Technical | No less than one (1) call per month. |

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| | Assistance Team. | |
| 4.4 | Monthly Data Collection and WASPC Reporting. | Due each month on or before the 10 th day of each month. |
| 4.5 | Monthly Check-In Calls with WASPC team. | No less than one (1) call per month. |
| 4.6 | Provide AJA Services as defined in Exhibit B to a number of clients equal to or greater than 75% of the program's stated client capacity as projected in the prior month's report. | Ongoing. |
| 4.7 | Indirect (administrative) costs: Only 10% of direct costs. | Monthly, and no later than 14 days following the Contract end date. |

July 2021

- WASPC, CJTC, and HCA extended the existing Interagency Agreement for the AJA Grant Program through June 30, 2022.
- LEAD NSB graciously waived technical assistance fees for AJA grantee technical assistance, freeing up funds to support AJA sites. WASPC entered into a memorandum of understanding with LEAD NSB for grantee technical assistance through June 30, 2022.
- A MOU was presented to LEAD NSB for its provision of technical assistance to WASPC through June 30, 2022.
- WASPC awarded renewal contracts to CCS, OPCC, and Comprehensive Healthcare to continue the AJA Grant Program in the Olympia, Port Angeles, and Walla Walla Communities through June 30, 2022. AJA sites were directed to seek additional funding to sustain and expand their programs beyond June 30, 2022.

August 2021

- WASPC issued amendments to contracts with CCS, OPCC, and Comprehensive Healthcare to reallocate unspent SABG funds. The reallocation did not increase award amounts; however, it preserved the availability of federal funds for the 2022-2023 AJA Grant period.

September 2021

- LEAD NSB coordinated, and WASPC funded a multi-site "In the Trenches: Training in Behavioral Health Crisis" opportunity for AJA grantees.
- WASPC coordinated a discussion with HCA, LEAD NSB, WSIPP, and RDD to revisit earlier discussions on the concept of a multi-site, cross-program evaluation of AJA and LEAD pilot sites.
 - Research professionals expressed concern with the timing of an evaluation of intervention/diversion programs during the ongoing global pandemic and amidst significant law enforcement reforms. Specific concerns regarding the ability to show reduced criminal legal system involvement correlate solely to AJA program participation.

October 2021

- WASPC entered a memorandum of understanding with LEAD NSB for the provision of technical assistance to WASPC through June 30, 2022.
- Olympia and Port Angeles AJA sites began using the AJA case management system, to include uploading previous data on metrics collected.

January 2022

- Representatives from the HCA and WASPC came together to discuss collaboration between HCA's diversion programs and WASPC's AJA program. The group also discussed areas of overlap and differences between the programs.

February 2022

- WASPC contracted with the Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Division (RDD) to serve as a consultant in Washington State University's Department of Governmental Studies and Services (DGSS) evaluation plan and subsequent evaluation of the AJA Program.
- WASPC started the contract process with Washington State University's Department of Governmental Studies and Services (DGSS) to develop an evaluation plan for the Arrest and Jail Alternatives Grant Program. DGSS started pre-award work to develop the plan by the due date of June 30, 2023.

April 2022

- WASPC hosted a virtual Diversion Programs webinar for law enforcement across the state. Agency representatives were introduced to the various state-funded diversion programs:
 - Mental Health Field Response (RCW 36.28A.440),
 - Arrest and Jail Alternatives (RCW 36.28A.450),
 - LEAD - Let Everyone Advance with Dignity (formerly "Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion" RCW 71.24.589),
 - Recovery Navigator Program (RCW 71.24.115).
- WASPC convened a multi-site meeting with AJA grantees to discuss funding for the 2023 state fiscal year and progress on selecting an evaluator for the program.

May 2022

- WASPC implemented a streamlined reporting and invoicing process for all grantees.
- AJA sites were notified there will be a 36% reduction in funding from prior years. This is due to the targeted use of additional federal funds in the prior fiscal year for budget stabilization.
- WASPC contracted with DGSS to develop an evaluation plan for the AJA Grant Program.

June 2022

- DGSS delivered a plan detailing a mixed-methods evaluation of the AJA program.

July 2022

- A MOU was presented to LEAD NSB for its provision of technical assistance to WASPC through June 30, 2023.
- A MOU was presented to LEAD NSB for its provision of technical assistance to grantees through June 30, 2023.
- WASPC started the contract process with DGSS for the evaluation of the Arrest and Jail Alternatives Grant Program. DGSS started pre-award work to complete the evaluation by the due date of June 30, 2023.

August 2022

- WASPC awarded renewal contracts to CCS, OPCC, and Comprehensive Healthcare to continue the AJA Grant Program in the Olympia, Port Angeles, and Walla Walla Communities through June 30, 2023. AJA sites were again directed to seek additional funding to sustain and expand their programs beyond June 30, 2023. Renewal Contracts include the following deliverables:

| Deliverable | Description | Due Date |
|--------------------|--|--|
| 4.1 | Sign/maintain agreement for Julota Case Management and Data Collection Software platform for period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. | Within thirty (30) days of the Date of Execution of Contract AJA-22-002. |
| 4.2 | Minutes detailing all local AJA advisory board and operational workgroup meetings. A minimum of 12 meetings throughout the duration of this Contract. This includes meetings that fulfill the requirements of RCW 36.28A.450(2) regarding governing involvement of community-based organizations, local government, and law enforcement. | Meeting minutes, where appropriate. If minutes are not appropriate, WASPC will accept other documentation that the meeting occurred and an attendance roster. Due no more than thirty (30) days after each meeting is conducted. |
| 4.3 | Monthly Technical Assistance (TA) calls with the LEAD NSB Technical Assistance Team. | Due each month on or before the 10 th day of each month. |
| 4.4 | Monthly Data Collection and WASPC Reporting. | Due each month on or before the 10 th day of each month. |
| 4.5 | Monthly Check-In Calls with WASPC team. | No less than one (1) call per month. |
| 4.6 | Provide AJA Services as defined in Exhibit B to a number of clients equal to or greater than 75% of the program’s stated client capacity as projected in the prior month’s report. | Monthly. |
| 4.7 | Cooperate with and provide the staffing, resources, and data necessary to aid in the evaluation of this grant program pursuant to RCW 36.28A.450. This includes access to data that is relevant to this evaluation to the Washington State University – Division of Governmental Studies and Services. | Quarterly |
| 4.8 | Indirect (administrative) costs: Only 10% of direct costs. | Monthly, and no later than 14 days following the Contract end date. |

- AJA sites were introduced to the evaluation team at DGSS and collaboration between the sites and DGSS on the evaluation began.

October 2022

- WASPC contracted with DGSS for the evaluation of the AJA grant program.

April 2023

- WASPC entered a MOU with LEAD NSB for the provision of technical assistance to WASPC through June 30, 2023.
- WASPC entered a MOU with LEAD NSB for the provision of technical assistance to grantees through June 30, 2023.

- DGSS notified WASPC of unexpected delays impacting the evaluation of the AJA grant program. WASPC and DGSS entered a no-cost extension to September 1, 2023.

May 2023

- WASPC issued [request for proposal](#) for AJA grant applications and subsequently received 8 applications for funds.
- Legislature adopts [SB 5187](#), including small increase in funding for the AJA program in the 2023-2025 biennium.
- Legislature adopts [SB 5536](#), expanding funds for AJA and other diversion programs in the 2023-2025 biennium.

May 2023-June 2023

- WASPC convened a grant review committee to score applications. Review committee members as specified in [RCW 36.28A.450](#) were invited; however, not all invited committee members were able to participate.

June 2023

- WASPC notified successful applicants that they would be funded for the 2023-2025 biennium; however, contracts would not be issued until WASPC, CJTC and HCA signed an agreement for the biennium.
- WASPC notified unsuccessful applicants that they would not be funded for the 2023-2025 biennium.

July 2023

- WASPC communicated regularly with AJA grantees about the delay in contract issuance as WASPC, CJTC and HCA did not yet have a signed contract. The delay in contracts negatively impacted AJA grantees as local programs had to identify and utilize other funds to temporarily support AJA participants.

August 2023

- HCA presented WASPC and CJTC an Interagency Agreement for the AJA Grant Program through June 30, 2025. (August 3, 2023)
- DGSS notified WASPC of additional unexpected delays impacting the evaluation of the AJA grant program. WASPC and DGSS entered a no-cost extension to February 28, 2024.
- WASPC, CJTC, and HCA agree to Interagency Agreement for the AJA Grant Program through June 30, 2025. (August 30, 2023)

September 2023

- WASPC requested HCA approval of AJA grant awards and contracts. (September 11, 2023)
- HCA confirmed that LEAD TA to AJA grantees was covered by HCA and approved awards and contracts, some information about federal award incomplete. (September 14, 2023)
- WASPC entered a MOU with LEAD NSB for the provision of technical assistance to WASPC through June 30, 2025.
- WASPC awarded contracts to CCS, OPCC, and Blue Mountain Heart to Heart, and Gateway to Freedom to establish or maintain the AJA Grant Program in the Olympia, Port Angeles, Walla Walla and Port Townsend Communities through June 30, 2025. Contracts are based on the following deliverables:

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 |
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| Deliverable 1: Sign and Return AJA Contract within 30 days of the Date of Issuance (10% FY'24) |
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| Award) |
| Deliverable 2: Monthly AJA Advisory and/or OWG Minutes (or meeting agenda and attendee roster) |
| Deliverable 3: Monthly TA Calls with LEAD |
| Deliverable 4: Monthly Data Collection and Reporting |
| Deliverable 5: Monthly/Quarterly Calls with WASPC Team |
| Deliverable 6: Distribute AJA Program Surveys (October 23 and April 24) |
| Deliverable 7: Monthly Provision of AJA Services to at least 75% of Projected Capacity |
| Deliverable 8: Submit Annual Report |
| Deliverable 9: Monthly Indirect (10% de minimis) |
| Deliverable 10: Sign and Return Julota Contract within 30 days of the Date of Execution of Julota Contract |
| July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 |
| Deliverable 1: Provide Updated Program Plan (Highlight Significant Changes) (10% of FY'25 Award) |
| Deliverable 2: Monthly AJA Advisory and/or OWG Minutes (or meeting agenda and attendee roster) |
| Deliverable 3: Monthly TA Calls with LEAD |
| Deliverable 4: Monthly Data Collection and Reporting |
| Deliverable 5: Monthly/Quarterly Calls with WASPC Team |
| Deliverable 6: Distribute AJA Program Surveys (October 24 and April 25) |
| Deliverable 7: Monthly Provision of AJA Services to at least 75% of Projected Capacity |
| Deliverable 8: Submit Annual Report |
| Deliverable 9: Monthly Indirect (10% de minimis) |
| Deliverable 10: Sign and Return Julota Contract within 30 days of the Date of Execution of Julota Contract |

October 2023

- HCA provides outstanding federal award information. (October 16, 2023)