Byrne SCIP Subgrantee Overview

OGR: James Houghton, Victoria Gouveia

SRP: Eric Piza, Renée Contreras, Caroline La Rochelle, Jessica Bimstein

Northeastern University

Crime and Justice Policy Lab
University of Pennsylvania

Agenda

- Introductions
- What is Byrne SCIP?
- Byrne SCIP Sub-Recipient Strategies
- Reporting Guidelines
- SRP scope of work
- Questions?

Introductions

- Office of Grants and Research
  - James Houghton
  - Victoria Gouveia
- Statewide Research Partner
  - Eric Piza
  - Renée Contreras
  - Caroline La Rochelle
  - Jessica Bimstein
- Byrne SCIP Grantees
  - Police Departments (13): Abington, Braintree, Chelsea, East Brookfield, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Littleton, Lowell, Randolph, Salem, Sterling, Worcester
  - UMass Dartmouth
  - District Attorney's Office (2): Cape and Islands, Hampden County
  - Executive Office of Veterans Services

What is Byrne SCIP?

- The Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) is a federal funding initiative that supports crisis intervention strategies to reduce gun violence and enhance public safety.
- OGR secured Byrne SCIP funding through a competitive process held by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.
- Through competitive solicitations, OGR awarded $1,868,802 in subgrants to municipal law enforcement and state agencies to prevent or reduce acts of gun violence through the implementation of evidence-based strategies and promising programming.
- An additional $150,000 in Byrne SCIP funding was awarded to the Statewide Research Partner to provide technical assistance to other sub-recipients.

Sub-Recipient Strategies

1. **Virtual Reality (VR) Training for Police Officers** – Seven grantees plan to implement VR-based training programs to improve officers' skills in de-escalation, crisis intervention, and use-of-force decision-making.
2. **Crisis Intervention and Mental Health Support** – Many agencies are emphasizing Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, mental health awareness, and collaboration with clinicians to improve responses to individuals experiencing mental health crises.
3. **Gun Violence Reduction and Community Outreach** – Departments are focusing on community-based interventions to reduce gun violence through targeted youth programs, crisis response, and social services.

Sub-Recipient Strategies

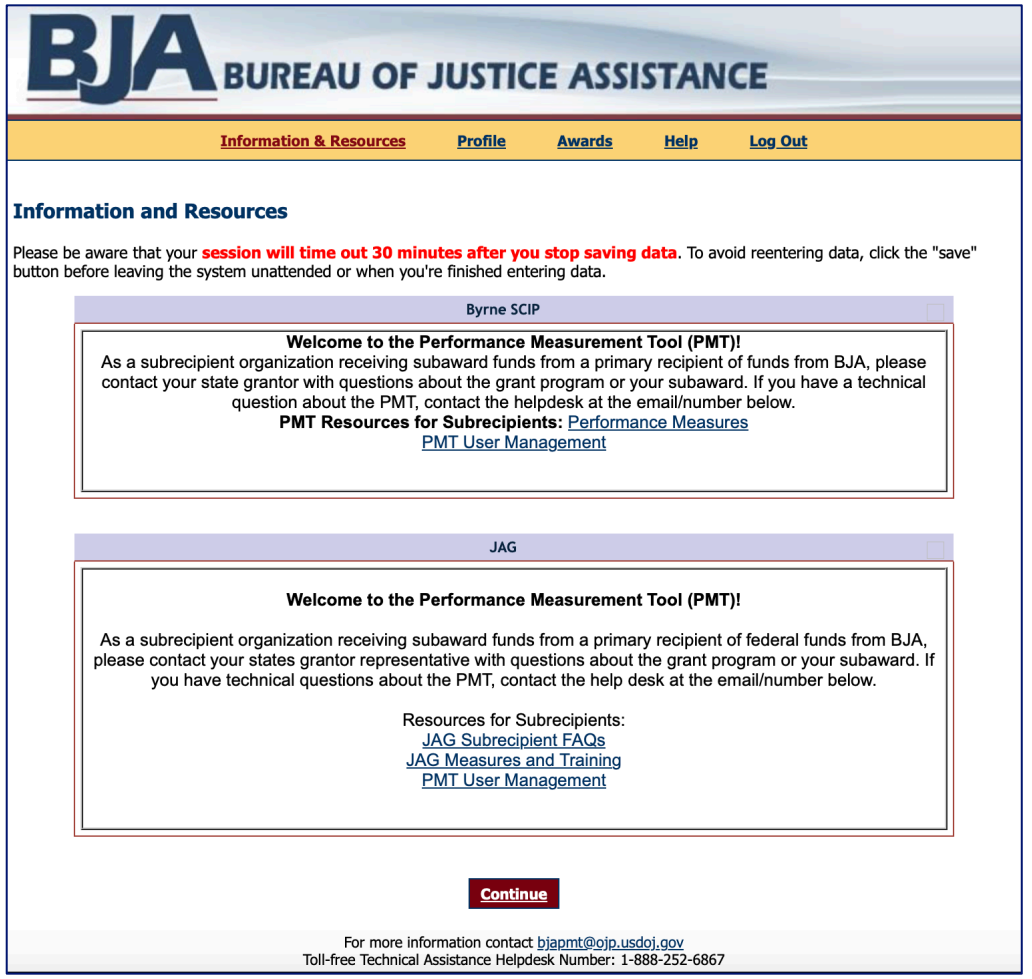
4. **Firearm Safety and Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Awareness** – Several initiatives are geared towards educating the public about ERPO laws and distributing gun locks to prevent unauthorized firearm use.
5. **Youth Intervention and Crime Prevention** – Agencies are funding programs to divert at-risk youth from gang involvement and criminal activities through mentorship, mental health support, and life skills training.
6. **Enhanced Training and Equipment Procurement** – Various agencies are using funds to improve their training infrastructure, hire additional personnel, and purchase equipment such as laptops, VR headsets, and software to enhance law enforcement efficiency.

Reporting Overview

- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Performance Measurement Tool (PMT)
- OGR Quarterly Reports
  - SRP questions will be integrated to reduce the number of required reports
- Statewide Research Partner Initial Survey (May 2025)
- Questions regarding PMT and OGR reports should be directed to OGR program staff

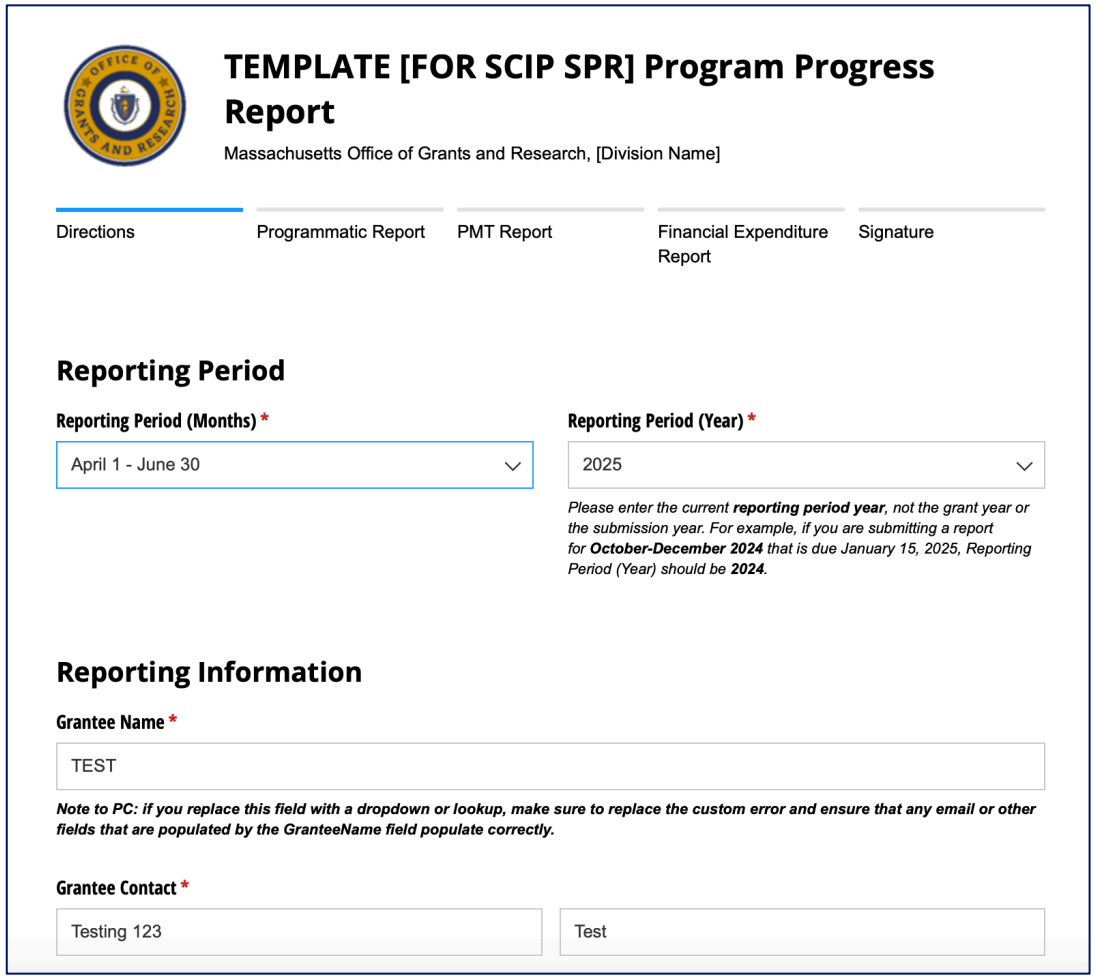
BJA PMT Report

- Complete your account profile
- Verify that your agency's contact and award information is accurate
- Review the PMT questions to ensure you have all the necessary information
- Submit your PMT report no later than the 15th of the month after a quarter ends
  - Due dates: April 15th, July 15th, October 15th, January 15th
- Download and save a PDF copy of your PMT reports



OGR Report

- Review OGR's quarterly report questions to ensure you have all the necessary information
- Upload a copy of your PMT report
- Upload a copy of your budget Excel workbook
- Like your PMT, quarterly OGR reports are due no later than the 15th of the month after a quarter ends
  - Due dates: April 15th, July 15th, October 15th, January 15th



TEMPLATE [FOR SCIP SPR] Program Progress Report

Massachusetts Office of Grants and Research, [Division Name]

Directions | Programmatic Report | PMT Report | Financial Expenditure Report | Signature

Reporting Period

Reporting Period (Months) *

April 1 - June 30

Reporting Period (Year) *

2025

*Please enter the current **reporting period year**, not the grant year or the submission year. For example, if you are submitting a report for **October-December 2024** that is due January 15, 2025, Reporting Period (Year) should be **2024**.*

Reporting Information

Grantee Name *

TEST

Note to PC: if you replace this field with a dropdown or lookup, make sure to replace the custom error and ensure that any email or other fields that are populated by the GranteeName field populate correctly.

Grantee Contact *

Testing 123

Test

SRP Scope of Work

- Assist OGR with required data collection and reporting efforts
  - Share reporting information with grantees, send reporting reminders, summarize PMT and quarterly reports
- Provide technical assistance (TA) to local and state sub-recipients
  - Sharing of relevant research and opportunities via quarterly newsletters
  - Hosting quarterly TA sessions

Virtual Reality for Crisis and De-Escalation Training

Police officers must be prepared to respond to unpredictable, ambiguous, and rapidly shifting crisis situations that carry great risk of harm to both themselves and the public. Emerging evidence suggests that for crisis and de-escalation training, virtual-reality scenario-based training (VR SBT) may be as effective as live-action scenario-based training (LA SBT).[15,16] VR training also allows for practice with a wide range of customizable, unique scenarios. As with any intervention, departments should monitor and evaluate VR trainings to ensure that they are effective.

Virtual reality trainings should be **immersive enough to replicate stress that would be encountered in the field, without being so stressful that they cause harm or interfere with learning retention**. There is no one-size-fits-all answer to exactly how much stress is ideal; stress levels will vary according to the situation and the individual.[17] However, some stress measures can still help ensure that participants are moderately, but not extremely, stressed by the VR scenario. Stress levels can be approximated through self-report using a short validated stress scale such as the STAIS-5, shown at right.[18,19] Stress may also be measured physiologically by testing for elevated heart rate and heart rate variability.

State-Trait Anxiety Inventory Scale-5 (STAIS-5)

Item No.	Statements	Not at All	Somewhat	Moderately So	Very Much So
1	I feel upset	1	2	3	4
2	I feel frightened	1	2	3	4
3	I feel nervous	1	2	3	4
4	I am jittery	1	2	3	4
5	I feel confused	1	2	3	4

SRP Deliverables

- Initial needs and capacity assessment administered to sub-recipients
- Data collection integrated into quarterly reports to (1) determine the effectiveness of activities, and (2) gather information on measures taken to safeguard the constitutional rights of individuals subject to a crisis intervention program or ERPO initiative

Questions?

- Please reach out to OGR program staff with questions regarding quarterly reports and all other matters related to your grant award.
  - Jim Houghton, Senior Program Manager
    James.Houghton@mass.gov
  - Victoria Gouveia, Program Coordinator
    Victoria.J.Gouveia@mass.gov

This project was supported by the Byrne SCIP Grant No. 15PBJA-23-GG-00014-BSCI awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

EOPSS/OGR shall be the sole owner of all rights pertaining to these materials, including copyrights and all rights to use, reproduce, or publish the materials, and subrecipients may not use, reproduce, or distribute such materials without prior written the approval of OGR. If a project results in the production of other original books, manuals, or copyrightable material, unless otherwise provided in the contract documents, EOPSS/OGR reserves a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, translate or otherwise use, and authorize others to publish and use, such material.