

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Department of Corrections - State Criminal Alien Assistance Program

Purpose and History

The Office of Justice Programs within the [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) of the U.S. Department of Justice administers the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program ([SCAAP](#)) in cooperation with the [Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\)](#) and [Citizenship and Immigration Services](#) of the federal Department of Homeland Security. The SCAAP reimburses states and local jurisdictions for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens with at least one felony or two misdemeanor convictions for violations of state or local law that are incarcerated for at least four days.

Application Process

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and cities and counties with correctional facilities are eligible to apply. Eligible jurisdictions submit applications to the [Office of Justice Programs](#), and include correctional officer salary costs (excluding benefits), the number of eligible inmates and the number of days each was held, and inmate information. The Office of Justice Programs transmits the applications to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for verification of the number of eligible inmates and to update the criminal alien database. The Bureau of Justice Assistance makes grant awards to jurisdictions based on the number of eligible applicants as determined by the Department of Homeland Security, costs submitted, and the amount of funds awarded by the U.S. Congress. Grant awards may be prorated based on available funding. Nationally, grants to states and local jurisdictions have been decreasing.

Grant Awards and Use of Funds

The Bureau of Justice Assistance awards grants that must be used for correctional purposes only, and may be used for correctional officer salaries, overtime costs, workforce recruitment and retention, construction, training of offenders, training of correctional officers related to offender population management, consultants, medical and mental health services, vehicle rental or purchase for transport of offenders, prison industries, prerelease or reentry programs, technology for offender management or interagency information sharing, and disaster preparedness.

The Iowa [Department of Corrections](#) (DOC) uses its grant awards for overtime and training for correctional officers related to offender population management, corrections workforce recruitment and retention, training and education of offenders, and technology for offender management or interagency information sharing. Federal SCAAP receipts to the DOC have been trending downward over the last several years. Future receipts are anticipated to be less than previous years, due to expected budget reductions at the federal level.

There is a time lag between submitting applications, reporting data, and receiving federal funds. For example, applications for FFY 2016 were due in May 2016 (State FY 2016) for grants scheduled to be received after October 2016 (State FY 2017), based on data from the reporting period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015 (State FY 2015).

Related Statutes

Iowa Code chapters [356](#) and [904](#)
[201](#) Iowa Administrative Code

Revised August 23, 2016

More Information

U.S. Department of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov/>
U.S. Department of Homeland Security: <http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm>
Iowa Department of Corrections: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/>
Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov>

LSA Staff Contact: Alice Fulk Wisner (515-281-6764) alice.wisner@legis.iowa.gov