

**BSCC JAG Equipment and Training Program – Mendocino County**  
**2025 Application – Project Narrative**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Investigative Digital Services, Crisis Intervention and Mental Health/De-Escalation Trainings
<b>PPA 1:</b>	Law Enforcement Programs
<b>Priority Areas of Need:</b>	Violent Crime Reduction Initiatives, Crisis Intervention Training, Mental Health Training and De-escalation Training
<b>Proposal Summary:</b>	This proposal seeks to enhance public safety through digital forensic tools and specialized training. The initiative includes mobile device unlocking technology to expedite violent crime investigations, crisis intervention training for behavioral health response, and mental health/de-escalation trainings to reduce use-of-force incidents. These investments will improve investigative efficiency and foster safer, more trusted community interactions.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and Probation Department have jointly identified critical investigative and training needs that directly impact their ability to serve the community effectively and safely. This integrated equipment and training initiative will enhance digital forensic capabilities, improve response to behavioral health crises, and foster stronger community trust. Grant funding will support three key areas:

**1. PPA 1, Priority Area of Need: Violent Crime Reduction Initiative**

**Digital Forensics:** Procurement of mobile device unlocking software/ hardware to be used as an investigative tool to help solve cases involving violent crime, along with specialized training to expedite processing of evidence.

**2. PPA 1, Priority Area of Need: Crisis Intervention Training**

Certification for Sheriff's sworn staff and probation officers to improve response to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises during law enforcement contacts.

**3. PPA 1, Priority Area of Need: Mental Health and De-escalation Training:**

Training will provide tools to assist law enforcement in de-escalating hostile situations, thus reducing use-of-force incidents while improving community trust.

These investments will strengthen public safety, improve investigative efficiency, and promote safer interactions between law enforcement and the public.

In August 2025, the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department conducted a concerted assessment of operational gaps, consulting with frontline staff and supervisors to evaluate equipment and training deficiencies. The ability to unlock mobile devices containing information critical to solving cases or determining whether someone has violated conditions of parole is invaluable to expeditiously solve cases and ensure public safety. Current mobile device unlocking technology (and requisite training) is limited or non-existent and requires contracted vendor support. This causes investigative delays and added costs. Investing in mobile device unlocking software/hardware and related training will expedite investigations, improve case resolution rates, and enhance public safety.

Additionally, Mendocino County experiences a high volume of behavioral health-related calls. Crisis intervention and mental health training will reduce escalation risks by equipping personnel to better recognize mental distress, apply de-escalation techniques, and connect individuals to appropriate services. These training tools will help improve safety for all parties involved in law enforcement interactions within the local community.

The proposed activities align directly with the JAG Program Purpose Area 1: Law Enforcement Programs, and address the following Priority Areas of Need:

- Violent Crime Reduction: Enhanced investigative tools and faster evidence processing
- Crisis Intervention Training: Improved responses to behavioral health emergencies
- Mental Health and De-escalation Training: Reduced use-of-force incidents and strengthened community relations

To support violent crime reduction, the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department will procure the following equipment and software:

- Mobile device forensic technology subscription, including "unlocks" and compatible hardware
- Specialized training for personnel in evidence extraction and analysis

These tools will improve access to critical evidence in violent crime investigations – such as homicides, assaults, and domestic violence cases – enabling faster suspect identification, victim protection, and violence prevention.

Training components will include:

- CIT certification courses for Sheriff's sworn staff and probation officers.
- Instruction on recognizing issues such as mental health symptoms, managing officer stress, and suicide awareness.
- Hands on, scenario-based exercises to reinforce de-escalation techniques.
- Mental health communication strategies.
- Workshops led by behavioral health experts.

These trainings will enhance law enforcement and probation officers' ability to respond safely and effectively to individuals in crisis, reduce escalation risks, and foster trust between law enforcement and the community. They will also equip personnel to effectively manage high-stress encounters.

This proposal seeks to enhance public safety and law enforcement effectiveness in Mendocino County through strategic investments in mobile device/digital forensic technology and specialized training. The collaborative effort between the Sheriff's Office and Probation Department will improve investigative capabilities and promote safer, more informed interactions between law enforcement personnel and the community.