

**Project Abstract**  
City of Bridgeport  
Body-Worn Camera Project  
FY15 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program

The City of Bridgeport is seeking funds to cover costs associated with the Bridgeport Police Department's Body-Worn Camera Project, which will support the implementation of a body-worn camera (BWC) pilot program in Bridgeport, Connecticut. JAG funds will be used to purchase BWC equipment and related technology.

Bridgeport is the most populous and one of the most impoverished and violent cities in Connecticut. The City's dense population and elevated crime rates mean that law enforcement encounters between the public and police are often impossible to avoid. Relationships between the Bridgeport Police Department and members of the community are often volatile and tense. Both police and community members have expressed desires to improve relationships and work together to improve community safety. Research has shown that law enforcement agencies adopting BWC policy/practices experienced a noticeable drop in complaints against officers. To this end, the City will explore the use of BWCs as a means for improving relationships, increasing safety and transparency, and assisting in evidence collection.

The Bridgeport Police Department is currently working with criminal justice, government, and community stakeholders to develop an official BWC policy. Prior to rolling-out a full BWC program, officers will receive comprehensive training on Department BWC policy which will include a reiteration of use-of-force policies as well as camera use and information storage training.

Project Identifiers: Body-Worn Cameras, Equipment – Video/Audio, Evidence Based

**Program Narrative**  
City of Bridgeport  
Body-Worn Camera Project  
FY15 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program

The City of Bridgeport is seeking a four-year grant of \$180,008 from the FY15 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program to fund costs associated with the implementation of a body worn camera pilot program in Bridgeport, Connecticut. JAG funds will be used to purchase body-worn camera equipment and related technology.

The City of Bridgeport is the most populous and one of the most impoverished and densely populated cities in the state. Approximately 23% of Bridgeport residents live below the poverty line. The majority of residents (38%) identify as Hispanic/Latino; 32% as Black/African American; 23% as White (non-Hispanic); 3% as Asian; and the remaining 4% fall into another category. The City of Bridgeport's unemployment rate of 11% is well above the state average (7 percent). Bridgeport is also one of the most violent cities in the state. A 2014 report from Congressional Quarterly, based on FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Data, ranked crime in Bridgeport sixth highest in a national list of 252 cities of comparable size (100,000 – 499,000 residents). With nearly 145,000 residents living within Bridgeport's 15.97 square miles, its dense population means that violence and crime affects the lives of nearly every resident of the city.

Across the United States, reports of strained relationships between police and citizens continue to grow. In Bridgeport, the relationship between the Bridgeport Police Department and members of the Bridgeport community is often described by both sides as uneasy. The city's dense population, elevated crime rates, and numerous parades, festivals, and neighborhood events (particularly in summer months) mean that law enforcement encounters between the public and police are often impossible to avoid. Frequently citizens and officers experience differing views of these encounters, some volatile or dangerous, setting the stage for less than desirable outcomes. Both community members and police have reported a need and desire to improve public/police relationships and work together toward making Bridgeport a safer place to live. To this end, the City is exploring the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) as a means for improving relationships and citizen and officer safety. Like a growing number of communities across the state and the nation, the City of Bridgeport believes that the objective view provided by BWCs will be an invaluable tool in providing accurate records of law enforcement

interactions and promoting positive and appropriate responses from all those involved. Research has shown that law enforcement agencies adopting BWC policy/practices experienced a noticeable drop in complaints against officers.

In addition to improved police/citizen accountability, BWCs can provide a host of benefits. Nationwide, law enforcement and prosecutors have recognized that Digital Media Evidence (DME) such as the recordings produced by BWCs can significantly improve evidence collection and assist investigations by providing a continuous narrative of events as they unfold and in the case of first responders, an accurate picture of crime scenes.

The Bridgeport Police Department currently employs a total of 381 sworn officers, 232 of these officers conduct patrol activities and/or have daily citizen interactions. Ultimately, the City expects that all officers with daily citizen interactions will be equipped with body-worn cameras. The Bridgeport Police Department is in the process of developing a BWC policy which will be informed by contributions from criminal justice, government, and community stakeholders. The Department will carefully consider implications for privacy, storage, retention, community relations, and other long-term legal, financial, and civil rights sensitivities as it develops and implements BWC policy. Policies will be guided by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Model Policy and the Police Executive Research Forum's (PERF) *Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program* report. Prior to rolling-out a full BWC program, officers will receive comprehensive training on Department BWC policy which will include a reiteration of use-of-force policies and camera use and information storage.

The City has already received several price quotes from third-party vendors to provide BWC equipment and services. Cost estimates for one mid-line BWC is \$700-\$800. Data collected from BWCs will be transmitted and stored via a wireless cloud storage system. Cost estimates for one year of cloud storage range from \$600-\$1200 per officer depending heavily on activity of individual officers. The City of Bridgeport is committed to ensuring that sufficient local funds are budgeted to maintain the BWC program once federal and/or state funds are exhausted.

Recently, the City of Bridgeport partnered with the City of Stamford to submit an application to the DOJ Body-Worn Camera Pilot Implementation Program (application submitted by Stamford). If awarded, these funds would be used to support the first year of the Body-Worn Camera Pilot Program in Bridgeport (and Stamford) including policy development,

training, and equipment purchases (cameras, docking stations, software, warrantees/licenses for a limited number of cameras). Funds from the FY15 Edward Byrne JAG Program would be used to cover the cost of additional BWCs and cloud storage.

The Bridgeport Police Department is committed to providing performance measurement data and information to the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Department will assign a staff member to oversee the data collection and analysis process and will evaluate program impact using BJA's accountability measures. Ongoing feedback from criminal justice, government, and community stakeholders will inform policy adjustments as needed. Accountability metrics reports will be submitted quarterly.

**BUDGET DETAILS**  
City of Bridgeport  
Body-Worn Camera Project  
FY15 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>COMPUTATION</b>	<b>COST</b>
A. Personnel <i>Not applicable</i>		
B. Fringe Benefits <i>Not applicable</i>		
C. Travel <i>Not applicable</i>		
D. Equipment Body Worn Cameras Cloud Storage Costs	106 cameras at \$750.00 each 106 cameras at \$948.18 each/yr	\$79,500.00 \$100,508.00
E. Supplies <i>Not applicable</i>		
F. Construction <i>Not applicable</i>		
G. Consultants/Contracts <i>Not applicable</i>		
H. Other Costs <i>Not applicable</i>		
I. Indirect Costs <i>Not applicable</i>		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$180,008.00

**BUDGET SUMMARY**  
City of Bridgeport  
Body-Worn Camera Project  
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<b>Category</b>	<b>Federal Request</b>	<b>Non-Federal Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>
A. Personnel	0	0	0
B. Fringe Benefits	0	0	0
C. Travel	0	0	0
D. Equipment	\$180,008.00	0	\$180,008.00
E. Supplies	0	0	0
F. Construction	0	0	0
G. Consultants/Contracts	0	0	0
H. Other Costs	0	0	0
I. Indirect Costs	0	0	0

Federal Request	\$180,008.00
Non-Federal Amount	\$0
Total Project Cost	\$180,008.00

**BUDGET NARRATIVE**  
City of Bridgeport  
Body-Worn Camera Project  
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A. Personnel -- *Not applicable*

B. Fringe Benefits -- *Not applicable*

C. Travel -- *Not applicable*

D. Equipment

    Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs)

City will purchase BWCs for 106 officers with patrol activities and/or daily citizen interactions. Police Department research has indicated that the average cost for one mid-line BWC is \$700-\$800.

    Cloud Storage Costs

City will purchase one year of cloud storage associated with 106 BWCs used by officers with patrol activities and/or daily citizen interactions. Police Department research has indicated that the average expected costs for cloud storage will vary from \$600-\$1200 per officer.

E. Supplies -- *Not applicable*

F. Construction -- *Not applicable*

G. Consultants/Contracts -- *Not applicable*

H. Other Costs -- *Not applicable*

I. Indirect Costs -- *Not applicable*