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Video Recording of Custodial Interrogations Grants Fact Sheet

- New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Acting Commissioner Sean M. Byrne today announced the availability of \$400,000 in federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne/JAG) funds to expand video recording of custodial interrogations of suspects to agencies and counties that currently don't have that capability.
- District Attorneys' offices are eligible to apply for up to \$50,000, and district attorneys must work in partnership with the sheriff's office and police departments in their county to determine which agencies will receive the equipment.
 - The one-time grants can only be used for the purchase and installation of equipment.
 - Priority will be given to district attorneys' offices that have not previously received funding, and jurisdictions with the highest 2009 arrests per 100,000 population.
 - Applications are due Jan. 19, 2011, and awards are scheduled to be made March 1, 2011.
- DCJS has already provided more than \$1.5 million to support the purchase and installation of video recording equipment in 42 counties:

- Albany, Bronx, Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Dutchess, Erie, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Herkimer, Jefferson, Kings, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Nassau, New York, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orange, Queens, Rensselaer, Richmond, Rockland, Schenectady, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren, Washington, Westchester and Wyoming.
- Five counties that received DCJS funding – Broome, Greene, Franklin, Schenectady and Westchester – also received grants from the New York State Bar Association to implement the practice.
- DCJS also has additional Byrne/JAG funding – totaling approximately \$670,000 – that will be made available to law enforcement agencies for equipment purchases, including video recording equipment, digital fingerprint technology and vehicles.
 - Those funds are targeted to law enforcement agencies that did not receive Byrne funding directly from the federal government. Requests will only be considered if agencies currently don't have video recording capability.
- DCJS is a multi-function criminal justice support agency with a variety of responsibilities, including collection and analysis of statewide crime data; operation of the DNA databank and criminal fingerprint files; administration of federal and state criminal justice funds; support of criminal justice-related agencies across the state; and administration of the state's Sex Offender Registry and a toll-free telephone number (1-800-262-3257) that allows anyone to research the status of an offender.