



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com

## Police Department

## Board Action

File #: 24-631

Commissioner Brown - Police Department - To Approve TouchPhrase Development LLC dba Julota (\$23,487.50) as a Sole Source Vendor

### STAFF CONTACT

Chief Stephen Zill - County Police - 704-866-3321

### BUDGET IMPACT

No budget impact. Funds originally approved and appropriated in Resolution #2022-320.

### BACKGROUND

Gaston County has implemented a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) project and needs a case management and data tracking platform. The national LEAD Support Bureau, which provides training and technical assistance to LEAD sites, recommends the Julota software program as Julota is the only program to have created templates specific to LEAD so all sites are collecting the same data in the same manner. The grantor has approved use of grant funds for this purchase. However, DOJ does not respond to requests for sole source below the \$250,000 threshold but instead indicates to follow local policy. Therefore, we are requesting Board approval of this sole source purchase per Gaston County's Uniform Guidance Policy and Procedures. Justification for sole source is that the product is available from only one source, and standardization is an overriding consideration due to the LEAD Support Bureau recommendation that all LEAD sites secure Julota as their case management and data reporting program.

### POLICY IMPACT

N/A

### ATTACHMENTS

Sole Source Letter (filed with the Clerk), Grant Approval for Julota, LSB Sole Source Letter, Grant Approval, Additional Information for Contract

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	JBailey	CBrown	CCloninger	AFraley	BHovis	TKeigher	SShehan	Vote
2025-030	01/28/2025	AF	SS	A	A	AB	A	A	A	A	U

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A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS

#### Funded Award Details

Solicitation Title:	BJA FY 22 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program	Solicitation Category:	Category 1b: Local Applications
Project Title:	Gaston County, NC Drug Diversion and Treatment Program	Federal Award Amount:	\$1,198,628.00
Project Period:	10/1/22 - 9/30/25	Funding Instrument Type:	Grant
Managing Office:	OJP	Program Office:	BJA
DOJ Grant Manager:	Janai Jenkins	UEI:	QKY9R8A8D5J6
Grant Award Administrator:	Debra Littlejohn	TIN:	*****0300
FAW Case ID:	FAW-172014		

#### Scope Change

**Changing the Scope of the Award.** Please indicate which of the following are applicable to this scope change request. (Check all that apply. For additional guidance regarding prior approvals for scope changes, see DOJ Financial Guide Chapter 3.5 Adjustments to Awards, [Grant Adjustment Notice](#))

**Note:** Prior to submitting this request, please review any additional guidance provided by the Department of Justice office that issued the award. Any questions should be directed to the grant manager assigned to the award.

- ☒ — Altering programmatic activities
- ☐ — Changing the purpose of the project
- ☐ — Changing the project site
- ☐ — Experiencing or making changes to the organization or staff with primary responsibility for implementation of the award
- ☐ — Experiencing or making changes to the organization or staff with primary responsibility for implementation of the award

#### Justification

The LEAD program seeks an outside vendor as a subrecipient to conduct evaluations of the program. Please see attachment for full details.

Julota Software - The national LEAD Support Bureau has recommended the Julota software platform, which has built templates in its system specific to LEAD programs. It is necessary to have a program for case management documentation and data collection, but this program also allows for referrals into LEAD and external referrals for participants to community programs.

**Update Programmatic Award Components.** In relationship to this request, please indicate and submit updates to any of the following:

— Project Title

Current Project Title  
Gaston County, NC Drug Diversion and Treatment Program

— Project Description




Current Project Description  
Gaston County, NC Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based  
Project Drug Diversion and Treatment Program

The purpose of the Gaston County, NC Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Project is to initiate the following activities: 1) Bring together multiple county entities — substance abuse treatment providers, law enforcement, courts, health care providers, and the faith-based community—to collaborate in implementing a law enforcement assisted diversion program (LEAD); 2) augment treatment and recovery services for individuals who are at high risk for overdose and recidivism and are participants in Recovery Court; and 3) incorporate transitional/recovery housing assistance and certified peer recovery support services into both the LEAD and the Recovery Court programs. Expected outcomes are to improve public safety, reduce criminal recidivism, and reduce the associated costs of legal and criminal-justice-service utilization. The service area is all of Gaston County, the seventh largest county in NC, with a population of 230,226. The project expects to serve approximately fifty participants yearly: twenty-five through LEAD and twenty-five within the Recovery Court.

The Gaston County Police Department is the lead agency. Partners include the District Attorney's Office, Olive Branch Ministry—an affiliate of the NC Harm Reduction Coalition, and the Gaston County Controlled Substance Coalition. The Coalition is a permanent task force of community leaders that will serve as the multi-disciplinary body for the project. The District Attorney's Office will assign an Assistant District Attorney to both the Operational and Coordinating Groups. Olive Branch Ministry will provide training for stakeholders in the principles of harm reduction and will provide certified peer support specialists. The project will also identify a contracted source to provide evidence-based clinical assessments and individualized treatment plans.

The Gaston County Police Department will supervise three full-time positions: a LEAD Case Manager, a Recovery Court Case Manager, and a Project Coordinator. Case management will focus on the whole individual and stress comprehensive assessment, service planning, and service coordination. The Project Coordinator's roles and responsibilities will include consulting with the multi-disciplinary coalition, overseeing the programmatic and financial components of the grant, collaborating with stakeholders to develop program resources (e.g., policies, protocols, and screening forms), arranging trainings, troubleshooting stakeholders' concerns, identifying resources, facilitating meetings, developing information-sharing systems in collaboration with the coalition, and streamlining communication

Programmatic Attachments

	<b>Name</b> <a href="#">Grant Award Modification for an award from DOJ is Approved</a>	<b>Category</b> Correspondence	<b>Created by</b> Erin Pfeltz	
	<b>Name</b> <a href="#">Julia quote.pdf</a>	<b>Category</b> Budget Other	<b>Created by</b> Debra Littlejohn	<b>Date Added</b> 07/10/2024
	<b>Name</b> <a href="#">LEAD Program Evaluation Proposal.pdf</a>			

September 16, 2024

To Whom It May Concern re Gaston County LEAD,

I'm writing to share information about the use of the data information platform Julota, for LEAD initiatives. We at PDA, where we both house the local Seattle flagship LEAD site and the LEAD Support Bureau, have a history of experience with many data information platforms and have found significant success with the use of Julota. As LEAD continues to be replicated across the country, we recognized the need for something more standardized, replicable, and developed/improved by industry experts. We have been using Julota for LEAD evolution projects in Seattle and have been working on a long-term project with Julota to develop a newly revised LEAD-normed Julota platform and standardized dashboards built on the LEAD-normed Common Data Model. Julota has already demonstrated its usefulness for current LEAD programs and we expect significant improvements as well as standardized use for LEAD initiatives across the country. We'd strongly recommend the use of Julota for LEAD initiatives.

Sincerely,

Tiarra Bryant

PDA Deputy Director

[tiarra.bryant@wearepda.org](mailto:tiarra.bryant@wearepda.org)

**From:** do-not-reply@usdoj.gov <do-not-reply@usdoj.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 16, 2024 11:36 AM

**To:** Debra Littlejohn <Debra.Littlejohn@gastongov.com>; Janai.Jenkins@usdoj.gov; Kim Eagle <Kim.Eagle@gastongov.com>; Debra Littlejohn <Debra.Littlejohn@gastongov.com>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Grant Award Modification for an award from DOJ is Approved

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***JUST*grants**  
JUSTICE GRANTS SYSTEM

The request for a Scope Change grant award modification, GAM-594490, for award number 15PBJA-22-GG-04462-COAP under the solicitation *BJA FY 22 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program* is approved.

Please log into DOJ's JustGrants system at [JustGrants](https://www.justicegrants.usdoj.gov).

For more information go to [www.justicegrants.usdoj.gov](https://www.justicegrants.usdoj.gov)  
JustGrants is operated under the U.S. Department of Justice



September 18, 2024

The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program is operated through the Gaston County Police Department and is funded through a BJA-COSSUP federal grant. The grantor has approved the use of funds so the computer software platform Julota can be secured for case management and data reporting.

We are requesting sole-source approval for Julota, and have submitted letters from both Julota and the LEAD Support Bureau, which provides technical assistance for LEAD sites across the country. Sole-source approval was sought through BJA; however, the amount did not meet their threshold. The justification for sole-source includes:

- The Gaston County LEAD program, which has been in operation only one year, currently has no case management data system.
- The grantor (BJA-COSSUP) has approved a modification request to allow grant funds to be used to secure a case management data system.
- The Gaston County LEAD program sought the input of the LEAD Support Bureau (LSB) to determine what system to secure.
- The LEAD Support Bureau (LSB) recommends all LEAD sites secure Julota as their case management and data reporting program.
- The LEAD Support Bureau (LSB) has worked with Julota to develop customized templates in their platform specifically for LEAD programs.
- This relationship with LEAD and Julota will allow 100+ LEAD sites nationally to collect the same data for easier comparison and program evaluation.
- While the LEAD templates have been created, customization is still allowed since each LEAD site may not operate exactly the same as long as there is fidelity to the national model.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrien Sanders".

Adrien Sanders  
Interim LEAD Project Coordinator