

# PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION

## Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program

The Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) Program is a strategic approach to crime reduction that leverages community knowledge and expertise by focusing on community led efforts, working with law enforcement and other local partners to support prevention and intervention efforts on neighborhoods where crime is concentrated or crime “hotspots.” BCJI invests in jurisdictions with significant crime challenges that want long-term solutions and are willing to incorporate all four elements of the BCJI model. It helps communities build trust with and support law enforcement agencies working with these communities as well as planning and enhancements to physical space through nuisance laws, code enforcement and community revitalization efforts tied to community-based crime reduction efforts. The approach is data and research led, using this information to understand and target the issues. The last year BJA received a BCJI appropriation was 2021, and current grantees have a focus on Community Violence Intervention efforts as well. More information is available at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/bcji/overview>

## Byrne Discretionary Community Project Funding/Byrne Discretionary Grants

This program supports projects designated for funding in the Consolidated Appropriations Act that improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, prevent or combat juvenile delinquency, and assist victims of crime (other than compensation). Eligible applicants are limited to those identified in the Congressional Joint Explanatory Statement for the projects designated for funding.

## Capital Case Litigation Training and Technical Assistance Initiative

The Capital Case Litigation: Training and Technical Assistance Initiative provides support to prosecutors, defense counsel and the judiciary on nationwide on implementing improvements throughout the field of capital case litigation, while supporting litigators with the tools and resources to mitigate risk for error. This includes support for prosecutors and defense counsel by ensuring they have the skills, training, and most up-to-date practices to litigate serious and violent crimes. This includes providing effective training programs, resources, and tools for state and local prosecutors and defense attorneys to build their capacity as capital litigators and ensure effective representation in state capital cases, including for judges. utilizing training sessions such as onsite mentoring or technical assistance, cross-site or train-the-trainer, peer-to-peer, telephone, and/or web-based trainings as well as a capital litigation listserv for prosecutors. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/ccli/training-technical-assistance>

## Center for Task Force Training™ Program

The Center for Task Force Training™ (CenTF) Program offers specialized in-person and online training designed to bolster task force capabilities; promote officer safety; and protect individuals’ privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. The training includes instruction in task force operations, focusing on the organizational and operational principles of task forces, leadership, and management strategies. For more information, visit: <https://www.centf.org/>



## Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative

The Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) is a BJA coordinated effort across the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) that is designed to prevent and reduce violent crime in communities by supporting comprehensive, evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs, including efforts to address gang and gun violence. Based on partnerships among community residents, local government agencies, victim service providers, community-based organizations, law enforcement, hospitals, researchers, and other community stakeholders, the CVIPI seeks to ensure public safety and provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime. BJA is collaborating with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to ensure jurisdictions have access to the expertise they need to address community violence that involves children, youth, young adults, and adults, both as the individuals responsible for perpetrating this violence and those who are victims of it. As appropriate, awards made under this solicitation may be managed by BJA, OJJDP, or OVC depending on the nature of the funded project. To learn more, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/community-violence-intervention/overview>

## Community-based Approaches to Prevent and Address Hate Crimes Program

The Community-based Approaches to Prevent and Address Hate Crimes Program provides funding to support comprehensive, community-based approaches to addressing hate crimes that promote community awareness and preparedness, increase victim reporting, and improve responses to hate crimes. It empowers community-based and civil rights organizations to establish community-centered approaches for education on and public awareness and prevention of hate crimes, both at the local level and at the national level, working with local communities impacted by hate crimes. It also helps to develop community-informed model policies, practices, and trainings for law enforcement and prosecution entities regarding how hate crimes are reported, investigated, and prosecuted.

## Crime Analyst in Residence Program

The Bureau of Justice Assistance Crime Analyst in Residence (CAR) Program is designed to help law enforcement agencies expand their use of data analysis and analytics to manage their operations and practices. Using a hybrid approach of onsite and virtual technical assistance, the CAR Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Team helps law enforcement agencies integrate tailored crime and data analysis practices, products, tools, and information more fully into their daily operations and crime reduction efforts. The CAR TTA Team works closely with the program participants to assess and build their capacity to solve cases, identify crime patterns, develop problem-solving approaches, and implement crime-reduction strategies.

## Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Initiative

Administered by BJA in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), this initiative provides funding to state, local, and tribal government entities that are experiencing precipitous increases in gun-related violent crime. The Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) Initiative's purpose is to support local and tribal jurisdictions' capacities to work with their ATF partners to utilize intelligence, technology, and community engagement to swiftly identify unlawfully used firearms and their sources, and effectively prosecute perpetrators engaged in violent crime. Although police departments are the primary applicants for this grant, they are required to partner with their local prosecutors, who are part of the CGIC teams. Learn more at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/cgic-initiative/overview>

## Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program - Local

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program is the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The JAG Program provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and

community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, crime victim and witness initiatives, mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams, and implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives including, but not limited to, mental health courts, drug courts, veterans courts, and extreme risk protection order programs.

## The National Law Enforcement Knowledge Lab

The National Law Enforcement Knowledge Lab is a trusted resource for law enforcement and the communities they serve. The Law Enforcement Knowledge Lab is designed to assist communities in promoting public safety through constitutional policing and stronger community relationships. The Lab serves as a one-stop shop for reliable guidance, modern policies, and best practices for fair and impartial policing. It supports public safety by identifying and disseminating fair and effective policing practices and technical assistance.

## Mass Violence Advisory Initiative

Incidents of mass violence present a myriad of unique challenges to law enforcement leaders while under intense pressure. The Mass Violence Advisory Initiative (MVAI) provides peer-to-peer assistance to law enforcement leaders following a mass violence tragedy to maximize the safety and wellness of officers, other first responders, and the community. The MVAI advises these groups by sharing promising practices for communicating with community members and the media and connecting law enforcement leaders with local, state, and federal partners.

## Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program supports state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecution agencies and their partners in conducting outreach, educating practitioners and the public, enhancing victim reporting tools, and investigating and prosecuting hate crimes. This can include crimes committed based on a victim's perceived or actual race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender,

gender identity, or disability. Approaches can include both specific jurisdictions and state or regional approaches serving multiple jurisdictions. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/shepard-byrd-hate-crimes-program/overview>

## National Public Safety Partnership

The National Public Safety Partnership (PSP) serves as a Department of Justice (DOJ)-wide program that enables participating sites to consult with and receive expedited, coordinated training and technical assistance and an array of resources from DOJ to enhance local public safety strategies. PSP enables DOJ to provide jurisdictions of different sizes and diverse needs with data-driven, evidence-based strategies tailored to their unique local needs to build their capacities to address violent crime challenges. Additionally, the PSP Virtual Academy delivers valuable learning opportunities in a convenient, contemporary platform. There are several Virtual Academy courses available (Leadership Strategies, Ghost Guns, Crime Scene Excellence, Law Enforcement Guide to Crime Guns, NIBIN, Gun Stat) with more in production. Understanding the importance of making the most of training time, Virtual Academy courses include accreditation materials for students to obtain continuing education credits via their state or local regulatory entities. More information can be found at: <https://www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/>

## National Resource and Technical Assistance Center for Improving Law Enforcement Investigations

The National Resource and Technical Assistance Center (NRTAC) is a training and technical assistance center, created in collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, to improve law enforcement investigations at the local level through the development of resources on new tools and methodologies; assessment of current practices and recommendations on innovative investigative policies and practices; assessment of departmental investigatory functions and practices; and issue related recommendations for improvement of investigative practices. To see examples of TA or projects that the NRTAC can assist with, please see our resources page at: <https://centerforimprovinginvestigations.org/>

## National Training and Technical Assistance Center

The Bureau of Justice Assistance National Training and Technical Assistance Center (BJA NTTAC) facilitates the delivery of training and technical assistance (TTA) to the criminal justice community. By providing rapid, expert, coordinated, and data driven TTA, the BJA NTTAC team supports practitioners in their efforts to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, making communities safer. Utilizing a vast provider network, the BJA NTTAC team connects state, local, and tribal justice agencies with subject matter experts to address their communities' specific public safety needs. Learn more at: <https://bjatta.bja.ojp.gov/>

## Postconviction Testing of DNA

The Postconviction Testing of DNA Program funds states, units of local government, and public institutions of higher education to assist in defraying the costs associated with postconviction case identification, case review, evidence location, and DNA testing in violent felony cases (as defined by state law) where the results of such testing might show actual innocence. While successful exonerations to correct injustice are notable program outcomes, the careful review, consideration, and closing of cases subjected to postconviction DNA testing that do not ultimately demonstrate innocence also work to advance the public's interest that justice has been fairly applied. More information is available at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/postconviction-testing-dna-evidence/overview>

## Prison Rape Elimination Act Management Office – Including the National PREA Resource Center

BJA's Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Management Office is responsible for supporting PREA implementation nationwide. In addition to administering the PREA Site-based Grant Program, this office also directs the PREA Resource Center, articulates the instrumentation and methodology to be used for PREA audits, trains and certifies PREA auditors, provides oversight for PREA audits, and communicates with governors' offices about their

annual statutory obligations under PREA. More information about PREA can be accessed here: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/prea/overview>. Additional information, and access to training and technical assistance can be accessed here: <https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/>

## Project Safe Neighborhoods

Project Safe Neighborhoods was designed to create and foster safer neighborhoods through a sustained reduction in violent crime. This program's effectiveness depends upon the ongoing coordination, cooperation, and partnerships of local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies with the communities they serve and engage with in a unified approach led by the U.S. Attorney in all 94 districts. With Project Safe Neighborhoods, each U.S. Attorney's Office is responsible for establishing a collaborative team of federal, state, local, and tribal (where applicable) law enforcement and community partners to implement a strategic plan for investigating, prosecuting, and preventing violent crime. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) National training and technical assistance Program, BJA supports PSN teams across the nation in implementing their PSN initiatives. Further information is available at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/project-safe-neighborhoods-psn/overview>

## Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA

The Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA Program assists law enforcement and prosecutors to address and prosecute violent crime cold cases and decrease the number of violent crime cold cases awaiting prosecution. It provides direct assistance to increase the capacity of state and local prosecuting agencies to address violent crime cold cases where DNA from a suspect has been identified, whether the suspect(s) is known or not. Funding supports investigative activities as well as crime and forensic analyses that could lead to prosecution or cold case closure. To learn more, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/prosecuting-cold-cases-using-dna/overview>

## Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction Initiative

This initiative provides competitive grants and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies in rural locations to address the unique criminal justice challenges these entities face in combating violent crime. The initiative supports improved training and technology, expanded community-based crime prevention programs, and partnerships with victim service providers. The grants fund state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to improve their analytical capacity, develop a violent crime strategy, and implement collaborative local, regional, and state responses where appropriate (such as regional National Integrated Ballistic Information Network efforts) to improve communication and collaboration between them and the communities they serve.

## Smart Policing Initiative

The Smart Policing Initiative (SPI) seeks to enable police agencies to effectively use evidence-based practices, data, and technology. Recipients of funding under SPI establish formal police-researcher partnerships; test promising crime prevention, response, and reduction practices; build their capacity to analyze and use crime intelligence and data; implement and test justice information-sharing technology; and evaluate their effectiveness. SPI documents the resulting best practices and lessons learned and will widely disseminate them to the policing community to encourage the adoption of innovative and effective policing strategies nationwide. More information is available at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/smart-policing-initiative-spi/overview>

## Smart Prosecution: Innovative Prosecution Solutions Program

The Smart Prosecution: Innovative Prosecution Solutions (IPS) Program provides state, local, and tribal prosecutors with direct funding and training and technical assistance to develop effective strategies and programs to address and prosecute individuals who commit violent crime. Recognizing that many prosecutors' offices carry attorney caseloads well above the recommended level, lack critical support staff, and have had to rely on outdated technology, the IPS Program also supports the use of technology, intelligence, and data analytics in innovative ways that enable prosecutors to focus resources on the people and places associated with high concentrations of criminal activity. Examples of previous IPS-funded projects and additional resources for prosecutors can be found at: <https://innovativeprosecutionsolutions.org>

## Swift, Certain, and Fair Supervision Program: Applying the Principles Behind Project HOPE

The purpose of the Swift, Certain, and Fair (SCF) Supervision Program is to provide state, local, and tribal community supervision agencies with information, resources, and training and technical assistance (TTA) to engage in collaborative problem solving with stakeholders using data and research-informed strategies to assess and improve responses to client behavior in accordance with the principles of swiftness, certainty, and fairness; improve supervision outcomes; prevent recidivism; reduce crime in their jurisdictions; promote the fair administration of justice; and advance public safety. Learn more at: <https://scfcenter.org>

## Prosecutor Research Collaborative

Recognizing that violent crime is on the rise, and that there is a critical need for evidence-based research that can assist in developing, implementing, and sustaining unbiased crime reduction strategies and best practices to build trust within our communities this funding supports the National District Attorneys Association and the CNA's Center for Justice Research and Innovation (hereinafter "project team") to collaborate with prosecutors' offices experiencing an increase in violent crime to review existing research, determine where further research is needed, and work toward improving and supporting prosecutorial practices to reduce violent crime and build trust within communities. The project team will review existing related research; determine where research gaps exist; identify best practices around effective, unbiased crime reduction; and develop accessible resources.

## Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning Program

The Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning Program provides federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia with funding and intensive technical assistance to help them develop a comprehensive and coordinated plan to address public safety and victimization. Through the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) Purpose Area 2, BJA provides funding for tribes to engage in comprehensive justice system

strategic planning that will improve tribal justice and safety; develop, support, and enhance adult tribal justice systems to prevent crime related to opioid, alcohol, and other substance abuse; and renovate, expand, and/or replace tribal justice facilities to enhance facility conditions and/or add capacity for recidivism-reduction programming. For additional information on CTAS, visit: <https://www.justice.gov/tribal>

## Tribal Justice Systems Program

The Tribal Justice Systems Program provides federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia with funding to help them address critical public safety challenges their tribal justice systems face. Through the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) Purpose Area 3, BJA provides funding for tribes to develop, support, and enhance adult tribal justice systems to prevent and respond to tribal justice and public safety, including violent crime and crime related to illicit opioid, alcohol, and other substance use. This can include prevention, law enforcement response, tribal pretrial, court and judicial functions, tribal probation, tribal jails and reentry from corrections. For additional information on CTAS, visit: <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/grants>

## ABOUT BJA

BJA helps America's state, local, and tribal jurisdictions reduce and prevent crime, lower recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA provides a wide range of resources—including grants, funding, and training and technical assistance—to law enforcement, courts and corrections agencies, treatment providers, reentry practitioners, justice information sharing professionals, and community-based partners to address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges nationwide. To learn more about BJA, visit [bja.ojp.gov](http://bja.ojp.gov) or follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

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