

# PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

## Solicitations and Funding

### Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation

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>

### 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 develop community-informed model policies, practices, and trainings for law enforcement and prosecution entities regarding how hate crimes are reported, investigated, and prosecuted.



## Community Courts Initiative

The Community Court Initiative supports state, local, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments to establish and enhance community courts in their jurisdictions. Community Courts are neighborhood-focused court programs that combine the power of the community and the justice system to address local problems. They connect persons to judicially supervised behavioral health treatment, alternative sanctions, and other community-based services. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/community-courts/overview>

## Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

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. Learn more here: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview>

## Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations Initiative

The Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations Initiative supports efforts by state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecution agencies, working with their partners, in the investigation and prosecution of unsolved cold case homicides suspected of having been racially motivated. The initiative also includes support for victims' families and stakeholders impacted by these cases, including reconciliation efforts for those impacted by these crimes. Funds are limited to address incidents that occurred no later than December 31, 1979. Agencies are encouraged to work with their federal partners to pursue these cases and coordinate the review of case files and evidence

related to potential cases, consistent with other activities under the Emmett Till Act. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/emmett-till-cold-case-investigations-program/overview>

## Encouraging Innovation: Field Initiated Program

The Encouraging Innovation: Field Initiated Program seeks to prevent and reduce crime and enhance the criminal justice system through innovative approaches that accelerate justice by identifying, defining, and responding to emerging or chronic crime problems and systemic issues using innovative approaches. The program supports strategies to address these issues, including trying new approaches, addressing gaps in responses, building or translating research knowledge, or building capacity. It furthers DOJ's mission by providing resources to support state, local, tribal, and territorial efforts to reimagine their approaches and strategies to enhance fairness and access to justice; prevent and reduce crime, including violent crime; prevent and respond to overdoses; support crime victims; improve relationships and build trust between communities and the justice system; increase access to justice and supportive services; and advance innovative improvements within the justice system. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/encouraging-innovation-field-initiated-programs/overview>

## 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>

## Reimagining Justice: Testing a New Model of Community Safety

The Reimagining Justice Initiative funds the development and testing of a new or innovative approaches to improving community safety and trust that are alternatives to traditional enforcement mechanisms for neighborhoods experiencing high rates of misdemeanor criminal offenses and quality of life challenges. This model involves coordination with law enforcement to enhance public safety and improve community residents' perceptions of law enforcement and procedural fairness and legitimacy.

## Second Chance Act: Community-based Reentry Program

The Second Chance Act: Community-based Reentry Program provides funding and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations and Indian tribes to provide comprehensive reentry services to individuals who have been incarcerated. Funds awarded under this program support individuals at moderate to high risk for recidivism. These services include both pre- and post-release programming and reentry support. Prior to release from incarceration, funded programs screen, assess, and identify individuals for program participation. Participants receive case management services and are connected evidence-based programming designed to ensure that the transition from prison or jail to the community is successful. Supports and services provided through this program can include service coordination and tracking; gender-specific and trauma informed programming and services; individual and/or group mentoring and peer supports; educational, literacy, and vocational services; substance use and mental health disorder treatment and recovery services; connections to physical health care; family services to support family reunification and restoration; assistance in securing safe and affordable housing; civil legal assistance services; and staff training.

## Second Chance Act: Community Reentry Incubator Initiative

The purpose of the Second Chance Act Community-based Reentry Incubator Initiative is to build programmatic, financial, and organizational capacity in community-based organizations and faith-based institutions to provide sustainable and transitional services to people leaving incarceration that focus on community and family reintegration, building strengths-based assets,

and reducing recidivism (including reducing arrests, new charges, convictions for new offenses, and reincarceration).

## Second Chance Act: Improving Reentry Education and Employment Outcomes

The Second Chance Act: Improving Reentry Education and Employment Outcomes Program provides funding and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations and state, local, and tribal governments to expand education and employment programs. It supports the use of screening and assessment tools to assess educational and employment readiness, educational and vocational programming, partnerships with colleges/universities, activities supporting Federal Pell Grant reinstatement for students who are incarcerated, career training programs, developing partnerships with local employers, conducting reentry career planning, tracking and monitoring employment outcomes, transitional services, and staff training.

## Second Chance Act: Reentry Program Evaluation Support Initiative

The Second Chance Act: Reentry Program Evaluation Support Initiative supports training and technical assistance to ensure Second Chance Act (SCA) grantees complete rigorous evaluations and communicate learnings back to the field. The program improves grantees' capacity to sustain effective SCA-funded strategies. The SCA authorizes federal grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations with the goal of increasing reentry programming and improving outcomes for people who have offended returning to their families and communities from prison or jail. Grantees conduct a variety of activities including making general system improvements and providing employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, mentoring, and other services. Grantees work with research partners to evaluate their efforts. Given the potential public safety and fiscal implications of a successful reentry into society, it is critical for correctional stakeholders to know which reentry initiatives are the most efficacious and to sustain them.

## Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Program

BJA's STOP School Violence Program seeks to improve school security by providing students and teachers with the tools and training they need to recognize, respond quickly to, and prevent acts of violence, including hate

crimes. Both BJA and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services offer grants to improve security within our Nation's schools and on school grounds through evidence-based programs. This program supports training school personnel and educating students to prevent student violence against others and themselves. It also provides specialized training for school officials in responding to mental health crises, and it funds the development and operation of anonymous reporting systems for threats of school violence, including mobile telephone applications, hotlines, and websites. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/stop-school-violence-program/overview>. The National Center for School Safety is the Bureau of Justice Assistance STOP Program National Training and Technical Assistance provider and is a multidisciplinary, multi-institutional center focused on improving school safety and preventing school violence. Learn more at: <https://www.nc2s.org/>

## 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](https://bja.ojp.gov) or follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)) and X (@DOJBJA). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

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## Technical and Training Assistance and Other Supports

### 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/>