

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT COURTS

Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program

This program supports state, local, and tribal efforts to plan, implement, and enhance the operations of adult drug courts, including healing to wellness courts. Adult drug court programs are specialized dockets and coordinated approaches that address the needs of nonviolent justice-involved individuals with substance use disorders. These courts effectively integrate evidence-based substance use disorder treatment, random drug testing, equitable sanctions and incentives, and transitional services in judicially supervised court settings to reduce recidivism and substance use and misuse, as well as prevent overdoses. These initiatives can incorporate cultural elements and approaches. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/adult-drug-court-grant-program/overview>.

Community Courts Initiative

This program supports state, local, and federally recognized American 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 drug treatment, alternative sanctions, and other community-based services. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/community-courts-program/overview>.

Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program

This program aims to reduce the impact of opioids, stimulants, and other substances on individuals and communities by supporting comprehensive, collaborative initiatives. BJA's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) funding provides necessary resources that allow communities to respond to illicit substance use and misuse to reduce overdose deaths, promote public safety, and support access to treatment and recovery services in the criminal justice system. COSSAP supports states, units of local government, and tribal governments to plan, develop, and implement comprehensive efforts that identify, respond to, treat, and support those impacted by illicit opioids, stimulants, and other drugs. The program also promotes cross-system planning and coordination to deliver a broad range of evidence-based, culturally relevant interventions. More information can be found at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/cossap/overview>.

Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, Purpose Area 3: Tribal Justice Systems Program

These programs provide federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia with funding to help them develop a comprehensive and coordinated approach to public



safety and victimization. Through this Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), Purpose Area 3, Tribal Justice Systems Program, BJA provides funding for tribes to develop, support, and enhance adult tribal justice systems to prevent crime related to illicit opioid, alcohol, and other substance use and misuse. For additional information on CTAS, visit: <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/grants>.

Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, Purpose Area 4: Tribal Justice System Infrastructure Program

These programs provide federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia with funding to help them develop a comprehensive and coordinated approach to public safety and victimization. Through this Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), Purpose Area 4, Tribal Justice System Infrastructure Program, BJA provides funding for tribes to 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/grants>.

Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations and Prosecution Program

Launched in FY 2020, this program 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 program also includes support for victims' families and stakeholders impacted by these cases. 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>.

Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program

This program supports innovative cross-system collaboration to improve responses to and outcomes for individuals with mental health disorders (MHDs) or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders who are in the justice system or reentering the community. The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) also supports courts, prosecutors, and community supervision with training, technical assistance, and tools for the early identification of people with MHDs who may need behavioral health system interventions. Together with the Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Program, JMHCP promotes cross-discipline training for justice and treatment professionals and facilitates communication, collaboration, and the delivery of support services for people with behavioral health needs. To be eligible, states, tribes, and local governments must partner with their mental health authority. To learn more, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/justice-and-mental-health-collaboration-program-jmhcp/overview>.

Justice Counts Implementation Program

This program envisions a more fair, effective, and efficient criminal justice system by providing policymakers with actionable data to make policy and budgetary decisions. Justice Counts helps agency leaders adopt the Justice Counts metrics, make the data available, and help policymakers use them. It has supported a broad coalition to reach consensus around a set of metrics for each part of the system—law enforcement, prosecution, defense, courts, jails, prison, and community supervision. States will develop a plan to engage agencies and localities, organize their data in the Justice Counts tool, and engage policymakers to use the data. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/justice-counts/overview>.

Justice for All: Effective Administration of Criminal Justice Training and Technical Assistance Program

The Justice for All Act of 2004 (JFAA) was reauthorized and updated in 2016 through passage of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act (JFARA). The reauthorization established the Effective Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2016, which added the following two new activities to JFAA through an amendment to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) statute.

- **Statewide Planning**

The statute requires that each JAG applicant includes with its application a comprehensive, statewide plan detailing how funding will be used to improve the administration of the criminal justice system. Each plan must be updated every 5 years, with annual progress reports. BJA supports the efforts of state administering agencies to develop and implement the required statewide strategic plans to assist policymakers in allocating JAG resources.

- **Sixth Amendment**

The statute also supports training, technical assistance, and an online resource center to assist state and local jurisdictions to meet the obligations established by the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. BJA supports jurisdictions to ensure the right to a speedy and public trial, an impartial jury, call and confront witnesses, and counsel for defendants. For more information visit: <https://www.strengthenthesixth.org/>.

Justice Reinvestment Initiative Assessment and Coordination

This program funds states to apply the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) approach to identify and respond to crime and other public safety problems, explore innovative and cost-saving strategies, and reinvest in strategies that can decrease crime and reduce recidivism. Sites use the five-step JRI process to address persistent or emerging crime and public safety problems or to remove the impediments to directly addressing them. This process helps build a

jurisdiction's capacity to analyze, identify, and respond to the drivers of crime and then develop and implement innovative and research-based responses that address a range of criminal justice system problems. More information can be found at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/justice-reinvestment-initiative/overview>.

Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program

This 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 committed on the basis of a victim's perceived or actual race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/shepard-byrd-hate-crimes-program/overview>.

National Initiatives in Justice and Mental Health: Training and Technical Assistance for Grantees and the Field

These initiatives deliver site-based, program-specific training and technical assistance (TTA) to five separate justice and mental health programs as well as broader TTA to the field. Specifically, Category 1 provides TTA to Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program site-based grantees and state-/local-based capacity building for jails, prosecutors, courts, and corrections. Category 2 provides TTA to Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program site-based grantees. Category 3 delivers TTA to Enhance Law Enforcement Services for Improved Agency Operations, Policies, and Response to People with Mental Health Disorders (MHDs) and Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders (MHSUDs): Supporting state/local capacity building for jurisdictions and the field. Category 4 provides TTA for Collaborative Crisis Response Training site-based grantees. And Category 5 delivers TTA to the Kevin and Avonte Program: Reducing Injury and Death of Missing Individuals with Dementia and Developmental Disabilities site-based grantees.

National Training and Technical Assistance: Capital Case Litigation Initiative

The purpose of this program is to assist states with: (1) enhancing the ability of prosecutors to effectively represent the public in state capital cases, (2) supporting state prosecutors to develop and implement appropriate standards of practice and qualifications, (3) minimizing the potential for error in the trial of capital cases, and (4) improving the quality of legal representation provided to indigent defendants in state capital cases. BJA achieves this purpose by forming partnerships with national training and technical assistance providers to offer key support, expertise, and coaching to states, prosecutors, and defense counsel in capital cases.

Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program

This program funds states and units of local government to help improve the quality and timeliness of their forensic science and medical examiner/coroner services. Funds may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog, among other things. State Administering Agencies may apply for both “base” (formula) and competitive funds. Units of local government may apply for competitive funds. To learn more, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/coverdell/overview>.

Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA Program

This 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>.

Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions Program

Funding from this program can be used to create multidisciplinary teams that assess and address areas of risk for wrongful conviction and review and assess post-conviction claims of innocence. It supports state and local policymakers and practitioners, including wrongful conviction review (WCR) entities that represent individuals with post-conviction claims of innocence, to review potentially legitimate cases and enact measures to prevent future errors and ensure justice. The program also promotes partnerships between WCR entities and conviction integrity units, where appropriate, to support comprehensive approaches that both review wrongful conviction claims and reduce the risk for future error. Where possible, the program seeks to identify actual perpetrators of crimes and bring justice to victims, thereby enhancing public safety. More information is available at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/urlpwc/overview>.

Veterans Treatment Court Discretionary Grant Program

This program supports state, local, and tribal efforts to plan and implement or enhance the operations of veterans treatment courts. These courts effectively integrate evidence-based substance use disorder treatment, mandatory drug testing, incentives and sanctions, and transitional services in judicially supervised court settings that have jurisdiction over justice-involved veterans with substance use disorders, including a history of violence and post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of their military service. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/veterans-treatment-court-grant-program/overview>.

Veterans Treatment Court Risk and Need Enhancement Initiative

This program is intended to develop, and take to scale, a set of evidence-based screening and assessment tools and case planning protocols for veteran treatment courts, hereinafter referred to as the VTC Risk and Needs Assessment Tool. In 2014, the VTC Risk and Needs Assessment Tool was developed by BJA in partnership with the National Institute of Corrections to identify the criminogenic risks and clinical needs of veterans involved in the justice system. It incorporates the latest research on post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, substance use disorders, and other issues affecting veterans.

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 and funding, 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 or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter ([@DOJBJA](https://twitter.com/DOJBJA)). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.