

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT PROSECUTORS

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights, increases access to justice, supports crime victims, protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) recognizes the pivotal role that prosecutors play in the safekeeping of our communities and promoting innovative best practices as a critical component of reducing victimization. Prosecutors' offices are central to the criminal justice system. The prosecutor's office interacts on a regular basis with a variety of allied professionals, community service agencies and organizations, and members of the public. This central, interconnected role of the prosecutor requires the office and its personnel—including prosecutors, investigators, analysts, advocates, information technology specialists, researchers, support staff, and others—to work in harmony with all of these stakeholders. These resources may assist prosecutors in their important role within the criminal justice system and within the communities they represent throughout the country.

Grant Funding Resources

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is a formula grant program that is the leading federal source of criminal justice funding to states, territories, local governments, and tribes. The JAG Program provides critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas such as 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 and mental health programs, and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including

behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams. BJA is placing a special emphasis on community violence interventions. To learn more about the JAG Program, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview>. To find your State Administering Agency, visit: <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/state-administering-agencies/overview>.

Adult Drug Court 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 individuals involved in the justice system who have 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>.

Veterans Treatment Court 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 veterans involved in the justice system who have 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>.



Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Grant Program

The Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Grant Program (BWCPIP) funds the acquisition of body-worn cameras for law enforcement personnel, which can include prosecution personnel such as investigators. In addition to funding the purchase or lease of BWCs, BWCPIP provides funding to support demonstration projects in agencies with established BWC programs. Law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices may use these demonstration projects in developing their capacities to (1) better manage and digitize evidence data from BWCs; (2) optimize their use of BWC footage to enhance prosecutorial decisionmaking; and (3) utilize their BWC footage for training purposes (e.g., de-escalation training) and to enhance constitutional policing practices. BWCPIP grantees are provided guidance and support through a training and technical assistance provider selected by BJA. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/body-worn-cameras-bwcs/overview>.

Community-based Approaches to Prevent and Address Hate Crimes

This 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. 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.

Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative

The Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) seeks to prevent and reduce violent crime in communities by supporting comprehensive, evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs. Based on partnerships among community residents, local government agencies, victim service providers, community-based organizations, law enforcement, hospitals, researchers, and other community stakeholders, CVIPI seeks to ensure public safety and provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime. Additional information and resources can be found at: <https://www.ojp.gov/program/cvipi>.

Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse 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>.

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>.

Field Initiated: Encouraging Innovation

This program accelerates justice by identifying, defining, and responding to emerging or chronic crime problems and systemic issues using innovative approaches. It funds strategies to address these issues such as trying new approaches, addressing gaps in responses, building or translating research knowledge, and building capacity. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/encouraging-innovation-field-initiated-programs/overview>.

John R. Justice Program

Through this program, BJA provides student loan repayment assistance to state, local, and federal public defenders and local and state prosecutors who commit to extended service in those roles. The program's objective is to offer an incentive to attract and retain qualified public defenders and prosecutors who will remain employed in that capacity for a minimum of 36 months. For more information, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/john-r-justice-jrj-program/overview>.

Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCPC) 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 abuse disorders who come into contact with the justice system. JMHCPC also supports prosecutors with training, technical assistance, and tools for the early identification of people with MHDs who may need behavioral health system interventions. 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>.

Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center

Administered by BJA in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) Integration Initiative provides funding to state, local, and tribal government entities that are experiencing precipitous increases in gun-related violent crime. The CGIC Integration 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/local-law-enforcement-cgic-integration-initiative/overview>.

Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program

BJA is dedicated to combating the increase in hate crimes, also known as bias-motivated crimes. 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 Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

BJA's National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) helps law enforcement and prosecutors address the challenges associated with unsubmitted sexual assault kits and reduce the number of unsubmitted SAKs in their jurisdictions. SAKI provides them with the knowledge and tools to solve and reduce violent crimes associated with sexual assault while achieving the long-term goal of improving the criminal justice response to cases of sexual assault. Using a victim-centered approach, jurisdictions can build their capacities to inventory, test, and track SAKs and improve their investigation, prosecution, and victim engagement and support practices in addition to developing evidence and cases resulting from the testing process. In addition, the initiative supports sites to prevent the future development of conditions that lead to large numbers of unsubmitted SAKs. To learn more, visit: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/sexual-assault-kit-initiative-saki/overview>.

Preventing School Violence: BJA's STOP School Violence Program

This 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 using 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>.

Project Safe Neighborhoods

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is designed to create and foster safer neighborhoods through a sustained reduction in violent crime. The program's effectiveness depends upon the ongoing coordination, cooperation, and partnerships of local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies working together with the communities they serve and engaged in a unified approach led by the U.S. Attorney in all 94 districts. With PSN, 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. Further information is available at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/project-safe-neighborhoods-psn/overview>.

Reimagining Justice: Testing a New Model of Community Safety

This program funds the development and testing of a new or innovative approach to improving community safety and trust that is an alternative to traditional enforcement mechanisms for neighborhoods experiencing high rates of low level criminal offenses. This model involves coordination with law enforcement to enhance public safety and improve community residents' perceptions of law enforcement and procedural fairness and legitimacy.

Rural 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) in order to improve communication and collaboration between them and the communities they serve.

Smart Prosecution – Innovative Prosecution Solutions

The Innovative Prosecution Solutions (IPS) Program's purpose is to provide 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 recommended levels, 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/>.

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 policy makers 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>.

Training, Technical Assistance, and Other Resources

Bureau of Justice Assistance National Training and Technical Assistance Center

The Bureau of Justice Assistance National Training and Technical Assistance Center (BJA NTTAC) offers training and technical assistance for prosecutors' offices to:

- Help assess their capacity to prosecute violent crime cases.
- Identify programming gaps and make recommendations to enhance processes.

- Provide actionable recommendations across the prosecution landscape to ensure violent crime cases are prioritized.
- Identify strategies to strengthen cases and increase convictions.

For more information on how BJA NTTAC can support your community's needs, visit <https://bjatta.bja.ojp.gov/>.

Capital Case Litigation Training and Technical Assistance Program

This training and technical assistance (TTA) program provides support to prosecutors nationwide on implementing improvements throughout the field of capital case litigation. It focuses on four main implementation goals: (1) develop and apply model standards of practice and qualifications for state and local prosecutors; (2) work to develop resources that minimize the potential for error in capital trials; (3) provide TTA that specifically focuses on improved ethics standards as well as each phase of a capital trial; and (4) utilize 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>.

National Public Safety Partnership

The National Public Safety Partnership (PSP) is a 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. This model enables DOJ to provide jurisdictions of different sizes and diverse needs with data-driven, evidence-based strategies tailored to their unique local needs so they can build their capacities to address violent crime challenges. As part of each site's PSP team, prosecutors have the opportunity to join other PSP prosecutors through the Prosecution Community of Practice where topics specific to prosecutors are discussed. PSP has engaged with more than 50 sites since the program's inception. More information can be found at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/national-public-safety-partnership/overview>. Information on the PSP clearinghouse is available at: <https://www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/Clearinghouse>.

Prosecutors' Guide to Reducing Violent Crime and Building Safer Communities

This guide provides a systematic way for each prosecutor's office to assess its strengths and weaknesses with respect to several critical elements, notably those capabilities that will enable the office to develop and enhance policies

and practices to be most effective in the real world of that jurisdiction. It also suggests ways to enhance those capabilities and provides examples of policies and practices that might be developed or improved. This is a companion piece to the Major City Chiefs Violent Crime Reduction Operations Guide and is available at: <https://innovativeprosecutionsolutions.org/>.

Prosecutor Researcher Collaborative

Recognizing the critical need for evidence-based research to assist in developing, implementing, and sustaining unbiased crime reduction strategies and best practices for prosecutors, BJA created the Prosecutor Researcher Collaborative. The Collaborative works with prosecutors' offices to review existing research, determine where further research is needed, and work to improve prosecutorial practices to reduce violent crime and build trust within communities. The project team works together to conduct thorough research, convene a group of cross-disciplinary experts, host executive sessions to address topics on effective and unbiased prosecutorial strategies, manage short-term and onsite research assistance to prosecutors' offices, provide technical assistance, and develop and disseminate publications, issue briefs, online resources, videos, and training to bring awareness to the findings.

State Administering Agencies

Many Office of Justice Programs formula grants are awarded directly to state governments, which then set priorities and allocate funds within that state. For more information on how a state intends to distribute formula grant funds, contact the appropriate state administering agency (SAA). To find your SAA, visit: <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/state-administering-agencies/overview>.

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