DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today’s webinar, “Funding Opportunities for Your Community in 2022: An Overview of What’s Ahead,” hosted by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. So at this time, it’s my pleasure to introduce one of today’s presenters, Ruby Qazilbash, the Associate Deputy Director within the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Ruby?

RUBY QAZILBASH: Thank you so much, Daryl. And welcome, everyone. We’ll go over, I also would like to introduce my co-presenter, David Lewis, so you can see, and then I will kick things off.

So I’d love to greet everyone and welcome you to today’s webinar on behalf of BJA’s Acting Director Kristen Mahoney. Really want to thank you for taking your time out to learn about BJA’s funding opportunities. And the overarching objective of the webinar is to do just that, is to make you aware of funding opportunities that we anticipate will become available during the coming weeks and months. Given time constraints, we won’t be able to go in-depth on each and every program, but we will provide you with enough information so that you can identify and flag certain funding opportunities that may be of interest to you and your community. And you can visit our website for detailed information about all of the programs.

I’d be remiss if I didn’t take a moment to just continue to recognize the challenging times that we find ourselves in as members of the criminal justice and public safety community. We find ourselves facing an ongoing worldwide pandemic devastating and also ongoing opioid crisis, and other problem drugs that continue to impact the nation, growing mental health challenges, and diminished public confidence in law enforcement. And the professions and disciplines that are represented on of those of you on today’s call really represent the frontlines that are dealing with these unprecedented and pretty highly complex challenges. A lot of the funding opportunities that you’re going to hear about today are directly responsive to these challenges and can help augment your local efforts and revenue sources. So to everyone on this call, especially to those of you on the front line, we thank you for all that you do for our communities and to keep us safe. And now, we are going to talk about how we can help bring some federal resources to your community to help address those challenges.

So on the next slide, we want to just let you know a little bit about who we are. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is located within the Office of Justice Programs or OJP. And OJP provides a wide range of services to the criminal justice community in the form of grants and training and technical assistance and research. So although our focus today is on BJA, Bureau of Justice Assistance funding opportunities, there are other OJP offices shown on this slide that offer additional grants and programs to support our
shared public safety missions. The COPS Office and the Office on Violence Against Women are two other DOJ components that provide important resources for the criminal justice community. And at OJP, we strive to prevent and to reduce crime. And we do that through a comprehensive approach. We work to engage and empower those in at risk environments, to advance systemic improvements in the justice system, and to deliver effective and outcome-driven capabilities and programs.

On the next slide, I just want to share with you that BJA is really proud to support our nation’s state, local, and tribal criminal justice agencies with the expressed purpose of reducing crime and strengthening communities. One of the most important ways that we do this is by providing grants to agencies and communities in order to support those local efforts. And we do our best to design programs that are responsive to today’s real world challenges and to provide maximum flexibility for local implementation. BJA’s committed to streamlining our application process where we can and minimizing the administrative burden of managing our grants. And we’ve made a lot of progress in doing that in these years. I don’t think it’s ever been easier to apply for and manage BJA grants. In other words, we ask you not to be intimidated by the process or think that you need to be an experienced grant manager to successfully apply for BJA funding. If you have the desire to apply, we have the support to help you succeed. But it’s really important, I’ve got to say, not to procrastinate until once you see that a solicitation is open that you or your community or agency is interested in. Waiting until the last week to apply might just not leave you with enough time to gather all the necessary information needed for the application. So we really want you to succeed. In order to do that, we encourage you to start early.

On the next slide. There’s two types of grants, discretionary and formula. For discretionary grants, applicants apply directly to OJP to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and you do that through Grants.gov. The discretionary grants are typically competitive. They’re awards that are based on predetermined review processes that are published in the solicitation, and they’re also dependent on the availability of funds. For most programs, we receive more applications than we actually have funding for. So we try to fund the strongest proposals based on objective review criteria. Formula grants are typically awarded on a noncompetitive basis, which usually means that every eligible applicant receive some funding. The amount of funding for a specific agency or jurisdiction can vary based on a variety of factors, which often includes population and crime rates. And most formula grant programs are administered at the state level by State Administering Agencies or SAAs. If you don’t have an active relationship with your SAA, you can start one, and if you don’t know who that individual or agency is within your state, you can find a complete contact list on BJA’s website.
So now, let’s talk about FY22 Funding Opportunities. On the next slide, you can see that we’ve done our best to group these by topic area. And I’m going to start off and talk about the solicitations and programs that support behavioral health and community-based approaches to criminal justice interventions.

After I go through these, I’m going to pass the baton to David Lewis, who’s going to go over BJA’s programs that support law enforcement and courts, and then you’ll still meet—see me again to round things out on our programs that support fractions as well as our formula programs.

So the first program to tell you about is our Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program or COSSAP. So very few communities have been spared by the effects of the opioid epidemic and other substance use disorders. Substance use and mental health are two of the most often sited challenges for jurisdictions whether large or small, urban or rural. And COSSAP supports efforts to reduce overdose deaths, promote public safety, and support access to treatment and recovery services. There are nine purpose areas that can accommodate proposals at various entry points across the criminal justice spectrum to include alternatives to incarceration, law enforcement lead to diversion, recovery and support services, and medication-assisted treatment to name a few.

On the next slide. COSSAP allows you really to craft a proposal that is right for your community and responsive to your community’s needs. The average award amount for site-based awards is 3 million under COSSAP and for local site-based awards is one million.

On the next slide, we talk about the justice and mental health collaboration program. This program seeks to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among criminal justice, mental health, and substance use treatment disorder treatment entities. And the goal here is increasing access to mental health and other treatment services for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. Example projects include but aren’t limited to mental health courts and other court-based programs and programs that support cooperative efforts between public health officials and service providers that connects people with treatment and other social services. Average awards for this program are in the $550,000 range. And a note here that we also plan to complete the training and technical assistance component of this solicitation this year as well.

On the next slide is the prescription drug monitoring program. This program has been funded since 2006. Prescription Drug Monitoring or PDMP, this program enhances the
capacity of regulatory and law enforcement agencies as well as public health agencies depending on where the PDMP resides or sits within that state to collect and analyze controlled substance, prescription data, and other scheduled chemical products through centralized databases administered by one agency designated in that state.

The goal of this solicitation will be to invest in partnership with state PDMPs, and strategies to strengthen the national or nation’s PDMP system and support enhancements to state PDMPs that improve clinical decision making and prevent the abuse and diversion of controlled substances such as opioids and other prescription drugs. Under the program, grants can be used to fund staff of PDMPs including data analysts and epidemiologist support program evaluation, and fund contracts with vendors that might operate the state PDMP, and connect with other systems within the state and with other state programs. We anticipate making around 14 awards of up to two million each.

The Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program is based on the principle that sustainable reductions in serious and violent crime require collaboration amongst a lot of partners within the criminal justice system with service providers and the communities that they serve. And these partnerships extend to community development corporations and private businesses involved in local revitalization efforts. In funding under this program supports data-driven, community-oriented strategies to reduce crime in specific neighborhoods that have concentrations of serious and violent crime. Average award amounts under this program are $900,000, BJA intend to make up to 14 awards at that amount. And also noting here that the training and technical assistance for this program will also be completed this year.

BJA’s STOP program is a School Violence Interruption Program and provides funding to support threat assessments, mental health training, anti-bullying training, and tech solutions such as anonymous reporting systems for schools. The ultimate goal of the program is to provide students and teachers with resources to recognize and to prevent school violence. The COPS Office to note also administers a companion program that’s really focused on doors, locks, cameras, and other target-hardening measures. We encourage people if you’re interested in this program to also visit the COPS Office website for more information on their companion program. Every community could potentially benefit from this program.

The Kevin and Avonte Program is aimed at reducing injury and death of missing individuals with dementia and developmental disabilities. The program supports local jurisdictions efforts to reduce the number of deaths and injuries of people with forms of dementia such as Alzheimer’s disease, or developmental disabilities such as autism,
who due to their condition, wander from safe environment, and to design established or operate a holistic, locally-based and proactive program to locate those individuals or prevent their wandering from safe environments. This program provides funding to law enforcement and other public safety agencies to implement locative technologies to track missing people and to such agencies and partnering nonprofit organizations to develop or operate programs to prevent wandering and increase individual safety as well as facilitate rescues.

Next is BJA’s Connect and Protect Program. Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program, and this program supports cross-system collaboration to improve public safety and health responses to, and outcomes for, people with mental health disorders or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders that come into contact with the justice system. It really focuses on building collaborative teams between law enforcement and their behavioral health counterparts within a community. We anticipate making up to 27 awards at the average amount of $550,000 per award.

Next is the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, and this is a solicitation that is actually a Department of Justice-wide solicitation that BJA contributes to. It seeks to improve public safety and victim services in tribal communities and it provides federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia with the opportunity to apply for funding to aid in a comprehensive and coordinated approach to public safety and victimization. In CTAS, we refer to categories as purpose areas and applicants can apply for funding under the purpose area or areas that best address their tribe’s concerns related to public safety, criminal and juvenile justice, and responses to domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and other crimes. So under CTAS, BJA oversees Purpose Areas 2, 3, and 4. Purpose Area 2 supports comprehensive tribal justice system strategic planning. Purpose Area 3 supports any supports that are needed within an adult tribal justice system from prevention to behavioral health to treatments, tribal courts, corrections, reentry, and strategies that address violent crime. And Purpose Area 4 is about infrastructure. So we can support tribal justice system infrastructure investments through renovation and also permanent modular building. You’ll see here on this slide a specific breakdown for the number of awards and amounts in relation to the different purpose areas.

Next is Justice Counts Implementation. The goal of this program is to spur adoption of justice counts metrics to enable collection and meaningful aggregation of data and support data-driven decision making about criminal justice policy and budget at both the state and national levels. We plan to make up to 20 awards of up to $350,000 each. We also plan to complete training and technical assistance to support this program with one award at approximately $3 million.
On the next slide, and this is the last slide that I'll go over with you before I pass the presentation to my colleague David Lewis, under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, State Level Program Assessment and Coordination, we'll be selecting a provider to provide overall initiative coordination on justice reinvestment and to work in collaboration with the state level training and technical assistance providers to conduct an initiative-wide evaluation. We anticipate making one award of up to $750,000.

And on the next slide, we will start with our programs that support law enforcement. And I will pass the baton to David Lewis for this one.

DAVID LEWIS: Thank you, Ruby. As Ruby said, this is David Lewis. I’m a Senior Policy Advisor at the Bureau of Justice Assistance. And I’ve been here for a number of years. I’ve worked on programs both here at BJA and from the field. Body-worn cameras are increasingly seen as a must have for many law enforcement agencies and communities. BJA funds the purchase of body-worn cameras that are implemented as part of a comprehensive Body-Worn Camera Program. For those of you who have waded in these waters, do you know how many second and third order considerations there are when it comes to body-worn cameras, including deployment policy, digital storage, cost, strategies, privacy concerns, and others? Our Body-Worn Camera Program provides much more than just funding to purchase cameras. BJA has a body-worn camera toolkit and a clearinghouse website for agencies interested in planning and implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program. Whether you’re starting from scratch or want to enhance an existing program, our Body-Worn Camera Program clearinghouse has a wealth of resources for you. Check out our website for more information.

Award amounts for this program range from 10,000 to $2,000,000 depending on the agency site. The number of awards made will vary on the number of applications received.

The Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officers and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability is part of BJA’s VALOR program, which is specifically designed to assist agencies in improving the immediate and long-term safety, wellness and resilience for their officers. The program provides no-cost training, resources, and partnerships for law enforcement officers and departments. I urge you to visit the BJA VALOR page for additional information. This is a training and technical assistance program and BJA estimates making four TTA awards plus four smaller site-based awards. The average amount for the TTA awards is $3,000,000. The amount for the site-based award is still to be determined.
The Collaborative Crisis Response Training Program. This is an educational program focusing on crisis response for law enforcement and correctional officers to provide the knowledge and skills to interact with those who have behavioral health or disability. This program is specifically looking for applications from state local and tribal law enforcement and correctional agencies for the listed elements here. BJA estimates making up to 20 awards for an average amount of $375,000.

The Smart Policing Initiative provides funding to support our test—our test promising initiatives and practices aimed at a community pressing crime problems. The idea behind the Smart Policing Initiative is to promote creativity to enhance best practices and also discover the next practices that will help policing evolve and become more effective. So if there's something that you're currently doing or wanting to do that could hold promise for the rest of us, you should apply. Funds can be used for new personnel over time, software, hardware and other reliable—allowable items to support the project. Congress has asked that DOJ prioritize applications for development of real time crime centers in jurisdictions with high violent and gun crimes. BJA estimates making up to 10 awards with an average award amount of $500,000.

The Crime Gun Intelligence Centers Program is an important tool for communities experiencing high gun related violent crime. The purpose is to encourage local jurisdictions to include tribal to work with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives or ATF partners to identify firearms that are used unlawfully and their sources. With the ultimate goal of prosecuting perpetrators engaged in violent crime. CGICs as it's called utilize the National Integrated Ballistic Imaging Network or NIBIN, and utilizes intelligence, technology, and community engagement as part of their approach to reducing gun violence. BJA estimates making up to seven awards with an average award amount up to $700,000.

The Internet of Things program is another BJA technical assistance program to assist law enforcement prosecutors, judges, corrections, and public safety. This program applicants will be limited to entities that do provide TTA and can develop and present training courses to public safety nationwide and especially be able to reach underserved areas. To select the TTA provider, we work in conjunction with BJA to identify these types of crimes and document promising practices approaches in addressing these issues. BJA estimates making up to four awards with an average award amount of $450,000.

The Intellectual Property Program or IPEP program is designed to protect public health safety and our nation's economy from counterfeit and pirated goods. Funding under this program can be used to cover expenses to establish task forces and conduct
investigations, forensic analysis, acquiring equipment to conduct investigations and prosecution. The aim is to prevent the [INDISTINCT] and identify criminal violations of intellectual property laws on a state local level. As a condition of these awards, state and local task forces are required to work in conjunction with the federal agencies in their areas who are also working intellectual property cases. This program also provides some training and technical assistance to state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies conducting intellectual property investigation. BJA estimates making up to six awards with an average award amount expected to be up to $250,000.

Now I want to provide some information over the next several slides on programs administered on the BJA’s forensic science portfolio. Beginning last year under fiscal year 2020, BJA expanded forensics portfolio from solely the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative, to a portfolio that now includes several additional programs for addition from the Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.

The Sexual Assault Kit Initiative or SAKI is critical to enhancing the criminal justice response to sexual assault and ensuring justice for victims. This not only helps point victims to advocates and needed services, but also helps jurisdiction implement best practices a comprehensive reform to help bring perpetrators to justice and increase safety in communities for preventing future sexual assaults. SAKI provides funding to support multidisciplinary community response teams to inventory track and expeditiously test previous unsubmitted sexual assault kits. Collected test lawfully of DNA from offenders and arrestees, produce necessary protocols and policies to improve collaboration among laboratories, police, prosecutors, and victim service providers. Provide resources to address the sexual assault investigation and prosecute result from evidence and CODIS kits produced by tested sexual assault kits and optimize victim notification protocols and services. BJA estimates making 40 awards with an average award of up to $1.2 million.

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program includes both individual, competitive, and formula-based programs. This information referred here pertains to the competitive-based program. The Coverdell competition program specifically focuses on the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner or coroner services, and seeks to improve these services, including those services provided by laboratories operated by states and units of local government. BJA estimates making 10 awards with an estimated average amount of up to $400,000.

The Postconviction Testing of DNA program assists in defraying the cost associated with postconviction DNA testing in cases of violent felony federal as defined by state law in which actual innocence might be demonstrated. Funding may be used to identify and
reduce such postconviction cases and to locate and analyze associated biological evidence. BJA estimates making 12 awards with an estimated average amount of up to $500,000.

Agencies of all sizes have unsolved cases that have been labeled as cold cases. Under BJA’s Prosecuting Cold Cases Program, successful applicants will receive support for the prosecution of violent crimes and cold cases where DNA from a suspect has been identified, and the suspect may be known or unknown, provided the DNA from a suspect has been identified. Funding will support investigative activities in crime and forensic analysis that could lead to the prosecution. Funds under this program can be used to prosecute violent crime cold cases and decrease the number of violent crime cold cases waiting prosecution. BJA estimates making 10 awards, with an estimated average amount of up to $450,000.

Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroners System Program. Investigation of violent deaths performed by medical examiner or coroners offices are vital to criminal justice. However, there are systematic issues and death investigation data qualities and infrastructure, inadequate facilities, and inconsistent expertise levels. In addition, the medical examiner-coroner community lacks adequate personnel, and resources to address medical legal death investigation needs. This strengthening the medical examiner-coroner system program is designed to address some of these deficiencies by providing funding for forensic pathology fellowships and projects that assist the medical examiner-coroner offices to seek accreditation and personal certification. This program not only helps address the extreme shortage of board certified forensic pathologists in the United States, but also provides medical examiner-coroner offices with the resources to become accredited to support the enhancement of medical legal death investigations nationwide. BJA estimates making 17 awards, with an estimated average amount of up to $165,000.

The Forensic Training and Technical Assistance Program is another BJA-managed TTA program and will be the first time that the Office of Justice Program has provided this type of support to states and site based awardees. The Forensic Training and Technical Assistance Program is specifically designed to support and enhance BJA forensic grantees in meeting their program outcomes to a range of TTA services. This program will be limited to TTA provider applicants, and BJA estimates only making one award with an estimated average amount of up to $5,000,000.

And this next section of today’s presentation will provide the current overview of BJA’s programs that are designed to support courts, prosecution, and defense. Next slide please.
The Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations Program is named in honor of Emmett Till, who was brutally murdered in 1955. This program is designed to support state, local, and tribal law enforcement, and prosecution with their investigations and prosecutions of racially motivated cold case murders. This program also includes support for victims’ families and stakeholders impacted by these cases. One note is the funds under this program are limited to cases where deaths occurred prior to 1980. BJA estimates up to six awards, with an estimated average amount of up to $2.5 million.

These next two slides deal with the Innovative Prosecution Solution for Combating Violent Crime or Smart Prosecution. Prosecutors play a vital role and are often underfunded and working with outdated technology and resources. BJA’s Innovative Prosecution Solution for Combating Violent Crime Program is designed to support state, local, and tribal prosecutor offices in reducing caseloads, improving processes, and improving technology to better manage and track cases. In addition, these prosecutors are overwhelmed with the amount of evidence attached to modern day cases, and the intricacies of the investigation and prosecution of crimes related to cyber, human trafficking, gun, and other drug crimes. This program, like many of the BJA’s offerings, provides a high degree of flexibility to craft a proposal to meet specific state, local, and tribal challenges. BJA estimates up to six awards, which are estimated to average in the amount up to $350,000.

With the recent number of hate crimes being investigated and prosecuted by state, local, and tribal agencies, the BJA Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program is designed to assist law enforcement and prosecutors with their outreach with the goal to educate community members, victims, agency partners, and especially staff about hate crimes and how they can be addressed. This program provides funds to support expenses associated with investigation and prosecution of these types of crimes. BJA estimates up to 15 awards with an estimated average amount up to $300,000.

The John R. Justice Grant Program, also referred as the JRJ Student Loan Repayment Program, is designed to offer an incentive for all states and territories to be able to attract, recruit, and retain talented and eligible local state and federal public defenders. The goal of this program is to assist state local prosecutors in setting up and maintaining a student loan repayment assistance program for attorneys with the most state loan financial burden who agree to commit to the extended employment and public interest law and those roles for a minimum of 36 months. BJA estimates up to 56 awards with an estimated average amount up to $35,147. BJA plans to release this by January 28th and close by March 22nd.
The Public Safety Partnership National Training and Technical Assistance Program enables DOJ to provide jurisdictions of different sizes and diversity that needs with data-driven evidence-based strategies tailored to their unique local needs to build their capabilities and to address violent crime challenges. This model includes a strong partnership with selected jurisdictions for state and local partners, as well as partnerships with federal agencies.

The PSP Program, as it’s called, selected sites receives expedited coordinated training and technical assistance and array of resources from DOJ to enhance local public safety strategies. A PSP Program has engaged with more than 40 sites since the program’s inception. BJA will announce when applications will be accepted for new PSP location. This BJA—this BJA program provides support to local, state, and federally-recognized Indian tribal governments to establish and enhance community-oriented court models for the focus on communities with significant crime issues. The ultimate goal of the Community Courts Program is the application of community court principles to a wider community and for these principles to be successfully replicated as a community court model in other jurisdictions. BJA estimates up to 10 awards and an estimated average amount of up to $500,000.

The Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program supports efforts by state, local, and tribal courts to address the needs of individuals in the criminal justice system with substance abuse issues including targeting the needs of veterans. The goal of the program is to equip courts and other criminal jurisdiction with treatment and service providers with tools to effectively integrate evidence-based substance abuse treatment. Random mandatory drug testing, equitable sanctions and incentives, and transitional services in judicially supervised court settings with jurisdictions over high risk. High needs in individuals that will reduce recidivism and substance abuse can prevent overdoses and deaths. This includes a focus on persons with co-occurring disorders, many of whom are served in these programs. BJA estimates up to 45 awards under three categories. These categories will be clearly articulated in the posted solicitation for this program. And I would urge those interested to visit the adult program page on the BJA website. The veteran’s treatment court discretionary grant program supports efforts by state, local and tribal courts to address the needs of individuals in the criminal justice system with substance abuse, and especially those needs of our veterans. The goal of this program is to equip courts and other jurisdictions and treatment service providers with tools to effectively integrate evidence-based substance abuse treatment, random mandatory drug testing, equitable sanctions and incentives, and traditional services in just—in judicially supervised court settings. Also to jurisdictions that have high risk, high need of individuals can reduce recidivism and substance abuse and prevent overdoses
and deaths. This includes a focus on persons with co-occurring disorders, many that are covered under these programs. BJA estimates up to 22 awards under three categories. These categories will be clearly articulated in the posted vote station for this program. And I would urge these—those interested to visit the Veteran’s Treatment Court Program page on the BJA website.

Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions Program and the Capital Case Litigation Program. This program provides funding to support case reviews and post-conviction claims of innocents with a focus on cases at greatest risk for error. This is an important program, which helps to identify any systematic issues that may lead to wrongful convictions. And most of all, ensure that innocent persons are exonerated. I will now turn things over to my colleague. This particular program, BJA estimates 12 awards and the amount is to be determined. Turn us back over to you, Ruby. Thank you very much.

RUBY QAZILBASH: Thank you so much, David. And hi again, everyone. I realized that I failed to fully introduce myself when I joined you the first time around. Right now, I have the honor and privilege of supporting BJA’s policy office as the Acting Deputy Director. But normally, I’m BJA’s Associate Deputy Director for our Corrections Reentry and Justice Reform team. So I am especially happy to tell you, we are almost to the back end of the presentation. Thank you for all of your interest so far but I’m happy to be able to talk about the BJA’s programs that support corrections next, and then we’ll round out with BJA’s formula programs.

So the next program that we’re going to hear about is the Combating Contraband Cell Phone Use in Prisons. And the purpose of this program is to assist state and local governments, including federally recognized Indian tribes that have detention capacity to operationalize effective and secure manage access systems in order to prevent, to detect, to seize, to protect against and stop the presence and use of contraband cell phones by detainees and inmates and correctional facilities. Applicants under this program may propose to enhance or implement new physical, technical, or tactical systems such as manage access systems for these purposes. In addition, applicants are really encouraged to identify strategies to educate relevant staff and other key stakeholders within the facility environment about steps they can take to address contraband cell phones as well as to define a process to gather use and share intelligence acquired after the seizing of contraband cell phones.

On the next slide is the Prison Rape Elimination Act Program. And the goal of the PREA site-based program is to assist confinement facilities to include prisons, jails, juvenile facilities, community confinement facilities, and police lockups, and the agencies that
oversee them in preventing, identifying, and responding to sexual victimization in these facilities, and to support compliance with the National PREA standards. The overall objectives of the program are to reduce sexual abuse and confinement, to increase staff capacity for preventing sexual abuse and confinement, to promote integration of the PREA standards in the day-to-day operations and cultures of confinement facilities, and to identify and document innovative and promising practices in order to inform similar efforts across the nation. We’re looking with this program to create cultures of zero tolerance of sexual victimization within confinement facilities. We estimate awards will be up to $250,000. And you can see the different categories of awards depending on the unit of government, whether state, local, or tribal.

On the next slide, I’ll talk about BJA’s—the next few slides, we’ll talk about BJA’s second chance recidivism reduction and reentry programs. This one is our community-based reentry program. And this program provides opportunities for nonprofit service providers and tribes to implement or expand on reentry programs that demonstrate strong partnerships with corrections, including parole, probation and other reentry services providers in order to provide those critical transitional services as people return from incarceration back home to their communities. These partnerships should develop comprehensive case management plans that directly address an individual’s criminogenic risk and needs as determined by validated risk assessments and include delivery and/or facilitation of services that are specific to those needs. Grants made under this program can be used for mentoring during incarceration through the transition back to the community and post release for the important transitional services to assist in the reintegration back into the communities for people that are returning home and training on the—on reentry issues as well as on victims issues.

This solicitation is specific for nonprofit organizations to apply for funding directly. While other reentry solicitations may be directed towards states, localities, and tribes. As the eligible applicants, nonprofits could partner with them as a sub-grantee under these other solicitations, for example, partnering with states or locals as a sub-grantee in order to be the community reentry service provider. We anticipate making up to 17 awards and the average range of—in up to $750,000 per award. The next slide, please. The Improving Reentry Education and Employment Outcomes Program is really looking to enhance a correction systems ability to expand its educational opportunities and employment programs. And we’re looking for ones that emphasize strong partnerships with corrections. In fact, a hallmark of this program is that applicants if units of local and state and tribal government are eligible to apply as well as nonprofit organizations. For nonprofit organizations, we are looking for strong partnerships with a correctional entity to ensure that they get access and have a strong partnership and can develop relationships with individuals prior to release. The program seeks to reduce recidivism
and like I said enhance those educational opportunities as well as employment prospects for people to be able to reenter the workforce. Partnerships can support the establishment and improvement of academic and vocational education programs as well as career training programs available within prisons and jails. We anticipate making up to 32 awards under this program and the average award amount is $900,000.

On the next slide is another program under the Second Chance Act called Improving Reentry for Adults with Substance Use Disorders. The goal of this program is to really ramp up and enhance correction systems ability to address the substance use disorder treatment needs and/or those with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders for people during incarceration and as they’re leaving incarceration to ensure a warm handoff to treatment and continued promotion of recovery within the community and in the process improving both public health and public safety. In FY ’22, we anticipate making eight awards and the amounts of up to $900,000 and units of state, local, and tribal government as well as nonprofit organizations are eligible applicants for this program.

On the next slide, we’re covering two programs on one slide here. You’ve heard David talk about programs in BJA’s Smart Suite. The hallmark of those programs is that we are asking organizations, agencies, to innovate to try new things, or to scale up what evidence shown has worked to produce a better outcome for a given target population. We want to learn along with you and make sure that we’re making your learning available. We can learn from failures too. Sometimes, those are just as important as successes so that others know what not to do. This program, Smart Reentry and Smart Supervision is going through a change in FY ’22. And we’re looking to help corrections agencies reduce recidivism and improve related outcomes by better preparing people for release and facilitating successful reentry or improving supervision outcomes by improving agencies capacity to do two things: providing services to support people based on their needs and facilitating successful reintegration through accountability and positive change, and we want to track outcomes of current policies and practices to inform future decisions. For Smart Reentry, we'll make up to eight awards of a million dollars each under Smart Supervision, we anticipate making up to four awards of up to $850,000 each. An important note here is that there will be an accompanying training and technical assistance competition that’s anticipated to support both programs in the amount of $7 million. And a large specified through the solicitation portion will be set aside to develop technology, which will be deployed to the Smart Reentry and Smart Supervision competitively selected applicants.

Next is another program under the Second Chance Act. This is the Pay for Success Initiative. And this is really looking to work with state, local, or tribal governments to
enhance or implement performance-based or outcomes-based contracts, the idea of paying for performance or paying for outcomes. Those contracts can be with reentry service providers and/or permanent supported housing providers looking to provide individualized services and case management with a goal of reducing recidivism and addressing substance use as well as mental health disorders and other treatment needs impacting people who were formerly incarcerated. We anticipate making up to six awards, up to $1 million each.

And on the next slide is the Swift, Certain, and Fair Supervision Program. This program improves supervision success rates and focuses on implementing the HOPE Program principles of swiftness, certainty, and fairness, and supervision. It seeks to help communities reduce the number of crimes committed by people on community supervision, which in turn enhances the safety of the communities they serve and decreases re-admissions to prisons and jails. State, local, and tribal community supervision agencies are eligible under this program to develop and test new or enhanced applications of Swift, Certain, and Fair principles of intervention, in order to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for people under community supervision. We anticipate making up to five awards of up to $800,000 under this program.

And on the next slide, this is also a new program under BJA’s Corrections Team improving corrections data analysis virtual academies. Under this initiative, we are really looking to provide assistance and a boot camp of sorts to both institutional and community corrections data analysts to improve their skills, to help them help their agencies make the best use of their data of their analysis of that data, and help the field appreciate standards of performance and techniques within the profession itself. So we’re looking for one provider under this program to provide these services of up to $1 million in FY ‘22.

Next is something that’s specific for tribal corrections and we’re looking to help tribal corrections improve and increase their capacity by selecting a training and technical assistance provider. We are looking for this training and technical assistance provider who will assist grantees under Purpose Area 3 of the see tasks of tribal assistance solicitation that I spoke about earlier. And so any tribal grantees that we take in in FY ’22 that has a focus on corrections will be supported by the training and technical assistance providers selected through this competition. And also this provider will be providing specific services to help tribal jurisdictions implement or enhance community supervision practices through a tribal probation academy and also to plan, implement, and enhance reentry programming strategies for tribal communities. We anticipate making up to two awards of up to $500,000 under this program.
Next is the Community Supervision Resource Center. This is also a new initiative for BJA. We are looking to stand up a Community Supervision Resource Center to serve as a resource hub for community supervision authorities, and that includes pretrial probation and parole. It’ll provide information, guidance, and support on best practices and evidence to strengthen and make their work more effective. This will also be a vehicle for us to provide micro grants to small and rural probation agencies to improve supervision outcomes for individuals that they supervise and it’ll allow us to get funding to—needed funding to small and rural probation agencies that might not have had the opportunity to take advantage of federal funding in the past. We anticipate making one award, including of up to $2 million to include $1 million set aside for that micro grant program.

And we will round out the discussion about solicitations and programs available in FY '22 with our Formula Program. So we’ll start this last section by talking about the DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction Program. This provides formula funding to states and units of local government that have existing crime labs, to increase the capacity of publicly funded forensic DNA, and DNA database labs to process more DNA samples. Thereby helping to reduce the number of forensic DNA and DNA database samples that are awaiting analysis and/or prevent a backlog of forensic and database DNA samples. The formula will allow for awards up to 136 awards of approximately $2 million at the upper end based on the formula.

Next is Project Safe Neighborhoods. This is designed to create safer neighborhoods through sustained reduction in crime associated with gang and with gun violence. PSN’s effectiveness is really in the cooperation of the states and the local agencies and the federal agencies with—engaged in a unified approach that’s led by the U.S. Attorney in each district. There are 93 districts we anticipate making 93 awards of up to $350,000 each.

The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program is one of the only funding sources for treatment dedicated solely to substance use disorder treatment behind the walls of correctional facilities. This is a formula program, it goes out to states, whoever the governor designates, often times that is the SAA within a state that I mentioned earlier. But funds can also go to support jails as well as aftercare services for people who have left incarceration. Up to 56 awards will be named to the state they stay and the territory. And the average award amount is about $514,000 again this is a formula program, so it’s based on a formula that’s provided for them as statute. And note here, that we also anticipate a training and technical assistance competition to provide support and best practices to those formula grantees.
Next is the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. This is OJP’s flagship grant program and the leading source of federal justice funding to state, local, and tribal jurisdictions. In JAG there are these eight broad purpose areas that support law enforcement programs, prosecution and court programs, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, and tech improvement, crime victim and witness program, as well as mental health program. Estimated total funding for a local JAG award is up to $113 million this year and we anticipate making approximately 1,000 awards to local jurisdictions. Estimated total funding available for state JAG allocation is up to a $175 million and again 56 awards considering the states, D.C., and territories.

With the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. The purpose here is to reimburse states, counties, tribes, cities, and local jurisdictions for up to 50 percent of the cost of body armor vest purchased for law enforcement officers. Since 1999 this program has awarded more than 13,000 jurisdictions a total of $520 million in federal funds for the purpose—for the purchase of over 1 million vests to help keep law enforcement officers, corrections officers safe on the job. Estimated number of payments this year is 4,500 and the estimated funding amount is $25 million.

In terms of other types of assistance there are also payment-based programs some of which you also—you heard about. These are awarded directly by OJP to eligible recipients that are made aware that there are available. Applicants would apply directly to BJA, they’re on a reimbursement basis, and the payment formula can be statutorily defined.

So, what’s next? When do we get to see all these solicitations? Only one is actually released right now and that’s that Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation actually released in December 2021, the rest will be released on a rolling basis. So we really ask that you are visiting BJA’s website in the upper right-hand portion of BJA’s website there is a link to subscribe, so that you can be kept up-to-date. And also Grants.gov is an incredibly valuable resource. You can opt-in to get notified when solicitations become available, the funding cycle, and then future funding cycles. For the most application submission deadlines, solicitations are usually open for 60 days, sometimes longer. And for funding resources for FY ’22, you can check out the Department of Justice Program Plan site, this should be released soon that covers all of the funding opportunities across the department. So I mentioned that the Office of Justice Programs has six components, most of us make grant funding available but there’s also the Office on Violence Against Women and the COPS Office. The DOJ program plan covers funding opportunities across all of the grant-making components and all grant-making components make their grant, and solicitation, and funding opportunities through
Grants.gov, which is, I can't over emphasize enough is really important to be registered for, so that you’re prepared when funding opportunities present themselves.

And here is BJA’s website that I mentioned, OJP Grant Funding Resources, Grants.gov, which we’ve talked about, JustGrants, which is also talked about which is the new Grant Management System for all of the Department of Justice grant-making components. Office of Justice Programs Award Data, so post-award once the competitions have been concluded and awards have been made after the fact, including for all years past, you can see award data and understand which jurisdictions or applicants did receive competitive funding as well as who received formula funding and what amount and for what, under each solicitation that not just BJA but the Office of Justice Programs, all components put out. Another helpful resource is NIJ’s CrimeSolutions.gov, there is a link here and this is an important website if you’re researching what works, what is the evidence and effectiveness rating for different criminal justice programs, initiatives, and interventions.

And I think I will turn it back over to Daryl who’s going to discuss the future of the Grant Applicants Education Series and just a couple of more resources and I thank you so much again for all of your attention and interest in BJA funding opportunities and look forward to answering questions.

DARYL FOX: Thank you, Ruby. So, yes, we'll just go over a couple more slides on some additional resources that you all can access. This is with your applications and such. But just want to—the questions have come in pretty heavily on “Will this recording and PowerPoint be available post-event?” And the answer is yes. This will be posted to the BJA website, the link has been posted into the chat. So we’ll post the PowerPoint, the transcript, and the recording from today on that website. So you'll be able to go back and access as needed. So as Ruby mentioned the next Applicant Education Series webinar as well as previous ones will be posted to this website here that’s been entered in the chat, the BJA.gov website. The next one will be on the 26th of January 1:00 P.M. as well. So be on the look-out for that and you can go ahead and register for that from the website. If you’re interested in becoming a peer reviewer this is important prior to the grant-making process you can please submit an up-to-date resume or curriculum vitae including your valid email address to the email address here just BJAreviewer@ojp.usdoj.gov. And just to note if you could put “Peer Reviewer Candidate Resume” in the subject line, those will be reviewed and edited, vetted and you’ll be contacted for future participation perhaps. So please go ahead and email those to that email.
As mentioned, the reminder will be this upcoming Funding Process webinar, second in the series. It’s going to be on the First Steps to Applying. So now that, you know, the different grant opportunities that will be made available. How do you get things moving? So it will be on the First Steps to Applying, How to Prepare, and then Other Considerations. So it’s going to be held January 26, 1:00 P.M. Eastern Time. And just like today’s this will be posted to the BJA website post-event. So if you are busy, unable to make—to make this you’ll be able to access those from the BJA website. Lastly, stay connected. So, you know, there’s a lot of information coming out, it help us to one place, several places you can go ahead and keep up-to-date. We have Text OJP option if you want to text OJP and then your email address to 468-311, you’ll subscribe. Message and data rates may apply. But it’s a good way to keep up-to-date via your phone. Social media outlets, Facebook, Twitter, and RSS Feeds are available here if you’re interested. And then once again for additional information, the funding opportunity section of the BJA’s website is a great repository for what’s coming out and it’ll be updated continuously through this next grant cycle.

And then the last thing there is—OJP Response Center has an email, it’s grants@ncjrs.gov. They also have a web chat function, a toll-free phone, and a TTY option for the hearing impaired. And they maintain a call center, so if you do ask specific questions about grant opportunities that are going to be coming out once they come out if you have questions within those you can contact them directly at these different options here through 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 A.M. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

So with that I mean we’re at the end of our presentation portion, so we do have about 25 minutes till the end of the webinar today, so we’re going to go ahead and open it up to questions. I see everybody’s been putting those in the Q and A box throughout the webinar. We want to thank you for that. Anybody that hasn’t that does have a question you can do so by clicking on the three dots bottom right-hand side of your screen and just select Q and A and send those to all the panelists. Perhaps we may not be able to get through all of them today but once again if you want to go ahead and contact the Response Center with additional questions you can do so. So Ruby and David will go ahead without further ado we just, kind of, hop into some of these questions.

For COSSAP, the C-O-S-S-A-P Program do you typically approve additional grant awards to refund the sustainment of successful initiatives originally funded with the COSSAP funds? Basically, can you be awarded two COSSAP grants at the same time?

RUBY QAZILBASH: I would say—happy to answer this, let me turn my video back on. As with any program the focus and for much of BJA funding the intention is to seed programs or to help scale up what works, to innovate, and to build capacity. And so we
are looking—I would say generally to help ensure that we’re getting to geographic distribution and that we’re looking to meet as much of the need and demand for any of these grant programs that is out there. So the first priority is to do that but based on the availability of funds, the number of applications that come in that are competitive, it is possible to receive a second award under many of these programs if not just to sustain but to actually enhance something that you might have attempted, or innovated, or piloted, or seeded within an initial or original BJA award. It certainly not guaranteed but for most of these programs it’s not prohibited to come back again as a current applicant or someone—a current applicant that has coming through the close of an existing project period.

DARYL FOX: Thank you for that, Ruby.

RUBY QAZILBASH: While we’re waiting for the next question to be asked. I just wanted to reiterate something that Daryl spoke about and that’s on peer reviewers. There’s a lot of you on the phone I’m sure people will also be listening to playback in the coming weeks, if you were unable to join today’s webinar. We are really, really interested in building our peer reviewer select people in that database, very interested in building that pool. We’ll—we’re also really interested in engaging people with web experience, if you don’t usually—when you become a peer reviewer you’ll fill out some information and you’ll click all of the different subject matters that you might have experience or expertise in, there’s also an other box. So if you got other experience or expertise including web experience within the system, within a particular area of the system please indicate that using that other box and please do consider becoming a BJA peer reviewer.

DARYL FOX: Okay. So the next question is regarding the Adult Drug Court and the Veterans Treatment Court Programs. If the full VTC appropriation is not awarded in a fiscal year is that money distributed to the Adult Drug Court Program? Or is it reserved for subsequent years under the Veteran Treatment Court Program?

RUBY QAZILBASH: That is a great question. So we need to go back to what Congress authorizes us to do with any particular programs. So we look and see what the authorizing statute or any particular guidance or direction that Congress is providing through the appropriation. So, to the extent that’s allowable to do that and we have funds remaining under one program, if we have additional unfunded competitive applications under another and Congress permits and the appropriation law permits we might do that. That is—if it’s allowable, we might do that.
DARYL FOX: And do you publish a breakdown of the distributed funds between those? Is that public information?

RUBY QAZILBASH: Between Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court?

DARYL FOX: Correct.

RUBY QAZILBASH: Yeah. The solicitations will delineate how much funding is available under each.

DARYL FOX: And the next question is about the JMHC Program and the duration. For how long is the duration of that program? Similarly for Byrne.

RUBY QAZILBASH: I actually don’t have the—an answer to that one off the top of my head. One thing I can know about Justice and Mental Health is that authorizing statute for that program, just to note for any interested applicants, really says that joint—there need to be—there needs to be joint application between a public safety agency and the mental health authority or an agency designated as the mental health authority by a unit of government. So, that’s important to note, the solicitation will state specifically whether that’s a two, three, or a four-year program. For the most part BJA’s projects period are in the three year range but there might be some that run a little bit shorter or a little bit longer depending how long in our experience or what we’re hearing from the field that takes to fully implement a program.

DARYL FOX: Just another—just a general eligibility question for the PDMP Program if you want to specify what that is, is it a state or any agency available for that particular program?

RUBY QAZILBASH: David, do you want to answer that question?

DAVID LEWIS: Yes. You have to have—there has to be a state program and you have to have that as a legislative, who’s in charge of that particular program.

DARYL FOX: Regarding the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, can the entity apply for FY 2022 if the funding will be utilized for different projects, enhancements?

DAVID LEWIS: They can—they can apply as Ruby said they can apply from—they can apply from year to year. But one thing that’s always taken into consideration is previous funding, other projects. But also is, they can’t apply for funds—additional funds or a
sustaining fund if what they said in the previous award was not completed as part of the project. So, there’s some evaluation that goes along with that. But, I mean, it doesn’t preclude them from applying for additional funding. If there are any restrictions usually in BJA, the solicitation, it will—it will specifically say that this is not a supplement funding or grantees from previous years, that’s usually stipulated in the solicitation.

DARYL FOX: Okay. Thanks, David. Regarding the STOP Program, once again, with eligibility, the potential for partnerships with local hospitals, nonprofits and higher education institutions, is that part of the prerequisite there for application? Also the duration of the award if that was known to expand on that.

RUBY QAZILBASH: Not yet, not by the folks on this call. I also want to mention that there are—we are having a three-pronged approach to educating the field, public safety field, key stakeholders, and any eligible or interested applicants about all of these funding opportunities this year. So this is the first wave, or the first prong, where we are trying to cover the entire waterfront of BJA’s anticipated fiscal year 2022 solicitations that will be announced in the weeks and the months to come. The second-prong approach is stakeholder-specific. So for each of the sections of this solicitation of this PowerPoint presentation, we’ll have a separate webinar that focuses on just those programs that address corrections and we will mark it back to the corrections community, same thing for all of the other different topic areas. And the third prong approach is per solicitation, especially if it’s new or different. You will see solicitation specific webinars and presentations that are announced in for what you can register or if you can’t make similar to this one, they’ll all be made available for playback after the fact. So I just want folks to know David and I are covering all of BJA’s solicitations, so we’re might not be prepared to answer very specific questions about funding levels and project periods. So there will be many other opportunities for you to get that information.

DAVID LEWIS: Yeah. I wanted to add on the STOP Program about the partnerships, you know, that’s one of the things that BJA does urge is the partnerships and who you’re working with [INDISTINCT] providing trainings. Ruby had mentioned also that you could be doing a project that one element of it would be BJA funding, but to what—to look at the COPS to augment. So, the more groups that you have involved with, the better the application will be.

DARYL FOX: So it would appear that the COSSAP would be the area, or the COSSAP Program, would be the area that would best address a family drug court program to help lower DNA cases or as an alternative to the state filing a DNA case on a child or family. Does that sound correct, in that assumption?
RUBY QAZILBASH: These—I can say that BJA receive—that might be an option under COSSAP but I would also ask folks to look at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and what they’re announcing in terms of juvenile drug court and family drug treatment court funding opportunities for FY ’22. BJA receives the drug court program and the veteran’s treatment court program appropriation from Congress. And we provide a proportionate amount to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention specific in the substance use and treatment arena to fund family drug courts and juvenile drug courts as well. Same goes for the Second Chance Act and that BJA receives the full appropriation from Congress, but we also send a proportionate amount of that appropriation to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to stand up and make funding opportunities available to support reentry of youth from consignment back home and to communities.

DARYL FOX: Regarding objective recruit review criteria, are those published in each individual program solicitation or are those generally published somewhere else?

RUBY QAZILBASH: No, absolutely. The review criteria will be included in each and every solicitation. There are usually weights or points that are associated with each component of an application. Next week’s webinar we’ll go into this in detail how to—how to get ready, how to put together—what a successful application looks like, what are the components held if it’s a competitive application and not a formula-based. What’s the process that BJA uses, how we receive scores from peer reviewers and how we can take that information and look at the most competitive applications? But yes, every solicitation will list the selection criteria and the weights associated with each of those selection criteria. For the most part, they are your description of the issue or your problem statement, how you’re describing the program or the project and how tight that is and how well you’re showing what you’re proposing to implement will address the issue or the problem that you identified in the statement, the capabilities and competencies of the organization, organizations, and particular people that are going to be working on it, what your budget looks like, and then what your plan is for evaluation and collecting performance measures and sustainability. Those are kind of the basics for every application. There’ll be nuances to each solicitation. They might have particular priority considerations. They might ask for some additional attachments to support the application and what you’re proposing to do. But all of that is laid out really clearly in each solicitation.

DARYL FOX: Regarding the Body-Worn Camera funding eligibility, are prosecutor’s offices eligible for the review, redaction storage, etcetera?
RUBY QAZILBASH: Not sure. David, if you know the answer to that question, I would—when the solicitation comes out, look at the definition of law enforcement. I know, for instance, obviously for sheriff’s deputies, for police officers, for corrections officers and folks that are working within confinement facilities, I can definitely see how prosecutors are a part of the law enforcement community within the criminal justice system. I am not sure about their eligibility under Body-Worn Cameras. I'm not sure if David knows, but if not, we can make sure that we answer it in FAQs and in that solicitation specific webinar.

DAVID LEWIS: Yeah, if it’s a prosecutor works, prosecutor investigators, are they talking about the attorneys themselves? I have not seen the application come in for that yet. But the one thing is that you mentioned—we've mentioned about storage. Storage is not a permissible expense as part of the Body-Worn Camera Program at this time.

DARYL FOX: Can you speak a little more to with the training and technical assistance components are to some of the grants that were mentioned, you know, what specifically does that mean?

RUBY QAZILBASH: Yeah, that’s a really good question. Most site-based programs for which that BJA has where we are accepting applications from and making competitive awards to jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, there is a training and technical assistance provider that’s made available by BJA through a separate award to help those site-based grantees meet the goals and objectives of their competitively funded applications. So the training and technical assistance providers get access to the project narrative and the purpose of the program as it was funded. They make outreach, so we do a warm handoff to that training and technical assistance provider. A lot of times for a lot of programs that looks like a coach who sets up a regular call with the—with the grantee to understand, help them track progress, help them keep accountable, help them understand to get through any barriers or kind of rough spots. They can also help to create peer communities. A lot of times grantees learn way more from each other. They are tackling the same problem, maybe trying the same thing or a different thing. So that’s what the training and technical assistance provider can do, providing one-on-one support to each of the grantees and looking at the cohort or all of the active grantees under a program and creating that peer-to-peer network.

DARYL FOX: Are there any funding opportunities for postdoctoral fellows through BJA?

RUBY QAZILBASH: Another great question. In fiscal year 2021, BJA did re-launch its Visiting Fellows Program. We made Visiting Fellowships possibility under nine different categories. We ended up making five Visiting Fellowship awards available and it’s still to
be determined whether we will offer the Visiting Fellowship program again in fiscal year 2022. That has not yet been decided and that’s why it wasn’t addressed during the presentation today, and that’s why we really ask folks to keep up-to-date with BJA and also on Grants.gov to see what opportunities might still be announced.

DARYL FOX: In regards to the SAKI Program, does that include long term storage of forensic evidence after testing?

RUBY QAZILBASH: I do not know the answer to that question. Let me check in with David and see if he does.

DAVID LEWIS: Yeah. Can you repeat that, Daryl?

DARYL FOX: Yeah. Regarding the SAKI Program, it can be used for inventorying sexual assault kits. But can it also include long term storage of forensic evidence post testing?

DAVID LEWIS: I do think that’s part of the elements of that, but we’ll follow up on that and get that on to the—who made the inquiry.

DARYL FOX: And regarding the Emmett Till Cold Case Program, just confirming that contains cold cases that occurred prior to 1980, is that correct?

RUBY QAZILBASH: That’s correct.

DAVID LEWIS: That is correct.

DARYL FOX: A lot of questions coming in on the actual release of the solicitations as mentioned earlier, they will be on a rolling basis. So definitely want to go to the BJA website and you could subscribe to the email list there to be alerted on when these will be released, but the BJA website will be updated as appropriate. So that would be a good resource for you.

RUBY QAZILBASH: Yup. And we can’t stress enough to also make sure that you’re set up in Grants.gov because ultimately, that is where all applications will start and there’s a number of things that you need to make sure. Again, we’ll go over all of this in the webinar next week, that’s really talking about how to prepare to be most successful what can you do now, to make sure you’re prepared to get together a competitive application and be able to submit it on time.
DARYL FOX: Regarding the PREA Program, what level is a state-controlled juvenile facility considered? Would it be under the category of a state government?

RUBY QAZILBASH: Whichever if it’s under the operational control of the state, then yes, they’d come in through the state category.

DARYL FOX: This one is for Second Chance for nonprofits. Can funding be used for housing, for example, purchasing a house for those who are coming out of prison that have a need and otherwise would be homeless?

RUBY QAZILBASH: It is a huge priority of this administration to end the release of anyone from incarceration to homelessness. That being said, at the level of appropriation, and for the—a grant program that I think the person who’s asking the question is getting at it would not—the funding levels do not lend themselves to be able to purchase homes. There can be shorter-term rental assistance, but the hope there is that you’re encouraging folks to engage in more systemic solutions. So, working in partnership with the entities that are releasing people, whether that’s the jail, the state prison, the department of corrections system at the state level, kind of, depends on where the nonprofit is operating and to what jurisdictions people are returning and who they’re partnering with. But also to understand the full kind of continuum in working with the HUD identified Continuum of Care that has kind of a bird’s eye view of all of the housing and funding options that might be available, including housing vouchers within a particular jurisdiction. That’s a long answer to your question but basically, the short answer is, the funding level does not support the purchase of housing and if you were paying rent for someone on a long-term basis, it won’t go that far for very many participants. What we’re looking is systemic solutions and partnerships to be able to get more people housing who need it using many HUD and other assets that are already in that and going to that local jurisdiction.

DARYL FOX: For the Bulletproof Vest Partnership, are jurisdictions over 250,000 people ever funded, typically funded?

RUBY QAZILBASH: David, are you aware?

DAVID LEWIS: Yeah. Yes, they have—they have departments of all sizes that have been funded from the largest cities to the smallest rural areas. So, what you would do when the solicitation you got, you would apply based on what they make available. So we’ve had departments at state wide agencies, large major cities, so all those could be funded. Just make sure that you’re applying to the appropriate categories.
RUBY QAZILBASH: Yeah, I know that that—for that program is a 50/50 split to share the cost program for the vest.

DARYL FOX: And then for the Body-Worn Camera Program, again, is it a requirement to deploy additional units or can it be to support the cost for existing units?

DAVID LEWIS: Okay. Ruby, you want to start?

RUBY QAZILBASH: No, I said I would defer to you again.

DAVID LEWIS: Okay. The Body-Worn Camera Program what it does, it allows you to provide funds. There’s X number of dollars for each new camera purchase. But it does have some funding to be used to come in to continue the support of the program, especially as it comes down to things like replacing holders or updating cameras, all those things. And again, and Ruby stressed this and it’s been stressed several times, you need to read the solicitation. We change sometimes based on what the direction is that comes from Congress to us on which should be funded under this particular money, plot of money. So it’s very important to do that. I would also urge people as they look at—as they look at some of these presentations that were made today. The solicitation may not be on the field yet but all these usually have a page on the BJA site. Sometimes they do have the criteria who can apply and so it’s a very good starting point when looking at funding from BJA.

RUBY QAZILBASH: Yeah. David, you raised a really good point. One thing that we say for folks to do as you’re waiting for solicitations to come out, if you can look and see if that solicitation was competed in the previous fiscal year and check out—we archive all solicitations going back 10, 15 years. So you can go back and see what that solicitation looks like in the previous year. There’s no guarantee it will look exactly the same but that gives you some sense of the flow, what’s being asked for, what are the different application components, the waiting, and then you kind of know what to look for when the new one gets released. But you can get some sense of what we’ve been after with those solicitations in the past program. Especially it should have been on that

[INDISTINCT].

DAVID LEWIS: Yeah. Also on the BJA website…

RUBY QAZILBASH: Uh-hmm.

DAVID LEWIS: And also on the BJA website you can go and look at who received funding in the previous years, that would give you some ideas if you had somebody in
an adjacent area or somebody that you knew they might be able to help you through the application process.

RUBY QAZILBASH: And for a lot of programs, we will choose competitive applications that were funded in previous years. Re-identify them, but first ask the grantee jurisdiction or agency if they’re okay with us posting that, in an identified way. And if we get their permission, we can post them good application examples and those would also be on BJA’s website.

DARYL FOX: Okay. Thank you, Ruby and David. So with that, we are at 2:30 P.M. Eastern Time. Is there anything in closing you wanted to mention, Ruby, before we close for today?

RUBY QAZILBASH: Just to thank everyone so much for their interest throughout this presentation and also just to flag again, there’s another one next week that’s more specific to actually putting a competitive application together and what you can do now to prep. And remember that this is one of three prongs of ways that we’re getting information out. There will be a webinar series that’s specific to stakeholder groups, whether that’s law enforcement, courts, corrections, behavioral health and community-based, those will be available. And then many solicitations will have their own applicant webinars to go into the nitty-gritty and specifics and answer all of these detailed questions that folks importantly are raising about particular programs and solicitations and what’s required this year. So be on the lookout for those as well. And thanks so much.

DARYL FOX: Okay. So on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Assistance and our panelists, we want to thank you for joining today’s webinar. This will end today’s presentation.