

PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION

Smart Policing Initiative

The Smart Policing Initiative (SPI, formerly Strategies for Policing Innovation) provides funding to enable police agencies to effectively use evidence-based practices, data, and technology. Recipients of funding under the FY 2021 SPI will establish formal police-researcher partnerships; test promising crime prevention, response, and reduction practices; build their capacity to analyze and use crime intelligence and data; implement and test justice information-sharing technology; and evaluate their effectiveness. SPI documents the resulting best practices and lessons learned, and will widely disseminate them to the policing community in order to encourage the adoption of innovative and effective policing strategies nationwide. For FY 2021, BJA is providing \$7 million in SPI grant funding.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is a \$484 million formula grant program that serves as 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 including law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, crime victim and witness initiatives and mental health programs, and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams. BJA will place a special emphasis on community violence interventions in its FY 2021 JAG Program.

Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation

BJA's Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) is a strategic approach to crime reduction that leverages community knowledge and expertise by focusing law enforcement efforts on neighborhoods where crime is concentrated or crime "hotspots." BCJI's purpose is to invest in jurisdictions with significant crime challenges that want long-term solutions and are willing to incorporate all four elements of the BCJI model. This includes programs aimed at developing or improving relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve, for example through community outreach and listening sessions, and supporting nonprofit organizations that focus on improving stressed relationships between law enforcement officers and their communities. For FY 2021, BJA is providing \$20 million in grant funding for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation.

National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

BJA's National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative helps law enforcement and prosecutors address the challenges associated with unsubmitted sexual assault kits (SAKs) and reduce the number of unsubmitted SAKs in their jurisdictions. The initiative 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. Last, the initiative supports sites to prevent the future development of conditions that lead

to large numbers of unsubmitted SAKs. For FY 2021, BJA is providing \$43 million in grant funding for the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative.

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 — 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. Through the PSN team, each district implements the five design features of PSN — leadership, partnership, targeted and prioritized enforcement, prevention, and accountability — to address violent crime. PSN also encourages the development of practitioner-researcher partnerships that use data, evidence, and innovation to create strategies and interventions that are effective and make communities safer. For FY 2021, PSN funding will be distributed by formula to each district based on its population and violent crime rate. This fiscal year, BJA is providing \$20 million in PSN grant funding.

Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative

This new initiative from BJA will provide 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 will fund state, local, and tribal law enforcement 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 agencies and the communities they serve. For FY 2021, BJA is providing \$6 million in grant funding for the Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative.

Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Training and Response to Mental Health Crisis Program

BJA's Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) Training and Response to Mental Health Crisis Program provides funding to states, units of local government, and Indian tribes to address, prevent, and reduce school violence. The STOP Program supports training school personnel and educating students to prevent student violence against others and themselves. The program also provides specialized training for school officials in responding to mental health crises and funds the development and operation of anonymous reporting systems for threats of school violence, including mobile telephone applications, hotlines, and websites. For FY 2021, BJA is providing \$75 million in STOP grant funding.

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 is a competitive grant program that 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. For FY 2021, BJA is providing \$5 million in CGIC grant funding.

Additional Non-grant Resources

National Public Safety Partnership will be accepting 10 new cities into the program

The National Public Safety Partnership (PSP) serves as a DOJ-wide program that enables participating sites to consult with and receive expedited, coordinated training and technical assistance (TTA) 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 the unique local needs of participating cities to build their capacities to address violent crime challenges. PSP has engaged with more than 40 sites since the program's inception. More information can be found at <https://www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/#home>. Information on the PSP clearinghouse can be found at <https://www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/Clearinghouse>.

Violence Reduction Response Center

The Violence Reduction Response Center (VRRRC) was established to connect state, local, and tribal justice agencies with violent crime reduction training and technical assistance (TTA) resources offered by DOJ. By providing direct referrals to DOJ crime reduction publications, grant opportunities, and TTA, VRRRC serves as a one-stop shop to connect individuals to the most appropriate resources available. After contacting VRRRC, staff will guide you to training and grant funding opportunities, or they can put you in touch with peers and subject experts to learn about and discuss violence reduction strategies. VRRRC staff will make sure you receive resources tailored to your specific needs and will facilitate access to those resources, saving you time otherwise spent searching. For more information on VRRRC, please visit <https://bjatta.bja.ojp.gov/content/violence-reduction-response-center>.

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 — those capabilities that will enable the office to develop and enhance policies and practices that will be most effective in the real world of that jurisdiction. The Guide 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, which can be found at <https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/Publications/violent-crime-reduction-operations-guide.pdf>. This new resource is available at: <https://innovativeprosecutionsolutions.org>.

About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) helps to make American communities safer by strengthening the nation's criminal justice system. BJA's grants, training and technical assistance, and policy development services provide government jurisdictions (state, local, tribal, and territorial) and public and private organizations with the cutting edge tools and best practices they need to support law enforcement, reduce violent and drug-related crime, and combat victimization.

To learn more about BJA, visit <https://bja.ojp.gov>, or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is part of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.