

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) facilitates the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) efforts to combat violent gangs through the delivery of grant funds, training and technical assistance, and the development of partnerships between state and local law enforcement and tribal communities.

Gang Prevention and Enforcement

I. GANG TRAINING

The National Gang Center (NGC), a joint initiative of BJA and OJP's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), provides anti-gang information and training and technical assistance on anti-gang programs and strategies to law enforcement officers, justice professionals, nongovernmental organizations, and community members. NGC's information includes updates on trainings and conferences, recent threat assessments, policy issues and initiatives, etc. The following anti-gang training courses were developed by NGC in partnership with BJA, and are currently being offered:

- **Basic Training for Street Gang Investigators:** This basic training is designed for law enforcement officers who have been newly assigned to anti-gang units. **Deliverables:** This course has trained since its inception approximately 450 federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel in gang awareness and recognition, gang intelligence, enforcement techniques and strategies, officer safety, and other gang-related issues. For more information visit **Web site:** www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Training-and-Technical-Assistance/Street-Gang-Investigators.
- **Gangs 101 Train-the-Trainer:** This course provides a framework for gang trainers to present basic gang awareness to varying audiences. Topics addressed in this course consist of why youths join gangs and appropriate prevention, intervention, and suppression responses to gangs. This course provides instructors with presentations that could be used with a variety of audiences. **Deliverables:** Approximately 250 federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel were trained since the inception of the course. .
- **Advanced Gang Investigators:** The Advanced Gang Investigations course enhances experienced law enforcement officers, corrections personnel, intelligence professionals, and legal professionals' gang investigation skills, abilities, and knowledge. **Deliverables:** This course trained approximately 60 state and local law enforcement officers since its inception. Upon the conclusion of this training, participants were able to utilize more sophisticated intelligence and suppression tools to investigate gang crimes and suppress gang activity. **Web site:** www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Training-and-Technical-Assistance/Advanced-Gang-Investigations.
- **Gang Unit Supervision:** The Gang Unit Supervision course is intended for state and local law enforcement supervisors who are currently assigned, or soon will be assigned, to form and/or manage a gang unit. **Deliverables:**

Approximately 50 state and local law enforcement personnel were trained since its inception. Upon completion of this course, participants were able to discuss and apply the fundamental principles of effective gang unit management. Through the review and evaluation of best practices and strategies being utilized in the field, participants were better prepared to develop appropriate organizational and management strategies for their department's gang unit.

Web site: www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Training-and-Technical-Assistance/Gang-Unit-Supervision.

- **Gangs in Indian Country:** This course covers five Indian country-specific topics:
 - **Regional Gang Overview:** This unit addresses gang activity in this particular region.
 - **Gang Intelligence:** This unit provides instruction on the intelligence process and the role of gang investigators.
 - **Gang Suppression:** This unit presents effective strategies and tactics that suppress gang activity.
 - **Gang Investigations:** This unit addresses the unique nature of gang investigations and gang crime scenes.
 - **Legal Considerations:** This unit provides discussion on case law regarding gang enforcement issues, an overview of investigation types, the relevance of gang membership to the investigation of gang crimes, and the use of gang-specific legislation in the investigation and prosecution of gang crimes.
- Deliverables:** Trained approximately 100 tribal, state, and local law enforcement personnel since its inception. **Web site:** www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Training-and-Technical-Assistance/Gangs-in-Indian-Country.
- **Criminal Intelligence Unit Commander's Course:** This course provides in-depth instruction on the intelligence process, reviews promising strategies and programs (e.g. fusion centers), and offers significant training on legal guidelines and issues. **Deliverables:** Trained approximately 120 state and local law enforcement personnel since its inception.
 - **Anti-Gang Seminar for Law Enforcement Chief Executives:** This course provides a high-level overview of the criminal intelligence process for law enforcement Chief Executive Officers (CEO), with a special focus on community trust, accountability, and legal issues. This course also provides executives with case studies and an opportunity to discuss criminal intelligence strategies. **Deliverables:** Trained approximately 900 state and

local law enforcement chief executives since its inception. **Web site:** www.nationalgangcenter.gov.

II. CeaseFire Chicago

CeaseFire Chicago takes a strategic public health approach to violence prevention. This approach has been employed to address and reduce other serious health threats, such as child mortality, heart disease, HIV/AIDS, smallpox, and polio. It includes a full commitment to a specific objective (in this case stopping shootings), the setting of long-term and short-term goals, strategy development based on best practices and adapted to the local situation by local practitioners, and a management structure that works at both the community and the city and/or county levels.

This public health approach relies heavily on public education to change attitudes and behaviors toward violence, outreach through individuals recruited from the target population, community involvement to change norms, and evaluation methods to monitor strategy. BJA has provided \$1.2 million to the CeaseFire Chicago program to provide training and technical assistance (TTA) on-site to the following sites: the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC); the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD); Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC); the Allegheny County Department of Human Services on behalf of One Vision; the Fund for the City of New York, and to other sites nationally that have replicated the CeaseFire Chicago model as well as sites that wish to develop the model.

Web site: www.ceasefirechicago.org.

III. Project Safe Neighborhood Grants

BJA facilitates efforts to combat the crimes committed by violent gangs through the delivery of grant funds, training and technical assistance, and through the development of partnerships between state and local law enforcement agencies and communities. BJA supports communities and state and local law enforcement agencies in this fight by utilizing Project Safe Neighborhood's (PSN) five essential elements: partnerships, strategic planning, training, community outreach, public awareness, and accountability.

Deliverables: PSN provided formula-based grant funds to communities throughout the United States and jurisdictions within the 93 U.S. Attorney's Offices. **Web site:**

www.ojp.gov/BJA/grant/psn.html.

IV. Project Safe Neighborhood Anti-Gang Trainings

BJA has funded numerous current and expanded comprehensive gun crime reduction strategies as well as provides additional funding under the Anti-Gang Initiative to fund new and expanded anti-gang prevention and enforcement efforts under PSN. The PSN Anti-Gang Training was designed to improve the level of knowledge, communication, and collaboration involved in addressing criminal gang issues that affect communities throughout the nation. This training is currently being delivered to jurisdictions throughout the United States. On September 26–28, 2007, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) sponsored the Project Safe Neighborhoods Anti-Gang Training pilot in Dover,

Delaware. Approximately 160 law enforcement officers and criminal justice practitioners attended this training, which was delivered by DOJ law enforcement agencies and other criminal justice professionals. **Deliverables:** A total of 18 trainings have been delivered to approximately 4,200 sworn and non-sworn personnel throughout the United States, with 6 trainings scheduled for calendar year 2011. Due to the success of the pilot program and the positive feedback and suggestions received from attendees, the training now features a separate track for gang prevention and intervention personnel and, as appropriate, an executive track to bring together key leaders in each jurisdiction to begin to formulate strategic plans to address local gang issues. **Web site:** www.psn.gov/training.

V. Project Safe Neighborhoods Public Housing Training

BJA, in coordination with the Justice Programs Office at American University, developed a new 2-day training program to assist jurisdictions with combating violent crime in public housing. **Deliverables:** Approximately 122 U.S. Attorney's Offices, state and local law enforcement and housing personnel have attended the trainings. The training was delivered twice, and based on attendee feedback additional trainings will be considered. The training identified tools and resources available to assist law enforcement officers in addressing public safety issues in public housing as well as the benefits of partnerships between law enforcement, local housing officials, and private management. **Web site:** www.psn.gov/training.

VI. Drug Market Intervention

BJA, through the PSN Program, supports training and technical assistance for local teams interested in implementing an open-air drug market intervention (DMI) initiative, commonly referred to as the High Point Intervention model. DMI addresses the challenge of effectively responding to illegal drug markets and their associated crime, violence, and disorder that have challenged communities and law enforcement agencies for decades. DMI is a strategic problem-solving initiative aimed at permanently closing down open-air drug markets.

The strategy targets individual geographic drug markets—specifically drug dealers in those areas—using a focused deterrence strategy. The most violent offenders are targeted and prosecuted to demonstrate what will happen if others continue to sell drugs and committing serious crimes. An intervention with the low level offenders, their families/influential, and community members is then staged. Law enforcement agencies mobilizes community residents, leaders, and family members of low-level drug dealers to voice their intolerance for this criminal behavior and offer an opportunity and support to these offenders in hopes they will change their behavior.

Low level offenders are given the option to straighten up or face lengthy prison sentences and are provided assistance in locating employment, housing, transportation, health care, and provided access to other social services.

In the example of High Point, North Carolina, the strategy involved few arrests, employed problem-solving approaches, and resulted in a dramatic transformation of the targeted areas. The results were immediate and have been sustained for over 6 years.

Web site: www.ojp.gov/BJA/topics/DMII.pdf.

V. Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative Sites

The Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI) provides targeted grant funding—approximately \$34 million in total—to 12 selected sites to implement a three-pronged strategy in the fight against gangs: prevention, enforcement, and prisoner reentry. These 12 sites include: Cleveland, Ohio; Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas; Los Angeles, California; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Tampa, Florida; Rochester, New York; Indianapolis, Indiana; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina; a corridor of gang activity that stretches from Easton to Lancaster, Pennsylvania; northwest of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Chicago, Illinois; and Detroit, Michigan. **Deliverables:** Each jurisdiction received \$2.5 million; the two newest sites—Chicago, Illinois and Detroit, Michigan—received \$2.5 million each over the last 3 years respectively. Ten of the twelve sites have received TTA from the DOJ and BJA through either a combination of onsite visits or workshop-specific TTA.

VIII. Regional Information Sharing System

The Regional Information Sharing System (RISS) assists federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement professionals in protecting public safety by providing secure, nationwide information and intelligence sharing capabilities, secure but unclassified electronic communications capabilities, investigative analysis support; specialized investigative equipment, and other investigative support services. RISS links law enforcement agencies across the country, providing secure communications, information sharing resources, and investigative support to combat multijurisdictional crime and terrorist threats. RISS enhances the ability of criminal justice agencies to identify, target, and remove criminal conspiracies and activities spanning multijurisdictional, multistate, and sometimes international boundaries. **Web site:** www.riss.net.

IX. Gang Resistance Education And Training Program

The Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program is a school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed, classroom curriculum administered by BJA in cooperation with DOJ's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The program's primary objective is gang prevention against gang growth and is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership. G.R.E.A.T. lessons focus on providing life skills to students to help them avoid engaging in delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems. Funding is appropriated to OJJDP. A portion of the appropriation is retained by OJJDP for its anti-gang activities and the remaining portion is transferred to BJA to administer the program. Four Regional Training Centers (RTCs) assist agencies wishing to start new G.R.E.A.T. programs. **Deliverables:** Since its inception in 1991, over 10,000 law enforcement

officers have been certified as G.R.E.A.T. instructors and more than 5 million students have graduated from the G.R.E.A.T. Program. **Web site:** www.great-online.org.

If you have questions regarding the above programs contact James C. Chavis II, BJA Senior Policy Advisor, at james.chavis@usdoj.gov.

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