

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT PROSECUTORS

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

Grant Funding Resources

Smart Prosecution – Innovative Prosecution Solutions

The purpose of the Innovative Prosecution Solutions (IPS) Program is to provide state, local, and tribal prosecutors with direct funding and training and technical assistance to develop effective strategies and programs to address and prosecute individuals who commit violent crime. Recognizing that many prosecutors' offices carry attorney caseloads well above recommended levels, lack critical support staff, and have had to rely on outdated technology, the IPS Program also supports the use of technology, intelligence, and data analytics in innovative ways that enable prosecutors to focus resources on the

people and places associated with high concentrations of criminal activity. Examples of previous IPS-funded projects and additional resources for prosecutors can be found at: <https://innovativeprosecutionsolutions.org>.

Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions Program

BJA's Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions Program provides competitive funding to create multidisciplinary teams that assess and address areas of risk for wrongful conviction and review and assess post-conviction claims of innocence.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is a formula grant program that is the leading federal source of criminal justice funding to states, territories, local governments, and tribes. The JAG Program provides critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas such as law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, crime victim and witness initiatives and mental health programs, and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams. BJA is placing a special emphasis on community violence interventions.

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. In addition, the initiative supports sites to prevent the future development of conditions that lead to large numbers of unsubmitted SAKs.

Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program

To respond to citizens with addiction to opioids, stimulants, and methamphetamine, BJA's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) promotes the leveraging of existing resources within a community to support addiction recovery. COSSAP provides financial and technical assistance to states, units of local government, and Indian tribal governments to plan, develop, and implement comprehensive efforts that identify, respond to, treat, and support those impacted by a broad range of drugs. The program also promotes cross-system planning and coordination to deliver evidence-based, culturally relevant interventions.

Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCPC) supports innovative cross-system collaboration to improve responses to and outcomes for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who come into contact with the justice system. JMHCPC also supports prosecutors with training, technical assistance, and tools for the early identification of people with mental illness who may need behavioral health system interventions.

Project Safe Neighborhoods

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is designed to create and foster safer neighborhoods through a sustained reduction in violent crime. The program's effectiveness

depends upon the ongoing coordination, cooperation, and partnerships of local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies working together with the communities they serve and engaged in a unified approach led by the U.S. Attorney in all 94 districts. With PSN, each U.S. Attorney's Office is responsible for establishing a collaborative team of federal, state, local, and tribal (where applicable) law enforcement and community partners to implement a strategic plan for investigating, prosecuting, and preventing violent crime.

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. Although police departments are the primary applicants for this grant, they are required to partner with their local prosecutors, who are part of the CGIC teams.

Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program

BJA's Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) Program 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, prosecutors, 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.

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

BJA's Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence 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. It also provides specialized training for school officials in responding to mental health crises, as well as funds the development and operation of anonymous reporting systems for threats of school violence, including mobile telephone applications, hotlines, and websites.

Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative

This initiative from BJA provides competitive grants and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies in rural locations to address the unique criminal justice challenges these entities face in combating violent crime. The initiative supports improved training and technology, expanded community-based crime prevention programs, and partnerships with victim service providers. The grants fund state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to improve their analytical capacity, develop a violent crime strategy, and implement collaborative local, regional, and state responses where appropriate (such as regional National Integrated Ballistic Information Network efforts) in order to improve communication and collaboration between them and the communities they serve.

John R. Justice Program

The John R. Justice (JRJ) Program provides student loan repayment assistance for state, local, and federal public defenders and local and state prosecutors who commit to extended service in those roles. The program's objective is to offer an incentive to attract and retain qualified public defenders and prosecutors who will remain employed in that capacity for a minimum of 36 months.

Adult Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court Discretionary Grant Program

Through this program, BJA seeks applications to implement and enhance drug court services, including

service coordination, management of drug court participants, and recovery support services. This program provides resources to state, local, and federally recognized tribal governments to strengthen drug court programs and systems for nonviolent offenders and veterans with addictions, including stimulant and opioid abuse and overdose.

Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program

The Bureau of Justice Assistance is dedicated to combating the increase in hate crimes, also known as bias-motivated crimes. This programming provides funding for state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecution agencies and their partners to conduct outreach, educate the public, enhance victim reporting strategies, and investigate and prosecute hate crimes committed on the basis of the victim's perceived or actual race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability.

Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations Program

The Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations Program supports cold case murder investigations and prosecutions for civil rights violations that may have been based on the victim's race and occurred prior to December 31, 1979. This can include efforts to assist and work with the victims' families and other community members impacted by these crimes to bring reconciliation. Allowable uses of funding include the review of evidence and use of modern DNA and forensic tools to aid investigations. State, local, and tribal agencies are encouraged to work with their federal partners to pursue these cases and coordinate the review of case files and evidence related to potential cases, consistent with other activities under the Emmett Till Act.

Training and Technical Assistance and Other Resources

Prosecutors' Guide to Reducing Violent Crime and Building Safer Communities

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

will enable the office to develop and enhance policies and practices to be most effective in the real world of that jurisdiction. 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. This new resource is available at: <https://innovativeprosecutionsolutions.org>.

Bureau of Justice Assistance National Training and Technical Assistance Center

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

- Help assess their capacity to prosecute violent crime cases.
- Identify programming gaps and make recommendations to enhance processes.
- Provide actionable recommendations across the prosecution landscape to ensure violent crime cases are prioritized.
- Identify strategies to strengthen cases and increase convictions.

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

National Public Safety Partnership

The National Public Safety Partnership (PSP) is a DOJ-wide program that enables participating sites to consult with and receive expedited, coordinated training and technical assistance (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 their unique local needs so they can build their capacities to address violent crime challenges. As part of each site's PSP team, prosecutors have the opportunity to join other PSP prosecutors through the Prosecution Community of Practice where topics specific to prosecutors are discussed. PSP has engaged with more than 40 sites since the program's inception. More information can be found at: [National Public Safety Partnership \(PSP\)](#). Information on the PSP Clearinghouse can be found at: [Public Safety 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 resources offered by the Department of Justice. 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, visit: [Violence Reduction Response Center | Working with BJA NTTAC](#).

State Administering Agencies

Many Office of Justice Programs formula grants are awarded directly to state governments, which then set priorities and allocate funds within that state. For more information on how a state intends to distribute formula grant funds, contact the appropriate state administering agency (SAA). To find your SAA, visit: [State Administering Agencies | Overview | Office of Justice Programs](#).

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](https://twitter.com/DOJBJA)). BJA is part of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.