
II. Core Function: Assistance to Tribal, State, and Local Governments

Goal 2.1: Support and Improve the Crime-Fighting and Criminal Justice System Capabilities of Tribal, State, and Local Governments.

Strengthening the criminal justice capabilities of tribal, state, and local governments is one of the most important ways the Department carries out its leadership role in preventing and controlling crime. In 1998, the Department encouraged states to undertake a wide range of improvement efforts with the help of research and evaluation initiatives, aggressive enforcement and prevention strategies, and generous grant programs. The Department plans to expand and improve its own research and statistics gathering so as to provide state, local, and tribal governments the latest research and evaluation information available on crime and crime control.

Research and Evaluation

Starting with the passage of the 1994 Crime Act, OJP has used money from program funds to support research and evaluation aimed at reducing crime, enhancing public safety, and improving the administration of justice. For example, each of the OJP Crime Act Program Offices allocates a percentage of its available funds—up to 14 percent—annually to fund new program evaluation. For each program area, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is developing a multiyear research and national evaluation strategy. OJP has worked to include such “built-in” evaluations for all its funding programs, and the Congress has approved such set-asides for research and evaluation to find out what works and to guide future spending and program planning. Congress has also approved training and technical assistance set-asides for these programs.

To help communities resolve public safety issues in a comprehensive and strategic manner, the Office of the Associate Attorney General (OASG) is coordinating an ambitious initiative that uses a problem-solving, information-driven approach to reduce and prevent crime. The Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative

Crime Mapping Helps to Identify Crime Trends

Several Department components, along with the Office of the Vice President, are developing crime-mapping models to assist state and local jurisdictions in their efforts to rapidly and precisely identify crime activity, trends, and enforcement activity, and to promote the use of crime mapping and data-driven management in support of community policing. The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff produces custom maps to be used in courtroom presentations. The maps display where a crime took place, how a crime was committed, and who allegedly participated in the criminal activity. The GIS staff has produced numerous maps to support a wide range of cases, including the Montana Freeman case and the LeMaster Steel Erectors case.

(SACSI) is currently focused on five pilot communities. Working closely with the U.S. Attorneys in Memphis, Indianapolis, Winston-Salem, New Haven, and Portland, Oregon, and with support from a dozen justice components, SACSI stems from evidence showing that community safety problem-solving is best addressed by collecting and analyzing detailed information to determine the precise nature and scope of local crime problems, then designing interventions to meet them.

In this vein, the geographic information systems (GIS) staff is participating in a cooperative project with local police departments in the Washington/Baltimore area to develop the largest, most powerful regional crime analysis system of its kind. This system, called the Regional Crime Analysis Geographic Information System, places valuable crime analysis, mapping, and reporting tools in the hands of police officers, crime analysts, and managers. The system will permit rapid cross-border data sharing and analysis among participating police departments.

In the area of gun violence, the Department has a working group tasked with identifying promising reduction strategies for local policymakers. The group, chaired by the Office of Policy Development (OPD), includes representatives from 10 Department organizations. It has examined more than 400 gun violence prevention programs across the country, identifying approximately 60 as "promising" or as having a demonstrated, measurable effect on violent crime. A Gun Injury Prevention subgroup of "5 Goals 4 Kids" includes the Treasury Department, ATF, HHS, Centers for Disease Control, Police Executive Research Forum, National Crime Prevention Council, and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

A joint effort by BJS and the National Center for Education Statistics produced "Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 1998"—the first in a series of annual reports presenting the latest available data on school crime and student safety collected by a variety of Federal departments and agencies.

Enforcement and Prevention Strategies to Counter Youth Violence

More than 3,000 local jurisdictions received local law enforcement block grants totaling \$440 million in 1998 to help them reduce crime and improve public safety. The funds can be used to hire police officers, improve security in and around schools, purchase law enforcement equipment and technology, enhance the adjudication of violent offenders, and for other public safety efforts.

Promising community-based programs involving police officers and youth organizations are helping young people use their non-school hours productively and are keeping them out of trouble, according to the NIJ report, "Kids, Cops & Communities." The report highlights successful approaches to preventing juvenile delin-

quency and crime in Bristol, Connecticut; Arlington, Texas; and Spokane, Washington.

A joint effort among OJJDP, BJA, the National Crime Prevention Council, and The Advertising Council, Inc., produced a new public service education campaign designed to dispel stereotypes about teens and encourage youth involvement in crime prevention. The new public education campaign, "Investing in Youth for a Safe Future," features print, television, and radio public service announcements (PSAs) that challenge young people to prove adults wrong by participating in such activities as neighborhood watches, neighborhood beautification, and mentoring. These PSAs also challenge adults to recognize teens for their positive actions. The Department contacted major media outlets to encourage them to air the new PSAs.

- With school violence dominating the headlines last year, the COPS Office launched several initiatives to prevent crime and disorder in and around schools. One of these, the School-Based Partnership Program, encourages cooperative relationships between law enforcement and educators to prevent violence, help children feel safe in schools, and reduce the time teachers must spend on discipline issues. Additionally, working with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, COPS supported the development of "Preventing School Violence: Best Practices of Mayors in Collaboration with the Police, Schools, and Communities," which was presented to President Clinton and the Attorney General at the White House Conference on School Safety.

A new block grant program administered by OJJDP, the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants Program, promotes greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. In 1998, more than \$232 million was awarded to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories for such efforts as construction of juvenile detention or correctional facilities, hiring of prosecutors and other personnel, gun and drug courts, and accountability-based programs.

Drug Testing and Intervention

NIJ's Breaking the Cycle program is testing the theory that reduced drug use in a defendant population will result in decline in criminal behavior, improvement in the population's social functioning, and more effective use of criminal justice resources, particularly detention capacity. Jacksonville, Florida, and the Pierce County Alliance of Tacoma, Washington, each received \$3 million in 1998 to replicate the program pioneered in Birmingham, Alabama. Each site is developing a systemwide intervention strategy to identify, supervise, and treat all drug-using defendants involved in the criminal justice system.

Justice Helps Develop "Early Warning" Guide For Schools

After the injuries and tragic loss of life at several schools in 1998, President Clinton directed the Departments of Education and Justice to develop an early warning guide to help "adults reach out to troubled children quickly and effectively." In response, they created and distributed the *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools* to every school in the Nation for the 1998 fall term. The guide is part of an overall effort to make sure that every school in the Nation has a comprehensive violence prevention plan in place. OJJDP is continuing to explore school violence prevention efforts by working with the Department of Education to implement a range of school violence prevention programs, including a National Center on Conflict Resolution Education, a School Safety Training Center, and a research consortium on school violence intervention.

Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing Incentive Grant Program

In 1998, in support of the President's initiative for deterring crime and substance abuse, the Department awarded more than \$424 million to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories to help incarcerate violent offenders for longer periods. Through funds from the Violent Offender Incarceration/Truth-in-Sentencing (VOI/TIS) Grant Program, states can build or expand prisons or jails to house violent offenders and can hold violent offenders accountable through Truth-in-Sentencing. A key component of the VOI/TIS program aims to reduce crime through its substance abuse provision that required states, by September 1, 1998, to implement a program of controlled substance abuse testing, intervention, treatment, and sanctions, with specific policies and procedures. All 50 states developed and submitted strategies for implementing such a program. Through this program, states were to ensure a response—either sanction and/or treatment—to every positive test and every case where a need is identified. Responses may include event documentation, enhanced case management, increased supervision, or imposition of other graduated sanction and treatment interventions.

On January 12, 1998, the President asked the Attorney General to submit legislation to Congress that would grant states the flexibility to use their prison construction funds to provide a full range of drug testing, treatment, and sanctions for offenders in prison. On March 24, the Attorney General submitted to Congress legislation addressing this issue. Congress passed it, along with the FY 1999 appropriation bill.

Indian Country

In contrast to national trends, serious and violent crime rates in Indian Country have increased significantly. Gang violence and juvenile violence, in particular, have increased dramatically in recent years. An interdepartmental Executive Committee for Indian Country Law Enforcement Improvement, set up to analyze law enforcement problems and improve public safety and criminal justice in Indian Country, made several recommendations in 1998 following a Department-led series of tribal consultations on Indian Country law enforcement. The executive committee's recommendations, set forth in a January 20, 1998, letter to the President from the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior, included reorganizing law enforcement within Indian Country and providing it with adequate resources by phasing in sizable increases to the current \$130 million budget over the next 4 years.

During 1998, the COPS Office provided over \$15 million to 81 tribes in 23 states. The COPS Office Tribal Team led specialized community policing training for remote Alaska Native Villages, advised on a training video produced for the California Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) on law enforcement under Public Law 280, and assisted the Department's Community Relations Service (CRS) in mediating disputes between tribal and non-tribal law enforcement agencies in Minnesota.

Forensic Assistance

The Department's FBI laboratory has developed cutting-edge technology in the fight against crime, providing invaluable services to state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. One of its major achievements concerns breakthroughs in law enforcement use of DNA.

The National Congress of American Indians, representing 210 tribes, passed a resolution on November 24, 1997, that "congratulates President William Jefferson Clinton for recognizing that the Federal Government has failed to provide adequate support for law enforcement in Indian Country, [and urges] President Clinton to make improving law enforcement in Indian Country a high priority in his second term, specifically by including in his FY 1999 budget a substantial increase in funding for law enforcement initiatives in Indian Country."

In 1998, the FBI laboratory was able to use DNA profiles to identify individuals as the source of a stain—the first laboratory in the United States, either public or private, that offers this conclusion on its reports. This conclusion can now be reached as a result of an increase in the number of sites examined in the DNA molecule, as well as an increase in population frequency data collected throughout the world. Both were instrumental in securing the endorsement of this procedure by the National Research Council. This advancement represents a dramatic step forward for the forensic DNA community, as DNA examiners—if presented with sufficient DNA typing information—can now directly link an individual to an evidentiary stain. The first report featuring this conclusion issued from an investigation involving a serial rapist convicted of state charges in Wisconsin.

Safer Trails in Indian Country

In an effort to better coordinate the resources of the various law enforcement agencies in certain areas of Indian Country, Safe Trails Task Forces (STTFs) are in operation in five Indian Country cities: Gallup, New Mexico; Carson City, Nevada; Flagstaff, Arizona; Glasgow, Montana; and Monticello, Utah. An STTF at Tucson, Arizona, is under review for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area funding. STTFs have been targeting drug trafficking and violent gang activity in Indian Country.

FBI Lab Accredited by Crime Laboratory Directors Board

The FBI laboratory in 1998 obtained accreditation by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors' Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB). With this important achievement, the FBI laboratory is now one of more than 180 crime laboratories worldwide to be accredited by the ASCLD/LAB in the following disciplines: controlled substances, DNA, serology, firearms/toolmarks, latent prints, questioned documents, toxicology and trace evidence.

The FBI laboratory also has implemented mitochondrial DNA typing, which expanded the capability of typing forensic samples with very little DNA, such as hairs, degraded bones, and teeth. The FBI laboratory is the first forensic laboratory to utilize this technology in criminal case work.

In 1998, BJA awarded more than \$194,000 to each state to develop or improve their DNA analysis capabilities and computerized identification systems. The State Identification Systems (SIS) program, authorized by the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, is administered by BJA with funding from the FBI. The SIS program enhances a state's ability to become fully integrated with the databases of the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), NCIC, and the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS).

Another key laboratory program is the Computer Analysis Response Team (CART), which extracts relevant data from cases dealing with health care fraud, child pornography, terrorism, drugs, financial institution fraud, and public corruption. During 1998, CART conducted over 2,400 computer forensic examinations. The majority of these examinations were associated with the Violent Crime Major Offenders and the White Collar Crime Programs. In addition, CART headquarters examiners provided support for 86 cases involving "Innocent Images," as well as for 49 child pornography cases.

DRUGFIRE, an automated computer technology capable of making otherwise unidentified links between firearms-related evidence (cartridge cases, fired bullets, and firearms), was developed to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in the fight against violent crime. Nationwide, DRUGFIRE has linked more than 2,600 criminal shooting cases during its first 6 years of operation. The linking of evidence from crime scenes provides police with investigative leads that otherwise would have gone undetected. In 1998, 37 DRUGFIRE systems were installed in state and local forensic laboratories, more than 140 firearms examiners and technicians were trained, and more than 1,000 "hits" were made using the DRUGFIRE system.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) directs the efforts of ATF and the FBI in achieving interoperability between their ballistic imaging systems. Limited interoperability testing occurred in 1998; test-fired cartridge cases were successfully imaged, searched, and correlated between the two ballistic imaging systems.

Information Systems

National Crime Information Center.

The FBI is expanding the National Crime Information Center to NCIC 2000. NCIC checks its computerized files for quick information on wanted persons, stolen goods, and other information vital to

state and local police. All software development for the NCIC 2000 project—including the Fingerprint Matching System, mobile imaging unit, and the NCIC 2000 workstation—were completed as of July 1998, and the FBI began operational testing with interested states.

The FBI expanded the NCIC Violent Gang and Terrorist Organizations File (VGTOF) to promote sharing of information between states and local systems. Forty states have completed programming for entry capabilities into the VGTOF. At the end of September 1998, 4,466 gang members and 1,740 groups had been entered into this file. Further, owing to the outstanding support provided by the FBI during 1998, the NCIC's Protection Order File has increased from 8 participating states with 10,000 records to 19 states with 108,000 records.

Management Challenge: NCIC 2000

Law enforcement officials nationwide need rapid access and response to criminal history information to identify suspects and conduct investigations. The FBI is improving and automating its National Crime Information Center to solve this material issue by adding enhancements such as fingerprint matching, mugshots, and pictures of stolen property—all relatable and retrievable by authorized law enforcement officials at Federal, state, and local levels. During the past year, the FBI and its contractors completed development and factory testing of all elements of the improved system. The full system will be operational by the end of August 1999.

Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

During 1998, three of the six builds for the FBI's IAFIS were completed. Accomplishments included the electronic storage and retrieval of fingerprint images to allow comparisons to be made. IAFIS is on schedule and on budget and is expected to be operational in July 1999.

In 1998, the FBI processed nearly 7 million criminal fingerprints and more than 6 million civil fingerprints for state and local law enforcement. This was accomplished through streamlined work processes and new technological capabilities inherent in the Image Storage and Retrieval Element (ISRE). ISRE made it possible to use electronic images for fingerprint comparisons, eliminating the need to manually pull and file paper fingerprint cards from the master criminal file. By September 1998, the FBI's 1.4 million

fingerprint backlog had been eliminated, with criminal turnaround time going from a high of 106 days at the beginning of the year to 8 days in September 1998. The civil turnaround time was cut in half to 13 days. With the backlog gone, turnaround time both for criminal and civil fingerprint cards was 8 days in the early fall of 1998.

Management Challenge: Automated Fingerprinting System

The FBI has been working on this material issue since 1989 and is close to having it completed. IAFIS, the FBI's initiative to upgrade its fingerprint identification processes and related services, will be a rapid response, paperless system that receives and processes electronic images, criminal histories, and related identification data for the entire criminal justice community. It is so essential to law enforcement nationwide that the project was designated as a Presidential Priority System. During 1998, the FBI completed four of its major milestones, and the system will be up and running by the end of September 1999.

Goal 2.2: Strengthen and Improve Community Police Services.

In 1998, the COPS Office awarded nearly \$1.2 billion in grants to put more than 17,500 officers on the streets, bringing the ranks of community policing officers funded to 88,112. Nearly half of those officers and deputies are already working in the community. The Department is ahead of schedule and under budget in its commitment to fulfilling the President's goal to add 100,000 community policing officers to our Nation's streets.

The COPS Office's efforts have focused more recently on enhancing community-based policing solutions in our Nation's schools and on providing technology capabilities for local police departments. The COPS Office has also worked to ensure that officers hired under its grant programs are properly trained and retained beyond the term of the initial Federal grant, so that quality officers remain on the streets.

Goal 2.3: Support Innovative, Community-Based Strategies Aimed at Reducing Crime, Delinquency, and Violence in our Communities.

The Department continued last year to promote stronger linkages between local communities and their criminal justice systems through an enhanced commitment to community justice initiatives at the local level. Community justice expands the problem-solving ethic of community policing to other criminal justice institutions, such as prosecution, courts, and corrections. Strategies to tackle violent and drug-related crime by gangs and juveniles comprise a major part of the Department's community-based approach to crime and justice—an approach that includes Weed and Seed programs and mobile police stations to reduce crime and revitalize targeted neighborhoods, drug courts to help nonviolent drug abusers stop the cycle of drug use and crime, and conflict resolution techniques to ease community ethnic and racial tension. The Department plans to continue emphasizing community-based approaches to crime prevention, involving citizens in innovative community programs that make a difference.

Community-Based Approaches to Crime and Justice

With a focus on problem-solving and strong linkages to the community, community justice is an approach the Department has embraced. In 1998, the Department convened the second Community Justice Conference, with more than 700 people attending. Participants represented the judiciary, law enforcement, community residents, probation, corrections, faith-based communities, private foundations, and community nonprofit groups from around the country.

Other important community-based programs include the following:

- In 1998, Drug-Free Communities Support Program grants, administered by OJJDP, funded coalitions made up of young people, parents, media, law enforcement, school officials, religious organizations, and other community representatives. The coalitions disseminated information about effective programs and encouraged citizen participation in substance abuse reduction efforts.
- The Weed and Seed program is a community-based, multidisciplinary approach to combating crime. It is an example of the difference that Federal funding can make when it is channeled

Two OJP-Funded Programs Exemplify Community Justice

Two OJP-funded programs that exemplify the principles of community justice were recognized under the 1998 Innovations in American Government program, a joint effort of the Ford Foundation, the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and the Council for Excellence in Government: (1) the Center for Court Innovation provides targeted technical assistance to jurisdictions across the country interested in planning and implementing community justice programs, and (2) the Vermont Reporative Probation program allows ordinary citizens to make sentencing decisions about adult criminal offenders; meet with offenders and victims; and resolve their disputes by providing offenders with the opportunity to acknowledge their wrongdoing, apologize to their victims, and make amends to their community.

to targeted neighborhoods and is coordinated with state and local resources. In 1998, the Executive Office for Weed and Seed (EOWS) awarded a total of \$42.5 million to Weed and Seed sites throughout the country and expanded the program to 60 new sites, bringing the total number of sites to 176.

- As part of a new Department effort in 1998, Indianapolis became the first of six cities to receive a new state-of-the-art mobile police outreach station to help reduce crime and revitalize neighborhoods. The Mobile Community Outreach Police Station (MCOPS) provides police officers the opportunity to have immediate on-site contact with community residents and allows for quick dispatch of officers in response to service calls. It also allows for special law enforcement deployment operations and makes it easier for officers to participate in community meetings and forums.

Drug Courts

Drug courts are another effective strategy for reducing drug-related crime. Through the coercive power of the criminal justice system, drug courts combine supervision with sanctions, drug testing, treatment, and an array of other services to encourage nonviolent, drug-abusing offenders to stop the cycle of drug use and crime. OJP's Drug Courts Program Office awarded more than 150 jurisdictions grants totaling \$27 million to plan, implement, enhance, and track the progress of drug courts. The Drug Court Clearinghouse at American University found that recidivism rates continue to be significantly reduced for drug court graduates. In addition, drug courts save money by reducing the use of jail space and probation services, as well as the number of drug-addicted babies born to addict mothers.

Conflict and Alternative Dispute Resolution Services

The Department continues to promote the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) techniques to resolve disputes in our Nation's schools, police departments, and communities. A frequent user of ADR techniques is the Community Relations Service. Each year, CRS mediates court-referred mediation cases from state and Federal judges that can be handled more effectively through ADR. CRS also assists local law enforcement and event organizers in planning for marches and rallies, helping to coordinate planning and ensure safety for all involved. CRS mitigated community conflict with law enforcement through community meetings, training, and recommen-

dations to police departments about practices that will change community perceptions.

To address community conflict arising from tribal gambling operations and environmental issues, CRS, in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and National American Indian organizations, conducted training for tribes and Native American groups. The training focused on conflict resolution and mediation, to increase parties' abilities to resolve conflicts before they escalate into more serious violence.

Other community-based resolution activities in 1998 include the following:

- In a 2-week period in Denver, Colorado, Skinheads and White Supremacists were identified as the perpetrators of hate crimes in which a police officer and a West African immigrant were killed and a black woman attacked. CRS worked with community leaders, police officials, and local government officials to reduce community tension.
- From June–August 1998, in Jasper, Texas, the Department provided conflict resolution and prevention assistance following the brutal death of James Byrd, Jr. CRS helped local officials and law enforcement in this rural community respond to intense media attention and to large demonstrations by the Ku Klux Klan, the New Black Panther Party, and a splinter group of the Nation of Islam. CRS helped local officials develop contingency plans for the multiple events, devise a community response to the incident, and provide training to law enforcement and school officials to help heal this community.

Goal 2.4: Uphold the Rights of and Improve Services to America's Crime Victims.

One of the key principles of community justice is to make the justice system more responsive to the community, stressing the need to recompense victims of crime. In 1998, the Department implemented programs supported through the Crime Victims Fund, as well as other initiatives designed to ensure the safety of and provide assistance to all victims and witnesses.

Crime Victims Fund Programs

The Crime Victims Fund is made up of fines paid by Federal criminal offenders as part of their sentences. BOP's Inmate Financial Responsibility Program contributed to the fund, collecting nearly \$6 million in 1998 in court-ordered obligations from inmates. The Antitrust Division paid \$267 million to the fund in fines imposed mainly for illegal international cartel behavior. Funding goes to victim assistance and support groups or directly to victims to compensate their crime-related losses. The Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) awarded a total of \$363 million in 1998 to aid crime victims.

Victim service professionals from around the world received intense training in July 1998 at the fourth annual National Victim Service Academy, held at four universities across the Nation. Sponsored by OVC, the Academy provides important updates on victimology, victims' rights and services, and new developments in the field of victim assistance. Participants received "New Directions from the Field: Victims' Rights and Services for the 21st Century," a comprehensive report on victims' rights and services.

Child Victimization and Prevention Programs

As part of the Attorney General's effort to protect America's children, the Department supported amendments to the Child Support Recovery Act (CSRA) to create felony provisions for parents who willfully fail to pay child support obligations for a child living in another state. On June 24, 1998, the President signed into law a bill amending several key sections of the CSRA. The amendment created two first-offense felony provisions under which a delinquent child support obligor is now subject to a 2-year maximum prison term and a fine for: (1) traveling in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to evade a child support obligation if the obligation has remained unpaid for longer than 1 year or is greater than \$5,000; or (2) willfully failing to pay a support obligation for a child residing in another state if the obligation has remained unpaid for longer than 2 years or is greater than \$10,000.

The Department also continued to develop effective case referral and screening procedures in coordination with state and local child support agencies. The U.S. Attorneys have steadily increased the number of prosecutions against parents who willfully fail to pay, from 82 cases in 1995 to 249 cases in 1998.

Goal 2.5: Reduce the Incidence of Violence Against Women.

OJP's Violence Against Women Grant Office (VAWGO) provides funds to help communities improve their response to violence

against women—domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assaults. In 1998, VAWGO awarded more than three times the money and more than twice the number of grants awarded last year under the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program. A total of \$19.4 million went to 62 jurisdictions to help women and children in rural areas affected by domestic violence. Another 90 jurisdictions received \$53.8 million through VAWGO's Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies Program to help investigate and prosecute domestic violence as a serious crime.

The COPS Office awarded more than \$10 million in grants to 44 agencies in 28 states to help law enforcement officials combat domestic violence under its Community Policing to Combat Domestic Violence Program. The grants fund training, research, threat assessment, problem-solving, and other efforts that dramatically reduce the number of incidents of domestic violence.

Other 1998 efforts to combat violence against women include the following:

- For the first time, VAWGO awarded \$11.5 million in Civil Legal Assistance grants for law school legal clinics, victims and legal services organizations, battered women's shelters, and bar associations in every state to strengthen civil legal assistance for domestic violence victims.
- The Violence Against Women Office (VAWO) coordinated the Department's response to the President's March 1998 directive to review and amend laws addressing the trafficking of women and girls, to research programs for victims of trafficking, and to determine the best way to enlist the aid of victims in prosecuting trafficking crimes.
- The Department conducted a series of eight video teleconferences to address the emerging issues presented by Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) cases. The video teleconferences were used to discuss enforcement strategies, case law, victim safety and management, and the U.S. Attorneys' participation in community domestic violence efforts.
- The Department, in collaboration with the FBI and local law enforcement officials, has developed preliminary training materials on coping with drug-facilitated rape. These materials have been made available to approximately 9,000 law enforcement officers who have joined the FBI's "LEO" (Law Enforcement Online) network/intranet. Training also has been provided to law enforcement officials and to rape crisis personnel.

Department Awards Grants to STOP Violence Against Indian Women

The Department is working to improve the justice system's response to domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault against Indian women. Fifty-seven Indian tribal governments in 20 states will have better services for adult Indian women victims of domestic violence and more prosecutions of domestic violence cases as a result of \$4.9 million in 1998 STOP Violence Against Indian Women grant funds. Twenty-four new tribal grantees in 1998 bring the total number to 112 tribal governments that have received STOP Indian funds since the first grant awards were made in 1995. These tribal grantees serve a total of 233 Indian communities.

