



BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance

BJA PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Anti-Gang Initiative

The Anti-Gang Initiative supports new and expanded anti-gang prevention and enforcement efforts under the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Initiative. Program funding will enhance PSN task force efforts to combat gangs by building on the effective strategies and partnership developed under PSN. Through the development of district-wide comprehensive anti-gang strategies, the U.S. Attorney in each of the 94 federal judicial districts will partner with local law enforcement and others in the PSN task force to pattern strategies after PSN's five essential elements: partnerships, strategic planning, training, outreach, and accountability.

For details, contact Jonathan Faley, BJA Division Chief, at 202-514-2350 or jonathan.faley@usdoj.gov.

Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program

The BVP Program helps protect the lives of public safety officers by assisting state, local, and tribal governments in equipping their officers with armor vests. The program pays up to 50 percent of the cost of each vest purchased by applicants. Eligible law enforcement officers include police officers, sheriff's deputies, correctional officers, parole and probation agents, prosecutors, and judicial officials. Applicants may select and purchase any ballistic- or stab-resistant vest that meets the National Institute of Justice's applicable standards.

For details, contact Joseph Husted, Program Analyst, at 202-353-4411 or joseph.husted@usdoj.gov.

Counter-Terrorism

BJA supports the State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training (SLATT) Program, an initiative that teaches law enforcement about counter-terrorism measures that work at the community level. In addition, working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, and other federal agencies, BJA, on behalf of OJP, coordinates counter-terrorism training efforts nationwide to avoid duplication, meet emerging needs, and ensure consistent and appropriate training information. This effort is supported by the Counter-Terrorism Training and Resources for Law Enforcement web site.

For details, contact Michael Medaris, BJA Senior Policy Advisor, at 202-616-8937 or michael.medaris@usdoj.gov.

Denial of Federal Benefits (DFB) Program

DFB provides state and federal courts—as part of the sentencing process—with the ability to deny all or selected federal benefits to individuals convicted of drug trafficking or drug possession. The DFB sanction can be imposed in combination with other sanctions, and courts have the option to deny all or some benefits and determine the length of the denial period based on the nature of the crime. When denial of benefits is part of a sentence, the court notifies the BJA DFB Clearinghouse, which in turn informs the U.S. General Services Administration, which publishes the names of individuals denied benefits in the *Lists of Parties Excluded From Federal Procurement or Nonprocurement Programs*, commonly referred to as the Debarment List.

For details, contact the DFB Clearinghouse at 301-937-1542 or DFB@ojp.gov.

Drug Courts

The Drug Court Program provides financial and technical assistance to states, state courts, local courts, units of local government, and Indian tribal governments to develop and implement treatment drug courts that effectively integrate substance abuse treatment, mandatory drug testing, sanctions and incentives, and transitional services in a judicially supervised court setting with jurisdiction over nonviolent, substance-abusing offenders.

For details, contact Eunice Pierre, BJA Policy Advisor, at 202–514–1473 or eunice.pierre@usdoj.gov.

Federal Surplus Real and Related Property Program

The Federal Surplus Real and Related Property Program facilitates the no-cost public benefit conveyance of suitable federal land and buildings, as determined by the U.S. Attorney General, to state and local governments for correctional facility use and law enforcement purposes. Eligible applicants generally include state and local governments.

For details, contact Maria Pressley-Berry, Senior Special Projects Manager, at 202-353-8643 or maria.pressley@usdoj.gov.

Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program

The 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 prevention 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.

For details, contact David Adams, BJA Senior Policy Advisor, at 202–514–5309 or david.adams@usdoj.gov.

Human Trafficking

In partnership with the Office for Victims of Crime, BJA administers the Law Enforcement Task Forces and Services for Human Trafficking Victims initiative. The overall goals of this program are to: (1) continue to enhance law enforcement's ability to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking, (2) provide law enforcement with the resources and training to identify and rescue victims of trafficking, and (3) ensure that comprehensive services are available wherever trafficking victims are found. BJA currently funds 32 local and state law enforcement anti-trafficking task forces across the country.

For details, contact Lon McDougal, BJA Policy Advisor, at 202–307–3678 or lonnie.r.mcdougal@usdoj.gov.

Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (IASAP)

The IASAP provides funding and technical assistance to federally recognized tribal governments to plan, develop, implement, or enhance tribal justice strategies involving alcohol and crime, as well as substance abuse. Key objectives of IASAP include: (1) establishing a multidisciplinary advisory team to plan, implement, and monitor the proposed strategy; (2) identifying, apprehending, and prosecuting individuals who illegally transport, distribute, and use alcohol and controlled substances in tribal communities; (3) preventing and reducing alcohol- and substance abuse-related crimes, traffic fatalities, and injuries; (4) increasing coordination among all levels of government, law enforcement, the tribal criminal justice system, and tribal support services; and (5) integrating federal, state, tribal, and local services and culturally appropriate treatment for offenders and their families.

For details, contact Eunice Pierre, BJA Policy Advisor, at 202–514–1473 or eunice.pierre@usdoj.gov.

Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program will increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, and mental health and substance abuse treatment systems to increase access to services for offenders with mental illness. The Program encourages early intervention for system-involved individuals with mental illness; provides new and existing mental health courts with various treatment options; maximizes diversion opportunities for nonviolent offenders with mental illness and co-occurring disorders; promotes training for justice and treatment professionals on criminal justice processes and mental health and substance abuse issues; and facilitates communication, collaboration, and the delivery of support services among justice professionals, treatment and related service providers, and governmental partners.

For details, contact Rebecca Rose, BJA Policy Advisor, at 202–305–0726 or rebecca.rose@usdoj.gov.

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

Proposed to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG blends the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Programs to provide agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most.

For details, contact Eileen Garry, Deputy Director, at 202-307-6226 or eileen.garry@usdoj.gov.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

The primary purpose of the PDMP is to enhance the capacity of regulatory and law enforcement agencies to collect and analyze controlled substance prescription data through a centralized database administered by an authorized state agency. The program assists states as they plan, implement, or enhance a PDMP. PDMPs: (1) build a data collection and analysis system at the state level; (2) enhance existing programs' abilities to analyze and use collected data; (3) facilitate national evaluation efforts; (4) encourage the exchange of information and collected prescription data among states; (5) assess the efficiency and effectiveness of programs; and (6) enhance collaborations with law enforcement, prosecutors, treatment professionals, the medical community, and pharmacies.

For details, contact Eunice Pierre, BJA Policy Advisor, at 202-514-1473 or eunice.pierre@usdoj.gov.

Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP)

Under PIECP, BJA certifies that local or state prison industry programs meet all the necessary requirements to be exempt from federal restrictions on prisoner-made goods in interstate commerce. The program places inmates in realistic work environments, pays them prevailing wages, and gives them a chance to develop marketable skills that will increase their potential for rehabilitation and meaningful employment on release.

For details, contact Julius Dupree, BJA Policy Advisor, at 202-514-1928 or julius.dupree@usdoj.gov.

Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI)

PRI strengthens urban communities characterized by large numbers of returning, nonviolent prisoners. With the support of several federal agencies, PRI is designed to reduce recidivism by helping returning inmates find work and access other critical services in their communities. BJA will award grants to state agencies to provide pre-release assessment, programming and services, transition planning, and post-release supervision and coordination of services for prisoners returning to communities served by complementary U.S. Department of Labor grants to faith- and community-based organizations. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also will assist in the design and implementation of the initiative regarding substance abuse and mental health treatment.

For details, contact Thurston Bryant, BJA Policy Advisor, at 202-514-8082 or thurston.bryant@usdoj.gov.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)

PSN is a nationwide network designed to create safer neighborhoods by reducing gun violence and gun crime, and sustaining that reduction. The program's effectiveness is based on the cooperation of local, state, and federal agencies in a unified offensive led by the U.S. Attorney (USA) in each of the 94 federal judicial districts. Each USA is responsible for establishing a collaborative PSN task force of federal, state, and local law enforcement and other community members to implement PSN initiatives within the district.

For details, contact Jonathan Faley, BJA Division Chief, at 202-514-2350 or jonathan.faley@usdoj.gov.

Protecting Inmates and Safeguarding Communities Program

The Protecting Inmates and Safeguarding Communities Program is a result of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 and is designed to support states' efforts to prevent and eliminate prisoner rape between inmates in state and local prisons, jails, and law enforcement lockup facilities and to safeguard the communities where inmates return.

For details, contact Julius Dupree, BJA Policy Advisor, at 202-514-1928 or julius.dupree@usdoj.gov.

Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program

A unique partnership effort of the U.S. Department of Justice; local, state, and federal public safety agencies; and national organizations, the PSOB Program provides death, education assistance, and disability benefits to those eligible for the program. BJA's PSOB Office is responsible for reviewing and processing hundreds of cases each year and works with national law enforcement and first-responder groups to educate public safety agencies regarding the program and offers support to families and colleagues of fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders.

For details, contact Valerie Neal, BJA Senior Benefits Specialist, at 1-888-744-6513 or Valerie-neal@usdoj.gov.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Program

RSAT assists states and local governments to develop and implement substance abuse treatment programs in state and local correctional and detention facilities and to create and maintain community-based aftercare services for offenders. RSAT enhances the capability of states and units of local government to provide residential substance abuse treatment for incarcerated inmates; prepares offenders for their reintegration into the communities from which they came by incorporating reentry planning activities into treatment programs; and assists offenders and their communities through the reentry process through the delivery of community-based treatment and other broad-based aftercare services.

For details, contact Michael Austin, BJA Programs Office Special Assistant, at 202-305-7441 or michael.austin3@usdoj.gov.

Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative (SWPI)

In 1994, jurisdictions in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas began entering into agreements with their U.S. Attorneys, whereby county attorneys would prosecute certain drug smuggling cases. Under SWPI, funds are appropriated to reimburse the state and county prosecution and detention of federally referred criminal cases. Any southwest border county or state government that prosecuted or detained defendants in federally referred criminal cases is eligible to apply.

For details, contact Joseph Husted, Program Analyst, at 202-353-4411 or joseph.husted@usdoj.gov.

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)

SCAAP provides federal payments to states and localities that incurred correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens who have at least one felony or two misdemeanor convictions for violations of state or local law, and who are incarcerated for at least 4 consecutive days during the reporting period.

For details, contact Joseph Husted, Program Analyst, at 202-353-4411 or joseph.husted@usdoj.gov.

Statewide Automated Victim Information Notification (SAVIN) Program

The SAVIN Program protects crime victims from further victimization and ensures their legal rights are honored by providing them with timely and accurate information to fully participate in the judicial process while maintaining total anonymity. SAVIN programs increase victim safety, meet legislative requirements, and minimize the costs associated with keeping victims informed throughout the criminal justice process.

For details, contact Michael Dever, BJA Policy Advisor, at 202-616-9188 or michael.dever@usdoj.gov.

Tribal Courts Assistance Program (TCAP)

TCAP helps develop new tribal courts, improves the operations of existing tribal courts, and provides funding for technical assistance and training of tribal court staff.

For details, contact Kim Norris, BJA Senior Policy Advisor, at 202-307-20706 or kim.norris@usdoj.gov.