

## IN THE NEWS

### **Office of Justice Programs Provides Funding to Review Court Safety and Security**

Just days following the court shootings in Atlanta, GA, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (OJP) announced that it will award a \$100,000 grant to the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to review security in state and local courts. Acting Assistant Attorney General for OJP Tracy A. Henke noted that the review by NCSC will be useful to the Department of Justice as it reviews judicial security measures in upcoming months.

### **Grants Help Link Justice Agency Data**

Six states will be recipients of Justice Department funding for pilot projects designed to improve their information-sharing systems. The National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices recently announced that Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin will each receive \$50,000 grants to adopt the Global Justice Extensible Markup Language (XML) Data Model—a major initiative at BJA—to facilitate critical information sharing among agencies. Kentucky officials, for example, have proposed electronically transmitting fingerprint data collected at the time of booking to the prosecutor's case management system. For more information visit: <http://www.nga.org/center/>.

## FUNDING

### **Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program**

The FY 2005 Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program is open for applications from states and eligible units of local government. The Application Kit includes the Adult Drug Court Implementation Grants, the Adult Drug Court Enhancement Grants, and the Statewide Drug Court Enhancement Grants. Details regarding this Discretionary Grant Program are available at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/drugcourts.html>. Drug Court applications are due March 31, 2005.

### **Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program**

BJA is currently accepting applications from states and eligible units of local government for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). JAG blends the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) programs to provide communities with the flexibility they need to place justice funds where they are needed most. For details visit: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/jag.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/jag.html). JAG applications are due March 31, 2005.

### **Community-Based Problem-Solving Criminal Justice Initiative Discretionary Grant Program**

The FY 2005 Community-Based Problem-Solving Criminal Justice Initiative Discretionary Grant Application Kit and Program Guidelines are now available at: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm) to assist state, local, and tribal jurisdictions develop and implement community prosecution initiatives through a collaborative team approach. Community-Based Problem-Solving applications are due April 14, 2005.

## RESOURCES

### **2005 Mental Health Conference**

BJA, in partnership with the Council of State Governments, its technical assistance provider for Mental Health Court Programs, announces that the *2005 Mental Health Conference* will take place June 21- June 22 in Los Angeles, CA. In January 2004, BJA held the first-ever national meeting of mental health court practitioners receiving federal grant funding through BJA. To further promote the value of mental health court practices nationwide, this year's conference will be open to BJA grantees and nongrantees alike. Visit: <http://www.consensusproject.org/mhcourts/> for details.

### **FOCUS ON THE FIELD**

As part of its comprehensive Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) strategy, the Eastern District of Michigan has developed an 8-week *Parent University*. Designed to empower parents to serve as first line of defense against negative behaviors in their children, 100 percent of Parent University graduates reported an improved relationship with their children including the ability to communicate more effectively with them. To receive more information about this project contact the State Policy Advisor for Michigan, Judy Poston, at: [Judy.Poston@usdoj.gov](mailto:Judy.Poston@usdoj.gov).

**Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice**  
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