

IN THE NEWS

President Signs Fiscal 2005 Omnibus Spending Bill

On December 8, 2004, President Bush signed the \$388 billion omnibus spending bill. The measure, H.R. 4818, appropriates funds for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs. The bill makes official funding for various justice programs, including the new Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) that will replace the previous Byrne Memorial and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) programs to states and units of local government.

Congress Approves Intelligence Reform Bill

In a dramatic turnaround, last week the Senate voted to clear the measure to overhaul intelligence operations. Major components of the bill include: creating a new national intelligence director; establishing a counterterrorism center; setting priorities for intelligence gathering; tightening U.S. borders; allowing wiretaps of "lone wolf" terrorists not associated with groups or states; improving airline baggage screening procedures; increasing the number of full-time border patrol agents by 2,000 a year for five years; and implementing new federal standards regarding the information driver's licenses must contain.

FUNDING

Homeland Security Grant Program

The Fiscal Year 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Guidelines and Application Kit is now available online at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm. The online resource provides a single application point for the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP); the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI); the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP); the Citizen Corps Program (CCP); the Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG); and the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Program Grants. Through HSGP, state and local emergency prevention, preparedness, and response personnel will receive over \$2.5 billion in grant funding to enhance and improve America's homeland security efforts. All HSGP applications are due by January 16, 2005.

BJA Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program

BJA's Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program focuses on planning, developing, and implementing comprehensive strategies to control and prevent crime associated with the distribution and abuse of alcohol and controlled substances. To apply, tribes must show the link between law enforcement and treatment services via a meaningful strategy that can be implemented over a 36-month period. Applicants are also encouraged to include promising approaches that enhance tribal justice efforts; these approaches and other data are available on the National Tribal Justice Resource Center's website at: www.tribalresourcecenter.org. Applications are due by January 27, 2005. For details, visit: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/.

TRAINING

NIJ Call for Presentations, Workshops

As part of its continuing effort to provide relevant, quality training on the latest justice research and initiatives, the National Institute of Justice's Mapping & Analysis for Public Safety (MAPS) program has just announced its annual call for presentations and workshops. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) will reimburse travel, lodging, and conference registration fees for presenters, based on session type. For more information, visit the NIJ conference website at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/maps/savannah2005.

FOCUS ON THE FIELD

With help from the BJA-funded Regional Information Sharing System (RISS) Leads bulletin board, two Minnesota law enforcement officers were able to get information on a common suspect. The Rochester Police Department was investigating stolen lawn mowers that had turned up in a pawnshop when the Brown County Sheriff's Office found stolen construction tools in the same pawnshop as part of a different investigation. Officers from each agency posted RISSLeads notices about their investigations; contacted each other, and later received calls about similar crimes involving the suspect from information published in the *MOCIC Criminal Information Digest*. To learn more about RISS and its value to your agency, contact David Lewis, BJA Senior Policy Advisor for Law Enforcement, at: David.P.Lewis@usdoj.gov.

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