

Ongoing OJP Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking

Anti-Human Trafficking Task Forces and Direct Victim Services

- In Fiscal Year 2012, the Department's [Office of Justice Programs \(OJP\)](#) made more than \$9 million in grant funding available to states and communities to work to combat human trafficking through proactive law enforcement efforts and comprehensive victim services.
- Administered jointly by [OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance \(BJA\)](#) and the [Office for Victims of Crime \(OVC\)](#), grant funding is made available each year to state and local law enforcement agencies and victim services organizations in support of multidisciplinary, victim-centered [task forces](#) dedicated to investigating trafficking crimes and providing culturally competent assistance to victims. These task forces include federal law enforcement agencies, such as [the Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#) and [Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\)](#), as well as [U.S. Attorneys' Offices](#) and state and local prosecutors.
- OVC also makes annual grant funding available exclusively for direct, comprehensive services tailored to the needs of [human trafficking victims](#). These services include intensive case management, food, clothing, shelter, medical and dental care, mental health treatment, translation and interpretation services, immigration legal assistance, and more. This OVC funding also supports efforts to increase the capacity of communities to respond to victims through the development of interagency partnerships and public outreach and awareness campaigns.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

- Last year, the Department's [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \(OJJDP\)](#) funded three agencies under its *Mentoring for Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation Initiative* to develop or enhance the mentoring capacity of community service organizations that work with juvenile victims of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic sex trafficking. This is an effort to increase outreach and to provide services to these victims. The initiative also includes a technical assistance component to help these agencies achieve the project goals.
- Last year, OJJDP also funded the Institute of Medicine and the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education of the National Research Council to study the commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States. The study will be conducted by a committee of independent experts who will review relevant research and practice-based literatures and make policy recommendations. The committee will examine, through a comprehensive literature search, workshops, and site visits, the scope and severity of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and sex trafficking of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents who are under the age of 18; causes and consequences for CSEC and sex trafficking victims and offenders, including the role of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems; evidence on efforts in human services, health care, and law enforcement to prevent CSEC and sex trafficking and to intervene with victims and offenders; lessons from international, national, state, and local advocacy efforts that contribute to successful intervention and prevention strategies; and the adequacy of current state and federal laws to address CSEC and sex trafficking of domestic minors. The committee will recommend strategies to respond to

CSEC and sex trafficking of domestic minors; new legislative approaches, if necessary; and a research agenda to guide future studies in this field. The committee will prepare a final report that summarizes the research review and offer findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

- [OJJDP's Internet Crimes Against Children \(ICAC\) Task Force Program](#) has been protecting American children since 1998. The ICAC program is a national network of 61 coordinated task forces representing more than 3,100 federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. These agencies engage in investigations, forensic examinations, and prosecutions related to technology-facilitated sexual exploitation of children and Internet crimes against children. Additionally, the task forces provide forensic and investigative technical assistance to law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as educational information to parents, educators, prosecutors, law enforcement, and others concerned with child victimization. By helping state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies develop effective and sustainable responses to online child victimization and child pornography, OJJDP and the ICAC program have built capacity at the local level to address ICAC-related offences.

Research Activities

- Through the research investments of OJP's [National Institute of Justice \(NIJ\)](#), we are better able to answer the most important questions about trafficking in the United States. Since 2000, NIJ has sponsored 32 research projects on trafficking in persons that focused on identifying, investigating, and prosecuting traffickers as well as the provision of services to trafficking victims. NIJ's research portfolio is also the basis for promoting evidence-based practices that are effective at preventing or interdicting trafficking in the United States. For example, a recent NIJ study produced a comprehensive catalogue of demand reduction programs for sex trafficking that also includes a Web site any law enforcement agency can access to learn more about these prevention programs.

Training and Technical Assistance

- OVC and BJA are in the preliminary planning stages of developing a national scope, 2–3 day training forum for the summer of 2012. From December 2009 through June 2011, OVC and BJA co-hosted four regional anti-human trafficking task force training forums across the United States. The forums brought together anti-trafficking task forces with investigative and victim service functions to discuss regional trends, identify best practices, share active intelligence, and network among other law enforcement officials, service providers, and allied professionals within a given region. The trainings emphasized the importance of a coordinated, multidisciplinary response to human trafficking. The 2012 forum will have a similar format and will occur in either the Southwest or Northeast with approximately 200 participants representing law enforcement and service providers engaged in anti-trafficking efforts across the country.
- In January 2011, OVC and BJA released the [Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force Strategy and Operations e-Guide](#). The e-Guide is an online learning tool designed to provide direction and development to form new anti-human trafficking task forces; ideas to strengthen existing anti-human trafficking task forces; creative strategies, examples, and lessons learned from existing task forces; and links to valuable tools, trainings, and resources, including case examples and a comprehensive list of state statutes. Since its release, the e-Guide has received more than

11,000 visits. Although the guide was originally created as a tool for task forces, it is used as a resource by victim service providers, law enforcement, government personnel, and others who are looking to enhance their capacity to recognize indicators of human trafficking. The e-Guide is routinely updated, providing new resources and content to support anti-trafficking task forces as the field continues to grow. New content to the guide will be informed by emerging promising practices and will reflect the evolving needs of the Task Force community, including information on U.S. citizen victims and tips for prosecution.

- This year, BJA released a competitive funding opportunity seeking proposals to develop and deliver training for federally recognized Indian tribes with their respective law enforcement and criminal justice authorities (tribal, state, and/or federal law enforcement) that will equip them with the knowledge and ability to identify and rescue victims of human trafficking on tribal lands. Submitted proposals are currently under active consideration.
- Last year, BJA, in partnership with the [Upper Midwest Community Policing Institute \(UMPCI\)](#), the [National Judicial College](#), and the [National Association of Attorneys General](#) designed, developed, and began delivering human trafficking training for state judges and prosecutors. The courses are designed to enhance the effectiveness of state judicial systems to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases under state law. Two “Human Trafficking Training for State Prosecutors” pilot courses were already held, with a third pilot scheduled for April 2012. Several “Human Trafficking Training for State Judges” pilot courses have occurred, with additional trainings forthcoming. Finally, in December 2011, a webcast titled “Human Trafficking: An Educational Webcast for Judges” was held with more than 80 state and local judges participating.
- BJA also previously partnered with UMPCI to develop and deliver a training titled “Advanced Human Trafficking Investigation.” The goal of this training is to increase the capacity of human trafficking investigators through a dynamic and challenging 3-day training that includes complex case studies as well as practical learning exercises. Trainings were held in 2010 and 2011 and are being scheduled through 2013.