

The background of the page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The flag is positioned on the right side of the page, with the blue field of stars at the top and the red and white stripes below. A large, dark blue curved shape overlaps the flag and extends towards the left, serving as a background for the title and subtitle.

# *Principles and Promises*

BJA's Plan for the Future

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# FOREWORD

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) was created to help America’s state and local governments improve the criminal justice system and to restore security to our neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools. As part of that effort, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides funding, training, and technical assistance to states, local governments, and other justice and prevention agencies.

For nearly 20 years, state and local visionaries have worked with OJP and BJA to create forward-thinking solutions to difficult crime problems. Reviewing these successes, I am reminded that the best and most exciting ideas are born not in Washington, D.C., but in our states, our territories, and our communities.

It is with this experience in mind that we set out the principles that will guide BJA in the coming years. These principles will help us design our policies, administer our funding sources, and oversee our programs. No principle will be more important to us than providing for state and local control. President George W. Bush set out this principle well when he said that his vision is an “active but limited government: one that empowers states, cities, and citizens to make decisions.”

This plan is a good beginning, but it is not a measure of success. What matters is not making promises, but making good on promises. To make sure that you are able to hold us accountable, BJA will publish an annual report that outlines our progress.

I look forward to the challenges ahead. The history of our nation tells us that nothing worth achieving comes easy. Every agency within OJP, including BJA, is committed to making difficult changes, knowing that if we remove unnecessary, burdensome federal restrictions, those at the forefront of the fight against crime can focus on what matters most.

Richard R. Nedelkoff  
Director

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## President George W. Bush

The President has clearly set out his vision that the United States should have an “active but limited government: one that empowers states, cities, and citizens to make decisions; ensures results through accountability; and promotes innovation through competition.”

- ◆ Citizen centered, not bureaucracy centered.
- ◆ Results oriented, not process oriented.
- ◆ Market based, actively promoting innovation and competition.

“We ought to care less about rules and regulations and more about how we’re helping people help themselves.”

—President George W. Bush

## **U.S. Department of Justice**

The U.S. Department of Justice Strategic Plan includes three objectives for the Bureau of Justice Assistance:

- ◆ Improve the crime fighting and criminal justice system capabilities of state, tribal, and local governments.
- ◆ Break the cycle of substance abuse and crime through testing, treatment, and sanctions.
- ◆ Support innovative, community-based programs aimed at reducing crime and violence in our communities.

## **Office of Justice Programs**

The Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, has established the following objectives in its core mission of supporting state and local criminal justice systems:

- ◆ Provide federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist crime victims.
- ◆ Identify and promote understanding of critical crime, delinquency, and justice issues.
- ◆ Develop, support, and evaluate promising and innovative strategies for ensuring safe and just communities and assisting victims of crime.
- ◆ Build partnerships that strengthen the capacities of communities and federal, state, and local governments.
- ◆ Ensure a fair workplace that maximizes each employee's contribution to the overall mission and goals of OJP.

# PRINCIPLES AND PROMISES



“To reform  
government,  
we must  
rethink  
government.”

—President George W. Bush

At the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), we are committed to principles that guide our decisions and influence the way we work. Based on these principles, we have created a plan for BJA’s future that we hope will help us better serve our partners in the field. Over the next few years, BJA will work to fulfill the promises that follow, and we will update you on our progress on our web site and in our annual reports.

## Local Control and Limited Government

States and communities know best what they need. The Federal Government should be a help—not a hindrance—to the people we serve. Our goal must be to work to eliminate any unnecessary rules that limit the power of our states and communities to find the solutions that work best for them. This principle will guide every decision we make.

- ◆ BJA will examine its guidance and policies and eliminate any requirements that go beyond our programs’ governing statutes or any requirements that are not needed to ensure fiscal responsibility and measure results.

- ◆ BJA will help its grantees find ways to meet their needs by providing clear and unrestrictive guidance about the purpose areas for each of our funding sources.
- ◆ BJA will work to add more flexibility to how grant funds can be spent by reexamining the purpose areas for each of our funding sources and making recommendations to Congress.

## Simplifying the Process

The people who work to make our communities safer have enormous responsibilities. Every moment they spend completing unnecessary paperwork or maneuvering through bureaucratic obstacles is time taken away from what is truly important. BJA will look at every existing rule and requirement and eliminate what is not needed. We will also provide our grantees with tools to make their jobs easier.

- ◆ BJA will examine its reporting requirements to ensure that they serve necessary purposes and to find solutions that will make reporting simpler.
- ◆ BJA will assess its application and reporting systems and develop solutions that minimize paperwork and improve our ability to use the information we receive.
- ◆ BJA will create and publish a simple guide to grant management to make sure our requirements are easy to understand.
- ◆ BJA will work to streamline its payment programs to make applying for and receiving funds as simple and burden-free as possible.

## Accountability for Results

The effectiveness of our grant programs should be based on results—not on how well grantees complete paperwork. Too often, funding agencies focus more on ensuring that rules are met and forms completed and less on what impact their grantees make. At BJA, we will work to make sure that the information we ask grantees for helps to better measure the impact of their efforts, while imposing fewer and less burdensome reporting requirements.

- ◆ BJA will reassess each reporting requirement and streamline it so that our grantees answer fewer, but more useful, questions.
- ◆ BJA will redesign our grant monitoring system so that we are better able to provide feedback that focuses on helping grantees and sharing their successes with others.
- ◆ BJA will establish a system of desk monitoring that allows us to reach more grantees, while focusing our site visits on providing technical assistance and learning about our grantees' successes.

- ◆ BJA will work to establish information sharing or joint monitoring agreements with other offices and bureaus in the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) that share the same grantees.



## Providing Assistance

One of our roles as a funding agency is to provide support and assistance to our grantees. With limited technical assistance dollars, we are committed to planning strategically to ensure that we provide the assistance our partners want and need.

- ◆ BJA will develop an annual training plan that presents a tentative schedule of training sessions nationwide and describes the training tools we will provide to our grant recipients and state administrative agencies. Our goal is to help grantees plan for their own needs and maximize their training dollars.
- ◆ BJA will collaborate with states and communities to establish training and technical assistance partnerships in ways that save everyone development time and money.
- ◆ BJA will develop a technical assistance program that allows BJA to be responsive to urgent and emerging needs of local, state, and tribal governments and the justice community as a whole.
- ◆ BJA will provide the most current and easy-to-understand training and technical assistance possible to our grantees. We will develop a variety of training tools for our grantees, including distance learning, PC tutorials, CD-ROMs, DVDs, videotapes, streaming video, and teleconferencing.
- ◆ BJA will host regional and national training conferences for state administering agencies and grant recipients. Specific training will include both programmatic and financial aspects of OJP's grant programs.

## Increasing Communication

All of the plans that we have for BJA rely on our ability to communicate information. To make sure that we can inform our grantees and constituents about changes that will help them do their jobs better, we must be diligent in communicating well and often. And we must be available when our grantees and constituents seek to communicate with us.

- ◆ BJA will e-mail our grantees regularly to keep them up to date



on new initiatives, meetings, and technical assistance tools.

- ◆ BJA will continue to redesign its web site to ensure that it is user friendly to all of our audiences, provides up-to-date information on activities and priorities, and links our constituents to other sources of information they need.
- ◆ BJA will communicate often—through e-mails, the BJA web site, and BJA’s annual report—about our progress toward our promises.

## **Working Together To Provide Leadership**

We know that the best solutions to criminal justice problems come from the field. Our role is to provide national leadership in criminal justice issues by looking for innovative solutions and promoting them throughout the country. In doing so, we help states and communities learn about the successes and promising practices that others have worked to produce.

- ◆ BJA will host a series of meetings with our state administrative agencies and with other grantees and partners to discuss the issues that are important to them, including ways in which BJA can be a more responsive partner.
- ◆ BJA will establish policy offices that work to find and encourage innovative ideas. These offices will be resources for the field, and they will maintain a library of state-of-the-art criminal justice information on the BJA web site.
- ◆ If funding is available, BJA will set aside funds for important focus areas and use those funds to encourage our grantees to develop innovative demonstration projects.
- ◆ BJA will sponsor national and regional meetings to discuss important policy issues. At these meetings, we will explore ways to bring new ideas to the criminal justice community and help our grantees find the resources to carry them out.
- ◆ BJA will develop topic-specific fact sheets and other publications on important topics, and we will make them available on the BJA web site.

# POLICY INITIATIVES



“We must make it a priority to ensure that leaders at every level of government have the information they need to protect our communities.”

—Deborah J. Daniels,  
Assistant Attorney General,  
Office of Justice Programs

**B**JA is committed to many initiatives that we hope will bring positive changes and help each of our partners in the field. As we expand upon these initiatives and identify new ones, we will provide updates on our web site and through our annual report.

## Community Planning

At BJA, we firmly believe that the best decisions are those made closest to the people. States and communities know what they need and have a unique perspective on how to solve problems. It is the people on the front lines who make lasting change. But every state and every community works with limited resources. It is crucial that we focus those resources to produce results.

Communities big and small can achieve their goals by planning for their futures. We believe that every community should have access to the tools it needs to identify its most urgent problems and choose the best ways to deal with them.

- ◆ BJA will work with OJP to develop tools and assistance to help states and communities conduct strategic planning.
- ◆ BJA will work with OJP to create a web-based community planning guide that includes tools

communities can use to find and analyze important planning data.

- ◆ BJA will identify and share the lessons learned by communities that have made positive changes from their local planning efforts.

## Crime Prevention

The actions of community members are extremely important to preventing crime, and law enforcement agencies can offer the help community members need to make a difference. Preventing crime involves not only making sure that our houses are secure and that we take precautions to be safe, it also means working with law enforcement to look out for the safety of our neighbors and other community members.

We believe that decreasing crime and making our communities safer requires a return to the value that we must all take responsibility for our

families and our neighborhoods. BJA is committed to providing communities with the tools, information, and resources they need to join together, learn what to do, and take action.

- ◆ BJA will promote community involvement and volunteerism through the President's Citizen Corps initiative.
- ◆ Under Project ChildSafe, a component of Project Safe Neighborhoods, BJA will work to meet President Bush's goal of providing free gunlocks and gun safety information through state and local law enforcement agencies nationwide.
- ◆ BJA will seek out public and private partners to plan, develop, and disseminate public awareness strategies that focus people's attention on crime prevention and creating change in their communities.



“... A teenager is more likely to die from a gunshot than from all natural causes of death combined. This is unacceptable in America. For our children's sake, this nation must reclaim our neighborhoods and streets.”

—President George W. Bush

## Counter-Terrorism

The events of September 11, 2001 changed our nation. On that day, fighting terrorism became the responsibility of every American. BJA recognizes that it is the job of law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to bring terrorists to justice, but we also believe that every citizen can play a vital part in helping to prevent terrorism. Our role is to facilitate the ability of citizens, whenever possible and appropriate, to participate in terrorism prevention and preparedness efforts.

Like America's citizens, our nation's law enforcement officers face new challenges to responding effectively to terrorism. To meet these challenges, law enforcement officers must have the training and resources they need to prevent future tragedies. Local and state governments must find new ways to quickly disseminate threat information and rally first responders



in the event of an attack. They must also learn new ways to work with the community to gather and assess information about potential terrorist operations and to integrate counter-terrorism measures into their daily operations. BJA is committed to working with all levels of government to help prevent, disrupt, and defeat terrorist acts before they occur.

- ◆ BJA will continue to support the State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training program, an initiative that teaches law enforcement about counter-terrorism measures that work at the community level.

## PROJECT CHILDSAFE

For our children's sake, it is crucial that gun owners know how to store and handle their weapons responsibly and that they make sure their weapons can never cause deadly accidents.

Project ChildSafe will provide \$50 million in the first year alone to distribute gun locks and gun safety materials throughout the United States.

Through a national nonprofit organization, new locks that meet federal safety standards will be purchased and distributed equitably to all states and territories. Although Project ChildSafe is a national program, each state or territory's leadership will decide how to distribute locks in their communities.

- ◆ Working with the Office for Domestic Preparedness, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Office of Homeland Security, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, the National Institute of Justice, and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, BJA is coordinating counter-terrorism training efforts nationwide so that we avoid duplication, meet emerging needs, and ensure that our nation's first responders to terrorism receive consistent and appropriate information. To learn more about this initiative, visit [www.counterterrorismtraining.gov](http://www.counterterrorismtraining.gov).
- ◆ In coordination with a national nonprofit educational organization, BJA has published and will continue to promote the *Citizen's Preparedness Guide*. This guide, available at [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov),

teaches citizens how to prevent and prepare for terrorist acts and other emergencies.

- ◆ Because of the tragedy of September 11, it is more important than ever that state and local governments communicate with law enforcement and first responders quickly. To help meet this challenge, BJA will work with the Regional Information Sharing Systems centers to provide secure communications networks for state and local governments and offices charged with homeland security.

## Law Enforcement

Law enforcement officers are our country's front line in the fight against crime, and they perform a difficult and dangerous job with skill and dedication. But the nation's law enforcement officers constantly face extraordinary new challenges with limited resources.

## CITIZEN CORPS

Citizen Corps is a broad network of volunteer initiatives that organizes the efforts of Americans who want to prepare their neighborhoods and communities to prevent and respond to terrorism, crime, or any kind of disaster. Citizen Corps is a component of the President's Freedom Corps

initiative. For more information, visit [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov).

Citizen Corps initiatives include—

- The *Citizens' Preparedness Guide*, which describes crime and disaster preparedness techniques and provides the latest information

At BJA, we respect the choice of law enforcement officers to dedicate themselves to serving their communities. We believe that we must honor their service by doing everything possible to provide them with the support, resources, and training they need to meet the needs of their communities. It is critical that we help law enforcement officers spend their time as effectively as possible by increasing their technological capabilities, and we must redouble our efforts to help law enforcement agencies work with communities to prevent crime and build support for their enforcement activities.

- ◆ BJA will sponsor training for BJA-funded multijurisdictional task forces across the country. This training will teach task forces how to augment their current duties with terrorism prevention and enforcement.
- ◆ BJA will work with national law enforcement associations to provide



“The goal is to weave an impenetrable nationwide network of law enforcement agencies, all working together in pursuit of one common goal—to put criminals who use guns behind bars.”

—Attorney General John Ashcroft  
on Project Safe Neighborhoods

- on being prepared for terrorist attacks.
- The Neighborhood Watch initiative, which is working to double the number of neighborhood watch groups in the United States.
- The Volunteers in Police Service program, which recruits and trains volunteers to aid law enforcement agencies in both furthering crime prevention and freeing officers to spend more time on prevention and enforcement.

research, training, and technical assistance programs to law enforcement officers nationwide.

- ◆ BJA will help law enforcement agencies get the safety equipment they need to protect their officers' lives through the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program.
- ◆ BJA will encourage the use of federal funds for cutting-edge training programs for law enforcement officers.
- ◆ BJA will fund programs that enhance the investigative capabilities of forensic science laboratories.
- ◆ BJA will support initiatives for rural law enforcement entities.

## Adjudication

Prosecutors, judges, and court personnel are looking for new approaches to adjudicating offenders

that will not only clear cases and decrease dockets, but also lower recidivism. Throughout the country, courts are recognizing that crimes involving gun violence, mentally ill and disabled offenders, and drug users require a special effort to ensure that these offenders are held accountable, but returned to the community with the services and supervision they need to stop offending.

Additionally, state and local prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges face the challenge of meeting increasing needs with limited resources. While local court personnel will decide how to meet those needs, BJA is committed to providing resources, tools, and support to help them test their ideas.

- ◆ BJA will support community justice concepts through technical assistance and training.
- ◆ BJA will fund research and technical assistance to find creative

## LEADERSHIP FOR DRUG COURTS

In 1989, a few communities that were troubled by the devastating impact of drugs and drug-related crime on their criminal justice systems took a new approach to adjudicating low-level drug offenders. This new approach integrated substance abuse treatment, sanctions, and incentives with case processing to place nonviolent drug-

involved defendants in judicially supervised habilitation programs. The traditional system had rarely provided substance abuse treatment to defendants in any systematic way and, in many cases, provided little or no threat of sanctions to drug offenders.

In enacting the 1994 Crime Act, Congress joined local communities in

sentencing strategies and practices and assess their effectiveness.

- ◆ Through the Community Gun Violence Prosecution portion of Project Safe Neighborhoods, BJA will provide funding and support for prosecutors' offices to improve their ability to prosecute gun crimes.
- ◆ BJA will fund and support mental health courts that seek appropriate alternatives to incarceration and services for offenders with mental illnesses or disabilities. BJA will continue funding for drug courts formerly supported by OJP's Drug Courts Program Office.
- ◆ BJA will support the criminal defense community's efforts to ensure the fair administration of justice by providing resources and technical assistance for indigent defense.
- ◆ In concert with the Department of the Treasury, BJA will help state



“The goal of every reform we undertake should be to make preventing crime and terrorism easier for our state and local partners.”

—Richard R. Nedelkoff,  
Director, Bureau of  
Justice Assistance

acknowledging the promise of drug courts in rehabilitating offenders, holding offenders accountable for their actions, and reducing victimization. The 1994 Crime Act created the drug court grant program and authorized a technical assistance initiative to provide leadership and support to the more than 500 courts that have implemented or are planning to implement a drug court.

As the Drug Courts Program Office joins BJA as part of the reorganization of OJP, BJA will continue that office's diligent work to strengthen the drug court movement and increase the effectiveness of local courts.



and local prosecutors develop and institutionalize capabilities to investigate and prosecute money laundering offenses.

- ◆ BJA will support high-quality judicial training.
- ◆ BJA will support the highest quality DNA training and technical assistance for prosecutors.
- ◆ BJA will provide training and technical assistance to court administrators.

## Community and Institutional Corrections

Supervising offenders in the community and preparing offenders for their return to their communities are critical to protecting public safety. Community supervision officers must balance the time required to manage growing caseloads and their desire to

provide offenders with the services they need to become law-abiding citizens. At the same time, supervision officers increasingly are concerned with their own safety as they find themselves more in the field and less in the office.

Around the country, state and local probation and parole officials are testing new ways to meet these challenges. One of the most exciting ideas is that of building partnerships between law enforcement and community corrections. These partnerships not only increase the safety of supervision officers, but offer more services and better results than correctional institutions, and at a much lower cost. In another increasingly popular and effective approach, reentry programs provide a broad range of services for offenders while ensuring accountability.

- ◆ BJA will promote police-community corrections partnerships that

## PREPARING INMATES FOR REENTRY: THE PIE PROGRAM

The Prison Industries Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP) encourages states and units of local government to establish employment opportunities for prisoners. 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 upon release. BJA certifies that each PIE program meets statutory and federal guideline requirements.

provide a higher level of supervision and offender accountability.

- ◆ BJA will support OJP reentry programs that provide training, treatment, and supervision when offenders reenter our communities.
- ◆ BJA will work to provide tools, resources, and technical assistance needed by rural probation and parole officers.
- ◆ BJA will develop guidance for community corrections officers and administrators who want to create community correctional programs.
- ◆ BJA will work with professionals to share promising strategies and partnerships that help offenders with mental illness.
- ◆ BJA will provide information on promising practices and creative solutions in community-based treatment options.



- ◆ In coordination with OJP and OJJDP, BJA will invite national experts to provide insight on how best we can provide useful tools and information to the community corrections community.
- ◆ BJA will work with an international correctional association on a collaborative initiative to address correctional workforce issues.

The corrections community not only works to keep criminals off our streets, but also to prepare offenders for their return to their communities. Corrections agencies know that they must do their best to give inmates

Currently, there are 34 state and 4 county-based certified correctional industry programs in the United States, and these programs operate at least 175 business partnerships with private industry. In 2001, PIECP programs

generated more than \$2.5 million for victims' programs, \$1.7 million for inmate family support, \$10 million for correctional institution room and board costs, and \$4.5 million in state and federal taxes.

opportunities to develop life and work skills that will help their return be successful. Increasingly, correctional facilities are using treatment, work, education, and mental health programs to build these skills.

At BJA, we believe that this direction is the only way to increase the chance that the people who once preyed on our communities can return to them without causing further harm. As a result, we will continue to support reentry services in the criminal justice system by providing funding and assistance to correctional programs that want to test alternatives to traditional incarceration programs.

- ◆ BJA will support reentry programs that seek to provide the needed training, treatment, and supervision offenders need to reenter our communities and live law-abiding lives.

- ◆ BJA will work with national correctional associations and organizations to develop and conduct regional policy and training forums for correctional staff and community leaders.

- ◆ BJA will continue to support and operate the Prison Industries Enhancement Certification Program. Through the program, which lifts restrictions on prisoner-made goods for certified state corrections agencies, prisoners acquire marketable skills that help them find meaningful employment after their release.

## Information Technology

The question of how to overcome obstacles to sharing information among law enforcement and other criminal justice system components is a significant issue that impacts the safety of Americans. In today's

## PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS



Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a nationwide commitment to

reducing gun crime in America. PSN will create a network of existing local programs that target gun crime and

provide those programs with tools to be successful.

- The Community Gun Violence Prosecution Program promotes the aggressive enforcement of gun crimes by giving state and local prosecutors additional resources to focus on gun crimes.

electronic age, the public has grown to expect justice system integration and appropriate information sharing.

All law enforcement and criminal justice agencies—local, state, and federal—need to find ways to overcome obstacles to sharing information. Doing so not only increases their ability to solve crimes and keep communities safer, it also helps them meet their increasing responsibilities. While the sharing of information must be the responsibility of criminal justice agencies, at BJA we are committed to providing the resources and assistance needed to make it as easy as possible.

- ◆ BJA will work to increase the number of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies that use the Regional Information Sharing Systems. Wider use of these innovative regional systems will go far to increase intelligence sharing and secure communications among



the thousands of law enforcement agencies nationwide.

- ◆ Through its Information Technology Initiative, BJA, on behalf of OJP, will continue to help the criminal justice system share information by providing research and guidance on strategic planning and governance; standards, infrastructure, and architecture; privacy and information quality; security; and resource management issues. Additionally, BJA will continue to maintain the OJP Information Technology Initiatives web site ([www.it.ojp.gov](http://www.it.ojp.gov)) as a resource for criminal justice practitioners nationwide.

- Project Safe Neighborhoods Research and Community Engagement Partner grants are designed to support the strategic planning, accountability, and community outreach components of U.S. Attorney-led gun violence task forces.
- Project Sentry provides resources for state and local juvenile justice

prosecutors to increase their ability to focus on gun crimes committed by juveniles.

- The Reducing Community Gun Violence Open Solicitation seeks to fund demonstration projects that consist of locally crafted, innovative responses to local need to reduce gun violence.

- ◆ Through the Global Advisory Board, a group of key officials from local, state, tribal, federal, and other justice-related organizations, BJA will continue working to bring together representatives from the justice community to overcome barriers to justice information sharing across agencies, disciplines, and levels of government.
- ◆ BJA will continue to support enhanced forensic capabilities, including the use of DNA evidence, to assist in law enforcement, prosecution, and defense needs.
- ◆ BJA will continue to support collaborative case management systems at the local level and the inclusion of courts and prosecutors' offices in integrated information systems.

## Faith-Based Initiatives

In communities across the country, there are faith-based organizations

that, working alongside other community groups, form an army of compassion. Crime prevention and criminal justice communities that fail to tap this resource are missing opportunities. In many American communities, faith-based organizations are the prime agents of change for social good.

Institutions of faith are ingrained in our communities and offer unique abilities to reach both the people who are in need of help and those who are able to give it. Although BJA should not fund or promote the religious activities of any group, we want to ensure that when people of faith provide social services we do not discriminate against them. BJA will promote the Administration's faith-based initiatives by expanding their capacity through funding and support.

- ◆ BJA will review its rules to ensure that we eliminate barriers that keep faith-based programs from getting needed funding. Additionally, we will ensure that faith-based

## TAKING CARE OF THOSE WHO PROTECT US

The Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program, administered by BJA, provides financial benefits and education assistance to families of federal, state, and local public safety officers killed or to officers permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty. In FY 2001, PSOB responded to

approximately 370 claims and awarded more than \$26 million in benefits to surviving families.

Among BJA's first responses to the September 11 terrorist attacks was expediting the payment of financial aid to the families of police officers and firefighters killed in the attacks.

organizations can do what we ask of them without changing their mission.

- ◆ In an effort to remove barriers to faith-based funding at the state and local levels, BJA will work with national organizations, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, and the Justice Department Task Force for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to clarify faith-based funding rules for our state administrative agencies.
- ◆ BJA will develop easy-to-use information for faith-based groups to help them understand what types of funding are available and how to apply.
- ◆ BJA will work to identify promising faith-based programs and share the information in publications and on our web site.



“These quiet heroes lift people’s lives in ways that are beyond government’s know-how...and they heal our nation’s ills, one heart and one act of kindness at a time.”

—President George W. Bush  
on faith-based and  
community organizations

Immediately after the attacks, BJA staff began working to eliminate paperwork for these claims, making payment possible in most cases within a few days. Nearly 400 claims stemming from the attacks have been paid.





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