

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

MEMO

From: The Office of Congressman Peter Visclosky
Date: March 17, 2000

Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000

In 1998, Congress overwhelmingly approved the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act, showing their commitment to providing a bulletproof vest to every law enforcement and corrections officer in America who needs one. On March 27, 2000, Congressman Peter Visclosky will introduce the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000 with Congressman Frank LoBiondo. This legislation will reauthorize the highly successful Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, which is currently in its second year of operation at the Department of Justice. The program is designed to provide up to 50 percent matching funds for the purchase of bulletproof vests by local and state law enforcement agencies. Attached you will find a summary prepared by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership and the Bureau of Justice Assistance discussing the first year of the program.

The new legislation will:

- Double the authorization for the program to \$50 million annually. Despite the fact that all of the 3,511 jurisdictions that applied for the grant received funding, only 76 percent of these jurisdictions received the 50-50 matching grant they expected. This increase in authorization should fully fund the program according to the 1999 data.
- Guarantee that every law enforcement and corrections agency that serves a jurisdiction with under 100,000 residents, many of which have extremely limited budgets for vests, receives a full 50-50 matching fund for their body armor purchases. This will ensure that police officers in small towns and rural counties are afforded the same level of protection already available to officers in many large, urban areas.
- Include stabproof vests approved by the new National Institute of Justice standard. These vests are invaluable in protecting corrections officers and sheriffs who face violent criminals in close quarters every day in local, county and state jails.

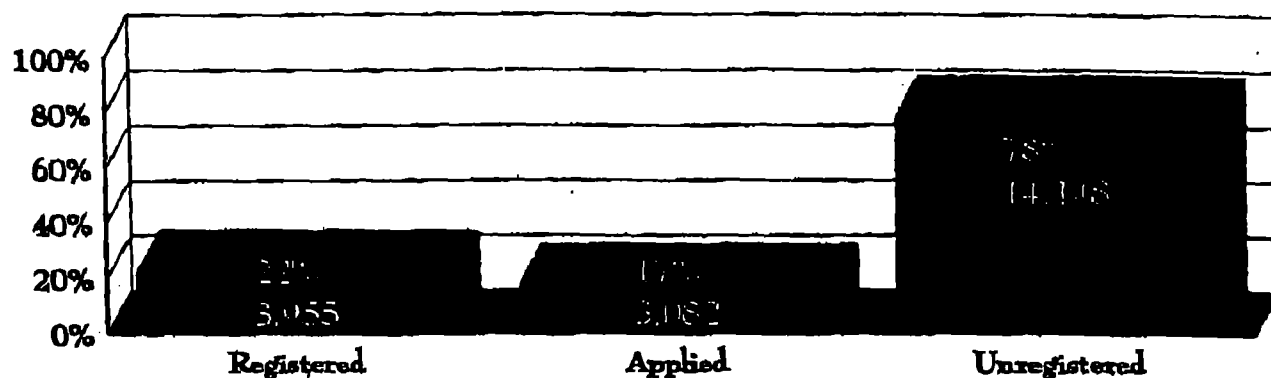
It is estimated that bulletproof vests have saved the lives of over 2000 police officers since bulletproof material was introduced in the 1970s. Firearms claimed the lives of 92 percent of the 682 officers killed in the line of duty between 1989 and 1998, with 45 percent of those fatal wounds striking in the upper torso area. In 1997, over 25 percent of law enforcement officers did not have access to body armor. Furthermore, the President's COPS initiative is continuing to put more police on the street, increasing the demand for bulletproof vests nationwide.

Bulletproof Vest Program - Year in Review

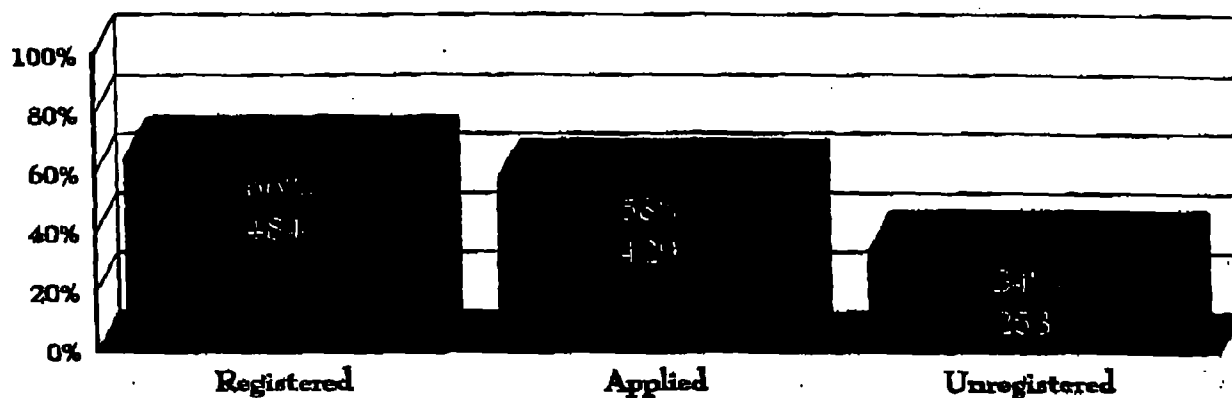


- ☐ This represents OJP's first Internet-based funding application process. Its development represented a unique public-private partnership including several OJP agencies, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, U.S. Census Bureau and REI Systems, Incorporated (private web site developer).
- ☐ The web site was developed and implemented within six months of the appropriation, with program opening on April 14, 1999. This effort garnered the prestigious 1999 Intergovernmental Open Systems Solutions Gold Award from the Federation of Government Information Processing Councils.
- ☐ More than 3,500 jurisdictions applied during the first year. Funding approvals provided 76% of the applicants with the full 50% requested; jurisdictions are now purchasing more than 92,000 vests for their law enforcement officers.
- ☐ The Fiscal Year 2000 program opened Monday, February 14. Applications will be accepted through May 13, 2000. Significant outreach to national criminal justice organizations and associations representing state and local governments is underway, announcing the program's reopening. The web site, <http://vests.ojp.gov> has been significantly enhanced with a variety of new resources, links, and better navigational tools.
- ☐ In keeping with BVP program guidelines and statutory requirements, NIJ-approved vests purchased on or after March 1, 1999 are eligible for funding and may be included in year 2000 applications. Jurisdictions may use funds from more than one approved BVP application to purchase vests, as long as the total BVP share does not exceed 50% of the vests' total cost.
- ☐ The application approval process has been streamlined. This year, all jurisdictions with approved applications will receive one funding approval notification, rather than the partial/supplemental funding approvals utilized last year. This will occur after the application deadline, when funding levels for jurisdictions have been established.
- ☐ The NIJ catalog has been updated with the latest approved vest makes and models. The application process has been simplified, particularly for smaller jurisdictions that have only one participating law enforcement agency.

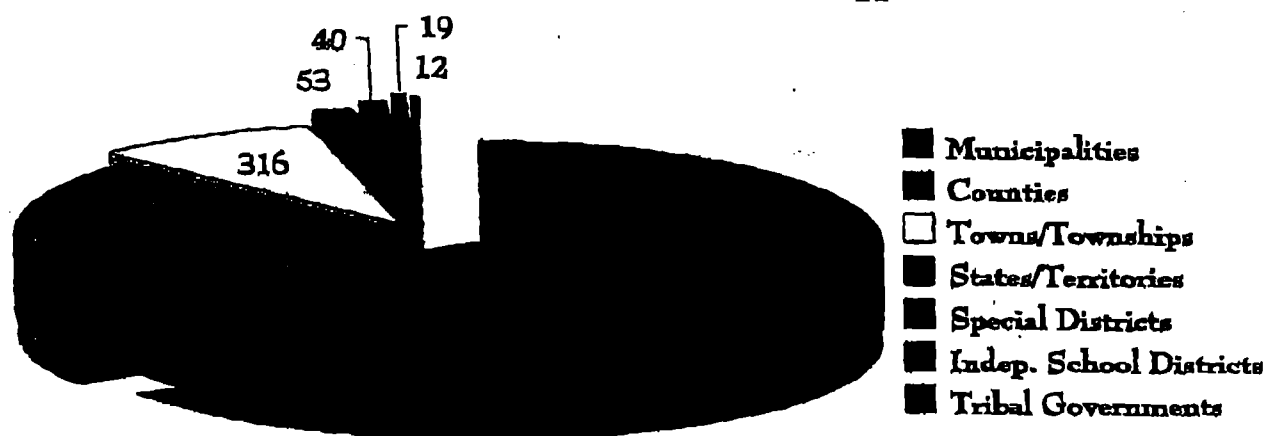
First Year Participation Levels Eligible Jurisdictions, Population Under 100,000



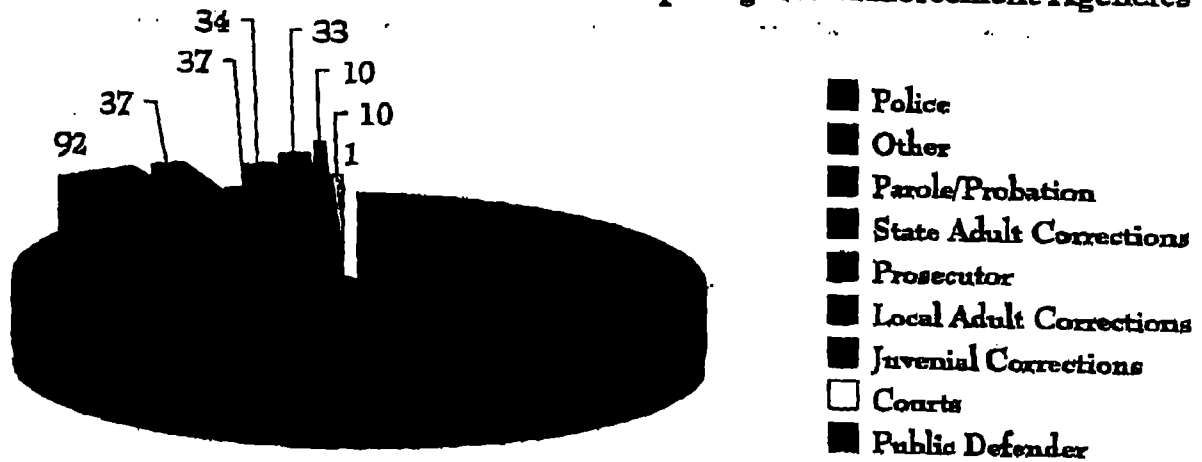
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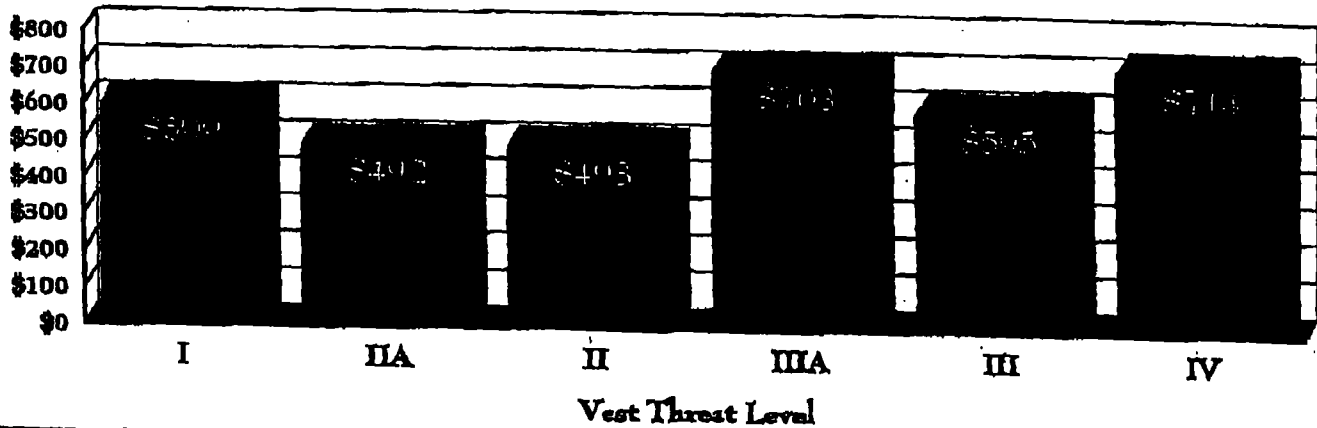
Jurisdiction Application Profile - 1999



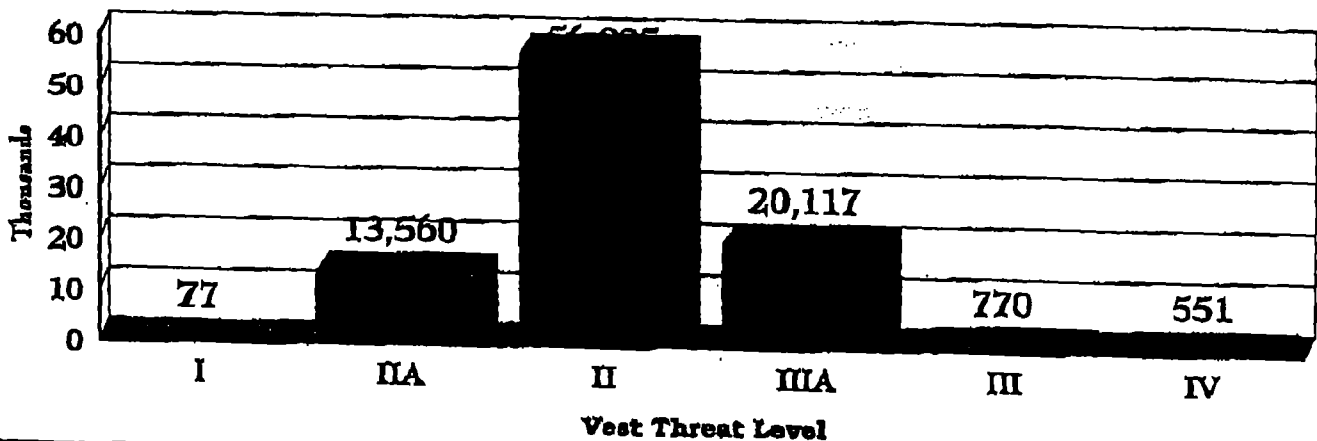
Participating Law Enforcement Agencies



Average Cost of Vest Per Threat Level Nationwide Summary



Vests Being Purchased - 1999 BVP Funds Nationwide Summary - 92,000 Vests (est)



BVP 1999 Participation by Size of Jurisdiction				
Population of Service Area	Estimated # Jurisdictions w/ LEA's	Estimated Number of Officers	# Jurisdictions in FY 1999	% Participation
Jurisdictions Under 100,000				
Less than 25,000	15,983	160,433	2,243	14%
25,000 - 49,999	1,360	85,071	500	37%
50,000 - 99,999	760	96,446	339	45%
Totals for small Jurisdictions	18,103	341,950	3,082	
Jurisdictions of 100,000 or more				
100,000 - 249,999	430	132,482	213	50%
250,000 - 499,999	147	115,519	80	54%
500,000 - 999,999	79	138,226	55	70%
1,000,000 or more	81	866,260	81	100%
Totals for large Jurisdictions	737	1,252,487	429	
Grand Totals - All Jurisdictions	18,840	1,594,437	3,511	

BVP 1999 Awards by Size of Jurisdiction					
Population of Service Area	First Year Program Results				
	Fifty % Match of Proposed Amount	Amount Awarded	Avg. amount needed by Jurisdiction	Avg. amount Awarded by Jurisdiction	% Match Provided by BVP
Jurisdictions Under 100,000					
Less than 25,000	\$6,392,888	\$4,287,446	\$2,850	\$1,911	34%
25,000 - 49,999	\$3,530,921	\$3,410,769	\$7,062	\$6,822	48%
50,000 - 99,999	\$3,863,156	\$3,724,270	\$11,396	\$10,986	48%
Totals for small Jurisdictions	\$13,786,965	\$11,422,485			41%
Jurisdictions of 100,000 or more					
100,000 - 249,999	\$4,376,445	\$1,107,284	\$20,547	\$5,199	13%
250,000 - 499,999	\$2,977,564	\$901,020	\$37,220	\$11,263	15%
500,000 - 999,999	\$3,271,879	\$1,379,411	\$59,489	\$25,080	21%
1,000,000 or more	\$17,135,546	\$8,072,596	\$211,550	\$99,662	24%
Totals for large Jurisdictions	\$27,761,434	\$11,460,311			21%
	\$41,548,399	\$83,096,798	Estimated vests to be purchased: 92,500		

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[Discussion Draft]

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1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) the number of law enforcement officers who
4 are killed in the line of duty would significantly de-
5 crease if every law enforcement officer in the United
6 States had the protection of an armor vest;

7 (2) according to studies, between 1985 and
8 1994, 709 law enforcement officers in the United
9 States were feloniously killed in the line of duty;

10 (3) the Federal Bureau of Investigation esti-
11 mates that the risk of fatality to law enforcement of-
12 ficers while not wearing an armor vest is 14 times
13 higher than for officers wearing an armor vest;

14 (4) according to studies, between 1985 and
15 1994, bullet-resistant materials helped save the lives
16 of more than 2,000 law enforcement officers in the
17 United States; and

18 (5) the Executive Committee for Indian Coun-
19 try Law Enforcement Improvements reports that
20 violent crime in Indian country has risen sharply,
21 despite a decrease in the national crime rate, and
22 has concluded that there is a "public safety crisis in
23 Indian country".

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[Discussion Draft]

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1 SEC. 3. MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR LAW ENFORCE-
2 MENT ARMOR VESTS.

3 (a) MATCHING FUNDS.—Section 2501(f) (42 U.S.C.
4 3796ll(f) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “The portion” and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(1) The portion”;

8 (2) by striking “subsection (a)” and all that fol-
9 lows through the period at the end of the first sen-
10 tence and inserting “subsection (a)—

11 “(A) may not exceed 50 percent; and

12 “(B) shall equal 50 percent, if—

13 “(i) such grant is to a unit of local
14 government with fewer than 100,000 resi-
15 dents;

16 “(ii) the Director of the Bureau of
17 Justice Assistance determines that the
18 quantity of vests to be purchased with such
19 grant is reasonable; and

20 “(iii) such portion does not cause such
21 grant to violate the requirements of sub-
22 section (e).”; and

23 (3) by striking “Any funds” and inserting the
24 following:

25 “(2) Any funds”.

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[Discussion Draft]

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1 (b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Section 2501(g) (42
2 U.S.C. 3796ll(g)) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
3 Streets Act of 1968 is amended to read as follows:

4 “(g) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Funds available
5 under this part shall be awarded, without regard to sub-
6 section (c), to each qualifying unit of local government
7 with fewer than 100,000 residents. Any remaining funds
8 available under this part shall be awarded to other quali-
9 fying applicants.

10 (c) APPLICATIONS.—Section 2502 (42 U.S.C.
11 3796ll–1) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets
12 Act of 1968 is amended by inserting after subsection (c)
13 the following new subsection:

14 “(d) APPLICATIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH PUR-
15 CHASES.—If an application under this section is submitted
16 in conjunction with a transaction for the purchase of
17 armor vests, grant amounts under this section may not
18 be used to fund any portion of that purchase unless, before
19 the application is submitted, the applicant—

20 “(1) receives clear and conspicuous notice that
21 receipt of the grant amounts requested in the appli-
22 cation is uncertain; and

23 “(2) expressly assumes the obligation to carry
24 out the transaction regardless of whether such
25 amounts are received.”.

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1 (d) DEFINITION OF ARMOR VEST.—Paragraph (1) of
2 section 2503 (42 U.S.C. 3796ll-2) of such Act is
3 amended—

4 (1) by striking “means body armor” and insert-
5 ing the following: “means—

6 “(A) body armor”; and

7 (2) by inserting after the semicolon at the end
8 the following: “or

9 “(B) body armor which has been tested
10 through such voluntary compliance testing pro-
11 gram, and found to meet or exceed the require-
12 ments of NIJ Standard 0115.00, or any subse-
13 quent revision of such standard;”.

14 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
15 1001(a)(23) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
16 Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3793(a)(23)) is amended
17 by striking the period at the end and inserting the fol-
18 lowing: “, and \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002
19 through 2004.”.