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# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

## Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

### Fiscal Year 1998

Through the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program (the Byrne Program), the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides leadership and guidance on crime and violence prevention and control and works in partnership with State and local governments to make communities safe and improve criminal justice systems. BJA develops and tests new approaches in criminal justice and crime control and encourages replication of effective programs and practices by State and local criminal justice agencies. The Byrne Program, created by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-690), emphasizes controlling violent and drug-related crime and serious offenders and fosters multijurisdictional and multi-State efforts to support national drug-control priorities.

BJA makes Byrne Program funds available through two types of grant programs: discretionary and formula. Discretionary funds are awarded directly to public and private agencies and private nonprofit organizations; formula funds are awarded to the States, which then make subawards to State and local units of government.

### Discretionary Grant Program

**Program purposes.** The Byrne Discretionary Grant Program focuses on the following crime and violence prevention and control activities:

- Undertaking educational and training programs for criminal justice personnel.
- Providing technical assistance to State and local units of government.

- Promoting projects that are national or multijurisdictional in scope.
- Demonstrating programs that, in view of previous research or experience, are likely to be successful in more than one jurisdiction.

**Funding.** In fiscal year (FY) 1998, \$46.5 million was appropriated for the Byrne Discretionary Grant Program.

**Eligibility.** Public and private agencies and private nonprofit organizations are generally eligible to apply for and receive funds under this program.

**Matching requirements.** Grants and contracts may be awarded for up to 100 percent of the cost of an approved project. The Federal share for subsequent awards of projects funded after FY 1994 will decrease by at least 25 percent. This policy reflects BJA's intent to promote leveraging of State, local, and private resources and to emphasize the need for early sustainment planning.

**Program priorities.** During FY 1998, BJA will focus on programs that implement comprehensive approaches to crime; stimulate partnerships among public agencies, private organizations, and communities; and address unmet needs in the delivery of criminal justice services. Most funds appropriated for discretionary grants will be awarded to continue initiatives started in previous fiscal years or to support those efforts designated by Congress.

BJA is seeking new initiatives through several competitive programs. An open solicitation has been announced to request the submission of innovative concepts and practices in issues related to community justice, law enforcement, adjudication, rural communities, indigent defense, and nontraditional uses of resources to

enhance public safety. State and local governments will be encouraged to submit concept papers on individual topics within these general areas. A second, more limited solicitation seeks applications to strengthen State and local evaluation efforts through partnerships among State administrative agencies. Panels of experts will review concept papers or applications for each competitive program. Funding decisions will be made by the Director of BJA.

## Formula Grant Program

**Program purposes.** The Byrne Formula Grant Program is a partnership among Federal, State, and local governments to create safer communities and improved criminal justice systems. BJA is authorized to award grants to States for use by States and units of local government to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, with emphasis on violent crime and serious offenders, and to enforce State and local laws that establish offenses similar to those in the Federal Controlled Substances Act. Grants may be used to provide personnel, equipment, training, technical assistance, and information systems for more widespread apprehension, prosecution, adjudication, detention, and rehabilitation of offenders who violate such State and local laws. Grants also may be used to provide assistance (other than compensation) to victims of these offenders. There are 26 legislatively authorized purpose areas (outlined in the next section) for which formula grant assistance may be provided.

**Funding.** In FY 1998, \$505 million was appropriated for the Byrne Formula Grant Program. From this allocation, each State receives a base amount of 0.25 percent of the total allocation. Remaining funds are allocated according to each State's relative share of the U.S. population. (See "Formula Grant Program Allocation of Funds.") In addition, Congress has added \$25 million to fund State programs related to the President's Federal drug-testing initiative. Although not mandated to do so, States are strongly encouraged to consider using Byrne Program funds for programs that support this initiative.

**Eligibility.** The 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible to apply for formula grant funds. For the purposes of this program, references to "State" include all of these eligible entities.

**State office.** The chief executive of each participating State designates a State office to administer the State's Byrne Program and to coordinate the distribution of

funds with State agencies receiving Federal funds for drug abuse education, prevention, treatment, and research activities and programs. An office or agency performing other functions within the State's executive branch may be the designated State office.

**Statewide strategy.** Each State is required to develop a statewide strategy to improve its functioning of the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on drug trafficking, violent crime, and serious offenders. The strategy should be prepared after consultation with State and local officials, particularly those whose duty it is to enforce drug and criminal laws and to direct the administration of justice, and made available to the public for comment.

**Administrative funds.** Up to 10 percent of formula grant funds allocated to a State may be used to pay for costs incurred in administering the formula grant program.

**Matching requirements.** At least 25 percent of the cost of a program or project funded with a formula grant must be paid in cash with non-Federal funds. These "match" funds must be in addition to funds that would otherwise be made available by the recipient for law enforcement. Match funds are generally provided on a project-by-project basis, although BJA can approve a statewide match option.

**Passthrough.** The minimum passthrough amount for each State is based on the percentage of funds expended for criminal justice purposes by units of local government relative to total State and local criminal justice expenditures in the State. These expenditures must be funded by State and local revenue sources, e.g., taxes, charges and fees, utility revenue, and interest earnings. This requirement applies only to the 50 States. The District of Columbia, because of its designation as a local unit of government, is required to pass through 100 percent. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have no passthrough requirement due to their single-level government structures.

**Funding priority.** In distributing funds, States are to give priority to jurisdictions with the greatest need for assistance with criminal justice programs.

**Congressional mandates.** States are required to comply with the following congressional mandates:

- ❑ **Criminal Justice Records Improvement Plan.** States must use at least 5 percent of their formula grant awards for the improvement of criminal justice records.

## Formula Grant Program Allocation of Funds

State	FY 1998 Allocation	Percentage To Be Passed Through to Local Jurisdictions	State	FY 1998 Allocation	Percentage To Be Passed Through to Local Jurisdictions
Alabama	8,160,000	50.95	New Jersey	14,156,000	57.67
Alaska	2,242,000	21.97	New Mexico	4,028,000	42.23
Arizona	8,410,000	61.04	New York	30,614,000	63.29
Arkansas	5,313,000	54.87	North Carolina	13,082,000	41.36
California	52,716,000	63.15	North Dakota	2,301,000	56.16
Colorado	7,433,000	58.82	Ohio	19,296,000	64.42
Connecticut	6,547,000	36.96	Oklahoma	6,590,000	45.41
Delaware	2,432,000	26.87	Oregon	6,434,000	46.98
District of Columbia	2,139,000	100.00	Pennsylvania	20,722,000	64.83
Florida	24,505,000	61.56	Rhode Island	2,861,000	41.76
Georgia	13,131,000	53.39	South Carolina	7,233,000	42.53
Hawaii	3,173,000	46.45	South Dakota	2,445,000	47.16
Idaho	3,182,000	52.41	Tennessee	9,849,000	48.78
Illinois	20,384,000	64.51	Texas	32,137,000	65.60
Indiana	10,690,000	56.78	Utah	4,491,000	49.76
Iowa	5,865,000	40.79	Vermont	2,213,000	25.11
Kansas	5,414,000	47.49	Virginia	12,037,000	30.04
Kentucky	7,531,000	32.30	Washington	10,193,000	60.25
Louisiana	8,285,000	51.92	West Virginia	4,209,000	47.93
Maine	3,269,000	41.59	Wisconsin	9,591,000	61.98
Maryland	9,448,000	44.47	Wyoming	2,040,000	54.95
Massachusetts	11,096,000	36.64	Puerto Rico	7,368,000	0
Michigan	16,748,000	53.10	Virgin Islands	1,427,000	0
Minnesota	8,780,000	70.29	Guam	1,477,000	0
Mississippi	5,646,800	52.52	American Samoa/ N. Mariana Islands	1,408,000*	0
Missouri	9,912,000	58.22			
Montana	2,682,000	58.56			
Nebraska	3,929,000	60.36			
Nevada	3,850,000	62.01			
New Hampshire	3,139,000	51.46			

\* American Samoa (67 percent)—\$943,360; N. Mariana Islands (33 percent)—\$464,640.

**Note:** Figures for populations of States and for Puerto Rico are based on Bureau of Census estimates as of July 1, 1996. Figures for other U.S. territories are based on the 1990 census.

- ❑ **Immigration and Naturalization Plan.** States must develop methods to notify the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) of alien convictions and to provide records of those convictions to INS.
- ❑ **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Testing.** States must enact and enforce a law that requires sex offenders to be tested for HIV if the victim requests such testing. If a State fails to comply, 10 percent of the State's formula grant will be withheld.
- ❑ **Jacob Wetterling Sexual Offender Registry.** States must establish 10-year registration requirements for persons convicted of certain crimes against minors and sexually violent offenses and a more stringent set of registration requirements for a subclass of highly dangerous sex offenders characterized as "sexually violent predators." If a State fails to comply with these requirements, 10 percent of its formula grant will be withheld.

**Construction.** Grant funds may be used for construction of penal and correctional institutions only. Acquisition of land with grant funds is prohibited.

**Period of project support.** Projects in the aggregate may be funded for a maximum of 4 years (48 months). Grants awarded to State and local governments to participate in multijurisdictional drug or gang task forces and victim assistance programs are excluded from this restriction.

## Legislatively Authorized Byrne Program Purposes

Both discretionary and formula grant funds may be used to implement programs that carry out any of the following 26 legislatively authorized purposes:

1. Demand-reduction education programs in which law enforcement officers participate.
2. Multijurisdictional task force programs to integrate Federal, State, and local drug law enforcement agencies and prosecutors for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination and intelligence and facilitating multijurisdictional investigations.
3. Programs to target the domestic sources of controlled and illegal substances, such as precursor chemicals, diverted pharmaceuticals, clandestine laboratories, and cannabis cultivations.

4. Community and neighborhood programs to assist citizens in preventing and controlling crime, including special programs that address crimes committed against the elderly and special programs in rural jurisdictions.
5. Programs to disrupt illicit commerce in stolen goods and property.
6. Programs to improve the investigation and prosecution of white-collar crime, organized crime, public corruption, and fraud against the Government, with priority attention to cases involving drug-related official corruption.
7. a. Programs to improve the operational effectiveness of law enforcement through the use of crime analysis techniques, street sales enforcement, schoolyard violator programs, and gang-related and low-income housing drug-control programs.
- b. Programs to develop and implement antiterrorism plans for deep-draft ports, international airports, and other important facilities.
8. Career criminal prosecution programs, including the development of model drug-control legislation.
9. Financial investigative programs to identify money laundering operations and assets obtained through illegal drug trafficking, including the development of model legislation, financial investigative training, and financial information-sharing systems.
10. Programs to improve the operational effectiveness of courts by expanding prosecutorial, defender, and judicial resources and implementing court delay-reduction programs.
11. Programs to improve the corrections system and provide additional public correctional resources, including treatment in prisons and jails, intensive supervision programs, and long-range corrections and sentencing strategies.
12. Prison industry projects to place inmates in a realistic working and training environment that enables them to develop marketable skills. With these skills inmates are better able to support their families and themselves in the institution and make financial restitution to their victims.
13. Programs to identify and meet the treatment needs of adult and juvenile drug- and alcohol-dependent offenders.

14. Programs to provide assistance to jurors and witnesses and assistance (other than compensation) to victims of crime.

15. a. Programs to improve drug-control technology, such as pretrial drug-testing programs; to provide for the identification, assessment, referral to treatment, case management, and monitoring of drug-dependent offenders; and to enhance State and local forensic laboratories.
- b. Criminal justice information systems (including automated fingerprint identification systems) to assist law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and corrections organizations.

16. Programs to demonstrate innovative approaches to enforcement, prosecution, and adjudication of drug offenses and other serious crimes.

17. Programs to address drug trafficking and the illegal manufacture of controlled substances in public housing.

18. Programs to improve the criminal and juvenile justice system's response to domestic and family violence, including spouse abuse, child abuse, and elder abuse.

19. Programs with which States and local units of government can evaluate State drug-control projects.

20. Programs to provide alternatives to detention, jail, and prison for persons who pose no danger to the community.

21. Programs to strengthen urban enforcement and prosecution efforts targeted at street drug sales.

22. Programs to prosecute driving-while-intoxicated charges and enforce other laws relating to alcohol use and the operation of motor vehicles.

23. Programs to address the need for effective bindover systems for the prosecution of violent 16- and 17-year-old juveniles for [certain enumerated] violent crimes in courts with jurisdiction over adults.

24. Law enforcement and prevention programs for gangs and youth who are involved or are at risk of involvement in gangs.

25. Programs to develop or improve forensic laboratory capability to analyze DNA for identification purposes.

26. Programs to develop and implement antiterrorism training and procure equipment for local law enforcement authorities.

*Note: Congress has authorized the use of Byrne funds to support programs that assist in the litigation of death penalty Federal habeas corpus petitions. This authorization applies only to the current award (FY 1998) and may or may not be available in future funding cycles.*

## Program Evaluation

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 mandates that all programs funded under the Byrne Program be evaluated. The goal is to identify and disseminate information about programs of proven effectiveness so that jurisdictions throughout the country can replicate them. In addition, evaluation results guide the formulation of policy and programs within Federal, State, and local criminal justice agencies.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is an active participant in BJA's evaluation program. BJA and NIJ jointly develop evaluation guidelines and conduct comprehensive evaluations of selected programs receiving discretionary and formula grant funds. The Director of NIJ is required to report to the President, Attorney General, and Congress on the nature and findings of Byrne Program evaluation activities.

Formula grant program applicants must include an evaluation component that meets the BJA/NIJ evaluation guidelines. The Director of BJA may waive this requirement under certain circumstances. Each State is required to provide BJA with an annual report that includes a summary of its grant activities and an assessment of the impact of these programs on the needs identified in its statewide strategy. Formula grant funds may be used to pay for evaluation activities.

Applicants for discretionary grant funding also are required to include an evaluation component in their applications and to conduct evaluations according to the procedures and terms established by BJA.

The Director of BJA is required to submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President pro tempore of the Senate an annual report on evaluation results of BJA programs and projects and State strategy implementation.

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## For More Information

For additional information on the Bureau of Justice Assistance and its programs, contact the offices listed below. In addition, refer to BJA's *FY 1998 Program Plan* for a summary of all discretionary programs planned for FY 1998. Solicitations for competitive awards, including application instructions, will be issued separately and made available through the BJA home page or the BJA Clearinghouse home page. (See below for World Wide Web addresses.)

### **Bureau of Justice Assistance**

810 Seventh Street NW.  
Washington, DC 20531  
Phone: 202-307-0635  
World Wide Web: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

### **Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse**

P.O. Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
Phone: 1-800-688-4252  
World Wide Web: <http://www.ncjrs.org>

Clearinghouse staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. eastern time. Ask to be placed on the BJA mailing list.

### **Department of Justice Response Center**

Phone: 1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480

Response Center staff are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time.

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*Bureau of Justice Assistance*

*Washington, DC 20531*

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# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

## FY 1998 Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program

### FY 1998 Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program Fact Sheet

The Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 Appropriations Act, Public Law 105-119, provides \$523 million for the continuation of the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG) Program to be administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice. The purpose of the LLEBG Program is to provide funds to units of local government to underwrite projects to reduce crime and improve public safety.

### Program Eligibility and Distribution of Funds

To be considered eligible for the LLEBG Program, a jurisdiction must be a general purpose unit of local government.<sup>1</sup> The unit of local government must report, via its law enforcement agency, to the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Program at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The LLEBG Program is a formula program based on a jurisdiction's number of UCR Part I violent crimes reported to the FBI. The formula is computed in two stages. In the first stage, State allocations are made proportionate to the State's average annual number of UCR Part I violent crimes compared to all States for the 3 most recent calendar years. Each State will receive a minimum award of 0.25 percent of the total amount available for formula distribution under the LLEBG Program. In the second stage, awards to units of local government are made proportionate to each local jurisdiction's average annual number of UCR Part I violent crimes compared to all local jurisdictions in that State for the 3 most recent calendar years. Jurisdictions reporting crime statistics above

the formula-based threshold of \$10,000 are eligible for direct awards from BJA.

The amount of State funds remaining after local allocations have been made is awarded to a State Administrative Agency (SAA) designated by the Governor. The SAA has the choice of distributing award funds to State police departments and/or to units of local government not meeting the formula-based threshold of \$10,000. Additional information about this portion of the funds is available from each State's respective SAA.

### Program Purpose Areas

LLEBG Program funds must be spent in accordance with one or more of the following seven purpose areas:

- Law enforcement support for:
  - Hiring, training, and employing on a continuous basis new, additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel.
  - Paying overtime to employed law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel for the purpose of increasing the number of hours worked by such personnel.
  - Procuring equipment, technology, and other materials directly related to basic law enforcement functions.
- Enhancing security measures in and around schools and other facilities or locations that the unit of local government considers to be at risk for incidents of crime.

### BJA World Wide Web Address

For a copy of this document online,  
as well as more information on BJA,  
check the BJA Home Page at  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

- Establishing or supporting drug courts.
- Enhancing the adjudication of cases involving violent offenders, including cases involving violent juvenile offenders.
- Establishing a multijurisdictional task force, particularly in rural areas, composed of law enforcement officials representing units of local government. These task forces must work with Federal law enforcement officials to prevent and control crime.
- Establishing cooperative crime prevention programs between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.
- Defraying the cost of indemnification insurance for law enforcement officers.

## Program Requirements

The following requirements must be met prior to the obligation of LLEBG Program funds:

### Advisory Board

Each jurisdiction must establish or designate an advisory board to review the application. This board must be designated to make nonbinding recommendations for the proposed use of funds received under this program.<sup>2</sup> At minimum the advisory board must include a member from each of the following local organizations: law enforcement agency, prosecutor's office, court system, school system, and nonprofit group (e.g., educational, religious, or community) active in crime prevention or drug use prevention or treatment.

### Public Hearing

Each jurisdiction must hold at least one public hearing regarding the proposed use of funds. Jurisdictions should encourage public attendance and participation.

### Matching Funds

In each jurisdiction, LLEBG funds may not exceed 90 percent of total program costs. Program participation requires a cash match that will not be waived. All recipients must maintain records clearly showing the source, amount, and timing of all matching contributions.

### Trust Fund

Each jurisdiction must establish an interest-bearing trust fund in which to deposit program funds. All Federal funds (including interest and match) must be expended within the 2-year grant period. Unspent funds

must be returned to BJA within 90 days of the project's termination.

### Public Safety Officers' Health Benefits Provision

Section 615 of the FY 1998 Appropriations Act requires a unit of local government to afford a public safety officer who retires or is separated from duty due to a line-of-duty injury suffered as a direct and proximate result of responding to a hot pursuit or an emergency situation at separation with health benefits that are the same as, or better than, those benefits received while on duty at the time of injury.

A unit of local government eligible for the LLEBG Program must be in compliance with this provision to be eligible to receive the entire amount of its award. A unit of local government not in compliance with this provision will forfeit 10 percent of the eligible award amount. For additional information on this provision, see the LLEBG Public Safety Officers' Health Benefits Provision fact sheet, which is available through the BJA Clearinghouse and via the BJA home page.

### Prohibitions on Use of Funds

LLEBG funds are not to be used to purchase, lease, rent, or acquire tanks or armored vehicles, fixed-wing aircraft, limousines, real estate, yachts, or any vehicle not used primarily for law enforcement. Funds are not to be used to retain consultants. Construction of new facilities is also prohibited. In addition, Federal funds may not be used to supplant State or local funds; they must be used to increase the amount of funds that would otherwise be available from State and local sources.

### Resolution of Funding Disparities

The LLEBG Program provides resolution to potential funding disparities within jurisdictions. The State attorney general may certify that a disparity exists between or among jurisdictions. Those jurisdictions are then required by statute to develop and submit joint applications. BJA's role is limited to accepting State attorney general certifications and reviewing joint applications for compliance. If the State attorney general chooses not to become involved in the disparate allocation certification process, there is no mechanism for BJA to intervene.

The LLEBG Program employs two criteria for determining eligibility for certification. First, an associated municipality's eligible funding amount must be greater (by set percentages) than the funding amount of the county. Second, the county must bear more than 50

percent of prosecution or incarceration costs arising from Part I violent crimes reported by an associated municipality. When there are multiple associated municipalities, the county also must show that the funding allocations to those municipalities are likely to threaten the efficient administration of justice.

### Application Process

1. BJA distributes application kits to eligible units of local government in late May.
2. State attorney general submits disparity certifications to BJA, if applicable, in late June.
3. Jurisdiction's chief executive signs and submits a copy of the application to the Governor or designated representative at least 20 days prior to submission to BJA, as required by statute.
4. Chief executive forwards a copy of the application to BJA by late July.
5. BJA makes awards by late September.

### Notes

1. Units of local government are counties, towns and townships, villages, cities, parishes, Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and parish sheriffs (in the State of Louisiana) that carry out substantial governmental duties.
2. In Louisiana the recommendations of the advisory board are binding.

### For Further Information

For more information about the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program, please contact:

#### Bureau of Justice Assistance

Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Division  
810 Seventh Street NW.  
Washington, DC 20531  
202-305-2088  
World Wide Web: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

#### Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
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#### U.S. Department of Justice Response Center

1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480



# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

## FY 1998 State Identification Systems Grants Program

Of the many collaborative efforts the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have undertaken to make local and State law enforcement, prosecutorial, court, and corrections agencies more effective, one of the most critical is the improvement and integration of information systems that those agencies can use to identify and prosecute offenders.

This fact sheet describes the State Identification Systems (SIS) grants program, established to give States the resources to develop or improve their computerized identification systems and integrate those systems with the FBI's national identification databases. In fiscal year (FY) 1997, BJA awarded \$8.3 million in FBI-funded SIS grants to eligible States. In FY 1998, \$10.7 million is available for award. The grants can be used to:

- ❑ Create computerized identification systems that are compatible and integrated with databases of the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC).
- ❑ Improve forensic laboratories' ability to analyze deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in ways that are compatible and integrated with the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).
- ❑ Develop automated fingerprint systems that are compatible and integrated with the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS).

### Use of SIS Funds

States may use SIS grants for equipment, supplies, training or educational expenses, modifications to space to accommodate equipment, contractor-provided services

to address backlog or program implementation issues, and State and local personnel expenses if personnel are devoted to a qualifying identification project.

SIS grants may be used by States in conjunction with local government agencies or with other States in any combination. States are not required, however, to pass funding through to local agencies. In addition, States may enter into compacts with other States to carry out the grants. The Federal share of funds for a State's program may cover 100 percent of its costs. There is no match requirement.

### Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to receive an SIS grant, a State must require each person convicted of a felony of a sexual nature to provide a sample of blood, saliva, or other specimen to appropriate State law enforcement officials, as designated by the State's chief executive officer. The specimen is used to conduct a DNA analysis consistent with the standards established for DNA testing by the director of the FBI. According to the FBI, as of May 15, 1998, 50 States meet this requirement.

For purposes of the SIS program, the term "State" designates any State of the United States as well as the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. However, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands are considered one State and, if eligible, will divide the allocation of funds for that State by a 67- and 33-percent share, respectively.

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## Distribution of Awards

The distribution of SIS funds in FY 1998 will be approximately \$194,710\* to each State that is awarded an SIS grant. Any grant funds that cannot be awarded in any fiscal year will be carried forward to the next fiscal year and added to the total appropriated by Congress for the program.

\* American Samoa may receive \$130,456, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands may receive \$64,254.

## Administration of the SIS Program

In each State, the Governor designates a State agency to administer the State's SIS award. This agency assumes responsibility for submitting the State's application, selecting subrecipients to receive funds, disbursing funds, and performing other administrative functions.

## For More Information

BJA provides a variety of publications and materials on efforts to improve the criminal justice system at the Federal, State, and local levels. To order publications or to find out more about BJA programs, contact:

### Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 6000

Rockville, MD 20849-6000

Tel: 1-800-688-4252

World Wide Web: <http://www.ncjrs.org>

Clearinghouse staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. eastern time. Ask them to place you on the BJA mailing list.

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1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480

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### BJA World Wide Web Home Page

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# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

*Nancy E. Gist, Director*

## FY 1998 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides Federal assistance to States and localities for the costs of incarcerating certain criminal aliens who are being held as a result of State and/or local charges or convictions. Aliens claimed must be convicted of either a felony or two misdemeanors that occurred prior to or resulted in the current custody. The program is authorized and governed by the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1990, as amended, 8 U.S.C. 1251(i), originally enacted as section 20301 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322).

### Eligible Applicants

States and localities with correctional facilities that incarcerate or detain for 72 hours or longer persons accused or convicted of crimes are eligible to apply for State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funds. The term "States and localities" encompasses the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and nearly 3,000 counties and cities with jail facilities. These jurisdictions may apply for program funds or may, by formal delegation, allow their correctional agencies to apply directly for funding.

### Application and Award Process

Applicants must submit a one-page scannable application form that includes information on inmates claimed and costs incurred. The actual cost of incarceration for each inmate per day in the applicant's jurisdiction is reported as part of the formal application. Cost calculations are based on financial records kept by the jurisdiction and include overhead costs as well as costs directly associated with inmate upkeep. Only routine operating

expenditures may be included; capital expenditures and nonroutine costs must be excluded from the calculation. Applicants must also deduct any payments received from other jurisdictions to cover costs of housing inmates and should include any payments made to other jurisdictions to house their inmates.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), BJA's partner in SCAAP, is primarily responsible for verifying information on alien inmates to determine which inmates, whose records are submitted by applicants, qualify as undocumented criminal aliens. Applicants are requested to count every foreign-born inmate processed by their facilities during a specified 1-year reporting period. This method helps to identify individual aliens and develop better statistics on the number of aliens currently in State and local facilities. Information about inmates who are claimed as possible qualifying aliens, including length of stay, must be provided by applicants in a specified format that can be compared to INS records. Applicants will be given credit for a percentage of inmates whose eligibility cannot be determined through a positive match with INS records.

BJA provides applicants with a preprogrammed diskette for direct entry of inmate data. This system accommodates applicants with small inmate populations and applicants that are not fully automated. BJA also accepts data converted directly from applicants' automated record-keeping systems into the proper format for INS verification. This option is appropriate for applicants with large inmate populations and computerized systems.

An applicant's final claim for award is calculated by multiplying the number of days served by qualifying

aliens incarcerated in the applicant's facility (including a percentage of inmates not identified by INS matching procedures) by the applicant's actual average inmate cost per day. The sum of final claims for all applicants is divided into the available appropriation to determine a percentage payment on the dollar of each claim. Award amounts for each applicant are calculated based on that payment percentage. In prior years, payment percentages have ranged from 16 to 60 percent and, thus, should not be taken as any indicator of final award amounts.

BJA uses grants to make awards. Once the award has been accepted by the applicant, payment is made electronically. Award recipients may use SCAAP funds for any lawful purpose, including but not limited to reimbursement of correctional costs.

### **Obtaining Applications and Technical Assistance**

All eligible jurisdictions are directly notified of the availability of funds and application materials. A pre-paid postage card is provided by BJA to allow potential applicants to request the SCAAP Guidance and Application Kit. The kits are only mailed to applicants that have previously received SCAAP funds or that specifically request them, either by returning the postcard or by calling the U.S. Department of Justice Response

Center. The Response Center is tasked with the first-line response to all SCAAP inquiries; BJA program staff and data-information contractors act as backup for more complex or technical questions during the application period.

### **Sources for Further Information**

For more information about the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, please contact:

**U.S. Department of Justice Response Center**  
1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480

Response Center staff are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time.

The SCAAP Guidance and Application Kit and other relevant information are available on the Internet via BJA's home page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>.

**Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse**  
P.O. Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
1-800-688-4252  
World Wide Web: <http://www.ncjrs.org>

Clearinghouse staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. eastern time.

FS000152  
April 1998

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

*Washington, DC 20531*

Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300

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## Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998

On June 16, 1998, President Clinton signed into law the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-181). The purpose of the Act is to save the lives of law enforcement officers by helping State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies provide officers with armored vests. The Act authorizes the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, to administer the funds.

### Award Distribution

The Act provides for BJA to award funds directly to States (includes the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands), units of local government, and Indian tribes. At least half of the funds will be provided to units of local government with less than 100,000 residents. Among the preferential funding factors BJA may consider when selecting applicants for awards are jurisdictions displaying the greatest need for armored vests based on the percentage of law enforcement officers in the department who do not have access to vests; jurisdictions who have or will institute a mandatory wear policy; jurisdictions with a violent crime rate at or above the national average; and jurisdictions that have not received Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program funding. Over the next several months, BJA will work with the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center of the National Institute of Justice and the Office of Justice Programs' Office of the General Counsel and Office of Congressional and Public Affairs to provide timely updates on the program and fulfill all program requirements.

### Future Updates

When the Justice Department's fiscal year 1999 appropriation is passed, BJA will incorporate any additional requirements into a Guidance Manual that will include details on how to apply for grant funds. Jurisdictions and others seeking updates on the program's status over the next several months should check the **BJA Home Page** at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>, the **OJP Home Page** at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov>, or call the **Department of Justice Response Center** at 1-800-421-6770. For information about armored vests, please access **JUSTNET** at <http://www.nlectc.org>.

July 1998



# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

## FY 1998 Open Solicitation Announcement: Call for Concept Papers

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has issued its *FY 1998 Open Solicitation Announcement* seeking innovative solutions to problems faced by the criminal justice community. BJA invites eligible applicants to help us improve the criminal justice system and build partnerships between the system and public and private organizations. Awards will be worth up to \$150,000 and cover a period of 18 months.

### Submission Requirements

Applicants are limited to units and agencies of State, local, or tribal governments. Eligibility includes, but is not limited to, States, counties, municipalities, villages, towns, townships, courts, prosecution, indigent defense, probation, parole, pretrial services, corrections, law enforcement, and social services. Submissions must follow the format outlined in the *FY 1998 Open Solicitation Announcement's* Submission Criteria and must not exceed six pages, excluding a cover page.

**Submissions must be received by BJA by close of business (5:30 p.m. eastern time) on July 2, 1998.**

For a description of submission requirements in their entirety, applicants should refer to the *FY 1998 Open Solicitation Announcement* now available from the BJA Clearinghouse at 1-800-688-4252 or via the BJA home page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>.

### Solicitation Topic Areas

Applicants may submit only one paper per topic area but may apply under as many areas as desired. Papers must address the following topic areas:

- Topic Area 1: Community Justice**  
Applicants are invited to submit strategies to create partnerships between communities and local criminal justice systems to combat crime.  
Eligibility: Units of State, local, or tribal government (see Submission Requirements).
- Topic Area 2: Law Enforcement Partnerships To Address Hate Crimes**  
Applicants are invited to submit strategies that address crimes committed against individuals or groups because of their race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.  
Eligibility: Units of State, local, or tribal government (see Submission Requirements).
- Topic Area 3: Criminal Justice Challenges for Rural or Tribal Communities**  
Applicants are invited to submit strategies that address criminal justice challenges unique to rural or tribal communities.  
Eligibility: Units of government (including tribal governments) serving rural communities with populations of less than 25,000 residents that are not located within a metropolitan area or that have been designated by the Federal Government as Rural Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, or Champion Communities (see Submission Requirements).
- Topic Area 4: Criminal Justice System Responses to Senior Citizens**  
Applicants are invited to submit strategies that address issues presented by senior citizens, including meeting their needs when they are victims, witnesses, defendants, offenders, and volunteers in the criminal justice communities.  
Eligibility: Units of State, local, or tribal government (see Submission Requirements).

**❑ Topic Area 5: The Role of Alcohol and Crime**

Applicants are invited to submit strategies that address the link between alcohol and crime.

Eligibility: Units of State, local, or tribal government (see Submission Requirements).

**❑ Topic Area 6: Indigent Defense**

Applicants are invited to submit strategies to enhance the representation of indigent criminal defendants.

Eligibility: Units of State, local, or tribal government (see Submission Requirements).

**❑ Topic Area 7: Cultural Barriers to Justice**

Applicants are invited to submit strategies for reducing cultural barriers to justice, defined as barriers that prevent individuals from participating fully in the criminal justice system by virtue of language, philosophy, or experience.

Eligibility: Units of State, local, or tribal government (see Submission Requirements).

**❑ Topic Area 8: Nontraditional Uses of Prosecution Resources To Enhance Public Safety**

Applicants are invited to submit strategies that use prosecutors or prosecution resources to enhance public safety through nontraditional work, including, but not limited to, work in schools, in the community, and/or with special-needs populations.

Eligibility: Units of State, local, or tribal government (see Submission Requirements).

**❑ Topic Area 9: Public Health and Criminal Justice Collaborations**

Applicants are invited to submit strategies for the development of collaborative efforts among public health and

criminal justice agencies to prevent or reduce incidences of violent crime in the community.

Eligibility: Units of State, local, or tribal government (see Submission Requirements).

**❑ Topic Area 10: Local Priorities**

Applicants are invited to submit innovative strategies to address local problem areas not described in Topic Areas 1 through 9. Topics must specifically address criminal justice issues, and applicants may not submit a concept paper in this category that they have submitted in any other topic area.

Eligibility: Units of State, local, or tribal government (see Submission Requirements).

Note: Eligibility restrictions do not preclude private or not-for-profit agencies from collaborating with authorized applicants, nor do they preclude two or more units of government from applying under the cover of one authorized applicant that will be responsible for the administration of the award. Units of tribal government must represent federally recognized tribes.

**For More Information**

Copies of the *FY 1998 Open Solicitation Announcement* are available through the BJA Clearinghouse at 1-800-688-4252. Questions concerning the solicitation should be directed to the DOJ Response Center at 1-800-421-6770. Information about the solicitation and other BJA programs is also available through the BJA home page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>.

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May 1998

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

*Washington, DC 20531*

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# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

## FY 1998 Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program

### FY 1998 Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program

To increase the quality and use of evaluations conducted by State and local agencies, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, created the Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program. The program creates a mechanism for enhancing the design, implementation, measurement, evaluation, and dissemination of information in high-priority program areas.

The program seeks to enhance collaborative evaluation among State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) by making BJA funds available under the Byrne Formula Grant Program. The SAAs have principal responsibility for evaluation in coordination with funded program managers and evaluators at universities or other research organizations. This approach reinforces the efforts of SAAs to build bonds between program managers and independent evaluators.

### Concept Paper Submissions

Applicants will be invited to submit concept papers explaining their evaluation proposals. Each concept paper will contain five sections: (1) a description of the Byrne-funded program to be evaluated; (2) an overview of the proposed evaluation (including the research design) and the role of all participating agencies and program personnel; (3) the applicant's written assurances; (4) a qualifications statement for the staff and evaluation team, along with a management and implementation plan, including task timetables and products; and (5) an assurance that the applicant's total funding contribution is, at minimum, equivalent to BJA's contribution. Concept papers, which are limited to 10 pages, are rated by a peer review team of evaluators, administrators, and program managers. Awards are made by the Director of BJA on the basis of peer review assessments, geographical representation, and other considerations.

### Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility for the Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program is limited to the SAAs, which apply individually or as coapplicants with other State and local agencies involved in planning, coordinating, administering, and/or evaluating criminal justice programs funded under the Byrne Formula Grant Program. Applicants seeking funding under this program are challenged to pledge a contribution that equals or surpasses the amount of the requested award.

### Building State and Local Evaluation Capacities

The Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program is part of BJA's Effective Programs Initiative, a multitiered program evaluation strategy designed to disseminate findings of locally produced evaluations of BJA-funded projects; stimulate program evaluations at the State and local levels through evaluation capacity building, grant programs, and technical assistance; and strengthen BJA's partnership with SAAs, practitioners, and researchers, as well as other Federal agencies. Under the Effective Programs Initiative, BJA will publish a series of publications, "Results and Findings From State and Local Evaluations," highlighting BJA programs that have undergone evaluation at the State or local level. The first monograph in the series, *Improving the Nation's Criminal Justice Systems*, was recently released.

Another component of the Effective Programs Initiative is BJA's State Evaluation Development Program, which provides technical assistance to jurisdictions needing direct help with capacity building. Evaluation technical assistance and training for State and local practitioners, usually focused on specific program areas, is delivered in regional workshops, single-State settings, and multi-State workshops. A major new project is under way to

### BJA World Wide Web Address

For a copy of this document online,  
as well as more information on BJA,  
check the BJA Home Page at  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

develop an Electronic Roadmap for Evaluation for program managers, researchers and evaluators, and local practitioners. Through this World Wide Web site, a new addition to BJA's home page, BJA will provide direct access to an automated, comprehensive handbook covering all evaluation topics to be completed in 1998. The site will contain extensive new material, examples, and resources, and plans are in the works to provide its contents in a CD-ROM version for distribution to State and local planners, program managers, and evaluators.

### FY 1998 Solicitation

In its first year, the Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program was very successful in meeting BJA's long-range goals to

enhance evaluation capacity at State and local levels. In FY 1998, BJA will announce its second solicitation. Through a competitive process, BJA will make awards to SAAs that have forged partnerships with local evaluators. BJA will publish the findings as a major outcome of the program.

In FY 1997, BJA made 15 awards under the Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program, which involved the participation of 17 States. A total of 85 individual programs will be evaluated, as will the statewide impact of the Byrne program. The 15 awards are highlighted in the following table:

### For Further Information

To receive further information about the Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program, contact Robert A. Kirchner, Ph.D., program manager, at 202-616-3455. Copies of the announcement are available on the BJA home page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>.

For additional information about other BJA programs, contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480. Response Center staff are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time.

Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. eastern time. Ask to be placed on the BJA mailing list.

#### Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 6000

Rockville, MD 20849-6000

1-800-688-4252

World Wide Web: <http://www.ncjrs.org>

FS000200

March 1998

<b>FY 1997 Byrne Evaluation Partnership Program Awards</b>			
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Description of Project</b>	<b>Federal Contribution (\$)</b>	<b>Length of Project (Months)</b>
<b>California</b>	Impact evaluation of Operation Revitalization in San Francisco	133,000	24
<b>Colorado</b>	Impact evaluation of the Therapeutic Community Program for Sex Offenders in Prison	150,000	36
<b>Delaware</b>	Evaluation of four demonstration programs operating in the State	86,000	18
<b>Florida</b>	Comprehensive evaluation to determine the impact of Byrne funds through two different approaches	146,000	24
<b>Iowa</b>	Impact evaluation of the Polk County Drug Court	50,000	24
<b>Maryland</b>	Process evaluation of Maryland's 35 "Hot Spots" Community Initiatives	150,000	30
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Evaluation of the Essex County District Attorney's Life Literacy Program	76,000	27
<b>Montana, Idaho, Alaska</b>	Three States will form a partnership to evaluate nine alternative detention programs	25,000	24
<b>New York</b>	Process evaluation of the Youth Court Program	150,000	18
<b>North Carolina</b>	Impact evaluation of Juvenile Day Treatment Centers	38,000	18
<b>Ohio</b>	Evaluation of four Byrne-funded programs in Mahoning County to determine their countywide impact	75,000	24
<b>Oregon</b>	Impact evaluation of 16 juvenile delinquency programs in primary and secondary schools	150,000	36
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	Process and impact evaluations of restrictive immediate sanctions and Philadelphia drug court programs	100,000	18
<b>Utah</b>	Evaluation of a juvenile drug court, a nonresidential sex offender treatment program, and the Salt Lake Electronic Diversion and Work Program	99,000	36
<b>Wisconsin</b>	Evaluation of treatment programs in two jails and employment reentry programs in three jails	150,000	36

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# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Bulletin

Nancy E. Gist, Director

## Responding to the Community: Principles for Planning and Creating a Community Court

by John Feinblatt and Greg Berman, Center for Court Innovation

For many years an important element has been missing from the criminal justice system. Although courts, police, and prosecutors have become increasingly modernized in recent years, they still often fail to meet the needs of the justice system's primary consumers: the neighborhoods that experience crime and its consequences every day.

This problem was first recognized by advocates of community policing, who argued that police officers could address neighborhood crime and disorder more effectively if they established a close relationship with community residents and neighborhood groups. The idea of community justice has since spread to other branches of the justice system including courts, probation departments, prosecutors, and corrections offices.

*"A judge can be a marvelous force in the community. When citizens feel that justice is done, it makes such a difference."*

—Janet Reno, Attorney General of the United States

What is community justice? The concept takes many practical forms, but at its core are partnership and problem solving. Community justice is about creating new relationships both within the

justice system and with stakeholders in the community such as residents, merchants, churches, and schools, and testing new and aggressive approaches to public safety rather than merely responding to crime.

This bulletin is a guide for community justice planners, particularly those interested in court reform. Using the Midtown Community Court in New York City as a case study, the bulletin presents a set of common principles for community courts. These principles are offered not as a prescription for what ails the criminal justice system, but rather as a starting point for further planning efforts. Establishing these principles is vital to the success of any community court project, but the Bureau of Justice Assistance recognizes that individuals in communities guiding these ambitious efforts also need concrete information about the obstacles encountered in the New York experiment.

The Midtown experiment was born of a profound frustration with quality-of-life crime in the neighborhood, particularly prostitution, vandalism, and low-level drug offenses, but these same conditions may not fuel the creation of community courts in other neighborhoods. Community courts are not effective when implemented as cookie-cutter models; to be effective each must meet the needs of its neighborhood.

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# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Bulletin

*Nancy E. Gist, Director*

## The BJA Firearms Trafficking Program: Demonstrating Effective Strategies To Control Violent Crime

by John Veen, Bureau of Justice Assistance  
Stacie Dunbar, Melissa Reuland, and John Stedman, Police Executive Research Forum

There is consensus throughout the United States that violence involving firearms has reached epidemic proportions. According to the 1994 Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), nearly one-third of violent crimes in the United States are firearms related. In 1994, 69.6 percent of UCR-reported murders were firearms related.

In 1994, the Chicago Police Department recovered more than 22,300 firearms used in crimes. That same year, the New York City Police Department (NYPD) recovered more than 13,000 firearms, including 6 automatic weapons, and the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department recovered 5,886 firearms, of which 2,596 (or 44.1 percent) were used in crimes.

Each year, thousands of firearms are stolen from private citizens, firearms dealers, firearms manufacturers, and interstate shipments. As of July 1994, the National Crime Information Center database has listed more than 2,234,000 stolen firearms. Stolen and illegally obtained firearms are recovered from a wide variety of sources—violent crime scenes, narcotics traffickers, and even from children at schools.

Traffickers play a significant role in making illegal firearms available to those with criminal intent. Firearms trafficking has become a very profitable venture for individuals willing to assume the risk of criminal prosecution in exchange for monetary (or some other) reward. While firearms are most frequently trafficked

within State borders, interstate trafficking is also common along certain corridors. In these cases, firearms traffickers travel to States with lax firearms laws and purchase weapons. They then return to their State of residence and sell, trade, or distribute the firearms to criminal associates for as much as five to six times their original price. Trafficking is also practiced by unscrupulous firearms dealers who knowingly sell firearms to prohibited purchasers, drug dealers, nonresidents, and straw purchasers (individuals who purchase firearms for other individuals who cannot legally possess them).

Although it is difficult to develop a definition of firearms trafficking that encompasses all possible circumstances, firearms trafficking is broadly defined as the acquisition of firearms for the purpose of making them available to criminals or to other people who reside in areas where State and local laws limit the availability of firearms.

### Why BJA Created This Program

The Firearms Trafficking Program was created by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in fiscal year 1993 to address the firearms trafficking problem in the United States. The program is designed to help State and local governments reduce incidents of violent crime by reducing the availability and illegal trafficking of firearms.

The program currently provides funding support for nine demonstration projects and the Interstate Firearms Trafficking Compact, which are described in this BJA Bulletin.



# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

*Nancy E. Gist, Director*

## Boys & Girls (B&G) Clubs of America

Boys & Girls (B&G) Clubs of America is a nationwide network of 1,700 affiliated Boys & Girls Clubs serving 2.2 million school-age boys and girls. B&G Clubs help children from all backgrounds develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and leaders. The B&G Club mission hinges on positive partnerships between young people and concerned adults, between B&G Clubs and their supporters, and between the national organization and local clubs. Special concern is shown for youth from disadvantaged circumstances.

From its national headquarters in Atlanta and five Regional Service Centers in New York, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, and Atlanta, B&G Clubs of America provides onsite technical assistance and guidance to local communities in establishing new B&G Clubs. The network also provides continuing support for established clubs to help ensure their stability, effectiveness, and growth.

### Background

Officially founded in 1906, B&G Clubs of America has club facilities and programs in each of the 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Primarily located in communities and areas where children are the most disadvantaged, B&G Clubs have provided at-risk girls and boys with a full and fair opportunity to lead productive, meaningful lives. Although B&G Clubs of America was not incorporated until 1906 by the 53 clubs existing at that time, it has served youngsters since 1865. The network has provided technical support and organizational assistance to communities, establishing new clubs at the rate of 125 per year for the past 7 years.

In 1987, recognizing that young people in public housing are at high risk for alcohol and other drug use, health problems, pregnancy, crime, violence, delinquency, and failure in school, B&G Clubs of America launched a

major initiative to establish new clubs in public housing communities nationwide. A subsequent 3-year independent study conducted by Columbia University confirmed that B&G Clubs in public housing have a significant impact on juvenile crime (reduced 13 percent), drug activity (reduced 22 percent), and the presence of crack cocaine (reduced 25 percent). The study also found that the clubs improved the overall quality of life for the children and families who reside in public housing.

Through cooperative agreement grants in 1992, 1993, and 1994, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the U.S. Department of Justice provided \$7.2 million to B&G Clubs of America to support the establishment of new clubs in public housing and other at-risk communities and to enhance and strengthen existing club programs through violence prevention and reduction, educational and health programs, and youth leadership development. During this time, BJA funding resulted in the establishment of 31 new B&G Clubs, 27 of which are in public housing; training and technical assistance to 98 B&G Clubs to develop and implement violence prevention strategies; improved and strengthened health and education initiatives in 21 B&G Clubs; and a national youth leadership conference for 1,300 teenaged club members. BJA funding during this 3-year period enabled B&G Clubs of America to reach and serve 46,700 girls and boys.

### Key Program Elements

B&G Clubs help their members build self-esteem, acquire honest values, and pursue productive futures. The clubs achieve these goals by providing the following basic resources to club members:

- A safe haven away from the negative influences of the street.

- Guidance, discipline, and values modeling from caring adult leaders.
- Constructive youth development activities and programs in supervised supportive environments.
- Access to comprehensive, coordinated services that meet the complex needs of youth at risk.
- Educational support, increased awareness of career options, and goal-setting skills.
- A comprehensive violence prevention initiative.
- A future vision of life beyond public housing.

Depending on the community resources available and the particular community needs and dynamics, programs and services vary among individual clubs. Programs often include supplementary education, health and fitness, drug abuse prevention, teen pregnancy education and prevention, career exploration, arts and crafts, leadership development, community service, and environmental awareness. Although specific programs and services may vary, B&G Clubs have the following features in common. All clubs are:

- Designed for school-age girls and boys of all races, religions, and ethnic backgrounds, with no personal recommendations or proof of character required for membership.
- Building centered, with 1,700 facilities ranging from 1,000 square feet to 50,000 square feet in size, open to all members during normal hours of operation, and designed to satisfy the age-old desire of children to have a "club" of their own. Most B&G Clubs are open 5 to 6 days per week, 4 or 5 hours a day.
- Staffed with full-time youth-work professionals, supplemented by part-time workers and volunteers, who emphasize positive values in the relationships club members have both with each other and with their adult leaders.
- Geared to help girls and boys make appropriate and satisfying choices in their physical, educational, personal, social, emotional, vocational, and spiritual lives.
- Committed to quality through evaluation, planning, and management.

When needed, even during non-club hours, B&G Club staff are available to members in the event of emergencies that may require special attention.

Boys and girls "join" their local B&G Club by completing a simple membership application and paying an annual membership fee that ranges from \$1 to \$5—always low enough so that any youngster can afford to join.

## Club Activities

In addition to extensive onsite consultations and regional training events, B&G Clubs of America develops, prepares, and distributes detailed program models and guides to local clubs. Now numbering more than 25, these programs include:

- Alcohol, drug, and pregnancy prevention**—SMART Moves and SMART Kids.
- Career exploration**—Broader Horizons, Job Search Club, One With One, and Goals for Growth.
- Citizenship and leadership**—Youth of the Year, Keystone Clubs, and Torch Clubs.
- Cultural enrichment**—National Photography Contest, Fine Arts Exhibit Program, and Epstein Scholarship Program.
- Delinquency and gang prevention**—Delinquency Prevention Through Targeted Outreach and Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach.
- Education**—Power Hour!, Bo Knows Challenge, and Michael Jordan Essay Challenge.
- Environmental education**—The Ultimate Journey.
- Health, sports, and fitness**—The Body Works, Jump Rope Challenge, Basketball Spot Shot Challenge, Workout Challenge, Sir Thomas J. Lipton Sportsmanship Award, and Sectional Tournaments.

## Milestones

In 1994, B&G Clubs of America reached a landmark by serving 2.2 million youths nationwide in 1,672 clubs, 270 of which are in public housing areas. Club outreach efforts have been extended to military families and Indian reservations, with services being offered in school buildings and shopping malls. Partnerships have been established with concerned corporations; private foundations; government agencies, such as BJA, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and caring individuals, including club alumni.

## For Further Information

**Boys & Girls Clubs of America**  
1230 West Peachtree Street NW.  
Atlanta, GA 30309-3447  
1-404-815-5751

**Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse**  
1-800-688-4252



# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

## Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program

### Purpose

The Prison Industry Enhancement (PIE) Certification Program exempts State and local certified departments of corrections from normal restrictions on the sale of prisoner-made goods in interstate commerce. In addition, the program lifts existing restrictions on these certified corrections departments, permitting them to sell prisoner-made goods to the Federal government in amounts exceeding the \$10,000 maximum normally imposed on such transactions.

The PIE Certification Program was created by Congress in 1979 to encourage States and units of local government to establish employment opportunities for prisoners that approximate private sector work opportunities. The program is designed to place inmates in a realistic working environment, pay them the local prevailing wage for similar work, and enable them to acquire marketable skills to increase their potential for successful rehabilitation and meaningful employment upon release.

A total of 50 jurisdictions may be certified under the PIE Certification Program. Each certified program must be determined by the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice, to meet statutory and guideline requirements, as listed in the section of this fact sheet called "Mandatory Criteria for Program Participation."

BJA administers the PIE Certification Program through its Corrections Branch. The Correctional Industries Association (CIA), the professional organization for prison industry employees, provides technical assistance services to the program. Under a grant from BJA, the CIA staff of volunteer correctional industry professionals audit

program participants for compliance with program requirements and provide onsite and, in some cases, telephone technical assistance in areas lacking program compliance. CIA provides additional technical assistance by responding to specific requests for substantive help from participating jurisdictions; by providing program information to government agencies, private sector companies, journalists, professional business and labor organizations, and others interested in the program; by offering periodic training to program participants; and by helping to shape program policy through development of program guidelines, quarterly program data summaries, and other documents in response to program needs.

The PIE Certification Program has two primary objectives:

- To generate products and services that enable prisoners to make a contribution to society, help offset the cost of their incarceration, compensate crime victims, and provide inmate family support.
- To provide a means of reducing prison idleness, increasing inmate job skills, and improving the prospects for successful inmate transition to the community upon release.

### Authority

The PIE Certification Program originally was authorized under the Justice System Improvement Act of 1979 (P.L. 96-157, Sec. 827) and later expanded under the Justice Assistance Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-473, Sec. 819). The Crime Control Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-647) authorizes continuation of the program indefinitely.

## Program Benefits

The PIE Certification Program allows private industry to establish joint ventures with State and local correctional agencies to produce goods using prison labor. The program benefits:

- ❑ **The corrections administrator.** The program is a cost-effective way to occupy a portion of the ever-growing prison population.
- ❑ **The innocent crime victim.** The program provides a means of partial repayment for harm sustained.
- ❑ **The prisoner.** The program offers a chance to work, to meet financial obligations, to increase job skills, and thus, potentially, to increase the likelihood of meaningful employment upon release from incarceration.
- ❑ **The private sector.** The program provides a stable and readily available workforce. In addition, many correctional agencies provide manufacturing space at greatly reduced rates to private sector companies involved in the program.
- ❑ **The public.** Because of inmate worker contributions to room and board, family support, victims' compensation, and taxes, the program provides a way to reduce the escalating cost of crime.

## Mandatory Criteria for Program Participation

Corrections departments wishing to participate in the PIE Certification Program must meet all seven of the following criteria:

1. Legislative authority to pay wages at a rate not less than that paid for similar work in the same locality's private sector.
2. Written assurances that the PIE Certification Program will not result in the displacement of workers employed before program implementation.
3. The authority to provide worker benefits, including Worker's Compensation or its equivalent.
4. The authority to involve the private sector in the production and sale of prisoner-made goods.
5. Written assurances that inmate participation is voluntary.
6. Legislative or administrative authority to collect and provide financial contributions (of not less than 5 percent and not more than 20 percent of gross wages) to crime victim compensation/assistance programs, and legislative

or administrative authority for crime victim compensation/assistance programs to accept such financial contributions.

7. Written proof of consultation with organized labor and local private industry before PIE Certification Program startup.

## Allowable Wage Deductions

Corrections departments may take a series of deductions from wages earned by prisoners. Permissible deductions are limited to room and board, taxes (Federal, State, FICA, etc.), family support, and crime victim compensation/assistance. Deductions must not total more than 80 percent of gross wages. (Deductions for crime victim compensation/assistance programs are mandatory under the PIE Certification Program guidelines; deductions for taxes are required under U.S. tax law; and deductions for room and board and family support are permissible at the discretion of the certified jurisdiction.)

**Total wage deductions collected**—During the period December 1979 through June 1995, jurisdictions participating in the program have collected the following amounts:

Contributions to victims' programs	\$ 3,644,557
Room and board deductions	10,458,796
Family support deductions	3,449,218
All taxes withheld	6,111,483
<hr/>	
Total Deductions:	\$23,664,054

## Program Certification Process

Interested corrections departments may request a PIE Certification Program Application from BJA. With the application, applicants must submit written proof (including copies of legislation and/or administrative rulings, as appropriate) that they meet all mandatory program criteria. After reviewing and approving an application, BJA formally notifies the jurisdiction that it has been certified to participate in the program. Certified jurisdictions agree to enforce program requirements. Certification may be terminated if a jurisdiction is determined to be out of compliance with any of the mandatory program criteria, or if the certification is unused for 6 months or longer.

## Eligibility

All States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and all units of local government authorized by law to administer prison in-

dustry programs are eligible to apply for program certification.

As of June 30, 1995, the following 36 jurisdictions have been certified under the program: Alaska; Arizona; California; Colorado; Connecticut; Delaware; Florida; Hawaii; Idaho; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Louisiana; Maine; Maryland; Minnesota; Missouri; Montana; Nebraska; Belknap County, New Hampshire; Stafford County, New Hampshire; Nevada; New Mexico; North Carolina; Oklahoma; Oregon; Red River County, Texas; South Carolina; South Dakota; Tennessee; Texas; Utah; Vermont; Virginia; Washington State; and Wisconsin.

## For Further Information

For information about technical assistance and training, contact:

**PIE Coordinator**  
**Correctional Industries Association**  
522 E. Durham Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19119

Tel: 1-215-242-9520

For further information about the PIE Certification Program, contact:

**Corrections Branch**  
**Bureau of Justice Assistance**  
633 Indiana Avenue NW.  
Washington, DC 20531  
Tel: 1-202-514-6236

**Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse**  
P.O. Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
Tel: 1-800-688-4252  
Fax: 1-301-251-5212  
Bulletin Board System: 1-301-738-8895  
Internet: look@ncjrs.aspensys.com

**U.S. Department of Justice Response Center**  
Tel: 1-800-421-6770



# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

*Nancy E. Gist, Director*

## National White Collar Crime Center

The National White Collar Crime Center, through funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the U.S. Department of Justice provides national support for the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of white collar and economic crimes. The Center is headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, and has a training and research institute associated with West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. Center staff include enforcement analysts, intelligence technicians, research analysts, computer crime specialists, and training coordinators.

The Center's mission is to maintain a formally structured national support system for State and local law enforcement and regulatory agency members and to facilitate multi-State investigations of white-collar and economic crimes. These crimes include, but are not limited to, investment fraud, telemarketing fraud, boiler room operations, securities fraud, commodities fraud, and advanced-fee loan schemes.

The Center operates under the direction of an elected board of directors, and has a membership composed of State and local law enforcement, prosecution, and regulatory agency professionals with criminal investigative authority. The Center operates under BJA funding guidelines and meets the requirements for operating a criminal information pointer database, as established in 28 CFR Part 23.

### Background

The Center's predecessor, the Leviticus Project, was initially formed by 14 agencies from 7 States that were experiencing a high incidence of criminal activity in the Appalachian coal industry. The project expanded in 1987 and 1988 to cover criminal activity in the oil, natural gas, and precious-metals industries. In 1992, BJA mandated a broader scope of activities to include all white-collar and economic crime, and, with Leviticus Project participation, the Center was founded.

### Program Services

The Center provides a number of no-cost services to its members, including:

- Information sharing**—Computerized databases maintained by the Center disseminate case and investigative information on individuals and organizations suspected of involvement in economic crimes. Analytical services are conducted by center staff trained in areas such as financial analysis, check analysis, qualitative compilations, and background information gathering for specific member agency investigations.
- Case funding**—Limited financial assistance is provided to selected multijurisdictional member agency investigations.

- ❑ **Training and research**—The Center operates a national training and research institute that serves as a national resource in combating economic crime by developing partnerships with public and private agencies to address white-collar crime. Training sessions covering a range of white collar crime issues are held at the Center and at locations around the country for white collar crime investigators and prosecutors. Some of these training sessions are open to nonmembers for a fee. For additional information about Center training sessions, refer to the address and telephone number listed in the “For Further Information” section below.

As consultant to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Bureau of Consumer Protection, the Center analyzes information on telemarketing frauds stored in the FTC’s automated database. The Center provides other research services as well.

## **Program Accomplishments**

Between January 1, 1989, and June 30, 1995, member agency cases assisted by Center services resulted in the following recoveries:

- ❑ \$29 million in assessed fines.
- ❑ \$349 million in ordered restitution.
- ❑ \$4 million in recovered property.
- ❑ \$330 million referred to the IRS from tax fraud cases.

## **For Further Information**

To learn more about the National White Collar Crime Center, contact:

### **The National White Collar Crime Center**

Suite 450  
1001 Boulders Parkway  
Richmond, VA 23225-5513  
Tel: 1-800-221-4424 or  
1-804-323-3563

### ***Discretionary Grants Program Division***

#### **Bureau of Justice Assistance**

633 Indiana Avenue NW.  
Washington, DC 20531  
Tel: 1-202-514-5943

#### **Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse**

P.O. Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
Tel: 1-800-688-4252  
Fax: 1-301-251-5212  
Bulletin Board System: 1-301-738-8895  
Internet: look@ncjrs.aspensys.com

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

Tel: 1-800-421-6770

the circumstances of the death or permanent and total disability support a benefit payment. The public safety agency prepares a Report of Public Safety Officer's Death or Permanent and Total Disability Claim Form to accompany the claim for death benefits completed by the eligible survivor(s) or, in the case of disability claims, the prerequisite disability certification package completed by the injured officer. BJA will determine whether and to whom a benefit should be paid.

### For Further Information

For more information about the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program or to share your observations and recommendations, please contact:

**U.S. Department of Justice Response Center**  
Tel: 1-800-421-6770

**Bureau of Justice Assistance**  
Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program  
810 Seventh Street NW.  
Washington, DC 20531  
Tel: 202-307-0635  
Toll Free: 1-888-SIGNAL13 (744-6513)  
Fax: 202-307-3373  
Internet: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/>

**Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse**  
P.O. Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
Tel: 1-800-688-4252  
Fax: 301-519-5212  
Internet: [look@ncjrs.aspensys.com](mailto:look@ncjrs.aspensys.com)

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Office of Justice Programs  
*Bureau of Justice Assistance*

*Washington, DC 20531*

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**Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program**  
**Fact Sheet**

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



# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

*Nancy E. Gist, Director*

## Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program

### History

The Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Act (42 U.S.C. 3796, et seq.) was enacted in 1976 to assist in the recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers and firefighters. Specifically, Congress was concerned that the hazards inherent in law enforcement and fire suppression and the low level of State and local death benefits might discourage qualified individuals from seeking careers in these fields, thus hampering the ability of communities to provide for public safety.

The PSOB Act was designed to offer peace of mind to men and women seeking careers in public safety and to make a strong statement about the value American society places on the contributions of those who serve their communities in potentially dangerous circumstances.

The resultant PSOB Program, which is administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), presents a unique opportunity for the U.S. Department of Justice; Federal, State, and local public safety agencies; and national public safety organizations to become involved in

### PSOB Service Standards Commitment

The mission of the PSOB staff is to assist public safety officers, their agencies, and their families before, during, and after a tragedy occurs. Three core values guide our daily operations and measure our performance. They are:

- We will respond rapidly and accurately to PSOB death and disability benefits claims.
- We will be humane in our support of public safety officers, their agencies, and their families.
- We will seek and pursue opportunities to expand our assistance to the public safety field.

To improve our response time, we continuously assess our allocation of staff and organizational processes. We will respond to the public safety field within 2 weeks once an eligible death benefits case is complete, within 4 weeks once an ineligible death benefits case is complete, and within 6 weeks once a disability case is complete. To ensure accuracy, we

will use medicolegal experts and independent legal analyses from outside the PSOB Program.

To provide our services in the most sensitive and professional manner, PSOB staff receive training on key issues associated with grief, critical incident stress, and posttraumatic stress disorder. We also solicit and use information provided to us on the tone and impact of our verbal and written communication with the public safety field.

One example of the PSOB Program giving more to the field is a series of regional training sessions conducted to help law enforcement agencies prepare for the loss of an officer. It is essential that all public safety agencies be prepared to effectively assist the family, fellow officers, and the community to move forward in the aftermath of a tragedy.

Our commitment to support the public safety community has never been stronger, and it will continue to grow.

promoting the protection of public safety officers before tragedies occur. Each year, the PSOB Program receives substantial information about line of duty deaths that is used to enhance public safety officer training. The PSOB Program also encourages public safety agencies to adopt model policies that can help guide an agency through the tragic event of a line of duty death.

## PSOB Program Benefits

The PSOB Program provides a onetime financial benefit to the eligible survivors of public safety officers whose deaths are the direct and proximate result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. The benefit was increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for deaths occurring on or after June 1, 1988. Since October 15, 1988, the benefit has been adjusted each year on October 1 to reflect the percentage of change in the Consumer Price Index. For fiscal year 1998, the benefit is \$141,556.

The PSOB Program provides the same benefit to public safety officers who have been permanently and totally disabled by a catastrophic personal injury sustained in the line of duty if that injury permanently prevents the officer from performing *any* gainful work. Medical retirement for a line of duty disability does not, in and of itself, establish eligibility for PSOB benefits.

Since 1977, on average, the PSOB Program has received 275 benefit claims each year for line of duty deaths of public safety officers. PSOB Program staff respond rapidly and with sensitivity to requests for assistance from claimants and public safety agencies. They also provide moral support and, when necessary, referrals to organizations such as Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), which can provide long-term support for surviving family members and coworkers of deceased public safety officers.

## PSOB Program Effective Dates

The effective dates for PSOB Program benefits are as follows:

### Death Benefits

- State and local law enforcement officers and firefighters are covered for line of duty deaths occurring on or after September 29, 1976.
- Federal law enforcement officers and firefighters are covered for line of duty deaths occurring on or after October 12, 1984.
- Members of Federal, State, and local public rescue squads and ambulance crews are covered

for line of duty deaths occurring on or after October 15, 1986.

### Disability Benefits

Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers, firefighters, and members of public rescue squads and ambulance crews are covered for catastrophic personal injuries sustained on or after November 29, 1990. The public safety officer must be separated from his or her employing agency for medical reasons, and must be receiving the maximum allowable disability compensation from his or her jurisdiction, in order to initiate a claim for PSOB disability benefits. Eligible officers may include persons who are comatose, in a persistent vegetative state, or quadriplegic.

### Public Safety Officers Eligible for PSOB Program Benefits

Under the PSOB Program, a *public safety officer* is a person serving a *public agency* in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or member of a public rescue squad or ambulance crew. *Law enforcement officers* include, but are not limited to, police, corrections, probation, parole, and judicial officers. *Volunteer firefighters and members of volunteer rescue squads and ambulance crews* are covered under the program if they are officially recognized or designated members of legally organized volunteer fire departments, rescue squads, or ambulance crews.

A *public agency* is defined as the United States; any U.S. State; the District of Columbia; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; any U.S. territory or possession; any unit of local government; any combination of such States or units; and any department, agency, or instrumentality of the foregoing. To be eligible for benefits, a public safety officer's death or total and permanent disability must result from injuries sustained in the line of duty. *Line of duty* is defined in the PSOB regulations (28 CFR 32) as any action that the public safety officer whose primary function is crime control or reduction, enforcement of the criminal law, or suppression of fires is authorized or obligated by law, rule, regulation, or condition of employment or service to perform. Other public safety officers—whose primary function is not law enforcement or fire suppression—must be engaged in their *authorized* law enforcement, fire suppression, rescue squad, or ambulance duties when the fatal or disabling injury is sustained.

## Survivors Eligible for Program Death Benefits

Once BJA approves a claim for death benefits, the benefit will be paid to eligible survivors in a lump sum, as follows:

- If there are no surviving children of the deceased officer*, to the surviving spouse.
- If there is a surviving child or children and a surviving spouse*, one-half to the child or to the children in equal shares and one-half to the surviving spouse.
- If there is no surviving spouse*, to the child or in equal shares to the children.
- If none of the above apply*, to the parent or in equal shares to the parents.

Under the PSOB Act, *child* is defined as any natural child who was born before or after the death of the public safety officer, or who is an adopted child or stepchild of the deceased public safety officer. At the time of death, the *child* must be 18 years of age or younger; or 19 through 22 years of age and pursuing a full-time course of study or training, if the child has not already completed 4 years of education beyond high school; or 19 years or older and incapable of self-support due to a physical or mental disability.

For PSOB Program benefits to be paid, a public safety officer must be survived by an eligible survivor; public safety officers cannot predesignate their beneficiaries.

## PSOB Program Limitations and Exclusions

No PSOB Program benefit can be paid:

- If the death or permanent and total disability was caused by the intentional misconduct of the public safety officer or if the officer intended to bring about his or her own death or permanent and total disability.
- If the public safety officer was voluntarily intoxicated at the time of death or permanent and total disability.
- If the public safety officer was performing his or her duties in a grossly negligent manner at the time of death or permanent and total disability.
- To a claimant whose actions were a substantial contributing factor to the death of the public safety officer.
- To noncivilian members of the military serving as law enforcement officers, firefighters, or rescue squad or ambulance crew members, or to any of their survivors.

PSOB benefits do not cover death or permanent and total disability resulting from stress; strain; occupational illness; or a chronic, progressive, or congenital disease (such as heart or pulmonary disease), unless there is a traumatic injury that is a substantial contributing factor in the death or permanent and total disability. Medical proof of the traumatic injury (such as a blood test for carbon monoxide poisoning) may be necessary for coverage in these cases.

## Reduction of Benefits

The PSOB Program benefit is reduced by certain payments made under the District of Columbia Code and may itself reduce benefits under Section 8191 of the Federal Employees' Compensation Act. However, State and local benefits must not be reduced by benefits received under the PSOB Act, and the PSOB benefit is not reduced by any benefit received at the State or local level.

## Interim Payment

If BJA determines an urgent claimant need before the final action of paying a death benefit, an interim benefit payment not exceeding \$3,000 may be made to the eligible survivor(s) if it is probable that the death is compensable.

## Attachment and Tax Exemption

PSOB death and disability benefits are not subject to execution or attachment by creditors. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has ruled that the benefit is not subject to Federal income tax (IRS Ruling No. 77-235, IRS 1977-28) or to Federal estate tax (IRS Ruling No. 79-397).

## Attorneys' Fees

The PSOB Act authorizes BJA to establish the maximum fee that may be charged for services rendered to the claimant by another party in connection with any PSOB claim filed with BJA. Contracts for a stipulated fee and contingent fee arrangements are prohibited by PSOB regulations (28 CFR 32.22(b)). BJA assumes no responsibility for payment of claimant attorney fees (28 CFR 32.22(d)).

## Filing a Claim

Eligible survivors or disability claimants may file claims directly with BJA or through the public safety agency, organization, or unit in which the public safety officer served. In most cases, the public safety agency provides BJA with sufficient information to determine whether



# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

*Nancy E. Gist, Director*

## Organized Crime Narcotics Trafficking Enforcement Program

Despite longstanding efforts to overcome organized crime narcotics trafficking, the enormous profits derived from these illicit activities make their control one of the greatest challenges facing American law enforcement personnel today. Developing successful cases against narcotics trafficking conspirators requires the effective use of investigative expertise and innovative techniques. Successful cases often result when skilled Federal, State, and local investigators and prosecutors combine their resources in planned and coordinated enforcement actions.

Major conspiracies typically span jurisdictional boundaries, requiring multiple agencies to successfully investigate and prosecute offenders. Individual agencies often lack the capability to assemble and exchange intelligence about these conspiracies, allocate resources effectively, and coordinate enforcement efforts.

Accordingly, in response to both the significant number of multijurisdictional narcotics trafficking conspiracies and the shortcomings of many law enforcement responses, the Organized Crime Narcotics (OCN) Program was created. The program was initially funded in late 1986 by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the U.S. Department of Justice, and was later awarded continuation funding. As a part of the BJA Discretionary Grant Program, the OCN Program awards funds and provides training and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies for the development and demonstration of promising OCN initiatives.

### Key Program Elements

The goal of the OCN Program is to enhance the ability of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to

move specifically targeted major conspirators through the processes of investigation, arrest, prosecution, and conviction. This goal is accomplished through shared management of resources and joint operational decisionmaking.

The program employs two strategies:

- Promotion of a multiagency enforcement response and prosecutorial plan that targets major narcotics trafficking conspiracies operating across multiple jurisdictions.
- Establishment of a formal mechanism through which investigative and prosecutorial resources can be allocated, focused, and managed on a shared basis against targeted offenses and offenders.

Critical to the success of the OCN Program is a management system that shares direction and administration of the joint law enforcement resources. Overall direction is shared equally by all participating law enforcement agencies, and decisions regarding operations and administration must be unanimously approved. Management system procedures are implemented in the following order:

- Criteria are established to identify, select, and prioritize investigative targets.
- Cases are assigned to initiate the investigation and subsequent prosecution.
- For the duration of each case, the resources and skills required in the investigative and prosecutorial processes are identified, acquired, and assigned.
- The OCN management system coordinates and monitors each case to ensure the proper timing of investigative and prosecutorial activities and to

facilitate decisionmaking concerning case continuance, referral, redirection, and closure.

Expected OCN Program results, in addition to successful investigation and prosecution of major multijurisdictional narcotics traffickers, include promotion of civil remedies; recovery of criminal assets; revocation of business licenses, corporate charters, and other certifications held by criminal enterprises; reduction of fractional and duplicative investigations and prosecutions; and cooperation and coordination of efforts with other related OCN and BJA-funded projects.

## Training and Technical Assistance

In addition to funding the model demonstration projects, BJA also provides technical assistance and training workshops and seminars. The workshops and seminars are coordinated and conducted for BJA by the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) through the BJA-funded Center for Task Force Training (CenTF) Program. IIR is a nonprofit organization that specializes in law enforcement and criminal justice issues. CenTF offers a 3-day Multiagency Response Narcotics Workshop that provides management-level training for narcotics task force commanders, supervisors, and senior investigative personnel in the operation of a multiagency task force. Working together in small teams, participants conduct practical exercises in all aspects of a multiagency response to criminal activity. Training includes:

- Task force dynamics and interagency agreements.
- Written policies and procedures.
- Risk assessment.
- Case management and use of confidential informants.
- Raid management, problem solving, and practical exercises.

In 1996, the Multiagency Response Narcotics Workshop will be offered as follows:

May 6-8	Little Rock, AR
August 26-28	Cleveland, OH
October 21-23	Milwaukee, WI

## OCN Resource Publication

The monograph *Multijurisdictional Narcotics Enforcement Task Forces: Lessons Learned From the OCN Program Model* has been prepared to assist Federal, State, and local law enforcement and prosecution agencies that are joining forces and sharing resources to combat multijurisdictional narcotics trafficking crimes. The monograph describes the steps necessary to successfully develop and implement a unique joint narcotics task force operation. Although only the OCN Program model is featured, the information presented should be useful to agencies conducting a wide range of multijurisdictional law enforcement efforts. A copy of this publication (NCJ 138852) can be obtained from the BJA Clearinghouse at the telephone number or address provided below.

## For Further Information

For more information about the program or for registration information, contact:

### Institute for Intergovernmental Research

2888 Remington Green

P.O. Box 12729

Tallahassee, FL 32317

Tel: 1-800-446-0912 or

1-904-385-0600

For other program information, contact:

### Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 6000

Rockville, MD 20849-6000

Tel: 1-800-688-4252

Fax: 1-301-251-5212

Bulletin Board System: 1-301-738-8895

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### U.S. Department of Justice Response Center

Tel: 1-800-421-6770



### BJA World Wide Web Address

For a copy of this document online,  
as well as more information on BJA,  
check the BJA Home Page at  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

## Stopping Hate Crime: A Case History From the Sacramento Police Department

Hate crime has struck fear in communities across America. In 1995 alone, nearly 8,000 incidents nationwide were reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); 61 percent of those violent acts were motivated by racial bias. This fact sheet reports the experiences of one community's battle to stop hate crime. It is based on a report submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance by the Sacramento Police Department as part of a grant to fund hate crime prevention efforts.

local television stations, claimed responsibility for the arsons—including the attempted arson of the Jewish temple and the burning of the NAACP offices—and warned of further attacks.

### The Need for a Multiagency Task Force

By early October 1993, media coverage of the arsonist had stirred widespread public fear, putting intense pressure on local, State, and Federal officials to stop the burnings. An informal team of investigators was formed following the first incidents (comprising detectives and patrol officers from the Sacramento Police Department, one FBI agent, lab technicians from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and arson investigators from the Sacramento Fire Department), but it lacked the resources and strategic direction to respond aggressively to the escalating situation.

As the seriousness of the crimes became clear in the second wave of arsons, local, State, and Federal officials publicly committed to bringing more resources to bear in the investigation. The investigation now enjoyed the support of officials from every level of government, but their conflicting demands on local police investigators began to fracture the investigation's focus. To be effective, the Sacramento Police Department concluded, those resources had to be funneled through an official task force on hate crime directed by a strong local command.

Command of the task force's tactical field personnel was delegated to an operations lieutenant within the Sacramento Police Department. He designed a response

### Hate Crime in Sacramento, California

Between July and October 1993, four arsons and three attempted arsons committed by a self-proclaimed white separatist became the subject of intense media attention and public concern in Sacramento, California. The first incident was the attempted arson of a Jewish temple in July. A few days later, the local office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was destroyed by fire. Neither organization had received threats prior to the attacks and no individual or organization claimed responsibility. The investigation of the NAACP arson was exhaustive but recovered little physical evidence that could identify a suspect.

After failed arson attempts in August and September, the connection between the crimes and their motivation by hate became alarmingly clear to investigators, the media, and residents of Sacramento when the arsonist used Molotov cocktails to ignite the offices of the Japanese American Citizens League and the State Office of Fair Employment and Housing as well as the home of an Asian-American city councilman. Calling himself the "Aryan Liberation Front," the arsonist telephoned

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plan in consultation with other members of the task force that included surveillance of potential targets and deployment of tactical field teams to respond to new crimes and fleeing suspects.

The task force developed a suspect profile of the arsonist from locations he targeted, witness statements, and recordings of his voice. In November 1993, using the profile to conduct a computer search of white supremacists in the Sacramento area and information from a juvenile hall inmate, Sacramento police located and arrested an 18-year-old white male. Cloth found at the suspect's home matched wicks recovered from several arson crime scenes and analyzed in the FBI's crime lab. The suspect was later convicted on all counts of hate-motivated arson.

The quick arrest of a suspect once the task force began a concerted operation under the leadership of the Sacramento Police Department showed conclusively that the department's partnership with Federal agencies on or supporting the task force dramatically improved its ability to investigate hate crime. The search for a suspect benefited greatly from having immediate access to the Nation's most sophisticated crime laboratories and databases. Federal assistance has also significantly enhanced the Sacramento Police Department's monitoring of hate crime suspects—an important new law enforcement tool for local investigators that will prevent hate crime in the future.

### Recommendations to Other Communities Fighting Hate Crime

The pitfalls and successes of investigating hate crime experienced by Sacramento police investigators and their Federal, State, and local task force partners are common to law enforcement agencies across the Nation. The following recommendations are offered by the Sacramento Police Department in the hope that they will help law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve respond more forcefully to hate crime and use every resource at their disposal to prevent its occurrence.

- Train every patrol officer in the department to recognize hate crime. Patrol officers must understand and support a department's policies on hate crime and know how to respond when hate crime occurs.
- Establish a multiagency task force in areas where hate crime occurs and give it the full support of every elected official and law enforcement agency involved in the investigation and prosecution of

hate crime. With more experienced personnel and dedicated equipment, a task force can investigate incidents and leads more quickly than can a team assembled ad hoc. It can deploy more tactical units to protect potential targets of attacks and implement strategies to stop perpetrators of hate crime before they strike again.

- Seek out every source of State and Federal law enforcement assistance in your community and make it available to the task force. In Sacramento, the strong commitment made by local, State, and Federal agencies in 1993 to collaborate on hate crime prevention has been the foundation of that community's aggressive response to hate crime. For example:
  - The Sacramento Police Department used a \$100,000 grant from the *Bureau of Justice Assistance* to deploy a sophisticated vehicle that permits close yet covert surveillance of hate crime suspects. The department also purchased a geographical information system with BJA grant money that has become an indispensable visual aid for tactical commanders and their personnel. Task force investigators use the system to target locations and select areas of responsibility.
  - The *Federal Bureau of Investigation* made significant contributions to the 1993 Sacramento investigation by canvassing crime scene areas for witnesses, conducting out-of-town and out-of-State interviews, providing technical assistance on tracing telephone calls and acquiring other telephone information, and analyzing physical evidence in the FBI laboratory.
  - The office of the *California Attorney General* analyzed the Sacramento arsons using a computer program and provided the task force with names of possible suspects.
  - *DOJ investigators* supporting the Sacramento task force conducted out-of-State interviews and monitored calls made by the arsonist to local television stations.
  - The *Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms* contributed expert arson investigators to the task force, who examined arson scenes, collected evidence, and conducted state-of-the-art laboratory analysis.
- Encourage the participation of the community in the investigation. Hate crimes outrage community members as few events can. Used constructively,

the desire of community- and neighborhood-based groups to apprehend the perpetrators of hate crime can be a powerful asset for law enforcement. Volunteers in Sacramento donated their time and resources to investigate suspicious activity, control rumors, and post an award for information on the case.

- Implement a tactical deployment plan immediately once investigators believe a suspect or organization will continue to commit hate crimes. The plan's most important objectives should be to identify possible suspects, prevent further crime, and apprehend the individual or group during an overt criminal act.
- Protect the task force's investigative resources from intrusion by high-level personnel who are not leading the investigation. All input into an investigation from other agencies should flow through the task force coordinator. Dedicate alternative resources to investigating questionable leads.
- Maintain the same tactical personnel on the task force. The principal difficulty reported by the tactical commander of the task force in Sacramento was the time and energy he was forced to devote to daily briefings of newly assigned personnel. The constant changing of personnel also hurt the investigation by diminishing officers' insight into the suspect's behavior.
- Ensure that firefighters make every effort to protect an arson's point of origin. The loss of evidence in the NAACP fire prompted the Sacramento Police Department to establish protocols with the Sacramento Fire Department to preserve future arson crime scenes for inspection by its arson investigators, the State fire marshal, and ATF arson experts.
- Instruct officers arriving at the scene of a hate crime to conduct an immediate search for victims and witnesses to the crime. The quality of information collected during the early stages of an investigation will greatly aid or hinder the success of followup investigations.

- Select an individual to lead the task force who, in addition to being a superior tactical commander, is comfortable working with the media and sensitive to the concerns of community members most threatened by hate violence.
- Use community programs to raise public awareness of hate crime and the individuals who commit it. Presentations to youth can help them understand when they are victims of hate crime and when they are engaging in criminal acts.

### For More Information

Publications and information on hate crime and community law enforcement partnerships are available from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. To order them or to find out about BJA-funded programs, contact these offices:

#### Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
Tel: 1-800-688-4252  
Fax: 301-251-5212  
Bulletin Board System: 301-738-8895  
World Wide Web: <http://www.ncjrs.org>

Clearinghouse staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. eastern time. Ask them to place you on the BJA mailing list.

#### Department of Justice Response Center

1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480

Response Center staff are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time.



# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

## Church Arson Prevention Training and Technical Assistance Program

The National Arson Initiative was established by President Clinton in June 1996, in response to the increasing number of church arsons occurring throughout the United States. As a result of this initiative, the Church Arson Prevention (CAP) program was created to help States develop and implement comprehensive church arson prevention programs and to mobilize communities to work together to prevent more church arsons. A key feature of the CAP program is the ease with which States, local governments, and civic groups can request training and technical assistance for church arson prevention activities.

Specifically, the program will enhance the capacity of States and local jurisdictions to develop community-based strategies to prevent church arson.

### Goals

BJA has committed itself to the following goals for the CAP training and technical assistance program. It will:

- ❑ Expediently handle State and local governments' requests for training and technical assistance.
- ❑ Coordinate with other Federal agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide training and technical assistance that is not specifically related to church arson.
- ❑ Help States identify implementation strategies for their statewide CAP programs during training.
- ❑ Provide experts to help facilitate the creation of community-based CAP plans.
- ❑ Educate local governments about effective church arson prevention techniques.

### Criminal Justice Training and Technical Assistance

CAP training and technical assistance will also focus on ways to assist State and local governments, criminal justice agencies, and community organizations with church arson prevention. To provide this assistance, BJA will make training and technical assistance broadly available to State and local governments through onsite consultations, BJA-sponsored training workshops and seminars, or conference presentations. In addition, BJA will retain highly qualified consultants to respond to each training and technical assistance request and to address the needs of the church arson prevention and criminal justice communities.

### How To Request CAP Training and Technical Assistance

Requests for CAP training and technical assistance must be submitted in writing either through BJA's Internet home page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA> or by writing to BJA at the address provided below.

Training and technical assistance requests must contain the following information:

- ❑ A statement of the problem including actual threats and incidents of church arsons or suspicious activity that might result in church arsons.
- ❑ The type of assistance needed. Possible areas include training in church arson prevention, community outreach and public awareness training, and strategic planning assistance for local communities, civic groups, and churches.

- ❑ A brief description of the surrounding community that includes demographics and the composition of local law enforcement agencies (e.g., the size of the police or sheriff's department that has law enforcement jurisdiction).
- ❑ The timeframe in which training is expected to be conducted.
- ❑ The name, title, address, and telephone number of the primary contact person.
- ❑ The intended recipient of training or technical assistance, whether it be a church group, law enforcement agency, civic group, or community.
- ❑ The end product desired as a result of training and technical assistance. Examples include written and verbal reports, workshop and conference presentations, and strategic plans.

## For More Information

To find out more about the CAP program or about other BJA programs and publications, contact these offices:

### **Bureau of Justice Assistance Special Programs Division**

633 Indiana Avenue NW.  
Washington, DC 20531

Tel: 202-307-0635

Fax: 202-514-5956

World Wide Web: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

### **Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse**

Box 6000

Rockville, MD 20849-6000

Tel: 1-800-688-4252

Bulletin Board System: 301-738-8895

World Wide Web: <http://www.ncjrs.org>

Clearinghouse staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. eastern time. Ask them to place you on the BJA mailing list.

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

1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480

Response Center staff are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time.

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# Church Arson Prevention Training and Technical Assistance Program



# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

## FY 1997 Metropolitan Firefighter and Emergency Services National Training Program for First Responders to Terrorist Incidents

Pursuant to title VIII, section 819, of the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, the Attorney General is authorized to develop a grant program to provide anti-terrorism training to first responders (firefighters and emergency services personnel). Authority to administer the grant program was delegated by the Attorney General to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), resulting in the FY 1997 Metropolitan Firefighter and Emergency Services National Training Program for First Responders to Terrorist Incidents. The program supports firefighters and emergency services personnel in 120 targeted urban jurisdictions. This support includes:

- ❑ Specialized first-responder training.
- ❑ A first-responder train-the-trainer program.
- ❑ A national conference for first responders.
- ❑ Competitive grant funding to identify innovative first-responder training programs.

### First-Responder Training

As part of this program, training will be made available in targeted jurisdictions to first responders to terrorist incidents in which weapons of mass destruction (e.g., nuclear, biological, chemical, and incendiary or explosive devices) are used. Jurisdictions that have first response (firefighting and emergency medical services) capabilities may be able to receive the following training established specifically for those personnel:

- ❑ **Emergency Response to Terrorism Self-Study.**  
A home study course designed as a self-paced instruction will introduce basic awareness concepts

for first responders with a particular emphasis on incendiary and explosive devices. The course will be provided to all firefighting and emergency medical services teams nationally.

- ❑ **Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts Training Program.**  
A 2-day onsite course for first responders in the 120 targeted urban jurisdictions will offer training in terrorist incident management operations and tactical decisionmaking. This training will use practical exercises and operational techniques to help first responders recognize a terrorist incident, take necessary protective measures, assume control of the incident scene, and establish an incident management structure.
- ❑ **Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts Train-the-Trainer Program.**  
This time-phased program will provide train-the-trainer instruction for designated firefighters and emergency services personnel in the 120 targeted urban jurisdictions. The program's goal is to create a sustainable resident training capability throughout the Nation. Training will include 150 first responders representing the targeted jurisdictions. The second phase of instruction will train instructors from State fire training academies. These instructors will then deliver onsite training in their respective jurisdictions.
- ❑ **Emergency Responders National Conference.**  
BJA will provide funding to plan and convene a national conference for first responders, emergency planners, and key officials at the Federal, State, and

local levels. This national conference will give these key decisionmakers an opportunity to discuss lessons learned, identify additional first-responder training requirements, and help coordinate the delivery of future training needs.

❑ **Demonstration Grant Program.**

BJA will provide demonstration grant funding to test, document, and exercise effective first-responder training programs for terrorist incidents and weapons of mass destruction that can be replicated in other urban jurisdictions. Demonstration sites will be selected on the basis of the criteria outlined in the Project Narrative Section of the *Application Kit and Program Guide for the Metropolitan Firefighter and Emergency Services National Training Program for First Responders to Terrorist Incidents*. To order a copy of the application kit, contact the BJA Clearinghouse.

### **FY 1998 Training Priorities**

Working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Fire Academy, BJA will offer training in FY 1998 for first responders in incident management and tactical decisionmaking. These courses will expand the level and scope of training BJA will conduct in FY 1997 and complement the sustainability of first-responder training. In FY 1998 BJA will also give selected State agencies and jurisdictions the opportunity to request no-cost technical assistance to help develop or enhance their existing first-responder training capacities.

### **Who Is Eligible for FY 1997 Training?**

Specified urban jurisdictions with first-responder operations are eligible for training. These jurisdictions are

not required to submit an application to participate; the fire chiefs in targeted jurisdictions have been contacted to determine their training needs.

### **Who May Apply for Demonstration Grant Funding?**

Metropolitan and State agencies that provide training for local firefighting and emergency services personnel may apply for a demonstration grant. Eligible applicants must show that their first-responder training operations are innovative, include more than one jurisdiction, and can be replicated by other large metropolitan jurisdictions.

### **For More Information**

For information about applying for demonstration grant funding, refer to the *Application Kit and Program Guide* available through the BJA Clearinghouse. Questions concerning demonstration grant funding and other training programs discussed in this fact sheet should be directed to the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center. This information is also available through the BJA home page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>.

#### **Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse**

P.O. Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
Phone: 1-800-688-4252  
Fax: 301-519-5212  
World Wide Web: <http://www.ncjrs.org>

#### **Department of Justice Response Center**

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# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

*Nancy E. Gist, Director*

## Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Program

The Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance (FLEDA) Act (42 U.S.C. 3796d) was enacted in October 1996 to enhance the appeal of service in civilian Federal law enforcement agencies by providing financial assistance for higher education to the spouses and children of Federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The FLEDA Act also makes this assistance available to the spouses and children of Federal law enforcement officers permanently and totally disabled by catastrophic injuries sustained in the line of duty.

### Background

Many States provide higher education benefits for the families of State and local law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. By enacting the FLEDA Act, Congress and the President have extended educational assistance to the families of Federal law enforcement officers. In so doing, a significant statement is being made about how vital Federal law enforcement officers are to our Nation's public safety.

The FLEDA Act recognizes that benefits available to these families through the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, are often consumed by basic needs and are not sufficient to support costs of higher education. For many families, however, access to higher education is instrumental in their ability to move forward in the aftermath of a line-of-duty tragedy.

### FLEDA Program Benefits

The FLEDA Program provides an educational assistance allowance to eligible survivors of Federal law en-

forcement officers whose deaths or permanent and total disabilities are the direct and proximate result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

FLEDA benefits are intended for the sole purpose of deferring educational expenses, which may include tuition, room and board, books, supplies, and fees consistent with the educational, professional, or vocational objectives set forth by the applicant in his or her application for assistance. The allowance was established in the amount of \$404 per month for full-time students, \$304 for three-quarter-time students, and \$202 for half-time students. The amount of assistance is subject to change consistent with the current computation of educational assistance allowance set forth in Title IV of the Higher Education Act, Section 3532 of Title 38, United States Code.

### FLEDA Program Effective Dates

The FLEDA Act makes program benefits available retroactively to the families of Federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty on or after May 1, 1992. The effective date for the families of permanently and totally disabled Federal law enforcement officers is October 3, 1996.

### Eligibility for FLEDA Benefits

The FLEDA Act stipulates that FLEDA benefits are to be provided directly to dependents who attend a program of education at an eligible educational institution and are the children or spouses of Federal law enforcement officers whose deaths or permanent and total disabilities are covered by the PSOB Act (42 U.S.C. 3796 et seq.). Federal officers' children are no longer eligible

for assistance, however, after their 27th birthday, absent a finding by the Attorney General of extraordinary circumstances. Assistance under the FLEDA Program is available for a period of 45 months of full-time education or training or for a proportional period of time for a part-time program.

### **For More Information**

For more information about the Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Program, to obtain a copy of the FLEDA regulations and application form, or to share your observations and recommendations, please contact:

#### **Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Program**

Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
633 Indiana Avenue NW.  
Washington, DC 20531

Tel: 1-888-SIGNAL13 (744-6513)  
Fax: 202-307-3373  
World Wide Web: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

#### **Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse**

P.O. Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
Tel: 1-800-688-4252  
World Wide Web: <http://www.ncjrs.org>

Clearinghouse staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. eastern time. Ask them to place you on the BJA mailing list.

#### **Department of Justice Response Center**

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