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Federal Support for Law Enforcement: Selected Department of Justice Programs

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SUMMARY

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Federal Support for Law Enforcement: Selected Department of Justice Programs

Congress has authorized a range of grant programs that support state, local, and tribal law enforcement. This report provides information on selected Department of Justice grants administered by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Selected grant programs target police hiring, equipment procurement, officer safety and wellness, drug task forces, community policing, school violence response, and crisis intervention.

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Introduction

Historically, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has provided financial assistance to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to assist them with addressing crime, purchasing equipment, providing training, and supporting community policing efforts. The major offices within DOJ that administer grants are the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW).[1] This report focuses on those grants administered by OJP and COPS that provide direct assistance to law enforcement agencies. These include grants that support police hiring, equipment procurement, officer safety and wellness, drug task forces, community policing, school violence response, and crisis intervention. This report does not include information on grants targeting other DOJ priorities, such as assistance for victims of crime, drug courts, improvements to the juvenile justice system, or research on justice-related issues.

This report includes brief descriptions of each grant program, summary information on eligibility, purpose areas, matching requirements, links to agency information and the grant program solicitation, and related CRS reports.

Office of Justice Programs

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is a federal agency that provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance, and other resources to improve the nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, assist victims, and enhance the rule of law by strengthening the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Its six program offices support state and local crime-fighting efforts, fund thousands of victim service programs, help communities manage sex offenders, address the needs of youth in the system and children in danger, and provide vital research and data.[2]

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

JAG formula grants can be used to support a range of program areas, including law enforcement, crime prevention and education, drug enforcement, technology improvement, crime victim and witness initiatives, and mental health programs.

Eligibility for State Funding: states, including the District of Columbia and U.S. territories

Eligibility for Local Funding: Local units of government and federally recognized tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions may be eligible to receive an allocation based on the jurisdiction's proportion of the average number of violent crimes reported in the state for the past three years for which data are available.[3]

Match Requirement: none

[1] The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency (OJJDP), Office of Victims of Crime (OVC), and Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking (SMART).

[2] See Department of Justice (DOJ), OJP, "About Us," accessed February 5, 2021, at https://www.ojp.gov/about.

[3] Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Allocations for local jurisdictions that are eligible for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) are listed on the OJP website. See BJA, JAG Program, "FY 2020 Allocations and Disparate Information," at https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/fy-2020-allocations-and-disparate-information.

Additional Information:

- FY2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program State Formula Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17277
- FY2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Local Formula Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17276
- JAG Program website
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview
- CRS In Focus IF10691, *The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program*

Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP)

This competitive grant program is intended to support local and tribal efforts to reduce the adverse effects of opioids, stimulants, and other drugs on communities. Allowable uses have included law enforcement and first responder diversion programs, naloxone for first responders, and embedding social service workers with law enforcement.

Eligibility: units of local government and federally recognized tribal governments

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- FY2020 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP)
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17023
- CRS Report R44987, *The Opioid Epidemic and Federal Efforts to Address It: Frequently Asked Questions*

Strategies for Policing Innovation

This competitive grant program assists state, local, and tribal jurisdictions in reducing crime and improving criminal justice systems using evidence-based policing practices, information sharing, and multiagency collaboration. Funds for crime reduction can be used for new personnel, overtime, technology purchases, and data analysis support.

Eligibility: state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies; tribal governments performing law enforcement functions; and governmental agencies acting as fiscal agents for law enforcement agencies

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- Strategies for Policing Innovation FY2020 Competitive Grant Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/bja-2020-17028.pdf

Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Initiative

This competitive grant program is administered in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and provides funding to areas experiencing sharp increases in gun-related violent crime. Priority is given to jurisdictions with high volumes of nonfatal shootings, firearms-related homicides, and Project Guardian participants.[4]

Eligibility: state, local, and tribal law enforcement; other governmental agencies; and tribal governments

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) Integration Initiative FY2020 Competitive Grant Solicitation https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/bja-2020-17017.pdf
- ATF CGIC Fact Sheet https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/fact-sheet/fact-sheet-crime-gun-intelligence-centers-cgic

Reducing Injury and Death of Missing Individuals with Dementia and Developmental Disabilities Program

This competitive grant program supports local jurisdictions' efforts to reduce the number of deaths and injuries of individuals with forms of dementia or developmental disabilities by using location revealing technologies and developing programs to prevent wandering from safe environments.

Eligibility: health care agencies; state, local, and tribal law enforcement; public safety agencies; and nonprofit organizations

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- FY2020 Reducing Injury and Death of Missing Individuals with Dementia and Developmental Disabilities Program Solicitation https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2021-44004FY2020

Gulf States Law Enforcement Technology Initiative

This competitive grant program focuses on information sharing between law enforcement agencies in the Gulf states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas to reduce crime and drug trafficking.

[4] The Department of Justice announced Project Guardian on November 13, 2019. Designed to reduce gun violence and enforce federal firearms laws across the country, it specifically focuses on investigating, prosecuting, and preventing gun crimes.

Eligibility: local and tribal law enforcement agencies, local and tribal governments, and tribal consortia acting as fiscal agents for one or more tribal law enforcement agencies in the Gulf states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- Gulf States Law Enforcement Technology Initiative FY2020 Competitive Grant Solicitation https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/bja-2020-17273.pdf

STOP School Violence Program

This competitive grant program provides training for schools, students, and law enforcement to recognize, respond quickly to, and help prevent acts of violence. These funds also may be used to develop anonymous reporting systems, establish intervention teams, and train school personnel to respond to mental health crises.

Eligibility: states, units of local government, federally recognized Indian tribes, law enforcement agencies, and nonprofit entities

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- FY2020 STOP School Violence Program Solicitation https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17312
- CRS In Focus IF10836, *Department of Justice Support for School Safety Initiatives*
- CRS In Focus IF10992, *Department of Education Support for School Safety Initiatives*
- CRS In Focus IF10882, *Department of Homeland Security Resources for School Security and Safety*

Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies

This competitive grant program funds the purchase of body-worn cameras (BWCs) and the establishing, updating, and/or expanding of BWC programs.

Eligibility: states, units of local government, and federally recognized Indian tribes

Match Requirement: Funds require a 50% cash or in-kind match. Funding is capped at $2,000 per BWC.

Additional Information:

- BWC Solicitation https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17732

Supporting Small and Rural Law Enforcement Agency Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation

This competitive grant program is for organizations that provide BWC training and technical support to small or rural law enforcement agencies.[5] Grant recipients are responsible for distributing funds for BWCs and program-related expenses.

Eligibility: national nonprofit and for-profits, tribal nonprofit and for-profits, and institutions of higher education

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- Supporting Small and Rural Law Enforcement Agency BWC Solicitation https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17011

Officer Safety-VALOR Initiative

The purpose of this competitive grant program is to promote officer safety through specialized training, which includes officer safety and wellness, crisis intervention and resolution training, active shooter response, officer suicide prevention and peer counseling, research on law enforcement injuries and fatalities, and program evaluation.

Eligibility: nonprofit and for-profit organizations, tribal nonprofit and for-profit organizations, state and local governments, federally recognized tribal governments, and institutions of higher education

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- Officer Safety-VALOR Initiative website https://bja.ojp.gov/program/valor/overview

Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP)

This competitive grant program supports collaboration across criminal justice and mental health systems to improve public safety responses to individuals with mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse. Program areas have focused on embedding social workers or mental health workers with law enforcement, supporting mental health centers, and mitigating threats of targeted violence.

Eligibility: states, units of local government, and federally recognized tribal governments

Match Requirement: Funds require a 20% match of the total cost of the project for the first two years and 40% for the third project year. Recipients may satisfy this match requirement with either cash or in-kind services.

[5] Per the grant solicitation, small and rural law enforcement agencies are defined as "(A) any area or community, respectively, no part of which is within an area designated as a standard metropolitan statistical area by the Office of Management and Budget; (B) any area or community, respectively, that is—(i) within an area designated as a metropolitan statistical area or considered as part of a metropolitan statistical area; and (ii) located in a rural census tract; or (C) any federally recognized Indian tribe."

Additional Information:

- JMHCP Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17114

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Administered Grant Programs

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is the component of DOJ responsible for advancing the practice of community policing by the nation's state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources. The COPS Office awards grants to hire community policing professionals, develop and test innovative policing strategies, and provide training and technical assistance to community members, local government leaders, and all levels of law enforcement. Since 1994, the COPS Office has invested more than $14 billion to help advance community policing.[6]

COPS Hiring Program (CHP)

This competitive grant program supports hiring new officers, rehiring officers, or retaining officers who are scheduled to be laid off due to budget reductions. The program covers 75% of approved salaries and benefits, not to exceed $125,000 in the three-year grant period. According to COPS, past priority was given to applications focused on violent crime, homeland security, or school-based policing.

Eligibility: states, U.S. territories, local governments, and federally recognized tribal governments

Match Requirement: Funds require a 25% local cash match.

Additional Information:

- CHP website
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/chp
- FY2020 Cops Hiring Fact Sheet
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2020AwardDocs/chp/Post_Award_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF) Program

This competitive grant program provides funds to support investigations of illicit activities related to the distribution of heroin, unlawful distribution of prescription opioids, and opioid trafficking.

Eligibility: State law enforcement agencies with multijurisdictional task forces in states with high per capita rates of primary treatment admissions may apply. Applicants must have primary authority over state seizures of heroin and other opioids.[7]

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[6] See DOJ, COPS, "About the COPS Office," accessed February 5, 2021, at https://cops.usdoj.gov/aboutcops.

[7] *Primary law enforcement authority* is defined as "the first responder to calls for service for all types of criminal incidents within its jurisdiction. Agencies are not considered to have primary law enforcement authority if they only respond to or investigate specific type(s) of crime(s); respond to or investigate crimes within a correctional institution; serve warrants; provide courthouse security; transport prisoners; and/or have cases referred to them for investigation or investigational support." See DOJ, COPS, *2020 COPS Office Anti-Heroin Task Force Program Application Guide*, March 2020, p. 88, at https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2020AwardDocs/ahtf/App_Guide.pdf.

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- AHTF website
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/ahtf

COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP)

This competitive grant program funds investigations of illegal activities related to methamphetamine.

Eligibility: law enforcement agencies with primary authority over state seizures of methamphetamine[8] and high seizure rates of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and dump seizures

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- CAMP website
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/camp

Community Policing Development (CPD) Program

This competitive grant program helps law enforcement agencies implement community policing strategies. Programs have focused on developing knowledge of community policing; increasing the number of law enforcement agencies using community policing practices; using community-based policing techniques; and increasing awareness of effective community policing strategies.

Eligibility: governmental agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, for-profit and nonprofit institutions, institutions of higher education, community groups, and faith-based organizations

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- CPD website
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/cpd

Community Policing Development Micrograms Program

This competitive grant program helps develop the capacity of law enforcement to implement community policing strategies. The program focuses on efforts to advance crime fighting, community engagement, problem solving, or organizational changes to support community policing in one or more of the following areas: hate crimes; human trafficking; rural law enforcement challenges; officer safety and wellness; recruitment, hiring, and retention; school safety; staffing and allocation studies; victim-centered approaches; violent crime; and youth engagement.

Eligibility: state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies

Match Requirement: none

[8] See footnote 7 for more on *primary law enforcement authority*. See DOJ, COPS, *2020 COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program Application Guide*, March 2020, p. 89, at https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2020AwardDocs/camp/App_Guide.pdf.

Additional Information:

- CPD Microgrants website
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/cpdmicrogrants

Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program

This competitive grant program funds efforts to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement. Areas of focus have included the implementation of peer support programs, peer support programs for small and rural departments, and program coordinator assistance.

Eligibility: governmental agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, community groups, and faith-based organizations

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- LEMHWA website
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/lemhwa
- CRS Report R46555, *Federal Efforts to Address the Mental Health of First Responders: Resources and Issues for Congress*

Preparing for Active Shooter Situations (PASS) Program

This competitive grant program funds activities to increase training for law enforcement and other first responders who respond to active shooters and other violent threats. COPS's FY2020 goal for this program was to train at least 20,000 first responders through scenario-based and multidisciplinary training.

Eligibility: governmental agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, community groups, and faith-based organizations

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- PASS website
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/pass

School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)

This competitive grant program provides funding to improve security at schools and on school grounds. Recent areas of focus have included security improvements, such as metal detectors, lighting, locks, and other deterrent measures; training for law enforcement officers to prevent student violence; and technology for expedited notification of law enforcement.

Eligibility: law enforcement agencies, state and local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- SVPP website
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp

Tribal Resources Grant Program-Technical Assistance (TRGP-TA)

This competitive grant program funds efforts to support tribal law enforcement agencies through community policing-related training and technical assistance. Focus areas have included developing community policing efforts relating to cold cases, missing or murdered indigenous persons, and the development of law enforcement recruitment strategies in Alaska.

Eligibility: governmental agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, for-profit and nonprofit institutions, institutions of higher education, community groups, and faith-based organizations

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- TRGP-TA website
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/trgp-ta
- CRS In Focus IF10922, *Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program*

Additional Department of Justice Resources

DOJ has several resources designed to provide assistance to grant seekers. The following resources address frequently asked questions regarding grants and the application process.

- **DOJ Program Plan Initiative** provides information on DOJ grant solicitations. Searches can be limited to BJA components, fiscal year, expected release date, applicant eligibility, and subject matter categories.
  https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/program-plan-initiative
- **Opportunity and Awards** provides a list of currently open OJP grant opportunities, links to solicitations, and application information.
  https://www.ojp.gov/funding/explore/current-funding-opportunities
- **Grants 101** provides information on types of grants, the grant cycle, and assistance through the application process.
  https://www.ojp.gov/funding/grants101/overview-ojp-grants-and-funding
- **Applicant Resources** assists organizations by providing grant overviews, project abstract templates, forms, frequently asked questions, and other information.
  https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/overview
- **Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation** allows federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia to apply for most of DOJ's tribe-specific grants with a single application. The site also provides an online guide to assist tribes with the application process.
  https://www.justice.gov/tribal/grants

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