



U.S. Department of Justice FY 2015 Budget Request

SMART ON CRIME

\$173 Million to Support Smart on Crime

FY 2015 Overview

At the direction of the Attorney General, in early 2013 the Justice Department launched a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system in order to identify reforms that would ensure federal laws are enforced fairly and—in an era of reduced budgets—efficiently. As part of its review, the Department studied all phases of the criminal justice system, including charging, sentencing, incarceration, and reentry, to identify the practices that are successful at deterring crime and protecting the public.

Today, a vicious cycle of poverty, criminality, and incarceration traps too many Americans and weakens too many communities. The insight behind "Smart on Crime" is that, while the aggressive enforcement of federal criminal statutes remains necessary, we cannot arrest and incarcerate our way to becoming a safer nation. To be effective, federal efforts must also focus on other aspects of criminal justice, like prevention and reentry.

With that in mind, the Attorney General's plan begins with an emphasis on prioritizing prosecutions. This means focusing on the most critical cases rather than the sheer number of cases. It also makes sense to consider alternatives to incarceration for low-level, non-violent offenses. This means increased use of diversion programs, such as drug courts, that reduce taxpayer expense and have the potential to be successful at preventing recidivism. Even when imprisonment is appropriate, sentencing should reflect the individualized circumstances of the case. It is time to reexamine—as Congress is already doing on a bipartisan basis—inflexible mandatory minimum laws that lock up nonviolent offenders for extended periods at massive taxpayer expense.

We must also pay attention to what happens to inmates after prison. To better prevent recidivism, it is important to reduce barriers to reentry for formerly incarcerated individuals. That means emphasizing reentry programs, and revisiting rules and regulations that make it harder for these individuals to find a job or a place to live.

Specifically, in addition to funds routinely provided for federal prisoner reentry efforts, the FY 2015 request provides \$173 million for prevention and reentry programs via:

- \$15 million for U.S. Attorneys to implement Smart on Crime, including prosecution prioritization, prevention and reentry work, and promoting alternatives to incarceration such as the establishment of drug courts and veterans courts;
- Sustains \$15 million in the Bureau of Prisons to expand the Residential Drug Abuse Program at the federal level and \$14 million provided in the FY 2014 appropriation

to assist inmates with reentering society and reducing the population of individuals who return to prison after being released;

- \$14 million in the Office of Justice Programs to expand the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program at the State and local level; and
- \$115 million for the Second Chance Act Grant program, through State and local assistance programs, to reduce recidivism and help formerly incarcerated individuals return to productive lives.

FY 2015 Funding to Support Smart on Crime
(Amounts in \$000s)

Component/Initiative	Amount
U.S. Attorneys	\$15,000
Bureau of Prisons	\$29,000
Office of Justice Programs	\$129,000
Grand Total, Smart on Crime	\$173,000