

The background of the slide features a photograph of several tall, white, classical columns, likely from a government building or courthouse. The columns are arranged in a perspective that recedes into the distance. The image is faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.

GOAL III

*Assist State, Local,
and Tribal Efforts to
Prevent or Reduce Crime
and Violence*

Assist State, Local, and Tribal Efforts to Prevent or Reduce Crime and Violence



GOAL III: ASSIST STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT OR REDUCE CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Although the role of the Federal Government in crime-fighting has expanded in recent years, most of the responsibility for crime control and prevention rests with our Nation's state and local governments. The Department of Justice provides leadership and support to state, local, and tribal governments in order to further develop the Nation's capacity to prevent and control crime and administer justice fairly and effectively. The Department works toward this goal principally through an extensive, varied portfolio of criminal and juvenile justice grant programs, training, and technical assistance. It also builds knowledge and understanding about crime and justice by conducting research, collecting statistics, and testing and evaluating new programs and technologies.

In addition, the Department helps state and local officials and civic leaders resolve conflicts and prevent violence in communi-

ties experiencing tensions due to race, color, or national origin. The Department works toward promoting the resolution of racial tension by assisting these communities in building their own capacities to develop local solutions to local problems through mediation, conciliation, and other conflict resolution services.

Most of these efforts are carried out by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), the Community Relations Service (CRS), the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The Office of Justice Programs provides federal leadership in developing the Nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist victims. In executing its mission, OJP partners with federal, state, and local governments as well as private and nonprofit organizations to seek effective and efficient methods to reduce and prevent crime, improve the administration of justice throughout the Nation, reduce substance abuse, rehabilitate neighborhoods, and assist with the needs

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of victims of crime. Within OJP, the programs administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provide grant resources, a comprehensive range of training and technical assistance services, and leadership to help communities more effectively administer justice.

Annually, OJP manages a portfolio of hundreds of programs and projects worth billions of dollars. It provides these resources to stakeholders through a mix of formula and discretionary grant programs. Additionally, OJP offers comprehensive training and technical assistance opportunities and sponsors the required research and statistical activities needed to educate and inform a broad base of stakeholders, including the federal, state, and local criminal and juvenile justice community, private and nonprofit organizations, and the general public.

Through its initiatives, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services promotes harmony between the citizens of a community and the law enforcement officers who patrol their neighborhoods. Created as a result of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the mission of COPS is to advance community policing in jurisdictions of all sizes across the country. COPS provides grants to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to hire and train community policing professionals, acquire and deploy cut-

ting-edge crime-fighting technologies, and develop and test innovative policing strategies. COPS-funded training helps advance community policing at all levels of law enforcement - from line officers to law enforcement executives - as well as others in the criminal justice field.

The Community Relations Service is the Department's "peacemaker" for community conflicts and tensions arising from differences of race, color, and national origin. Created by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, CRS is the only federal agency dedicated to assist state and local units of government, private and public organizations, and community groups with preventing and resolving racial and ethnic tensions, incidents, and civil disorders, and in restoring racial stability and harmony.

Objective 3.1:

Improve the crime fighting and criminal justice system capabilities of state, tribal, and local governments

The Department of Justice supports the notion that the most effective way for the Federal Government to impact local crime is through building partnerships and providing resources and leadership to encourage innovation and collaboration. The ultimate goal, from a federal perspective, is to assist local agencies and communities in building and sustaining capacity. Through its partnerships, OJP leverages the human and financial resources necessary to develop, operate, and

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evaluate a myriad of criminal and juvenile justice programs.

OJP has lead responsibility for providing assistance to the problems of youth crime and victimization. By statute, OJP provides leadership, conducts research, and provides financial and other assistance to state, local, and tribal governments to improve their juvenile justice systems and implement effective enforcement and prevention programs. OJP provides support in this area through its formula and discretionary resources, training and technical assistance, research, and statistics.

Strategies to Achieve the Objective

Provide resources to states, tribes, and local jurisdictions to enhance law enforcement efforts

OJP's formula funds to states assist in carrying out programs that offer a high probability of improving the functioning of the criminal justice system, with a special emphasis on drug and violent crime control strategies. Recipients of funding direct the funds received to one or more of the 28 program purpose areas. OJP also supports improvements in local criminal justice systems (i.e. supports law enforcement hiring, training, and equipment procurement; school safety enhancement; case adjudication enhancement; and the establishment of task forces and crime prevention programs).

An example of OJP efforts to provide resources to states, local jurisdictions, and



tribes to enhance law enforcement efforts is in the area of DNA technology which has played an increasingly vital role in ensuring accuracy and fairness in the criminal justice system. OJP's Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Initiative, a collaboration with federal partners, calls for a 5-year federal initiative to fortify state laboratory infrastructure and reduce the existing backlogs. As a result of this initiative, states will be in a better position to sustain this critical criminal justice workload without relying on the Federal Government. The initiative also calls for the creation of a National Forensic Science Commission to assess the needs of the forensic science community, and to stimulate public awareness of and interest in the uses of forensic technology to solve crimes.

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Provide direct technical support to state, local, and tribal law enforcement

The Department provides direct support and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in a number of ways. These include ballistic fingerprinting, using ATF's National Integrated Ballistic Imaging Network (NIBIN) to conduct bullet and casing comparisons, and ATF's Fire Research Center for advanced training and support of cause and origin determinations. ATF's Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) provides an internet-accessible system that allows law enforcement agencies to share information about bombings, arson cases, and incidents.

The FBI conducts fingerprint checks under its Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS), criminal history checks through its National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and background checks on prospective firearm purchasers using the National Instant Background Check System (NICS). The Bureau also provides DNA profile-matching services through the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), including the Mitochondrial DNA database being created within CODIS.

The FBI lab provides a large share of forensic support for Indian Country investigations. The Indian Country Evidence Task Force, created on June 1, 2000, is composed of FBI Laboratory experts in the disciplines of DNA, trace evidence, latent fingerprints, and firearms. The Bureau also funds Indian Country examinations con-

ducted by the Arizona State Crime Laboratory in Phoenix.

Facilitate the prosecution and adjudication of federal, state, tribal, and local laws

OJP programs under this strategy fund prosecutors and services required to improve the operations of the criminal justice system and decrease the incidence of violent crime. Multiyear funding of the Community Gun Violence Prosecution and the Project Sentry portions of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) are the key initiatives of this strategy. The PSN initiative is based on a deterrence theory of crime reduction. While incarceration will incapacitate convicted gun offenders for some period of time, it is not the primary mechanism expected to lead to a reduction in gun violence. Instead, the enhanced law enforcement sanctions and aggressive communications of PSN enforcement are expected to act as deterrents to the perpetration of such crimes by increasing the risk of apprehension and prosecution, and increasing the certainty and severity of punishment.

Another OJP initiative under this strategy encourages states to pass laws enabling the use of closed-circuit televising and videotaping of the testimony of children in criminal proceedings. The initiative assists the courts in establishing procedures for televised testimony in child abuse cases.

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Enhance the human and technological capability of state, tribes, and local jurisdictions to share information and resources to combat crime

In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Attorney General turned to OJP to provide the leadership to facilitate making information-sharing between federal, state, and local agencies more effective, reliable, rapid, and secure. As a result, OJP expanded its Regional Information Sharing System (RISS), a web-based, secure system that allows law enforcement officials to share knowledge and intelligence related to the investigation and prosecution of criminals. It now serves as the backbone for the Department's information-sharing initiatives with state and local law enforcement agencies.

As local law enforcement has taken on a more prominent role in the fight against terrorism, so has RISS. For example, the collaboration between OJP and the FBI led to the connectivity of the FBI's Law Enforcement Online (LEO) system to RISS. The blending of these two systems expanded the reach and scope of the RISS user community and provides a secure conduit for distribution of sensitive but unclassified Homeland security information. Looking to the future, OJP plans to continue to expand RISS by linking it to the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), expanding the RISS network to nontraditional users such as local hospital and school systems. This

will facilitate the rapid and secure dissemination of relevant law enforcement and other public safety information.

Finally, the RISS program is supporting the Multi-State Anti-Terrorism Information Exchange (MATRIX) pilot system. This data mining technology allows local law enforcement to increase and enhance the rapid collection and analysis of terrorist and other criminal activity intelligence and disseminate it securely, efficiently, and timely to other law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

The creation of the AMBER Alert Program is a prime example of how a successful innovation, conceived and demonstrated at the local level, can be replicated nationally. OJP's Assistant Attorney General serves as the national coordinator for this initiative, and will oversee the activities targeted toward assisting state and local officials with developing and enhancing AMBER plans, and promoting statewide and regional coordination among plans. Under OJP's leadership, states and communities across the country will be provided training and technical assistance to strengthen the AMBER Alert System and increase the likelihood that abducted children are recovered swiftly and safely.

Provide assistance in improving the transition of ex-offenders back into the community, and test alternatives to traditional correctional programs

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In an effort to develop alternatives for correctional programs, OJP continues to provide assistance to improve the ability of ex-offenders to transition successfully back into the community through the Serious and Violent Offender Re-entry Initiative. Additionally, OJP manages the development of comprehensive approaches to manage sex offenders as they transition back into the community. The strategy and its corresponding programs are designed to assist state and local jurisdictions, including probation and parole officials, in managing sex offenders under community supervision.

Reduce violent crime in communities while promoting achievement of crime prevention and economic revitalization

OJP provides critical technical assistance and training to implement programs that will assist with serious crime problems within a community. Community-based programs work to empower communities in building safer and healthier neighborhoods, and in strengthening social and family ties. OJP will continue to support this community-based strategy because collaborative partnerships among criminal justice agencies, other private and public organizations (e.g., schools, religious centers, tribal colleges), and residents are recognized as key in addressing crime prevention and economic revitalization.

Encourage community-based approaches to crime and justice at the state and local level through comprehensive and collaborative programs



OJP is taking steps to enhance its outreach to state and local communities with the establishment of the Community-Capacity Development Office (CCDO). The CCDO will provide robust training and technical assistance opportunities to help communities better help themselves. As envisioned, the existing Weed and Seed strategy will be the flagship program within the CCDO. Weed and Seed seeks to prevent and control violent crime and provide a safe environment in which community residents can live, work, and raise their families.

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The approach couples intense geographically-targeted law enforcement efforts with community-focused human services programs and neighborhood improvement initiatives. "Weeding" includes law enforcement efforts to remove violent offenders, drug traffickers, and other criminals from the target areas. "Seeding" includes human services, law enforcement-established prevention programs, and neighborhood revitalization efforts. Through the CCDO, OJP will build upon the success of Weed and Seed program and expand its collaborative, community-driven approach to reach other criminal justice, public safety, and victim-related activities.

Provide funding, information, training, and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal entities to prevent juvenile delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system

OJP provides information, training, and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal entities to prevent juvenile delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system. This is accomplished through a funding stream that authorizes formula grants to states to carry out activities under one or more of the 25 eligible program areas designed to prevent juvenile delinquency. In addition, OJP's efforts focus on training and technical assistance activities to prevent, treat, and control juvenile delinquency and to provide support and funding for the collection, preparation, and dissemination of useful, scientifically-sound research and evaluation findings.

Improve the fairness and responsiveness of the juvenile justice system and increase accountability of the juvenile offender

OJP continues to support and strives to improve the fairness of the juvenile justice system by providing more effective and responsive services to juveniles in order to increase their accountability in the system.

Demonstrate and transfer effective juvenile justice and community-based strategies to prevent delinquency and respond to juvenile justice needs



OJP supports state capabilities by funding units of local governments, Indian tribal governments, public and private agencies, organizations, individuals, or combinations thereof, to demonstrate and transfer effective juvenile justice and community-based strategies. This strategy includes development, testing, and demonstration of promising initiatives and programs for the prevention, control, or reduction of juvenile delinquency.

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Create and coordinate federal policy and conduct research on juvenile justice and delinquency prevention

OJP provides resources necessary to create and coordinate federal policy and conduct research on juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. Recipients are encouraged to focus training and technical assistance activities on prevention, treatment, and control of juvenile delinquency. In addition, OJP supports the collection, preparation, and dissemination of useful, scientifically-sound research and evaluation findings.

Improve the Grant Management System

In order to improve the accountability, reliability, and efficiency of the grant system, the Department has developed and implemented a unified grant application and award system, the Grants Management System (GMS). In addition, the Department continues to work with OMB and Congress to restructure the OJP to flatten its organizational structure, improve its operational efficiency, and improve its accessibility and service to state and local law enforcement, crime victims, and other constituencies. Grant management reform is one of the Attorney General's 10 Management Initiatives, described in Chapter III of this strategic plan.

KEY CROSSCUTTING PROGRAMS

Department of Interior. All Department of Justice Indian Country initiatives are coordinated with the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Department of Defense. The Justice Department and the Department of Defense collaborate on the deployment of technologies that support both national defense and law enforcement needs.

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program. In this collaborative interagency initiative, the Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, and Education have pooled resources, thereby creating one, unified application process that enables school districts to apply for an array of funding to address school violence.

Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program. Originated in 1992 through a combined effort of ATF and the Phoenix Police Department, the G.R.E.A.T. Program now comprises thousands of law enforcement officers who provide a wide range of structured community-based activities and classroom instruction for school-aged children, with the aim of empowering them to avoid involvement in youth violence, gangs, and criminal activity.

Objective 3.2:
Break the cycle of illegal drugs and violence through prevention and treatment

OJP has long played a role in providing drug-related resources to federal, state, local,

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and tribal communities in an effort to break the cycle of drugs and violence by reducing the demand and use of illegal drugs. OJP administers programs that address the problems of substance abuse-related crime, including treatment of offenders with substance abuse problems and their ability to transition back into society.

OJP also continues to support and encourage states to adopt comprehensive approaches to substance abuse treatment for offenders, including relapse prevention and transitional services. These services

involve coordination between the correctional treatment program and other human/social service and rehabilitation programs.

Strategy to Achieve the Objective

Support and replicate effective and promising approaches to reduce substance abuse by offenders

OJP developed a long-term vision to create new drug courts and to improve state and local capacity to enhance and sustain existing drug courts. OJP intends to build capacity at the state and local levels by providing training, technical assistance, and the resources to support drug courts. Under this strategy OJP will also increase the knowledge and skills of drug court practitioners to plan, implement, and sustain effective drug court programs.

Additionally, OJP developed the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment initiative to address the issue of substance abuse dependence and the direct link to public safety, crime, and victimization by providing treatment and services within institutions and communities. OJP provides funding for this initiative to all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories.

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KEY CROSSCUTTING PROGRAMS

Drug-Free Communities Support Program. In conjunction with the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Department provides grants to support community coalitions of youth, parents, media, law enforcement, school officials, religious organizations, and other community representatives. These coalitions work to prevent and reduce young people's illegal use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

Joint Substance Abuse Programs. The Department coordinates its substance abuse treatment programs with ONDCP and the HHS Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

Objective 3.3:

Uphold the rights of and improve services to America's crime victims, and promote resolution of racial tension

One of the major changes in America's response to crime in the last three decades is the recognition of the rights and needs of crime victims. In 1984, Congress enacted the Victims of Crime Act, which authorized OJP's establishment of a Crime Victims Fund and a variety of direct service programs and national-scope training and technical assistance to benefit crime victims. OJP provides federal leadership in safeguarding the rights of crime victims through the development of policy and funding practices that show promise; monitors compliance with federal victims' rights statutes; and supports public aware-

ness and education activities intended to promote justice for crime victims.

Racial tensions adversely affect local communities, officials, community leaders, private individuals, and businesses. Racial tensions have a lasting effect on communities and, if left to fester, can lead to more serious conflicts and violence, including major civil disturbances and fatalities. The Department, through the Community Relations Service, has learned through decades of experience that persons directly affected by racial tensions are the best source of solutions for resolving local conflicts and for reducing community violence and racial tension. Only through cooperative efforts by police chiefs, local elected officials, and community and business leaders, and only by their combined energy and willingness to promote the resolution of racial tensions, can the different needs and interests of all parties be identified and addressed in a satisfactory manner.

Strategies to Achieve the Objective

Fund and facilitate payments and compensation for victims and their survivors

Through the Public Safety Officers Benefits program, OJP supports public safety officers by providing a one-time financial benefit to the eligible survivors of officers killed in the line of duty and disability benefits for federal, state, and local public safety officers disabled in the line of duty. In addition, dependents of these officers may be eligible to receive educational support.

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Support appropriate victim services and victimization prevention strategies

OJP supports this strategy by awarding resources to state agencies designated by the Governor to administer federal funds for state and community-based victim assistance programs. The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 requires states and territories receiving these funds to spend a minimum of ten percent on certain priority victims: victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse, as well as victims who are underserved.

In addition, OJP supports a consortium of prevention, education, and prosecution projects to address the issues of fraudulent telemarketers. The major elements of this program are to: 1) raise awareness of telemarketing fraud within the state and local prosecutorial and law enforcement communities; 2) assess needs of states and local communities to prevent and combat telemarketing fraud; 3) identify how state and local law enforcement officials can best leverage their resources; and 4) educate consumers about how to avoid becoming victims of telemarketing fraud.

Build capacity to improve responses to victims and increase offender accountability

OJP intends to improve responses to victims and increase offender accountability by providing training and technical assistance to build capacity within communities

to improve the manner in which courts and the child welfare system manage child abuse cases. Another instance of OJP's building capacity is to provide training and technical assistance to professionals involved in investigating, prosecuting, and treating child abuse. In addition, OJP supports the dissemination of information, offers court improvement training programs, and provides technical assistance at the national and state levels on permanency planning for the purpose of improving dependency courts' handling of child abuse and neglect cases nationwide.

OJP also addresses the issue of missing and exploited children by focusing on building an infrastructure to support the national effort to prevent the abduction and exploitation of the Nation's children. OJP provides the only federally-coordinated mechanism for locating and recovering missing children through state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies.

Assist communities in preventing violence and responding to conflicts that arise from racial and ethnic tension

The Community Relations Service will improve and expand its delivery of conflict resolution and violence prevention services to state and local officials and community leaders in the coming years. These services include direct mediation and conciliation; transfer of knowledge and expertise in the establishment of partnerships and formal agreements for locally-derived solutions;

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development of community trust and cooperation; improvement of local preparedness for addressing violence and civil disorders; and assistance in enhancing the local capacity to resolve conflicts. The most significant benefits to state and local communities of CRS's intervention are the cessation of racial violence, restoration of peace in the community, restoration of public trust in the local government and law enforcement, and reduction in the likelihood of recurring violence.

Build trust between police and their communities

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Service's Police Integrity Initiatives meet emerging and changing law enforcement needs by assisting agencies in creating or strengthening local programs that build trust between police and their communities. These efforts culminate in a police-integrity focus that concentrates on the effective use of early warning systems, complaint investigations, use of force policies, and racial profiling. These efforts help to create community policing environments that foster trust and mutual respect between police and citizens. Additionally, the COPS Police Integrity Training Initiative delivers training on ethics and significant integrity issues to law enforcement officers and community members through the national network of Regional Community Policing Institute.

Support the advance of community policing strategies

COPS supports the advancement of community policing strategies by providing training to enhance law enforcement officers' problem-solving and community-interaction skills; encouraging law enforcement and community members to develop innovative initiatives to prevent crime; substantially increasing the number of law enforcement officers directly interacting with community members; and supporting the development of new technologies to shift law enforcement's focus to preventing, rather than reacting to, crime and disorder within their communities.

KEY CROSSCUTTING PROGRAMS

Partnerships and collaboration. The Department works with HHS to examine the causes of violence against women and violence within the family, and provides prevention and intervention services for such violence. Activities focused on providing services and assistance to victims of federal crimes are coordinated among Department components (ATF, DEA, FBI, USAs, and Civil Rights Division) and other federal agencies.

In implementing its community-based programs, the Department works closely with all levels of government. At the federal level, these include the Departments of Labor, HHS, Education, and Treasury. DOJ components, particularly CRS, OJP, and

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COPS, also work extensively with state and local officials and community groups in delivering their services.

Leadership assistance. The Office for Victims of Crime in the Office of Justice Programs provides leadership and assistance in victim and witness matters to both Justice and non-Justice federal agencies, particularly the Departments of Treasury, State, Defense, and Interior.

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Grant Management. The Department's grant programs have a high risk for fraud given the large amount of money involved and the tens of thousands of grantees. Due to the size of DOJ grant programs, there is compelling need for proper dispensation and monitoring of funds, including complete on-site monitoring reviews; grantee compliance with reporting rules; and appropriate methodologies for reimbursing applicants for payment programs.

FY 2008 OUTCOME GOALS

By FY 2008, the Department will:

- ❖ Reduce the rate of recidivism for the population served by the Re-entry Initiative by 15% (67 percent to 52 percent)
- ❖ Reduce homicides at Weed and Seed Program sites by 5% (as calculated from the first year to the fourth year of the program)

The following measures were developed too recently to establish associated targets; targets will be developed in the near future:

- ❖ Increase Regional Information Sharing System (RISS) inquiries
- ❖ Reduce DNA backlog
- ❖ Increase the number of participants in the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program
- ❖ Increase the graduation rate of participants in the Drug Court Program