

U.S. Department of Justice Resource Publication for Courts and Indigent Defense Providers

The Access to Justice Initiative of the U.S. Department of Justice has compiled this resource publication to provide an overview of grants, training, technical assistance, and other resources provided by the Department of Justice that may be of particular interest to courts and indigent defense providers. Please contact the issuing entity for more information about any of the resources provided here.

Selected Funding Opportunities

Note: Grant solicitations are posted throughout the year and, in most cases, remain open for several weeks.

Selected Formula Grants:

Byrne Justice Assistance Grants

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. This formula grant program provides states and units of local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, crime victim and witness initiatives, planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. The solicitation identifies support for indigent defense as one of several key priority areas for maximizing the effectiveness of JAG funding at the state and local level. State and local jurisdictions are encouraged to bring all system stakeholders together in a strategic criminal justice planning process to guide JAG funding, and the Department notes that “our recommended guidelines are that at a minimum, the strategic planning process includes law enforcement, courts, prosecutors, indigent defense providers, victim advocates, and corrections officials.” This year’s solicitation also incorporates new application requirements to help the Department “assess[] the extent to which states are engaged in strategic planning in making allocation decisions about JAG funds, and the extent to which the recommendation that these efforts include all criminal justice stakeholders, including indigent defense, are being followed to ensure fairness in the criminal justice system.” For more information visit: https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=59.

Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants

The Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) program supports states and units of local government in their efforts to strengthen juvenile justice systems. The program's goal is to help communities implement accountability-based programs that focus on both offenders and the juvenile justice system while supporting both state and local efforts in those same areas. Some of the 17 "JABG purpose areas" include hiring juvenile court judges, court-appointed defenders and special advocates, among others, and funding pretrial services (including mental health screening and assessment) for juvenile offenders; establishing and maintaining restorative justice programs; and establishing, improving, and coordinating pre-release and post-release systems and programs to facilitate the successful re-entry of juvenile offenders from state and local custody in the community. The authorizing statute expressly provides at 42 USC Section 3796ee-6 that the state or local government grantee may "contract with private, nonprofit entities, or community-based organizations to carry out the purposes" of the authorized activities. For more information visit: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/jabg/>.

Selected Discretionary Grants:

Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant

The Bureau of Justice Assistance distributes grants to establish new drug courts or enhance existing drug court services, coordination, and offender management and recovery support services. Solicitations for this grant program have been issued since 2002. For more information visit: https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=58

Answering Gideon's Call: Improving Indigent Defense Delivery Systems *

The Bureau of Justice Assistance distributes grants designed to contribute to indigent defense knowledge and practice by testing approaches to providing quality indigent defense services using the Ten Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System promulgated by the American Bar Association (ABA) in 2002 ("ABA Ten Principles"). A solicitation for this grant program was issued in 2012. For more information visit:

<https://www.bja.gov/Funding/12ImpIndigentDefenseSol.pdf>

Capital Case Litigation Initiative

The Bureau of Justice Assistance distributes grants to state agencies in states that authorize capital punishment and that conduct, or will conduct prosecutions in which capital punishment is sought to improve the quality of representation and the reliability of verdicts in state and local capital cases through training for state and local prosecutors, defense counsel and trial judges. Solicitations for this grant program have been issued since 2006. For more information visit: https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=52

Office of Violence Against Women Court Training and Improvement

This program funds projects that improve internal civil and criminal court functions, responses, practices, and procedures and provide education for court-based and -related personnel on issues relating to victims' needs, including safety, security, privacy, confidentiality, and economic independence, as well as information about perpetrator behavior and best practices for holding perpetrators accountable. Solicitations for this grant have been offered since 2007. For more information visit: <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/court-training.htm>

Social Science Research on Indigent Defense*

NIJ is funding research that can help with understanding the barriers faced by indigent criminal defendants to securing legal representation; offering recommendations to address these barriers; and disseminating the recommendations in a practical and easily accessible manner to practitioners across the United States. The FY 2012 solicitation solicits research on waiver of counsel, resources for defense team services and other research relevant to indigent defense services. For more information visit: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sl001006.pdf>

Tribal Civil and Criminal Legal Assistance

Targeted to non-profit organizations, including tribal enterprises and educational institutions, these grants serve to strengthen and improve the representation of indigent defendants in criminal cases and indigent respondents in civil causes of action under the jurisdiction of Indian tribes. Solicitations for this grant program have been issued since 2010. For more information visit: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/tribal.html>

Wrongful Conviction Review Program

The purpose of the Wrongful Conviction Review Program is to provide high quality and efficient representation for defendants in post-conviction claims of innocence that are likely to include complex challenges to the reliability and/or accuracy of evidence presented at trial. Solicitations for this grant program have been issued since 2010. For more information visit:

https://www.bja.gov/evaluation/pm-solicitations/FY11_Wrongful_Conviction_Review_Program.pdf

John R. Justice

Under this program, the Bureau of Justice Affairs provides loan repayment assistance for state and federal public defenders and state prosecutors who agree to remain employed as public defenders and prosecutors for at least three years. Solicitations for this funding have been offered since 2010. For more information visit:

<https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program>

**Grants announced for the first time in 2012.*

Selected Technical Assistance:

Drug Court Adult Technical Assistance

The Bureau of Justice Assistance Drug Court Clearinghouse/Technical Assistance Project at American University, provides a wide range of onsite and office-based technical assistance to help adult drug court programs to develop and implement improved program practices to promote program effectiveness and long-term participant success. For more information visit: <http://www.ndcrc.org/content/technical-assistance-adult-drug-courts>

National Criminal Justice Center Technical Assistance for Statewide Planning

In 2011, BJA launched a new project with the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) to assist SAAs in strategically investing their Byrne JAG funding. NCJA can provide valuable technical assistance for comprehensive criminal justice planning that includes bringing all criminal justice stakeholders to the table to develop innovative strategies to improve the fair administration of justice. The Justice Department's recommended guidelines are that at a minimum, the strategic planning process includes law enforcement, courts, prosecutors, indigent defense providers, victim advocates, and corrections officials. For more information visit: <http://www.ncjp.org/strategic-planning/ncja-training-technical-assistance-available-statewide-planning>

National Training and Technical Assistance Center

The National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) accepts requests for and provides training and technical assistance to state and local criminal justice stakeholders. For more information visit: <https://bjatraining.org/>

Tribal Court Trial Advocacy Program

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Office of Tribal Justice Systems with DOJ's Access to Justice Initiative is organizing a series of free trial advocacy courses designed specifically for tribal courts. The Tribal Court Trial Advocacy Training Program is designed to enhance the trial advocacy skills for tribal court defenders, tribal court prosecutors, and tribal court judges. The program endeavors to strengthen tribal courts in furtherance of the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 (TLOA) by enhancing the skills of those who appear in tribal courts so that tribes can exercise greater sovereignty in criminal justice matters that occur on their lands. All trainings are free and open to judges, public defenders, and prosecutors who appear in tribal courts. For more information about these trainings and how to register, please contact Wanda Brunson at 202-513-7649.

Links to DOJ Grants

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| Bureau of Justice Affairs Grants | https://www.bja.gov/funding.aspx |
| Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grants | http://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/FundingList.asp |
| Office of Violence Against Women Grants | http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/ovwgrantprograms.htm |
| Office for Victims of Crimes Grants | http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/grants/types.html |
| National Institutes of Justice Grants | http://www.nij.gov/funding/welcome.htm |
| Grant Information from the Access to Justice Initiative | http://www.justice.gov/atj/grant-info.html |
| Office of Justice Programs (OJP) e-mail subscription service | http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/govdelivery/subscribe.htm |
| For a comprehensive listing of all Department of Justice (DOJ) and other agency grants, please visit: | http://www07.grants.gov/ |

Grant Management Resources

Office of Justice Programs, Grants 101:

Provides an overview of the process for the Office of Justice Programs grant review and award process. <http://www.ojp.gov/grants101/>

Office of Justice Programs, Grants Management System Computer Based Training:

Provides computer based training that teaches trainees how to use the grant management system to search, apply, accept, manage, and report progress of funding opportunities from the Office of Justice Programs. <http://www.ojp.gov/gmscbt/>

Bureau of Justice Assistance, Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement:

Provides useful resources for state and local agencies for planning and implementing program evaluations and for developing and collecting program performance measures required by BJA to measure program performance. <https://www.bja.gov/evaluation/index.html>

Bureau of Justice Assistance, Grant Writing and Management Academy

Provides an overview of project planning, management, administration, and assessment of federally funded programs. <http://bj.ncjrs.gov/gwma/index.html>

Other Resources

Office of Justice Programs Courts Page

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/programs/courts.htm>

National Institutes of Justice Courts Page

<http://nij.gov/nij/topics/courts/welcome.htm>

About the Access to Justice Initiative

Since its launch in 2010, the Access to Justice Initiative has worked to help the justice system efficiently deliver outcomes that are fair and accessible to all, irrespective of wealth and status. The Initiative's staff works within the Department of Justice, across federal agencies, and with state, local and tribal justice system stakeholders to increase access to counsel and legal assistance, and to improve the justice delivery systems that serve people who are unable to afford lawyers. To support the development of quality indigent defense delivery systems, the ATJ resource page provides information identifying open grants, training and technical assistance that may be of particular interest to the defender and court communities .

If you would like to learn more about the Access to Justice Initiative, visit www.justice.gov/atj