Office of Justice Programs (OJP)

**FY 2021 Budget Request At A Glance**

| FY 2020 Enacted Budget - Discretionary: $2,315.8 million (642 positions) |
| FY 2021 Budget Request - Discretionary: $1,850.0 million (692 positions) |
| Program Change/Tech Adj. - Discretionary: -$465.8 million (-20.1%) (+50 positions) |
| FY 2020 Enacted Budget - Mandatory: $2,764.0 million |
| FY 2021 Budget Request – Mandatory: $2,423.0 million |
| Program Change/Tech Adj. - Mandatory: -$341.0 million (-12.3%) |

**Mission:**

The mission of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is to provide leadership, resources, and solutions for creating safe, just, and engaged communities.

**Resources:**

The FY 2021 budget request for the OJP totals $1,850.0 million in discretionary funding, which is $465.8 million below the FY 2020 Enacted Budget. The OJP also requests $2,423.0 million in mandatory funding, which is $341.0 million below the FY 2020 Enacted Budget. The FY 2021 budget proposes to merge the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) into the OJP.

**Organization:**

The OJP is headed by an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) who leads the organization, sets programmatic priorities for the agency, and ensures the goals of the Administration and the Department are supported. The OJP has six program offices:

- Bureau of Justice Assistance,
- Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS),
- National Institute of Justice (NIJ),
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP),
- Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), and
- Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.

The AAG is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. All other OJP office heads are presidentially appointed. The OJP FY 2021 permanent, full-time position level is 692 positions.
FY 2021 Strategy

The OJP works in partnership with the justice community to:

- Promote law enforcement officer safety and wellness;
- Reduce and prevent violent crime and improve public safety, including efforts to address violent crime in rural and tribal jurisdictions;
- Address the most pressing justice system challenges, such as juvenile crime and delinquency, school safety and opioid and stimulant drug abuse;
- Support crime victims, including expanded efforts to address human trafficking, child exploitation, and crime against the elderly; and
- Develop the information and tools needed to understand and respond more effectively to crime and other threats to public safety.

Violent crime continues to be a major challenge for many communities. The OJP promotes multi-jurisdictional and interdisciplinary programs that help communities prevent and respond to serious crime problems. It also partners with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement leaders to focus on effective approaches to violence reduction strategies. The OJP seeks to leverage existing grants, training and technical assistance, and research and statistical findings to bolster law enforcement efforts addressing public safety issues in the nation’s communities.

The OJP continues its commitment to promoting officer safety and wellness. Through programs such as the Officer Robert Wilson III Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officers and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR) Program, the OJP provides grants, training, and technical assistance to the field in areas that include active shooter response, mental health, and other critical officer safety and wellness topics that arise.

The surge in overdose deaths is a public health emergency and is a public safety crisis. In addition to opioid abuse, some states are also seeing a resurgence in methamphetamine addiction and other substance abuse. The OJP is helping its state, local, and tribal public safety partners confront the addiction crisis by supporting drug courts, which are effective in reducing recidivism, curbing drug abuse and saving taxpayer dollars. The OJP is also supporting other programs authorized by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which include the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program, the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program, Veterans Treatment Courts, Justice and Mental Health Collaborations, and the Hal Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

The OJP is working diligently to prevent and address youth crime and delinquency, and assist youth who become involved in the juvenile and criminal justice system. OJP programs assist state, local, and tribal juvenile justice systems in using prevention and intervention strategies that address the specific risk and protective factors associated with juvenile crime and delinquency.

The OJP plays a leading role in assisting state, local, and tribal efforts to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. The Victims of Trafficking Program supports a comprehensive response to the victims of human trafficking, and promotes the work of anti-trafficking task forces based on the proven Enhanced Collaborative Model. In addition, the FY 2021 President’s Budget proposes a new program, Trafficking Investigations and Prosecutions, to further efforts to combat trafficking. The Missing and Exploited Children program supports one of the nation’s most effective responses to online sexual exploitation of children, the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force program. The OJP also administers the Keep Young Athletes Safe program to address the threat of child sexual exploitation in youth sports, which was launched in 2018.

Improving the way the Nation’s criminal justice system responds to victims’ needs is another priority for the OJP. Through the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), the OJP supports crime victims’ compensation and assistance in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, as well as over 4,500 local victim assistance programs.

Through the work of the BJS and the NIJ, the OJP provides criminal justice professionals and decision-makers with statistics, program evaluation findings, and innovative crime-fighting tools. The information and technologies developed through OJP research programs seek to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal justice programs at all levels of government.

Research, Evaluation, and Statistics

The Research, Evaluation, and Statistics appropriation provides grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for research, development, and evaluation. It also supports development and dissemination of quality statistical and scientific information. This appropriation account funds the work of NIJ and BJS. The FY 2021 Budget requests $86.5 million for this appropriation.

Research, Evaluation, and Statistics Set-Aside

The Research, Evaluation, and Statistics set-aside will provide up to $52.5 million to support research and statistical programs. This discretionary funding set-aside is an important source of funding that allows the BJS to develop and enhance basic statistical systems to monitor the criminal justice system and NIJ to support research designed to identify best practices within that system. The FY 2021 Budget request for this set-aside is three percent.

State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

The State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance appropriations account supports OJP programs that provide grant funding and training and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal jurisdictions to address public safety issues. These programs build grantees’ crime-fighting capacity, with particular focus on promoting officer safety, reducing violent crime, and combating substance abuse. This appropriation also supports programs that develop new or innovative responses to significant or emerging public safety and justice system challenges, including addressing the addiction crisis and combating human trafficking. The FY 2021 Budget requests $1,511.2 million for this account.

Juvenile Justice

The OJJDP is committed to helping state, local, and tribal governments address juvenile crime and delinquency and assist children who have been victimized by crime and child abuse. OJJDP programs also promote efforts to improve the functioning of the juvenile justice system; hold juvenile offenders accountable for their actions; and provide appropriate reentry services for youth returning to their communities after detention in secure correctional facilities.
OJJDP also promotes state, local, and tribal efforts to respond to online child exploitation by supporting the ICAC Task Forces through its Missing and Exploited Children program. The FY 2021 President’s Budget proposes $227.5 million for this appropriation.

**OJP – Management and Administration**

The FY 2021 President’s Budget includes $286.3 million for OJP management and administration (M&A), which includes costs related to the OJP leasing initiative and the transfer of the COPS Office to the OJP.

**Indian Country Discretionary Programs**

The FY 2021 President’s Budget request continues the tribal assistance discretionary funding set-aside of up to seven percent (for a total of $120.8 million) to provide grant funds for Indian Country. In addition, the FY 2021 budget request includes $8.0 million for the Tribal Resources Grant Program and $3.0 million for the Tribal Access Program, both of which are administered by the COPS Office.

**Mandatory Programs**

The OJP also has three key mandatory programs to reduce crime, protect the rights of the American people, and enforce federal law.

**Crime Victims Fund (CVF):** The FY 2021 President’s Budget continues to seek CVF reform through modification of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984. The proposal provides a mandatory annual appropriation of $2.3 billion for the CVF. The CVF provides formula grants to states and territories to support compensation and services for victims of crime. CVF funding also supports training, technical assistance, and demonstration grants designed to improve the capabilities and capacity of victims services providers throughout the nation.

Included within this total are $10.0 million to support the oversight of OVC programs by DOJ’s Office of the Inspector General; $498.5 million for the Office on Violence Against Women; and a set-aside of up to $115.0 million to support tribal victims’ assistance grants.

**Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program (PSOB):** The FY 2021 President’s Budget requests $117.0 million in mandatory funding for the PSOB Death Benefits Program. The FY 2021 President’s Budget also includes $24.8 million in discretionary funding for the PSOB Disability Benefits and Educational Assistance Programs. These programs provide benefits to survivors of public safety officers killed or fatally injured in the line of duty and to public safety officers permanently disabled by injuries suffered in the line of duty.

**Domestic Victims of Trafficking Fund:** The FY 2021 President’s Budget requests $6.0 million in mandatory funding for this program. This program is funded by assessments on non-indigent persons convicted of certain offenses involving sexual abuse or human trafficking. Funding is then used to support programs to assist trafficking victims. In FY 2021, the Department assumes $1.0 million in collections and a $5.0 million transfer from the Department of Health and Human Services.

**FY 2021 Priority Programs:**

**Supporting Law Enforcement Efforts to Reduce Violent Crime**

**Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN):** $40.0 million in total funding is requested. This program will augment the work of the Department’s ongoing PSN Initiative to create safer neighborhoods through sustained reductions in gang violence and gun crime. The PSN strategy focuses on both the eradication of illegal firearms and the interdiction of violent gang activity, with an emphasis on addressing violent crime in areas with significant problems. Each of the 94 United States Attorney’s Offices is responsible for appointing a PSN Coordinator (usually a seasoned prosecutor with experience in violent crime cases) and developing a PSN anti-violence strategy. This strategy must address the five elements of PSN:

- Maintain strong leadership by the U.S. Attorneys to develop and implement crime-reduction programs;
- Establish strong partnerships by the U.S. Attorneys with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as the community;
- Develop data-driven strategies to target enforcement efforts in the locations with significant violent crime problems and against the offenders who are driving the violence;
- Utilize a comprehensive approach focusing on both prevention and deterrence efforts; and
- Establish program accountability by measuring results based on outcome (reduction of violent crime), not merely output (numbers of investigations and prosecutions).

**Rural Law Enforcement Violent Crime Initiative:** $11.0 million is requested to provide site-based awards and training and technical assistance for small law enforcement agencies in the rural regions of the United States to assist them in reducing violent crime, including drug-related crime and all forms of human trafficking. An important focus for this initiative is improving communication and collaboration among federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to address the unique criminal justice challenges in the rural regions of the country.

**Byrne JAG Program:** $411.7 million in total funding is requested. The Byrne JAG program is the primary source of flexible funding for state, local, and tribal jurisdictions across all components of the criminal justice system, from drug and gang task forces to crime prevention and domestic violence programs, courts, corrections, treatment, border security, and justice information sharing initiatives. State, local, and tribal governments rely on Byrne JAG funding to address critical gaps in their criminal justice systems in order to increase public safety and prevent crime. This could include overtime pay for officers, vehicles and equipment, information sharing system and technology upgrades, and interagency task force operations. In FY 2021, JAG will also fund other important officer safety programs serving state and local law enforcement, including the Bulletproof Vest Program ($25.0 million), the VALOR Initiative ($15.0 million), Strategies for Policing Innovation ($7.5 million), and the Academic-Based Training Center to Improve Police-Based Responses to the People with Mental Illness ($2.5 million).

**Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program:** $99.0 million in total funding is requested. The primary activity of COPS Hiring is to increase public safety and advance community policing practices by awarding competitive, discretionary grants directly to law enforcement
agencies across the United States and its territories. Included within this total is $10.0 million for the Regional Information Sharing System, $13.0 million for the POLICE Act, $7.0 million for Community Policing Development activities, and $2.0 million for the new Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act program.

**Second Chance Act and Reentry**

**Second Chance Act:** $87.5 million in total funding is requested. The program provides grants to help corrections and public safety agencies implement reentry programming to help those returning to communities after a prison or jail sentence. Successful reintegration will reduce rates of criminal recidivism, thus increasing public safety. The program provides grants to help state, local, and tribal corrections and public safety agencies implement and improve a variety of reentry services including housing, educational and employment assistance, mentoring relationships, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, and family-support services. Of this amount, $6.0 million will be used to improve probation and parole supervision efforts; and $5.0 million will be dedicated to supporting Children of Incarcerated Parents demonstration grants to test programs that enhance and maintain parental and family relationships for the benefit of children of incarcerated parents.

**Combating the Addiction Crisis**

The OJP FY 2021 President’s Budget includes $352.0 million for programs authorized by the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act (CARA). CARA funds are used to support the following:

**Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP):** $160.0 million in total funding is requested. COSSAP, a program developed in FY 2017, aims to reduce drug misuse and the number of overdose fatalities. It also supports the implementation, enhancement, and proactive use of prescription drug monitoring programs to support clinical decision-making and prevent the misuse and diversion of controlled substances.

**Drug Courts Program:** $77.0 million in total funding is requested. The Drug Court Program addresses the needs of the drug-addicted by providing an alternative to incarceration to addicted offenders who enter the criminal justice system, addressing their addiction through treatment and recovery support services and subsequently reducing recidivism.

Also included as part of the Administration’s commitment to eliminate the scourge of drug abuse and addiction is funding for the following CARA-authorized programs: Residential Substance Abuse Treatment ($30.0 million), Justice and Mental Health Collaborations ($33.0 million), the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program ($30.0 million) and Veterans Treatment Courts ($22.0 million).

**Helping Victims of Crime**

The FY 2021 President’s Budget includes $2.3 billion in total CVF mandatory funding and $123.0 million in discretionary funding to provide assistance to help victims and combat crime victimization. Included within this funding are the following programs:

**CVF Victim Assistance Formula Grants:** $1.8 billion in total funding to States and Tribes. Programs supported by CVF focus on providing compensation to victims of crime and survivors, supporting appropriate victims’ service programs and victimization intervention strategies, and building capacity to improve response to crime victims’ needs and increase offender accountability. Of this amount, up to $115.0 million in total resources will be devoted to Tribal Victims of Violence Grants to improve services for tribal victims of crime.

**Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Programs:** $498.5 million in total funding is provided by the CVF. By forging state, local, and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, judges, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, and others, VAWA grant programs help provide victims with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable.

**Human Trafficking:** $120 million in total funding is requested for OJP’s Combating Human Trafficking Program, a $35 million increase. The FY 2021 request departs from recent appropriations by reserving $80 million specifically for victim assistance programs to ensure robust funding is available to fully support victims in a variety of areas, from transitional housing to employment and education services. The remaining $40 million is allocated for efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking, including through a new Trafficking Investigations and Prosecutions program that will provide critical resources to State, local, and tribal law enforcement efforts to track down perpetrators and identify victims, while also helping prosecutors bring these perpetrators to justice. There is $80.0 million in current services for this program.

**School Violence**

**STOP School Violence Act Program:** $150.0 million in total funding. This program aims to prevent or mitigate incidents of school violence by promoting coordinated, evidence-based approaches to school safety that encourage collaboration between schools and local law enforcement. The program supports training for teachers and education for students with the intent to prevent school violence, as well as specialized training for school officials in responding to related mental health crises that may precipitate violent attacks on schools. The program also promotes state, local, and tribal efforts to improve school security through evidence-based school safety programs making use of physical security measures, technology, and coordination with local law enforcement.

**Program Funding Adjustments:**

The FY 2021 President’s Budget includes the following Program Changes:

A total of $224.7 million in discretionary program increases for the following programs:

- Project Safe Neighborhoods (+$20.0 million);
- Human Trafficking Programs (+$35.0 million);
- Human Trafficking Research (+$3.0 million);
- Rural Law Enforcement Violent Crime Initiative (+$11.0 million);
- COPS Hiring Program (+$99.0 million);
- National Criminal Records History Improvement Program (+$6.7 million);
- VALOR Initiative (+$3.0 million);
- National Missing and Unidentified Persons System – NamUs (+$2.6 million);
- STOP School Violence Act Program (+$25.0 million);
- Juvenile Justice Prosecution and Defense Process Improvement Programs (+$0.5 million);
- Targeted Violence Research (+$1.0 million); and
- Research and Evaluation Base Programs (+$3.5 million).
A total of $690.5 million in discretionary program decreases and eliminations, including for the following programs:

Body Worn Camera Partnership Program (-$22.5 million); Bulletproof Vest Partnership (-$27.0 million – funded as carve-out of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants program in FY 2021); Innovations in Community Based Crime Reduction Program (formerly Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program) (-$17.0 million); Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (-$135.5 million – including the non-recurring $100.0 million in Presidential Nominating Convention Security Grants); CARA programs (-$26.0 million); Court Appointed Special Advocates (-$3.0 million); DNA Programs (-$27.5 million); Economic, High-Tech, White Collar, and Cybercrime Prevention Program (-$3.0 million); Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act Program (-$2.0 million); Justice Reinvestment Initiative (-$28.0 million); Second Chance Act (-$2.5 million); Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants (-$20.0 million); State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) (-$244.0 million); Tribal Assistance (formerly Indian Assistance) (-$38.0 million – replaced by the up to 7% discretionary tribal justice assistance set aside); Child Abuse Training Programs for Judicial Personnel and Practitioners (-$1.5 million); Delinquency Prevention Program (-$25.0 million); Missing and Exploited Children (-$2.5 million); Part B Formula Grants (-$5.0 million); Victims of Child Abuse (VOCA) -Improving the Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse (-$7.0 million); and Youth Mentoring (-$54.0 million).

**Rescission – OJP: -$85.0 million**

The budget proposes an $85.0 million cancellation of prior year discretionary balances (including $70.0 million from OJP prior year balances and $15.0 million from COPS prior year balances).