



## U.S. Department of Justice FY 2019 Budget Request

### COMBATING VIOLENT CRIME

**+\$109.2 Million in Program Enhancements**

#### FY 2019 Overview

Protecting the American people from violent crime is a top priority for the Department of Justice. Unfortunately, in recent years, crime has been on the rise in too many places across the country. FBI statistics show that, in 2015 and 2016, the United States experienced the largest increases in violent crime in a quarter-century.<sup>1</sup> Over those two years, violent crime increased by nearly 7%. Robberies, assaults, and rapes all increased, and murder increased by a shocking 20%.

In 2017, the Department made some great strides, including the launch of the enhanced Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which brings together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to develop effective, locally based strategies to reduce violent crime. The Department brought cases against the greatest number of violent criminals in at least 25 years—since the Department began tracking a “violent crime” category.

Preliminary numbers for the first half of 2017 show some encouraging signs: the murder rate increase slowed, and violent crime decreased. Publicly available estimates for the rest of the year suggest further progress.<sup>2</sup> Of course, the Department’s work is not done—crime is still far too high, especially in the most vulnerable neighborhoods. The Department is renewing its commitment to reducing crime in America by focusing on the most violent criminals, taking down violent gang networks, prioritizing public safety, and supporting state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners.

The FY 2019 budget requests \$109.2 million in program enhancements to reduce violent crime and combat transnational criminal organizations. These resources will enable the Department to dismantle the worst criminal organizations, target the most violent offenders, and protect the public.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Fed. Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2016*: Table 1 & n.6, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2016/crime-in-the-u.s.-2016/tables/table-1>; for data years prior to 1995, see U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Fed. Bureau of Investigation, *UCR Data Tool*, <https://www.ucrdatatool.gov/index.cfm>.

<sup>2</sup> Press Release: Fed. Bureau of Investigation, FBI Releases Preliminary Semiannual Crime Statistics for 2017, (Jan. 23, 2018), <https://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-releases-preliminary-semiannual-crime-statistics-for-2017>.

## **New Program Enhancements**

### **Reducing Violent Crime**

In FY 2019, the Department is requesting \$104.6 million in enhancements to reduce violent crime and protect our communities.

#### **Office of Justice Programs**

- **Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN): \$70 million**  
The request will expand and reinvigorate DOJ's successful PSN initiative by increasing support for PSN activities at the local level. Led by our U.S. Attorney's Offices, PSN, together with federal, state, local, and tribal collaborations, targets violent and serious offenders who commit a disproportionate amount of violent crime. The PSN strategy focuses on both the eradication of illegal firearms and the interdiction of violent gang activity.

#### **United States Attorneys (USA)**

- **Paralegal Support: \$3.6 million and 58 positions**  
The United States Attorneys request paralegal support positions to assist with increasingly complex cases prosecuted by the United States Attorneys' offices (USAOs). This request will support the Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSAs) as they prepare their cases to carry out the Administration's priorities and other mission critical needs, to include supporting the additional 230 violent crime prosecutors requested in FY 2018.

#### **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)**

- **National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN): \$8.9 million and 7 positions**  
Funding will allow ATF to expand NIBIN National Correlation and Tracing Center (NNCTC) services to an additional 25 to 30 NIBIN sites in FY 2019, support additional training, increase the capacity of ballistic imaging and correlation hardware and software, and provide necessary infrastructure for further expansion of services to all NIBIN sites by FY 2020-2021. The request for FY 2019 is for the second phase of NNCTC. Centralizing the correlation process enables ATF to provide ballistic identification services for its law enforcement partners in a more accurate, efficient, and streamlined manner.
- **Expediting National Firearms Act (NFA) Applications: \$13.2 million and 25 positions**  
The request will provide additional equipment and software updates, contract support, and NFA system modernization, ultimately speeding the NFA Division's ability to register restricted weapons and support criminal prosecution. This effort will provide support in processing NFA applications within ATF's 90-day timeframe. The requested funds will aid in handling the unprecedented NFA transfer and registration application volume. There has been an average of 30 percent year over year increase in applications

from FY 2012 to FY 2015, with a 78 percent increase in FY 2016. In FY 2017 NFA processed 386,210 forms. The improvements will employ technical advancements needed to ensure the most accurate and timely firearm registrations to support the enforcement of NFA and provide certifications in support of criminal trials.

- **National Public Safety Partnership (PSP): \$8.9 million and 46 positions (36 Agents)**  
The program request will provide funding for criminal enforcement and industry operations positions in support of the National Public Safety Partnership (PSP). ATF will provide additional resources and assistance to cities with surging firearm violence. Augmenting existing enforcement and industry operations groups, as well as enhancing ATF's regional Crime Gun Intelligence Centers, will help achieve sustainable reductions in violent crime.

### **Targeting Transnational Organized Crime**

In FY 2019, the Department is requesting \$4.6 million in program enhancements to target those transnational criminal organizations that pose the greatest threat to our national security and the safety of American citizens.

### **Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF)**

- **Enforcing Federal Law on Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking: \$4.6 million and 28 positions (19 agents)**  
The OCDETF Program requests \$4.6 million and 28 positions (19 Agents) to address strategic gaps identified to support Executive Order 13773, Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking. This includes funding for additional agent and analyst positions at the International Organized Crime Intelligence and Operations Center (IOC-2) to encourage greater support from member agencies. Additionally, funding will support the establishment of a Co-Located Strike Force to conduct foreign-based investigations focusing on international transnational criminal organizations.

**FY 2019 Program Enhancement Summary**  
(Amount in \$000s)

<b>Component/Initiative</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Positions</b>	<b>Agts/ Attys</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Reducing Violent Crime</b>				
Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)	OJP	0	0	\$70,000
Paralegal Support	USA	58	0	3,600
National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN)	ATF	7	0	8,900
Expediting NFA Applications	ATF	25	0	13,200
National Public Safety Partnership (PSP)	ATF	46	36	8,912
<b>Subtotal, Reducing Violent Crime</b>		<b>136</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>\$104,612</b>
<b>Targeting Transnational Organized Crime</b>				
Enforcing Federal Law on Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking	OCDETF	28	19	4,563
<b>Subtotal, Targeting Transnational Organized Crime</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$4,563</b>
<b>Total, Program</b>		<b>164</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>\$109,175</b>

## **Enhancements Pending in the FY 2018 President's Budget Request**

United States Attorneys (USA):	
- Violent Crime Prosecutors (190 pos.)	\$18.8 million
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF):	
- National Integrated Ballistics Information Network	\$6.5 million
- Expediting NFA Applications	\$4.0 million
- Violent and Gun-Related Crime Reduction Task Force	\$3.5 million
Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA):	
- Violent and Gun-Related Crime Reduction Task Force	\$6.0 million
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI):	
- National Instant Criminal Background Check System (85 pos.)	\$8.9 million
- Violent and Gun-Related Crime Reduction Task Force (33 pos.)	\$3.4 million
- Transnational Organized Crime (65 pos.)	\$6.8 million
Office of Justice Programs (OJP):	
- Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Block Grants	\$70.0 million
United States Marshals Service (USMS):	
- Deputy U.S. Marshal (DUSM) Life and Safety	\$12.0 million
- Violent and Gun-Related Crime Reduction Task Force	\$6.0 million
Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF):	
- Violent Crime and Transnational Organized Crime	\$4.7 million
	<b>Total: \$150.6 million</b>