Office of Justice Programs (OJP)

FY 2019 Budget Request At A Glance

| FY 2018 Continuing Resolution - Discretionary: | $1,648.4 million (711 positions) |
| FY 2019 Budget Request - Discretionary: | $1,455.3 million (603 positions) |
| Program Changes - Discretionary: | -$193.1 million (-11.7%) (-108 positions) |
| FY 2018 Continuing Resolution - Mandatory: | $2,652.0 million |
| FY 2019 Budget Request – Mandatory: | $2,421.0 million |
| Program Changes - Mandatory: | -$231.0 million (-8.7%) |

Mission:

The mission of OJP is to provide leadership, resources and solutions for creating safe, just, and engaged communities. OJP strives to make the nation’s criminal and juvenile justice systems more responsive to the needs of state, local, and tribal governments and their citizens. It does this by partnering with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as national, community- and faith-based organizations, to develop, operate, and evaluate a wide range of criminal and juvenile justice programs.

Resources:

The FY 2019 budget request for OJP totals $1,455.3 million in discretionary funding, which is $193.1 million below the FY 2018 CR rate. OJP also requests $2,421.0 million in mandatory funding, which is $231.0 million below the FY 2018 CR rate.

Organization:

OJP is headed by an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) who leads OJP and promotes coordination among OJP program offices. OJP has six program offices: 1) the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), 2) the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), 3) the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), 4) the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), 5) the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), and 6) the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). The AAG is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. All other OJP office heads are presidentially appointed.

Personnel:

OJP’s FY 2019 permanent, full-time position is level 603 positions.
FY 2019 Strategy:

OJP works in partnership with the justice community to promote law enforcement officer safety, prevent and combat crime, address the most pressing justice system challenges, and develop 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. OJP promotes multi-jurisdictional and interdisciplinary programs that help communities prevent and respond to serious crime problems. It also partners with other federal and local law enforcement leaders focused on effective approaches to violence reduction strategies. OJP seeks to leverage existing grants, training and technical assistance, and research findings to bolster law enforcement efforts aimed at bringing order to high-crime communities.

The surge in opioid overdose deaths is a public health emergency and is becoming a public safety crisis. OJP is helping our state, local, and tribal public safety partners confront this challenge by supporting drug courts, which have proven to be effective in reducing recidivism, curbing drug abuse and saving taxpayer dollars. OJP is also supporting the other programs authorized by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which include the new Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program, the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program, Veterans Treatment Courts, Justice and Mental Health Collaborations, and the Hal Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

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’s 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.

Improving the way the nation’s criminal justice system responds to victims’ needs is another priority for OJP. Through the Crime Victims Fund, 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 Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), 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’s research programs improve the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal justice programs at all levels of government.

Currently, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) administers grants and provides expertise and other assistance in advancing public safety through the implementation of community policing strategies in jurisdictions of all sizes across the country. Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

In FY 2019, these community policing activities will be transferred to OJP, allowing the Department to centralize and strengthen the partnerships it has with state and local law enforcement and to promote community policing not only through its hiring programs but also through the advancement of strategies for policing innovations and other innovative crime-fighting techniques.

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 the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The FY 2019 President’s Budget requests $77.0 million for this appropriation.

Research, Evaluation, and Statistics Set-Aside

The Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (RES) set-aside will provide up to $40.86 million to support OJP’s research and statistical programs. This 3% discretionary funding set-aside is an important source of additional funding that allows 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 2019 President’s Budget request level for this set-aside is 3%.

State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

The State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance appropriation supports OJP programs that help its grantees promote officer safety, prevent and address violent crime, and combat substance abuse. This appropriation also supports programs that develop new or innovative responses to significant or emerging public safety and justice system challenges, including the re-entry of individuals who were incarcerated into their communities. These programs provide information, training, coordination, and technical assistance to help state, local, and tribal jurisdictions improve their crime-fighting and criminal justice capabilities. The FY 2019 President’s Budget requests $1.132 billion for this program.

Juvenile Justice

OJP’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (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 help communities intervene to help at-risk youth avoid unnecessary involvement in the justice system and assist justice-system involved youth with reentry into their communities following their release from secure correctional facilities. The FY 2019 President’s Budget proposes $229.5 million for this appropriation.

OJP – Management and Administration

The FY 2019 President’s Budget also seeks to streamline grant administration, management, and oversight functions. Currently, DOJ has three separate administrative offices that support its grant programs. To streamline services, save taxpayer dollars, and eliminate duplication, the Department has begun efforts for OJP to serve as a shared management service provider to support DOJ grant components, resulting
in reduced staffing across the grant components. The FY 2019 Request includes $235.5 million for management and administration.

Indian Country Programs

The FY 2019 Budget request continues the 7% tribal assistance discretionary funding set-aside (for a total of $93.8 million) to provide grant funds for Indian Country.

Mandatory Programs

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

Crime Victims Fund: The FY 2019 Budget request includes an obligation limitation of $2.3 billion for the Crime Victims Fund (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 victim services providers throughout the nation.

Included within this total are $485.5 million for the Office on Violence Against Women; $10 million to support oversight of OVC programs by DOJ's Office of the Inspector General; $25 million for Vision 21 initiatives; and a set aside of up to 5% (totaling $115.0 million) to support tribal victims assistance grants.

Public Safety Officers’ Benefit Program (PSOB): The FY 2019 Budget requests $115.0 million in mandatory funding for the PSOB Death Benefits Program. The Budget also includes $16.3 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 2019 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 2019, the Department assumes $1 million in collections and a $5 million transfer from the Department of Health and Human Services.

FY 2019 Priority Programs:

Supporting Efforts to Reduce Violent Crime

Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program/Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN): $140 million in total funding is requested. This program will reinvigorate and build on the work of the Department’s ongoing PSN Initiative to create safer neighborhoods through sustained reductions in gang violence and gun crime. When first implemented in 2001, PSN focused on offenders who committed firearms-related violent offenses under federal law. The Department expanded the program in 2006 to address violent street gangs. The current PSN strategy focuses on both the eradication of illegal firearms and the interdiction of violent gang activity, with an emphasis on addressing violent crime where it is the worst. Each of the 94 United States Attorney’s Offices (USAO) 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 these five elements of PSN: (1) strong leadership by the U.S. Attorneys to develop and implement crime-reduction programs; (2) the establishment of strong partnerships by the U.S. Attorneys with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as the community; (3) the development of data-driven strategies to target enforcement efforts in the locations with significant violent crime problems and against the offenders who are driving the violence; (4) a comprehensive approach focusing on both prevention and deterrence efforts; and (5) program accountability by measuring results based on outcome (reduction of violent crime), not merely output (numbers of investigations and prosecutions).

A 2009 Michigan State University study found that, when properly implemented, PSN generated significant reductions in violent crime in large cities (over 100,000 residents). Although DOJ’s PSN initiative has been in place since 2001, annual funding for PSN activities has declined substantially over the last eight years. This resulted in many districts not receiving any funding and inconsistent implementation of PSN among the 94 federal judicial districts. The increase requested will provide the resources needed to implement the Department’s proven PSN strategy on a scale sufficient to reduce violent crime throughout the Nation. NIJ identifies this model and many variations as effective on its CrimeSolutions.gov website.

Public Safety Partnership (PSP) (formerly VRN): $5 million in total funding is requested under the Byrne JAG Program. High-crime jurisdictions may benefit from the intensive technical assistance model of the Public Safety Partnership program. The program leverages DOJ resources to reduce violence in cities with the highest violent crime rates in the nation. The partnership includes OJP (including the COPS Program), the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS).

Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) Program: $402.0 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 2019, JAG will also fund other important officer safety programs serving state and local law enforcement including the Bulletproof Vest Program ($22.5 million), the Body Worn Cameras Program ($22.5 million), and the VALOR Initiative ($15 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 $5 million for Community Policing Development activities, $5 million for Collaborative Reform, $5 million for Strategies for Policing Innovation
Second Chance Act: $58 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; $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 incarcerated parents as a reentry/recidivism reduction strategy; and up to $7.5 million may be used for performance-based awards for Pay-for-Success projects, which engage social investors, the federal government, and states or localities to collaboratively finance effective interventions.

Combating the Opioid Epidemic

In October 2017, the President underscored the dangers our nation is facing when he officially declared the opioid crisis a nationwide public health emergency. OJP’s FY 2019 Request includes $103 million for programs authorized by the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act (CARA). The breakdown of CARA funds is as follows:

**Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP):** $20.0 million in total funding is requested. COAP, a program developed and funded in FY 2017, aims to reduce opioid misuse and the number of overdose fatalities. It 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:** $43 million in total funding is requested. The Drug Court Program will address the needs of the drug-addicted, including those affected by the opioid crisis, by providing an alternative to incarceration to opioid-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: **Veterans Treatment Courts** ($6 million), **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment** ($12 million), **Justice and Mental Health Collaborations** ($10 million), and the **Prescription Drug Monitoring Program** ($12 million).

Helping the Victims of Crime

The FY 2019 Budget includes $2.3 billion in total funding to provide assistance to help victims and combat crime victimization. Included within this funding are the following programs:

**Crime Victims Fund (CVF):** $1.814 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 total, $115.0 million in total resources will be devoted to Tribal Victims of Violence Grants to improve services and justice for tribal victims of crime.

**Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Programs:** $485.5 million in total funding requested. 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 for their violence.

**Human Trafficking:** $45.0 million in total discretionary funding is requested. Grantees under this program provide direct services for victims and work to improve the community response to victims of human trafficking through outreach, training, and technical assistance to other organizations in the community. Funds support multi-disciplinary task forces that encourage close partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement; victims’ services providers; and community and faith-based organizations.

Program Eliminations:

**Discretionary Program Eliminations:** Capital Litigation Improvement Grant Program ($2.5 million), Comprehensive School Safety Initiative ($20.0 million), Forensic Sciences ($4.0 million); Innovative Prosecution Solutions Initiative (formerly SMART Prosecutions) ($2.5 million), Justice Reinvestment Initiative ($22 million)

**Rescission – OJP:** -$85.0 million

The Budget proposes to cancel $85.0 million in unobligated balances (includes OJP balances and those previously funded by the COPS appropriation).