



## U.S. Department of Justice FY 2020 Budget Request

### COMBATING VIOLENT CRIME

**+\$137.9 Million in Program Enhancements**

#### FY 2020 Overview

The FY 2020 budget requests \$137.9 million in program enhancements to reduce violent crime and combat transnational criminal organizations. The Department of Justice is committed to ensuring law and order by providing Federal resources where they are most needed and most effective. These resources will enable the Department to dismantle the worst criminal organizations and target the most violent offenders.

These resources are important because 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 and 2018, the Department revitalized Federal efforts to fight violent crime, including the launch of the enhanced Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative, which brings together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to develop effective, locally-based strategies to reduce violent crime. In FY 2018, the Department prosecuted the greatest number of violent criminals in at least 25 years—since the Department began tracking a “violent crime” category.

As a result of the Department’s efforts, nationwide violent crimes have decreased by 0.2 percent from 2016.<sup>2</sup> Of course, the Department’s work is not done—crime is still far too high, especially in the most vulnerable neighborhoods. With the FY 2020 President’s Budget, the Department is continuing 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.

---

<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> 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/2017/crime-in-the-u.s.-2017/topic-pages/violent-crime>

## FY 2020 Program Enhancements

### Reducing Violent Crime

The FY 2020 budget requests \$137.9 million in program enhancements to reduce violent crime and combat transnational criminal organizations.

#### Office of Justice Programs

- **Project Safe Neighborhoods: \$80 million and 0 positions**  
The request will expand DOJ's successful PSN initiative by increasing support for PSN activities at the local level. Under this program, grants will be awarded to local law enforcement agencies, outreach and prevention service providers, and researchers to support activities implementing local PSN anti-violence strategies. The PSN strategy focuses on both the eradication of illegal firearms and the interdiction of violent gang activity. Current services for this initiative are \$20.0 million and 0 positions.
- **Southwest Border Rural Law Enforcement Violent Crime Reduction Initiative: \$6 million and 0 positions**  
Requests \$6 million for a new grant program in OJP: the Southwest Border Rural Law Enforcement Violent Crime Reduction Initiative. (This funding will be provided through a carve-out under the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program.) This initiative will assist law enforcement agencies serving rural jurisdictions along or near the Southwest Border to address increases in crime, with a special focus on violent crime, in border communities. There are no specific FY 2020 current services.
- **National Public Safety Partnership (PSP): \$5 million and 0 positions.**  
The request includes \$5 million for the National Public Safety Partnership program as a set-aside under the Byrne JAG program.

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

- **National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN): \$10.7 million and 0 positions**  
Funding will allow ATF to expand NIBIN National Correlation and Tracing Center (NNCTC) services to an additional 5 NIBIN sites in FY 2020, support additional training, increase the capacity of ballistic imaging and correlation hardware and software, and provide necessary infrastructure for further expansion of services to NIBIN sites. Current services for this initiative are \$36.8 million and 21 positions. This will bring NIBIN to approximately 200 sites by the end of FY 2020.

#### United States Marshals Service (USMS)

- **Violent Crime Reduction Initiative: \$7.9 million and 35 positions (35 Deputy Marshals)**  
The U.S. Marshals Service requests additional Deputy U.S. Marshals to address the increased workload of USMS' core missions and to enhance its capacity to address

departmental priorities and initiatives related to violent crime reduction. As the Department surges resources to address the opioid crisis, reduce violent crime, and expand immigration enforcement, this request will support the concurrent surge in demand for USMS services. There are no specific FY 2020 current services.

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

- **Paralegal Support: \$5.8 million and 60 positions**

The United States Attorneys request \$5.8 million and 60 positions to enhance violent-crime and firearms prosecutions in high-crime districts that have seen a recent precipitous increase in violent crime, and to target the worst criminal organizations in order to address violent crime and gun-related deaths. The United States Attorneys' Offices in districts with jurisdictions facing the most serious recent spikes and those with sustained high levels of violence will need additional paralegal positions to assist in the prosecution of violent-crime cases. This request will support the efforts to reduce violent crime by providing additional resources to address these problems throughout our country. FY 2020 current services for this initiative are \$222 million and 1,321 positions (921 attorneys).

### **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**

- **National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS): \$4.2 million and 40 positions**

The requested funding will enable the FBI to increase its capacity to perform NICS background checks for firearms purchases. The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 allows a Federal Firearms Licensee to legally transfer a firearm to a purchaser if the background check is not completed within three business days. The FBI has implemented technical refinements and operational efficiencies; however, the volume of calls, complexity of the work and introduction of new mandates, such as the Fix NICS Act, require the FBI to request additional resources. FY 2020 current services for this initiative are \$110.5 million and 679 positions (0 agents).

### **Targeting Transnational Organized Crime**

#### **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**

- **Transnational Organized Crime (TOC): \$18.2 million and 0 positions**

The requested funding will allow the FBI to enhance strategic targeting, data exploitation and analysis, and technological expertise of the FBI's TOC program. This enhancement will support the FBI's Joint Criminal Opioid Darknet Enforcement (J-CODE) initiative to disrupt and dismantle the Darknet illicit marketplaces facilitating the distribution of fentanyl and other opioids. The J-CODE Initiative brings together agents, analysts, and professional staff with expertise in drugs, gangs, health care fraud, and more, and federal, state, and local law enforcement partners from across the U.S. Government to target the trafficking of fentanyl and other opioids on the Darknet and Clearnet. FY 2020 current services for this initiative are \$252.1 million and 1,537 positions (792 agents).

**FY 2020 Violent Crime Summary**  
**(Amount in \$000s)**

Component/Initiative	Component	Positions	Agts/ Attys	Amount
<b>Reducing Violent Crime</b>				
Project Safe Neighborhoods	OJP	0	0	\$80,000
National Integrated Ballistics Information Network	ATF	0	0	\$10,704
Violent Crime Reduction Initiative	USMS	35	35	\$7,977
Southwest Border Rural Law Enforcement Violent Crime Reduction Initiative	OJP	0	0	\$6,000
Paralegal Support	USA	60	0	\$5,801
Public Safety Partnership	OJP	0	0	\$5,000
National Instant Criminal Background Check System	FBI	40	1	\$4,228
<b>Subtotal, Reducing Violent Crime</b>		<b>135</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>\$119,710</b>
<b>Targeting Transnational Organized Crime</b>				
Transnational Organized Crime	FBI	0	0	\$18,200
<b>Subtotal, Targeting Transnational Organized Crime</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$18,200</b>
<b>Total, Program</b>		<b>135</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>\$137,910</b>