



U.S. Department of Justice FY 2017 Budget Request

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

**+\$81 Million in Program Increases,
including +\$75 Million in State, Local and Tribal Programs**

FY 2017 Overview

The Justice Department's priority of upholding the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, particularly the most vulnerable members of our society, remains of the highest importance. Accomplishing this requires resources to investigate, litigate, conduct outreach, and provide capacity building education, training, and technical assistance. The FY 2017 President's Budget will address these priorities by dedicating funds to these tasks, thereby enhancing the lives of the country's vulnerable populations.

The FY 2017 President's Budget requests funding to prevent and investigate elder abuse and fraud, particularly health care fraud, which remains a top priority for the department. The Budget will address environmental concerns in Indian Country, and increase civil and criminal litigation related to worker safety and Occupational Safety and Health Act violations in partnership with the Department of Labor. As environmental laws and the cases they necessitate become increasingly complex, the increases in funding and resources dedicated to their enforcement will follow.

Our nation's children and youth are a vulnerable demographic group. At a national summit on Youth Violence Prevention last year, the Attorney General spoke of the importance of providing services to children exposed to violence in order to break the cycle of violence. The FY 2017 request includes additional funding to do just that.

Additional resources are requested to ensure the nation's police are properly trained to interact with children and people with disabilities, and to support enforcement, technical assistance, and the issuance of guidance and regulations related to the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, the department is proud to protect the rights of service members, and our workload is increasing related to defending the civil rights of active military and veterans.

The nation's vulnerable populations deserve the same rights, opportunities, and protections from injustices as the rest of society. The Administration and the department are committed to accomplishing this goal.

FY 2017 Program Increases

Protecting and Aiding the Nation's Elder Community

The department is committed to the protection of the elder population of the country. Health care fraud is a major issue that is consistently addressed every fiscal year and one that will not be tolerated.

- **Civil Division (CIV):** The Elder Justice Initiative, for which the FY 2017 Budget requests **\$558,000** and **2 positions**, will be a significant component of the department's ongoing efforts to combat health care fraud while protecting America's vulnerable, elder population from abuse and financial exploitation. The funds will assist in the prevention and investigation of elder fraud and abuse; increase research on elder justice; and expand and update the department's Elder Justice website to include training programs on financial exploitation of the elder population. There are no current services for this initiative.

Enforcing Environmental and Public Safety

- **Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD):** ENRD plays a unique and impactful role in the enforcement of the nation's environmental and safety laws. A total of **\$2.5 million** and **10 positions** will be dedicated to upholding the nation's important worker protection laws and ensuring every American's right to a safe workplace. The funds will increase the frequency and effectiveness of criminal prosecutions of worker-safety violations and support increased enforcement of worker protection statutes in partnership with the Department of Labor. ENRD will also utilize this funding to protect human health and the environment in Indian Country by working closely with federal and tribal agencies to litigate cases addressing environmental violations.

Protecting and Aiding the Nation's Youth

Youth are among the most vulnerable members of our society and their impressionable nature means programs should be targeted to providing assistance, guidance, and support as early as possible, with the first goal being to prevent children from entering the criminal justice system.

- **Office of Justice Programs (OJP):** The department will establish several key grants programs with a total funding amount of **\$40 million**. These programs will support efforts to develop and implement coordinated prevention and intervention juvenile programs. The Administration is wholly focused on giving attention to young people within the justice system, as evidenced by the department's goal to establish community partnerships between schools, police, and said juvenile justice system. Recognizing that the earlier a problem is caught, the more effective the treatment, funding will support the improved response to children exposed to violence, their safety and well-being, and will promote education on these issues in the impacted communities. Certain youths in impacted communities that are children of incarcerated parents, will also be aided by

A **\$24.5 million** increase for the **Delinquency Prevention Program** to foster partnerships in the nation's communities to help youths in the juvenile justice system.

resources that will help implement government initiatives to support them and their caregivers.

Addressing the Needs of the Physically and Mentally Challenged

Members of our society who have physical or mental health problems, must be treated in a fashion that is equitable and yet perceptive to their individual needs. Their rights are of the same importance as the rest of society. Education, outreach, and training programs are critical to ensure our society and our system of justice understands this point.

- **Civil Rights Division (CRT):** The department is requesting **\$983,000 and 7 positions** to address and enforce an expected significant increase in cases involving accessible technology, campus responses to students with mental health conditions, and the employment rights of individuals with disabilities. CRT takes a multi-faceted approach to enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision. This approach includes enforcement, technical assistance activities and the issuance of regulations and guidance documents. The current services for this initiative are 11 positions (5 attorneys) and \$2.3 million.
- **Office of Justice Programs (OJP):** The department is dedicated to increasing the efficiency and efficacy with which the criminal justice system handles mentally ill individuals. **\$11.5 million** in grants funding will aid in developing multi-faceted strategies that bring together criminal justice, social services, and public health agencies, as well as community organizations, to develop system-wide responses to the needs of these people. Training will also be provided to the police in the nation's communities so that they are better equipped to handle situations involving individuals with a potential mental illness.

Defending the Rights of Servicemembers

- **Civil Rights Division (CRT):** CRT works vigorously to protect the rights of servicemembers and plans to dedicate **\$587,000 and 5 positions** to expand enforcement, outreach, and training. Servicemembers are entitled to the right to vote when stationed away from home, the right to return to work after their military service, the right to be free of financial exploitation while on active duty, and the right to reasonable accommodation when they have a disability. The Division plans to expand its enforcement of three federal statutes that provide protections for servicemembers – the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens and Absentee Voting Act, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. The current services for this initiative are 17 positions (10 attorneys) and \$3.5 million.

Promoting Coordination and Efficiency

- **General Administration (GA): \$352,000 and 2 positions** will support programs and activities that integrate legal aid with existing services to improve access to counsel and legal assistance for people who cannot afford lawyers. Also, the funding will meet the increased demand by Indian tribes to coordinate with the Department of Justice and other federal agencies on law enforcement and public safety issues. The Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ) will support the Tribal Access Program (TAP), which will aid Tribal Nations in implementing processes and policies to enhance access to national crime information databases for both civil and criminal purposes.
- **Office of Inspector General (OIG): \$1.2 million and 6 positions** will manage the dramatic increase in whistleblower retaliation cases and provide an important public service by improving government efficiency, transparency, and accountability. There are no dedicated current services for this initiative.
- **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS):** The FY 2017 Budget requests **\$23 million** to re-establish the COPS Tribal Resources Grant Program (TRGP) as a separate line-item. Additionally, \$15 million will be available from the COPS Hiring Program for a total of \$38 million to support tribal law enforcement. Of the \$23 million requested as a separate line item, \$3 million is requested to support tribes' access to law enforcement information sharing systems. This includes the purchase of systems and systems access, as well as training and technical assistance to support the use of these systems. Funding for this program is used for hiring of law enforcement officers, training, and equipment and anti-methamphetamine activities in tribal communities. The FY 2016 enacted level for this initiative is \$30 million as a set-aside within the COPS Hiring program, so the combined total of \$38 million in funding in FY 2017 will provide an \$8 million increase over the FY 2016 enacted level.

FY 2017 Program Increases Summary
(Amount in \$000s)

Component/Initiative	Positions	Amount
Civil Division		
Elder Justice	2	\$558
Subtotal, Civil Division	2	\$558
Environment and Natural Resources Division		
Enhancing the Safety of America's Workforce	6	\$1,000
Improving Environmental Enforcement in Indian Country	4	1,500
Subtotal, Environment and Natural Resources Division	10	\$2,500
Office of Justice Programs		
Delinquency Prevention Program	0	24,500
Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program	0	4,000
Defending Childhood/Children Exposed to Violence Initiative	0	15,000
Children of Incarcerated Parents (COIP) Web Portal	0	500
National Training Center to Improve Police-Based Responses to People with Mental Illness	0	7,500
Subtotal, Office of Justice Programs	0	\$51,500
Civil Rights Division		
Protecting the Rights of Service-members	5	\$587
Protecting the Rights of People with Disabilities	7	983
Subtotal, Civil Rights Division	12	\$1,570
General Administration		
Access to Justice	1	\$112
Tribal Justice	1	240
Subtotal, General Administration	2	\$352
Office of Inspector General		
Whistleblower Protection	6	\$1,202
Subtotal, Office of Inspector General	6	\$1,202
Community Oriented Policing Services		
Tribal Law Enforcement	0	\$23,000
Subtotal, Community Oriented Policing Services	0	\$23,000
Total, Program Increases	32	\$80,682

Note 1: Amounts requested by OJP and COPS for Vulnerable Populations are also captured in the department's State and Local Fact Sheet.

Note 2: Amounts requested by GA for Tribal Justice in Vulnerable Populations are also captured in the department's Indian Country Fact Sheet.