



U.S. Department of Justice FY 2015 Budget Request

GUN SAFETY

\$1.1 Billion in Total Funding

FY 2015 Overview

Gun violence has touched every state, county, city, and town in America, and addressing gun violence remains a high priority for the Department. To that end, after 7 years with no permanent director, the Department now has the first-ever Senate-confirmed Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to help lead the effort to address violent crime and enhance gun safety. The new ATF Director, in addition to other senior Department leaders, has worked with the Administration to formulate concrete, common-sense proposals for reducing gun violence and preventing future tragedies.

In 2013, the Administration proposed a range of legislative remedies – along with 23 executive actions – to address mass shootings and reduce gun violence. The Justice Department is working to implement a number of these actions and requests a total of \$1.1 billion in FY 2015 to address violent gun crimes, which includes \$182.4 million to support the President’s “Now is the Time” initiative. Of the total \$1.1 billion, \$1.0 billion in federal law enforcement resources allows the Department to ensure those who are not eligible to purchase or possess guns are prevented from doing so, and \$147.0 million is to help state and local governments continue to implement the Administration’s proposals for increasing firearms safety and supporting programs that help keep communities safe from mass casualty violence.

In support of enhancing gun safety, the Department has been working to strengthen the national background check system. For example, in January 2014, the Department proposed a rule to clarify the definition of persons prohibited from receiving, possessing, shipping, or transporting firearms for mental health reasons. Additionally, the Department is working to strengthen national background checks by addressing gaps in the federal and state records currently available in NICS. Incomplete or insufficient records significantly hinder the ability of NICS to quickly confirm whether a prospective purchaser is prohibited from acquiring a firearm. In FY 2015, the Department requests a total of \$55.0 million in grant funding to further assist states in making more records available in NICS and improving the National Criminal History Improvement Program, and an increase of \$13.4 million for the FBI to maintain the substantial improvements made to NICS in FY 2014.

The Department is also taking a hard look at our federal laws and our enforcement priorities to ensure that we are doing everything possible at the federal level to keep firearms away from traffickers and other criminals. To support the enforcement of federal laws, the Department is requesting an increase of \$22.0 million for ATF, which will allow it to sustain and enhance the firearms enforcement and inspection efforts funded in FY 2014. Sustaining the Department’s capabilities in this area and protecting recently enacted critical investments is of significant interest.

Beyond keeping guns out of the wrong hands, we also want to help those on the ground prevent and mitigate violent situations when they do occur. To this end, OJP, with the support of the FBI, will be providing a specialized training course for active shooter situations for law enforcement officers, first responders, and school officials. The Department is requesting a total of \$15.0 million to support this training and other officer safety initiatives. Further, to prevent future tragedies, the Department is also requesting \$75.0 million in grant funding to the Comprehensive School Safety Program, which was funded for the first time in FY 2014.

The Budget includes \$2.0 million for OJP to support the Administration’s challenge to the private sector to develop innovative and cost-effective gun safety technology. The funding for this initiative will provide prizes for those technologies that are proven to be reliable and effective. This will be funded from OJP’s 2 percent research set-aside.

FY 2015 Funding to Support Now is the Time
(Amounts in \$000s)

Component/Initiative	Amount
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives	\$22,004
Federal Bureau of Investigation	\$13,424
Office of Justice Programs	\$147,000
Grand Total, Now is the Time	\$182,428