



## U.S. Department of Justice FY 2016 Budget Request

### CIVIL RIGHTS

**+\$102.8 Million in Program Increases**

### FY 2016 Overview

The Department's mission is to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, particularly the most vulnerable members of our society. Accomplishing this requires resources to investigate, litigate, and conduct outreach and technical assistance. Events of the past year underscore the importance of our efforts in this area. On December 18, 2014, the President signed an executive order to create the Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing, part of the Administration's efforts to strengthen community policing and strengthen trust among law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. The Department is leading this task force, which will present a final report to the President by March 2, 2015.

Protecting the nation's most vulnerable populations is a top priority of this Administration and the Department. These issues remain highly relevant to the American people and a significant focus of both the Civil Rights Division and the Community Relations Service. The FY 2016 request includes \$102.8 million in new investments to address growing threats of human trafficking, hate crimes, and campus sexual assaults. The request includes funds to expand civil and criminal enforcement efforts to ensure that all communities have effective and democratically accountable policing.

The request includes funds to protect service members and individuals in institutions, such as nursing home residents and persons with mental health needs in correctional and health care facilities. Our request supports the health of our democracy by augmenting our Voting Rights Act enforcement to protect each citizen's fundamental right to vote. Further, our request creates a sustainable and lasting legacy of civil rights enforcement in U.S. Attorneys Offices by placing dedicated prosecutors in key districts and in the coordination of our efforts with state and local partners across the nation.

The Community Relations Service has been engaged in forging constructive partnerships to prevent and relieve tensions between law enforcement and community/religious groups in communities around the country, including Ferguson, MO, and New York City. In support of these vital efforts, the request includes funding for CRS to help prevent hate crimes, engage local communities and law enforcement departments in dispute resolution activities, and support the President's My Brother's Keeper Initiative, which seeks to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

The Department also requests \$78.0 million in grant programs. These resources will provide technical assistance and training to improve the public's access to counsel and legal assistance in state, local, and tribal courts and juvenile justice systems. The resources will also help to implement the recommendations of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual

Assault and assist law enforcement agencies on criminal justice issues, including use of force practices and the deployment of crisis intervention teams.

## **FY 2016 Program Increases**

The Department requests a total of \$102.8 million in program increases for FY 2016, including:

### **Civil Rights Division (CRT)**

- **Protect Victims of Human Trafficking and Prosecuting Traffickers: \$2.8 million and 30 positions (18 attorneys)**

In response to the steady increase in matters and cases brought over the last 12 years, the Department is requesting additional resources to strengthen CRT's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit. This funding will increase the number of investigations opened, the number of cases brought, and the number of defendants charged. The current services for this initiative are 22 positions (19 attorneys) and \$4.2 million.

- **Ensure Effective and Democratically Accountable Policing: \$2.5 million and 25 positions (13 attorneys)**

The Department is requesting additional resources to expand CRT's efforts to ensure that all communities have effective and democratically accountable policing. CRT will take a multi-faceted approach to ensure police officers, and police departments as a whole, are carrying out their missions lawfully. The current services for this initiative are 71 positions (52 attorneys) and \$12.2 million.

- **Protect Civil Rights for All: \$8.7 million and 104 positions (50 attorneys)**

The Department is requesting additional resources to strengthen civil rights enforcement efforts the Attorney General has identified as part of the Department's Vulnerable People Priority Goal and for other programs that require renewed emphasis. The requested increase would benefit all programmatic areas and specifically enable CRT to increase its efforts protecting the rights of service members, enforcing the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), and expanding opportunities and protections for equal education, equal housing, equal employment, and people with disabilities. The current services for this initiative are 714 positions (383 attorneys) and \$159.0 million.

- **Protect Students from Sexual Assault in Schools: \$500,000 and 5 positions (4 attorneys)**

The civil rights laws the Department enforces, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 as well as Title IV of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, protect all students from sexual harassment and sexual assault in schools. In response to the increase in sex-based discrimination complaints, the Department is requesting additional resources for CRT's Educational Opportunities Section to expand its work enforcing laws that address discrimination against students on the basis of sex. The current services for this initiative are 0 positions (0 attorneys) and \$0.5 million.

- **Guarantee Voting Rights of All Americans: \$1.2 million and 12 positions (8 attorneys)**

To address the increase in workload associated with enforcement of Section 2 of Voting Rights Act and other voting matters, the Department is requesting additional resources for

CRT's Voting Section. The requested increase will expand CRT's capacity to identify and investigate voting changes that may violate federal law, and assist with litigation challenging such practices. The current services for this initiative are 73 positions (38 attorneys) and \$15.6 million.

- **Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity: \$305,000 and 3 positions (2 attorneys)**  
CRT's Office of Special Counsel will expand its capacity to assist with resolving complaints associated with immigration and employment authorization status queries run through the E-Verify process. The current services for this initiative are 11 positions (7 attorneys) and \$1.4 million.

### **Community Relations Service (CRS)**

- **Hate Crime Prevention and Response: \$557,000 and 8 positions**  
The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA), 2009, requires CRS to support community efforts to prevent and respond to violent hate crimes. With the addition of HCPA responsibilities, CRS has had to deny requests for services at an increasing rate. Since 2010, HCPA cases have grown to about 1/3 of CRS' overall caseload. The requested resources will allow CRS to increase HCPA prevention and response by a minimum of 50 cases and a maximum of 100 cases per year. The current services for this initiative are 8 positions (0 attorneys) and \$1.9 million.
- **CRS Training Academy: \$240,000**  
The CRS Academy will engage state and municipal officials, law enforcement executives, and community leaders in learning and applying dispute resolution and problem-solving techniques to develop sustainable local capacity to reduce tensions, prevent violence, and resolve CRS jurisdictional conflicts. This enhancement will support a consulting services contract or cooperative agreement to develop an Academy curriculum, to conduct three regional seminars, and to research and publish best practice materials that shall lead to the creation of CRS trained local emissaries who will have a fundamental capacity to engage in proven dispute resolution activities. There are no current services for this initiative.
- **Collaborative Community Strengthening Initiative: \$775,000 and 10 positions**  
CRS is seeking funds to hire and deploy staff to provide conciliation services (mediation, facilitated dialogues, training, and consultation on issues of police-community reconciliation) in a broad range of communities throughout the United States. This request is supportive of the goals of President's My Brother's Keeper Initiative and the proposal for the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice. The request will fund the hiring of 10 Conciliation Specialist positions, and it will provide the needed resources for their base-level training and travel to the cities and towns where they will provide services. There are no current services for this initiative.
- **Law Enforcement Organizational Change Initiative: \$200,000**  
This enhancement will support a consulting services contract or cooperative agreement to provide in-depth consultation and guidance to local law enforcement agencies who are party to potentially violent, public safety degrading conflicts with minority communities. Approximately 75 percent of CRS cases stem from instances where the real or perceived

actions of a local police or sheriff's department resulted in conflict, or their intervention is required to effectively resolve a conflict. There are no current services for this initiative.

## **Office of Justice Programs (OJP)**

- **Indigent Defense: \$16.3 million**

An increase of \$5.4 million is included for the *Ensuring the Right To Counsel For All Individuals: Answering Gideon's Call Program*. This new program will provide resources to support improvements in state, local, and tribal criminal court practices related to indigent defense, including efforts to address persistent problems that undermine effective legal representation for indigent defendants and support a comprehensive approach to providing all criminal defendants effective legal representation.

An increase of \$5.4 million is included for the *Improving Juvenile Indigent Defense Program*. This program provides funding and other resources to promote the establishment of model juvenile indigent defender offices, the development and implementation of standards of practice and policy for the effective management of such offices, and the provision of cost-effective, innovative training for the juvenile indigent defense bar and court-appointed counsel working on behalf of juvenile indigent defendants. (\$2.5 million was provided for this program as a set-aside in the Justice Assistance Grant Program in FY 2015).

An enhancement of \$2.5 million is requested for the Bureau of Justice Statistics to support *new data collection and statistical analyses* that will provide judges, attorneys, and policy makers more complete and timely data to support their efforts to improve indigent defense in the United States. Of this amount, \$1.5 million will support the creation of the *National Public Defenders Reporting Program* and \$1.0 million is for the funding of a *National Survey of Public Defenders*.

An enhancement of \$3.0 million is included for OJP's National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to support *new social sciences research* related to understanding the policy issues surrounding indigent defense, evaluating promising approaches to improving indigent defense, and developing best practices to assist state, local, and tribal courts and criminal and juvenile justice systems improve indigent defense in their jurisdictions.

- **Procedural Justice: \$20.0 million**

The request includes \$20.0 million for the *Procedural Justice – Building Community Trust Program*. This program provides grants and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal courts and juvenile justice agencies to support innovative efforts to improve perceptions of fairness in the criminal and juvenile justice systems and build community trust in these institutions.

- **Civil Legal Aid: \$7.7 million**

A request of \$5.0 million is included for a new *Civil Legal Aid Competitive Grant Program*, which will be administered by OJP's BJA in collaboration with the Department's Access to Justice (ATJ) Office. This program will provide funding, training and technical assistance to incentivize civil legal aid planning processes and system improvements, supporting

innovative efforts to improve and expand civil legal assistance services at the state, local, and tribal levels.

An enhancement of \$2.7 million is requested to support the creation of a new *Civil Legal Aid Research Institute*, which will be jointly managed by OJP's NIJ and the ATJ Office. The Institute will coordinate the Department's efforts to develop a better understanding of the policy issues related to civil legal aid issues and improve research and data collection to provide legal professionals and policy makers with more timely and detailed data to support their efforts to improve the nation's civil legal assistance programs.

### **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)**

- **Collaborative Reform: \$20.0 million**

This request is a separate line-item for this program. The Collaborative Reform Initiative enables the COPS Office to partner with law enforcement agencies that may need assistance on a wide variety of criminal justice issues that range from use-of-force practices, to the deployment of crisis intervention teams, to building trust with the communities served. The program provides assistance to agencies in enhancing and improving their policies and procedures, systems, and culture. This program has been implemented in Las Vegas, Nevada and is currently operating in Spokane, Washington, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Fayetteville, North Carolina, Baltimore, Maryland and St. Louis County, Missouri. The FY 2015 Enacted level for this initiative is \$5.0 million as a set-aside within the COPS Hiring Program.

### **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)**

- **Campus Violence: \$14.0 million**

An additional \$14 million is requested for a total of \$26 million. The additional funding will be used to expand victim safety and offender accountability on college campuses and to support implementation of recommendations made by the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. The current services for this initiative are \$12 million.

### **U.S. Attorneys (USA)**

- **Civil Rights Prosecutions: \$6.9 million and 60 positions (60 attorneys)**

The USA prioritize civil rights enforcement in order to protect the most vulnerable of our citizens, but have never had specially allocated positions dedicated to enforcement of this Department priority. These new attorneys, both criminal and civil, will be located in key districts across the nation to focus on increasing workload and serve as dedicated civil rights prosecutors that work in tandem with the Civil Rights Division (CRT) and investigators. The new positions will complement and enhance the work of CRT and allow for expanded on the ground enforcement while allowing for the development of more complicated and time consuming cases, such as sex and labor trafficking cases. The current services for this initiative are 118 positions (90 attorneys) and \$21.4 million.

**FY 2016 Program Increases Summary**  
(Amount in \$000s)

Component/Initiative	Positions	Agents/ Attorneys	Amount
<b>Civil Rights Division</b>			
Protect Victims of Human Trafficking and Prosecuting Traffickers	30	18	\$2,788
Ensure Effective and Democratically Accountable Policing	25	13	2,519
Protect Civil Rights for All	104	50	8,726
Protect Students from Sexual Assault in Schools	5	4	500
Guarantee Voting Rights of All Americans	12	8	1,200
Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity	3	2	305
<b>Subtotal, Civil Rights Division</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>\$16,038</b>
<b>Community Relations Service</b>			
Hate Crime Prevention and Response	8	0	\$557
CRS Training Academy	0	0	240
Collaborative Community Strengthening Initiative	10	0	775
Law Enforcement Organizational Change Initiative	0	0	200
<b>Subtotal, Community Relations Service</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$1,772</b>
<b>Office of Justice Programs</b>			
Indigent Defense	0	0	\$16,300
Procedural Justice	0	0	20,000
Civil Legal Aid	0	0	7,700
<b>Subtotal, Office of Justice Programs</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$44,000</b>
<b>Community Oriented Policing Services</b>			
Collaborative Reform	0	0	\$20,000
<b>Subtotal, Community Oriented Policing Service</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>Office on Violence Against Women</b>			
Campus Violence	0	0	\$14,000
<b>Subtotal, Office on Violence Against Women</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>
<b>U.S. Attorneys</b>			
Civil Rights Prosecutions	60	60	\$6,940
<b>Subtotal, U.S. Attorneys</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$6,940</b>
<b>Total, Program Increases</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>\$102,750</b>