



U.S. Department of Justice FY 2016 Budget Request

SMART ON CRIME

+\$246.7 Million in Program Increases

FY 2016 Overview

At the direction of the Attorney General, in early 2013 the Justice Department launched a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system in order to identify reforms that would ensure federal laws are enforced fairly and—in an era of reduced budgets—efficiently. As part of its review, the Department studied all phases of the criminal justice system, including charging, sentencing, incarceration, and reentry, to identify the practices that are successful at deterring crime and protecting the public.

While we must remain vigilant in our efforts to stop violent crime, we cannot prosecute or incarcerate our way into becoming a safer nation. For far too long, well-intentioned policies created to lower criminal activity perpetuated a cycle of poverty, criminality, and incarceration that broke too many families and weakened too many communities. The *Smart on Crime* initiative focuses on effectively using federal resources for the most important law enforcement priorities, addressing the disparate impact of the criminal justice system on vulnerable communities, and implementing a series of commonsense reforms to create a fundamental shift in response to certain crimes—particularly low-level, nonviolent offenses. The new guidance also bolstered prevention and reentry programs to deter crime, reduce recidivism, and create pathways of opportunity for eligible candidates.

The Attorney General's plan focuses federal resources and places the harshest sentences on the most violent offenders rather than prioritizing the sheer number of prosecutions. Considering alternatives to incarceration for low-level, non-violent offenses also strengthens our justice system and places a lower financial burden on the budget. This means increased use of diversion programs, such as drug courts, that reduce taxpayer expense and have the potential to be successful at preventing recidivism. Even when imprisonment is appropriate, sentencing should reflect the individualized circumstances of the case. It is time to reexamine – as Congress is already doing on a bipartisan basis – our sentencing laws to make sure they are more sensible and that we maximize our resources most effectively. By sentencing low-level nonviolent drug offenders to more appropriate terms, while preserving substantial prison sentences for serious offenders, critical funds can be spent on other essential public safety priorities.

We must also pay attention to what happens to inmates after prison. To better prevent recidivism, it is important to reduce barriers to reentry for formerly incarcerated individuals. This includes emphasizing reentry programs, and revisiting rules and regulations that make it harder for these individuals to find a job, an education, or affordable housing.

FY 2016 Program Increases

The Department requests a total of \$246.7 million in program increases for FY 2016, including:

U.S. Attorneys (USA)

- **Prevention and Reentry Coordinators: \$10.0 million and 94 positions**
This program increase will fund Prevention and Reentry Coordinators in all 94 Districts whose sole purpose is to work on prevention and reentry efforts for the District.
- **Expanded Diversion Programs: \$15.0 million**
The United States Attorneys will administer and support the development of District specific projects that expand diversion and reentry efforts. For example, USA will work with the Courts to promote alternatives to incarceration such as the establishment of drug courts and veterans' courts and enhance community involvement through community reentry projects.

Bureau of Prisons (BOP)

- **Reentry and Recidivism Reducing Programs: \$146.2 million and 150 positions**
 - **Reentry Programs in BOP Facilities: \$20.0 million**
This funding encourages prison facilities to adopt creative programs that are proven to reduce recidivism and improve employment outcomes. BOP's 121 prison facilities offer numerous locally developed reentry programs for inmates.
 - **Reentry Programs to Strengthen Family Bonds: \$5.0 million**
This allows for a new, broader reentry program that reaches out to offenders' children and families to strengthen familial bonds, which are critical for helping inmates transition back home.
 - **Expand Vocational Training and the Employer Bonding Program: \$10.0 million**
BOP is currently conducting a pilot to develop the capacity to track employment outcomes. Each year, about 45,000 federal inmates return to our communities. Research has shown that inmates who participate in vocational or education training are 16 percent less likely to reoffend. BOP's vocational training program helps inmates acquire marketable skills in a wide variety of trades.
 - **Expand the BOP Medical Assistance Treatment Pilot: \$1.0 million**
These funds will expand the number of inmates and BOP facilities participating in the medical assisted treatment pilot from 10 to about 200 inmates. If the pilot proves successful, the BOP may change its policy to provide medically assisted treatments to eligible inmates as appropriate. Medication is the standard of care for opioid and other substance abuse disorders in the private sector and is an important part of effective treatment for individuals in the justice system that are dependent on opioids.

- **Increase Mental Health Staff and Residential Reentry Centers (RRCs): \$108.6 million and 130 positions**

Increased mental health staff will ensure all institutions maintain a complement of mental health staff consistent with mental health staffing guidelines. In addition, funds are requested to fund increasing requirements for cognitive behavioral programming and staffing at RRCs.

- **Sex Offender Management Program: \$1.6 million and 20 positions**

Expanding the Sex Offender Management Program (SOMP) to bolster reentry and prevention efforts has been shown to reduce recidivism. BOP has over 20,000 sexual offenders in its custody, among the fastest growing categories in the federal criminal caseload. BOP estimates that this program enhancement could place an additional 3,450 sex offenders in four new SOMPs at one high, two medium, and one low security institution.

Office of the Pardon Attorney (OPA)

- **Clemency Initiative: \$2.0 million and 24 positions**

This request will provide additional support to achieve OPA's mission of advising and assisting the President in exercising his executive clemency power. These additional resources will help OPA address the substantial growth in commutation applications received as a result of the Department's Clemency Initiative.

Office of Justice Programs (OJP)

- **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT): \$4.0 million in new resources for a total of \$14.0 million**

The RSAT formula grant program is a federally recognized program that helps state, local and tribal governments develop residential and aftercare services to substance involved inmates that research shows need but do not receive services in specialized settings. RSAT grantees foster partnerships between correctional staff and the treatment community to create programs in secure settings that help offenders overcome their substance abuse problems and prepare for reentry into society. In any given year, approximately 30,000 participants are provided specialized residential substance and aftercare services designed to help them become substance abuse-free and crime-free, develop skills to obtain adequate employment, and lead productive lives in the community. By focusing on offenders involved in substance abuse in U.S. prisons and jails, states and tribal governments are able to achieve cost efficiency while addressing the treatment needs of an important subpopulation of offenders who are found to drive most jurisdictions' recidivism rates. An increase in RSAT funding would enable state, local, and tribal governments to expand much needed substance abuse treatment services to a subpopulation that need it most, thereby reducing the treatment gap.

- **Second Chance Act: \$52.0 million in new resources for a total of \$120 million**

This program provides employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims support, and other services that can help reduce re-offending and violations of probation and parole. Of this amount, \$10.0 million will be used for a Smart Probation Initiative to improve probation and parole supervision efforts.

A total of \$5.0 million is for Children of Incarcerated Parents demonstrations to enhance and maintain parental and family relationships for incarcerated parents as a reentry/recidivism reduction strategy. Up to \$30.0 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. Within the \$30 million, up to \$10.0 million will be for Pay For Success programs implementing the Permanent Supportive Housing Model.

Justice Assistance Grant Program:

- **Smart Policing Program: \$15 million in new resources for a total of \$20.0 million**
The Smart Policing Program assists in reducing and preventing crime and improving police-citizen communications and interactions. It provides funding to local law enforcement agencies to develop effective and economical solutions to specific crime problems within their jurisdictions. Participating agencies and their research partners will identify crime issues through careful, rigorous analysis and develop strategies and tactics to resolve or mitigate the problem—resulting in smarter policing and safer neighborhoods. OJP will use a portion of this funding to institute a Body Worn Camera Problem-Solving Demonstration Program to build knowledge on the use of BWCs as a key component of comprehensive, community-based problem solving strategies.
- **Smart Prosecution Program: \$2.5 million in new resources for a total of \$5.0 million**
The Smart Prosecution Program provides funding to county and city prosecutors to use local criminal justice data to be “smart on crime,” developing effective and economical prosecution strategies to specific crime problems in their jurisdictions.

FY 2016 Funding to Support Smart on Crime
(Amounts in \$000s)

Component/Initiative	Amount
U.S. Attorneys	
Prevention and Reentry Coordinators	\$10,000
Expanded Diversion Programs	15,000
Subtotal, U.S. Attorneys	\$25,000
Bureau of Prisons	
Reentry Programs in BOP Facilities	\$20,000
Reentry Programs to Strengthen Family Bonds	5,000
Expand Vocational Training and the Employer Bonding Program	10,000
Expand the BOP Medical Assistance Treatment Pilot	1,000
Increase Mental Health Staff and Residential Reentry Centers	108,585
Sex Offender Management Program	1,613
Subtotal, Bureau of Prisons	\$146,198
Office of the Pardon Attorney	
Clemency Initiative	2,012
Subtotal, Office of the Pardon Attorney	\$2,012
Office of Justice Programs	
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)	\$4,000
Second Chance Act	52,000
Smart Policing Program	15,000
Smart Prosecution Program	2,500
Subtotal, Office of Justice Programs	\$73,500
Total, Smart on Crime	\$246,710