

Office of Justice Programs Comprehensive Body-Worn Camera Program



The Department of Justice (DOJ) recognizes that body-worn cameras are one law enforcement strategy aimed at improving public safety, reducing crime, and improving public trust between police and the citizens they serve. DOJ provides numerous resources to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in developing and enhancing their body-worn camera program. In addition to the resources listed below, the [Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\) Program](#) is a valuable resource for agencies when seeking funds to implement body-worn camera programs.

BJA FY 15 Body-Worn Camera Pilot Implementation Program

Funding to Establish or Enhance a Body-Worn Camera Pilot

As part of President Obama's commitment to expand funding and training to law enforcement agencies through community policing initiatives, the Department of Justice through its Office of Justice Programs will announce a \$20 million Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Pilot Partnership Program in May to respond to the immediate needs of local and tribal law enforcement organizations. The investment includes a \$19 million competitive BWC pilot partnership program for the actual purchase of BWCs, training, and other technical assistance as well as \$1 million for the **Bureau of Justice Statistics** to develop evaluation and survey tools to study best practices regarding the evidentiary impacts of body-worn cameras.

The intent of the program is to assist agencies in developing, implementing, and evaluating a BWC program as one tool in a law enforcement agency's comprehensive problem-solving approach to enhance officer interactions with the public and build community trust. Elements of such an approach include:

- Implementation of a BWC program developed in a planned and phased approach.
- Collaboration that leverages partnerships with cross-agency criminal justice stakeholders including prosecutors and advocacy organizations.
- Implementation of appropriate privacy policies.
- Implementation of operational procedures and tracking mechanisms.
- Training of officers, administrators, and associated agencies requiring access to digital multimedia evidence (DME).
- Adoption of practices and deployment of BWC programs appropriately addressing operational requirements.

This funding requires a 50% in-kind match. Additionally, BJA expects to make up to 50 awards with the BWC Pilot Implementation Program solicitation. Approximately one-third of the awards will be made to small agencies. While BWC equipment may be purchased under this program, applicants must establish a strong BWC policy framework and requisite training policies *before* purchasing cameras. Federal funding will not support data storage. Many BWC service providers do not segregate the cost of the physical BWC and the storage functions. The solicitation does not specifically exclude these solutions.

On Demand Body-Worn Camera Training and Technical Assistance

Through a competitive process, BJA will provide up to \$2 million to establish on demand Body-Worn Camera Training and Technical Assistance (BWC-TTA) services to provide high-quality, strategically focused training and technical assistance to agencies developing or enhancing their body-worn camera program. The BWC-TTA will provide national resources on a variety of topics that address the concerns of multidisciplinary stakeholders engaged in body-worn camera programs. While these services will target the grantees in the Body-Worn Camera Pilot Implementation Program, they will also be generally available for all law enforcement agencies and their communities to support their body-worn camera initiatives.

- **BJA's FY15 Smart Policing Initiative Body-Worn Camera Problem-Solving Demonstration Program**
Funding to Implement and Examine a Body-Worn Camera Demonstration
Building on previous activities conducted through the BJA Smart Policing Initiative, the FY15 Smart Policing Initiative Body-Worn Camera Problem-Solving Demonstration Program will provide up to \$2 million to law enforcement agencies interested in partnering with a research partner to examine the impact of the implementation of body-worn cameras on citizen complaints, the process and outcome of internal investigations, privacy issues, community relationships, and the cost-benefit ratio of implementing a body-worn camera program.
- Funding may be used to support BWC implementation planning, policy, and protocol development, training, personnel costs, and for an evaluation by the identified research partner. www.smartpolicinginitiative.com
- **BJA Body-Worn Camera Implementation Toolkit**
Online Resource Guide
The BJA Body-Worn Camera Toolkit is an online resource for stakeholders and will include lessons learned for implementation, model policies and procedures, and research materials.
- To be launched in May of 2015, the toolkit will consolidate and translate research, promising practices, templates, and tools that have been developed by high-quality experts. Areas of focus include procurement considerations; training needs; implementation requirements; retention issues; policy concerns; interests of prosecutors, domestic violence, and victim and privacy advocates; community engagement; and funding considerations.