



April 2013

In the Spotlight



On April 10, BJA, in partnership with the Office for Victims of Crime and the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), sponsored the first Mortgage Fraud Virtual Conference: "Protecting Homeowners and Empowering Victims." The conference served to increase public awareness from both sides—prevention and victimization. The dual-track virtual conference environment provided useful resources and sessions for current and potential homeowners, along with victims of mortgage fraud and victim support advocates. The conference provided participants an opportunity to learn about the role of government and the initiatives available to the public to help combat mortgage fraud and assist victims. Presentations from the virtual conference will be available on the [NCPC web site](#), and you can visit BJA's web site to learn more about BJA's [Mortgage Fraud Initiative](#).



News You Can Use

Implementing EBPs with Fidelity Webinar

Register now for the next event in the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)/BJA Webinar Series: "Implementation Science and the Importance of Fidelity: Replicating Evidence-Based Practices," to be held May 1, 2013 at 3:00–4:00 p.m. eastern time. For more information and to register, visit the [NCJA web site](#).

Medal of Valor Opens May 31

May 31 marks the opening of the **2012–2013 Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor (Medal of Valor) nomination period**. The highest national award for valor by a public safety officer, this medal is awarded annually by the President or Vice President of the United States to public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life. [Learn more](#).



Smarter Sentencing Regional Training

The Justice Management Institute (JMI), in partnership with The Carey Group (TCG), will host a nationally-recognized [Smarter Sentencing to Reduce Recidivism](#) regional training to present this BJA-funded curriculum. The event is tentatively scheduled for June 17–18 in Kansas City, Missouri. For more information or to apply to attend, contact Aimee Wickman at aimeew@imijustice.org.

Grants & Funding

BJA has released the following solicitations:

- [Improving the Completeness of Firearm Background Checks through Enhanced State Data Sharing](#)
Applications are due May 13, 2013
- [State Criminal Alien Assistance Program \(SCAAP\)](#)
Applications are due May 13, 2013
- [Second Chance Act Reentry Program for Adult Offenders with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders](#)
Applications are due May 16, 2013
- [Tribal Courts Assistance Program and Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program Training and Technical Assistance](#)
Applications are due May 30, 2013
- [Law Enforcement: National Training and Technical Assistance](#)
Applications are due May 30, 2013

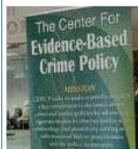
Before applying, please read: **Important Notice: Applying for BJA Grants in Grants.gov.**

Follow us on [Twitter](#) to learn about newly released solicitations.

View all [FY 2013 BJA and OJP open solicitations](#).

This Month in Law Enforcement

Evidence-Based Policing Forum



The [Center of Evidence-Based Crime Policy](#) (CEBCP) and the Scottish Institute of Policing Research, through the CEBCP's BJA-funded efforts on the Matrix Demonstration Project, are working together to advance a key area of evidence-based policing: knowledge exchange between researchers and practitioners and the translation of research into practice. On April 9, BJA hosted a research/practitioner working group forum, which provided top police leaders and government officials an opportunity to inform policing scholars about what they see as the top research priorities that a consortium of top policing scholars in Scotland and the United States might pursue in future research.

Moderated by Cynthia Lum, Director of the CEBCP at George Mason University, the forum was attended by leaders from law enforcement agencies from several major U.S. cities and smaller jurisdictions and the Scottish Policing Service, as well as representatives of law enforcement membership organizations and Office of Justice Programs' components. Each member of the panel was provided an opportunity to express his/her thoughts and ideas on what areas of law enforcement need additional research. A report based on the day's discussion is forthcoming from CEBCP.

Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program

Enacted in 1976, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides death, disability, and education benefits to those eligible for the program. For details regarding these federal benefits for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders killed or catastrophically disabled in the line of duty, call the PSOB Office toll-free at 888-744-6513 or 202-307-0635, or visit the PSOB [web site](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

BJA provides funding support to the [Pretrial Justice Institute](#) (PJI) for pretrial risk assessment training. On March 19, PJI and JFA Institute staff conducted a day-long training session on pretrial risk assessment and mitigation for bail-setting magistrates and other court officials in Delaware. The Delaware Center for Justice (DCJ), a nonprofit organization, is dedicated to creating a safer and more secure Delaware by seeking to achieve and preserve a high quality of justice. DCJ requested the training in an effort to orient magistrates to the use of a pretrial risk assessment instrument.



In 2012, the Delaware legislature passed a law requiring that, beginning December 31, 2013, a risk assessment be conducted of all defendants when they appear at their initial bail-setting hearing. The Magistrate's Court has created a risk assessment tool which will be used and then undergo evaluation for its validity in assessing potential risks for pretrial misconduct. The training covered the legal and empirical foundation of pretrial risk assessment, the benefits of using risk assessments, and presented an overview of the instrument validation process.

FEATURED PROGRAM

BVP Program Now Accepting Applications



BJA's Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program began accepting applications for FY

2013 funds on April 8. BVP funds can be used for up to 50 percent of the cost of any protective vest for new law enforcement officers or replacement vests for current officers whose vests have reached the manufacturer's warranty period. BVP funds may only be used to purchase vests that are on the current National Institute of Justice Body Armor Standard 0101.06 [compliance list](#). Applications will be accepted online at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bvpbasi/ until 6:00 p.m. eastern time on May 20, 2013.

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