

In the Spotlight



Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program

Enacted in 1976, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Act allows the U.S. Department of Justice to recognize the ultimate sacrifice of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders killed in the line of duty by providing a federal benefit to their eligible survivors. BJA's PSOB Office administers the Death, Disability, and Educational Assistance Programs; these benefits assist families often struggling with finances in the aftermath of tragedy, as well as officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty, and spouses and children seeking educational assistance to attend institutions of higher education. The PSOB Office considers it an honor to assist families and agencies of America's fallen law enforcement heroes throughout the review of their PSOB cases.



As law enforcement from around the world visit Washington, DC for National Police Week this May, BJA will participate in a number of events including the [Concerns of Police Survivors \(C.O.P.S.\) Annual National Police Survivors Conference](#). For more information on PSOB Programs or National Police Week, visit www.psob.gov.

News You Can Use

Medal of Valor Opens May 31

The [Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor](#) (MOV) application period opens May 31 and closes July 31. 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. To be considered for the 2012-2013 MOV, an officer must be nominated for actions that occurred between June 1, 2012 and May 31, 2013.



BJA Is Seeking Participants for the LEOPRD Assessment Tool Pilot

BJA, in partnership with the CNA Corporation and a panel of policing experts, is working to better understand the research, planning, and analysis capacities of police agencies through the Law Enforcement Organization of Planning and Research Directors (LEOPRD) project. If your agency is interested, contact CNA by May 17, 2013. [More](#)

Grants & Funding

BJA is accepting applications for the following programs:

- [FY 2013 Bulletproof Vest Partnership \(BVP\) Program](#)
Applications due May 20, 2013
- [Law Enforcement: National Training and Technical Assistance](#)
Applications due May 30, 2013
- [BJA/SAMHSA Joint Adult Drug Court Solicitation to Enhance Services, Coordination, and Treatment](#)
Applications due June 13, 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

BJA Supports Officer Safety and Wellness

As we prepare again this year to honor those brave law enforcement officers who lost their lives while performing their duties, protecting our cities and towns across the U.S., and making life safer for all of us, it is important to note that BJA actively supports a variety of projects and programs aimed at improving the safety and well-being of our nation's law enforcement officers. The shared goal of BJA and its various partners, through research, training and life-saving equipment, is to **save officers' lives**.



The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial

BJA-funded VALOR and ALERRT trainings help prepare officers for response to active shooter situations and assist officers in developing skills necessary to survive a deadly ambush-type assault. Since its inception in 2010, VALOR has trained over 8,000 law enforcement officers. To request VALOR or ALERRT training, visit www.valorforblue.org. Additionally, RISSafe provides valuable information to assist agencies in developing policies and procedures to avoid "blue-on-blue" encounters, while the National Center for the Prevention of Violence Against the Police analyzes incidents of violence against the police and has worked to develop and disseminate guidance and protocols to help assist in preventing violence against law enforcement.

Since 1999, BJA's Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program has served as a valuable resource for state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies by providing funds to help purchase ballistic-resistant vests for sworn law enforcement and corrections officers. The 3,175 officers who are enrolled in the International Association of Chiefs of Police/DuPont Kevlar Survivors' Club® can attest to the saving power of protective vests. In 2012, at least 33 officers' lives were saved by the protective vests they were wearing when they were the victims of deadly assaults while on duty. In just the first 3 months of 2013, BJA staff have recorded 11 incidents of deadly assaults on law enforcement officers where the officers' survival was directly attributed to the vests they were wearing. On January 6, an officer with the Phoenix (AZ) Police Department, while working in a high-crime area, was shot six times at close range by a suspicious person he had stopped. On March 25, two deputies with the Montrose County (CO) Sheriff's Department were investigating a report of domestic violence. Without warning, a male subject in the residence, in response to the officers' knock on the door, opened the door and immediately fired several shots at the officers. One of the bullets struck one of the officers in the chest but was stopped by his vest. The officer suffered only minor injuries.

Read more about BJA's [officer safety initiatives](#).

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?

May is National Drug Court Month, and BJA celebrates with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) and their "All Rise America!" campaign in commending more than 2,700 drug courts for their substance abuse reduction efforts. NADCP announced a cross-country RV tour of Drug Courts and other treatment courts. An RV will travel over 3,500 miles coast-to-coast to countless communities supporting the notion that our nation's addicted citizens need treatment in lieu of prison, and that Drug, Tribal, DWI, and Veterans Treatment Courts are the solution for saving lives, reuniting families, and making communities safer.

Every stop along the route of the campaign will feature events at local drug treatment courts and highlight inspiring stories of justice reform and personal recovery. NADCP's goal is to reach every substance-addicted person in America to promote a reduction in crime and substance abuse. NADCP kicked off the tour with a Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court graduation ceremony in Santa Maria, CA. You can follow the experience on the [All Rise America! Blog](#).



All Rise America! Campaign RV

FEATURED PROGRAM

Smart Policing Initiative

Nola Joyce, Assistant Commissioner of the Philadelphia Police Department, and Jerry Ratcliffe, Director, Center for Security and Crime Science at Temple University, gave an enlightening presentation to OJP staff on the importance of police/researcher partnerships and how foot patrol had an impact on violent crime.

With the support of BJA, the Philadelphia Police Department and the Center for Security and Crime Science at Temple University conducted two randomized control experiments to test the effectiveness of three strategies in violent crime micro-spots. In the first experiment, foot patrol produced statistically significant crime reductions; in the second, it did not, while offender-based policing did. This session discussed the findings of the two experiments, the methodology in which they were achieved, why results from one experiment were not repeated in the next, and the benefits of action research police/scholar partnerships.

For more information, read the [Executive Summary](#).



BJA Director Denise O'Donnell, BJA Senior Policy Advisor Michael Medaris, Director Ratcliffe, and Assistant Commissioner Joyce

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