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# BJA's Justice Today



BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE • OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

DENISE E. O'DONNELL, DIRECTOR

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## In the Spotlight

### Want To Become a Certified PREA Auditor? DOJ Is Seeking Candidates Now!

The Department of Justice (DOJ) and BJA are seeking applications from qualified individuals interested in being certified as a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Auditor. DOJ will train and certify selected individuals to conduct PREA audits using the PREA audit instrument. To fully implement the national PREA standards, confinement agencies must have access to an adequate number of qualified individuals certified by DOJ to conduct PREA compliance audits.

The [National PREA Resource Center](#) (PRC), funded by a cooperative agreement between BJA and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, is coordinating the PREA auditor application process and invites all qualified individuals to [submit applications online](#) to become DOJ-certified PREA auditors.

NATIONAL  
PREA  
RESOURCE  
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Forthcoming trainings will consist of an open application process that is available to the public for interested individuals. While the next PREA Auditors training event scheduled for November is now closed, in South Carolina, six additional trainings are scheduled for 2014.

More information, including detailed qualifications, can be found on the [PRC web site](#).

### PREA Audit Information

A new "[Audit](#)" section has been added to the PRC web site, which provides additional information about the audit process, auditor qualifications, certification requirements, and more. The PRC will also use this section to issue continuing guidance and information related to the overall audit process.

### Is Your Agency Looking for DOJ-Certified PREA Auditors?

The PRC web site also provides a "[List of Certified Auditors](#)" who can be contacted to inquire about and arrange for a PREA audit. This list is searchable by specific PREA certification type, city, or state.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### NTTAC Offers Targeted TTA

The [BJA National Training and Technical Assistance Center](#) (NTTAC) has announced the availability of targeted training and technical assistance (TTA) to address the critical needs of state, local, and tribal criminal justice agencies. BJA NTTAC has identified Crime Analysis on Demand as one area where additional resources have been made available. These resources will help law enforcement agencies better collect and use data to more effectively prevent and respond to crime. Crime Analysis on Demand is just one example of TTA assistance BJA NTTAC provides. If your organization is seeking TTA services, complete an [online TTA request form](#).



## FEATURED PROGRAM

### Law Enforcement Forecasting Group

BJA's [Law Enforcement Forecasting Group](#) (LEFG) was created to identify emerging public safety issues and crime trends and to anticipate tactics, strategies, and technologies that might assist law enforcement agencies in providing quality police services. Composed of law enforcement executives and



## News You Can Use

### New Smarter Sentencing Video Series Available

The Justice Management Institute (JMI) launched its [Smarter Sentencing Instructional Video Series](#), which provides perspectives on smarter sentencing directly from practitioners doing the work in local criminal justice systems. The series is part of JMI's Smarter Sentencing to Reduce Recidivism Initiative, which is funded by BJA.

### FIRE Is Recruiting Volunteers to Beta Test Law Enforcement App

Through BJA funding, the Forensic Institute for Research and Education (FIRE) has created an app for first responding law enforcement officers. This app has the



potential to radically improve crime scene documentation and preservation of perishable evidence. The FIRE team is currently seeking volunteers to participate in the beta test of the app, which will be offered free to the participants. Visit [www.csimtsu.com](http://www.csimtsu.com) for more detailed information (including criteria) and to register as a beta tester.

### September Is Suicide Prevention Month

With BJA support, the International Association of Chiefs of Police developed "[Preventing Law Enforcement Officer Suicide](#)," a compilation of suicide prevention resources and best practices, gathered from law enforcement agencies throughout the country.



### Register for These Upcoming Events & Trainings

[ALERT Active Shooter Response Train-the-Trainer Training](#) (September 23-27, Menlo Park, CA)

[Collaborative Approaches to Justice Information Sharing among Tribal, State and Local Justice Agencies Webinar](#) (September 24, 3-4:30 p.m. e.t.)

[VALOR Officer Safety Training](#) (September 24-25, Coolidge, AZ and October 9, Mobile, AL)

[Association of Prosecuting Attorneys 8th National Community Prosecution Summit](#) (September 25-27, Philadelphia, PA)

[Responding to Intimidation in Human Trafficking Cases Webinar](#) (September 27, 2-3:30 p.m. e.t.)

[IACP Alzheimer's Training](#) (October 2, Boise, Idaho)

[IACP's Annual Conference](#) (October 19-23, Philadelphia, PA)

Texas State University's [2013 ALERT Active Shooter Conference](#) (October 20-23, in San Marcos, TX)

IACP's [Volunteers in Police Service \(VIPS\) and Disaster Response E-Learning Course](#)

criminal justice researchers, LEFG members provide invaluable environmental scanning that BJA uses to prepare for the future, develop new programs to test concepts, and create training and technical assistance programs that are immediately relevant to the law enforcement field. The LEFG has identified several priority issues for BJA law enforcement programs, including, but not limited to, crime analysis capacity building, information sharing, human resources (recruiting, training, retaining), and social media. To date, the LEFG has produced the following reports:

- [Increasing Analytic Capacity of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies: Moving Beyond Data Analysis to Create a Vision for Change](#)
- [Leading Our Most Important Resource: Police Personnel Issues in the Year 2020](#)

During the July 2013 LEFG meeting, points of discussion included enhancing community and industry partnerships; leveraging of new technologies while protecting citizens' privacy; providing state, local, and tribal law enforcement with greater guidance on federal resources; working with all agencies to better define roles in the new era of technology and crime where jurisdictional boundaries are changing; and exploring next-generation policing and the model police agency of the future.

## Grants & Funding

BJA expects to announce all FY 2013 grant awards by October 1. Grants that have already been awarded can be found on the [OJP web site](#).

BJA recommends that new grantees review the following OJP resources:

- [Post-Award Instructions](#)
- [Managing and Reporting for Office of Justice Programs \(OJP\) Awards](#)
- [2013 Financial Management Training Seminars](#)

## In Focus This Month

### ADJUDICATION: September Is Bail Month

For the second year, the Pretrial Justice Institute and the Justice Policy Institute have named September "Bail Month" to help raise awareness of the issues with the bail system in America. As Deputy Attorney General James Cole said at the 2011 DOJ National Symposium on Pretrial Justice, "The decisions made during the pretrial stage should be based not on intuition, custom, or a fixed-bond schedule, but on determinations of risk and safety that rely on data and individually-based assessments."

Bail Month is also being used to highlight jurisdictions that are successfully reforming their bail systems. One such jurisdiction is Colorado, where BJA funds have been



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used to develop and implement the [Colorado Pretrial Assessment Tool](#) (CPAT). In addition to the new tool, legislation was passed in 2013 (HB1236) that is designed to make better use of the CPAT and to have judges rely less on financial release. Training is currently taking place across the state on a county-by-county basis to ensure criminal justice stakeholders understand the new law and how to best use of the new tools.

Join us in spreading the word of promising practices like those from Colorado during Bail Month.



### 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](#).



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