



In the Spotlight

BJA and COPS Office Release Resource Guide To Help Law Enforcement Strengthen Relationships with Communities

Building strong police-community relations requires a sustained effort over time, yet maintaining these relationships is exceedingly difficult during and in the aftermath of a high-profile incident or civil unrest. BJA and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) have partnered to develop the [Resource Guide for Enhancing Community Relationships and Protecting Privacy and Constitutional Rights](#)—a comprehensive guide that lists BJA and COPS Office trainings, publications, articles, and podcasts available to help law enforcement agencies in their efforts to build stronger police-community relationships.



"The role of law enforcement is not only to enforce the law, but to preserve peace, minimize harm, and sustain community trust," said BJA Director Denise O'Donnell. "The resources available through this guide will help police departments and sheriffs' offices maintain order and build effective police-community relationships, while promoting the rights and protecting the civil liberties of the citizens they serve."

Read the [press release](#) or [review the guide](#).

News You Can Use

Learn How BJA's New Reporting System is Capturing TTA Data

Read [BJA NTTAC's TTA Today blog post](#) to hear from BJA NTTAC Director Rebecca Rose and BJA training and technical assistance provider (TTA) provider Lee Dail with the [National White Collar Crime Center](#) on their experiences with BJA's new TTA Reporting Portal. In the blog post, you will learn how BJA's new reporting system is helping to achieve more standardized, robust award reporting and analysis that allows BJA staff to better understand the types of TTA being delivered across the country to the criminal justice community. BJA staff will also use data from the system to evaluate future TTA needs of the criminal justice field. The TTA Reporting Portal allows BJA TTA providers to bulk upload data, geographically search for previous or upcoming TTA events across the country using the TTA mapping tool, and more easily complete a GMS Report.

Now Available: Elder Abuse Pocket Guide for Law Enforcement

Abuse of the elderly can take many forms, including physical, emotional, neglect, and misuse of funds, assets, and property. Perpetrators can be family members, caregivers, or a stranger on the other end of a telephone line. Two guides are now available to help law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and others recognize abuse indicators and understand and navigate the legal issues and terminology surrounding such crimes. [Read more](#).

Register for Project TEAM Webinar

Join us on January 7, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. eastern time for a webinar on tribal-state court collaboration presented by members of Project TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More). Project TEAM is funded by BJA to provide TTA to sites who wish to design and implement joint jurisdiction justice projects. BJA has authorized Project TEAM to provide TTA to two additional communities, and this webinar will introduce Project TEAM staff, describe the TTA services offered, and review the application procedure for TTA assistance. [Read more](#).

Grants & Funding

BJA announced all FY 2014 grant awards, and you can view them on the [OJP web site](#).



Don't forget to visit [OJP's Funding Resource Center](#), where you'll find OJP funding opportunities, an overview of OJP's grant process, and more!

In Focus This Month

Smart Pretrial Demonstration Initiative

On December 3, 2014, BJA and the [Pretrial Justice Institute](#) kicked off the Smart Pretrial Demonstration Initiative (Smart Pretrial) with the inaugural sites: City and County of Denver, Colorado; Yakima County, Washington; and the State of Delaware. Smart Pretrial focuses on working with local justice stakeholders and communities to move to a risk-informed pretrial release justice system that will improve pretrial outcomes.



Smart Pretrial will test the cost savings and public safety enhancements that can be achieved by improving pretrial policies and practices. Specifically, the program will evaluate the impact of moving to a pretrial justice system that relies on risk assessment to inform pretrial release decisionmaking and demonstrate how risk management strategies can improve pretrial outcomes. These improvements are expected to increase the efficiency of the justice system, while being more fair and just to defendants.

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?

NMVTIS Tool Assists Law Enforcement

Law enforcement across the nation are increasingly relying on the [National Motor Vehicle Title Information System \(NMVTIS\) Law Enforcement \(LE\) Access Tool](#) to investigate vehicle-related crimes. The NMVTIS LE Access Tool was recently credited with helping a New York City Police Department investigator close 12 auto theft cases. The NMVTIS LE Access Tool provides local, state, and federal law enforcement with secure access to vehicle history and is an important component of the [NMVTIS Program](#), for which BJA has oversight. The next generation tool will allow law enforcement users to search NMVTIS using title numbers, partial VINs, and a multiple VIN search of up to 5,000 VINs at once.

The NMVTIS LE Access Tool is available at no cost to law enforcement through the [Regional Information Sharing Systems \(RISS\)](#) or the [Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal \(LEEP\)](#). If you are a law enforcement officer and would like instructions for accessing NMVTIS data, please e-mail NMVTIS@usdoj.gov.



FEATURED PROGRAM

Nominate an Officer for the Congressional Badge of Bravery!

December 15 marked the opening of the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery nomination period. This award honors federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers for exceptional acts of bravery while in the line of duty. Agency heads must submit their nominations by February 15, 2015 through the online application system. For more information on the Congressional Badge of Bravery and to read about previous recipients, please go to badgeofbravery.ncirs.gov/.



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