

January 2015

In the Spotlight

BJA's Smart Prosecution Initiative

Prosecutors are key decisionmakers and policymakers in the criminal justice system. They are crafting local solutions to crime problems in their communities that range from minor changes in how their organizations prioritize cases, using zone/geographic prosecution, to using tools such as gun reduction programs, nuisance abatement, crime prevention through environmental design, drug-free and prostitute-free zones, restorative justice, community courts, truancy abatement, diversion programs, and graffiti cleanup to improve neighborhood safety. Prosecutors are becoming partnership conveners and bringing the police, the community, and other criminal justice and local agencies together to find ways they can work together to solve problems in their jurisdictions. As prosecutors continue to build their capacity to use innovative, best practice, or evidenced-based approaches to address the goals listed above, there is a need to research and evaluate those efforts. Recognizing this need, BJA established Smart Prosecution, which encourages exploration of new solutions to public safety concerns, while employing a research partner at the problem-definition stage through assessment of strategies and solutions.

In September 2014 at the 9th National Prosecution Summit in Dallas, BJA announced the awardees of its inaugural class of Smart Prosecution grants: Cook County (IL) State's Attorney Office; Harris County (TX); Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney; and San Francisco District Attorney's Office. These agencies will be testing data-driven approaches that address one or more of the following goals:

- promoting fair, impartial, and expeditious pursuit of justice;
- ensuring safer communities; and
- promoting integrity in the prosecution profession and effective coordination in the criminal justice system.

To assist the awardees plan and implement their Smart Prosecution initiative, BJA selected the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys to serve as the national training and technical assistance (TTA) provider.

BJA is currently planning the Smart Prosecution grantee kickoff meeting on February 24-25, which will feature discussions on BJA's "Smart Suite" of programs, action research, and crime analysis. In addition, the grantees will have an opportunity to conduct strategic planning with their research partner and TTA provider. Invited speakers include: Acting Deputy Attorney General Sarah Yates, Assistant Attorney General Karol Mason, BJA Director Denise O'Donnell, BJA Deputy Director Kristen Mahoney, and ASU Criminology Professor Scott Decker.

News You Can Use

BJA Fellow Selected for DC Conviction Integrity Unit

On January 12, 2015, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen, Jr. (District of Columbia) [announced](#) the selection of two independent consultants who will provide guidance and outside expertise to the U.S. Attorney's Office's newly created Conviction Integrity Unit. The consultants are Jeffrey D. Robinson, Senior Counsel at Lewis Baach, and Kristine Hamann, a Visiting Fellow at BJA, who specializes in developing "Best Practices" programs for prosecutors' offices.



Ms. Hamann

Only a Few Weeks Left to Nominate an Officer!

You still have time to nominate an officer for the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery. 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 visit the [Congressional Badge of Bravery web site](#).



DID YOU KNOW?

VALOR is committed to providing critical officer safety training that addresses current concerns and issues facing law enforcement and the communities they serve. VALOR—Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability—is currently expanding the information provided through its training and web site to ensure that officer safety is coupled with community safety and protecting our community members' civil rights and liberties. Our goal is to continue to protect both law enforcement officers and the citizens they serve by focusing on officer safety and wellness while also addressing current issues, including constitutional policing, de-escalation, implicit bias, and police professionalism.



FEATURED PROGRAM

TTA Directory Now Available!

BJA's National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) has released the BJA Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Provider Directory. This new resource can be used by practitioners in the field, BJA staff, and TTA providers to foster collaboration on TTA activity and resources. Police departments, corrections facilities, and other criminal justice agencies across the country can refer to the directory to learn about BJA's diverse pool of provider organizations available to help address their various criminal justice needs.

The BJA TTA Provider Directory includes information on 100 provider organizations, including a brief description of the organization and its specific program areas, current BJA-funded projects, and contact information. BJA NTTAC will publish the directory semi-annually, in the winter and summer.

Grants & Funding

Open BJA solicitations:

- [Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation \(CTAS\)](#)
Applications due February 24, 2015
- [Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program \(Project Safe Neighborhoods\)](#)
Applications due March 3, 2015
- [Swift, Certain, and Fair Sanctions Program \(SCF\): Replicating the Concepts Behind Project HOPE](#)
Applications due March 9, 2015
- [Smart Policing Initiative](#)
Applications due March 9, 2015
- [Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Maximizing State Reforms](#)
Applications due March 10, 2015
- [Second Chance Act Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Planning Program](#)
Applications due March 10, 2015



Visit the [BJA NTTAC web site](#) to learn more and to access the BJA TTA Provider Directory.

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In Focus This Month

Justice Reinvestment: Reforming State Corrections

Just this month, Washington and Nebraska—two states involved in BJA's [Justice Reinvestment Initiative](#)—announced sweeping recommendations to reform state corrections and sentencing policy to make the most effective use of limited criminal justice dollars and improve public safety.



If enacted by the Washington legislature, the [policy framework](#) has the potential to avert significant costs and generate reductions in crime and recidivism. By averting the growth in the state prison population between FY 2016 and FY 2021, effective implementation of the policy framework will help the state help the state avoid up to \$193 million in construction costs and \$98 million in operating costs that would otherwise be needed to accommodate the forecasted growth.

[Nebraska's policy package](#) has the potential to generate significant savings and lower recidivism for Nebraska. By averting the projected growth in the state prison population, effective implementation of the policy framework will help the state avoid up to \$261.6 million in construction costs and \$44.8 million in operating costs that would otherwise be needed to accommodate the forecasted growth between FY 2014 and FY 2020.

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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