



March 2015

## In the Spotlight

### Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

On March 16, Vice President Biden announced the Administration's new Sexual Assault Kit Initiative, which is investing \$41 million this year to help law enforcement agencies address the issues associated with unsubmitted sexual assault kits (SAKs).

This initiative will support multidisciplinary community response teams engaged in the comprehensive reform of jurisdictions' approaches to sexual assault cases resulting from evidence found in previously unsubmitted SAKs. The program aims to improve practices related to investigation, prosecution, and victim engagement and support in connection with evidence and cases resulting from the testing process.

For more information about available funding, see BJA's FY 2015 competitive solicitations: [National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative \(SAKI\)](#) and [The Sexual Assault Kit Initiative: National Training and Technical Assistance](#).

The President's FY 2016 Budget also proposes \$20 million for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to identify more efficient ways of reducing the backlog of sexual assault kits.

To learn more about the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative, read the White House [Fact Sheet](#).

## News You Can Use

### Changing Racial Composition of State Prison Populations

BJA and the Council of State Governments have released "[Examining the Changing Racial Composition of Three States' Prison Populations](#)," which describes the racial impact based on reductions in prison admission in three states—Georgia, North Carolina and Connecticut—that have enacted comprehensive criminal justice reform through the justice reinvestment approach.

### Innovations in Criminal Justice Summit III

The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA), in partnership with BJA and the Center for Court Innovation, will host the Innovations in Criminal Justice Summit III in Los Angeles, California on April 20-21, 2015. [Register](#) now!

### State Justice Reinvestment Policy Brief

BJA and the Urban Institute have released "[The Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Thinking Local for State Justice Reinvestment](#)." This policy brief considers the importance of collaboration with local justice partners in the formulation and implementation of state-level justice reinvestment solutions, highlighting the need to share data to identify and implement cost-saving solutions, partner to promote successful policy implementation, and invest locally.

### New BNCPP Report Available

With support from BJA, the Center for the Study of Social Policy has released "[The Building Neighborhood Capacity Program: Findings from Flint, Fresno, Memphis and Milwaukee: Final Formal Assessment](#)."

## Grants & Funding

Visit our [Funding page](#) to view all open BJA solicitations, including:

- Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program
- Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program
- Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program
- Smart Defense Initiative: Improving Public Defense Delivery Systems
- Firearm Locks Distribution and Safe Storage
- Second Chance Act Two-Phase Adult Reentry Demonstration Program
- Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking

And look for other opportunities on [OJP's Funding Resource Center page!](#)



Funding Resource Center

## In Focus This Month

### Body-Worn Camera White House Summit

On February 26-27, BJA convened a 2-day Body-Worn Camera Expert Panel of more than 100 law enforcement leaders, recognized practitioners, national policy leaders, and community advocates to develop a toolkit and provide guidance and model policy for law enforcement agencies implementing body-worn camera programs. The resultant Body-Worn Camera Toolkit, which will launch in late Spring, will focus on procurement considerations; training needs; implementation requirements; retention issues; policy concerns; interests of prosecutors, domestic violence, and victim and privacy advocates; community engagement; and funding considerations.

For further information read the Justice Blog, "[Guiding Law Enforcement in the Development of a Body-Worn Camera Program](#)" from OJP's Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason.



## 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?

### Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents

Police officers can decrease the potential harmful effects on children when a parent is arrested by taking steps such as handcuffing the parent out of the child's sight or allowing the parent to explain what's happening. Applying these best practices and other strategies into policing activities help ensure the wellbeing of children. Read BJA NTTAC's recent [blog post](#), authored by Sabrina Rhodes from the International Association of Chiefs of Police, to learn about eight strategies to lessen the distress of parental arrest on children and youth.



## FEATURED PROGRAM

### Improving Pretrial Services in the State of New York

On a daily basis, pretrial service agencies are faced with answering questions such as whether or not to release a defendant on bail, is the defendant a flight risk, and should there be conditions associated with the defendant's release. The [New York Association of Pretrial Service Agencies](#) (NYAPSA) reached out to BJA NTTAC to develop fair, impartial, and consistent practices across the state to address these questions. Read BJA NTTAC's recent [TIA Spotlight](#) to learn how BJA-funded technical assistance helped NYAPSA improve its pretrial practices.



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