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BJA's Justice Today



BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE • OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

DENISE E. O'DONNELL, DIRECTOR

June 2016

In the Spotlight

Attorney General Delivers Remarks in Orlando

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch delivered remarks in Orlando, Florida, on June 21, in recognition of the tragic deaths of 49 people and the injury of 53 others that occurred during the mass shooting at Orlando's Pulse nightclub on June 12. The attack was the deadliest mass shooting by a single gunman in the U.S. and the deadliest incident of terroristic violence on the LGBTQ community in the U.S.



Attorney General Lynch pledged DOJ's support to victims and their families, as well as law enforcement and first responders, as the community works together to heal.

The Office for Victims of Crime has made federal emergency funds and victim compensation funding available to cover family travel expenses, medical and mental health expenses, and other costs related to this tragedy. BJA is making \$1 million in emergency funding available to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The state will be able to apply for Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant ([JAG](#)) funds on behalf of Orlando and other affected jurisdictions to defray overtime costs for state and local responders.

"This was a shattering attack — on our nation, on our people, and on our most fundamental ideals," said Lynch. "But the message of Orlando goes far beyond one night of unspeakable terror. The message of Orlando that I have seen today — and what the American people have seen in the wake of this horrific assault — is a message of determination to remove hatred and intolerance from our midst to live our lives freely and without fear; and to stay true to the principles of liberty, justice, and equality that define America at our best."

News You Can Use

BJA Staff Present at SPI National Meeting

BJA Policy Advisor Catherine McNamee provided remarks at the Smart Policing Initiative ([SPI](#)) National Meeting, held June 15-17 in Phoenix, Arizona. This meeting gathered representatives of SPI sites to discuss their ongoing initiatives to implement evidence-based interventions that address pressing crime issues and policing challenges in their communities. Topics included an overview of SPI, including principles and practices; site progress and activities; key expectations regarding research partnerships; research outcomes; lessons learned; technology; sustainability; and collaboration.



BJA Releases Report on the State of BJA-Funded Programs

BJA has released the FY 2016 *Evaluation & Research Literature: The State of Knowledge on BJA-Funded Programs*. This document provides information on evaluations, reports, and research related to BJA-funded programs. It identifies programs and practices with a solid

DID YOU KNOW?

Check Out the Spring 2016 BJA TTA Provider Directory

The BJA National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) has released the Spring 2016 edition of the [BJA TTA Provider Directory](#), an easy-to-use, downloadable guide that contains a comprehensive list of active BJA training and technical assistance (TTA) provider organizations. Available in BJA NTTAC's [TTA Catalog](#), the directory includes a brief description of each provider organization, as well as their criminal justice program areas, BJA-funded projects, and contact information. The BJA TTA Provider Directory enables BJA staff, BJA TTA providers, and criminal justice practitioners to quickly access key information about BJA TTA providers and gain an understanding of the breadth of justice expertise available.

Save the Date: 2016 National Forum on Criminal Justice

Join BJA and the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) at the 2016 [National Forum on Criminal Justice](#), which will take place from August 7-10 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This year's conference will focus on the integration of policy, practice, research, and technology to improve public safety. Workshops will feature promising and innovative programs and strategies to address crime around the country; explore how technology can improve the administration of justice; examine research and evaluation; and highlight priority issues within DOJ and available

foundation of evidence, while also providing information on programs and practices that may benefit from additional research and evaluation. View the report [here](#).

Project T.E.A.M. Releases Manual for Joint Jurisdiction Courts

Project T.E.A.M., a BJA-funded training and technical assistance provider, has published a manual for tribal and community leaders who want to develop joint jurisdiction courts or initiatives in their own communities. ***Joint Jurisdiction Courts: A Manual for Developing Tribal, Local, State & Federal Justice Collaborations*** is a guide that describes the process developed in one Minnesota community and adopted by other jurisdictions, including communities in California and Alaska. The manual describes the benefits of intergovernmental collaboration and provides suggested guidelines for developing a new joint jurisdiction justice collaborative based on identified needs, tribal and community culture, evidence-based treatment principles, articulated goals, and defined outcomes. It includes best practices and lessons learned from Project T.E.A.M.'s work. The manual and supplementary materials can be found on the Project T.E.A.M. [website](#).

Grants & Funding

Visit our [Funding Page](#) to view all BJA solicitations open in June.

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

 [Funding Resource Center](#)

In Focus This Month

BJA Fellow Provides Keynote on Reentry at CAPLAW Conference

BJA Second Chance Fellow Daryl Atkinson was the opening keynote speaker at the annual Community Action Program Legal Services ([CAPLAW](#)) Conference, held June 22-24 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. CAPLAW is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to providing legal, governance, and management resources to sustain and strengthen the national Community Action Agency (CAA) network.



The event brought together CAA members to provide information on educational and vocational barriers to reentry, and detail the efforts taken by the federal government to offer solutions to the reentry crisis. The event also served as a call to action for CAAs to use their resources and networks to positively impact reentry outcomes in their local communities.

Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program

Updates to PSOB Website

On April 6, 2016, a notice regarding the new protocol for determining 9/11 exposure claims was posted to the PSOB website at www.psob.gov.



Enacted in 1976, the PSOB Program provides death, disability, and education benefits to those eligible for the program. Visit the [PSOB website](#) to apply for these federal benefits for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders killed or catastrophically disabled in the line of duty. For questions regarding these new resources or the PSOB Program, call the PSOB Office at 888-744-6513 (toll-free) or 202-307-0635.

resources. Workshop sessions will highlight speakers from each discipline to showcase innovative programs and highlight how research and technology help drive good policy. To learn more, please visit the National Forum [website](#).

FEATURED PROGRAM

Medal of Valor Program Application Period Is Open

Every day, public safety officers risk their lives to protect America's citizens and its communities. To honor that commitment, Congress created the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor ([MOV](#)) Program, which established the highest national award for valor to honor public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of their personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life. The President or Vice President awards the MOV in a White House ceremony for each year's recipients.

The application period for the 2015-2016 MOV opened on **May 31, 2016** at 8:00 a.m. (ET) and will close on **July 31, 2016** at 11:59 p.m. (ET). Eligibility is limited to incidents that occurred between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016.

BJA, which administers the MOV program, encourages public safety agency heads to [nominate](#) their personnel for incidents that occurred during the eligibility period, and which they deem to be eligible for this award.

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