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BJA's Justice Today



BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE • OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

DENISE E. O'DONNELL, DIRECTOR

July 2016

In the Spotlight

BJA Fellow Moderates Reentry Conversation with Attorney General

On June 24, BJA Second Chance Fellow Daryl Atkinson moderated a conversation at the Center for American Progress on new and existing reentry programs with Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch and the Secretaries for the Department of Education, Department of Labor, and Department of Housing and Urban Development. The conversation included information on [new funding](#) for reentry services. Watch it [here](#).



DID YOU KNOW?

Introducing BJA NTTAC's New Violent Crime TTA Resources Page

BJA NTTAC has released a new [Violent Crime TTA Resources](#) page to support promising and innovative efforts to assist communities in addressing violent crime. The page features a list of trainings, technical assistance opportunities, national initiatives, publications, and other materials that BJA has identified that may be beneficial to support communities in maximizing positive outcomes in their violent crime reduction efforts. If you know of an agency or community experiencing issues related to violent crime, share this new web page with them or refer them to BJA NTTAC to discuss their unique justice needs.

News You Can Use

BJA Co-Sponsors Second Chance Pell Convening

BJA co-sponsored a Second Chance Pell convening on July 19 with the Department of Education, Vera Institute of Justice, and the Ford Foundation. Deputy Attorney General Sally Q. Yates presented at the event, BJA Director Denise E. O'Donnell attended, and BJA Policy Advisor Andre Betha moderated a workshop on correctional operations in support of education.

The purpose of this event was to demonstrate the public-private partnership's effort to amplify strategies and activities that will be needed to support this 3-year pilot program and build momentum for research needed to change the ban on Pell grants for incarcerated students. The convening featured all 69 sites selected to participate in the experiment.



Attorney General Delivers Remarks on Dallas Shooting

On July 8, Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch delivered a [statement](#) in Dallas on the mass shooting that occurred there on July 7. The sniper attack, which targeted police officers guarding a peaceful protest, caused the deaths of five officers and wounded seven officers and two civilians.

"Our thoughts and condolences go out to the families who have lost loved ones," said Attorney General Lynch. "The Department of Justice – including the FBI, ATF, U.S. Marshals Service and U.S. Attorney's Office – is working closely with our state and local counterparts, and we intend to provide any assistance we can to investigate this attack, and to heal a community that has been severely shaken and deeply scarred by an unfathomable tragedy."

Attorney General Lynch delivered additional remarks honoring the fallen Dallas officers at a [memorial service](#) held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on July 28.

FEATURED PROGRAM

BJA's Performance Management Team Publishes Grantee Feedback Reports

BJA's Performance Management Team has debuted the [Grantee Feedback Report](#) (GFR), a new tool to help grantees improve their understanding of the role their project plays in the grant program as a whole. The GFR allows grantees to compare their reported performance data to others in the grant program by showcasing the range and average responses for all grantees. The GFRs also include graphics and charts that present aggregate data, bringing to

Grants & Funding

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

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

 [Funding Resource Center](#)

In Focus This Month

BJA Participates in Tribal Delegation Visit

BJA participated in a delegation led by the Office of the Assistant Attorney General (OAAG) to visit the Tohono O'odham Nation (TON) and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe (PYT) in Arizona on July 12–14 to discuss the current capacity, successes, and concerns regarding their tribal justice systems. The delegation was led by Deputy Assistant Attorney General (DAAG) Maureen Henneberg and began with a meeting with representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) for Arizona on July 11 for a brief background, history, and update on TON and PYT that included the federal-tribal relationship and coordination activities, as well as the primary federal law enforcement interactions, investigations, and prosecutions.



DAAG Henneberg provided remarks on the successful partnership with BJA on the construction of the \$20 million multipurpose justice center facility funded through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The delegation conducted a tour of the law enforcement, corrections, and court components of the center, and then participated in a Public Health and Safety Roundtable discussion.

The delegation was part of an effort conducted annually to ensure that DOJ leadership visit Indian Country to hear the concerns of tribal leaders in order to inform continued support strategies.

Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program

Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program

The PSOB Proposed Rule regarding the processing of September 11th exposure claims, as well as implementing the statutory presumption for heart attack, stroke, and vascular rupture claims, was published on July 15, 2016. The Proposed Rule can be viewed [here](#), with a comment period that ends on September 13, 2016.

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.

life the overall themes and trends of the program. GFRs have been released for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation program, Smart Policing Initiative, Smart Supervision Initiative, and the Drug Court program. GFRs for other BJA programs, including the Second Chance Act programs, will be published in the near future. Be sure to check out the reports and share them with your friends and colleagues!

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