



March 2012

In the Spotlight



Earlier this month, BJA launched its new web site, www.bja.gov. The site is full of [new features](#) and self-service options to enhance your visit. Among the new features:

- **My BJA**—by registering for My BJA, you can receive information customized to your area of interest, such as effective/promising programs from CrimeSolutions.gov, upcoming events, and publications.
- **Events Near Me**—search for events by city/state or zip code. The results will be rendered on a map on which you can click to get further details about a particular event. An enhanced search allows you to search specific dates and topic areas.
- **My Favorites**—you can save content, which will appear when you log into your My BJA account.
- **Trending**—quick access to hot topics.
- **I Want To**—links to frequently accessed pages.

Let us know what you think! [Contact Us](#)

News You Can Use

Nominate Outstanding Criminal Justice Programs

The National Criminal Justice Association is seeking nominations for its annual [NCJA Outstanding Criminal Justice Programs Awards](#). These awards honor innovative and successful criminal justice programs that showcase promising practices to address critical crime-related issues in communities. NCJA will honor these programs at the [2012 National Forum on Criminal Justice and Public Safety](#), which will take place July 29–31 in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico. Nominations for outstanding programs should be submitted no later than April 13, 2012.

BJA Is Seeking Pilot Sites for an Evidence-Based Practice Supervision eLearning System

With funding from BJA, the research team of Dr. Faye Taxman (George Mason University) and Dr. Ralph Serin (Carleton University) developed SOARING2, an eLearning system focused on the skills associated with using evidence-based practices for the effective management of offenders. We are seeking three sites to participate in a pilot of the system. For additional information about this opportunity, including how to apply, visit: www.gmuace.org/index.html.

Grants & Funding

BJA has released the following solicitations:

- [Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#)
Applications are due May 8, 2012
- [National Adult and Juvenile Offender Reentry Resource Center](#)
Applications are due April 19, 2012
- [National Justice Information Sharing \(JIS\) Initiative](#)
Applications are due April 19, 2012
- [Second Chance Act Adult Offender Comprehensive Statewide Recidivism Reduction Demonstration Program](#)
Applications are due May 21, 2012
- [Second Chance Act Adult Offender Reentry Program for Planning and Demonstration Projects](#)
Applications are due April 24, 2012
- [Second Chance Act Family-Based Adult Offender Substance Abuse Treatment Program](#)
Applications are due April 24, 2012
- [Second Chance Act Reentry Program for Adult Offenders with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health](#)
Applications are due April 24, 2012
- [Smart Probation: Reducing Prison Populations, Saving Money, and Creating Safer Communities](#)
Applications are due May 21, 2012

For more funding opportunities, visit the [OJP Open Solicitations page](#).

This Month in Law Enforcement

Every day, public safety officers risk their lives to protect America's citizens and communities. To honor that commitment, Congress passed the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001, which created the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer. The medal is awarded annually by the President or Vice President to public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life. The 2011–2012 Medal of Valor nomination period will open May 31, 2012. Visit the [Medal of Valor web site](#) to learn more.

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?

BJA is eager to hear from you about BJA resources that you have found helpful and useful in your work. We would like to know if you have found the *Justice Today* special e-blasts, podcasts, and the *Justice Today* monthly newsletter helpful. We are always trying to find the best ways to keep you informed in the field, and your feedback is critical in helping us decide which resources are most valuable to you. Please send an e-mail to lesley.buchan@usdoj.gov letting us know if and how these resources were helpful to you.

FEATURED PROGRAM

BJA's Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Management maintains a user-friendly online evaluation and performance measurement tool designed to assist state and local criminal justice planners, practitioners, State Administering Agencies, researchers, and evaluators in: 1) conducting evaluations and performance measurement that will address the effectiveness and efficiency of their projects, and 2) using evaluation information to improve program planning and implementation. Visit the [Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Management web site](#) to learn more.

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