

BJA's Justice Today



BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE • OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

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In the Spotlight



The past 10 years has seen a national surge of initiatives dedicated to the nurturing roles of fathers and programs that promote responsible parenting. Based on the problem-solving court model, [Fathering Courts](#) provide an innovative alternative to prosecution and incarceration for men facing criminal-level sanctions for not paying child support. Reentry Courts are specialized courts for ex-offenders leaving incarceration through probation or parole and use judicial oversight to monitor and guide the reentry process.

Fathering and reentry courts complement each other as they focus on similar populations with comparable issues. Founded on research and evidence-based practices, both fathering and reentry courts serve men who face significant barriers to employment, are unemployed or underemployed, are usually poorly educated, frequently have a criminal background, and may also face physical or emotional illness, literacy issues, substance abuse problems, or multiple-partner fertility.¹

In FY 2010 BJA solicited applications for Reentry Courts under the [Second Chance Act](#), which included an opportunity for state and local courts to apply for funding to launch Fathering Reentry Courts. In addition, BJA will develop training and technical assistance through its partner organizations, such as the [National Reentry Resource Center](#), [National Center for Fathering](#), [Center for Court Innovation](#), and the [National Center for State Courts](#), for other courts that may wish to replicate the program and its fatherhood support interventions. In FY 2011, subject to appropriations, BJA will make available funding support for other reentry courts with fatherhood components through the Second Chance Act, for which the President has requested \$100 million in his budget.

¹ <http://contentdm.ncsconline.org/cgi-bin/showfile.exe?CISOROOT=/spcts&CISOPTR=214>

DID YOU KNOW?

A substantial portion of BJA's annual appropriations supports the provision of [training and technical assistance](#) (TTA) to thousands of state, local, and tribal justice organizations and communities on nearly every aspect of criminal justice. This assistance is available at no cost through BJA's National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) and from BJA grantees, and is designed to improve the effectiveness of community and agency strategies to prevent and control crime. The amount of assistance provided is often a surprise to many: in 2009 alone, nearly 1,900 training events were held nationwide, reaching over 72,000 justice professionals, and from January to March 2010, 273 events were held, reaching over 17,000 individuals. In addition to this training, from January 2009 through March 2010, 580 justice articles and publications were produced to better inform the field, and more than 60 million web site "hits" were logged on the sites of our TTA partners.

News You Can Use

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the leading source of federal justice funding for state and local jurisdictions, providing the critical funding necessary to support virtually all aspects of local criminal justice systems. Check out the map on BJA's home page, www.ojp.gov/BJA, to find contact information for the State Administering Agency (SAA) in your state and learn about the state's funding goals and processes!

Grants & Funding

The following BJA solicitations are open:

- [Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking](#)
(A joint solicitation of BJA and the Office for Victims of Crime)
Applications are due July 27, 2010
- [John R. Justice Grant Program](#)
Applications due: July 27, 2010

For other funding opportunities, please go to: www.ojp.gov/funding/solicitations.htm.

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](#).

FEATURED PROGRAM

Created in 1983, the [Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority](#) (ICJIA) is a state agency dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice. Serving as the State Administering Agency, the ICJIA brings together key leaders from the justice system and the public to identify critical issues facing the criminal justice system in Illinois and to propose and evaluate policies, programs, and legislation that address those issues. [More](#)

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