

September 2009

In the Spotlight

BJA to Focus on Best Practices at the [Annual International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference](#)

Visit BJA at these workshops at the October IACP Conference in Denver:



- **Homicide Investigation for Smaller Agencies:** This session will provide information about an effective small agency approach to handling homicide or other violent crime investigations in which the offender is not known. *October 5, 1:00–2:30 p.m., Room Four Seasons 4*
- **The Effect of Trafficking on States and Cities on I-95:** The I-95 Project has become a major forum for East Coast police and criminal justice agencies to meet and discuss ways to improve both crime and terrorism prevention methods. The session will focus on information sharing and promising strategies. *October 5, 1:00–3:00 p.m., Room 601–603*
- **The Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative:** This workshop will provide an overview of the SAR Initiative and discuss how state and local law enforcement agencies and state and major urban area fusion centers are engaged in this initiative to protect communities and the nation. *October 6, 2:00–4:00 p.m., Room 201–203*

News You Can Use

Two Publications Offer Guidance in Confronting Public Health Emergencies

With H1N1 flu in the news and affecting people throughout the country, two publications offer guidance in dealing with pandemics:

- [Communication and Public Health Emergencies: A Guide for Law Enforcement](#) identifies important considerations for law enforcement agencies to develop or enhance communication plans for public health emergencies. The Police Executive Research Forum released the guide, with support from BJA.
- [Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Planning: Guidelines for Community Corrections](#) offers guidance to community corrections agencies in developing preparedness and response plans for pandemic flu and other crises. The American Probation and Parole Association released the guidelines, with support from BJA.

New Survey Finds Both Advances and Areas for Improvement in Use of Body Armor

A national survey, released by the Police Executive Research Forum and BJA, finds that while nearly all law enforcement agencies provide body armor to their officers, only 59 percent of agencies make it a requirement to wear body armor at least some of the time. The survey also found most of the body armor issued does not protect against high-caliber weapons or rifles, and that very few agencies conduct inspections to ensure the armor fits well and is maintained properly. [Read the survey findings](#)

Grants & Funding

View the [Recovery Act awards](#) announced to date.

As other FY 2009 awards are announced, BJA will post them on our [home page](#) under Funding Information.

BJA is starting to develop our FY 2010 grant solicitations. If you have any comments or suggestions on how to improve our solicitations, please [Contact Us](#).

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

[DiscoverPolicing.org](#), the award-winning, nationwide law enforcement recruitment web site partially funded by BJA, will have a booth at the IACP conference in Denver. Also visit the DiscoverPolicing workshop (October 3 from 1–3 p.m. in Room 107-109) to see how DiscoverPolicing.org and law enforcement agencies are using social media tools (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.) to enhance recruitment. If your agency seeks to take greater advantage of these free internet resources to promote hiring initiatives and project a positive image, this workshop is for you.

FEATURED PROGRAM

Smart Policing Initiative (SPI) Identifies Economical Strategies to Reduce Crime

As law enforcement agencies face layoffs and budget constraints, developing tactics and strategies that are effective and economical to reduce crime is more critical than ever. SPI builds on offender-based and place-based policing, which substantial research shows can reduce violent crime and neighborhood disorder. BJA awarded SPI grants to 10 law enforcement agencies that identified the crime problems they will address and enlisted a research partner to evaluate the effectiveness of their SPI efforts. BJA will publish the lessons learned from this effort to benefit other law enforcement agencies confronting similar crime problems and seeking evidence-based approaches to resolve them. [Read more](#)

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