



October 2011

## In the Spotlight



On October 1, President Obama issued a [proclamation](#) naming October as Substance Abuse Prevention Month. During National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, we all celebrate those dedicated to prevention efforts. At BJA, we have partnered with the Partnership at Drugfree.org to support PACT360 (<http://pact360.org/>), a law enforcement-led community education prevention initiative designed to address existing drug issues and rapidly respond to emerging drug threats. The goal is to help reduce illicit drug use and its accompanying criminal behavior, thereby improving the safety and quality of life of the community. In September 2011, findings from an independent study demonstrated the success of Parents360, a component of PACT360. Parents360 educates and equips parents and other caregivers to be better able to deal with their teens on drug and alcohol issues. The key findings of this study show that parents who received the intervention training had significantly greater increases in the important measures of knowledge of substance abuse and related resources and in self-efficacy (or confidence in their ability) in communicating with their teens on this topic than did control group parents who did not receive the intervention. [Read](#) the full announcement.

## DID YOU KNOW?

BJA's Director, Denise E. O'Donnell, will be at the upcoming International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) 118th Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois. We encourage you to take an opportunity to meet Director O'Donnell and other BJA staff. For more information on BJA's involvement in the conference, visit our [IACP conference page](#).

## News You Can Use

### Register for the Tribal Law Enforcement Webinar

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children is hosting an upcoming webinar on Tribal Law Enforcement and Drug Endangered Children on Wednesday, October 19. The webinar will be presented by Steven Juneau of Lamar Associates and will focus on tribal policing, current substance abuse issues, and collaborative responses for drug-endangered children in Indian Country. For more information, go to: [www.NationalDEC.org](http://www.NationalDEC.org).

### New Pretrial Justice Working Group

On October 7, BJA convened the first meeting of the Pretrial Justice Working Group, which is a follow up to DOJ's National Pretrial Symposium held this past summer. The purpose of the working group is to enhance the Department's efforts to support fair, effective, and safe pretrial justice and to launch a joint public/private effort to inform pretrial decisionmaking at the state and local level. Participants represented multi-disciplinary groups from the criminal justice system and provided a unique voice to advancing pretrial justice work across the country. The working group members identified eight action items to focus on, and in the near future will form subcommittees to implement the ideas captured at the meeting.

## Grants & Funding

OJP has announced all FY 2011 grant awards. You can view them by state or by solicitation at: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/11grantawards.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/11grantawards.htm).

Applicants who did not receive FY 2011 funding will receive their peer review comments via e-mail within the next month.

## This Month in Law Enforcement

Because the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program provides state, tribal, and local jurisdictions with flexibility to tailor the programs to fit their needs, a wide variety of programs have been funded across the country. One such example is from the Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) in Texas. With their FY 2009 JAG funding, Harris County funded the New Choices Program, an education/prevention-based program with emphasis on cognitive relapse prevention strategies designed to prepare inmates for release into the community. The program's objective is to serve approximately 300 clients per year, and since 1997, almost 3,800 clients have completed the program. New Choices helps divert less serious offenders from traditional incarceration, thereby saving taxpayers the cost of incarceration in a prison setting. For the more serious offenders, providing a secure environment as well as a rehabilitative program both in HCSO and under probation supervision helps ensure successful reintegration back into society rather than returning to jail or being sentenced to prison for subsequent offences. For more JAG success stories, visit [BJA's JAG Showcase](#).

## 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

BJA has established the Grant Writing and Management Academy for criminal justice practitioners and state, local, and tribal jurisdictions (including community- and faith-based partners) that apply for or receive federal grants. This training provides an overview of project planning, management, administration, and assessment of federally funded programs. The training encourages participants to think strategically about how they develop and fund projects. Participants are introduced to a variety of methods and tools used to identify community problems, administer and manage projects, and assess performance. Training topics include: Project Strategy and Design, Problem Validation and Data Gathering, Partnerships, Management Strategies, Project Integrity, Accomplishments, Sustainment, and Resource Development. Visit [BJA's Grant Writing and Management Academy](#) for the tools you need to apply for funding in FY 2012.

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