

Program Performance Report

John R. Justice Program

October 2010–June 2013



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

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John R. Justice (JRJ) Program

Performance Update of Grantee Activity through June 30, 2013

The John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2008 authorized \$25 million in grants for federal Fiscal Years (FYs) 2009–2014. The purpose of the John R. Justice (JRJ) Program is to encourage qualified attorneys to apply for and maintain employment in state, local, and federal public defender positions, as well as state and local prosecutor positions. To accomplish this, the Attorney General established a loan repayment program through which the Department of Justice provides loan repayment assistance to individuals who accept positions as prosecutors and public defenders. This helps provide an incentive for law school graduates struggling with overwhelming student loan debts to consider public attorney positions.

Attorneys who participate in the JRJ Program agree to certain terms to receive the program's benefits. The largest of these obligations is the requirement that individuals remain employed as prosecutors or public defenders for a minimum of 3 years. If this stipulation is broken, the amount that the Department of Justice has already provided for loan repayment must be repaid in full.

When selecting applicants, grantees are required to give priority to individuals who have the least ability to repay their loans. Each grantee is responsible for creating a method of determining least ability to pay. Grantees must also ensure that an equal amount of grant funds are allocated to both prosecutors and public defenders.¹

Since the JRJ Program debuted in 2010, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 5 U.S. territories have received JRJ grants. Grant amounts vary widely from state to state, since the formula used to calculate awards is partially dependent on the population size of the state/grantee.

This update includes program performance information reported by recipients of JRJ Program grants in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012. These grantees conducted grant-funded activities between October 2010 and June 2013.

Summary Findings

- On average, approximately 34 percent of grant recipients modeled their repayment programs after an existing state or local loan reimbursement program.
- The three major considerations when selecting applicants were geographic and demographic attributes, loan debt, and salary cap.
- Over 4,000 prosecutors were selected for participation in the JRJ loan repayment program. Since 2010, over \$10,000,000 in loan repayments were awarded to these participants.
- Over 300 state/local public defenders and over 150 federal public defenders were selected for participation in the JRJ loan repayment program. Over \$9,800,000 was awarded to state, local, and federal public defenders combined. Of this amount, more than \$9,000,000 went to state and local public defenders and over \$600,000 to federal public defenders.²

¹ States can apply for a waiver to this requirement. For example, the state of Maine does not have a Public Defender's Office, but instead contracts with private attorneys to fill the role of court-appointed attorneys. In such a case, a waiver may be granted.

² The slight difference between the amounts awarded to prosecutors and those awarded to public defenders can be accounted for primarily by states that have requested a waiver of the equal allocation requirement.

Key Performance Measures

Measure	Data Elements Used to Calculate Measure	Definition
Percentage of Grantees Modeling Program After Existing Reimbursement Program	John R. Justice reimbursement program modeled after an existing state or local loan reimbursement program (Y/N)	“Reimbursement program” refers to a repayment process in which attorneys are awarded money to help repay student loans in exchange for their service in a public attorney position.
Factors Used to Identify Eligible Applicants (In Addition to “Least Ability to Pay”)	Factors (in addition to “least ability to pay”) used for identifying eligible John R. Justice Program applicants	State agencies must give priority to eligible applicants who have “least ability to pay.” “Least ability to pay” refers to individuals who will have the most difficulty repaying their student loans. The methodology used to calculate “least ability to pay” is determined by each state. At a minimum, the applicant’s total educational debt, gross or net income, and cost of living must be considered.
Prosecutor Applicants and Associated Loan Repayments	Number of eligible John R. Justice Program applicants	Eligible applicants are full-time prosecutors or public defenders working for the state/local government or with a nonprofit under contract with a state/local government.
	Number of John R. Justice Program applicants selected to receive loan repayments	Selected applicants are eligible applicants who have been chosen to receive repayments as a part of the John R. Justice Program.
	Dollar amount of loan repayments awarded	“Dollar amount awarded” refers to how much money has been obligated to selected applicants.
State/Local Public Defender Applicants and Associated Loan Repayments	Number of eligible John R. Justice Program applicants	Eligible applicants are full-time prosecutors or public defenders working for the state/local government or with a nonprofit under contract with a state/local government.
	Number of John R. Justice Program applicants selected to receive loan repayments	Selected applicants are eligible applicants who have been chosen to receive repayments as a part of the John R. Justice Program.
	Dollar amount of loan repayments awarded	“Dollar amount awarded” refers to how much money has been obligated to selected applicants.
Federal Public Defender Applicants and Associated Loan Repayments	Number of eligible John R. Justice Program applicants	Eligible applicants are full-time prosecutors or public defenders working for the state/local government or with a nonprofit under contract with a state/local government.
	Number of John R. Justice Program applicants selected to receive loan repayments	Selected applicants are eligible applicants who have been chosen to receive repayments as a part of the John R. Justice Program.
	Dollar amount of loan repayments awarded	“Dollar amount awarded” refers to how much money has been obligated to selected applicants.

Figure 1. Percentage of Grantees Modeling Their Program After Existing Reimbursement Program

On average, approximately 34 percent of JRJ Program grantees modeled their program after an existing reimbursement program. Examples include loan repayment programs for teachers, dentists, or rural veterinarians. Between October 2010 and June 2013, most grantees (66 percent) did not model their program after an existing program, but instead created their own innovative repayment programs. This trend was consistent over all of the reporting periods.

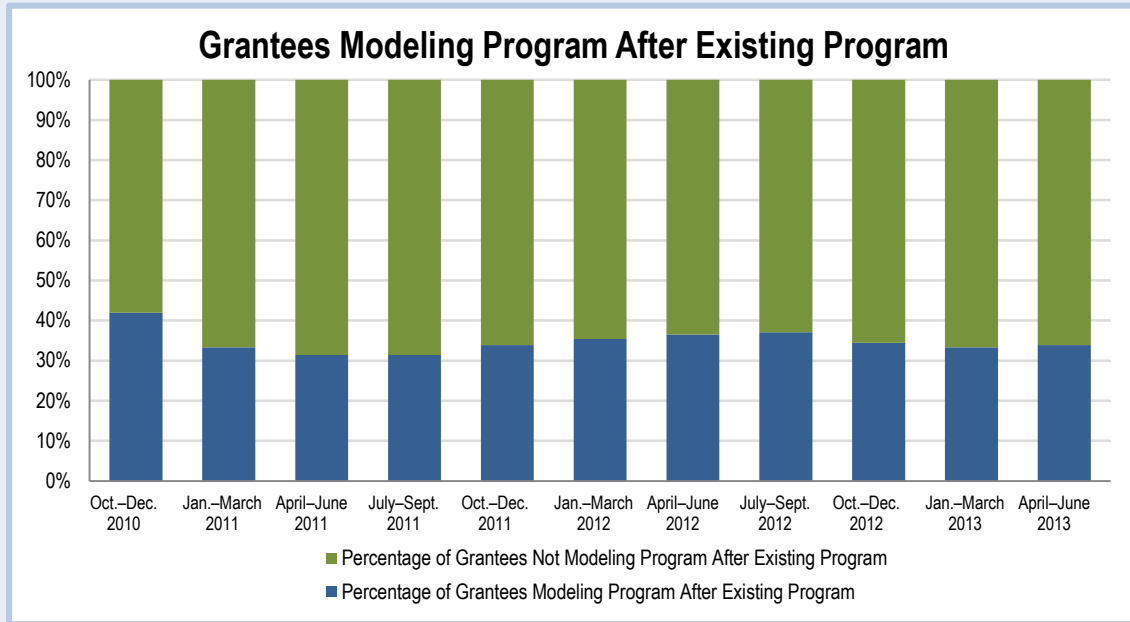
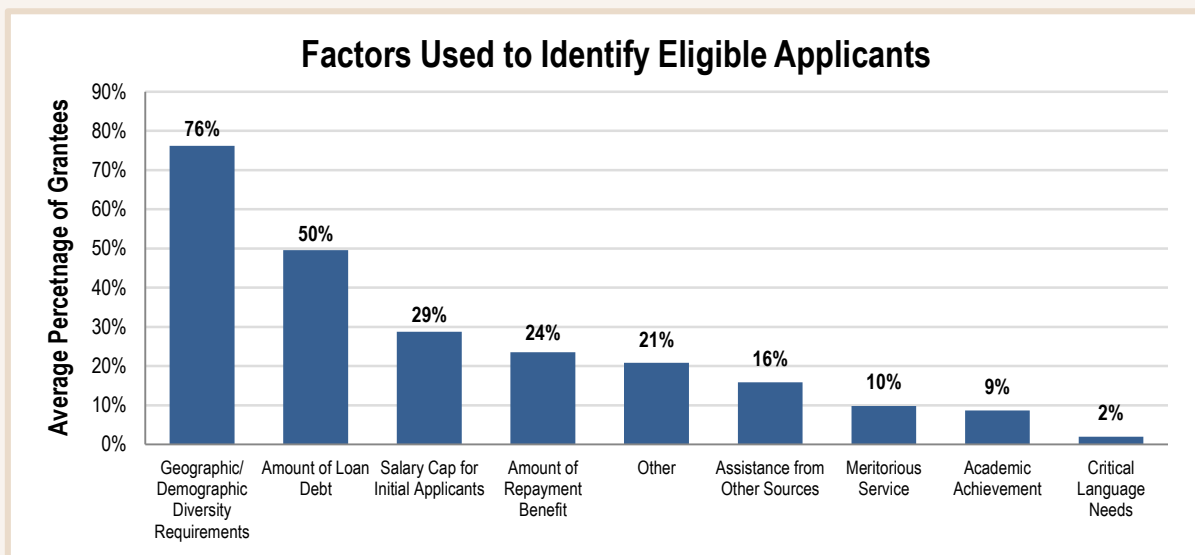


Figure 2. Factors Used to Identify Eligible Applicants (in Addition to “Least Ability to Pay”)³

This bar graph represents the average percentage of grantees that used each factor to identify eligible applicants for the JRJ Program across all 11 reporting periods (October 2010 to June 2013).⁴ Most grantees considered geographic and demographic attributes when identifying eligible applicants, to ensure a representative range of geographic and demographic characteristics.⁵ Financial factors, such as loan debt and salary cap, were also important considerations.



³ All grantees are required to give priority to individuals who have the least ability to repay their loans.

⁴ “Other” captures factors such as community service and previous military service.

⁵ For geographically smaller grantees, such as Guam, geographic attributes may not be meaningful and therefore are likely not considered.

Reporting Period	N	Eligible Prosecutors	Selected Prosecutors	Awarded to Prosecutors (Dollars)
Oct.–Dec. 2010	26	1141	344	\$ 410,786.50
Jan.–March 2011	36	1491	802	1,547,697.11
April–June 2011	41	1060	222	1,700,911.77
July–Sept. 2011	37	440	224	591,629.13
Oct.–Dec. 2011	38	945	369	916,927.96
Jan.–March 2012	53	599	488	1,144,790.47
April–June 2012	47	312	397	843,335.60
July–Sept. 2012	36	242	156	713,554.25
Oct.–Dec. 2012	41	671	376	510,146.73
Jan.–March 2013	48	536	448	872,144.56
April–June 2013	45	476	428	895,840.58
Total		7,913	4,254	\$10,147,764.66

Table 1. Prosecutor Applicants and Associated Loan Repayments

Since October 2010, 4,254 prosecutors (54 percent of identified eligible prosecutors) have been selected for the JRJ Program. Since 2010, over \$10,000,000 was awarded to prosecutors in loan repayments.

Table 2. State/Local Public Defenders and Associated Loan Repayments

Since October 2010, 3,207 state/local public defenders (77 percent of identified eligible state/local public defenders) have been selected for the JRJ Program. Since 2010, over \$9,000,000 (94 percent of the over \$9,800,000 awarded to state/local and federal public defenders combined) was awarded to state/local public defenders in loan repayments.

Reporting Period	N	Eligible State/Local Public Defenders	Selected State/Local Public Defenders	Awarded to State/Local Public Defenders (Dollars)
Oct.–Dec. 2010	26	644	177	\$ 410,851.50
Jan.–March 2011	36	803	582	1,360,728.72
April–June 2011	41	456	173	1,593,060.69
July–Sept. 2011	37	189	179	568,929.91
Oct.–Dec. 2011	38	541	241	797,224.50
Jan.–March 2012	53	458	406	1,090,607.77
April–June 2012	47	257	313	788,471.44
July–Sept. 2012	36	199	123	636,375.43
Oct.–Dec. 2012	41	504	297	435,817.33
Jan.–March 2013	48	409	313	805,586.65
April–June 2013	45	419	403	708,982.65
Total		4,879	3,207	\$9,196,636.59

Table 3. Federal Public Defenders and Associated Loan Repayments

Since October 2010, 159 federal public defenders (87 percent of identified eligible federal public defenders) have been selected for the JRJ Program. Since 2010, over \$600,000 (6 percent of the over \$9,800,000 awarded to state/local and federal public defenders combined) was awarded to federal public defenders in loan repayments.

Reporting Period	N	Eligible Federal Public Defenders	Selected Federal Public Defenders	Awarded to Federal Public Defenders (Dollars)
Oct.–Dec. 2010	26	17	0	\$ —
Jan.–March 2011	36	42	32	118,967.39
April–June 2011	41	17	13	74,926.34
July–Sept. 2011	37	9	5	15,339.00
Oct.–Dec. 2011	38	8	6	12,041.00
Jan.–March 2012	53	19	53	150,204.32
April–June 2012	47	9	6	24,299.26
July–Sept. 2012	36	9	6	82,696.87
Oct.–Dec. 2012	41	28	15	19,023.80
Jan.–March 2013	48	12	16	53,089.41
April–June 2013	45	12	7	78,279.02
Total		182	159	\$628,866.41

Appendix A. Factors Used to Determine Eligible Applicants

State	Grantee Legal Name	Federal Award Number	Grant Amount (\$)	Modeled Program After Existing Program	Factors Used to Identify Eligible Applicants								
					Salary Cap for Initial Applicants	Geographic and Demographic Diversity Requirements	Critical Language Needs	Assistance from Other Sources	Amount of Loan Debt	Amount of Repayment Benefit	Academic Achievement	Meritorious Service	Other
AK	State of Alaska	2012-RJ-BX-0061	\$ 51,748	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
AL	State of Alabama, Office of Prosecution Services	2012-RJ-BX-0041	61,619	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
CA	Governor's Office of Emergency Services	2012-RJ-BX-0006	141,185	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
CO	Colorado Dept. of Public Safety	2012-RJ-BX-0004	62,379	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
CT	Office of Higher Education	2012-RJ-BX-0043	58,663	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
DC	Justice Grants Administration	2012-RJ-BX-0049	51495	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
DE	Delaware Criminal Justice Council	2012-RJ-BX-0008	52,195	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
FL	Department of Education	2012-RJ-BX-0009	96,105	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
GA	Georgia Student Finance Commission	2012-RJ-BX-0058	73,745	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
HI	Department of the Attorney General	2011-RJ-BX-0045	110,444	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
HI	Department of the Attorney General	2012-RJ-BX-0024	53,326	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
IA	Iowa College Student Aid Commission	2012-RJ-BX-0025	57,408	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
ID	University of Idaho	2012-RJ-BX-0053	53,834	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
IL	Illinois Student Assistance Commission	2012-RJ-BX-0016	81,134	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
IN	Office of the Indiana Attorney General	2012-RJ-BX-0011	65,766	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
KS	Executive Office of the State of Kansas	2011-RJ-BX-0043	121,905	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
KS	Executive Office of the State of Kansas	2012-RJ-BX-0029	56,946	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
LA	Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance	2012-RJ-BX-0063	61,068	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
MA	Executive Office of Public Safety	2011-RJ-BX-0018	150,271	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
MA	Executive Office of Public Safety	2012-RJ-BX-0021	65,937	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
ME	Finance Authority of Maine	2012-RJ-BX-0060	53,213	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
MI	State of Michigan	2012-RJ-BX-0032	73,893	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
MN	Minnesota Office of Higher Education	2012-RJ-BX-0002	62,930	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No

State	Grantee Legal Name	Federal Award Number	Grant Amount (\$)	Modeled Program After Existing Program	Factors Used to Identify Eligible Applicants								
					Salary Cap for Initial Applicants	Geographic and Demographic Diversity Requirements	Critical Language Needs	Assistance from Other Sources	Amount of Loan Debt	Amount of Repayment Benefit	Academic Achievement	Meritorious Service	Other
MO	Missouri Department of Public Safety	2012-RJ-BX-0017	\$ 64,541	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
MS	Mississippi Attorney General	2012-RJ-BX-0056	57,206	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
MT	Montana Board of Crime Control	2012-RJ-BX-0023	52,415	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
NC	North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety	2011-RJ-BX-0040	173,211	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
NC	North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety	2012-RJ-BX-0005	73,361	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
ND	Bank of North Dakota	2012-RJ-BX-0031	51,655	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
NH	New Hampshire Department of Justice	2011-RJ-BX-0027	110,107	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
NH	New Hampshire Department of Justice	2012-RJ-BX-0054	53,189	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
NM	New Mexico Higher Education Department	2011-RJ-BX-0046	115,810	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
NV	DHHS	2012-RJ-BX-0042	56,588	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
NY	New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services	2012-RJ-BX-0038	97,091	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
OK	Oklahoma District Attorneys Council	2012-RJ-BX-0026	59,173	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
OR	Oregon Criminal Justice Commission	2012-RJ-BX-0050	59,367	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
PA	PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency	2011-RJ-BX-0036	197,525	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
PA	PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency	2012-RJ-BX-0010	80,828	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
RI	Office of the Public Defender	2012-RJ-BX-0013	52,543	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
SC	SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination	2012-RJ-BX-0033	61,320	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
UT	Attorney General, Utah Office of	2012-RJ-BX-0007	56,816	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
VT	Vermont Student Assist. Corp.	2012-RJ-BX-0059	51,515	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
WA	Washington State	2012-RJ-BX-0020	66,523	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
WV	West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services	2012-RJ-BX-0015	54,489	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
WY	Judiciary Courts of the State of Wyoming	2012-RJ-BX-0035	51,375	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

Appendix B. Prosecutors, Public Defenders, and Federal Public Defenders Eligible and Selected for Loan Repayments

State	Grantee Legal Name	Federal Award Number	Grant Amount (\$)	Eligible Prosecutors	Selected Prosecutors	Awarded to Prosecutors (\$)	Eligible State/Local Public Defenders	Selected State/Local Public Defenders	Awarded to State/Local Public Defenders (\$)	Eligible Federal Public Defenders	Selected Federal Public Defenders	Awarded to Federal Public Defenders (\$)
AK	State of Alaska	2012-RJ-BX-0061	\$ 51,748	0	12	\$ 25,000	0	17	\$25,000	0	0	\$ 0
AL	State of Alabama, Office of Prosecution Services	2012-RJ-BX-0041	61,619	25	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0
CA	Governor's Office of Emergency Services	2012-RJ-BX-0006	141,185	94	94	63,450	94	94	63,450	0	0	0
CO	Colorado Dept. of Public Safety	2012-RJ-BX-0004	62,379	9	8	28,071	9	7	28,071	0	0	0
CT	Office of Higher Education	2012-RJ-BX-0043	58,663	40	40	28,473	35	35	24,914	0	0	0
DC	Justice Grants Administration	2012-RJ-BX-0049	51,495	5	5	23,198	3	3	23,198	0	0	0
DE	Delaware Criminal Justice Council	2012-RJ-BX-0008	52,195	0	0	25,000	0	0	25,000	0	0	0
FL	Department of Education	2012-RJ-BX-0009	96,105	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GA	Georgia Student Finance Commission	2012-RJ-BX-0058	73,745	23	23	30,842	26	26	34,865	1	1	1,341
HI	Department of the Attorney General	2011-RJ-BX-0045	110,444	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HI	Department of the Attorney General	2012-RJ-BX-0024	53,326	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IA	Iowa College Student Aid Commission	2012-RJ-BX-0025	57,408	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ID	University of Idaho	2012-RJ-BX-0053	53,834	17	17	22,650	7	7	22,800	0	0	0
IL	Illinois Student Assistance Commission	2012-RJ-BX-0016	81,134	23	23	40,557	42	39	40,571	0	0	0
IN	Office of the Indiana Attorney General	2012-RJ-BX-0011	65,766	31	31	32,883	19	19	31,275	1	1	1,608
KS	Executive Office of the State of Kansas	2011-RJ-BX-0043	121,905	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KS	Executive Office of the State of Kansas	2012-RJ-BX-0029	56,946	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LA	Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance	2012-RJ-BX-0063	61,068	6	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
MA	Executive Office of Public Safety	2011-RJ-BX-0018	150,271	14	14	0	14	14	0	0	0	0
MA	Executive Office of Public Safety	2012-RJ-BX-0021	65,937	14	14	29,672	14	14	29,672	0	0	0
ME	Finance Authority of Maine	2012-RJ-BX-0060	53,213	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MI	State of Michigan	2012-RJ-BX-0032	73,893	0	0	33,252	0	0	33,252	0	0	66,504
MN	Minnesota Office of Higher Education	2012-RJ-BX-0002	62,930	13	13	23,010	19	19	33,630	0	0	0
MO	Missouri Department of Public Safety	2012-RJ-BX-0017	64,541	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MS	Mississippi Attorney General	2012-RJ-BX-0056	57,206	30	0	0	14	0	0	3	0	0

State	Grantee Legal Name	Federal Award Number	Grant Amount (\$)	Eligible Prosecutors	Selected Prosecutors	Awarded to Prosecutors (\$)	Eligible State/Local Public Defenders	Selected State/Local Public Defenders	Awarded to State/Local Public Defenders (\$)	Eligible Federal Public Defenders	Selected Federal Public Defenders	Awarded to Federal Public Defenders (\$)
MT	Montana Board of Crime Control	2012-RJ-BX-0023	\$ 52,415	0	0	\$ 26,208	0	0	\$26,208	0	0	\$ 0
NC	North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety	2011-RJ-BX-0040	173,211	31	31	73,615	30	30	73,615	0	0	0
NC	North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety	2012-RJ-BX-0005	73,361	0	0	0	23	23	22,977	0	0	0
ND	Bank of North Dakota	2012-RJ-BX-0031	51,655	0	25	24,765	0	9	24,765	0	0	0
NH	New Hampshire Department of Justice	2011-RJ-BX-0027	110,107	13	6	0	6	6	0	0	0	0
NH	New Hampshire Department of Justice	2012-RJ-BX-0054	53,189	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NM	New Mexico Higher Education Department	2011-RJ-BX-0046	115,810	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NV	DHHS	2012-RJ-BX-0042	56,588	31	30	28,000	15	15	24,500	3	3	3,500
NY	New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services	2012-RJ-BX-0038	97,091	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OK	Oklahoma District Attorneys Council	2012-RJ-BX-0026	59,173	10	10	26,630	8	8	21,304	2	2	5,326
OR	Oregon Criminal Justice Commission	2012-RJ-BX-0050	59,367	14	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
PA	PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency	2011-RJ-BX-0036	197,525	0	0	127,074	0	0	21,750	0	0	0
PA	PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency	2012-RJ-BX-0010	80,828	0	0	127,074	0	0	21,750	0	0	0
RI	Office of the Public Defender	2012-RJ-BX-0013	52,543	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SC	SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination	2012-RJ-BX-0033	61,320	18	18	30,660	16	16	30,660	0	0	0
UT	Attorney General, Utah Office of	2012-RJ-BX-0007	56,816	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VT	Vermont Student Assist. Corp.	2012-RJ-BX-0059	51,515	14	14	25,758	2	2	25,758	0	0	0
WA	Washington State	2012-RJ-BX-0020	66,523	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WV	West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services	2012-RJ-BX-0015	54,489	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WY	Judiciary Courts of the State of Wyoming	2012-RJ-BX-0035	51,375	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0