

## Mental Health and Law Enforcement Fellow in the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice: An IPA Opportunity

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) announces an exciting opportunity for an individual with demonstrated experience in specialized police-base responses to persons with mental disorders to assist BJA in enhancing its strategic efforts to strengthen law enforcement responses to the mentally ill. This fellow will assist in implementing a comprehensive strategy to provide financial support, training, and technical assistance to state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies aimed at implementing targeted data-driven responses including, but not limited to CIT programs, co-responder units and case management using evidence-based and best practices tailored to meet the needs of the jurisdiction and aimed at improving public safety and health outcomes.

BJA's mission is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. BJA supports programs and initiatives in the areas of law enforcement, justice information sharing, countering terrorism, managing offenders, combating drug crime and abuse, adjudication, advancing tribal justice, crime prevention, protecting vulnerable populations, and capacity building.

This fellowship position is a detail assignment to an unclassified position description under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) for one year, with a possibility of renewal for a second year. Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment include employees of State and local government agencies, institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, federally funded research and development centers, and qualified nonprofit organizations. The fellow will need to relocate to the Washington D.C. Metro area for the term of the appointment. Under the IPA provisions, the fellow will remain on the payroll of his/her home institution and the home institution will continue to administer pay and benefits. A stipend to cover such items as local living expenses and/or salary reimbursement to the selected Fellow's eligible organization may be considered.

The fellow will assist with a full range of activities within the Justice Systems team of the Policy Office, whose responsibilities include the provision of subject matter expertise and policy guidance and direction for BJA's programs and initiatives pertaining to justice and health, corrections, reentry, justice reinvestment, and also includes the justice and mental health portfolio. BJA has four primary components: Policy, Programs, Planning, and the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Office. The Policy Office provides national leadership in criminal justice policy, training, and technical assistance to further the administration of justice. It also acts as a liaison to national organizations that partner with BJA to set policy and help disseminate information on best and promising practices. The Policy Office consists of the Justice Information Sharing team, the Justice Systems team, the Law Enforcement & Adjudication team, and the Strategic Initiatives team.

The incumbent will work closely with the justice and health team cohort of the Justice Systems team and will also be expected to liaise with the Law Enforcement & Adjudication team within the Policy Office to closely coordinate activities. Examples of the types of duties may include:

- Provide subject matter expertise on specialized police responses to mentally ill persons to Policy Office staff and BJA training and technical assistance providers, providing policy guidance and support where needed. This includes staying abreast of all research pertaining to evidence-based and best practices for law enforcement in responding to mentally ill, and advising on what current and future research is needed to fill current gaps on this topic.
- Assist in the development and implementation of BJA's strategic plan and resulting funding opportunities to assist law enforcement in enhancing and strengthening jurisdiction-specific specialized police based responses to mentally ill persons, including participating in the provision of technical assistance with BJA's training and technical assistance provider to sites to examine their local data, existing resources, policies, procedures and gaps in service to craft tailored localized solutions to improve responses to individuals with mental disorders. This includes examination of existing policies on the use of physical control equipment against vulnerable populations, including people with mental disorders, in accordance with recommendations from the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing<sup>1</sup>.
- Contribute to the development of technical assistance programs geared to the needs of the specific recipient. This includes applying various methods of technical assistance, from online to on-site assistance, as well as developing reports, white papers, guidebooks, and other documents.
- Cultivate relationships with other experts in the field, including travel to key gatherings, conferences, meetings, etc., representing BJA in the field.
- Assist in establishing and enhancing partnerships with other federal, state, local or tribal agencies and organizations, as well as the private sector, to further technical assistance and to implement and maintain projects and programs related to the advancement of police responses to mentally ill individuals. This may include organizing and leading regular conference calls or meetings with key partners.

Applicants should possess in-depth knowledge of specialized police based responses to mental ill persons as well as possess an interest in national level policy and current issues facing law enforcement agencies in the United States pertaining to the mentally ill. Seven or more years of experience in a position with a law enforcement agency is preferred, and applicants should possess excellent oral and written communication skills.

**Applicants should send a letter of interest, a resume or curriculum vitae, references, and a brief (no more than 5 pages) writing sample to the following address no later than the close of business, Friday, May 20, 2016, to: [BJA-IPA@usdoj.gov](mailto:BJA-IPA@usdoj.gov).**

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<sup>1</sup> President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing. 2015. Interim Report of the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

The desired starting date for the fellowship position is negotiable, although it is expected that the IPA would begin the appointment in FY2016. We look forward to receiving and reviewing applications for this exciting and mutually beneficial fellowship opportunity with BJA.

**The Department of Justice Equal Employment Opportunity statement is found at:**

<http://www.justice.gov/jmd/eeos/08-eeo-policy.pdf>.

**Reasonable Accommodation Statement: Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.**