



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

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### **OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS AWARDS \$7 MILLION TO REDUCE CRIME AND IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY IN DISTRESSED NEIGHBORHOODS**

WASHINGTON – The Office of Justice Programs’ Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) today announced more than \$7 million in awards to 17 communities impacted by persistent violent and serious crime. The awards, administered through the BJA’s Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) Program, will employ data-driven strategies, across government and the private sector, to reduce crime and violence in neighborhoods where a significant proportion of crime occurs as compared to the overall jurisdiction.

“BCJI funding focuses on communities most in need of resources and assistance to address persistent crime problems,” said BJA Director Denise E. O’Donnell. “Safety is a critical component of a vibrant community and these awards help communities to plan and implement a comprehensive set of place based, community oriented strategies that address targeted crime issues within a neighborhood.”

BCJI awards are made to a broad range of eligible applicants that establish a team of community partners to include law enforcement and other criminal justice partners, neighborhood residents, a local research partner, and relevant community stakeholders. These partners work together to create and implement a comprehensive set of data-driven prevention, intervention, and enforcement strategies.

BJA awarded planning and implementation grants. The planning grants, new for FY14, provide resources focused on supporting jurisdictions with the critical step of first convening a broad, cross sector partnership to design a strategic, collaborative, and community-oriented plan to reduce crime in a target neighborhood.

BJA continues to work in concert with a larger, federal interagency effort focused on place-based neighborhood revitalization programs. As part of these coordinated efforts, this new round of grants helps BJA continue to expand place-based crime prevention and reduction efforts to rural and tribal jurisdictions.

BCJI, a component of the Promise Zones Initiative, is part of the Obama Administration’s Ladders of Opportunity effort to ensure that all communities continue to share in our economic growth and that all Americans have the opportunity for their hard work to lead to economic success.

A list of the FY 2014 grants can be found at:

- [BJA FY 14 Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program: Planning and Implementation Awards](#)
- [BJA FY 14 Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program: Planning Awards](#)

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The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), headed by Assistant Attorney Karol V. Mason, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist victims. OJP has six bureaus and offices: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). More information about OJP and its components can be found at <http://www.ojp.gov>.