

UPDATED: Please note that the list of awardees was amended.



Department of Justice

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AWARDS OVER \$20 MILLION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON – Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch today announced awards totaling over \$20 million to 106 state, city, tribal and municipal law enforcement agencies to establish and enhance law enforcement body-worn camera programs across the United States.

The awards, funded under the Office of Justice Programs’ Bureau of Justice Assistance’s (BJA) *Fiscal Year 2016 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program*, will help law enforcement organizations implement body-worn camera policies, practices and evaluation methods to make a positive impact on the quality of policing in individual communities. Under this grant announcement, BJA awarded more than \$16 million to state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies, as well as a \$3 million supplemental award to continue support for body-worn camera training and technical assistance. An additional \$474,000 was awarded earlier this year under the *2016 Small Agency Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program*.

“America’s law enforcement officers need the best tools available to safeguard their communities and build strong relationships with the citizens they are sworn to protect,” said Attorney General Lynch. “When backed by sound policies and procedures, body-worn camera use has the potential to heighten transparency, reduce complaints, and improve evidence collection, leading to safer neighborhoods and greater respect for the law.”

“This initiative helps fund programs that leverage technology to enhance policing while also strengthening accountability, building transparency and improving overall police relations with the communities they serve,” said BJA Director Denise O’Donnell.

BJA expects award recipients to create programs that will be integrated as part of individual jurisdictions’ holistic problem-solving and community-engagement strategies, according to O’Donnell.

The Body Worn Camera program was launched last year in response to a recommendation by the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing that law enforcement agencies use technology to strengthen relations with communities. BJA convened a Body-Worn Camera Expert Panel that identified issues and considerations confronting communities considering adoption of body camera technology. Initial research has shown that law enforcement use of body-worn camera programs improve law enforcement’s interaction with the public.

Today's awardees include law enforcement agencies located in the following 34 states and Puerto Rico: Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Tribal awardees include: Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi.

For additional information about this grant program, visit <http://go.usa.gov/xKpJH>.

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The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), headed by Assistant Attorney General 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 www.ojp.gov.

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