

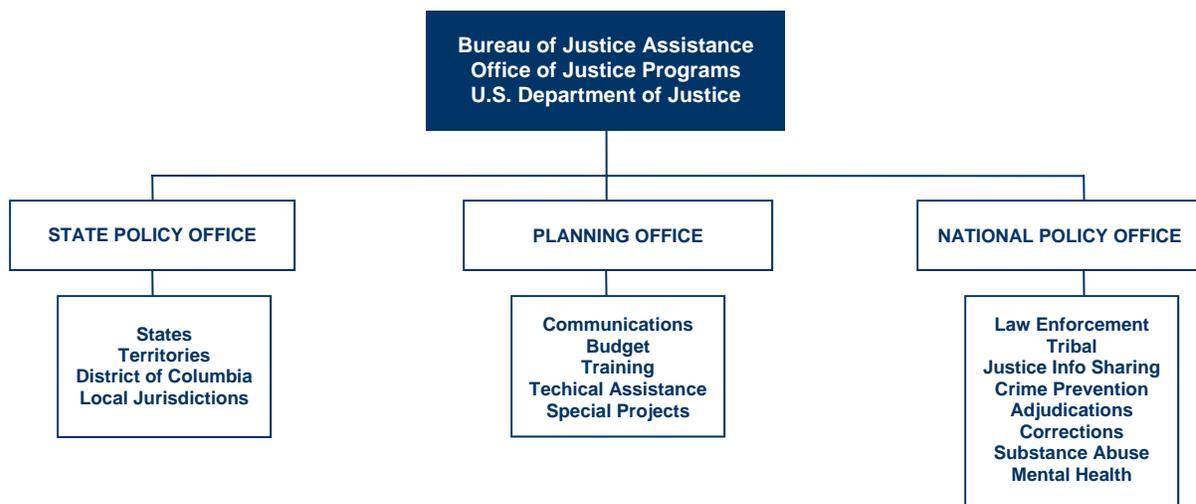


FROM THE DIRECTOR

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a very recent and exciting opportunity at the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

As part of the President's proposal to increase competition and efficiency for activities performed by government for commercial-type work, the U.S. Department of Justice implemented "Competitive Sourcing," with OJP responsible to administer the strategy within its Bureaus and Offices. The overall goal of Competitive Sourcing is to make government competitive with private sector counterparts, and to create efficient government focused on inherently governmental work. Through Competitive Sourcing, non-governmental work is performed by the "winner" of a competitive bid on the work, and both government and the private sector are eligible to bid. In OJP's case, this bid for non-governmental work focused on grants and benefits services.

With the outcome of the bid recently announced by OJP's Assistant Attorney General Regina B. Schofield, I am pleased to share that OJP's own bid as the "Most Efficient Organization" (MEO) was selected to provide these grants and benefits services to the field. Over the next six months the new MEO "Office of Grants Management Support" will be created within OJP to perform very specific tasks for grantees—like Grant Adjustment Notices (GANS) and basic reporting forms. Once these specific tasks are transferred to the MEO, the "residual" BJA staff will continue to be responsible for the remaining inherently governmental work that exemplifies a true Policy Office. The new MEO Grants Office is expected to be fully functional by August 1, 2006.



What this change means for BJA customers:

- **Staff:** OJP and BJA staff may shift to the MEO and serve customers from that arena. Also, the ratio of staff for grantees will most likely increase from one to two; that is, you will have an MEO Grant Specialist assigned for the day-to-day paperwork of your award, and a BJA State or National Policy Advisor for key issues such as in-depth monitoring and performance and program development.

- **Transition:** Because it will take approximately six months to stand up the new MEO Office, it is recommended that all grantees work with their current BJA Point of Contact on any potential issues—including anticipated no-cost extensions—to cover this period. Planning now for the MEO transition will provide an added assurance that any paperwork or issues are resolved well within the required timeframe of your grant.
- **Services:** In addition to BJA State or National Policy Advisors for programmatic support related to your grant, Advisors will be responsible for scanning for crime issues in your state and nationwide; linking you with any technical assistance or training you might require; and providing other services to better meet your law enforcement and justice needs.

Having served at the local, state, and now federal level, I believe that this newest change at BJA represents the best in good government: the ability to have important, but non-governmental, work performed by the most capable individuals selected for those tasks, freeing up BJA staff to focus on substantive policy and programmatic trends, accountability, and innovation in the years ahead.

Domingo S. Herraiz
Director