



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCT. 19, 2017

WWW.OJP.GOV

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

CONTACT: JOAN LARocca

202-307-0703; joan.larocca2@usdoj.gov

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$32.7 MILLION TO SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT, ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF COMMUNITIES, AND REDUCE VIOLENT CRIME

WASHINGTON – Acting Assistant Attorney General Alan R. Hanson of the Office of Justice Programs announced today more than \$32.7 million in grant funding to enhance state, local and tribal law enforcement operations; protect communities and the police who serve those communities; and reinforce public safety efforts in jurisdictions across the United States.

“Too many American cities are under a triple threat from guns, gangs and drugs,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General Hanson. “It is critical that we act quickly and with all available resources to protect these communities and to support the law enforcement professionals who dedicate their lives to serving them.”

Murder rates were up by 11 percent in 2015, the largest increase in half a century, and per capita homicide rates rose in 27 of America’s 35 largest cities. Drug overdoses claimed more than 60,000 lives in 2016, most of them from prescription opioids, heroin and synthetic substances like fentanyl that pose risks to users and first responders alike. The Department of Justice is concentrating its funding resources on reversing these deadly trends.

OJP’s Bureau of Justice Assistance is awarding nearly \$14 million to 83 jurisdictions under the *Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program*. These funds help agencies purchase body-worn cameras and ensure that their body-worn camera programs adopt policies that fit the needs of their jurisdictions. An additional \$3.5 million will support training and technical assistance to help agencies better leverage the benefits of body-worn cameras. For a list of jurisdictions receiving awards, as well as program statistics and other details about the Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program, visit: <https://www.bja.gov/funding/2017-BWCPIP-Awards.pdf>

Another nearly \$5.3 million was awarded to 13 cities, counties, police departments and other jurisdictions to enhance information sharing capacities through the use of innovative technological solutions to reduce crime. The resources provided through the *Technology Innovation for Public Safety Program* are intended to address precipitous or extraordinary increases in crime by enabling awardees to share information across crime-fighting agencies.

For a list of the grant awards visit: <https://www.bja.gov/funding/FY-2017-Appropriation-for-the-Technology-Innovation-for-Public-Safety.pdf>

In addition, BJA awarded more than \$4.4 million to seven cities to develop practitioner-researcher partnerships focused on creating data-driven, science-based criminal justice strategies. The *Smart Policing Initiative* promotes analysis-driven, evidence-based policing by encouraging state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies to develop effective, economical and innovative responses to crime. For a listing of the grants, visit: <https://www.bja.gov/funding/2017-appropriation-for-smart-policing.pdf>

BJA also awarded nearly \$1.5 million to three jurisdictions and almost \$750,000 to provide training and technical assistance to advance analysis-driven, evidence-based and economically-sound prosecution practices. The *Smart Prosecution Initiative* is intended to promote the fair, impartial and expeditious pursuit of justice; improve public safety; and ensure the integrity of criminal prosecutions. For a listing of the grants, visit: <https://www.bja.gov/funding/2017-appropriation-for-smart-prosecution.pdf>

Fiscal Year 2017 grant funding also supports the Department's efforts to reduce gang activity, and support community responses to gang-related crime and violence. Acting Assistant Attorney General Hanson announced an award of \$3.5 million to the *National Gang Center*, a nonprofit partner of OJP's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The National Gang Center provides technical expertise, research about why youth join gangs, information about best practices and intervention techniques, and tools to educate parents, teachers and other community youth influencers on how to recognize gang activity. The center also trains law enforcement and other justice professionals on identifying youth and adult gangs, gathering intelligence, conducting investigations and prosecuting violent and criminal organizations. OJJDP provided \$3.2 million, while BJA provided an additional \$300,000 to fund the next three years of operations. For a listing of grants, visit <https://www.bja.gov/funding/national-gang-center.pdf>

The Office of Justice Programs, headed by Acting Assistant Attorney General Alan R. Hanson, 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. More information about OJP and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov.

###