

This year, BJA's plan focuses primarily on national scope demonstration programs. These programs support two goals: to assist States and local units of government to reduce and prevent crime, violence, and drug abuse and to improve the criminal justice system. To meet these goals BJA will work with communities to develop comprehensive strategies and expansive, problem-solving partnerships. Special emphasis is placed on anti-violence initiatives, particularly those dedicated to reducing the availability of illegal firearms and providing young people with alternatives to gangs and criminal involvement. Additionally, BJA will continue to work in partnership with State and local law enforcement, as well as the United States Attorneys; improve the adjudication process; assist States with alleviating prison overcrowding by fostering corrections options programs; and focus resources on both evaluation of promising programs and dissemination of information about these programs to the field.

BJA's Program Plan for FY 1995 includes a \$50 million appropriation for general programs and a \$12 million appropriation for Corrections Options Programs. It describes planned activities for the Regional Information Sharing Program (RISS) and the National White Collar Crime Center. Joint efforts planned with other Federal agencies are also described.

Obviously, our dollars are limited. Consistent with the Administration's policies and in an effort to get the most for each dollar spent, I am committed to making BJA's Discretionary Grant Program as competitive as possible and to maximizing the impact of these limited competitive dollars through a wide array of programs directed toward urban communities, rural areas, and Native American communities. For this reason, in FY 1995 BJA will:

- Give preference to applicants who leverage BJA dollars through partnerships among organizations bringing a commitment of other resources to the table (such as Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities);
- Notify all grantees that continuation funding in future years is not guaranteed but, rather, will be based on performance and other relevant factors;
- Institute the practice of awarding a declining BJA share of funding for second and subsequent years where continuation funding is provided;
- Complete the process of developing, in consultation with the National Institute of Justice, a strategy for obtaining early evaluative information

on particularly promising programs for early dissemination to our constituents;

- Promote activities complementing the initiatives being implemented through the Crime Act; and
- Continue to maximize OJP resources by working in partnership with the National Institute of Justice, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and other components of the Justice Department.

These initiatives, coupled with focused goals and objectives, will build stronger partnerships at all levels. I envision these partnerships to be a continuum of relationships encompassing all components of the criminal justice system.

#### Goals

The FY 1995 Program Plan addresses BJA's two goals: To help State and local units of government (1) reduce and prevent crime and violence and (2) improve the functioning of the criminal justice system. Enhanced coordination and cooperation of Federal, State and local efforts facilitate the achievement of these goals. The objectives for each of the goals are outlined below. The programs developed to address the objectives are described in the plan.

- Reduce and Prevent Crime and Violence
  - Encourage the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies, in coordination with human service providers, to reduce and prevent crime and violence.
  - Encourage the active participation of community organizations and citizens in crime- and violence-prevention efforts.
  - Provide national scope training and technical assistance to support local crime-, drug use-, and violence-prevention efforts.
  - Provide young people with legitimate opportunities and activities which serve as alternatives to crime and involvement with gangs.
  - Reduce the availability of illegal weapons and develop programs to address violence in our communities, homes, schools, and workplaces.
- Improve the Functioning of the Criminal Justice System
  - Enhance the ability of law enforcement agencies to reduce crime, drug trafficking and sales, and violence.
  - Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of all aspects of the adjudication process.
  - Assist States in freeing prison space for serious and violent offenders through the design, development, and

implementation of effective correctional options for nonviolent offenders.

Enhance the ability of State and local agencies, in conjunction with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, to apprehend and deport criminal aliens.

Evaluate the effectiveness of funded programs, disseminate results, and enhance the ability of criminal justice agencies to use new information technologies.

#### How Priorities Were Established

Priorities for the FY 1995 Discretionary Grant Program reflect a balance of congressional mandates, Administration priorities, and needs expressed by State and local criminal justice practitioners. The goals are defined by the authorizing legislation for the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program. Priorities for a number of specific programs to address those goals are mandated by Congress through the earmarking of the appropriation.

BJA's priorities also reflect Administration and Department of Justice priorities, especially those related to reducing violent crime, the need to develop comprehensive approaches to crime and violence, the focus on youth, and the need for active citizen participation in prevention efforts.

During the planning process, BJA solicited input on priorities from national organizations which represent State and local governments, criminal justice agencies, and community groups. Input was also requested from the State agencies which administer the Byrne Formula Grant Program as well as from U.S. Attorneys. A number of programs that address current issues were incorporated into the plan in response to this valuable input.

#### Types of Programs

BJA is authorized by Congress to make awards to public and private agencies and organizations for national scope and multi-State programs, demonstration programs, training, and technical assistance to assist States and local jurisdictions. National scope programs provide a service or product of benefit throughout the country or across multiple States or address issues that are of concern nationally. Demonstration programs are used to develop, test, evaluate, and document new programs and practices. Training is developed and provided to State and local criminal justice practitioners and others to provide them with state-of-the-art information on effective programs and practices. Technical assistance is