

juveniles to criminal courts. This trend includes the development of innovative procedures such as blending traditional features of juvenile and criminal justice procedures and sanctions and statutes that categorize juvenile offenders into different classes according to the seriousness of the offense, designating juvenile or criminal court for each class. Research in this area has been limited. Few studies have evaluated juvenile and criminal court handling of serious or violent juvenile offenders.

OJJDP proposes to support two studies in fiscal year 1995. The first will compare juvenile and criminal court handling of juveniles. This comparison would be made between a State(s) that allows for judicial waiver of serious or violent juvenile offenders and a State(s) that mandates criminal court handling for specified categories of offenders. The second study will evaluate an innovative system of blending criminal and juvenile justice systems to handle serious or violent juvenile offenders.

Funding for the initial phase of each of these studies will be competitively awarded and will be up to \$150,000 each for up to two grant awards.

Innovative Firearms Program—\$250,000

The purpose of the Innovative Firearms Program is to assist State and local jurisdictions to develop and implement new or enhanced projects to prevent the possession and use of firearms by juveniles and control illicit firearm trafficking. Law enforcement, prosecutorial agencies, schools, community groups, and juvenile justice system representatives may participate in the program. The grantee(s), in cooperation with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), OJJDP, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, will also work with U.S. Attorneys to develop and implement State and local projects related to the new Youth Handgun Safety Act that prohibits the possession of a handgun or ammunition by, or the private transfer of a handgun or ammunition to, a juvenile. BJA and OJJDP will also work with local jurisdictions to develop a program to reduce firearms crimes by juvenile gangs through improved enforcement of firearms laws and other laws and regulations, such as tax and business laws, that are used to control firearm sales. OJJDP and BJA will jointly fund this program at \$500,000. BJA will administer the program.

Gangs, Groups, Individuals, and Violence Intervention—\$250,000

Little is known about the interrelationships among gang participation, group delinquency, and

individual violence. The dynamics of a juvenile's movement in and out of these relationships is not well understood. How these patterns of delinquency contribute to the careers of serious and violent offenders is also unknown. Nor do we have a clear understanding of the prevention and intervention program implications of these patterns of delinquency.

This project will involve a systematic review, assessment, and synthesis of existing research results on gangs, other types of group involvement, and individual serious and violent delinquency to determine the implications for prevention and juvenile/criminal justice system interventions. The framework to be used in conducting this review of existing knowledge is a criminal career model, including onset, acceleration, maintenance, and desistance elements.

Implications for OJJDP's Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders project will be drawn.

Recommendations will be made for prevention programs and interventions in the juvenile and criminal justice systems that take into account meta-analyses of prevention and intervention programs. One cooperative agreement will be competitively awarded to implement this project in fiscal year 1995.

The results of this program will be of interest to other OJP agencies addressing serious, violent and chronic offender careers. The results also will be shared with OJP agencies through the Gangs Working Group and with other Federal agencies through the National Gang Consortium.

Youth Handgun Study/Model Juvenile Handgun Legislation—\$202,838

Reducing and preventing gun violence is a primary concern of Federal, State, and local governments. This violence affects youth not only as perpetrators but also as victims and witnesses. There is a need to know about the various State laws concerning youth and handguns. This project will collect, analyze, and compare selected provisions of State firearms codes, particularly as they pertain to juveniles. The purpose is to develop a body of information about key provisions of State firearms codes. The results of this study will assist in formulating laws, policies, and programs to reduce firearms-related violence.

The product to be developed is a guide to selected State firearm provisions. This study, and the development of a model juvenile handgun law, are mandated by the

Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. In order to immediately begin collecting study data to assist in developing the model law, a total of \$75,290 was transferred to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for a joint award to the National Criminal Justice Association for the purpose of collecting, examining, and analyzing existing and proposed State firearms codes. The Crime Act requires the Attorney General, through the Administrator and the National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, to develop a Constitutional and enforceable model juvenile handgun law. This model law will guide the States in their development of laws concerning juvenile handgun possession. The model law will be stated in a format designed to enable States to determine which provisions are best suited to their individual needs. This effort is being assisted by the National Criminal Justice Association under a grant in the amount of \$127,548. No additional applications will be solicited in fiscal year 1995.

Public Safety and Law Enforcement

Continuation Programs

Law Enforcement Training and Technical Assistance Program—\$1,504,924

This continuation award will supplement the contract between OJJDP and Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, Wisconsin. Fiscal year 1995 funds will be used to conduct a nationwide training and technical assistance program designed to improve law enforcement's capability to respond to serious juvenile crime, to contribute to delinquency prevention, and to address issues of missing and exploited children and child abuse and neglect. Technical assistance under this contract is provided in response to a wide variety of requests from Federal, State, local, and county agencies with responsibility for the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency and juvenile victimization. The contract supports continuation of the Police Operations Leading to Improved Children and Youth Services (POLICY) series of training programs and other law enforcement training programs offered by OJJDP. No additional applications will be solicited in fiscal year 1995.

Comprehensive Communities Program—Comprehensive Gang Initiative—\$799,345

Under the Comprehensive Communities Program, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides funds