Community-Based Violence Prevention Program

The goal of this program is to replicate initiatives, such as the Boston Gun Project, the Richmond Comprehensive Homicide Initiative, and the Chicago CeaseFire model, to reduce violence in targeted communities. Grants target the high-risk activities and behaviors of a small number of carefully selected members of the community who are likely to be involved in violent activities, specifically gun violence, in the immediate future. The intervention with this target population includes improved coordination of existing resources and activities that support multiple, complementary antiviolence strategies. All community-based violence reduction strategies must be evidence based and have demonstrated effectiveness through research and evaluation.

Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

The Council is an independent body within the executive branch of the federal government that coordinates all federal programs and activities related to juvenile delinquency prevention, the care or detention of unaccompanied juveniles, and missing and exploited children. It has a number of other mandated responsibilities and also engages in activities such as building collaborations and disseminating information. Part of the Council’s mandate is to make annual recommendations to Congress regarding juvenile justice policies, objectives, and priorities. To help shape these recommendations, the Council holds quarterly meetings (open to the public) that provide a forum for the exchange of information, ideas, and research findings. The Council has 12 members representing federal agencies and 9 practitioner members representing disciplines that focus on youth. The Attorney General serves as chairperson and the Administrator of OJJDP as vice chairperson.

To stay informed about OJJDP and other juvenile justice programs, publications, resources, and events, subscribe to the JUVJUST listserve and OJJDP News @ a Glance by visiting OJJDP’s Web site at ojjdp.gov.
Developing, Testing, and Demonstrating Promising New Initiatives and Programs
This program provides funding to states, units of local government, American Indian tribal governments, public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals, or combinations thereof, to carry out projects for the development, testing, and demonstration of promising initiatives and programs for the prevention, control, or reduction of juvenile delinquency. Funds support model programs to strengthen and preserve families; prevention and treatment programs for serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders; efforts to divert youth from the traditional juvenile justice and correctional systems; community-based alternatives to secure confinement; and programs to establish a system of graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders. Congress did not appropriate funds for this program in fiscal year 2013.

Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs
States competitively award Title V funds to units of local government for a broad range of data-driven, evidence-based delinquency prevention programs to benefit youth at risk of coming into contact with the juvenile justice system. Delinquency prevention efforts are focused on one or more of the following domains: family, community, school, and peers.

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program
This program provides block grant funds to each state, the District of Columbia, and five territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico) as well as funds to support discretionary grants and technical assistance and training to enforce state laws prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors. Projects may include statewide task forces of state and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to target establishments suspected of a pattern of violations of state laws governing the sale and consumption of alcohol by minors, public advertising programs to educate establishments about statutory prohibitions and sanctions, and innovative programs to prevent and control underage drinking.

Anti-Gang Programs
OJJDP anti-gang programs focus on reducing youth gang crime and violence through an integrated application of proven practices in primary prevention, secondary prevention, gang intervention, gang suppression, and reentry.

Tribal Youth Program
Authorized under annual appropriations acts, the Tribal Youth Program supports and enhances tribal efforts to prevent and control delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system for American Indian/Alaska Native youth. All federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native villages or coalitions of tribes or villages are eligible to apply for a 5-year grant. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program
This program provides formula grant funds to develop programs to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. Funds can be used for 17 purpose areas, including developing graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders, hiring additional prosecutors, and improving juvenile defender services. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico are eligible.

Juvenile Mentoring
OJJDP funds national and community initiatives to develop and expand mentoring services for at-risk youth who are underserved due to where they live, a shortage of mentors, special physical or mental challenges of the targeted population, or other circumstances. This initiative also promotes collaboration among community agencies and organizations that support mentoring services. Such support includes assisting with mentoring recruitment and mentor retention, training mentors, matching mentors, developing and implementing evaluation plans, collecting and analyzing data, developing strategic and action plans, ensuring cultural competence, developing mentoring partnerships and coalitions, and educating community members.

Child Abuse Training for Judicial Personnel
Authorized under the Victims of Child Abuse Act, as amended, this program disseminates information, offers court improvement training programs, and provides national and state-level technical assistance on permanency planning and model court achievements to improve dependency court handling of child abuse and neglect cases. OJJDP awards a grant to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to provide these services.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program
This program provides children in the foster care system or at risk of entering the dependency system with high-quality, timely, effective, and sensitive representation before the court. Volunteers who are trained to advocate for the interests of the child in dependency proceedings provide representation. Judges rely on the information these advocates present to make more informed decisions in dependency cases. OJJDP provides funding to support grants to state and local CASA organizations for activities, such as recruiting volunteer advocates (including minority volunteers) and providing training and technical assistance to these organizations and to stakeholders in the child welfare system.

Improving the Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse
Authorized through the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, as amended, this program supports the implementation of a coordinated, informed, and timely response to child abuse in every community throughout the nation. This is achieved through a coordinated national strategy of providing training and technical assistance to professionals involved in investigating, prosecuting, and treating child abuse as well as through support for the development of Children’s Advocacy Centers.

Court-Ordered Forensic Examinations Program
This program provides grants to states, the District of Columbia, and five territories to support the development of comprehensive community-based programs to reduce victimization.

Missing and Exploited Children’s Program
This program enhances the national response of state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and nongovernmental organizations to missing and exploited children. The program serves as the primary vehicle for building a national infrastructure to support the effort to prevent the abduction and exploitation of our nation’s children.

Internet Crimes Against Children Program
This program supports a national network of 61 multijurisdictional, multijurisdictional task forces engaged in investigations, forensic examinations, and prosecutions related to Internet crimes against children. Additionally, the task forces provide forensic and investigative technical assistance to law enforcement and prosecutorial officials, and provide community education to parents, educators, prosecutors, law enforcement, and others concerned with child victimization.

Defending Childhood Initiative
This Department of Justice initiative supports the development of comprehensive community-based strategies to prevent and reduce the impact of children’s exposure to violence in their homes, schools, and communities. The goals of the initiative are to prevent children’s exposure to violence as victims and witnesses, mitigate the negative effects that children exposed to violence experience, and develop knowledge about and increase awareness of this issue. A key component of the initiative is a multiyear demonstration program. Phase I includes planning grants for eight demonstration sites. In Phase II, the Department will select as many as four communities from the initial eight to receive funding for further implementation of their plans, based on the availability of funding.

Safe Start Program
This program is designed to prevent and reduce the impact of children’s exposure to violence by creating comprehensive service