



Background

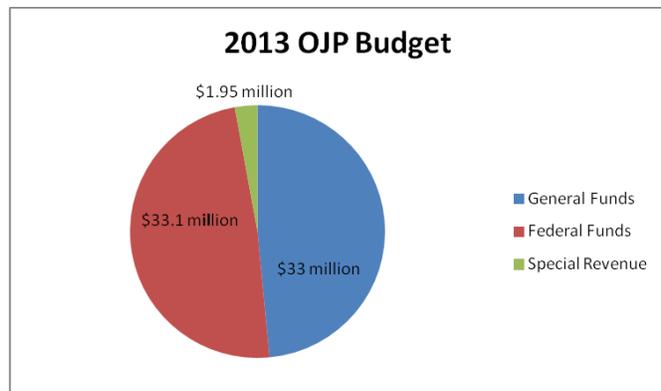
The Minnesota Office of Justice Programs (OJP) was created in May 2003 to improve the effectiveness of Minnesota's criminal justice planning and grant administration activities. The office brought together programs formerly operated through five separate state agencies: Minnesota Planning, Office of Crime Victim Ombudsman and the Departments of Public Safety, Education, and Economic Security.

Mission

OJP provides leadership and resources to enhance community safety, improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, and assist victims of crime. To accomplish our mission, we involve those people most impacted by crime and violence in designing solutions. Our goal is to provide resources to the local level more efficiently through simplified processes, user-friendly systems, and improved technology. OJP provides constituents quality training, technical assistance, and best practices information. We believe it is essential to focus on accountability and to measure the impact of our efforts and the efforts of grantees.

Budget

The OJP budget for 2013 is approximately \$68,000,000: 49% general funds, 49% federal funds and 2% special revenue. OJP has a staff of 36 full-time-equivalent positions in three major activities: Crime Victim Services, Law Enforcement and Community Grants and Training, Research and Communication.



CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

Crime Victim Services provides assistance to Minnesota crime victims in three distinct program areas: Reparations, Grants to Local Programs, and Crime Victim Justice.

Crime Victim Reparations

Reparations provides compensation to victims and families for losses resulting from a violent crime. Expenses may include medical costs, mental health care, funeral and burial costs, lost wages, loss of support, child care or household services. In FY12, the program received 1,555 new claims and approved \$2.3 million in awards. The reparations budget was 32% general fund, 49% federal and 19% special revenue from restitution, civil award recoveries, and inmate wage deductions.

Crime Victim Justice Unit

Formerly the Office of Crime Victim Ombudsman, this unit provides information and referral, assistance in navigating the criminal justice system, and investigation of statutory crime victim rights violations and victim mistreatment. In 2012, the CVJU opened 30 formal cases, provided informal assistance to many dozens more and had over 1400 contacts with victims, criminal justice professionals, and members of the public.

The Crime Victim Justice Unit manages the Victim Information Notification Every Day (VINE) system. VINE provides notification to victims on the custody status of offenders in county and local detention facilities and is operational in nearly all of Minnesota's 87 counties. VINE is supported by a \$455,000 general fund appropriation. In 2010, OJP and the Department of Corrections implemented an enhanced offender information and notification system for victims of offenders in state correctional facilities called Minnesota CHOICE.

The Crime Victim Justice Unit coordinates with other units in enhancing the services provided to crime victims including conducting trainings to advocates and criminal justice professionals on crime victim rights, crime victim advocacy, and identity theft; assisting with public education efforts, and providing technical assistance to service providers.

Grants to Local Programs for Assistance to Crime Victims

In FY12, \$32,530,798 in state (67%), federal (32%) and special revenue (1%) funds supported programs that provide direct services and advocacy for victims of child abuse, domestic and sexual violence and general crime.

Abused Children Programs — \$1,479,803—Provides services in 37 Minnesota counties through community advocacy, parenting time centers and child advocacy center programs. In FY12, 7,120 children were served.

Domestic Violence Programs—\$19,089,778 (shelter), \$5,275,027 (other services)—Provides services in 82 Minnesota counties through shelter, advocacy and/or criminal justice intervention programs. In FY12, nearly 63,267 victims received advocacy services, and 8,632 of these victims received emergency shelter and assistance developing a safety plan.

General Crime Victim Programs — \$2,725,355—Provides services in 60 Minnesota counties. In FY12, general crime programs served over 30,662 primary and secondary victims. People served include victims of crimes such as homicide, assault, robbery, burglary, theft, domestic abuse, sexual assault, arson, and terroristic threats.

Sexual Assault Programs — \$3,810,835—Provides services in 74 Minnesota counties. In FY12, sexual assault programs served 12,153 primary and secondary victims. People served included adult and child victims of sexual assault, adults victimized as children, victims of sexual harassment, stalking and sexual exploitation.

Emergency Grant Program — \$150,000— Emergency fund grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$5,000 are awarded to 75 grantee programs annually for emergency needs of crime victims (moving expenses due to imminent danger, temporary shelter, travel for court hearings, and security purposes).

Other Crime Victim Grant Programs

State Automated Victim Information Network (SAVIN) — \$459,027— A federal Bureau of Justice Assistance grant to support the enhancement of Minnesota's victim notification capacity.

Office of Violence Against Women—Grants to Encourage Arrest—\$1,000,000— A federal Office of Justice Programs grant to develop a new Order for Protection (OFP) database system for the Minnesota Judicial Branch, to improve the transmission and management of OFP data to ensure law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals have timely access and complete OFP information.

Department of Corrections

OJP provides funding to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for victim related activities such as ensuring victim input at End of Confinement Review hearings as required by the Community Notification Act; post-conviction support for families at life review hearings and victim notification efforts.

Law Enforcement and Community Grants

State Funded Programs FY12

Justice Grants-Community and Youth Focused Crime Prevention—\$1,254,000—supports prevention and intervention programs that create and sustain safer communities.

Gang and Drug Task Forces-Violent Crime Enforcement Teams (VCET)—\$4,276,000 — supports multi-jurisdictional efforts to identify, investigate, arrest and prosecute drug, gang involved and other violent offenders.

Youth Intervention Program (YIP)—\$1,539,000 — supports community-based, nonresidential programs providing advocacy, education, counseling, and referral services to youth and their families experiencing personal, familial, school, legal, or chemical problems.

Federally Funded Programs—FFY 11

Edward W. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)—\$ 3, 741,906

The U.S. Department of Justice provides JAG funds to prevent and control crime and improve the functioning of the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Funds may be used to support programs under the following broad purpose areas: law enforcement, prosecution, court, prevention, corrections, drug treatment, victim services, planning, evaluation, and technology improvement.

Activities supported with JAG funds:

Law Enforcement—Supports multi-jurisdictional efforts and justice information sharing initiatives.

Courts— Supports multi-disciplinary Family Dependency Courts that address substance abuse among defendants in criminal and family court.

Prevention—Supports intervention programs for youth involved in, or at high risk of being involved, in the juvenile justice system.

Corrections—Supports reentry programs that prepare offenders for a successful transition to community and that address long-term issues including: stable employment, housing, substance abuse, and physical and mental health problems. These funds also support a statewide coordinator to provide support and technical assistance to four counties engaged in Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives.

Juvenile Justice Programs

Federal funds from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention include:

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) — \$622,689—Grants to units of government to reduce juvenile crime by encouraging accountability-based reforms at state and local levels.

Title II —\$769,114—Grants focused on over-representation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system. Programs address prevention, intervention, diversion and aftercare.

Title V — \$50,000—Assists local governments in implementing comprehensive delinquency programming.

Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant—\$323,432—Supports efforts to improve quality and timeliness of forensic results at the BCA, Minneapolis and Hennepin County accredited labs.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)—\$218,889—Supports treatment in jail or prison.

Training, Research & Communications (TRaC)

The TRaC team provides best practices training to criminal justice professionals, collects and analyzes data, directs program evaluation and develops reports on a variety of criminal justice topics. They provide information to government and community stakeholders for criminal and juvenile justice planning. .

In FY12, over 200 persons attended training sessions and over 350 people attended the annual conference on crime victims.

OJP conducted the third annual Minnesota Victim Assistance Academy at St Cloud State University with 30 students in attendance. The academy is an intensive, 40 hour academic program for victim service professionals across the state. OJP also partnered with the states' crime victim coalitions to provide two-day training on trauma-informed care.

Over the past year, research staff developed a statewide model program for sexually exploited youth for the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth legislation; completed a study on disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system; examined how diversion opportunities are delivered across Minnesota; compiled federally mandated juvenile justice data; and provided numerous trainings on program evaluation, juvenile justice, and human trafficking.

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