

# PSN TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

*Monthly Newsletter*



Thank you for following our monthly Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) bulletin. The monthly bulletin highlights TTA and resources provided to PSN teams and local law enforcement agencies. TTA requests can be made online [here](#). If you have questions regarding TTA, please contact your regional TTA liaison or the PSN TTA team at [psntta@cna.org](mailto:psntta@cna.org).

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### **PSN SPOTLIGHT: THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

*Read more about their PSN program in the press release!*

*See below*

### **FIVE THINGS ABOUT YOUTH AND DELINQUENCY**

*Discover more about this topic from the National Institute of Justice.*

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### **GRANTS SPOTLIGHT: GRANT DECISION SEASON**

*September is when many grant decisions are released. Read about things to keep in mind this decision season below.*

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## **PSN SPOTLIGHT: THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Earlier this year, the U.S. Attorney's Office of the District of Columbia highlighted its PSN initiative, which focuses on reviewing every firearms arrest in the district and looking at the data to determine whether the cases should be prosecuted in the U.S. District Court or D.C. Superior Court. The press release highlights several characteristics of the 127 firearms cases that were accepted for federal prosecution and offers several quotes about D.C.'s program. One quote from Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Special Agent in Charge Craig Kailimai states that "PSN is one of our most valued partnerships to date. The program frequently offers an immediate solution to swiftly removing prohibited possessors of firearms from our communities."

[Read the full press release here!](#)



## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE: FIVE THINGS ABOUT YOUTH AND DELINQUENCY

At the end of July 2024, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) published a report on five findings highlighting the nature, scope, and context of youth and delinquency.

NIJ's findings are as follows:

- 1) Youth risk-taking is part of the normative development process—with brain maturation continuing into early adulthood.
- 2) Engagement in offending tends to increase through adolescence and then decline.
- 3) Only a small percentage of youths are arrested for any crime—even fewer for violent crime.
- 4) Youth arrests for violent offenses have declined from a historic peak in the mid-1990s.
- 5) The youth contribution to violent crime arrests is less than that from other age groups, including young adults.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE!](#)

### WEBINARS

**Better Together:  
The Power of  
Mothers and  
Families to  
Improve Reentry  
Outcomes**

Date: September 17,  
2:00–3:30 p.m. ET

[Registration Link](#)

**Ask the Expert:  
Family-Centered  
Reentry  
Programming**

Date: September 25,  
2:00–3:30 p.m. ET

[Registration link](#)

*Follow [@PSNTTA](#) on X to receive regular updates, learn about resources, or ask questions.*



## **GRANTS SPOTLIGHT BY JOAN BRODY: GRANT DECISION SEASON**

Dear Grant Seekers,

September is a month filled with waiting—waiting to find out when fiscal year (FY) 24 grant award announcements will be made, waiting and hoping for award letters, and sadly, waiting for peer reviewer notes if your grant project was not chosen this year.

Typically, federal grant award announcements are made on or around September 30th every year. Sometimes awards are made earlier in the month, but most are announced at the end of September and a few may even run into early October. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) released more than 200 grant solicitations in FY24. Additional grant solicitations were also released by other federal agencies. It is understandable that this is a busy time of year for the federal government.

You should learn that you won a grant award via email. Sometimes, however, a member of your congressional delegation may let your agency know earlier because members of Congress are often the first people contacted by DOJ after an award decision is made.

Unfortunately, however, not everyone immediately receives a letter if they were not chosen. In this case, to confirm you did not receive an award, you will want to search through DOJ press releases or go to the granting agency's website to review a list of award winners and verify that you were not funded. As you can appreciate, there are thousands of applicants every year, so the task of notifying everyone who applied is understandably challenging.



## **GRANTS SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED**

If you received a letter notifying you that you were not funded this year, I encourage you to review your attached peer reviewer notes. I would also save the notes because if you reapply in FY25 for the same or for a similar grant, the peer reviewer comments can be helpful.

If you do not receive a letter informing you that you did not win an award, or if you did receive a letter and there are no peer reviewer notes attached, you can contact the grant program lead at DOJ to ask for a copy of your peer reviewer notes. To find the DOJ grant program lead, you can go to the DOJ website. You can also call the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at 800-851-3420 or send them an email at [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov) to request your peer reviewer comments.

Fingers crossed and please reach out anytime with questions.

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