



## Strengthening the Criminal Justice System: An American Budget

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is charged with enforcing the laws and defending the interests of the United States, ensuring public safety against foreign and domestic threats, providing Federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime, seeking just punishment for those guilty of crimes, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans. With violent crime rates rising across the Nation, the work of the men and women of the Department is more important than ever. The FY 2019 Budget supports the Department's ability to respond to national security crises; investigate violent- and drug-related crime; and apprehend, prosecute, and incarcerate offenders.

**Increasing Capacity of Federal Law Enforcement.** The FY 2019 Budget provides DOJ Federal law enforcement agencies with \$14 billion, an increase of \$323 million or 2.4 percent over the 2017 enacted level. Key investments include:

- +\$148 million for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to continue to fight terrorism; prevent the spread and use of weapons of mass destruction and other emerging threats; and combat cyber-based attacks, high-technology crimes, public corruption, civil rights violations, homegrown violent extremism, domestic terrorism, transnational criminal organizations, white-collar crime, and violent crime and gangs.
- +\$86 million for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), including an additional \$41 million to enhance efforts to end the opioid epidemic, such as adding eight new heroin enforcement teams, expanding fentanyl chemical testing and tracing capabilities, and providing opioid overdose reversal training for DEA-employed EMTs and staff.
- +\$58 million for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) to combat violent crime through increased capacity for ballistic analysis and support for criminal prosecutions.
- +\$26 million for the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) to increase its capacity to locate, apprehend, detain, and transport the Nation's most violent criminals.
- +\$5 million for the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDEF) to support the investigation and prosecution of transnational organized crime through enhanced interagency intelligence sharing and analysis.

**Promoting Prisoner Reentry Programming.** In addition to prosecuting crime and enforcing the Nation's laws, the Administration seeks to promote public safety by supporting individuals who have reentered society to help prevent their return to criminal activity. Key investments in this area include:

- \$739 million for reentry programming in the Bureau of Prisons, including funding for education, career and technical training, substance abuse treatment, and residential reentry centers.
  - Of this, \$10 million is provided for the expansion of evidence-based workforce development and apprenticeship programs in order to provide inmates with the skills necessary to obtain lucrative employment post-release.
- \$58 million for State and local assistance through the Second Chance Act Grant program to reduce recidivism and help ex-offenders return to productive lives.

**Supporting State and Local Law Enforcement.** The FY 2019 Budget supports key State and local assistance programs, including \$402 million for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants Program, \$140 million for the Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction/Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program, \$230 million for State and local juvenile justice programs, and \$5 million as a set-aside for the National Public Safety Partnership program.

**Increasing Prosecutorial Support.** Increased hiring of Assistant United States Attorneys in prior years has helped to expand immigration and violent crime prosecutions across the Nation. The Budget provides the Offices of the United States Attorneys with \$2.11 billion, \$70 million above the 2017 Enacted level, to support retention of these hires and to allow for \$4.7 million in additional paralegal support.

**Diverting Resources Away from Less Effective/Lower Priority Programs.** The Budget reflects the President's commitment to fiscal responsibility by identifying savings in outdated and redundant programs and redirecting resources to higher priority Federal law enforcement programs. The Budget proposes \$1.9 billion for State and local assistance<sup>1</sup>, a reduction of \$390 million from the FY 2017 enacted level. The Budget proposes to eliminate or reduce a number of programs, including the unauthorized and poorly targeted State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) (-\$210 million) and the COPS Hiring Program (-\$96 million). Resources are redirected to fight violent crime, including \$140 million for the Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction/Project Safe Neighborhoods Program (+\$140 million), \$103 million to tackle the opioid epidemic (equal to the 2017 enacted level), and \$486 million to address violence against women (+\$4 million).

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<sup>1</sup> Funding level includes \$486 million in proposed mandatory resources previously funded through discretionary appropriations.