

Corrections Research at the National Institute of Justice

National Symposium on Corrections Worker Health
August 17, 2017

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Justice Systems Research Division, Director



NIJ

Presentation Summary

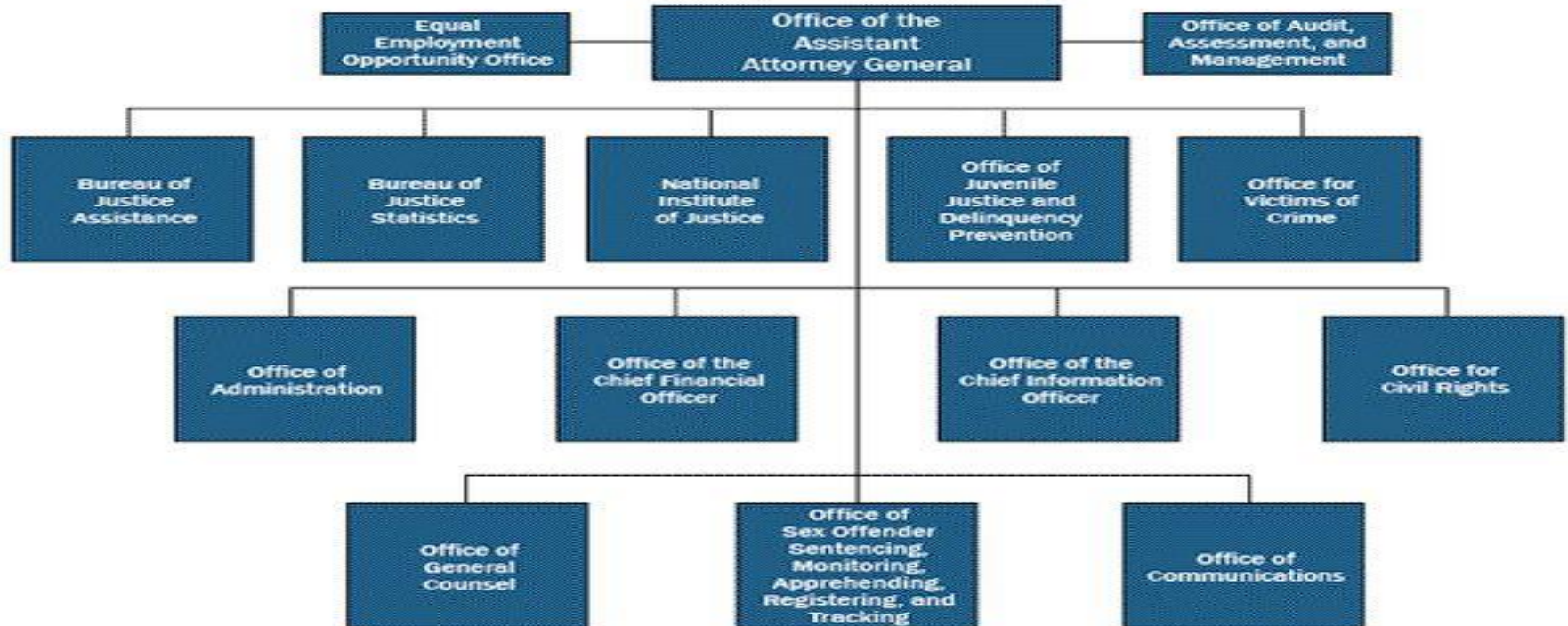
- Agency Overview
 - Office of Justice Programs
 - National Institute of Justice
- Corrections Research
 - Impact of Restrictive Housing
 - Safety, Health, and Wellness
- Potential Topics for Future Research



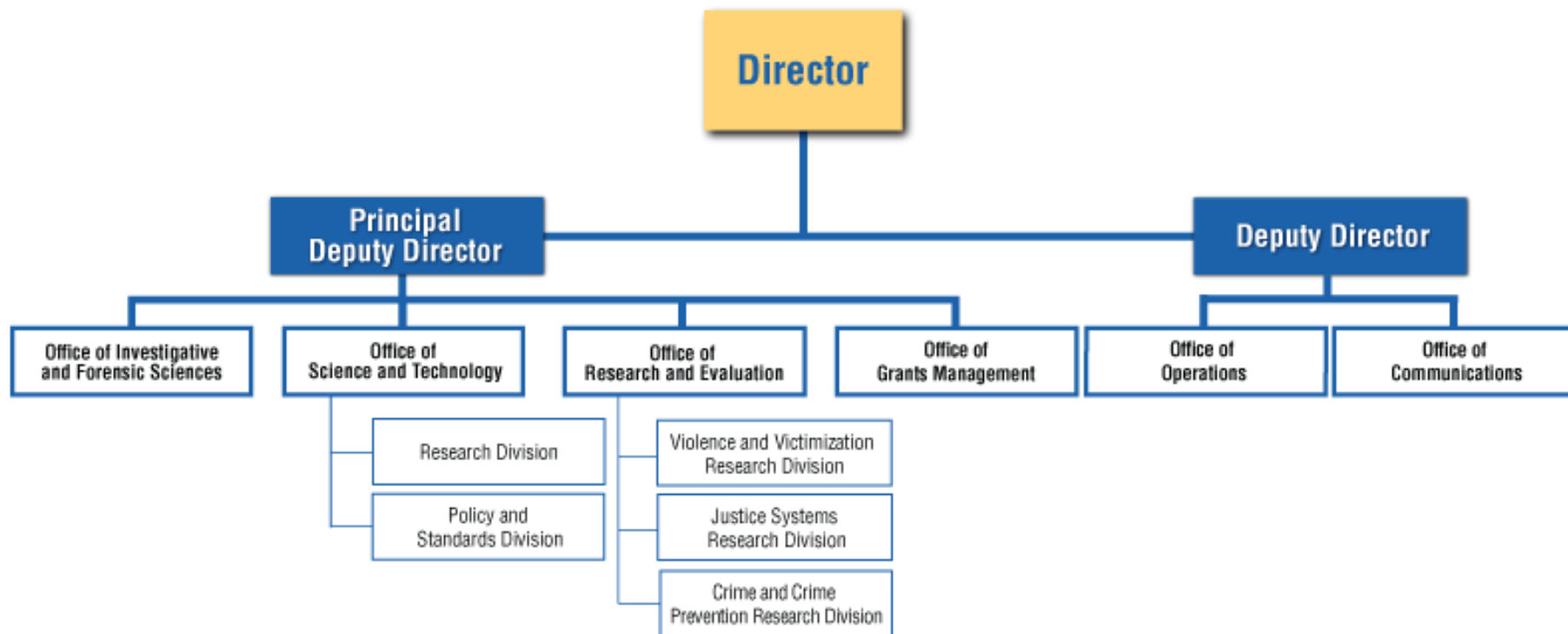
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Office of Justice Programs

Bureaus and Offices



NIJ Organizational Structure



NIJ Mission Statement

“The National Institute of Justice — the research, development and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice — **is dedicated to *improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science.*** NIJ provides objective and independent knowledge and tools to reduce crime and promote justice, particularly at the state and local levels.”



NIJ

Office of Investigative & Forensic Sciences

- Improves the quality and practice of forensic science through innovative solutions that support research and development, testing and evaluation, technology, information exchange and the development of training resources for the criminal justice community, and
- Carries out programs that, by providing equipment, training and technical assistance, improve the safety and effectiveness of criminal justice technology as well as access to that technology by local, state, tribal and federal enforcement agencies.



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Office of Science & Technology

- Serves as the national focal point for work on criminal justice technology, and
- Carries out programs that, by providing equipment, training and technical assistance, improve the safety and effectiveness of criminal justice technology as well as access to that technology by local, state, tribal and federal enforcement agencies.



Office of Research & Evaluation

- Develops, conducts, directs and supervises research and evaluation activities through extramural and intramural research — that involves outside researchers who often collaborate with criminal justice practitioners.
- Three research divisions:
 - Violence, and Victimization Research Division (VVRD)
 - Justice Systems Research Division (JSRD)
 - Crime and Crime Prevention Research Division (CCPRD)



Justice Systems Research Division

- Addresses issues related to criminal justice systems, specifically policing, **institutional and community corrections**, courts, and sentencing.
- Vision:
 - Pursue **justice systems knowledge that works** — knowledge that improves the function and purposes of criminal justice systems — and is available, accessible, and applicable to the field.



Corrections Research

- Institutional corrections (Prisons and Jails)
- Community corrections
- Police and correctional officer safety, health and wellness
 - Priority of the DOJ administration



Recent NIJ Research Related to Correctional Officer Health and Wellness

- Impact of Restrictive Housing
- Dedicated NIJ Journal on Institutional Corrections
- Safety Health and Wellness Plan



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Impact of Restrictive Housing

- NIJ Produced an Award-Wining Book:
 - Restrictive Housing in the U.S.: Issues, Challenges and Future Directions
 - Topics included the restrict housing's impact on Correctional Officer health and wellness and the correctional environment
- NIJ funded Arizona State University to study Arizona's contingency-management approach to restrictive housing
 - Looking at impact on health and wellness of correctional officers



Dedicated NIJ Journal on Institutional Corrections

- Articles of Note:
 - Identifying At-Risk Officers
 - Evaluation of Performance Management Information Systems (PMIS)
 - Importance of a Holistic Safety, Health, and Wellness Research Program



Safety, Health, and Wellness Strategic Plan

- Interdisciplinary effort focusing comprehensively on the safety, health, and wellness of all individuals in the criminal justice system
- Divided into two main priorities:
 - Research to promote safety
 - Research to promote health and wellness



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Safety, Health, and Wellness Solicitation

- In FY 2017, NIJ released the solicitation:
 - Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System
- Directly advancing activities in the Safety, Health, and Wellness plan
- Seeks research specifically on causes and effects of stress and trauma on police and correctional officers

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
National Institute of Justice

OMB No. 1121-0329
Approval Expires 12/31/2018



The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is seeking applications for funding for research in three areas: (1) the impact of acute and chronic stress on (a) law enforcement and corrections officers and (b) individuals in violent communities; (2) the impact of parental incarceration on children; and (3) the efficacy of services, strategies, policies, and processes within the criminal or juvenile justice system that serve as responses to children exposed to violence. This program furthers the Department's mission by sponsoring research to provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of crime and justice, particularly at the state and local levels.

Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System

Applications Due: May 8, 2017

Eligibility

In general, NIJ is authorized to make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, states (including territories), units of local government, federally recognized Indian tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), nonprofit and for-profit organizations (including tribal nonprofit and for-profit organizations), institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education), and certain qualified individuals. For-profit organizations must agree to forgo any profit or management fee. Foreign governments, foreign organizations, and foreign colleges and universities are not eligible to apply.

NIJ welcomes applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients ("subgrantees").¹ The applicant must be the entity that would have primary responsibility for carrying out the award, including administering funding and managing the entire project, including monitoring and appropriately managing any subawards ("subgrants").

Under this solicitation, any particular applicant entity may submit more than one application, as long as each application proposes a different project in response to the solicitation. Also, an



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Corrections Research – Potential Topics for Future Research

- Understand the applicability of research on prisons to jails
 - Explore the unique research needs of jails
- Community corrections officer safety, health, and wellness
- Understand the impact of organizational climate in corrections
- Study how corrections are adjusting to various de-incarceration strategies



NIJ Funding Priorities

Who decides?

- Director's discretion
- DOJ Priorities
- Congressional mandates
- Field-initiated research
- Input from practitioners, policymakers through scientific working groups, topical working groups, communities of practice



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