

Crime and Justice Research and Evaluation on American Indian and Alaska Native Issues at the National Institute of Justice

With
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Workshop Objectives

- Learn about NIJ and its Crime and Justice Research and Evaluation on American Indian and Alaska Native Issues portfolio.
- Learn about how to apply for NIJ Grants.



Presentation Overview

- Who is NIJ?
- NIJ Indian Research Portfolio
- Current OJP Initiatives
- Targeted Areas of Research & Evaluation
- How to apply for NIJ grants
- What happens when NIJ receives proposals?



Who is NIJ?

● DOJ's Primary Research Agency

- Founded in 1968 within LEAA
- State & local constituency

● Mission

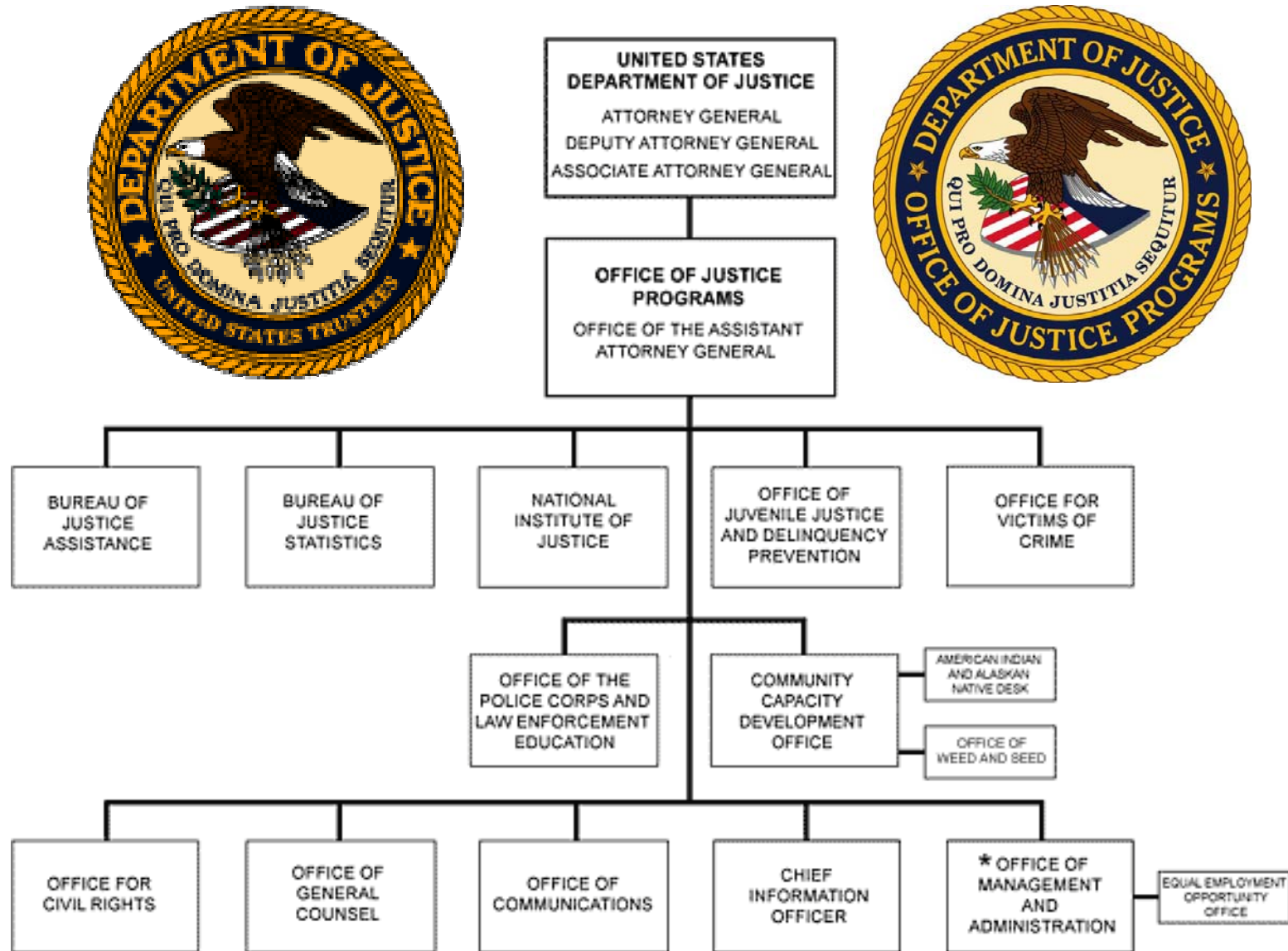
- Research & Evaluation
 - Development, Demonstration & Dissemination
 - Science & Technology
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NIJ is the “Knowledge Broker” for the Criminal Justice System:

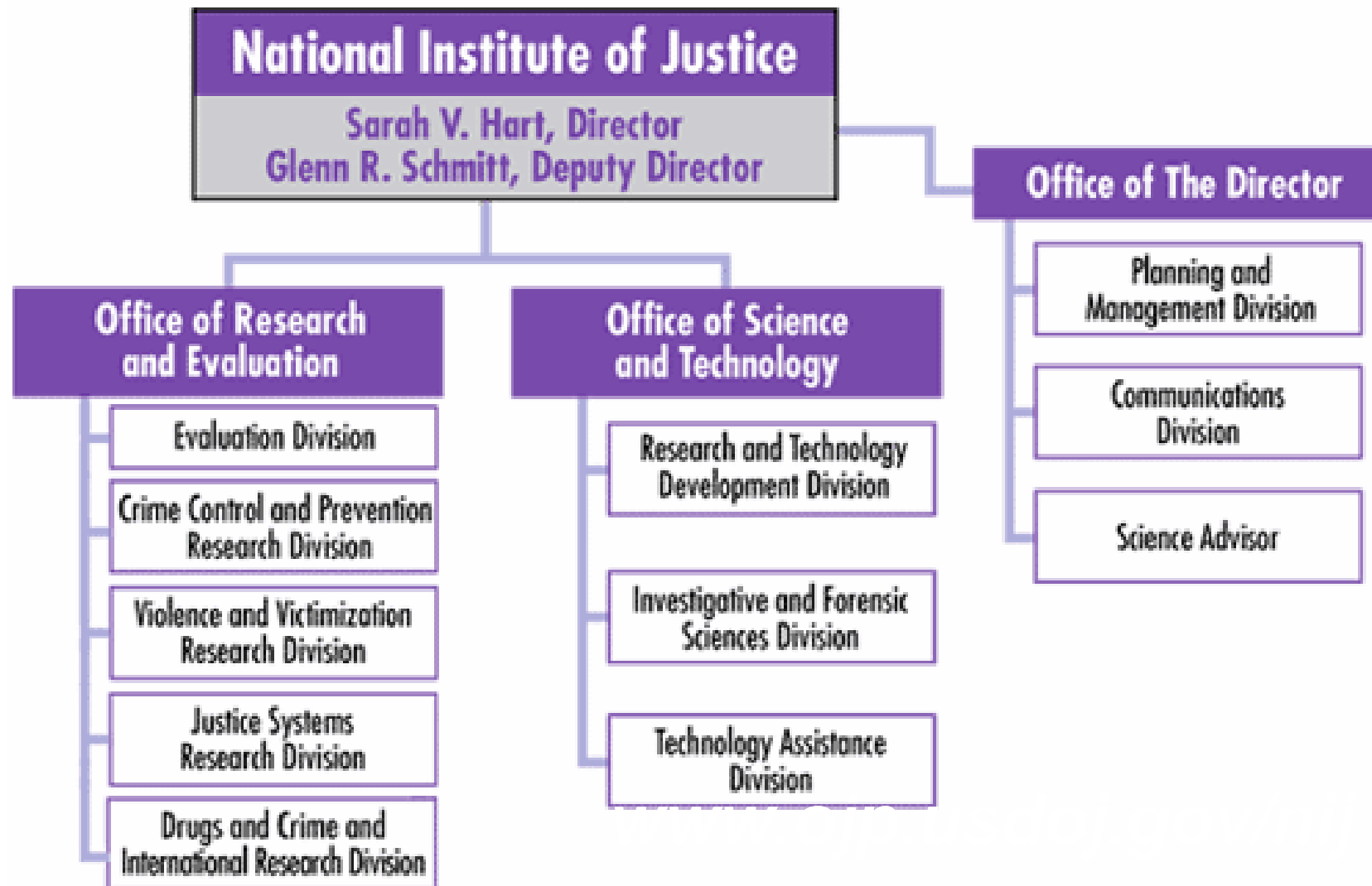
developing, researching, and evaluating innovations to show “what works” to reduce crime and enhance the justice system.



OJP Organizational Chart



NIJ Organizational Chart



NIJ Indian Research

- NIJ is committed to working together with Indian tribes to support research addressing crime and justice in Indian country including:
 - Prevention
 - Diversion / Intervention
 - Justice Systems
- The U.S. Department of Justice works with Indian tribes in a government-to-government relationship.

NIJ Research in Indian Country

● Federal Partners:

- BJA, Bureau of Justice Assistance,
- OVC, Office for Victims of Crime,
- AIANA, American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs,
- COPS, Community Oriented Policing,
- OVW, Office on Violence Against Women
- OTJ, Office of Tribal Justice

● Areas of Research

- Violence Against Women
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- Justice Systems
- Suicide
- Victim Services
- Technology
- Policing Strategies
- Terrorism and Transnational Crime
- Forensic DNA

Recent NIJ Publications

- **Tribal Strategies Against Violence:**
 - Chickasaw Nation Case Study ([NCJ 206037](#))
 - Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Case Study ([NCJ 206036](#))
 - Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Case Study ([NCJ 206035](#))
 - Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes Case Study ([NCJ 206034](#))
 - Cross-sites Evaluation Report ([NCJ 206033](#))
- **Community Policing Beyond the Big Cities**
([NCJ 205946](#))

Evaluation of Comprehensive Indian Resources for Community and Law Enforcement Project

- CIRCLE is a Federal Initiative

- OTJ, OJP, COPS, BJA, OVC, OVW, AIANA, NIJ, and OJJDP

- A Participatory Process and Outcome Evaluation



Technology in Indian Country



Indian Country Evaluability Assessments

- BJA's Tribal Courts Assistance Program
- BJA's Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program
- OVC's Tribal Victim's Assistance Program
- Future research on federally-funded tribal programs

Targeted Areas of Research & Evaluation

- Criminal Behavior
- Community & Restorative Justice
- Corrections
- Courts
- Mapping
- Policing
- Prevention
- Prosecution
- Sentencing
- Substance Abuse
- Technology
- Victims
 - Needs
 - Services



How do you apply for
NIJ grants?



Deadlines, Guidelines, and Contacts

● Postings of Solicitations

- <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>

● Guidelines

- <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/202948.pdf>
- <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm>

● Program Staff

- <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/contact.htm>



Open Solicitations

- Corrections Technology - [Jan 4, 2005](#)
- Information-led Policing Research, Technology Development and Testing, and Evaluation - [Jan 5, 2005](#)
- Violence Against Women Research and Evaluation - [Jan 5, 2005](#)
- Establishment of a Center for Excellence in Civil Justice - [Jan 12, 2005](#)
- Research and Evaluation on Community Corrections - [Feb 22, 2005](#)



What Should Applicants Consider When Writing Their Proposals?

- Is the proposal clear and succinct?
- Does the proposal flow?
- Have you checked spelling, sentence structure, and grammar?
- Have you followed the solicitation criteria?
- Is your literature review thorough and complete?
- Do you have a good management plan and timeline in place?
- Have you justified staff time and their contribution?

What Should Applicants Consider When Writing Their Proposals? (cont.)

- Have you demonstrated an understanding of the problem and/or its importance?
- Have you established the impact of the proposed project on the field?
- Do you have enough money and time budgeted?
- Is your hardware and software needs justified?
- Have you addressed a dissemination strategy?



The Review Criteria

- Technical merit
 - research design
 - methods
- Substantive contribution: advancing the fields of research and practice
- Capability of researcher/research team
- Budget considerations

What Is The Peer Review Process?

- External Peer Review (concept papers & full applications)
 - Technical Reviewers & Practitioner Reviewers
 - Assigned primary or secondary reviews
 - Prepare comprehensive written reviews
 - One to two-day onsite meeting (full application review only)
- Internal Peer Review
 - NIJ Program Staff
 - Office Peer Review & Briefing
- NIJ Director

What Happens In The External Peer Review?

- Lead technical reviewer (researcher) starts and is followed by the other panelist
- Thorough discussion of each proposal
- Each proposal is reviewed on its own merits
- Panelists cannot make assumptions
- Panel must come to a consensus on the suitability of each proposal
- Peer reviewers only recommend a proposal for (1) *further consideration* or (2) *not for further consideration*

What Happens In The External Peer Review? (cont.)

● NIJ Program Managers—

- Manage the peer review process and serve as the moderator and facilitator for panels
- Ensure that each proposal is thoroughly and objectively reviewed
- Respond to questions raised by panelists about the review process or NIJ's policy on issues raised
- Raise questions that the panelists have overlooked during their discussion

● NIJ Program Managers Do Not—

- Influence panelists
- Express opinions
- Engage in substantive discussions about a proposal during panel reviews

What Happens In The Internal Peer Review?

- Program Managers perform their own individual reviews on each proposal
- Engage in substantive discussions about the proposals with other program staff and federal partners
- Prepare briefing books that reflect all peer reviews
- Brief the Director of the Office of Research and Evaluation



How Do Funding Decisions Get Made?

- NIJ Director is briefed on all proposals by program staff
- NIJ Director is the sole and final authority over approvals and awards
- So why didn't I get funded?
 - # of Proposals vs. Appropriations and Priorities
 - Reapply but make sure to address prior consensus reviews comments

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