

Department of Justice

Open Government Plan

2012

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Introduction

An Open Department of Justice

Through this Open Government Plan, the department sets forth ongoing and anticipated efforts to increase openness . The Open Government Plan is tied to the department's core missions and includes updates on our previous plan and new initiatives efforts to improve openness.

The principles of transparency, participation and collaboration that underlie the Open Government Initiative are also critical to fulfilling other core missions of the department. The department has three main missions:

- Prevent terrorism and promote the nation’s security;
- Prevent crime, enforce federal laws and represent the rights and interests of the American people; and
- Ensure the fair and efficient administration of justice.

The original plan, issued in 2010, contained ambitious goals intended to set the department on a road toward greater transparency, participation and collaboration. In the first section of this plan, we’ve revisited those goals and provided updates regarding the status of programs and projects we previously discussed. Many of our original projects have been completed and now serve as a resource to the public and our partners.

In the later sections of the plan, we’ve described new initiatives and projects that the department has begun to implement, or will implement, in the near future.

Like our initial plan, we provide this plan to the public, knowing it will change and grow in response to feedback we receive.

We look forward to comments and ideas about how we can continue to work toward an increasingly open Department of Justice.

Open Government at Justice: An Overview

Open Government at the Department of Justice

After President Obama issued his Open Government Directive in 2009 the Department of Justice convened a working group under the leadership of the Associate Attorney General, the department's Senior Accountable Official for Open Government.

The Department of Justice's Open Government Plans have been formulated with the considerable input of interested employees, stakeholders and members of the public who were invited to share their ideas on how to make the department more open and accountable.

Our Open Government Plans have required department officials and employees at all levels to look for new opportunities to make the department more transparent, collaborative and participatory in conducting its business.

In our first plan, we wrote, "Opening government is not a single transaction, but an ongoing effort." The following changes to internal management and administrative policies are intended to improve collaboration within the department to further openness, transparency, participation and collaboration.

Expanding the Department of Justice Open Government Working Group

The Open Government Working Group will expand to include a designee from each component to serve as an "Open Government Officer." These officers will meet quarterly and serve as conduits to and from their components for ideas to foster open government best practices.

Open Government Officers will be encouraged to include projects, successes and initiative related to Open Government at the Department of Justice in their weekly report to the Deputy Attorney General.

Each officer will work within their component to identify ways to make their component more transparent, participatory or collaborative.

Improving Open Government at the Department of Justice

Working with the Department's Learning and Workforce Development staff, the Open Government working group will help develop training in the principles of openness, transparency and accountability for new as well as current employees.

This training is scheduled for development in 2013-2014.

The 2010 Open Government Plan: Progress to Date

The department's 2010 Open Government Plan 1.0 set forth an ambitious program to increase openness and collaboration with the public, tying that effort to the department's core missions. The plan included both new initiatives and efforts to improve ongoing programs. The department has completed many of these tasks and made significant progress on others. Although not all of department's ambitious goals have been met, our efforts thus far have resulted in a substantial increase in transparency, collaboration, and participation.

Plan 1.0 Flagship Initiative: FOIA.gov

Through its leadership in administering the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Department of Justice has long played a key role in making government more transparent for all Americans. By law, the Attorney General has been charged with encouraging other federal agencies to comply with a statute that, for decades, has been the country's primary assurance of government transparency.

As its "flagship initiative" in its original Plan, the department pledged a new "FOIA Dashboard" to enable the public to track and measure FOIA compliance for all agencies subject to the FOIA. The concept for the site was originally proposed as an idea during the department's open government dialogue with the public.

The original suggestion was to create a "dashboard" to display graphically the data contained in agency Annual FOIA Reports. As the project was being developed, however, the department expanded its scope. The "dashboard" concept became FOIA.gov, a one-stop shop for those interested in agency compliance with the FOIA, as well as those who want to learn about the law.

The site, launched in March 2011, is a comprehensive public resource for government-wide FOIA compliance data. FOIA.gov displays a wealth of data on agency FOIA processing, including the number of FOIA requests made and processed by each agency, the disposition of those requests, the time taken to respond to requests, and any backlogs of pending requests. The data can be compared and contrasted between agencies and over time. Users can run custom reports on the site to explore the data. The department also generates reports that would be of interest to the public and includes those on the site. Some examples of recent reports include data from agencies with a law enforcement mission and a comparison of data from the three original cabinet agencies.

FOIA.gov is also an educational resource with information about how the FOIA works and what to expect when making a request. To enhance public understanding of the FOIA process, short informative videos are embedded throughout the site. The site also includes frequently asked questions and a glossary of FOIA terms.

The site provides contact information for every government agency FOIA office, with links to their FOIA websites and when applicable, and agencies online request forms. A comprehensive contact list is also available for download. Significant releases made by agencies are highlighted on a regular basis to highlight the work of agencies and to provide the public with examples of the types of documents made available under the FOIA. There is also a section on FOIA news.

In the year since launching FOIA.gov, we have continued to expand its features, solicit and respond to feedback on ways to improve the site, and plan for future improvements.

The new “Find” feature offers a convenient way to search across all agency websites to see what information is already available on a topic, without the need to submit a FOIA request. Because agencies are constantly providing the public with new information on a proactive and ongoing basis, this ” feature is a useful way to quickly gather information from multiple agency websites at once.

This year FOIA.gov was made accessible to Spanish speakers with the translation of critical FOIA information into Spanish.

As FOIA.gov begins its second year, the department will continue to work on new developments for FOIA.gov, which will facilitate access to government records and enable the public to easily measure the government's FOIA progress.

Transparency Initiatives

Data Previously Scheduled or Identified for Release

Appendix II

Consistent with the Administration's Open Government Initiative, the Office of Justice Programs makes its scientific reports—and all other reports—publicly available online in open formats. It also widely disseminates its reports to constituent organizations and make them available through podcasts, webinars and other online outlets.

Further, it encourages publication of research and other science findings in peer-reviewed, professional or scholarly journals, as well as supporting presentations at professional meetings, at which staff from the National Institute of Justice regularly chair and present panels. As part of its commitment to the free flow and independent assessment of scientific findings, The National Institute of Justice continues to maintain an online archive of research technical reports from grant projects sponsored by the agency.

The National Criminal Justice Reference Service provides a searchable database of technical reports (distinct from commercially published research articles and other publications) that provides detailed information about how each research project was conducted, how data were analyzed and what the research results were. These technical reports often provide much more operational detail about how the research was conducted than can be found in shorter published peer review articles. The Institute considers its archive of research reports to be a model for ensuring the integrity of science while providing widespread access to research findings.

Appendix II of our first Open Government Plan [Appendix II, pp. 34-35, <http://www.justice.gov/open/doj-open-government-plan.pdf>] provided a list of data sets scheduled for public release. We have attached a revised and extended version to this Plan 2.0, and take this opportunity to provide a short explanation of the department's research-related data, and how and where it is published.

Two offices within the department's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) are the primary research offices within the department. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) engages in research in support of law enforcement safety and technological advances, as well as the discovery, testing and advancement of forensic science methodologies and technologies. NIJ's National Archive of Criminal Justice Data stands as a model for transparency and public access to research and statistical data. It exemplifies the very best principles of openness and transparency.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) collects and publishes crime data and statistics regarding the activities of the criminal justice system at the local, state and federal level that are relevant not only to the department's activities but to policy formation nationwide.

While ensuring safeguards regarding data privacy issues, NIJ and BJS provide a diverse data warehouse comprising data ranging from national surveys to local evaluation studies. NIJ also provides research stipends to support the secondary analysis of these data; these grants provide an additional check of data integrity and validity while securing the greatest benefits to the public from the original investment of data collection.

The majority of the data sets listed in Appendix II of our original plan are research data sets. Many of them contain personally identifiable data collected in accordance with protections for human subjects. As a result, these data will be made available only for other research to be conducted in accordance with relevant privacy regulations. For these reasons, most would not be appropriate for publishing in an open data environment.

Similarly, for most Bureau of Justice Statistics reports, including those listed on Appendix II, the underlying data sets are available at the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data website, with only a small fraction currently available via Data.gov. However, as each report is posted on the website, information is also posted about the location of the data and the data source for each publication on the publication's release page.

The [website for NIJ's National Archive of Criminal Justice Data](#) further explains some of the restrictions placed on research data.

Law.Data.gov

As a part of Data.gov, Law.Data.gov acts as a central location for agency legal materials, including rules, orders and other guidance. Assembling these resources in one place allows anyone interested in understanding federal legal issues to easily gain access to information.

Members of the department's Open Government working group continue to participate in a steering group for the legal community. The department also solicited information from members of open government groups and academic circles as to which DOJ data is most desired.

The Office of the Solicitor General, the Office of Legal Counsel, and the Antitrust and Civil Rights Divisions have begun posting legal briefs, memoranda and opinions.

Publishing More Information Online

Justice.gov

In 2009, the department redesigned and updated the websites of all leadership offices, major divisions and key program offices to improve the quality and organization of information. By standardizing the Justice.gov template, the department has made it easier to navigate its website and find information. Whenever possible, content has been rewritten in plain language to make it more accessible and easier to understand. In addition, we have given prominence to "top tasks" like "Report a Crime" and "Contact the Justice Department" that our website customers need and want by highlighting them on our homepage and in key places throughout the site.

The Attorney General's Calendar

The Attorney General believes that his meetings and activities should be accessible by the public. Accordingly, significant portions of the [calendar of the Attorney General](#) is now posted online. To be sure that sensitive privacy, law enforcement and litigation interests are not compromised, the calendar must be carefully scrutinized before posting. However, redactions have been kept to a minimum, consistent with the principles laid out in the Attorney General's FOIA Guidelines.

To balance pending requests for past calendars with interest in more recent events, the department is processing alternating batches of early and more current calendars.

To date we have posted calendars for five months in 2009; one and a half months in 2010; and three months in 2011.

Legal and Historical Information of Interest

Legislative Histories

In July 2011 the department's library staff digitized 28 legislative histories to be posted on Justice.gov for public use. These histories track the development and passage of laws that were deemed of interest to the department, or in which the department took a vital role.

Six additional digitized legislative histories are planned for future release.

Historical Speeches

Digitized speeches of Attorneys General, beginning with Janet Reno and working backwards, are also being made available on Justice.gov, and will be linked to from each Attorney General's biography page as they become available.

Historical Legal Information

In addition to the many legislative histories already available, the Office of Information Policy initiated an effort by the department to digitize and make available to the public the *1974 FOIA Sourcebook*. Printed by the Government Printing Office, the *Sourcebook* has been out-of-print and unavailable electronically. This Committee Print contains the 1966 legislative history, early cases related to the FOIA and related Congressional documents, as well as cases pertaining to the FOIA and FOIA-related law journal articles. This material will be available for download from the Office of Information Policy website at

<http://www.justice.gov/oip/foia-library.html>

Proactive Disclosure

In our original Plan we committed to increase proactive disclosures, stating “When agencies release information proactively, there is less need for the public to make individualized FOIA requests”

We continue to identify information that can be disclosed proactively, without the necessity of a FOIA request.

Directory of Department Officials

A directory of department officials is available at <http://www.justice.gov/dojofficials.htm>. In addition, each component website displays a link to its own directory.

Congressional Testimony

Congressional testimony of the department’s leadership is posted on the “Press Room” page of their website. The Justice.gov/open/congressional webpage also links directly to testimony.

Significant Filings

In version 1.0 of our plan, the department stated that it would:

- Make significant court filings available through its website generating an RSS/XML feed as briefs are posted.
- Attach relevant court filings to press releases regarding those filings, so that media will have the opportunity to see the department’s position in its full context.
- Provide public filings that are not widely distributed, when presented with a press inquiry..

Progress has been made in this area. Many of the department’s litigating offices and the Office of Public Affairs have begun routinely posting more of their briefs and other filings to their own websites.

In addition, the Office of Public Affairs has increased the filings made available to the press and the public through the department’s website and in 2012 the office will be post select

court filings alongside related press releases. And each component in the Department of Justice has been encouraged to participate and submit material to the law.data.gov community.

- Resource constraints have delayed development of a department-wide RSS/XML feed of court documents and we can not provide an estimated completion date for doing so at this time.

Case Data

The first version of the Open Government Plan stated the department was in the development stages of a new platform that would improve the collection of data from the voluminous litigation dockets handled by the department's many different components in many different areas, including prosecuting criminals, defending statutes passed by Congress, enforcing civil rights laws, litigating contract disputes, pursuing tax cheats and protecting competitive markets.

The department stated: "As the development process continues, the department will consider whether there are aspects of the data that the system collects that could be of value to the public. Where there are cost-effective steps that will improve the data being collected without compromising the system's core purpose, the department should pursue them."

The department was unable to develop a comprehensive case management system that would encompass all of the disparate litigation activities into one central reporting mechanism. The department will continue to explore ways, consistent with budgetary and resource limitations, to develop a cost-effective method for retrieving case data.

Improved FOIA Performance and Regulations

The Department of Justice FOIA regulations were last updated in 1998. To ensure that the regulations are consistent with President Obama's focus on transparency, the department initiated the rulemaking process in FY 2010 to update these regulations. The proposed regulations would [need to add a short explanation saying how they would enhance transparency]. The comment period initially closed April 20, 2011. The department then re-opened the comment period for a second time in September 2011. That comment period closed October 19, 2011. The department is currently finalizing the regulations.

Participation

Outreach

To the Public

Financial Fraud Task Force

In 2009, President Obama created the Financial Fraud Task Force to hold accountable those who helped bring about the last financial crisis as well as those who would attempt to take advantage of the efforts at economic recovery, and to wage an aggressive fight against fraud. The Task Force is chaired by the Attorney General. Since its formation, the Task Force has facilitated the training of more than 100,000 professionals responsible for awarding and overseeing Recovery Act funds. The task force has held regional summits around the country to discuss strategies, resources and initiatives as well as to meet with communities most affected by the financial crisis. The Task Force website, StopFraud.gov continues to serve as a resource where the public can learn how to protect themselves from fraud, report fraud, and read about the work of the task force.

To Specific Communities

Outreach to Resolve Community Conflicts

The [Community Relations Service](#) is the department's "peacemaker" for community conflicts and tensions arising from differences of race, color, and national origin. Created by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, CRS is the only federal agency dedicated to assist State and local units of government, private and public organizations, and community groups with preventing and resolving racial and ethnic tensions, incidents, and civil disorders, and in restoring racial stability and harmony. With passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, CRS also works with communities to employ strategies to prevent and respond to alleged violent hate crimes committed on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion or disability.

Outreach to Muslim- and Arab-American Communities

The Department of Justice is actively working to protect Muslim, Sikh, Arab and South Asian Americans from threats and violence directed at them because of their religion or ethnicity, and to prevent acts of discrimination against them in the workplace, at school, and many other areas. The department continues to convene a quarterly meeting that brings together leaders from the Muslim, Arab, Sikh and South Asian communities with officials from across the federal government to discuss civil rights issues that have faced these communities since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. United States Attorneys offices also conduct extensive outreach to Muslim- and Arab-American communities in their districts, where local needs and concerns can be addressed. The Department of Justice's Community Relations Service (CRS) has held more than 500 training sessions and community meetings since 9/11 addressing backlash-related issues, has trained hundreds of law enforcement departments, and has deployed conflict resolution specialists in communities around the country to alleviate tensions from backlash incidents.

Outreach to Immigrant Workers

The Justice Department continues outreach to immigrant workers and employers on the anti-discrimination provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Through new initiatives involving webinars, online educational materials, and public service announcements, the department is educating immigrant workers and their advocates on the right to be free from discrimination based on immigration status. Employers receive training on how to avoid unlawful discrimination against workers. The department also meets with worker and employer groups through in-person outreach focused on areas with large and emerging immigrant populations. Additional public education takes place through the department's worker and employer hotlines, and by responding to written questions from the public.

Project Civic Access

The department continues to work with cities, counties, towns and villages across the country to ensure that their museums, polling places, sidewalks and other public facilities and services are accessible to all through the [Project Civic Access](#) program. The department has conducted reviews in 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico and the District of

Columbia, and is posting the agreements it has reached with many jurisdictions to help additional communities come into compliance with the Act.

Access to Justice

The U.S. Department of Justice established the [Access to Justice Initiative \(ATJ\)](#) in March 2010 to address the access-to-justice crisis in the criminal and civil justice system. ATJ's mission is to help the justice system efficiently deliver outcomes that are fair and accessible to all, irrespective of wealth and status. The Initiative's staff works within the Department of Justice, across federal agencies, and with state, local, and tribal justice system stakeholders to increase access to counsel and legal assistance and to improve the justice delivery systems that serve people who are unable to afford lawyers. Examples of the Initiative's successful collaborations include working with several federal agencies, including:

- the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Tribal Justice Services to organize a series of Tribal Court Trial Advocacy Courses for tribal judges, tribal public defenders, and tribal prosecutors.
- the Department of Labor and the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) to include legal services as potential recipients of reentry job-training grants.
- the Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as state and local stakeholders to improve the quality and availability of foreclosure mediation programs to homeowners throughout the country.
- the Department of State and the LSC to issue guidance to LSC grantees clarifying that they can represent foreign indigent parents in Hague Abduction Convention cases.
- the Office of the Vice President's Middle Class Task Force, the Department of Labor, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to announce a series of steps designed to help middle class and low-income families secure their legal rights, including strengthening foreclosure mediation programs, helping veterans secure the legal help they need,

and making it easier for workers to find a qualified attorney when they believe their rights have been violated.

The Access to Justice Initiative has also engaged public and private stakeholders, including:

- state courts to establish Access to Justice Commissions.
- the Special Master of the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund and the New York City legal community to help organize law school clinics during the 2012 spring break to assist claim applicants with their applications.
- the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono to support innovations to expand and improve the delivery of pro bono services.

Philanthropic Funders

There are a number of private-sector organizations who also work to make their communities safer, and the Department of Justice works with them to further their joint missions. On September 9, 2009, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) convened a meeting of representatives from 70 foundations that support criminal and juvenile justice reform. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold: first, more broadly, to identify opportunities and leverage options for the department and foundation partnerships in this time of economic hardship; and, second, to encourage specific foundation's interest in selected department priorities.

Since the September 2009 meeting, OJP has engaged philanthropy in a number of innovative collaborations. In February 2011, OJP executed an agreement with Casey Family Programs for a full-time Casey senior staff person to join the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) for one year, providing OJJDP with expertise in child welfare systems, engaging youth and families, and engaging with philanthropic organizations. This agreement has since been renewed for an additional year. In January 2012, OJJDP announced a new public-private partnership with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation that will provide \$2 million in funding to support innovative and effective treatment and services for juveniles. These are just two of the many exciting collaborations that OJP has fostered with philanthropy over the past three years.

Additionally, OJP has established a Multi-Component Working Group to further explore how to enhance the agency's engagement with philanthropy. Most recently, the Working Group convened leaders from OJP, the Department of Education's Office of Strategic Partnerships, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office for International and Philanthropic Innovation to discuss best practices in outreach and engagement with the philanthropic sector.

Grant Applications

Through its grant-making offices, the Department of Justice provides billions of dollars every year to state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies, as well as other public and private service providers, to make their communities safer. Since FY 2009, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) has aggressively pursued strict accountability of these federal dollars and focused on numerous improvements to the grant-making process. These improvements help ensure OJP's grants are administered in a fair and transparent manner, demonstrating effective stewardship of federal funds. The programs that DOJ funds are chosen for a variety of reasons, but ultimately each has demonstrated to effectiveness or employed new ideas with outstanding potential. Those ideas are worth sharing.

Upon making awards, the department's grant-making offices will, consistent with applicable law, publish the applications of select successful applicants, as well as the identities of all grant recipients. Other governmental and non-governmental bodies that work in the field will benefit from seeing the kinds of ideas that are succeeding. To increase transparency, all OJP award decisions are now posted on its external OJP website, including the type of award, the recipient, and the award amount. Additionally, the Grant Management System allows grant managers to perform grant reviews and monitoring and to communicate these findings to active grantees and Congressional offices.

Collaboration

National Security

In order to address terrorist networks operating around the world, the department has increased its partnerships at every level of government in the United States and has forged strong ties with its counterparts overseas.

Terrorist Screening Center

The [FBI's Terrorist Screening Center](#) (TSC) continues to play a vital role in the fight against terrorism by integrating terrorist information from the law enforcement and intelligence communities, including both domestic and international terrorist information, into a single database. The TSC then assures the timely dissemination of the information to the various screening systems of federal agencies and plays a crucial role in providing actionable intelligence to state and local law enforcement agencies.

National Counterterrorism Center

The FBI is a partner with 15 other federal agencies in the [National Counterterrorism Center](#) (NCTC) where experts sit side by side with one mission: avoiding another major terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative & Fusion Centers

Along with other federal agencies, the department is engaged in a collaborative process with state and local law enforcement agencies to improve intelligence sharing and ultimately increase the ability to detect, prevent and solve crimes and safeguard our homeland. . Through the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative, the department has led efforts to merge the various elements of an ideal information and intelligence sharing project through fusion centers, and has created national standards for the operation of these centers, defining how and when intelligence should be shared. There are currently 72 information fusion centers in states and localities around the country that serve as the focal points within the state and local environment for the receipt, analysis, gathering and sharing of threat-related information.

Law Enforcement

Collaboration To Combat Financial Fraud and Foster Consumer Protection

The Financial Fraud Task Force continues to serve as an effective model for federal, state and local collaboration efforts to protect against fraud. With more than 20 federal agencies, 94 US Attorneys Offices and state and local partners, it's the broadest coalition of law enforcement, investigatory and regulatory agencies ever assembled to combat fraud.

In fiscal years 2010 and 2011, the Justice Department has charged more than 2,100 defendants throughout the country with mortgage fraud-related crimes. The department played a major role in securing the largest joint federal-state settlement ever - at least \$25 billion – against the nation's five largest mortgage servicers for robo-signing and other mortgage servicing abuses through substantial financial penalties and extensive consumer relief. The Justice Department also reached an historic, \$335 million, fair-lending settlement with Countrywide to compensate more than 200,000 Hispanic and African American borrowers who were victims of discriminatory lending practices from fraud.

In 2012, the Attorney General launched the Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities working group to marshal parallel efforts between federal and state law enforcement agencies to focus on fraud in the packaging and sale of RMBS offerings. This working group collaborates on future and current investigations, pools resources and streamlines processes to ensure that if fraud or other misconduct occurs justice is achieved for the victims.

Also in 2012, the Attorney General launched the Consumer Protection Working Group to bring together federal law enforcement and regulatory agencies, as well as state and local partners, to address - both through prosecution and education - consumer-related fraud, including schemes targeting vulnerable populations, such as the unemployed, those in need of payday loans, and those suffering from the burden of high credit card and other debt. The working group focuses on scams that exploit prospective students, active-duty military and veterans.

Engaging with Tribal Nations

The Department of Justice takes seriously its trust responsibility as the primary law enforcer in many Native American communities and has launched an effort to improve public safety in those communities.

Many tribes experience far higher rates of violent crime than other Americans; indeed, some Native American women face murder rates more than 10 times the national average. In many instances, because of the unique jurisdictional requirements for Indian Country, if the department does not act, no other entity has the power to do so.

Collaboration and consultation, as that term is formally defined in Executive Order 13175, are at the heart of the government-to-government relationship between the tribes and the United States. Consistent with the department's desire to increase openness and collaboration with Tribal Nations, the Attorney General convened a listening session attended by approximately 400 tribal leaders in October 2009.

In order to ensure that the department's many U.S. Attorney's Offices within Indian Country are developing the collaborative approaches and open lines of communication critical to these efforts, every U.S. Attorney's Office whose district includes Indian Country has been directed to engage, once a year, in consultation with the tribes in that district. Each such Office has developed an operational plan through this process and has appointed at least one tribal liaison to serve as a principal point of contact for the tribes in the district. To ensure that the department is working collaboratively not just with its tribal partners, but with the other government bodies that serve Indian Country, U.S. Attorney's Offices are required to include, where appropriate, federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as representatives from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service, and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Justice Department is taking a number of other steps to increase its engagement with tribes. First, the department is developing a proposed tribal consultation policy, which be published for notice and comment. Second, the Attorney General has created a Tribal Nations Leadership Council that serves as a forum for ongoing communication and collaboration with tribal governments. The Council has met with top leadership officials in

the department and participates in monthly conference calls with the department's Office of Tribal Justice. Third, a federal-tribal task force is working to develop strategies and provide guidance for federal and tribal prosecution of violent crime against women in tribal communities. Finally, the department has engaged in dozens of consultations with tribal leaders on issues important to public safety, justice and law enforcement, including violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women, implementation of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act, and the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010.

These efforts – which are only examples – form the basis for improving federal-tribal cooperation in the coming years. Information about these and other efforts is available at TribalJusticeandSafety.gov.

Sharing Best Practices with our Law Enforcement Partners

Attorney General Holder has made reinvigorating relationships with state, local and tribal law enforcement a priority for all the entire department. Through its grant-making components – the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), the Office on Violence against Women (OVW), and the Office on Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) – the department plays a critical role in identifying, researching and disseminating the most innovative ideas for increasing public safety and improving the justice system.

COPS makes available over 500 Problem Oriented Policing Guides, Grant Owners Manuals, fact sheets, best practices, curricula and other materials, at no cost, through its online [Resource Information Center](#). This user-friendly publication search engine makes ordering or downloading these documents simple.

Similarly, through a cooperative agreement with the University of Minnesota, OVW supports the [Violence Against Women Online Resources website](#) which contains research and best practices for use by law enforcement, the judiciary, attorneys, tribal leaders, advocates, faith communities and human services providers.

OJP, working with the Office of National Drug Control Policy, funds the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) which offers extensive reference and referral services to help the

public find answers to their questions about crime and justice-related research, policy and practice.

In addition, the department is seeking to more effectively disseminate information to its stakeholders, partners and the public about what works. [CrimeSolutions.gov](https://www.crimesolutions.gov) shapes rigorous research into a central, reliable, and credible resource to inform practitioners and policy makers about what works in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services, and to help them integrate these findings into programmatic and policy decisions. The site is a searchable online database of evidence-based programs covering a range of justice-related topics, including corrections, courts, crime prevention, substance abuse, juveniles, law enforcement, forensics, and victims. It includes information on more than 150 programs and assigns "evidence ratings" – effective, promising, or no effects -- to indicate whether the research proves that a program achieves its goals.

Powered by the science and research embodied in CrimeSolutions.gov, OJP's [Diagnostic Center](#) will provide community leaders in tribal, state, and local governments with technical assistance in diagnosing and implementing customized, evidence-based strategies to mitigate persistent public safety and criminal justice issues. The Diagnostic Center's defining characteristic is its diagnostic approach, which involves first assembling and analyzing data from the community. This diagnostic phase informs the development of a strategy for providing technical assistance that is tailored to each community's strengths and challenges. The Diagnostic Center approach includes working with client communities to identify resources that will sustain progress over the long term.

Lastly, the department's Bureau of Justice Assistance has worked with Fox Valley Technical College to establish a dynamic, automated, web-based system for delivering training and technical assistance to potential partners. This National Training and Technical Assistance Center allows consumers to request training and technical assistance online, post and obtain information about other opportunities and resources and connect to other providers and information sources.

Open Government 2.0: Initiatives for the Future

Transparency

Opening Up Data at the Department of Justice

The Department of Justice continues to work towards the goal of greater openness through increased transparency, participation and collaboration. Opening up data and making information available to the public in an open, electronic format is a major priority of these efforts.

When the Office of Management and Budget first issued the Open Government Directive, the department surveyed all components to determine what data might be available for publication. This was a first step.

Since that time, the department has worked to ensure the publication of the data originally identified and to unearth more data that can be made available online. To ensure this process continues, the department's open government working group will be tasked with regularly surveying their respective components for data that is available or will become available. The component representatives will also be expected to ensure that high-value data is a priority for identification and publication.

The working group will track the progress of those components to ensure that opening up data to the public is an ongoing and required practice. We will report on that progress at justice.gov/open and post these data sets to data.gov and other appropriate forums.

Key Audiences for Agency Data

Due to the wide-range of work done on behalf of the American people, the information available from the Department of Justice is of interest to many people. In addition to the public at large, two specific audiences have a keen interest in information published by the department: the legal community and the law enforcement community.

Publishing Underlying Data

The department has adopted a presumption that when an office or division of the department publishes a report that summarizes quantitative data that the office or division has collected, the component will make the underlying data available to the public through an appropriate channel.

The appropriate channel for the publication of data will vary among Data.Gov; the University of Michigan's ICPSR; the web pages of the department statistical and research offices, such as the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ); or to NIJ's National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD).

At times, due to the presence of "personally identifiable information," the data must be published with access restricted to credentialed researchers.

Increasing Public Knowledge through Use of Information

Law.Data.gov

The department continues to encourage its components to submit data to the Law.Data.gov community. Representatives from the department's Open Government Working Group continue to serve on a steering community to cultivate the collection of information and encourage wide participation.

Safety.Data.gov

As part of the National Action Plan, the U.S. contribution to the international Open Government Partnership, DOJ is participating with other federal agencies in the Transportation Department's launch of a new public platform of safety-related data that will help raise the profile of safety as a national health issue.

The new community on Data.Gov, will provide a community for stakeholders to convene, share and collaborate on safety-related data through forums and blogs. Web applications, publicly available software and tools, and other resources will be available to facilitate data use and technical dialogue on the site's forums. The site will reach out to stakeholders through challenges, social media and other resources to spark dialogue and foster the broader development of a safety community.

Through this site, the public will have access to data concerning incidents and crimes; violations and enforcement actions; staffing and funding; applications; and both raw and statistical data. The Office of Justice Programs will engage in this collaborative outreach initiative, due to launch in April, 2012.

Continued Support of Government-Wide Transparency Initiatives

Data.gov

The department's continues to identify and locate additional valuable data and to make it available in searchable format online. Recently released data, including legal data sets that previously were not easily discoverable, are now available at Law.Data.gov.

A list of currently available data sets is available at <http://www.justice.gov/open/data.html>.

eRulemaking

The Department of Justice's ongoing participation in the interagency e-rulemaking initiative supports the President's Open Government Initiative. [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), provides citizens one access point to view and comment on Federal agency rulemakings and notices that have been published for public comment. The agency side of the site is called the Federal Docket Management System.

The department's policy is to post public comments as soon as practicable, ideally within two days of receipt. By publishing information online, the Department of Justice helps to create and institutionalize a culture of open government.

IT Dashboard

Since the launch of the Federal IT Dashboard on June 30, 2009, the Justice Department has completed a monthly data call to all Department of Justice components that have major IT investments. The monthly data call requests updates on the completion of major milestones from a cost and schedule perspective. Once the Department of Justice's Office of the Chief Information Officer/Policy and Planning Staff have received the components' monthly responses, the investment status information is reviewed by the department's Chief Information Officer, and the Office of the CIO then updates to the Federal IT Dashboard. data from the Department of Justice is available at:

<http://www.itdashboard.gov/portfolios/agency=011>

Recovery.gov

The department continues to provide weekly updates to Recovery.gov of information regarding American Reinvestment and Recovery Act-related funding. The updates comprise weekly financial activity reports, highlighting obligated amounts and actual gross outlays for a total of about \$4 billion by the Office of Justice Programs, the Office on Violence Against Women and the Community Oriented Policing Services. Additional Recovery Act data is provided by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) regarding approximately \$10 million for a specified law enforcement project. This information is readily available to the public on both Recovery.gov and Justice.gov. To date, the department has paid out \$3.18 billion, or 79 percent, of the \$3.98 billion available.

The department continues to work directly with the Recovery and Accountability Transparency Board to ensure that meaningful, accurate and timely information is provided concerning Recovery Act funds. Data collected from award recipients are now used to display actual ARRA funding data by state, congressional district, county and zip code. The department's Office of the Inspector General's ongoing audits, investigations, training and outreach in fraud prevention and awareness further improves the quality of data collected from recipients and reported in Recovery.gov.

USASpending.gov

The department continues its efforts to comply with all applicable requirements and transparency initiatives related to USASpending.gov. Information provided to

USASpending.gov by the department consists of contractual and financial assistance data. Efforts related to the quality of this information include several interrelated and comprehensive initiatives that address accountability for and transparency of financial data throughout the department to increase awareness policies, procedures, training and formal communications.

The department's program and implementation plan for Appendix A of Circular A-123, Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting, help to ensure proper internal controls exist over spending associated with contracts and grants. In addition, the annual assessment of the acquisition function (the Acquisition Assessment) and the FPDS Data Quality Review provide the department with opportunities to identify controls that need improvement in areas affecting Federal spending. Through the Acquisition Assessment, the department performs an entity-level review of the procurement area. The FPDS Data Quality Review requires testing of key FPDS and CPARS attributes identified in OFPP guidance over a sample of individual contract files. These attributes are the foundation for data in USASpending.gov.

In January 2012 the department updated its Open Government Initiative: Federal Spending Information Quality Framework (Data Quality Plan) based on an expanded definition of Federal spending information which includes contractor performance and integrity data, as well as contractor provided data. This was the most significant change that the department made to its internal control procedures for data quality.

With the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the department also enhanced the transparency of the financial data provided to USASpending.gov, including more reviews to confirm data accuracy, completeness and transparency.

More Transparent FOIA Administration at the Department of Justice

A New FOIA Library

The Office of Information Policy (OIP) reorganized the old FOIA "Reading Room" for documents from the department's senior management offices into a newly structured,

more user-friendly online “FOIA Library.” In the FOIA Library documents are divided into two categories: Operational Documents and FOIA-Processed Documents.

Operational documents include policy statements, staff manuals and final opinions and orders. FOIA-processed documents are those documents that have been disclosed, in full or in part, in response to a FOIA request; have been frequently requested; or which OIP determines are likely to be of interest to the public.

The FOIA Library also links to the FOIA Libraries (or Reading Rooms) of all the other department components, making it easy to see what has been posted. In the coming year the Office of Information Policy will work with all of the offices within the Justice Department to similarly organize their “Reading Room” into the new FOIA Library format to improve access to posted material.

Law Enforcement Agencies: Increasing Transparency and Openness to Protect and Serve

A More Open and Accessible FBI.gov

In October 2010, in response to citizen feedback, the FBI launched a [major overhaul of its website](#)—making it more user-friendly while adding many new pages and features. The public has responded to these initiatives by coming to the FBI website in record numbers in recent years, with more than 50 million visits in 2011 alone.

Examples of the FBI’s upgraded features include:

[Widgets, RSS Feeds and Email Alerts](#)

These tools allow users to incorporate FBI content into their own websites or blogs so users can easily keep track of content that interests them. Email alerts are available on over 250 topics.

Enhanced Search for Fugitives and Missing Persons

A new search function in the popular [Wanted by the FBI](#) site makes it easier to help find fugitives and missing persons,

[National Stolen Art File Online](#)

Allows easy way to search for art and determine if particular works of art might be stolen.

The Vault:

In the FBI's revamped electronic reading room, records both past and present are searchable by key word and topic and have been made easier to read through a convenient web document viewer.

Search Decades of Crime Statistics

Searches of the FBI's annual Uniform Crime Reports of all crimes reported to participating police agencies can be conducted more easily, including through a [new online tool](#) that builds usable sets of crime data going back to 1960.

Child ID App

The FBI's first mobile application can be downloaded to keep photos and other vital information about children right at hand to aid in a search in the unlikely event they go missing.

Social Media

The FBI can be visited on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#) by users who can join the conversation and receive breaking news and other content. [Podcasts](#) of the FBI's four regular shows on iTunes, along with new video versions of "Wanted by the FBI" are available via iTunes.

The podcasts include:

- Inside the FBI: a discussion of breaking news, cases, and operations.
- FBI, This Week : a behind-the-scenes look at FBI responsibilities and accomplishments.
- Gotcha!: memorable FBI closed cases, often featuring close collaboration with other law enforcement partners.
- Wanted by the FBI: spotlight on our wanted fugitives and missing persons.

FBI in español

For the first time a portal for Spanish-speakers provides translations of key web pages and stories targeted to Hispanic audiences has been made available.

A More Transparent and Accessible ATF.gov

More Data Online

Data and statistics posted to ATF's [website](#) include weapons tracing data for all 50 states; staffing and budget data; firearms licensee theft/loss data; firearms manufacturer and exporter data; and National Firearms Act (NFA) firearms processing data.

Mobile

An ATF mobile application is available for iOS, Android and Windows Phone 7 devices. The app include articles explaining ATF's areas of responsibility, a geo-locator that allows users to locate and contact the nearest ATF field office, the ability to sign up for e-mail updates on ATF news of interest, and firearms diagrams outlining nomenclature and federal definitions of firearms and ammunition terms.

Social Media

In January 2012, ATF launched its [official Twitter account](#). ATF regularly posts news releases from the field divisions, as well as employment and historical information, where applicable.

FARA.gov

The Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) was enacted in 1938. FARA is a disclosure statute that requires persons acting as agents of foreign principals in a political or quasi-political capacity to make periodic public disclosure of their relationship with the foreign principal, activities on behalf of the principal, and receipts and disbursements in support of those activities. Disclosure of the required information facilitates evaluation by the government and the American people of the statements and activities of such persons in light of their function as foreign agents. The FARA Registration Unit of the Counterespionage Section in the National Security Division is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Act.

In the course of soliciting public suggestions for how to make the department more open and accessible during our initial open government dialogue, we received many public comments expressing interest in improved access to FARA data. Although that project was not included in the original Open Government Plan, the department used that feedback to improve the FARA database.

The improved online portal for the FARA Registration and Payment Process, called FARA eFile, enables FARA registrants to electronically file registration statements and supplements with the FARA Registration Unit. FARA eFile is an intuitive online shopping cart process that allows registrants to register and pay their registration fees online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, demonstrating an enhancement to the FARA website.

Additionally, the FARA search system is fully searchable and allows anyone to retrieve and/or download FARA information as needed. FARA eFile and search result in more timely public disclosure and transparency while promoting more efficient practices. OMB has identified FARA eFile and search as a leading benchmark of a federal agency e-Government / e-Signature / online payment and registration system for other agencies to model.

FARA's newly enhanced website provides superior capabilities to the registrant community and is instrumental in the National Security Division's ability to deliver a great service for the Justice Department and the public.

Additional Transparency Initiatives

Department of Justice Daily Public Calendar of Events

The Department of Justice will begin to post a daily calendar of events accessible from the homepage of Justice.gov. The daily calendar will include public appearances by the Attorney General and other senior department officials. Anyone will have the option of subscribing to an RSS feed or receiving the calendar by email each day.

Courts-on-Camera Pilot Program

In July 2011, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and the Judicial Conference of the United States initiated a three-year pilot project to record and subsequently post on-line certain civil district court proceedings in 14 judicial districts. The Department of Justice, through the Associate Attorney General, has formed a working group, which is in the process of developing guidelines for the participation of Department of Justice

attorneys in the pilot project. The department intends to work with the Judicial Conference in the future with respect to this pilot project.

FOIA Logs for Senior Leadership Offices

The Office of Information Policy will post logs to their FOIA Library of requests processed for the department's senior leadership offices. These logs will be provided monthly. By examining these logs, members of the public will be able to quickly identify records of interest that have already been processed and are therefore readily available.

Logs will be posted in 2012.

Expanded Use of Social Media to Disseminate Information

In 2009 the Justice Department joined Facebook, Twitter and Youtube as a way to deliver critical department information to a wider audience. Since that time, several offices and divisions have begun to use social media to provide mission-critical information to the public.

COPS on Facebook

In the fall of 2010 the Office of Community Orientated Policing Services launched a Facebook page to better connect and spread information to educate the public about a variety of criminal justice issues that affect the implementation of community policing and to spread the word about the many resources made available by the office to assist law enforcement practitioners in more effectively addressing crime and social disorder in their communities.

Civil Rights Division on Twitter

The Civil Rights Division launched their [Twitter account @CivilRights](#) in the fall of 2010 to better share information about the work of the division including case developments and tips on how to access the division's services.

United States Attorneys' Offices Launch Social Media

In 2011 a small number of United States Attorney Offices began to use Twitter and Facebook to enhance outreach efforts within their districts. The effort will expand in 2012. U.S. Attorney Offices are able to bring district-specific information to their followers and expand the reach of their traditional efforts.

Office of Information Policy on Twitter

As the government's lead office on encouraging agency compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, The Office of Information Policy has a uniquely public-facing mission. They will use Twitter to reach a broader audience, making information about the FOIA available and accessible. Tweets will include information about new FOIA developments, court decisions; significant agency document releases, and open government initiatives.

The account will debut in the Spring of 2012.

Executive Office of Immigration Review on Twitter

The Executive Office for Immigration Review launched a Twitter account to broadcast information about immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals, including policy announcements, court operating status updates and news information.

National Institute of Justice on YouTube

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has uploaded dozens of information video clips and interviews to the Department of Justice YouTube Channel, creating a playlist featuring NIJ materials. In 2012 the National Institute of Justice will launch their own YouTube channel to feature their content exclusively, as well as a Facebook and Twitter accounts to allow them to better serve their community.

Records Management

The Justice Department follows all legal requirements for the management of federal records. The Department of Justice and its bureaus have completed a self-assessment of records policies based on guidance provided by the National Archives and Records Administration. For example, both Department of Justice and its bureaus have designated records officers; have established networks of designated records management liaisons; have issued records management directives; and have disseminated policies and procedures to ensure records are protected appropriately.

The Office of Records Management Policy continues to evaluate and review the department's programs while continuing its move to a new and more sophisticated Records and Information Management Program.

The Office of Records Management Policy and the records officers in the Department of Justice bureaus provide regular training to agency personnel on their records management responsibilities, as well as briefings for senior officials and political appointees on the importance of appropriately managing records under their immediate control.

More information is available at: <http://www.justice.gov/open/records.html>

FOIA Administration at the Department of Justice

The Department of Justice has long carried a special responsibility in ensuring that FOIA's demands are met. The Office of Information Policy (OIP) at the Department of Justice is responsible for encouraging agency compliance with FOIA. The Office of Information Policy develops and provides guidance to agencies on questions relating to application of the FOIA and oversees the Department of Justice's responsibilities as they relate to the FOIA. Detailed information about the administration of the FOIA at the Justice Department, including staffing and organizational information, processing information and backlog reduction goals can be found at: <http://www.justice.gov/open/foia.html>

Department of Justice FOIA Progress in 2011

In July 2011, the Office of Information Policy completed an assessment of all cabinet agencies' FOIA administration from the prior fiscal year, scoring them on multiple factors connected with implementation of the Attorney General's FOIA Guidelines. Each agency was assigned a score of green, yellow or red for each factor that was rated. The assessment is available for download at: <http://www.justice.gov/oip/2011-cfo-reports.pdf>.

The Department of Justice scored green on every factor but one, having exhibited success in applying the presumption of openness, including increasing its releases in response to FOIA requests, ensuring that its systems for handling requests are efficient, increasing its proactive disclosures and use of technology. Although the department had a slight increase in its backlog in FY 2010, and so did not score green on that one factor, it did close its 10 oldest requests and appeals, and so scored green on that vital aspect of backlog management.

The Office of Information Policy also recently received all 99 agencies' Chief FOIA Officer (CFO) Reports to the Attorney General covering the period March 2011 through March

2012. They will be scoring the agencies on multiple factors connected with implementation of the Attorney General's FOIA Guidelines.

- As the Department of Justice CFO Report details, the department continues to lead by example in its administration of the FOIA, closing out fiscal year 2011 with significant accomplishments.
- Despite three straight years of receiving record high numbers of FOIA requests – over 60,000 requests for each of the past three years – the department processed a record number of those requests. In doing so, the department released records in full or in part for 94.5% of requests involving responsive records, which marks the second straight year the department has achieved such a high release rate.
- Even more significantly, the department increased the number of responses in which records were released in full.
- In addition to releasing more information, the department also realized its goal of reducing its backlog of pending requests. The backlog for initial requests was reduced significantly, by a full 26%, which is two and a half times over the target reduction of 10% suggested by the Open Government Directive.
- A parallel reduction in backlog was also achieved for pending administrative appeals, with the department reducing that backlog by a full 41%. The department closed its 10 oldest pending requests from the previous fiscal year and significantly reduced the number of days pending for the 10 oldest requests in fiscal year 2011.

Congressional Requests

The department's relationship with Congress, including congressional requests for information, is managed by the [Office of Legislative Affairs \(OLA\)](#). OLA articulates the department's position on legislation proposed by Congress, facilitates the appearance of department witnesses at congressional hearings, and coordinates the interagency clearance process led by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Additionally, OLA coordinates the department's responses to congressional committee oversight requests and inquiries from individual Members and congressional staff. OLA also participates in the Senate confirmation process for federal judges and department nominees, such as Assistant Attorneys General and United States Attorneys. These functions are important to the department's cooperative and productive relationship with Congress.

OLA is a small office, headed by a presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed Assistant Attorney General. OLA coordinates the clearance of the department's views on legislation within the department and then within the Executive Branch through the OMB process. Among the information available on the OLA website includes, OMB cleared views letters and prepared statements of department witnesses at congressional hearings.

Letters from Members of Congress are directed to the department's Executive Secretariat for assignment to components with substantive knowledge of the underlying matters. Those components prepare responses for OLA review and transmission to Congress.-

OLA uses the OLA Intranet Quorum (IQ), to control and track all legislative correspondence, hearing requests and related materials, and other inquiries concerning legislative matters. Among the items tracked by this system are:

- pending legislation;
- draft legislative proposals developed within the department;
- requests for comments or views on legislative proposals from congressional Committees and Members, OMB, and other Federal agencies;
- hearing testimony and questions for the records of congressional hearings;
- Presidential proclamations; and other similar items.

Making Congressional Reports Available To the Public

The department is working to identify statutorily required reports to Congress that are suitable for public posting. Once identified, they will be posted on the department's website.

Declassification Policy and Procedures

Information about Declassification Policy and Procedures, including information on where to send a request for mandatory declassification review, is available at <http://www.justice.gov/open/declassification.html>

Automatic Declassification Program

The Automatic Declassification Program pertains to agencies with original classification authority (past and current). Information appraised as having permanent historical value is automatically declassified once it reaches 25 years of age unless an agency head has determined that it falls within a narrow exemption that permits continued classification and it has been appropriately approved.

Records that contain other agencies classified information is referred to those agencies for action. Though the Department of Justice may declassify their interest in a document, it will not be fully declassified until other agency equities are cleared.

Systematic Declassification Program

The Systematic Declassification Program is a complementary program to automatic declassification. It requires all agencies that create classified information to establish and conduct a systematic declassification review program for classified permanently valuable records for the purpose of declassification after the records reach a specific age. Records exempted from automatic declassification are subject to the systematic review program.

Mandatory Declassification Review Program

The Mandatory Declassification Review Program implements Executive Order 13526, which allows individuals to request that an agency review specific classified national security information for purposes of seeking its declassification. This program allows historians, researchers, and other members of the public to request declassification of documents and/ or information pertinent to their research.

Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP).

Individuals may appeal mandatory declassification review decisions that have been denied at the agency level by appealing to the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP). This panel is made up of senior level representatives from several agencies and

acts as the final arbiter on agency actions taken in response to requests for mandatory declassification review.

More information about declassification policies can be found at:

<http://www.justice.gov/open/declassification.html>

Participation

The Models for Change Initiative

The Models for Change initiative is a public-private partnership of OJP's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the MacArthur Foundation. Begun in

August 2011, the initiative aims to create successful and replicable models of juvenile justice reform through targeted investments in key states. The focus of the initiative is to provide training and technical assistance to the juvenile justice field in the following areas: Disproportionate Minority Contact, Mental Health and Needs of Multi-System Youth.

Four external organizations support the partnership: Children's Law and Policy Center, RFK Children's Action Corps, National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice and the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Through the provision of training and technical assistance services, state and local juvenile justice staff will be better informed and prepared to meet the specific needs of youths in their systems. In addition, this infusion of subject matter expertise will ultimately enhance the ability of OJJDP to provide training and technical assistance that is clearly grounded in evidence-based practices.

The availability of these services has been publicized through the OJJDP JUVJUST listserv, as well as other newsletters and listservs in the juvenile justice community. Performance measure reports will be submitted by the agencies implementing the training and technical assistance services to help track improved participation and collaboration. Implementation and progress will be tracked over the next year through regular contacts between the implementing agencies and the OJJDP program managers.

The National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention

The National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention is a White House initiative, led by the Departments of Justice and Education, that includes agencies and stakeholders at the federal, state and local levels, as well as faith and community-based organizations, youth and family groups, and business and philanthropic leaders. It was established to build a national conversation on youth and gang violence that would increase awareness, drive action and increase the ability of localities to address the problem through more effective and comprehensive planning.

The development of networks and strategies that blend prevention, intervention, enforcement and reentry has enabled the Department of Justice and its partner agencies to better leverage existing but scarce resources to support local efforts.

At the second annual summit on preventing youth violence, held in Washington, D.C., on April 2-3, 2012, localities presented their comprehensive youth violence prevention plans and described progress made in implementing their plans. Promising strategies were highlighted and challenges identified. Site visits in the summer of 2012 will allow federal representatives to visit participating localities to observe and offer guidance as well as to identify needed training and assistance. A working session will take place at the end of 2012 at which the participating jurisdictions can develop, refine or describe implementation of their efforts to prevent youth and gang violence and explore how they can be improved.

With the help of partners at the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice has launched a web page about the Forum on FindYouthInfo.gov, thereby helping to engage a broader audience of stakeholders. The initiative will continue into 2013, with the third annual summit planned for the spring; site visits in the summer; and another working session planned for the fall.

Collaboration

National Security Collaboration

In order to address terrorist networks operating around the world, the department has increased its partnerships at every level of government in the United States and has forged strong ties with its counterparts overseas.

FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces

Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs) are small cells of highly trained, locally based, passionately committed investigators, analysts, linguists, SWAT experts, and other specialists from dozens of U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies. These task forces are a multi-agency effort led by the Justice Department and FBI designed to combine the resources of federal, state, and local law enforcement. The Joint Terrorism Task Forces retain primary responsibility for terrorism investigations and coordinate among FBI field offices and their respective counterparts in federal, state, and local law enforcement and intelligence agencies in conducting international and domestic investigations. There are currently 104 task forces around the country with nearly 4,500 personnel. They enable a shared intelligence base across many agencies and create familiarity among investigators and managers before a crisis. Most importantly, they pool talents, skills, and knowledge from across the law enforcement and intelligence communities into a single team that responds together.

These local task forces are overseen by The National Joint Terrorism Task Force (NJTTF), which was established in 2002 to serve as a coordinating mechanism. Some 50 agencies are now represented in the NJTTF, which has become a focal point for information sharing and the management of large-scale projects that involve multiple partners. The NJTTF works closely with the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), to exchange information, analyze data, and plan anti-terrorism strategies.

Anti-Terrorism Advisory Councils

Every U.S. Attorney oversees a district-wide Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council to enhance information sharing with state and local authorities in each district and coordination with other department components on terrorism matters. Through these councils, the U.S. Attorney's offices coordinate specific antiterrorism initiatives; hold and participates in training programs; and facilitate information sharing among law enforcement partners.

Partnering with International Law Enforcement Partners to Fight Terrorists

In addition to the many efforts to collaborate with federal, state, local and tribal partners, the department also leverages international law enforcement cooperation to target and dismantle terrorist enterprises both at home and abroad. For example, the department has expanded the number of FBI Legal Attaché offices in foreign countries. Staffed by special agents and other personnel, these offices help protect Americans by building relationships with principal law enforcement, intelligence, and security services around the globe that help ensure a prompt and continuous exchange of information. These offices are located in 76 key cities around the globe and provide coverage for more than 200 countries, territories, and islands. Each office is established through mutual agreement with the host country and is situated in the U.S. embassy or consulate in that nation. International liaison and information sharing are conducted in accordance with executive orders, laws, treaties, Attorney General Guidelines, FBI policies, and interagency agreements.

The Federal Interagency Reentry Council

The Federal Interagency Reentry Council presents a major opportunity to improve public safety and well-being through enhanced communication, coordination and collaboration across federal agencies. The purpose of this group is to bring together numerous federal agencies to make communities safer by assisting those returning from prison and jail in becoming productive, tax-paying citizens. This initiative may also save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration that result from recidivism of those who reenter their communities unprepared.

In January 2011, Attorney General Holder convened the inaugural meeting of the interagency council, with seven cabinet members and other administration leaders attending. Since that time, substantial commitments have been made from the 19 participating agencies. An interactive map of reentry grants from the partner agencies is available at: <http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/national-criminal-justice-initiatives-map>

The second meeting of the Council was held in September, 2011, and included discussion of \$83 million in FY 2011 funding to be awarded for Second Chance Act grants and other reentry programs. The Attorney General said at that time: “We must use every tool at our disposal to tear down the unnecessary barriers to economic opportunities and independence so that formerly incarcerated individuals can serve as productive members of their communities.”

The Reentry Council makes an impact by coordinating and leveraging federal resources for reentry; removing or helping to navigate federal barriers to reentry; and using its bully pulpit to advance effective reentry strategies and provide visibility and transparency to reentry programs and policies.

To learn more visit www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org.

Innovative Methods of Collaboration

FOIA Technology Working Group

The Office of Information Policy has convened an inter-agency working group to explore ways that technology can be used to improve the FOIA process. This FOIA IT Working Group provides a forum for agencies to exchange ideas and to learn from one another about the various ways that technology can assist in many different phases of the FOIA process to improve efficiency, streamline the process, and improve timeliness in responding to FOIA requests.

Flagship Initiatives

The FOIA in the 21st Century

The Freedom of Information Act has been a key pillar of open government since its passage in 1966. The FOIA establishes the framework to facilitate public access to government information, unless that information is protected from public disclosure by one of nine exemptions or three special law enforcement record exclusions.

The Department of Justice takes seriously its role in administering the FOIA for the federal government. The Office of Information Policy (OIP) is responsible for encouraging agency compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and for ensuring that the [President's FOIA Memorandum](#) and the [Attorney General's FOIA Guidelines](#) are fully implemented across the government. The office develops and issues policy guidance to all agencies on proper implementation of the FOIA.

President Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder and the Office of Information Policy recognize that new technologies offer the federal government an opportunity to transform administration of the FOIA so that agencies can more efficiently administer the FOIA, process requests and provide information to the public. In his Memorandum on the FOIA, the president instructed agencies to "use modern technology to inform citizens what is known and done by their Government."

To enable all agencies to strategically use technology in the administration of the FOIA to better serve the public the Department of Justice and Office of Information Policy will undertake several projects as part of a comprehensive flagship initiative dedicated to improving the operation of FOIA for all concerned.

Put the *U.S. Department of Justice Guide to the Freedom of Information Act* Online

The U.S. Department of Justice Guide to the Freedom of Information Act is published by The Office of Information Policy and serves as a comprehensive legal treatise of the Freedom of Information Act's procedural requirements, exemptions and litigation considerations. When last published in 2009 the guide totaled nearly 900 pages.

Later this year, the Department of Justice will create an online version of the guide that will become a "living document" able to be updated to include significant new developments in the FOIA as soon as they occur.

In addition to allowing for the timely transmission of information to those who rely on the guide to help implement and understand the statute, an online version will be enhanced with links to source material. Searching the Guide will be easier than ever. The document will be available to anyone, anytime as a resource on the Office of Information Policy website.

Make FOIA Related Information Easy to Find

Agency websites continue to grow larger and more comprehensive to better serve the public, increasing the amount of information available to the public online.

Yet the volume of information available can make it difficult for interested persons to find the particular information they seek. Especially when it comes to FOIA disclosures, a uniform system is necessary to allow for easy discovery, identification and retrieval of information.

The Office of Information Policy will work with the General Services Administration's Office of Citizen Services and Innovative Technologies as well as the Interagency FOIA Technology Working Group and other interested stakeholders from the FOIA community to develop metadata standards that will facilitate the ability of interested persons to search and retrieve documents across websites and disparate recordkeeping systems.

The Office of Information Policy will issue agency guidance for "tagging" information with a standard metadata when posting FOIA documents and proactive disclosures online. The guidance will be issued in 2012 and agency compliance will be mandated for FY 2013.

Quarterly FOIA Reporting

The Office of Information Policy will issue a directive mandating the reporting of key FOIA statistics on a quarterly basis.

Agencies currently submit a comprehensive report to the Department of Justice each year providing the public with a wealth of information concerning federal government implementation of the FOIA. In 2011 the Justice Department launched FOIA.gov, which allows anyone to easily explore and compare data about FOIA compliance from any agency or between agencies.

With the easy access to data provided by FOIA.gov, it became clear that the public was eager for more timely release of important FOIA data. As a result, the Office of Information Policy will direct all agencies to report certain key statistics on a quarterly basis and will incorporate that information into FOIA.gov

As a result, interested parties will be able to track government FOIA administration throughout the year instead of waiting for a single annual report. Quarterly reports will be snapshots of an agencies progress and be limited to major data points. These progress

reports are not expected to place an undue administrative burden on agencies, but will move FOIA data one step closer to being available in real time.

This directive will be issued in 2012 with compliance expected to begin in FY 2013.

Expand the Department of Justice's Annual FOIA Report Tool

Each year agencies compile data about their compliance with the FOIA into a comprehensive annual FOIA report. Beginning in 2010, agencies were required to post their reports in both human-readable and machine-readable (XML) formats.

The introduction of the XML format allows for increased openness and transparency around FOIA data. These open formats can be used by anyone. In fact, it is the XML reports that power FOIA.gov. With the launch of FOIA.gov, the Office of Information Policy provided all agencies with a tool to generate their XML reports. The tool was built to be NEIM compliant and included built-in checks to ensure the proper computation of data.

However as a result of this requirement, agencies compile two reports - one with the XML-generation tool and another using word processing software. As a result, discrepancies sometimes occur. The department therefore will enhance the tool provided to agencies to create their XML reports to allow for single-point data entry that will generate human-readable reports as well. Offering this tool to agencies will simplify the compilation of reports, make better use of agency resources and ensure a greater degree of information quality.

The Department of Justice will make this tool available to agencies for their FY 2013 reports.

Online FOIA Training

Government Wide eLearning Module

The Attorney General's FOIA guidelines state that, "FOIA is everyone's responsibility."

To help ensure all federal employees live up to their responsibility to ensure openness and transparency, the Office of Information Policy will develop an online FOIA training course to be available to all federal employees.

It is critical to the effective administration of the FOIA that all government employees understand how the FOIA works and the responsibilities they all have with respect to the law and applicable Executive Branch policy.

The e-learning course will be specifically developed for personnel who do not deal with FOIA on a daily basis. The training will emphasize the “presumption of openness” principle that must be applied towards records and information and will educate agency officials about their own role in assisting the FOIA process.

Webinars to Reach a Wider Audience

The Office of Information Policy will expand its FOIA training to include webinars to educate members of the public and government employees on FOIA rules and implementation.

As the government’s lead FOIA office, the Office of Information Policy regularly conducts training seminars on various FOIA topics for agency personnel. The seminars usually require in-person attendance and are frequently held in Washington, DC.

To expand the availability of training seminars and more efficiently use resources, the Office of Information Policy will begin holding training sessions online through webinars.

With over 400 FOIA offices located around the country the use of webinars to conduct training will allow the department’s experience and knowledge to reach a wider audience of government personnel.

After the introduction of webinars for government personnel, the Office of Information Policy will begin hosting webinars for members of the public interested in learning more about the FOIA process, how to make requests and what to expect when they do.

The Office of Information Policy will begin webinars in 2012.

Improving FOIA Administration within the Department of Justice with Technology

e-Discovery Pilot Project

Consistent with its continuing commitment to improving the administration of FOIA in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible, the Department of Justice has developed a

pilot program that seeks to leverage existing “e-discovery” tools used in litigation to process records responsive to FOIA requests.

One of the most common delays in the processing of FOIA requests across the government is the time spent by FOIA personnel searching for, de-duplicating, and conducting initial responsiveness review on records, much of which is done by hand or using off-the-shelf software with limited capabilities for advanced document review and redaction. All of these steps must take place before a FOIA professional can even begin to review records for the application of FOIA exemptions and for ultimate release to FOIA requesters.

When offices receive requests that involve broad topics that require complex searches across multiple custodians’ electronic records, this adds additional delays as these issues are compounded.

In keeping with the President’s Open Government Initiative, and the Open Government Partnership U.S. National Action Plan’s call to harness the power of technology in FOIA administration, the Office of Information Policy and the Civil Division’s (Civil) Office of Legal Services, with support from the Justice Management Division (JMD), have commenced an e-discovery-FOIA pilot program that will leverage existing IT discovery resources and platforms for use in the FOIA context.

With this pilot program, OIP will partner with the Civil Division to use existing e-discovery resources to assist FOIA analysts in pre-processing electronic documents to increase efficiency in responding to FOIA requests.

Currently, OIP uses a very labor-intensive, primarily manual process to review electronic records to determine whether they are responsive to a request, to separate out duplicates, and to organize the records so that they can be reviewed for releasability. Electronic records such as emails must often be printed out, reviewed by hand, and then scanned into a document review system with little capability to de-duplicate, and no capability for conducting refined or targeted searches of the overall universe of records. Moreover, the process of printing and scanning, in addition to being immensely time-consuming, does not allow review of the file in native format. The pilot program will leverage Civil Division’s

existing infrastructure to take advantage of the e-discovery software's ability to conduct precise searches, to de-duplicate records, and to sort and organize the records electronically in advance of their review by a FOIA professional. This "pre-processing" of the records utilizing the e-discovery software will be conducted for sample FOIA requests selected by OIP to use in the pilot.

The Office of Information Policy and the Civil Division have selected test cases that will be processed using the e-discovery tools, as well as similarly sized "control" cases whereby the efficiency and speed of searching, sorting and review may be measured and compared. The goal of this pilot program is to examine how these tools can reduce the time taken to respond to FOIA requests and assess the cost-impact of these tools.

A Mobile Justice.gov

In 2009, the Department of Justice redesigned the Justice.gov website to make it easier to find, share and use information. As we continue to expand the amount of online information available to the public, we want to ensure that critical information is available anytime, anywhere, on any device, including mobile browsers. We will develop a mobile-friendly version of Justice.gov that makes it easy to access critical department information.

We will solicit ideas from the public to identify critical areas of the traditional website to make mobile-friendly and we will work with federal partners to align our efforts with the larger federal government efforts for smart mobile strategy.

APPENDIX II: Data Sets Scheduled for Future Release

Revised and Annotated for Open Gov Plan 2.0

Data underlying the following report	planned for release in...	Status	Release Date
Swiftness and Certainty in Enforcing Probation Conditions: Hawaii's H.O.P.E. Program NIJ	July 2010	Released, restricted	July 6, 2011
Test of the Efficacy of Court-Mandated Counseling for Domestic Violence Offenders NIJ	July 2010	Released, restricted	March 31, 2011
Gender, Mental Illness, and Crime ¹ https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/224028.pdf	July 2010	Report published	
Evaluating a Joint Police-Social Service Program NIJ	July 2010	Released, public	Dec. 14, 2001 ²
Pennsylvania Task Force on Prison Overcrowding NIJ	July 2010	Released, restricted	June 30, 2010
Climate Correlates of Perceived Danger Among Federal Correctional Officers NIJ	July 2010	Processing; Preserve ³	Estimated December, 2012
Evaluation of Projects Supported by Byrne Memorial Funds ⁴ https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/Digitization/214571NcJRS.pdf	July 2010	Report published	
Reentry Mapping Network: An Action Research Partnership NIJ	July 2010	Released, restricted	July 30, 2010
Mandatory Custody Mediation NIJ	July 2010	Released, restricted	May 27, 2010
Exploring the Drugs/Crime Connection Within the Electronic	July 2010	Processing;	Estimated June,

¹ This report did not generate data; it was a secondary data analysis of the Household Drug Survey data.

² [sic] This was a project initiated in the 1990's with a follow-up study some years later.

³ The data are still on the way to public release; the "preserve" indicates that they are being saved within a backlog of data sets to be processed at a future date.

⁴ This report, prepared by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, did not generate data.

Dance and Hip Hop Nightclub Scenes NIJ		restricted	2012
Sexual Violence: Longitudinal, Multigenerational Evidence ⁵ https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/223284.pdf	July 2010	Report published	
Evaluation of a Multi-Site Demonstration of Collaborations to Address Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment NIJ	July 2010	Released, restricted	Aug. 27, 2010
United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems ⁶ https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=157479	July 2010	Report published	
Florida Elder Abuse Survey NIJ	July 2010	Released, restricted	Oct. 27, 2010
Experience of Violence in the Lives of Homeless Persons ⁷ NIJ	July 2010	Release restricted	Nov. 22, 2010
Death in Custody Reporting Program Statistical Table, 2007 (update)* BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2219	August 2010	Released, restricted	
Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 2006 BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2193	August 2010	Released, public	http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/2038

⁵ This report did not generate data; it was a secondary analysis of New York State data.

⁶ This report did not generate data.

⁷ This report's title was changed from "Experience of Violence in the Lives of Homeless Women."

*This data include Personally Identifiable Information (PII) information, and access will be limited to approved investigators.

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Jail Inmates at Midyear 2009 -- Statistical Tables BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2195	September 2010	Released, public	http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NA/CJD/series/7/studies/29081?archive=NACJD&sortBy=7
Mortality in Local Jails, 2000-07* BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2197	September 2010	Released, restricted	
Prison Inmates at Midyear 2009 -- Statistical Tables BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2200	September 2010	Released, restricted	
Prisoners at Yearend, 2009-Advance Counts BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2272	September 2010	Released, restricted	
Census of Jail Facilities, 2006 BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2205	September 2010	Released	http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NA/CJD/series/68/studies/26602?archive=NA/CJD&sortBy=7

Gang Units in Large Law Enforcement Agencies, 2007 BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2210	September 2010	Released	http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NA/CJD/series/92/studies/31161?archive=NA/CJD&sortBy=7
Arrest Trends in the United States, 1980-2008 BJS report based on FBI data http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=datool&surl=/arrests/index.cfm	October 2010	Released	http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr Data available via referenced data access tool (http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=datool&surl=/arrests/index.cfm)
Sexual Victimization Reported by Inmates in Prisons and Jails, 2008-09--Statistical Tables* BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2202	October 2010	Released, restricted	
Justice Employment and Expenditures, 2006 BJS		Released, restricted	

http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=1022			
Death in Custody Reporting Program -- Statistical Tables* BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2197	November 2010	Released, restricted	
Public Contact with Police, 2008 BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2229	December 2010	Released	http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NA/CJD/studies/32022
State Prosecutors' Offices 2007 BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=1749	December 2010	Released, restricted	
Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994 -- Statistical tables BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=1134	December 2010	Released	http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/3355?archive=ICPSR&q=recidivism+of+prisoners
Sheriffs' Offices, 2007 BJS	January 2011	To be released in 2012	
Jails in Indian Country, 2009 BJS http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2223	January 2011	Released	http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/series/158/studies/3174

			1?archive=ICP SR&sortBy=7
Capital Punishment, 2009 BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=253	January 2011	Released	http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/31443?archive=ICPSR&q=capital+punishment
Criminal Victimization, 2009 BJS http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2217	March 2011	Released	http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NA/CJD/series/95/studies/28543?archive=NA/CJD&sortBy=7