



**U.S. Department of Justice  
FY 2024 Budget Request**

**Keep Our Country Safe:  
Combat Drug Trafficking and Prevent Overdose Deaths  
(Amounts in \$000s)**

Component / Initiative	Positions	Agents/ Attorneys	\$000s
<b>FEDERAL PROGRAMS</b>			
<b>Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)</b>			
DEA Modernizing Case Management	0	0	\$10,000
DEA Operation Overdrive Expansion	48	4	9,000
<b>Subtotal, DEA</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$19,000</b>
<b>Subtotal, Federal Programs</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$19,000</b>
<b>GRANTS</b>			
<b>Office of Justice Programs (OJP)</b>			
Tribal Youth Program	0	0	\$30,000
Mentoring for Youth Affected by Substance Use	0	0	18,000
Opioid-Affected Youth Initiative	0	0	16,000
Novel Psychoactive Substances Discovery	0	0	5,000
<b>Subtotal, OJP</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$69,000</b>
<b>Subtotal, Grants</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$69,000</b>
<b>Total Program Enhancements</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$88,000</b>

In his 2023 State of the Union address, President Biden emphasized the importance of beating the opioid epidemic. Synthetic opioids such as fentanyl remain the primary driver of the increase in overdose deaths and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated numerous factors involved in opioid addiction. Provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics indicate an estimated 107,622 Americans needlessly died of drug overdoses in the United States during 2021, an increase of nearly 15 percent from 2020. However, there are promising signs that investments in fighting the opioid epidemic are working: under President Biden’s leadership, overdose deaths and poisonings have decreased for five months in a row.

This year, the Department of Justice is investing over \$10.4 billion to address this scourge and to continue to drive down the incidence of drug overdose deaths. To this end, the Department invests a total of \$88.0 million in key programs in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to continue the fight against dangerous organizations, both domestically and internationally. The OJP proposes to more than double the value of its grant programs in this space in FY 2024, including two new programs aimed at protecting America’s youth and identifying the next generation of psychoactive substances. These investments will enable the Department to track illicit funding sources and prevent the flow of deadly drugs into the hands of those who grow, manufacture, or distribute controlled substances destined for illicit traffic in America and to support our communities in countering the scourge of drugs.

As part of the FY 2024 President’s Budget, and as an essential part of the Department’s commitment in its Strategic Goal to Keep Our Country Safe, the Department will combat the opioid crisis through increased resources within the DEA and OJP. The Department will continue to disrupt and dismantle cartel operations, remove fentanyl from our communities, and employ public awareness campaigns to combat the counterfeit pill threat and educate the public about the dangers of fentanyl pills being disguised and sold as prescription medication. Further, through

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evidence-based enforcement strategies, the Department will work to save lives by enjoining and deterring prescribers and pharmacists from illegally dispensing opioids.

### **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA): \$19.0 million and 48 positions (four agents) Modernizing Case Management: \$10.0 million**

Combating criminal drug networks requires a data-driven approach to pinpoint the most dangerous networks. Accordingly, the DEA's goal is to modernize its data capabilities, and to leverage data in ways never before possible to protect American communities and save lives. The resources for this investment will be used to fund a unified data platform to enhance the DEA's capability and capacity for processing, analyzing, and applying intelligence to large volumes of data to enable it to dismantle the most egregious criminal networks. *Current services for this initiative are \$10.0 million and zero positions.*

### **Operation Overdrive Expansion: \$9.0 million and 48 positions (four agents)**

The DEA needs to translate innovation into action as quickly as possible to protect the country and counter the tactics of the organizations who are responsible for the recent surge in drug poisoning deaths. Operation Overdrive is a data-driven, intelligence-led approach for identifying and dismantling the criminal drug networks that are causing the most harm in our communities. The resources for this enhancement will be used to create targeting teams to map criminal networks, and sustain the DEA's sharing of national security information. This budget proposes to triple funding this innovative and valuable tool for fighting the fentanyl epidemic. *Current services for this initiative are \$4.5 million and zero positions.*

### **Office of Justice Programs (OJP): Total \$69.0 million (+\$39.5 million)**

#### **Tribal Youth Program: Total \$30.0 million (+\$13.0 million)**

Within the Delinquency Prevention Program, funding will provide communities the level of support necessary to develop a comprehensive and coordinated approach to help Tribes improve their juvenile justice systems and support prevention, intervention, and treatment approaches that benefit youth. This includes helping participating courts develop or strengthen policies, procedures, and services that address underage drinking and substance use. *Current services for this initiative are \$17.0 million.*

#### **Mentoring for Youth Affected by Substance Use: Total \$18.0 million (+\$18.0 million)**

This new program will provide grants to national, State, local, and tribal youth mentoring organizations to support evidence-based mentoring programs. These programs are designed to help youth affected by substance misuse avoid negative outcomes (such as delinquency, dropping out of school, or substance use). *There are no current services for this initiative.*

#### **Opioid-Affected Youth Initiative: Total \$16.0 million (+\$3.5 million)**

Within the Delinquency Prevention Program, funding will provide communities the level of support necessary to develop a comprehensive and coordinated approach to helping opioid-affected youth. This program will support the efforts of States, communities, jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, and institutions of higher education to implement programs and strategies that identify, respond to, treat, and support children, youth, and families impacted by the opioid epidemic, and other substance use disorders, to ensure public safety. Through this program, States and communities develop coordinated responses to opioid use-related challenges that impact youth and community safety. Funding under this program may be used to support programs and services to youth and families impacted by both opioids and other substance use disorders. *Current services for this initiative are \$12.5 million.*

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### **Novel Psychoactive Substances Discovery: Total \$5.0 million (+\$5.0 million)**

This new program will fund an open-access early drug warning system recently highlighted in the National Drug Control Strategy from the Office of National Drug Control Policy. This program uses datamining and testing to combat the influx of novel psychoactive substances and characterize their health and safety impacts by creating resources for the forensic science, public health, law enforcement, and other stakeholder communities. Funding will be used to expand the program to include additional expertise, sample sets and populations, and analytical and software capabilities. Expansion of sample sets and populations will allow for a more comprehensive national picture of the drug landscape, faster critical reporting, and more extensive datamining of existing external sample sets. *There are no current services for this initiative.*