



# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

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## **Arizona Criminal Justice Commission Receives Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance and State Justice Statistics Grants**

***\$3.5 Million in Grants Will be Used to Fund Programs to Curtail Drug, Gang, and Violent Crime Activities in Arizona; Enhance the State's Capacity to Address Criminal Justice Issues Through the Collection and Analysis of Data***

**Phoenix, AZ, Thursday, September 3, 2015** – Today, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) announced that it has been awarded over \$3.5 million in grants by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The grants will be used to fund programs to curtail drug, gang, and violent crime activities in Arizona; and enhance the state's capacity to address criminal justice issues through research, and the collection and analysis of data.

"I am extremely pleased that Arizona was once again chosen to receive these grants to further the work that we are doing here to address drug, gang, and violent crime related activities," said John A. Blackburn, Jr., Executive Director of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. "In addition, the Bureau of Justice Statistics grant will support the state's ability to make data-driven and evidence-based policy decisions to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Arizona's criminal justice system."

Specifically, the \$3.4 million Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant will help fund activities by Arizona law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to prevent and control crime in the following areas: apprehension, prosecution, forensic support services, adjudication and sentencing, corrections and community corrections, substance abuse treatment for corrections-involved individuals, and prevention and education activities.

The \$138,058 State Justice Statistics Grant is designed to enhance Arizona's capacity to address criminal justice issues through the collection and analysis of data. Arizona's Statistical Analysis Center, housed within ACJC, will use the funds to assist the state's Victim Compensation Program in developing performance measures consistent with the needs of the U.S. Office of Victim Compensation; expand the Community Data Project website; and conduct an evaluation of Arizona's drug task force activities and their impact on criminal justice and public safety outcomes.

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*Created in 1982, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is a statutorily authorized entity mandated to carry out various coordinating, monitoring and reporting functions regarding the administration and management of criminal justice programs in Arizona. The ACJC serves as a resource and service organization for Arizona's criminal justice community on a myriad of issues ranging from drugs, gangs and victim assistance to criminal history, and crime laboratory enhancements.*

*Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System in Arizona*