

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS
Program Name: John R. Justice (JRJ) Program

FY 2017 Request

Total Funding*: \$0M
Vs. FY 2016 Request: \$0M
*Request would eliminate program.

Program Description

Purpose: To encourage qualified attorneys to choose careers as prosecutors and public defenders by providing loan repayment assistance through formula awards to state governments.

Authorizing Legislation: John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2008 (42 USC 3797cc-21(j))

Administering Agency: Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

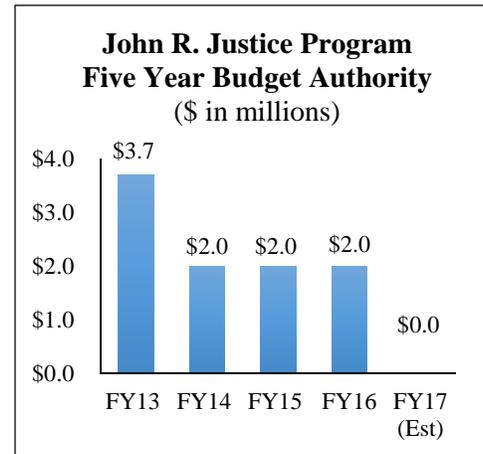
Who Can Apply for Funding: A single government agency designated to administer JRJ loan repayment programs by the governor of each state and territory or the mayor of the District of Columbia.

How Funds are Distributed: Awards are computed on a formula basis that provides each applicant with a minimum base funding level and then distributes remaining funds in proportion to each applicant's share of the national population.

Program Goals: This program is recommended for elimination.

FY 2017 Proposed Policy Changes to the Program:

The Department of Education would be the best agency to administer this student loan repayment assistance program if it is funded.



FY 2017 Proposed Funding Changes to the Program:

This program currently is unlikely to achieve the goals of attracting and retaining qualified attorneys to be prosecutors and public defenders.

- **Ineffectiveness:** Eligible attorneys find little incentive to participate in this program at current benefit levels (as little as \$1,000 per attorney) according to program assessments and feedback.
- **Inefficiency:** At current reduced funding levels, state administering agencies are finding the program to be cost prohibitive. Additionally, it is not an evidence-based program. As such, the Department prefers to invest federal funds in programs that promote and build capability, rather than providing reimbursable programs.

For additional information, please visit: [John R. Justice Program](#).