



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

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CONTACT: TANNYR WATKINS  
(202) 532-3923; [Tannyr.M.Watkins@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:Tannyr.M.Watkins@ojp.usdoj.gov)

### **BJA AWARDS NEARLY \$700,000 TO LAUNCH DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM IN SELECTED STATES**

WASHINGTON — The Office of Justice Programs’ Bureau of Justice Assistance has awarded nearly \$700,000 to launch the Comprehensive Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Program. This program will help eight jurisdictions across the country purchase drug disposal and collection equipment, and complements existing federal take-back efforts, such as the Drug Enforcement Administration’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Saturday, April 24, 2021, is the 20<sup>th</sup> National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

While the opioid epidemic has dominated headlines, communities throughout the nation have also suffered from the widespread use of other illicit drugs. The nation’s addiction crisis is a public health emergency. It affects first responders as well as the criminal justice, child welfare and behavioral health systems. Responding effectively to this public health and public safety crisis is one of the Justice Department’s top priorities.

The sites will receive funding under eight micro-grants awarded through a primary grant to the Institute for Intergovernmental Research. Each of the micro-grants will allow the sites to purchase dozens of drop boxes and tens of thousands of at-home disposal pouches, then work with local law enforcement agencies following DEA guidance to oversee the safe collection and destruction of both prescription medications and controlled substances. All eight sites with funding amounts are listed below:

<b>Awardee State</b>	<b>Awardee</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Indiana	Indiana Department of Health	\$100,000
Minnesota	Morrison County Sheriff’s Department	\$100,000
Ohio	Clark County Sheriff’s Office	\$94,898
Ohio	Cuyahoga Falls Police Department	\$99,774
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control	\$99,980
South Carolina	Orangeburg Department of Public Safety	\$16,490
Tennessee	Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Dangerous Drugs	\$100,000

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Wisconsin	Wisconsin Department of Justice	\$63,755

The projects will create leadership groups comprised of public safety and public health partners dedicated to making safe drug storage and disposal a year-round high public priority, and will promote public education campaigns in conjunction with drug take-back events.

This initiative is funded by BJA’s Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program. COSSAP provides financial and technical assistance to states, units of local government and Indian tribal governments to develop and implement comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, treat and support those impacted by illicit opioids, stimulants and other drugs.

The Institute for Intergovernmental Research, BJA’s COSSAP’s training and technical assistance provider, will administer the award on behalf of BJA. For more information, please visit <https://cossapresources.org/>.

The Office of Justice Programs provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance and other resources to improve the nation’s capacity to prevent and reduce crime, advance racial equity in the administration of justice, assist victims and enhance the rule of law. More information about OJP and its components can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).

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