

BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP

OVERVIEW

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership initiative provides critical resources to state, local, and tribal jurisdictions for the sole purpose of purchasing body armor for sworn law enforcement officers.

Enacted in 1998 by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act (Public Law 105-101) and reauthorized by the Bulletproof Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-519), the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program is a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) initiative designed to provide critical resources to state, local, and tribal jurisdictions for the sole purpose of purchasing bullet-resistant body armor for sworn law enforcement officers. This initiative is administered by the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justices Assistance (BJA).

Through the BVP Program, states, units of local government, and tribal governments are reimbursed up to 50 percent of the cost of each unit of eligible body armor purchased for law enforcement officers. As indicated by Attorney General Holder in October 2010, agencies requesting funding under the BVP Program must have a written mandatory wear policy in effect for uniformed officers. Under current legislation, jurisdictions with fewer than 100,000 residents receive priority funding, up to 50 percent of the amount they request. Any remaining funds are distributed on a pro rata basis to jurisdictions with more than 100,000 residents. In order to qualify for this reimbursement, body armor must comply with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standards, as of the date the body armor was ordered. For more information on qualifying or on current NIJ standards, please visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/.



AS OF MARCH 2011, BVP FUNDS HAVE SAVED THE LIVES OF SIX LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS THIS YEAR ALONE.

-DOJ Office of Public Affairs Press Release

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▶ APPLICATION AND FUNDING PROCESS

The entire application-through-payment process for the BVP Program is managed via the online BVP system. To participate in BVP, state, local, and tribal jurisdictions must follow four simple steps:

1. Register as a jurisdiction
2. Submit an application
3. Purchase vests
4. Submit receipt information

For more information regarding the Bulletproof Vest Partnership/Body Armor Safety Initiative, please visit the Web site at www.ojp.gov/bvpbasi.



BVP HAS DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN
\$196 MILLION
TO OVER 13,000 JURISDICTIONS

THROUGHOUT THE NATION TO ASSIST THEM IN
PURCHASING MORE THAN 800,000 BULLETPROOF VESTS
(OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, AUGUST 2010).