Federal Support for Law Enforcement: Selected Department of Justice Programs

Updated November 15, 2022
Federal Support for Law Enforcement: Selected Department of Justice Programs

Congress has authorized a range of grant programs that support state, local, and tribal law enforcement. This report provides information on selected Department of Justice grants administered by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Selected grant programs target police hiring, equipment procurement, officer safety and wellness, drug task forces, hate crimes prevention and investigations, community policing, school violence, and crisis intervention.
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Introduction

Historically, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has provided financial assistance to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to assist them with addressing crime, purchasing equipment, providing training, and supporting community policing efforts. The major offices within DOJ that administer grants are the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW).1 This report focuses on grants administered by OJP and COPS that provide direct assistance to law enforcement agencies, but are not limited to this purpose. These include grants that support police hiring, equipment procurement, officer safety and wellness, drug task forces, community policing, hate crime prevention and investigation, school violent crime response, and crisis intervention. Law enforcement agencies must be accredited or in the process of becoming accredited to be eligible for grants.

The DOJ grant cycle is ongoing with the majority of funding solicitations being announced from March through June each year.

This report includes brief descriptions of each grant program, summary information on eligibility, purpose areas, matching requirements, links to program information, grant program solicitations, and related CRS reports.

Office of Justice Programs

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is a federal agency that provides grants, training, technical assistance, and other resources targeting crime reduction, victim assistance, and strengthening the juvenile and criminal justice system.2

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

JAG formula grants can be used to support a range of activities in nine program areas. These areas include the following:

1. Law enforcement programs
2. Prosecution and court programs
3. Mental health programs
4. Crime prevention and education
5. Drug enforcement and treatment
6. Crime victim and witness programs
7. Corrections and community corrections
8. Planning, evaluation and technology improvements

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1 The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), and Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking (SMART).

2 See Department of Justice (DOJ), OJP, “About Us,” accessed October 5, 2022, at https://www.ojp.gov/about. Grants that are focused on the juvenile justice system are outside the scope of this report.
9. Implementation of State crisis intervention courts and related programs or initiatives

**Eligibility:** States, including the District of Columbia and U.S. territories are eligible. Local units of government and federally recognized tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions may be eligible to receive an allocation based on the jurisdiction’s proportion of the average number of violent crimes reported in the state for the past three years for which data are available.\(^3\)

**Match Requirement:** none

**Additional Information:**
- Program Overview
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview
- FY2022 State Formula Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171322
- FY2022 Local Formula Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171368
- FY2022-2023 Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program Solicitation (Byrne SCIP)
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2023-171458
- CRS In Focus IF10691, *The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program*
  http://www.crs.gov/Reports/IF10691

**Project Safe Neighborhoods**

This formula grant program is intended to protect communities from crime and evolving threats by identifying the most pressing violent crime problems in a community and developing solutions to address them. Goals include reducing violent crime, increasing access to justice, promoting civil rights, and supporting victims of crime.

**Eligibility:** Collaborative teams established by the U.S. Attorney’s Offices (USAO) to implement strategies to address pressing violent crime problems in the USAO’s district. These teams include federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement, and community organizations and representatives.

**Match Requirement:** none

**Additional Information:**
- Program Overview
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/project-safe-neighborhoods-psn/overview
- FY2022 Project Safe Neighborhoods Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171346

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\(^3\) Violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Allocations for local jurisdictions that are eligible for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) are listed on the OJP website. See BJA, JAG Program, “FY 2022 Allocations” at https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/fy-2022-allocations.
Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program

This competitive grant supports state, local, tribal law enforcement and prosecutors and their partners in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes. Funds also support outreach, education, and enhancing victim reporting tools.

**Eligibility:** State, territorial, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecution agencies

**Matching Requirement:** none

**Additional Information:**
- Program Overview
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/shepard-byrd-hate-crimes-program/overview
- FY2022 Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171092

Collaborative Crisis Response and Intervention Training Program

This competitive grant seeks to implement transdisciplinary crisis response training to educate and prepare law enforcement and correctional officers to appropriately interact with people who have behavioral health conditions or disabilities. Funds may be used to plan, develop, and deploy training programs for officers in responding to crisis events in the community.

**Eligibility:** States, territories, cities, counties, townships, or federally recognized Native American tribal governments

**Matching Requirements:** none

**Additional Information:**
- FY2022 Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171099

Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP)

This competitive grant program is intended to support state, local, and tribal efforts to reduce the adverse effects of opioids, stimulants, and other drugs on communities. Allowable uses have included law enforcement and first responder diversion programs, naloxone for first responders, and embedding social service workers with law enforcement.

**Eligibility:** State, territorial, county, local, or federally recognized tribal governments

**Match Requirement:** none

**Additional Information:**
- Program Overview
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/cossap/overview
- FY2022 Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171280
- COSSAP Resource Center
  https://www.cossapresources.org/
Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Initiative (CGIC)

This competitive grant program is administered in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and provides funding to areas experiencing precipitous increases in gun-related violent crime. Priority is given to jurisdictions with high volumes of nonfatal shootings and firearms-related homicides.

Eligibility: State, local, and tribal law enforcement; other governmental agencies; governmental non-law enforcement agencies, and federally recognized Native American tribal governments

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:
- Program Overview https://bja.ojp.gov/program/cgic-initiative/overview
- FY2022 Solicitation https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171021

Kevin and Avonte Program: Reducing Injury and Death of Missing Individuals with Dementia and Developmental Disabilities

This competitive grant program supports local jurisdictions’ efforts to reduce the number of deaths and injuries of individuals with forms of dementia or developmental disabilities who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments.

Eligibility: Health care agencies; state, local, and tribal law enforcement; public safety agencies; and nonprofit organizations

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:
- FY2022 Solicitation https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171114

Preventing School Violence: BJA’s STOP School Violence Program

This competitive grant program supports training for schools, students, and law enforcement to recognize, respond quickly, and help prevent acts of violence. Funds may also be used to develop anonymous reporting systems, establish intervention teams, and train school personnel to respond to mental health crises.

Eligibility: States, units of local government, federally recognized Indian tribes, law enforcement agencies, and nonprofit entities, independent school districts, and private institutes of higher education

Match Requirement: none
Additional Information:
- Program Overview
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/stop-school-violence-program/overview
- FY2022 Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171118
- CRS In Focus IF10836, *Department of Justice Support for School Safety Initiatives*

**Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies**

This competitive grant program funds the purchase of body-worn cameras (BWCs) and the establishing, updating, and expanding of BWC programs.

**Eligibility:** State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies; correctional agencies that perform law enforcement functions (e.g., sheriff’s departments); prosecutors’ offices; and state or regional consortia that support such agencies, including state administrating agencies.  

**Match Requirement:** Funds require a 50% cash or in-kind match. Funding is capped at $2,000 per BWC.

Additional Information:
- Program Overview
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/body-worn-camera-policy-and-implementation-program-support-law-enforcement-agencies/overview
- FY2022 Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171093

**Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP)**

This competitive grant program supports collaboration across criminal justice and mental health systems to improve public safety responses to individuals with mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse. Program areas have focused on embedding social workers or mental health workers with law enforcement, supporting mental health centers, and using mental health courts.

**Eligibility:** States, units of local government, and federally recognized tribal governments, mental health agencies and public institutions of higher education

**Match Requirement:** Funds require a 20% match of the total cost of the project for the first two years and 40% match for the third project year. Recipients may satisfy this match requirement with either cash or in-kind services.

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4 State administering agencies (SSAs) are responsible for administering formula grant funds awarded directly to state governments. For a list of SSAs, see *State Administering Agencies* at https://www.ojp.gov/funding/state-administering-agencies/overview.
Additiona  l Information:

- Program Overview
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/justice-and-mental-health-collaboration-program-jmhc/overview
- FY2022 Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171081

Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program

This competitive grant helps entities prepare, create or expand programs to assist collaborative law enforcement-behavioral health responses to people with mental illness and co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse who come into contact with law enforcement due to their illness.

Eligibility: State, city, township, or county governments, federally recognized tribal governments, mental health agencies, and public institutions of higher education

Match Requirement: 20% cash and/or in kind match for the first two years and 40% match in year three.

Additional Information:

- FY2022 Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171076

National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI)

This competitive program is intended to help law enforcement agencies and prosecutors’ offices address challenges associated with sexual assault kits that have not been submitted to a crime lab for testing.

Eligibility: State and local law enforcement agencies, federally recognized tribal governments, prosecutor’s offices, units of local government

Match: None

Additional information:

- Program Overview
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/saki/overview
- FY2022 Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171107

Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations and Prosecution Program

This competitive grant program provides funding to prosecutors’ offices, and state, local, and tribal law enforcement to assist in the investigation and prosecution of cold case murders associated with civil rights violations and racially motivated murders committed prior to 1979.

Eligibility: State, territory, local and federally recognized tribal law enforcement agencies and prosecutors’ offices

Match Requirement: none
Additional Information:

- Program Overview
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/emmett-till-cold-case-investigations-and-prosecution-program/overview
- FY2022 Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171088

Valor Officer Safety and Wellness Initiative

The purpose of this competitive program is to promote officer safety through specialized training and other activities, which include

- officer safety and wellness,
- crisis intervention and resolution training,
- active shooter response,
- officer suicide prevention and peer counseling,
- research on law enforcement injuries and fatalities, and
- program evaluation.

Additional Information:

- Program Overview
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/valor/overview
- FY2022 Solicitation
  https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171210

Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP)

The purpose of the BVP program is to reimburse law enforcement agencies for the purchase of bulletproof vests. The program reimburses departments for up to 50% of purchase costs.

Additional Information:

- Program Overview
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/patrick-leahy-bulletproof-vest-partnership-bvp-program/overview

Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative (RVCRI)

This BJA funded competitive grant program provides funding to law enforcement agencies and prosecutors’ offices to implement violent crime reduction strategies, improve investigations and services to victims, and enhance collaboration between local stakeholders.

Eligibility: State, and local law enforcement agencies serving rural communities, rural prosecutor’s offices and all federally recognized tribal law enforcement agencies

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- Program Overview
  https://ruralveri.org/
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) provides information and grant resources to advance the practice of community policing by the nation’s state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies. Grants awarded by the COPS Office are used to hire community policing professionals, develop and test innovative policing strategies, and provide training and technical assistance to community members, local government leaders, and all levels of law enforcement.

COPS Hiring Program (CHP)

This competitive grant program supports hiring new officers, rehiring officers who have been laid off, or retaining officers who are scheduled to be laid off due to budget reductions. The program covers 75% of approved salaries and benefits, not to exceed $125,000 for each awarded position during the three-year grant period. According to the COPS Office, past priority was given to applications focused on violent crime, homeland security, or school-based policing. For FY2022, the COPS Office is asking grantees to focus on combating hate and domestic extremism, violent and gun crime, building legitimacy and trust, innovations in community policing, and police-based responses to people in crisis.

Eligibility: States, U.S. territories, local governments, and federally recognized tribal law enforcement agencies

Match Requirement: Funds require a 25% local cash match.

Additional Information:

- Program Overview
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/chp
- FY2022 Solicitation
- Fact Sheet
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2022ProgramDocs/chp/Pre_Award_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- Pre-Award FAQs

Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF) Program

This competitive grant program provides funds to support investigations of illicit activities related to the distribution of heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil, the unlawful distribution of prescription opioids, and opioid trafficking.

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5 For further information on COPS, see CRS Report RL33308, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS): In Brief and CRS In Focus IF10922, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program.
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Eligibility: State law enforcement agencies with multijurisdictional reach and task forces with primary authority over state seizures of heroin and other opioids.

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:
- Program Overview https://cops.usdoj.gov/ahtf
- Fact Sheet https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2022ProgramDocs/ahtf/Pre_Award_Fact_Sheet.pdf

COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP)

This competitive grant program provides funds to support investigations of illegal activities related to methamphetamine.

Eligibility: State law enforcement agencies authorized to engage in or supervise anti-methamphetamine investigative activities

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:
- Program Overview https://cops.usdoj.gov/camp
- Pre-Award Fact Sheet https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2022ProgramDocs/camp/Pre_Award_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Community Policing Development (CPD) Program

This competitive grant program helps law enforcement agencies implement community policing strategies. The FY2022 program focuses on crisis intervention teams; de-escalation training; department accreditation; and tolerance, diversity, and anti-bias training. Eligibility for grants open to law enforcement agencies are described in this section.

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7 Primary law enforcement authority is defined as “the first responder to calls for service for all types of criminal incidents within its jurisdiction. Agencies are not considered to have primary law enforcement authority if they only respond to or investigate specific type(s) of crime(s); respond to or investigate crimes within a correctional institution; serve warrants; provide courthouse security; transport prisoners; and/or have cases referred to them for investigation or investigational support.” See DOJ, COPS, 2020 COPS Office Anti-Heroin Task Force Program Application Guide, March 2020, p. 88, at https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2020AwardDocs/ahtf/App_Guide.pdf.

8 Other grants open to non-law enforcement agencies include Tolerance, Diversity, and Anti-Bias Training, Emerging Issues Forums, and Innovations in Recruitment and Hiring. For further information, see https://cops.usdoj.gov/grants.
Eligibility: State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies

Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

CPD Program Overview
https://cops.usdoj.gov/cpd

Implementing Crisis Intervention Teams

- Program Overview
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/cit
- FY2022 Solicitation
- Pre-Award Fact Sheet
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2022ProgramDocs/cpd_cit/Pre_Award_Fact_Sheet.pdf

De-Escalation Training

- Program Overview
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/de-escalation
- FY2022 Solicitation
- Pre-Award Fact Sheet
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2022ProgramDocs/cpd_de_escalation/Pre_Award_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- Frequently Asked Questions

Accreditation

- Program Overview
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/accreditation
- FY2022 Solicitation
- CPA Pre-Award Fact Sheet
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2022ProgramDocs/cpd_accreditation/Pre_Award_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- Accreditation Frequently Asked Questions

Community Policing Development Microgrants Program

This competitive grant program helps develop the capacity of law enforcement to implement community policing strategies. FY2022 funding focused on programs targeting community-based violence intervention, officer recruitment and retention, hate crimes and domestic extremism, underserved populations, and building trust and legitimacy with the community.

Eligibility: State, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies
Match Requirement: none

Additional Information:

- Program Overview
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/cpdmicrogrants
- FY2022 Solicitation
- Pre-Award Fact Sheet
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2022ProgramDocs/cpdmicrogrants/Pre_Award_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- Frequently Asked Questions

**Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Implementation Projects**

This competitive grant program funds efforts to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement. Areas of focus have included the implementation of peer support programs, access to mental health and wellness services, suicide prevention, training and family resources.

**Eligibility:** local, state, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies

**Match Requirement:** none

**Additional Information:**

- Program Overview
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/lemhwa
- FY2022 Solicitation
- Pre Award Fact Sheet
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2022ProgramDocs/lemhwa/Pre_Award_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- Frequently Asked Questions
- CRS Report R46555, Federal Efforts to Address the Mental Health of First Responders: Resources and Issues for Congress

**School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)**

This competitive grant program provides funding to improve security at schools and on school grounds. Recent areas of focus have included security improvements, such as metal detectors, lighting, locks, and other deterrent measures; training for law enforcement officers to prevent student violence; and technology for expedited notification of law enforcement.

**Eligibility:** Law enforcement agencies, state and local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes, school districts, and school boards

**Match Requirement:** 25% match
Additional Information:
- Program Overview
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp
- FY2022 Solicitation
- Fact Sheet
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2022ProgramDocs/svpp/Pre_Award_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Other Department of Justice Resources, Programs and Initiatives for Law Enforcement

In addition to providing grants to assist law enforcement, DOJ also provides additional community resources, initiatives, and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies. The following are selected programs addressing community relations, mass violence community response, and antiterrorism training for law enforcement agencies.

BJA National Training Technical Assistance (BJA NTTAC)

BJA NTTAC provides no-cost training and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors’ offices, corrections departments, and city or county commissioners on a wide variety of criminal justice issues. Training can be provided in person or virtually.

Additional Information:
- BJA NTTAC websitehttps://bjatta.bja.ojp.gov

Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI_TAC)

The Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC) program provides no cost resources and technical assistance to state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies on a wide variety of topics (e.g., active shooter response, crisis intervention, violent crime reduction, de-escalation, and community violence prevention).

Additional Information:
- Program Overview
  https://cops.usdoj.gov/collaborativereform

Community Relations Service

The Community Relations Service provides resources targeting community relations, conflict resolution, and cultural awareness to law enforcement agencies free of charge.

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9 For a complete list of DOJ Training and Technical Assistance programs, see https://bjatta.bja.ojp.gov/.
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Additional Information:
- Program Overview
  https://www.justice.gov/crs/
- Programs for Law Enforcement
  https://www.justice.gov/crs/our-stakeholders/law-enforcement
- Fact Sheet
  https://www.justice.gov/file/1376521/download
- Programs and Services
  https://www.justice.gov/file/1376576/download

Mass Violence Advisory Initiative
On September 22, 2021, the Office of Justice Programs announced that it would begin offering peer-to-peer counseling to law enforcement leaders whose communities have experienced a mass violence incident. This initiative, in conjunction with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, provides virtual and in-person assistance to law enforcement leaders free of charge.

Additional Information:
- Program Overview
  https://www.theiacp.org/projects/mass-violence-advisory-initiative
- Frequently Asked Questions
  https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/MVAI/MVAI%20FAQs.pdf

State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training (SLATT) Program Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)
This program offers free training addressing terrorism prevention, targeted violence, and hate crimes to state, local, and tribal law enforcement, prosecutors and others. Training is available on-site, virtually, or in an e-learning format. Access to this site is limited to registered law enforcement agencies.

Additional Information:
- Program Overview
  https://bja.ojp.gov/program/state-and-local-anti-terrorism-training-program/overview

Support for Grantees and Applicants
The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) has several resources designed to provide assistance to grant seekers. The following resources address frequently asked questions regarding grants and the application process.
- List of Programs provides a full list of OJP grant programs. https://bja.ojp.gov/program/list
- OJP Funding Resource Center provides information on funding opportunities and an overview of the OJP grant process. https://www.ojp.gov/funding
• **OJP Grant Application Resource Guide** provides assistance to applicants in preparing and submitting applications. https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide

• **OJP Opportunities and Awards** site provides a list of currently open OJP grant opportunities, links to open solicitations and past grant solicitations. https://www.ojp.gov/funding/explore/current-funding-opportunities

• **Office of Justice Programs Grants 101** provides information on grants, the grant cycle, and assistance throughout the application process. https://www.ojp.gov/funding/grants101/overview-ojp-grants-and-funding

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