

National Institute of

Justice

NIJ

National Institute of Justice Overview

*Grants Resource Center's External
Funding Conference
August 2010*



Presentation Roadmap

- **About NIJ**
- **How structured**
- **Strategic Priorities**
- **Crosscutting Topics**
- **Funding Mechanisms**
- **Processes**
- **Q & A**

About NIJ

- Research, development and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools
- Meet crime and justice challenges primarily at state and local level

About NIJ

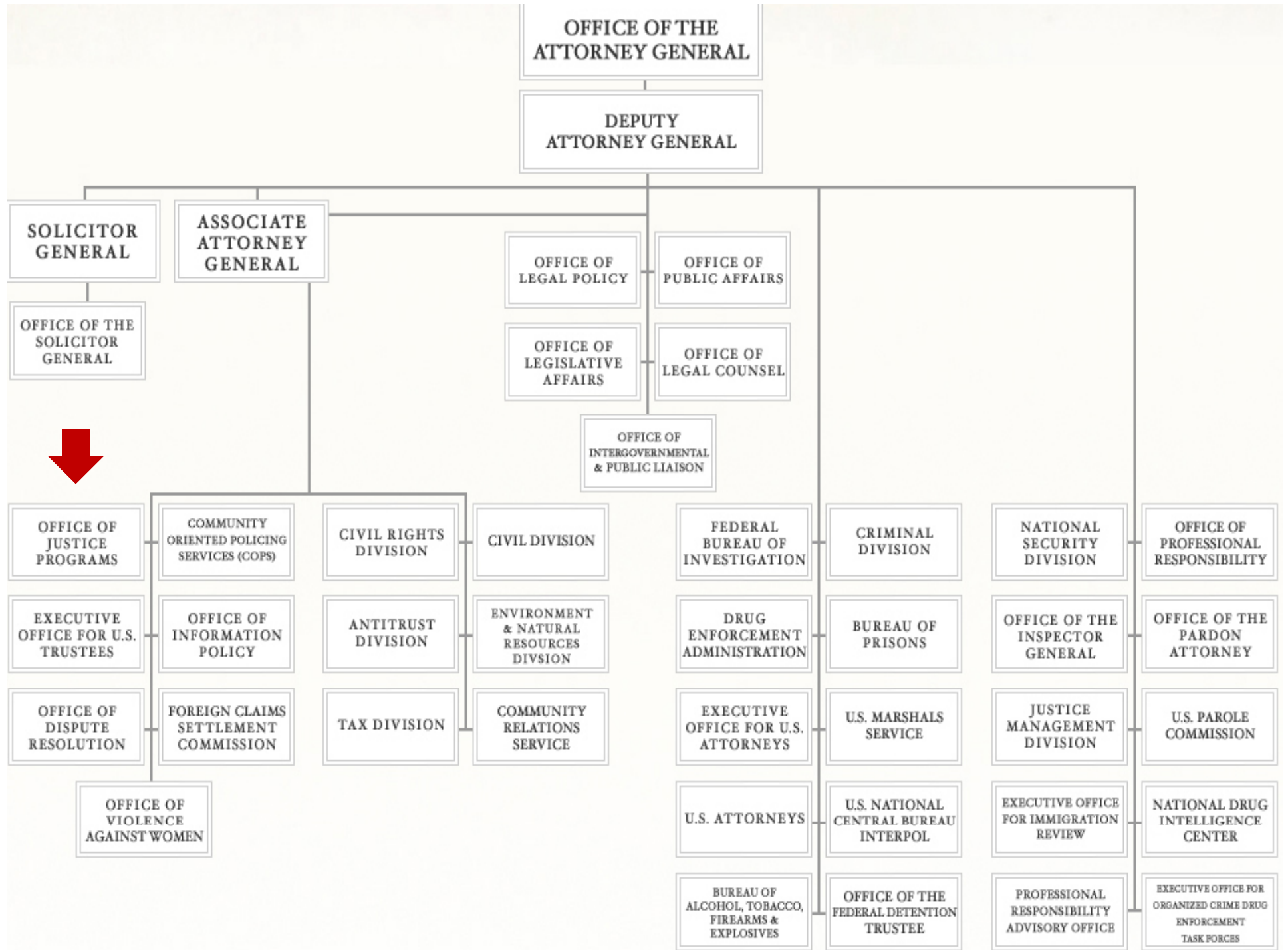
- Authority derived from Omnibus Crime Control & Safe Streets Act of 1968, Title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
- Director establishes Institute's objectives guided by priorities of Office of Justice Programs, DOJ, and needs of field

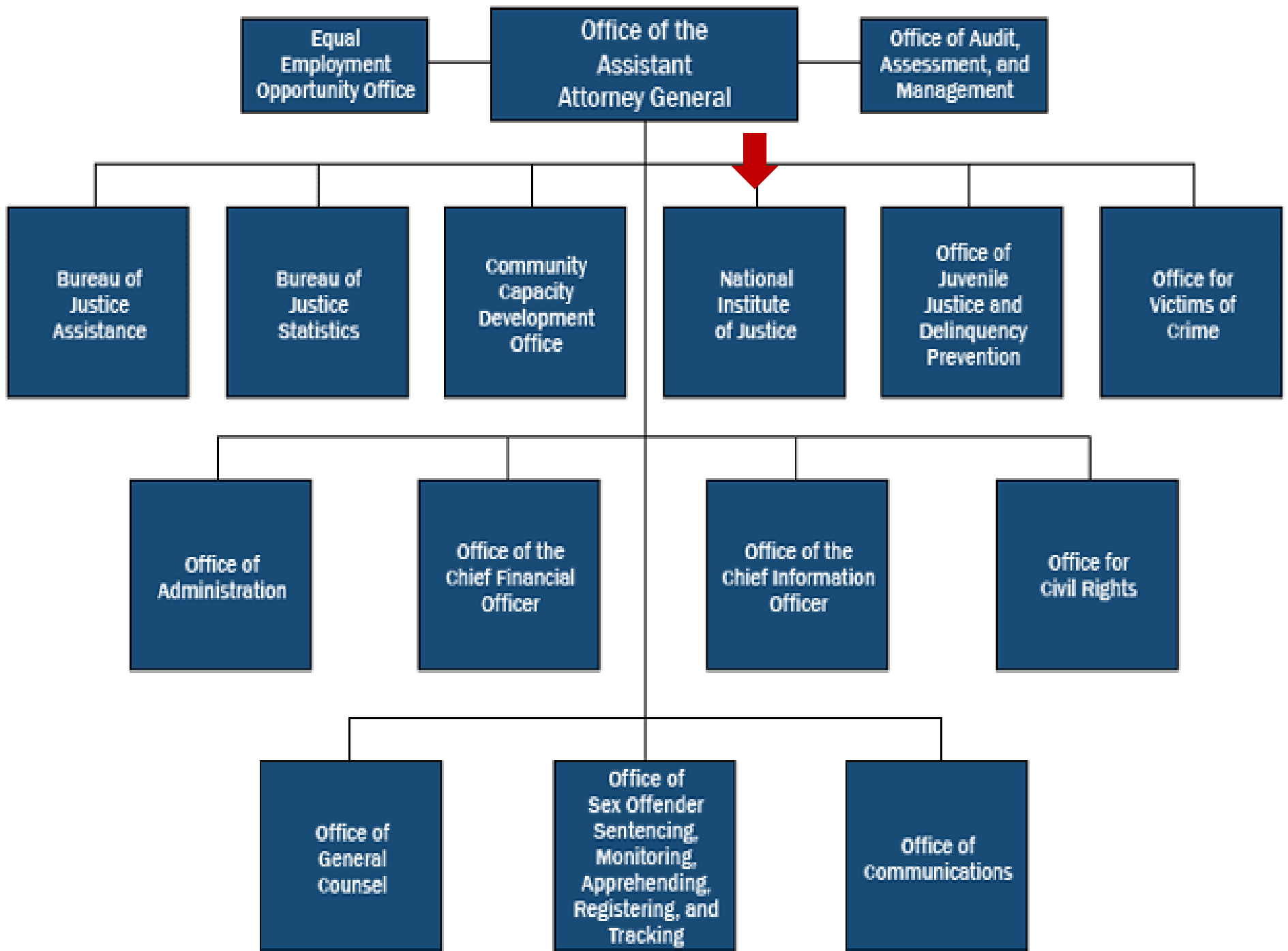
About NIJ

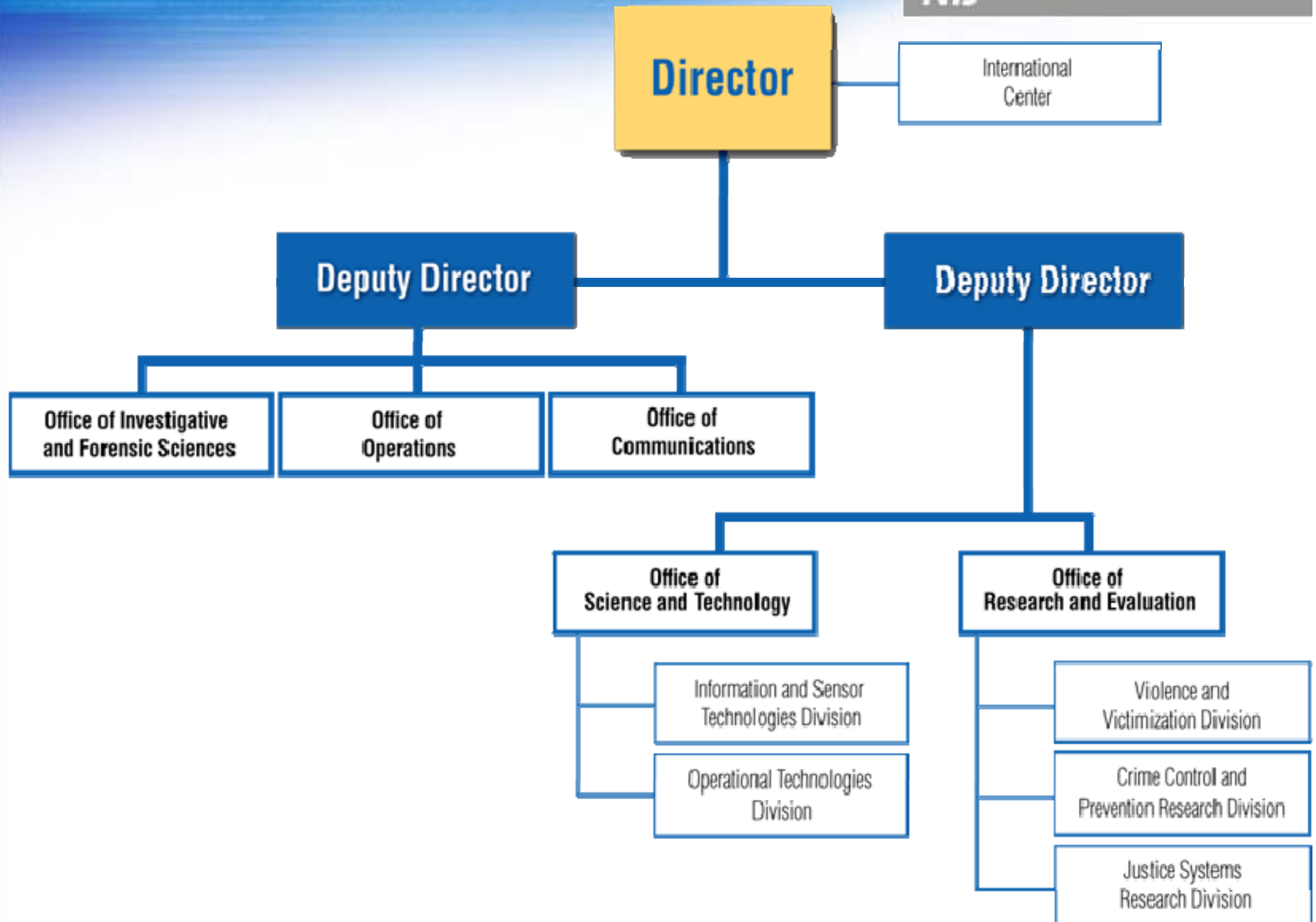
- Work informed by criminal justice and other professionals and researchers
- Goal: Inform policy and practice

What NIJ Offers

- Research and evaluation technical assistance
- Research and evaluation funding
- Subject matter expertise
- Access to data, systems, information, and the criminal justice system







How Structured

■ Five Operating Offices

- Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE)
- Office of Science and Technology (OST)
- Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences (OIFS)
- Office of Communications
- Office of Operations

■ International Center (IC)

ORE's Mission is to:

- Advance social and behavioral science concerning crime and criminal justice practice, policy, and programs
- Develop knowledge and tools through extramural and intramural research that will enhance the administration of justice
- Coordinate its research programs and dissemination of results with other federal partners

OST's Mission is to:

- Conduct research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) to address criminal justice technology needs by
 - Establishing and maintaining advisory groups to assess technology needs
 - Developing technical standards and guides
 - Compliance testing
 - Capacity building
 - Providing technology assistance to state and local law enforcement and corrections agencies

OIFS' Mission is to:

- Improve quality and practice of forensic science through innovative solutions that support
 - Research and development
 - Testing and evaluation
 - Technology
 - Information exchange
 - Development of training resources for criminal justice community.

IC's Mission is to:

- Foster international research and dissemination by
 - Advising on NIJ's portfolio of research regarding terrorism, human trafficking, organized crime and corruption, international justice systems and emerging crime issues
 - Facilitating the global exchange of ideas
 - Evaluating the impact of transnational crime

Strategic Priorities

- Determine early warning signs of crime increase
- Understand and prevent twenty-first century crime (e.g. electronic crime)
- Understand violence and victimization in specific populations
- Identify interventions to prevent crime
- Reduce correctional populations safely
- Improve criminal justice systems

Crosscutting Topics

Forensics Policy Analysis

- DNA in property crimes
- Role and impact of forensic evidence in the criminal justice system
- Post-conviction DNA testing and exoneration
- Improving efficiency of DNA processing in crime laboratories

The Intersection of Technology and Social Science

- Eyewitness identification
- Forensics science for officers of the court
- Law enforcement technologies (e.g. less lethal technology, GPS officer tracking)
- Crime mapping
- Corrections



NIJ Annual Solicitations (RFA)

- Crime and Justice Research (Investigator - Initiated)
- Building and Enhancing Criminal Justice Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships
- Data Resources Program (DRP)
- Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) Program
- W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship Program
- Visiting Fellowship Program

FY 2010 Solicitations

- Data Resources Program
- Evaluation of Programs to Reduce Gang Membership
- Foreclosures and Crime
- Policing
- Eyewitness Identification
- Forensics and Social Science
- Elder Mistreatment
- Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships
- Children Exposed to Violence
- Human Trafficking
- Graduate Research Fellowship
- Visiting Fellowship

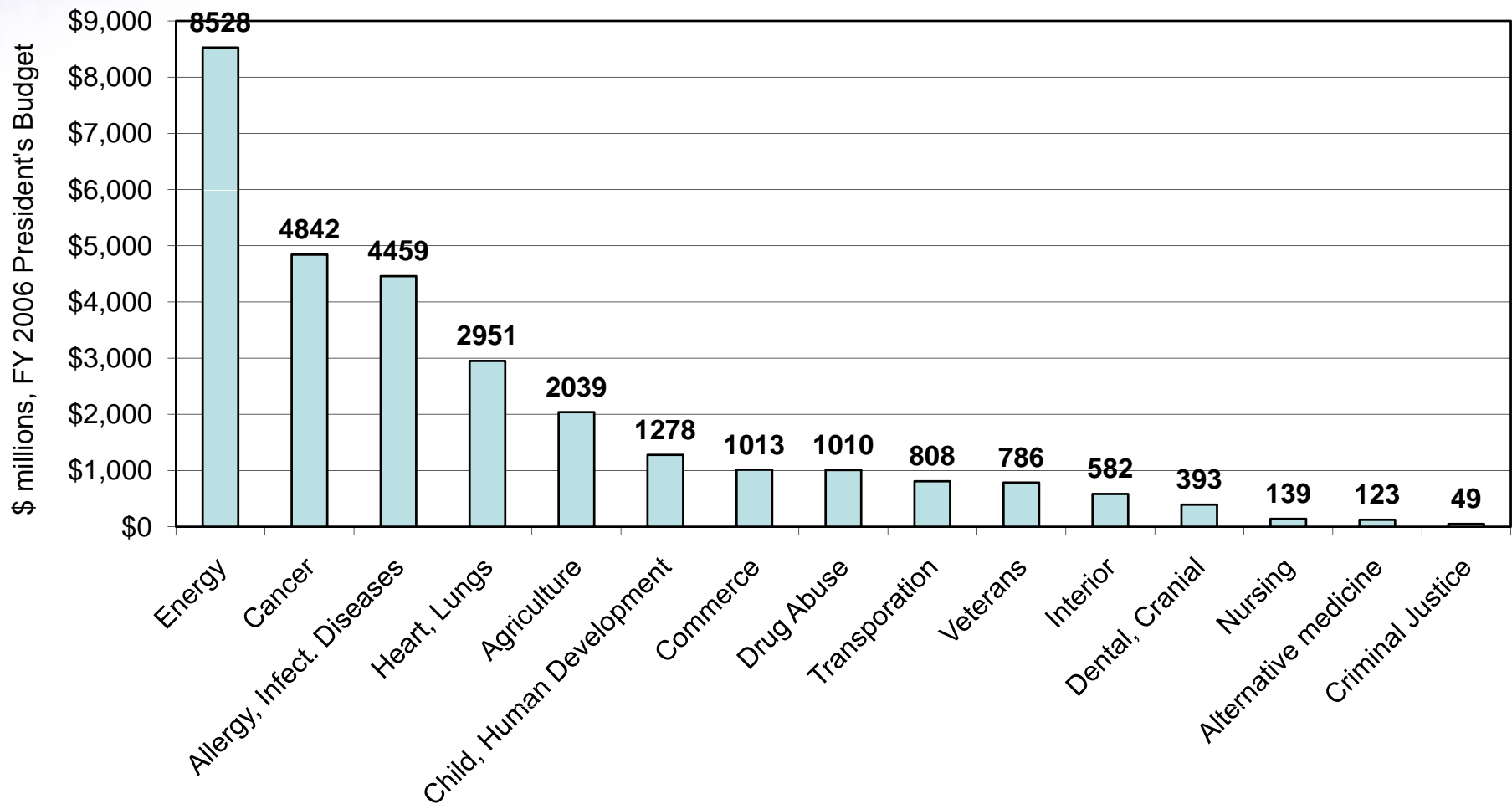
FY 2010 Solicitations

- W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship
- Recovery Act: Evaluation of State & Local Law Enforcement Assistance
- Sentencing Alternatives to Incarceration
- Second Chance Act Evaluation
- Violence Against Women (Sexual Violence, Teen Dating Violence, Stalking)
- Crime and Justice Research/Investigator Initiated
- Recovery Act: Drug Market Initiative Evaluation

Funding Mechanisms

- Grants
- Cooperative Agreements
- Interagency Agreements/
Reimbursable Agreements
- Contracts
 - Analytical Support Program (ASP)

Criminal Justice Research Funding Compared To Other Areas



How Solicitations are Developed

- Generally based on identified research gaps and needs of the field
- OST and OIFS uses Technology Working Group to inform solicitations
- ORE uses specific Workshops and other methods and has begun to use Topical Working Groups (ToWGs)
- Congressionally mandated studies or agendas may also guide a solicitation (National Academy of Sciences)

Solicitations: Timing

- Targeted and General Solicitations
- Most often released in the Fall or early Winter
- RFPs are generally “on the street” between 45 to 90 days; some cases 120 days
- Decisions are announced approximately nine months after the closing date of a solicitation

Solicitation Notification

- **Grants.gov**
 - ◆ Solicitation Notification Email Subscription
 - ◆ Grant Submission
- **NIJ's Funding Page**
 - ◆ <http://www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/welcome.htm>
- **OJP Funding Page**
 - ◆ <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/solicitations.htm>

**Director
Review and
Approval**

**Award
Processing**

**Strategic
Planning/
Program
Planning**

**Science &
Budget
Evaluation**

**Briefings
and
Director
Approval**

**NIJ's Grant
Award Process**

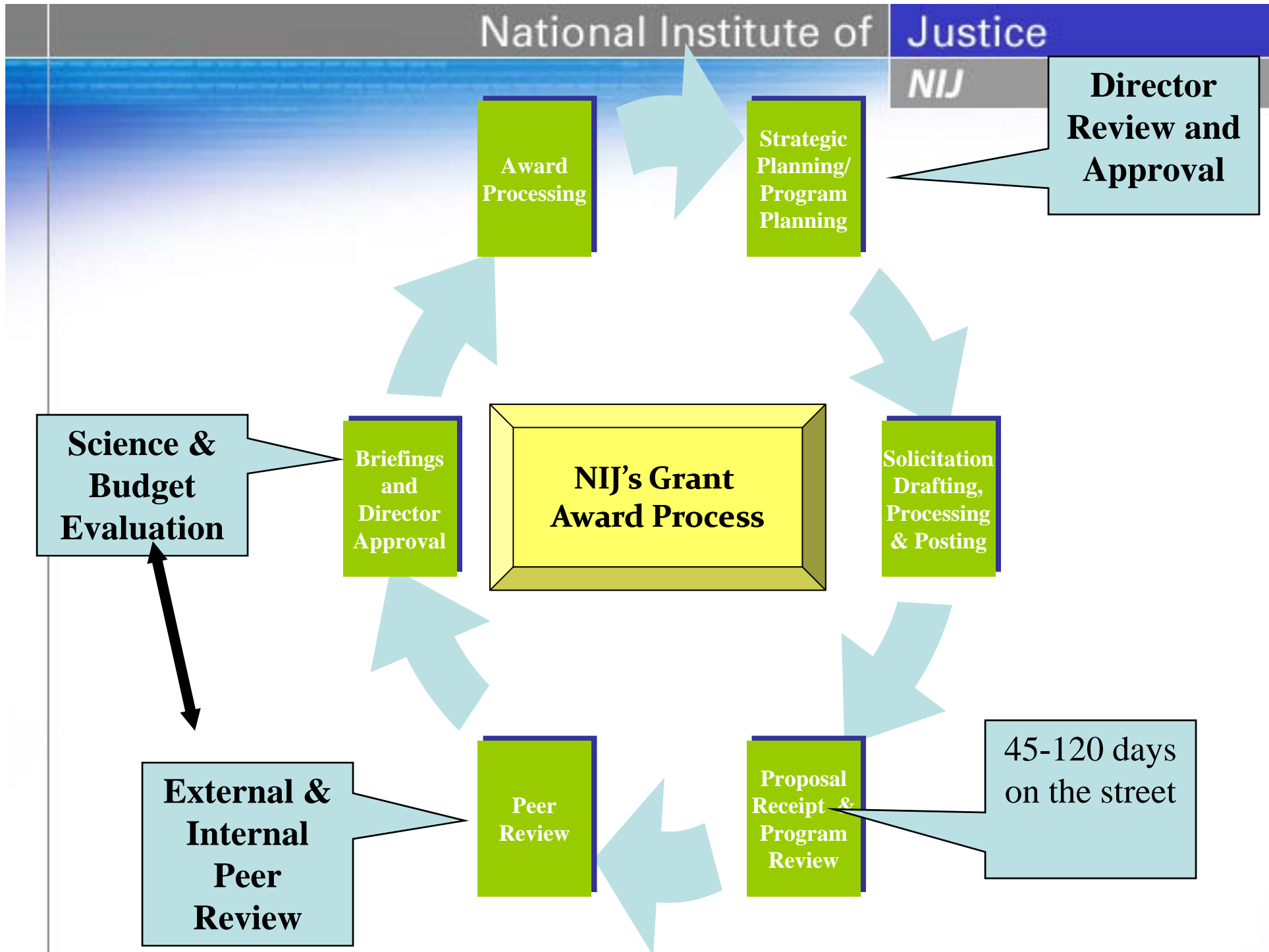
**Solicitation
Drafting,
Processing
& Posting**

**External &
Internal
Peer
Review**

**Peer
Review**

**Proposal
Receipt &
Program
Review**

45-120 days
on the street



NIJ Application Requirements

- Standard Form 424 (face sheet)
- Abstract (600 words)
- Program Narrative
 - Research question or problem
 - Research goals and objectives
 - Research design and methods
 - Implications for knowledge and practice
 - Dissemination plan for project deliverables
 - Description of estimated costs
 - Staffing and Management plan
 - Timeline
 - Data Archiving Strategy (if applicable)
- Tables, figures, charts, and appendixes (if applicable)

Peer Review Process

- Panels held in-person or by conference call
- Consensus is sought but not required
- Each application is reviewed based on the announced criteria
- Every application is reviewed by the peer review panel

Peer Review Criteria

1. Understanding Of The Problem And Its Importance
2. Quality And Technical Merit
 - Research Design
 - Methods
3. Impact Of Proposed Project
 - Substantive Contribution
 - Advancing Fields of Research and Practice
4. Capabilities, Demonstrated Productivity, And Experience Of Researcher/Research Team
5. Budget Considerations
6. Dissemination Strategy

Benefits of Serving as an NIJ Peer Reviewer

- Learn what NIJ looks for in high quality proposals
- Provide valuable service to Institute and the field
- Modest compensation
- If interested, contact Sherran Thomas,
(202) 616-4577, Sherran.Thomas@usdoj.gov

Proposal Review Process

- Review and approval of proposals takes about nine months
 - External Peer Review Recommendation
 - Subject Matter Experts
 - Technical Reviewers (2 per panel)
 - Practitioner Reviewers (2 per panel)
 - Internal Peer Reviews Recommendation
 - Office & Institute Briefings
 - Director's Funding Decision

The Decision Making Process

- NIJ Director is thoroughly briefed on all proposals
- NIJ Director is the sole and final authority over awards
- NIJ Director makes final determination based on:
 - Available Funds
 - Quality of Research Proposed
 - The Study's Impact On Policy & Practice
 - The Topic's Fit To The Institute's:
 - Research Priorities & Strategic Goals
 - Portfolio Contribution & Programmatic Relevance

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Questions & Answers

