

Biden Budget Includes Hiring of 50 New Federal AUSAs to Address Violent Crime

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Just as Congress finalizes FY 2024 funding, President Biden has released his proposal for government funding FY 2025. Each year, the president issues a proposed budget to Congress. The president's proposal is never adopted in full but serves as a guidepost indicating the president's priorities and serves as a starting point for Congressional negotiations. Overall, the President is asking for \$1.63 trillion in total spending, which is just 0.7 percent over FY 2023 enacted levels.

The proposal includes a 2 percent federal pay raise for General Schedule (GS) employees and a 4.5 percent pay raise for members of the military. The GS pay raise would be the smallest since President Biden took office but is on par with pre-pandemic raises and comes as inflation is projected to cool. Last year, feds received about a 4.7 percent raise on average.

The Department of Justice's (DOJ) FY 2025 Discretionary Budget request totals \$37.8 billion, an increase of \$467 million over the Fiscal Year 2024 funding allocation.

The Department requested funding for 50 new federal prosecutors in USAOs specifically dedicated to addressing violent crime and gun violence as part of an additional \$1,527.2 million in dedicated funding for combatting violent crime. In total, the Department requested \$9.0 million for USAOs to implement violent crime reduction strategies.

The Department explained, "These resources will support 50 positions (50 attorneys), enabling the USAOs to target priority violent street gangs and drug traffickers, accept more high priority firearms cases for Federal prosecution, and shut down pipelines feeding illegally trafficked firearms around the country. In addition, the USA will implement holistic approaches to reduce violent crime and strengthen community and partner relations."

The budget also prioritizes ending gender-based violence by requesting funding for programs under the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. These programs have seen funding increased by over 35 percent since 2021 and the budget proposes further expansion to \$800 million for programs under VAWA, including key investments in sexual assault services, transitional housing, and legal assistance for survivors. In this, the budget requests \$3 million to support Tribal Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys.

NAAUSA's longstanding position emphasizes that while funding for new AUSAs is useful, USAOs must ensure they adequately compensate current AUSAs as attrition only raises costs of training and onboarding. NAAUSA will continue to analyze this budget request and weigh in with Congress on funding as we have previously done.

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