

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: SCOTT RICHARDSON
202/224-6521

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO BRIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN KANSAS CITY MARCH 25 AND 26

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced that the U.S. Department of Justice will hold a two-day meeting in Kansas City with regional, state and local government representatives to discuss the details of programs created by the Justice Assistance Act and the Victims of Crime Act, which were signed into law last year.

"This meeting represents a major step toward full implementation of two long-overdue programs to give victims of crime the help they deserve and need," said Senator Dole.

The meeting, scheduled for March 25-26 at the Radisson Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, will be conducted by Deputy Assistant Attorney General Rick Abell and other representatives of the new Office of Justice Programs. Through presentations and extensive question and answer sessions, regional law enforcement and criminal justice officials, as well as individuals dealing with victims assistance will be briefed on the new programs. Justice Department officials will explain the procedure states must follow in order to receive Federal funding for the programs, the administration of funds and the implementation of the programs. Ultimately, the governor of each state will designate an administering agency and a director to oversee the programs.

Topics to be discussed at the meeting include: the eligible program activities under the justice assistance block grant; use of surplus Federal property for corrections purposes; eligible Victims Assistance programs and the methods by which supplementary Federal Victim Compensation funds may be used by State programs; the Missing Children's Act provisions; and the data available from the National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The meeting in Kansas is one in a series of four two-day regional meetings scheduled by the Office of Justice Programs. The others will be held in Arlington, Virginia (March 18-19), New Orleans, (March 21-22) and San Francisco, (March 28-29).

Dole was Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts last year, when legislation authorizing the two programs became law. He is now the Senate Majority Leader.