

Prepared By:

Office of Criminal Justice Programs
Department of Finance and Administration
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 1800
William Snodgrass Tennessee Tower
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1102

Annual Report

2014-2015



Contributing OCJP Staff:

Bill Scollon, Director
Daina Moran, Deputy Director
Jennifer Brinkman, Assistant Director
Angela Slack, Assistant Director
Lee Ann Smith, Assistant Director

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Executive Summary</u>	1
<u>Introduction</u>	3
<u>Office of Criminal Justice Programs Mission Statement</u>	3
<u>Federal Funding Status</u>	3
<u>Determining Funding Priorities for Tennessee</u>	5
<u>Criminal Justice Programs Unit</u>	9
<u>Criminal Justice Unit Highlight</u>	11
<u>Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant</u>	12
<u>Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant</u>	24
<u>National Criminal History Improvement Program</u>	25
<u>Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program</u>	26
<u>Services • Training • Officers • Prosecution</u>	28
<u>Internet Crimes Against Children Program</u>	33
<u>Automated Fingerprint Imaging System Program</u>	36
<u>Methamphetamine Initiative</u>	37
<u>Statewide Automated Victim Identification and Notification Program</u>	38
<u>Victim Assistance Academy</u>	39
<u>Ignition Interlock System Program</u>	40
<u>Victim Services Unit</u>	42
<u>Victims of Crime Act</u>	43
<u>Family Violence Prevention and Services Act</u>	46
<u>Sexual Assault Services Program</u>	51

<u>Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program (ARREST)</u>	56
<u>Governor’s Family Violence Appropriation</u>	58
<u>Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council</u>	59
<u>Child Abuse Fund</u>	60
<u>Governor’s Public Safety Action Plan</u>	60
<u>Monitoring Unit</u>	61
<u>Monitoring Overview</u>	64
<u>Summary of Findings</u>	64
<u>Monitoring Summary</u>	65
<u>Ongoing Strategies</u>	67
<u>Conclusion</u>	70

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) under the State Department of Finance and Administration functions as a strategic planning agency that secures, distributes, and manages federal and state funds for Tennessee. OCJP utilizes strategic program management, a structured process that looks three to five years ahead of daily grants management activities at the changing needs of Tennessee's justice system and the needs of its victims of violent crime. OCJP tracks problems surfacing in the criminal justice system, monitors trends in Tennessee's communities, assesses the condition of the state's resources, and measures the recent performance of OCJP-funded programs. To address crime and victimization in Tennessee, OCJP manages a systematic, year-round cycle for determining the communities' needs, identifying the justice system's problems, setting program priorities, making grant allocation decisions, managing those funded projects, and evaluating the results of those decisions.

In fiscal year 2015, OCJP was responsible for 19 different state and federal fund sources; approximately 302 grants totaling over of \$27,400,000.00 in funding to various State Departments, local governments and non-profit agencies for criminal justice and victim service grants. As a member of the Governor's Public Safety Subcabinet Group the Office of Criminal Justice Programs assisted in the development of the Governor's Public Safety Plan. As part of that planning process, shortfalls in funding were identified and efforts were made to assist in meeting the Plan's goals and objectives.

The OCJP **Criminal Justice Unit** oversaw 159 grants to state and local entities totaling approximately \$13,793,225 in federal, state and local funds. Federal grant sources administered by the Criminal Justice Unit include; Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP), Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant (Coverdell), the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners, and Services• Training• Officers• Prosecution (STOP). In addition, the Criminal Justice Unit coordinates several streams of state funding including; Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) funding, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) funding, Automated Victim Notification (SAVIN) funding, The Methamphetamine Initiative (METH), Senator Tommy L. Burks Victim Assistance Academy and Interlock Ignition funding.

The focus of the funding provided by the criminal justice unit centered on the following themes:

- Supporting Governor Haslam's Public Safety Plan through expansion of family justice centers in Tennessee, professional enhancement trainings, and other opportunities;
- Targeted community crime reduction projects focusing on small geographic areas and encompassing prevention;
- Addressing drug and violent crime via the Judicial District Drug Task Forces;

- Promoting a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to violence against women through partnership among law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, victim advocates, and service providers to ensure victim safety and offender accountability.
- Improving services to victims of all types of crime by providing a comprehensive, basic-level victim assistance curriculum and training program to victim services providers and allied professionals.
- Offender intervention programming targeting family reunification, addiction and mental health treatment, employment and educational services;
- Prevention activities focused on reducing bullying, thoughtful use of social media and life skills enhancement; and
- Improvements in technology such as purchasing new Livescan machines, continued improvements to the Tennessee Instant Check System (TICS), the ongoing development of the technology for automated case judgments and expansion of the victim notification system.

In fiscal year 2015, the **Victim Services Unit** oversaw 143 grants to state and local entities totaling approximately \$13,606,940 in federal, and state and funds. Federal grant sources administered by the Victim Services Unit include; Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program. In addition, the Victim Services Unit coordinates several streams of state funding including; the Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council, Family Violence Shelter Fund, Sexual Assault Fund, the Child Abuse Fund, and the Governor's Family Violence Appropriation.

Funding for victim service programs is varied and includes domestic violence programs; child advocacy centers; sexual assault programs; law enforcement and prosecution projects serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking; Family Justice Centers, victim-witness coordinators, civil legal assistance projects; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD); and elder abuse projects. Services to victims include counseling, therapy, domestic violence shelter, emergency civil legal representation, civil and criminal court advocacy, personal advocacy, transportation, language services, assistance with criminal injuries compensation, sexual assault forensic exams, crisis counseling, support groups, community resource information/referral, crisis hotlines, etc. Funding is also used for victim-focused training and community outreach.

INTRODUCTION

Office of Criminal Justice Programs Mission Statement

“The Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) under the State Department of Finance and Administration functions as a strategic planning agency that secures, distributes, and manages federal and state grant funds for Tennessee. While collaborating with other public and non-profit agencies, OCJP utilizes these grant monies to support innovative projects statewide in efforts to reduce criminal activity, provide services for victims of crime and promote overall enhancement of the criminal justice system in Tennessee”.

The OCJP oversees several state and federal funding sources. In fiscal year 2015, total funding for all OCJP grant projects was just over \$27,400,000.00 to various State, local government and non-profit community based agencies. As a result of the numerous funding sources, OCJP must stay abreast of the current funding climate at both the state and federal level; anticipate potential increases or decreases and prepare for the impact of these changes at the local community level in order to best meet the safety needs of Tennessee’s citizens.

Federal Funding Status

In January of 2015, the final 2015 appropriations bill was signed. Overall, the bill provides level funding for most of the justice assistance grant programs, including the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program, which will be funded at \$333 million, down slightly from \$340 million last year. Other items of interest in the bill: The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) received a dramatic increase by raising the cap from \$745 million to \$2.367 billion; The Office on Violence Against Women STOP formula grants increased slightly to \$195 million, up from \$193 million in FY14; and The National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) increased from \$59 million to \$73 million.

Below is an overview of the impact this had on dollars that come to OCJP to be distributed across Tennessee, (summarized from the National Criminal Justice Association Justice Bulletin).

- **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)** received a 330% increase when compared to FY2014. VOCA is funded from federal penalties and fines, rather than taxpayer dollars, and, therefore, does not compete with the grant programs within the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill. The balance in the Fund has grown dramatically in recent years and victim advocates have been asking Congress to release more money from the Fund for VOCA victim assistance services.

- **Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG):** decreased by 9.1% from the FY 2014 level. JAG has decreased over 26.0% when compared to the Byrne JAG funding received in FY 2011. It should be noted that an allocation (2%) of our total JAG funding was specifically earmarked for PREA programming (Prison Rape Elimination Act) for the 2014 Tennessee JAG award.
- **Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution (STOP):** despite the total FFY 2015 STOP appropriation increase of two million dollars, Tennessee's STOP FFY 2015 formula funding decreased by almost 2% when compared to FY 2014. STOP had received two years of reduction until the 12% increase in the 2014 amount which also included additional priority area requirements implemented on this funding.
- **National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP):** increased 23% from the FY 2014 level. NCHIP funding has continued to increase in significant levels since FY 2012. These funds are for improving record keeping and maintenance, particularly mental health records.
- **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA):** increased by only 1% when compared to the FY 2014 amount. The amount of increase was a mere \$20,096.

As a point of clarification, most federal block grant funding such as those listed above (with the exclusion of NCHIP) are on the federal fiscal year which begins October 1, 2014. However, the funding is not awarded, typically until at least 9 months after the award start date and the State does not receive those awards until the first quarter of the state fiscal year 2016 (July to September of 2015).

In 2015 in alignment with the Public Safety Plan priorities, Governor Haslam provided a recurring appropriation for family violence in the amount of \$250,000.00. Other State direct appropriations remained level funded in fiscal year 2015. Much of the other State funding funneled through OCJP is a result of various fines and fees and although the economy is starting to rebound, the amounts collected by these are slow to increase.

In determining priorities for funding, OCJP looks at several different pieces of informative data to assist in determining the distribution of available funds. Some of these data include the following and will be discussed in greater depth below:

- Criminal statistical data at both the national and statewide levels
- Coordination with Governor Haslam's Tennessee's Public Safety Action Plan
- Focus on the White House Drug Control Strategy
- Internal Office "Strategic Planning" Process and Grants Management
- Evidence-Based Programming

Determining Funding Priorities for Tennessee

CRIMINAL STATISTICAL DATA

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports collects and publishes nationwide crime statistics on a yearly basis utilizing their National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). In comparing rates for the past two (2) years we find that Violent Crime (Murder, Forcible Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault) numbers (captured as incidents per 100,000 population) have decreased across the nation by the following percentages: 2013 (-5.1%), 2014 (-0.9%). In comparison, Tennessee's violent crime statistics changes were noted for the same two years: 2013 (-8.6%), 2014 (+3.9%)¹.

The crime category of domestic violence is also inclusive of some of the same classifications of violent crime (Murder, Rape, and Assault). Domestic Violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes on both the state and national levels. In addition only approximately one-quarter of all physical assaults, one-fifth of all rapes, and one-half of all stalking crimes perpetuated against females by intimate partners are reported to the police and almost one-third of female homicide victims that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner. Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police.

In 2014 domestic violence victims made up more than half of all reported crimes against persons in Tennessee. The number of Tennessee Domestic Violence Victims over the last three (3) years is as follows: 2012 (82,382 Victims), 2013 (77,817 Victims), 2014 (76,172 Victims)². Issues related to Domestic Violence have had a pronounced presence in Governor Haslam's Public Safety Plan; it is an issue drawing great attention.

GOVERNOR HASLEM'S PUBLIC SAFETY ACTION PLAN

The Public Safety Action Plan was a culmination of months of planning and processing of the critical issues facing Tennessee which ultimately resulted in three major goals, 11 underlining objectives and forty action steps. Stakeholder Sessions, with participants representing local communities and agencies (over 300) from around the state, met and determined that the main criminal justice issues facing Tennessee are:

- Violent Crime
- Methamphetamine
- Domestic Violence

¹ All UCR statistics from: <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s>

² Tennessee Domestic Violence statistics derived from: <https://www.tn.gov/tbi/article/recent-publications>

- Prescription Drug Abuse
- Drug Court Treatment
- Repeat Offenders (Adult recidivism rate was 46.5% in 2009.)

Based on input from the stakeholder sessions, a subcabinet group of state officials led by the Department of Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner, Bill Gibbons, developed and proposed to Governor a Public Safety initiative to address and combat Tennessee's drug and violent crime. In calendar year 2012, Three Key Initiatives (goals) of the Safety Plan to Curb Crime and Create a Climate for Job Growth in Tennessee Communities were set for the following areas:

- Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking
- Violent Crimes
- Repeat Offenders

The Office of Criminal Justice Programs continues to participate in quarterly meetings of the Governor's Public Safety Cabinet and other focused subcommittee meetings. The ongoing efforts, actions steps and identified long and short term goals are given greater consideration when setting funding prioritization for the year.

NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

The White House's approach to reducing overall U. S. drug use is based on four strategic targets of performance. Those priorities drive planning for state funding priorities, which in turn influence state program planning in Tennessee. The four National Strategies are as follows:

- 1) **PREVENT** drug use before it ever begins through education.
- 2) **EXPAND** access to treatment for Americans struggling with addiction.
- 3) **REFORM** our criminal justice system to break the cycle of drug use, crime, and incarceration while protecting public safety.
- 4) **SUPPORT** Americans in recovery by lifting the stigma associated with those suffering or in recovery from substance abuse disorders.

Throughout this report, there are numerous examples of Tennessee's efforts to combat crime and address victimization that are in-line with the National Drug Control's Four Strategies.

OCJP STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Foremost in assisting OCJP to determine avenues of funding for state and local entities is Strategic Planning, one of the core functions of OCJP. To address crime and victimization in Tennessee, OCJP manages a systematic, year-round cycle for determining the communities' needs, identifying the justice system's problems, setting program priorities, making grant allocation decisions, managing those funded projects, and evaluating the results of those decisions.

Strategic program management is a structured process that looks three to five years ahead of daily grants management activities at the changing needs of Tennessee's justice system. OCJP tracks problems surfacing in the criminal justice system, monitors trends in Tennessee's communities, assesses the condition of the state's resources, and measures the recent performance of OCJP-funded programs. All of this is accomplished through the use of the Governor's Public Safety Sub-Cabinet Working Group. Additionally, OCJP convenes a group of experts in the field of criminal justice to help determine the greatest need and possible approaches. This stakeholder focus group consists of two sheriffs, two chiefs of police, two District Attorneys General, two Public Defenders, two judges and an expert both from the local and state level of government. These roundtable members represent all three grand divisions of the state as well as urban, suburban and rural areas of the state. This information helps OCJP focus its future program descriptions, set its funding priorities, prepare its budget requests, and direct its limited resources into areas that promise the best return for the public's investment.

With completion of the decision making process for allocation of funds, OCJP distributes notification of funding intent, then canvases the state for both local and state level submitted projects that appear to be a fit for the program models that have been determined to meet the needs of Tennessee. The projects are reviewed, by a team of criminal justice professionals and other stakeholders, to assure that the very best submitted project applications will then receive a chance for funding.

GRANTS MANAGEMENT

Funded projects are then monitored (which includes an agency site visit), by professionally trained grant monitors as well as OCJP program staff. Contacts occur frequently throughout the agency's funding period to assist them (if necessary) in maintaining their stated goals and objectives as originally agreed upon in their contract(s) with OCJP. Quarterly and annual data-driven reports are required to ensure the previously established outputs and outcomes are being tracked and outcomes, as indicated in the grant, are being met. These reports reflect any impact the program may be having on the intended problem area. Any continuation of agency funding is based on all agreed upon performance measurements being met.

EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING

In today's fiscal climate where federal, state and local funds are fluctuating, and agencies are continually being asked to do more (often without increased funding), it is imperative to ensure that scarce grant dollars are directed towards areas with the greatest needs and that those funds are utilized in such a way as to garner a positive outcome. Evidence-Based Programming is one way to attempt to affect such an outcome. Evidence-Based Programs have been researched and have a history of producing a positive change on the identified problem the program addresses. By strongly encouraging and at times requiring agencies to implement evidenced based projects and programs, the OCJP increases the likelihood that the funding creates a positive impact on the issue at hand.

LOOKING AHEAD

The next sections of this report will provide greater detail regarding the types of programs funded, the outputs and outcomes of those projects and the impact of the funding on local communities, victims and their families, and the citizens of Tennessee. The work of the Criminal Justice Unit is described outlining the federal and state funding sources and the projects undertaken in fiscal year 2015. Then the Victim Service Unit provides a similar outline. Finally, the Office of Criminal Justice Program's perspective on monitoring is defined and a review of the outcomes of project monitoring is provided. The results of the program monitoring and fiscal reviews of grant funded projects in one year provide an opportunity for increased technical assistance and training of the projects by the OCJP program managers in the next fiscal year.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE UNIT

The Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP), Criminal Justice Unit is responsible for administering funds to criminal justice agencies across Tennessee to enhance public safety. In FY 2015, the Criminal Justice Unit oversaw 159 grants to state and local entities totaling approximately \$13,793,225 in federal, state and local funds.

Federal grant sources include:

- Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program
- National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)
- Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant (Coverdell)
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT)
- Services • Training • Officers • Prosecution (STOP)

The Criminal Justice Unit coordinates several streams of state funding including:

- Automated Fingerprint Identification System Funding (AFIS)
- Internet Crimes Against Children Funding (ICAC)
- Automated Victim Notification Funding
- Ignition Interlock System Program
- The Methamphetamine Initiative (METH)
- Senator Tommy L. Burks Victim Assistance Academy

The Criminal Justice Unit works within OCJP to stimulate a multi-faceted response to crime and victimization in Tennessee and supports the improvement of the infrastructure of the state's criminal justice system. With a Multi-Year Statewide Strategy, the Criminal Justice Unit continues its commitment to reduce the incidence of drug violations and violent crime within the State's boundaries, in accordance with the National Drug Control Strategy's priorities.

The Criminal Justice Unit manages a systematic, year-round cycle for tracking problems surfacing in the criminal justice system, monitoring trends in Tennessee's communities, assessing the condition of the state's resources, setting program priorities, making grant allocation decisions, managing those funded projects and measuring the performance of and evaluating the results of those decisions. The team's strategic program management process looks several years ahead of daily grants management activities at the changing needs of Tennessee's justice system to effectively plan for Tennessee's needs.

The Criminal Justice Unit takes a data-driven approach and includes input from practitioners on the local, state and federal levels to assist in influencing its strategy. The Criminal Justice

Unit gathers practitioner information through a variety of planned information gatherings, training conferences and seminars, as well as through informal meetings and surveys. A key source of information is the Governor's Public Safety Subcabinet Group which collects crime, health and other data to determine key issues and subsequent policy.

The data on violent and drug-related crime suggest five areas of concern in Tennessee. They correspond with the national strategy's priorities. Community responses to these trends are exasperated by budgets which have failed to rebound after reductions during the economic downturn of several years ago. Trends in recent years include:

- 1) Increased use of prescription pain medication and influx of heroin and meth both locally produced and trafficked by Mexican cartels.
- 2) Over 50% of all Crimes Against the Person are domestic violence related (TBI Crime in Tennessee 2014)
- 3) Sexual assault and other cases involving forensics testing has overwhelmed our State and Local laboratories
- 4) Both urban and local law enforcement agencies have seen an upswing in gang related criminal activity
- 5) Human trafficking, taking the form of sex trafficking of minors, is coming to the attention of law enforcement with 76 of Tennessee's 95 counties reporting incidents of sex trafficking (TBI The Geography of Trafficking in Tennessee 2013)

Tennessee's per capita drug and violent crime rate ranks within the top ten nationwide. In the drug enforcement arena, methamphetamine continues to be a serious issue for Tennessee, which has the dubious honor of hosting *both* major trafficking routes *and* a significant production industry in the southeastern part of the state. Tennessee is also at risk for the distribution of abused and diverted prescription drugs such as OxyContin and Hydrocodone. The same organizations that are distributing low cost methamphetamine in the western US are trafficking meth in Tennessee. Furthermore there has, over the past three years, been a resurgence of heroin, especially in the southern states. Tennessee has seen an influx of this low cost drug. Local law enforcement agencies are noticing an increase in heroin in our communities in Tennessee. This may be due in part to new prescription drug laws and greater monitoring of prescription drugs.

Domestic violence plays a large role in Tennessee's violent crime rate being as high as it is. Tennessee has consistently been in the top ten States for women killed by men and these are obviously related to domestic violence. The trend continues, but efforts are being made to reverse the cycle by offering victims a clearer path and more options to escape their batterer. Enhanced penalties for second and third offense domestic violence have been passed through legislation in hopes to reduce recidivism among these offenders.

Improvements in criminal forensic technologies, and the training given law enforcement in the collection of evidence for forensic testing have greatly increased the burden on crime laboratories across the state. State, regional and local forensic laboratories have been inundated with evidence for testing and the most involved of all testing is DNA. Failure to submit DNA evidence for testing has been an issue across the country. In addition to labs being overburdened with submission for testing, the state also lacks uniform protocols for the testing of rape kits. While we have the protocols for collection of this evidence, we lack a formalized process for storing and submission for testing. In FY 2015, the General Assembly passed TCA 39-13-520, requiring the Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council to create and distribute a model policy for the handling, maintenance, and testing of sexual assault evidence kits and hold kits by January 1, 2016. All Law Enforcement Agencies will adopt a policy by July 1, 2016.

While we have no formal data to indicate an increase in criminal activity by gangs, anecdotal information from law enforcement and educators lead us to believe gang activity, especially in primarily rural west Tennessee, is emerging as a major issue. The urban and suburban areas across the state have historically been home to multiple gangs. However, in recent years, we have seen gangs moving into the rural areas of the western part of the state. This has become a major issue as law enforcement in these rural areas are ill-equipped to handle this new phenomenon.

In 2011 the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation conducted research, at the request of the Legislature, on Human Sex Trafficking and its Impact on children and youth. TBI followed this with a study in 2013 entitled, *The Geography of Trafficking in Tennessee*. Tennessee has since initiated a Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF), which continues to meet to address the issue. The HTTF has been exploring options to meet the multitude of criminal justice and victim services needs that present in these complicated cases. The members of the HTTF continue to train first responders and community members on the crime, and in FY2016, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation will implement a public awareness campaign.

OCJP's Criminal Justice Unit will work diligently with state and local agencies to improve collection of this data while continuing to monitor trends and the data in the coming year, and make funding decisions to impact these trends and reduce crime and victimization. The enduring focus includes multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement and prosecution teams, a coordinated community response to violent crimes and victim needs, continuing education, and criminal justice record systems automation and integration.

Criminal Justice Unit Highlight

In the winter of 2014/2015 staff from the Office of Criminal Justice Programs, TBI, TDMHSAS, TDSAHS, TN Clerks Association, County Technical Assistance Service and AOC participated as members of a working group created to study the necessity and viability of establishing a Relief from Disabilities Program in Tennessee as required under

the NICS Improvements Amendment Act of 2007, Public Law 110-180, Section 105. OCJP facilitated working group sessions over a three month period.

A decision by the Sixth Circuit Court (Tyler vs. Hillsdale Co. Sheriff's Department) in December 2014 concerning the constitutional requirement that citizens be afforded a right to petition the government to have their firearms rights restored expedited the timetable of the working group. Largely as a result of the circuit court judgement, it was determined that Tennessee should establish a Relief from Disabilities Program. Group meetings were held, other states with Relief Programs were surveyed for information about their programs and staff worked with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms to develop a plan. A bill was sponsored and passed after amendment in May 2015. The Public Chapter was sent to the ATF for approval and was approved in July 2015. Tennessee now has an approved Relief Program and is one of 25 states to become compliant with the NICS Improvement Act of 2007. State compliance with this requirement has had the additional benefit of making additional grant funding available for criminal history record improvements under the BJS FY15 NICS Record Act Improvement Program (NARIP).

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant

The Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) continues to serve as the State Administrative Agency for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, CFDA #16.738, in Tennessee. For two decades, Byrne JAG has provided a vehicle for seeding and pioneering new programs in Tennessee. Tennessee's implementation of this program continues to evolve along with its criminal justice system. The Byrne JAG Grant Program is helping OCJP stimulate a multi-faceted response to crime and victimization in our state even as it supports improvement to the infrastructure of the state's criminal justice system. Tennessee's implementation of this program is designed to adapt as changes occur to the system. Through scheduled meetings and other formalized gatherings (round table discussions, etc.), OCJP has determined which types of programs to fund. Emphasis has been placed on and priority given to programs which employ evidence-based strategies.

In FY 2015, OCJP funded 100 programs falling within ten JAG priority areas with a total of \$5,877,169.00 in Federal funding; \$931,800.00.00 in local match funds and \$350,686.00 in state match funds were contributed to the programs for total of \$7,159,655.00 in funding dedicated to JAG projects. An overview of the JAG priority areas and the projects funded under those priority areas are described in greater depth below.

TENNESSEE'S TARGETED COMMUNITY CRIME REDUCTION PROJECT

Background: Tennessee struggled for years bringing down violent crime rates that had remained above national averages despite nationwide declines. A decade of predictable sub-grants had fostered a sense of entitlement among local law enforcement and other

recipients of justice funding, and agencies were becoming increasingly territorial against the grain of successes found elsewhere with true collaboration.

During the 2010 strategic planning cycle, Tennessee's Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) re-examined how it was using Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) dollars. It initiated the Targeted Community Crime Reduction Project (TCCRP), focusing targeted resources on six mid-size Tennessee cities with high rates of violent and drug-related crime. A major goal was to demonstrate how strategic program planning could use actionable crime data and inter-agency collaborative to overcome barriers that were inhibiting crime reduction through the development of local approaches that would survive after the funding ended.

TCCRP is a locally driven partnership encouraged by the state. OCJP's innovation was creating a specialized, non-competitive solicitation that identified prospective jurisdictions by population, crime data, and other criteria. These localities were eligible to apply for a grant, but were required to come up with a data-driven strategy to deal with drivers of their high crime rates. Strategies were to be collaborative, addressing not one or two, but three and finally four approaches: community revitalization, prevention, enforcement, and offender intervention. Cities were also required to research evidence-based practices, and have a university evaluation partner to help evaluate crime trends and assist with data collection. The targeted grants required a great deal of training and technical assistance to build effective project designs and measures of success prior to grant awards. OCJP made its first awards in the fall of 2010. Three cities' projects ended between June 30 and September 30, 2013. Currently two additional cities' (Columbia and Johnson City) will be continuing their projects through February 2015 and March 2016 respectively.

PROGRAM SUCCESSES:

In 2014 the Johnson City TCCRP was nominated for and received a National Criminal Justice Association – Outstanding Criminal Justice Program Award for the Southern Region.

Program highlights include providing an evidence based curriculum, namely, Positive Action for the local alternative high school program. During the planning phase, it was determined that Positive Action would be provided as an afterschool program. As planning meetings continued, the opportunity arose to implement the program school wide, making the alternative school the first high school in Tennessee to use the curriculum this extensively. Goals included reducing absences in the high school so students would be in the classroom more, resulting in improved performance on standardized tests. Since implementing Positive Action last August, the number of absences has been reduced by 15.8%. As a result, Positive Action has had the beneficial effect of improving teacher to student contact. Also during this time, it was

noted that students from the last school year received in-school or out-of-school discipline at a rate of 2.0 incidents per child compared to this year, in which students have received in-school or out-of-school discipline at a rate of only 1.6 incidents per child. In order to provide incentives for improved school attendance, grades and attitudes, local businesses have made generous in-kind donations of food, movie tickets, and restaurant coupons.

EFFECT ON THE COMMUNITY

Through surveys collected in the targeted areas during the planning phase, it was identified that many residents considered the neighborhoods “unsafe” at night due to a lack of lighting. This prompted the TCCRP Director to initiate a lighting survey utilizing grant funds to pay for overtime incurred by members of the City Codes Department in helping to conduct it. As a result of this survey, dozens of existing street lights were identified as burned out or broken and this information was then submitted to the Johnson City Power Board which took timely action to make the necessary repairs. Then, in meetings with the City’s Planning Department and members of the Police Department, an overlay map was created which revealed that the areas in the target neighborhoods with highest rates of drug-related and violent crime were also areas with a severe lighting shortage. Plans are currently underway to add additional street lights, but by working with the support of neighborhood associations in these areas, “Operation Night Light” was initiated. Information was mailed to each resident encouraging the use of porch lights at night for those who live in an area lacking sufficient public lighting. Residents were informed the cost of running a typical 60-watt incandescent bulb 12 hours a day was only \$2.19 a month.

Further prompted by information from the lighting survey, the TCCRP Director worked with the Johnson City Police Department crime analyst to prepare a report on crimes by time of day. This report revealed that the highest time of day for crime in one of the target areas was at 2:00 a.m. which was the same time the Community Policing shift had been ending. Using this information, 19 officers were then trained for a special zero tolerance operation which was implemented from mid-August through the end of October, and resulted in neighborhood incidents declining 26% and arrests down by 19%.

In June 2013, a Day Reporting Center (DRC) was opened providing the community with a gender specific, high intensity, three-phase program where clients are court ordered to attend as an alternative to prison. When the DRC was still in the planning stages, local Goodwill Industries partners offered to create a position for developing a job readiness program in order to teach those who were previously incarcerated employment skills such as resume writing, online job search, and digital literacy. The courses are now not only offered in the DRC, but in some of the other partnering agencies as well. Also, the University of Tennessee Extension Program of Washington

County made available an extension agent who now facilitates weekly classes on parenting skills and dating/marriage relationships. Project staff also obtained support from local officials who agreed to add a new bus stop specifically for the DRC so clients can access the center through citywide public transportation. It should be mentioned that the DRC is the first probation program of its kind in the state of Tennessee.

MOVING FORWARD: SUSTAINABILITY

An evaluation of the first three projects was finished in the fall 2013. The grant cycle continued in Columbia, Clarksville and Johnson City in FY 2015 with OCJP working closely with the three cities to help them solve problems, maintain fidelity to their strategic approaches, and apply lessons learned from the first three projects. The project already has a number of valuable and tangible results, such as increased capacity, better communication, new working relationships, shared data, and stakeholder engagement. The project communities have identified the agencies they should be working with, and have begun working on new collaborative approaches. Some cities have found evidence in this project to continue other collaborative initiatives once the grant ends. Although no cash match was required, the cities and their partners made other in-kind contribution to the crime reduction strategies. Planning and leadership teams used Byrne JAG funding to leverage resources from multiple agencies within each city.

For example, the city of Clarksville has been able to secure public funding to keep their community center open after the grant ended. The city of Columbia maintained regular meetings between the Police Department of and the Department of Correction, Community Corrections Division Field Offices, to further intelligence sharing operations on an ongoing basis. Johnson City secured funding with the Department of Correction to maintain operations of its Day Reporting Center beyond the expiration of the grant in March of 2016.

OCJP leveraged other DOJ funding to assist the cities in their sustainability efforts by offering training and technical assistance through staff and a contractor (Performance Vistas Incorporated, PVI). Cities were shown how to use their data to identify the merits of the program, identify cost savings/diversion, and hopefully how to secure future additional funding. A seminar was also held to assist the cities in identifying which projects would be easiest to continue and which would need more work. This seminar was predominantly peer led and well received.

Accomplishments of the JAG funded judicial district-based DTFs in 2014-2015 include:

- 37 drug labs shut down;
- 21 drug processing locations shut down;
- 1,255.85 grams of methamphetamine seized;
- 18,602.31 grams of ICE seized;
- 8,069 prescription pills seized;
- 1,564 suspects arrested;
- 596 misdemeanor charges;
- 1,291 felony charges;

- ***Multijurisdictional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force Program Highlights***

2nd Judicial District Drug Task Force:

The following is a snapshot of the operations 2nd Judicial Drug Task Force was involved in during one quarter of 2015:

- Agents with the 2nd Judicial District Drug Task Force conducted an investigation into an indoor marijuana grow. As a result of this investigation, agents eradicated 7 cannabis plants, THC oil, and a quantity of hallucinogenic mushrooms.
- Drug Task Force (DTF) agents responded to a methamphetamine lab inside a residence. Three individuals were arrested on scene and charged with meth-related crimes.
- Federal arrest warrants were served on four individuals belonging to a prescription pill diversion conspiracy. These individuals are responsible for obtaining fraudulent prescriptions of over approximately 20,000 dosage units of various controlled substances. Additional indictments are anticipated through the state criminal justice system on co-conspirators at a later date.
- Agents conducted an investigation into a marijuana trafficking organization. As a result of investigative efforts, two individuals were charged with felony drug related crimes. Agents seized approximately 9



Seizure of Drugs and Money from the 27th Judicial District Drug Task Force

pounds of marijuana, \$89,485 in U.S. currency, 111 firearms, and one vehicle used to transport illegal narcotics. This case will be prosecuted federally.

- Agents of the DTF conducted a presentation to members of the Kingsport Rescue Squad on the detection of methamphetamine precursors and identification of components used in the manufacturing process. This presentation raised awareness to enhance the identification of a meth-related incident when responding to medical calls.

17th Judicial District Drug and Violent Crime Task Force:

The following is a case the 17th DTF was involved in during Fiscal Year 2015:

The DEA advised the 17th DTF that a courier had been detained during an interdiction stop in Rapid City, South Dakota. This courier was transporting 27 pounds of hydroponic marijuana from the State of Washington with an ultimate destination of Unionville, Tennessee. The defendant expressed a willingness to cooperate with law enforcement in a controlled delivery of marijuana to his buyer in Unionville.

Agents with the DTF subsequently arranged for the defendant to travel on to their area without the marijuana, which had been seized. Once he arrived, DTF agents completely debriefed him and made recorded phone calls to the target in their area. The DTF then borrowed 27 pounds of hydroponic marijuana and made arrangements for the cooperating defendant to deliver it to their target. Once the delivery was completed, the DTF executed a search warrant and seized the 27 pounds of marijuana, about \$9,000.00 in illegal drug proceeds, and two guns. The local defendant confessed to his involvement in a marijuana conspiracy. This led to the apprehension of one individual that sold marijuana for him on a regular basis.

As the case continued, the cooperating defendant from the State of Washington put one of the undercover DTF agents in telephone contact with his source for hydroponic marijuana in his state. That individual was arrested after he arrived in Nashville by rental vehicle with 60 pounds of hydroponic marijuana that had a street value of approximately \$240,000. The individual arrested had a license to grow marijuana in the State of Washington. The drug unit in Washington then executed a search warrant on his residence and seized 150 plants which exceed the 45 plant limit required as a co-op grower.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT

With the ever-changing laws, and improved technology for criminal justice investigations, there is a high demand for professional enhancement opportunities. This priority assists criminal justice personnel in receiving the most current training on

specialized topics, building the necessary skills to perform duties with offenders and the community in a safe, efficient, and just manner. As theories and practices change in the field of criminal justice, professionals have difficulty identifying training in evidence-based practices. While criminal justice agencies struggle to keep up with the infrastructure needs of their individual agencies, training in the new and emerging issues tends to take a back seat to other more basic criminal justice needs.

There were 11 projects funded in this area at \$745,388.00 Federal JAG dollars, \$100,260.00 local match contribution, and \$138,259.00 state match contribution for a total of \$983,907.00 in funding to this priority area for the FY 2015. As a result of this funding, there were 3,039 criminal justice professionals trained.

- ***Criminal Justice Professional Enhancement Program Highlight***

The State of Tennessee Department of Health National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) Death Investigation Training

In the state of Tennessee there are five regional forensic centers that are National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) Accredited for performing forensic autopsy services for the state. The forensic centers must rely heavily on the competence of death investigation by county medical examiners and regional medicolegal death investigators. This major workforce responsible for investigation of sudden unexpected deaths, including deaths suspected to be due to drug overdose, warrants specialized training to adequately investigate death across the state of Tennessee. This is especially true in the rural and semi-rural regions with the highest rates of drug overdose deaths.

A primary goal of this program is to establish uniform death investigation throughout the regions covered by the five regional forensic centers in the state, insuring quality death investigation in the event of an unexpected/unexplained death, regardless of the county line boundaries. In addition, it is expected that collaborative relationships among the death investigators, law enforcement and forensic centers will be established.

During the first year of this project, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner was able to provide medicolegal death investigation training, accomplished by conducting seminars in the three different regions across the state. This minimized the distance attendees had to travel and increased more familiar working relationships.

During the 2015 fiscal year, 65 individuals were trained on basic medicolegal death investigations, sudden unexplained infant and child deaths, forensics in mass fatalities, death investigation photography, and the necessity of proper medicolegal

death investigations. At the conclusion of the training, 100% of students surveyed stated that the training met their needs and was relevant to their jobs.

CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMMING

OCJP supports efforts to prepare inmates for eventual return to the community as well as continuing their care post release. These needs must be addressed both in the institution and in the community by programs effective in enhancing the participant's cognitive, behavioral and vocational skills. Programs such as substance abuse treatment, victim-offender reconciliation, vocational rehabilitation, cognitive behavioral therapy, and community re-entry programs fill this need.

It is essential to develop, implement, enhance, and evaluate re-entry strategies that will ensure the safety of the community and the reduction of serious, violent crime. This can be accomplished by preparing targeted offenders to successfully return to their communities after having served a significant period of secure confinement in a state institution, juvenile or adult correctional facility, or other secure institution.

There were 5 Correctional Programming Projects funded with \$371,250.00 in federal JAG dollars, \$80,000.00 local match contribution, and \$43,750.00 in State match for a total of \$495,000.00 of funding towards this priority area for FY 2015.

Re-entry programs are prison/jail-based and/or community-based correctional programs that are designed to address the many needs of the offender to end criminal behavior. Re-entry programs focus on assessing the risks and needs of each offender and then providing education, intervention in addiction, skill building, treatment of mental illness, correction of criminal thinking errors, and other support services to assist the offender in successfully reintegrating into the community.

- Correctional Program Highlight

Project Return is a 36 year-old Nashville nonprofit organization working in the realm of ex-offender reentry, assisting persons who have been convicted of felonies or serious misdemeanors and are returning to the Nashville community from incarceration.



For individuals exiting incarceration, statistics indicated that returning to the community is not an easy transition. This population faces an unemployment rate of up to 70% and, by extension, faces a nearly 40% chance of recidivating in the first two years after release from incarceration.

Project Return's transitional employment program, PRO Employment, aims to increase employment opportunities, resulting in stable, successful reentry and thereby reducing recidivism. Achieving such goals benefits the participants,

transitional employers, and the Nashville community as a whole. Transitional employers benefit from stable contract work performed by crews of dependable, work-ready individuals who are supported by Project Return's staff through daily job coaching, transportation, and more. The community benefits from the increased economic contribution of these now-employed individuals, as well as an increase in public safety.

PRO Employment is the only successful transitional employment program for ex-offenders in Middle Tennessee. Unlike other staffing services, PRO employment's innovative approach includes door-to-door transportation, case management and direct services, and on-the-job coaching for its workers, all of which improve their employability and experience while helping the contracting employers gain a needed workforce. To that end, Project Returns maintains its partnerships with several entities that contribute to the success of PRO Employment, including businesses that employ their participants, transitional halfway houses where participants reside, and municipal entities.

Since launching in July 2013, Project Return has secured transitional staffing agreements with 8 local businesses. Through these contracts, the agency has employed over 125 formerly-incarcerated men and women in the program, for a total of more than 33,000 labor hours, earning them more than \$240,000 in wages. Additionally, those participants earned a recent work experience and reference base to aid them in finding and keeping long-term employment as almost 30% of the program participants have been hired directly by the contracting businesses themselves. Overall, Project Return participants achieve a 75% employment rate and during their engagement with Project Return, they recidivate at a rate lower than 15% in their first two years after release.

Since its inception, PRO Employment has garnered awards and recognition from several local and national organizations. Most recently, in February 2015, Project Return was one of 60 nonprofits in the United States awarded the Bank of America Neighborhood Builders Award in recognition of their significant impact in addressing the needs related to community development, basic human services, and workforce development and education.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE EQUIPMENT ENHANCEMENT

The economic downturn in recent years which caused budget cuts at the local, state and federal levels, has turned around to some extent; however agencies' budgets have failed to fully rebound under fiscally conservative policies. In order to save jobs, law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies have continually postponed the usual and periodic replacement of equipment. This has resulted in the continued use of outdated equipment by law enforcement. This can lead to safety issues for both the

individual as well as the community. Additionally, it has kept agencies from purchasing innovative and cutting-edge public safety equipment and instruments that have an immediate impact on quality of life for the citizens they serve. In response to this issue, OCJP's strategy is to employ a data-driven approach to identify law enforcement agencies in need of replacement or first time equipment that will make their jobs and their communities safer.

There were 37 projects funded in this area with \$799,994.00 federal JAG dollars, \$63,829.00 in local match contributions and \$19,729.00 in state match for a total of \$883,552.00 funding to this priority area for the FY 2015.

- ***Criminal Justice Equipment Enhancement Program Highlight***

Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security JAG Mobile Observation Tower. The funding for the project allowed for the purchase of a mobile observation tower that has the capacity of rising to a two-story height. The tower provides a unique surveillance and deterrence capability including biological agent detection capabilities. It has been professionally outfitted and provides full command and communication capabilities at major disasters and/or special events across the state. The mobile and portable tower can easily be relocated and is rugged enough to handle even the most primitive off-road conditions. The hydraulic engineering of the tower makes it adaptable for cameras, radios, public address systems, and other equipment integration. It is now possible for one officer to cover a specific area that previously would have required three or more personnel.



THP Mobile Observation Tower

VICTIM SERVICES

The purpose of this priority area is to make positive differences in the lives of crime victims and their families by making them aware of their rights, allowing them to fully participate in the criminal justice process, advising them of the resources available in their community, and by ensuring that victims know how to access these resources. Projects under this priority will assist victims prior to adjudication of the defendant, during the adjudication and post-adjudication.

There were 5 programs funded in this priority area at a federal amount of \$ 818,434.00 in federal JAG dollars in total funding for FY 2015.

- *Victim Services Program Highlight*

The City of Chattanooga

After many of years of community discussions around the need for a family justice center, in 2013 the City of Chattanooga hired a coordinator to assist with strategic planning to create a Family Justice Center (FJC) to provide services to victims of domestic violence. The FJC model is identified as a “best practice” in the field of domestic violence intervention and prevention services. Published outcomes have included: reduced homicides; increased victim safety; increased autonomy and empowerment for victims; reduced fear and anxiety for victims and their children; reduced recantation and minimization by victims when wrapped in services and support and dramatically increased community support for services to victims and their children through the family justice center program.



Commissioner Larry Martin

After two years of hard work, on July 1, 2015, the Hamilton County Family Justice Center, comprised of 10 community and government partners, opened its doors with a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the occasion. Commissioner Larry Martin with the State of Tennessee’s Finance and Administration was on hand to share encouraging words with the community and congratulate them for all of their efforts. Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke was also present and spoke to the impact this new community collaborative was going to have on the City.

In an effort to prepare for providing services in FY 2016 and to support the work of the collaborating organizations, the Executive Director for the

Hamilton County Family Justice Center, Dr. Valerie Radu, visited Family Justice Centers in New York City and Connecticut and consulted with experts. She also attended the Family Justice Center Leadership training in San Diego.

Training was essential to prepare those 10 community and government organizations committed to co-locating and providing onsite services at the Family Justice Center. Meetings were also held with offsite partners to educate them on the Family Justice Center and how they could refer and collaborate. Additionally, training was provided for over 400 community members to increase awareness about domestic violence and how the new role of the Family Justice Center would address the issue.

Chattanooga City Council approved an operating budget for the Family Justice to be housed in the city budget under the Chief of Police. This is the permanent operating and budget arrangement to sustain the Family Justice Center. This budget includes 5 full-time staff positions for the Family Justice Center, travel and training resources, and additional resources to support the mission and goals of the Family Justice Center.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant for State Prisoners

The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT) program, (CFDA # 16.593) is a federally funded program which assists states and local governments in developing and implementing substance abuse treatment programs in state and local correctional and detention facilities. This program provides residential substance abuse treatment for incarcerated inmates, and prepares offenders for reintegration into the community through re-entry planning activities.

In FY 2015, OCJP contracted with the Tennessee Department of Correction, TDOC, for residential substance abuse treatment with \$164,586.00 in federal RSAT dollars, \$54,862.00 in state matching dollars, for total grant amount of \$219,448.00. The Tennessee Department of Correction has residential substance abuse treatment programs in eleven state institutions, only three are RSAT funded.

RSAT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



Turney Center Industrial Complex



Northwest Correctional Complex



Mark H. Luttrell Correctional Center

Department of Correction: The Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) provides over 150 federally funded RSAT treatment beds in three of their treatment facilities. These programs implement a therapeutic community using the RSAT model and are located in the following institutions: Turney Center Industrial Prison, Northwestern Correctional Complex and Mark H. Luttrell Correctional Center.

The TDOC programming incorporates a multi-phase treatment approach. The program length is between six months and one year. Psycho-educational services, community service work, vocational/academic training, group/individual counseling, urinalysis testing, structured self-help activities, and community continuing care services are incorporated into the program model to better assist offenders with a successful reintegration into the community post prison.

In FY 2015, 331 new participants were enrolled in Tennessee RSAT programs, with 233 successfully completing the program by the end of the fiscal year. Of those successfully completing the program, 220 were released into the community during this fiscal year. Since their release, only 14 have been re-arrested (average release time is 6 months). Previous recidivism data for this program tracked re-incarceration. With the new method of tracking recidivism as re-arrest for the RSAT program, the project's statistics are in line with the April 2011 Pew Center report titled "State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America Prisons" which found the national recidivism rate to be about 40% (within the first 3 year of release).

National Criminal History Improvement Program

The National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) is a federally funded program, CFDA # 16.554) that seeks to enhance the crime fighting and criminal justice capabilities of state and tribal governments. The goal of the NCHIP grant program is to improve the Nation's safety and security by enhancing the quality, completeness, and accessibility of criminal history record information and by insuring the nationwide implementation of criminal justice and noncriminal justice background check systems.

NCHIP follows the federal fiscal year. Funded projects began on October 1, 2014 and will end on March 31, 2016. The OCJP funded three NCHIP projects during the funding period utilizing a total of \$311,000.00 in federal funding from the federal FY 2014 award.

Tennessee identified the following priority area for the funding cycle:

The State of Tennessee proposed to use FFY 2014 NCHIP funding to implement Phase I of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's Criminal History Record Improvement Project. Phase 1 of the TBI's Criminal History Record Improvement Project is an effort to modernize and standardize the method that original charge data is collected from the primary booking

agencies and reported to the repository via the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).

Phase I, includes the following activities:

- 1) Development of the arrest charge and LiveScan data collection standards;
- 2) Replacement of the designated county booking agency's LiveScan equipment that has aged past the end-of-life;
- 3) Replacement of the existing firewall installed with each of those aged LiveScan machines as well as replacement of additional firewalls at local and state law enforcement agencies that are using state network PIX boxes ;
- 4) Replacement of firewalls at the termination stations; and
- 5) Purchase of a 12-month, renewable maintenance agreement for the new LiveScan machines.

NCHIP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation proceeded with the competitive procurement process for the LiveScan statewide contract vendor through the Invitation To Bid (ITB) process. The ITB procurement process took several months to complete. The contract with DataWorks was awarded in June 2015, and the TBI is currently in the process of working with DataWorks to verify that their product will meet all of the requirements.

Once verification is complete, replacement of the Livescan machines will begin. The uniform charge table user agreement that specifies the agencies' responsibilities and the list of offenses to include in the Interface Control Document along with a letter to the County Sheriffs are in the final stages of development as well.

Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program (Coverdell) program, CFDA # 16.742, is administered by the National Institute of Justice and seeks to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services. The Coverdell program follows the federal fiscal year. The OCJP funded two Coverdell projects during the funding period utilizing a total of \$130,661.00 in federal funding, projects began on October 1, 2014 and ended on September 30, 2015.

The State of Tennessee is using FFY 2014 Coverdell Formula funds to support the following programs:

- Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) - Forensic Laboratory Digital Evidence Storage Enhancements and Lab Equipment Upgrades: The TBI used funding to

purchase and install hardware and software to enable enhanced storage of digital evidence documentation within its laboratory information system. The software system will allow TBI Crime Labs to securely track, store and archive digital evidence documentation. TBI will also purchase and install a new stereo microscope in its Memphis Crime Lab.

- Tennessee Department of Health (DOH), Office of the Chief Medical Examiner - Enhancement of Death Scene Investigation Equipment for County Medicolegal Death Investigators: The Tennessee DOH utilized funding to purchase and distribute needed equipment upgrades to eligible county medicolegal death scene investigators (MIs). These equipment upgrades will enable local MIs to better document and submit case evidence to medical examiners and regional forensic laboratories.

COVERDELL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation purchased, received, and installed the Stereomicroscope for the Memphis Firearms Unit which is now in use in the Memphis lab. The procurement process for the Mideo System was initiated during state FY2015. TBI's Information Systems Division installed the appropriate servers and supporting operating system software prior to the vendor installation of the Mideo System. Vendor installation occurred for the Mideo System in FY2016 prior to the end of the grant project.

At the end of the reporting period, the average number of days between the submission of a sample to the lab and delivery of the results to the requesting agency was approximately 61 days. This represents a decrease, compared to the number at the beginning of the grant period, of approximately 28 days. In addition, the number of backlogged cases as the end of the reporting period was 7,069 which represent a decrease of approximately 4,263 backlogged cases, compared to the number at the beginning of the grant period.

The Tennessee Department of Health distributed twenty-three equipment kits containing a digital camera and laptop computer to county medical examiners and death scene investigators. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner worked with each of the recipients to register them on the medical examiner web portal (UVIS). By the end of the project there were (42) counties submitting Reports of Investigation through (UVIS) and utilizing the new equipment to capture and upload scene photographs and body photographs. Each of the recipient agencies are submitting reports through UVIS at this time.

Services • Training • Officers • Prosecution

The Services•Training•Officers•Prosecution (STOP) grant, CFDA # 16.588, is administered by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) in the United States Department of Justice. STOP Grants promote a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to violence against women. This approach envisions a partnership among law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, victim advocates, and service providers to ensure victim safety and offender accountability.

The STOP grant program provides funding for projects that assist in efforts to reduce violence against women and men, specifically domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence.

STOP funded programs must address one or more of the following purpose areas:

- Training law enforcement officers and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women;
- Developing, training, or expanding specialized units of law enforcement officers and prosecutors targeting violent crimes against women;
- Developing and implementing more effective police and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically dedicated to identifying and responding to violent crimes against women;
- Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems linking police, prosecutors, and courts or that are designed to identify and track arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women;
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim service programs, including sexual assault and domestic violence programs;
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing stalking;
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes in dealing with violent crimes against women.
- Supporting statewide, multidisciplinary efforts to coordinate the response of law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim services to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.
- Training sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and victim services to address and recognize the needs and circumstances of older and disabled individuals who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

- Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters.
- Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families.
- Supporting the placement of special victim assistants (to be known as “Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants”) in local law enforcement agencies to serve as liaisons between victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking and personnel in local law enforcement agencies in order to improve the enforcement of protection orders.
- To provide funding for:
 - The development and implementation of training of local victim domestic violence service providers, and to fund victim services personnel, to be known as “Crystal Judson Victim Advocates,” to provide supportive services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel;
 - The implementation of protocols within law enforcement agencies to ensure consistent and effective responses to the commission of domestic violence by personnel within such agencies (such as the model policy promulgated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (“Domestic Violence by Police Officers: A Policy of the IACP, Police Response to Violence Against Women Project” July 2003) ;
 - The development of such protocols in collaboration with State, tribal, territorial and local victim services providers and domestic violence coalitions.

In FY 2015, Tennessee obligated \$1,998,057.00 in STOP funding. Non victim service provider STOP subrecipients are required to contribute 25% of the total project costs in the form of a cash or in-kind match. Seven eligible victim service provider projects elected not to provide match in FY 2015.

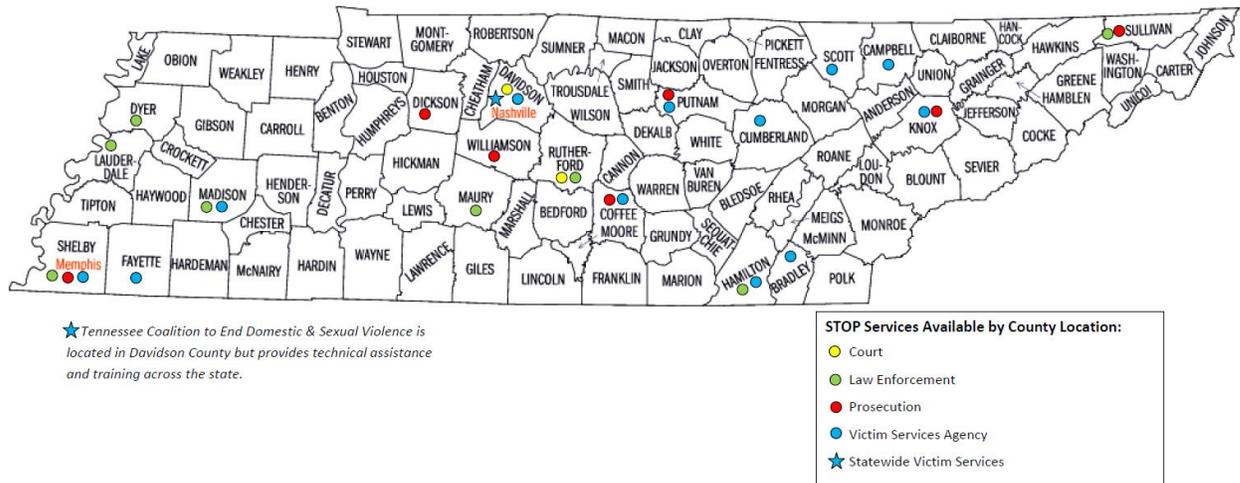
The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) requires that states allocate STOP funds as follows:

- 25% for law enforcement programs
- 25% for prosecutors
- 30% for nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services (of which 10% must go to culturally specific community based organizations)
- 5% for State and local courts
- 15% to further support law enforcement, prosecution, court or victim services programs at the state’s discretion

In FY 2015, the STOP grant provided funding to 36 projects including:

- 2 court project
- 7 prosecutor projects
- 6 law enforcement officer grants
- 4 law enforcement training grants
- 17 victim services projects including 2 grants to a culturally specific project

2015 STOP SERVICES AVAILABLE BY COUNTY LOCATION



In FY 2015, the STOP award supported the following services for victims and training for service providers:

- 2,422 domestic/dating violence victims, 185 sexual assault victims and 39 stalking victims received direct services from STOP victim services projects
- 4,684 domestic/dating violence cases, 48 sexual assault cases and 89 stalking cases were prosecuted by STOP Prosecutors
- 1,876 domestic/dating violence cases, 287 sexual assault cases and 29 stalking cases were investigated by STOP Law Enforcement Officers
- 2,043 participants received training on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and/or stalking topics from STOP victim services, court, law enforcement, and prosecution projects at 106 training events. 1017 of these 2,043 participants were law enforcement officers
- 289 law enforcement officers received training on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and/or stalking topics at 11 events provided by 4 STOP Law Enforcement Training Projects

During 2015, a focus continued to be on the [2014-2016 STOP Implementation Plan for Tennessee](#), and the topics described in the plan, which include:

- Expanding services to culturally-specific victim/survivors through culturally specific programs,
- Expanding programs to courts,
- Tennessee compliance with PREA,
- Efforts to reduce domestic violence related homicide in the state, and
- Increasing sexual assault allocation through current and new projects; new projects including culturally specific and courts.

Over the next year, OCJP will revisit the Implementation Plan and use it as a guide for strategic planning and funding decisions.

STOP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Rutherford County Government STOP-DV Court: During this STOP grant period, the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office in Murfreesboro, Tennessee received STOP funds. The grant funding allowed the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office to continue providing advocacy and education (concerning domestic violence) to victims of domestic violence in their jurisdiction. The purpose of the advocacy services is to assist victims of domestic violence in court with support as a way of empowering the victims and holding batterers accountable.

Additionally, the Domestic Violence Court of Rutherford County helps support victims that are underserved by providing a Spanish translator as well as having other translators available when needed.

The project funds one full-time position, the DV Court Coordinator, and one part-time position, the DV Court Assistant. The Coordinator is responsible for performing case management in the coordination of cases filed in criminal and civil domestic violence cases; providing information and support to victims; assisting victims in protective order cases; coordinating interagency information flow and monitoring procedures and policies; attending court hearings dealing with domestic violence; serving as liaison with community resources and other agencies; performing general/clerical task and supervises, directs, and evaluates staff. The Court Assistant is responsible for interacting with and supporting victims; providing case management to victims; preparing case files, court dockets and other information in preparation for court proceedings; calling victims to remind of court dates, and general/clerical tasks.

The STOP funding allowed the Domestic Violence Court to establish a Domestic Violence Legal Advisory Board in order to create an opportunity for collaborator

communication and input. The Advisory Board has brought together professionals and agencies involved in the court process (as it relates to victims of domestic violence) to discuss legal and procedural issues and make recommendations to the court system regarding policy and procedure. The Board is comprised of department leaders who can affect policy including; Judges, Magistrates, Police Officials, Attorneys, The Domestic Violence Program (community based dual program, domestic violence shelter and sexual assault program), and Probation.

30th Judicial District STOP Prosecutor: During this STOP grant period, the District Attorney's Office in the 30th Judicial District in Shelby County, Tennessee received STOP funds. With this funding a dedicated full-time prosecutor was funded to address the ever-increasing cases of domestic violence. This STOP prosecutor has a full caseload totaling over 1500 cases in 2015. The prosecutor handles domestic violence dockets in both General Sessions and Criminal Court in Shelby County, many of these cases are felonies. The agency utilizes vertical prosecution within the courts when possible. Meaning, a dedicated prosecutor handles the case from arraignment in Sessions Court and all the way through trial in Criminal Court.

There is a good working relationship between the STOP prosecutor and the domestic violence law enforcement officers. The agency also assigns two victim witness coordinators to the domestic violence unit to assist with victim's needs. The STOP funds continue to allow this prosecutor to not only handle a full-time domestic violence caseload, but also to bring awareness to the community about the issue of domestic violence. With the continued support of STOP funds, this prosecutor will continue to educate the community and local law enforcement in order to effectively and aggressively hold offenders accountable and to seek jail time where appropriate and/or mandated by law, while compassionately addressing the special needs of domestic violence victims. Additionally, the prosecutor collaborates with crime victim's services in Shelby County. The agencies include: Crime Victims Center, Family Safety Center, Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center, and the local YWCA.

Sexual Assault Center: This project provided Bilingual and Bicultural services to Hispanic survivors of sexual assault in Davidson and Rutherford Counties in Tennessee. Direct services provided to sexual assault survivors through this project included culturally and linguistically appropriate crisis counseling, information and referrals, advocacy, therapy, and psycho-education. The purpose of providing these direct services to Hispanic survivors of sexual assault in a culturally sensitive and culturally competent manner is to decrease the barriers of addressing sexual assault issues as well as the potential of the devastating long-term effects that sexual assault can have on individuals and families if left untreated. This project focused on reaching Hispanic sexual assault survivors of any age (ages 2-elderly), males and females.

These direct services were offered to Adult Survivors of childhood sexual abuse, Teen and Child survivors of sexual abuse, Non-Offending Caregivers/Parents of children who have been sexually abused, and Rape Survivors. Additionally, the Sexual Assault Center collaborated with Conexion Americas in Nashville, to provide psycho-educational group sessions at their facility to Hispanic survivors and family members within their community.

Rutherford County Government STOP-Law Enforcement: During this STOP grant period, the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office in Murfreesboro, Tennessee received STOP funds primarily for law enforcement-related services. The grant funding allowed the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office to continue providing investigative and referral services to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence victims in Rutherford County, Tennessee. The purpose of the investigative and referral services is to help these victims feel safe and to hold offenders accountable.

This project funds a full-time Domestic Violence Victim Detective who provides the investigative and referral services. The project actively collaborates with the Domestic Violence Program and Sexual Assault Services as well as the Rutherford County Domestic Violence Court. The funding has allowed more individualized attention from the detective for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking and harassment. As a result, the victims are able to utilize services that would otherwise be unknown to them, due to the individual attention given to each victim's needs.

Additionally, the Domestic Violence Victim Detective provides training to law enforcement officers and community service collaborators. Training law enforcement is a critical component of this project. Officers receive periodic roll-call training as well as annual classroom training on domestic violence policies and laws, victimology, and offender behavior. The training teaches officers how to identify primary aggressors under Tennessee law as well as learning about evidence-based practices. A specific training goal includes teaching law enforcement officers when to make appropriate arrests and/or making critical decisions on the scene. The training explores the use of statements, evidence, and previous criminal history to determine predominant aggressors in domestic violence situations.

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Program

The state appropriated Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Program was established to provide a statewide network of regional ICAC task forces to be operated in a manner consistent with established guidelines under the federal ICAC task force criteria and guidelines from the US Department of Justice. The State ICAC program follows the state fiscal year. OCJP funded three ICAC grant projects utilizing a total of \$677,000.00 in location designated state appropriated funding during state FY 2015. Funded projects for

the City of Knoxville, the City of Memphis, and the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County began in July 2014 and ended on June 30, 2015.

Funds were to be used by the regional ICAC task forces to:

- Conduct law enforcement investigations into child pornography and online enticement of children;
- Recruit, train, coordinate, and support a network of cooperating law enforcement agencies within their region with emphasis on assisting them with training, forensic computer analysis, and ensuring established national ICAC protocols are followed; and
- Serve as the law enforcement liaison bringing together local, state, national, and international police agencies and prosecutors.

In addition to investigations, each regional division provides a number of community-based public awareness/preventative training sessions and activities throughout the fiscal year. Statewide:

- 93 awareness meetings were held with a total of approximately 4,575 people in attendance
- Topics included online/internet safety, child safety, human trafficking, parental awareness, cyber-bullying, trafficking and sexual servitude of juveniles, inappropriate conduct with minors in school settings, and ICAC investigations.

ICAC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

The City of Knoxville: The KPD ICAC Unit prosecuted a traveler case which began with investigators conducting an undercover investigation on Motherless.com, a site for adult communication about sex known to be frequented by child sex offenders and advertised as a “moral free zone.” In this case, the male suspect contacted the investigator’s profile. The suspect was interested in having sex with a 12-year-old female.

The suspect communicated with the “12-year-old” and her “mother”. During the communication, the suspect indicated his desire to perform illegal, illicit acts on the child. The suspect expressed he would like to travel to Knoxville for this purpose. The suspect also had a desire to remain in Knoxville and start a family with the “12-year-old.”

A meeting location at a local motel was agreed upon. The suspect arrived at the location with all of his personal belongings and was arrested for the federal offence of Travel with Intent to Engage in Illicit Sexual Conduct 18 USC § 2423(b). KPD’s ICAC

unit assisted by the Blount County Sheriff's Office, KPD patrol, and Homeland Security investigators made the arrest. Forensic examination of the suspect's electronic media has led investigators to a previously unknown 4-year-old victim in another state.

The defendant in this case plead guilty to production of child pornography and travel to engage in sexual relationship with a minor. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison for these offenses.

City of Memphis: In August 2014, members of the Memphis Police Department's Vice Unit were following up on a tip of possible human trafficking involving a minor. Vice Unit officers contacted the internet crimes against children unit to conduct the investigation once the 14 year old victim was located.

The 14 year old victim initially stated to investigators she was not trafficked. Investigators located the suspect using newly purchased software called Rescue Forensics and were able to locate ads on an internet website which is used to promote prostitution. The ads had been deleted but due to the processing of the Rescue Ops software investigators were able to recover the webpage.

The suspect had taken sexually inappropriate pictures of the minor which qualified these images as child pornography. The 14 year old victim was made to have sex with men for money and then money was in turn given to the suspect. He was charged with Commercial Sex Acts involving a Minor, Especially Aggravated Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, and Advertising Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor.

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County: In September 2014, an arrest warrant for a suspect was issued for one count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, with over 100 items. This warrant stemmed from an investigation conducted by ICAC detectives.

The suspect was visiting a local bar. At some point during the night, he left the location and left his cellular phone on the bar. An employee of the bar found the phone and began to examine it in an effort to find its rightful owner. During this examination, the employee found what he believed to be child abuse material. The employee immediately called the police and turned the phone over to the police. The suspect, believing his phone had been stolen, also called the police to report it.

A search warrant for the phone was sought, and obtained. During the execution of that search warrant on the phone, approximately 150 images of child abuse material were found along with pictures of the suspect and his residence. There was also indication that the images were downloaded from a computer. With that information, a search warrant was obtained for the suspect's home. During the execution of that warrant, three laptop computers were seized for forensic examination. Metro-Nashville believes

there will be additional charges after the seized computer equipment has been forensically examined.

Automated Fingerprint Imaging Systems (AFIS) Program

The Automated Fingerprint Imaging Systems (AFIS) Program is funded through TCA § 67-4-606 (a) (12) which requires 2.3056% of litigation tax proceeds to be deposited in the state general fund for grants awarded and administered by the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs. Automated fingerprint identification is the process of automatically matching one or many unknown fingerprints against a database of known and unknown prints. Automated fingerprint identification systems are primarily used by law enforcement agencies for criminal identification initiatives, such as identifying a person suspected of committing a crime or linking a suspect to other unsolved crimes.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation received a grant from OCJP to offset the line charges associated with the electronic submission of fingerprints to TBI from the individual county Sheriff's Offices that utilize LiveScan machines. These agencies are submitting arrest information including fingerprint images electronically to the TBI. The LiveScan machines are connected to the TBI's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) utilizing a dedicated communication circuit. This circuit is obtained through services provided by the Office for Information Resources (OIR), a division of the Department of Finance and Administration within Tennessee State Government.

Local booking agents are eligible for funding when available to assist them with purchasing a new LiveScan machine to replace machines that are no longer functioning properly and maintain the state's compliance with federal requirements. These agencies submit arrest information including fingerprint images electronically to the TBI. In order to be eligible for funding, the county Sheriff's office must be (TBI) certified and in good standing with the requirements of the Tennessee Information Enforcement System (TIES). The applicant agency must also be in compliance with the requirements of the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS).

The state AFIS program follows the state fiscal year. The goal of this program is to improve the criminal justice system through the purchase and installation of electronic fingerprint imaging systems (LiveScan Machines) including maintenance and the payment of associated line charges. Funding from the AFIS Program is only available to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and County Governments. OCJP funded the three AFIS projects utilizing a total of \$566,000.00 in state appropriated dollars during FY 2015. The projects funded include the payment of line charges and two (2) replacement LiveScan machines (Marion and Hamblen Counties).

The Tennessee AFIS system is a vital component for public safety. The system connects Tennessee law enforcement agencies with state and national criminal databases, which

house extensive data on offenders. Prior to the automated system, county jails were not connected to a central system and entire individual criminal histories were not readily accessible. Through automation, the system is now transmitting data in real time, and the criminal justice system is more connected and efficient.

Methamphetamine Initiative

Under then Governor Phil Bredesen, the Governor’s Methamphetamine Initiative (METH) was created to address the impact of methamphetamine (Meth) use and production in Tennessee. This remained an annual appropriation in FY 2015. Increasingly, children are affected by the family chaos that results from their parents’ illegal manufacture and use of this substance. These parents neglect their children’s development and place them in hazardous living conditions that can cause serious health problems, even death. They are exposed to immediate dangers and to the ongoing effects of chemical contamination. In addition, the child may be subjected to fires and explosions, abuse and neglect, a hazardous lifestyle, social problems, and other risks.

In FY 2015, Tennessee obligated \$420,000.00 in state METH funding. There is no match requirement for METH funding.

In allocating the funds, priority is given to Child Advocacy Centers. These Centers are multidisciplinary programs that allow professionals from child protective services, law enforcement, criminal justice, victim advocacy agencies, and the medical and mental health communities to work in a collaborative way to better serve children who have been victimized. The goal of a Child Advocacy Center is to ensure that children are not re-victimized by the very system designed to protect them.

The purpose of the program is to support services to drug exposed children. Child Advocacy Centers provide services to drug endangered children and their non-offending family members in a child friendly environment in a manner that reduces systemic redundancy and re-victimization of the child.

In FY 2015, METH funding provided grants to 11 child advocacy centers.

2015 METHAMPHETAMINE INITIATIVE GRANT PROJECTS



Below is an overview of the METH award supported outputs related to clients served and services provided to children and non-offending parents for FY 2015:

- 127 drug endangered children received therapy
- 46 drug endangered children received criminal justice advocacy/support
- 368 CPIT Meetings were attended on behalf of drug endangered children
- 184 drug endangered children received safety planning
- 391 drug endangered children received drug education
- 68 non-offending parents/caregivers received therapy
- 388 non-offending parents/caregivers received drug education

METH funding provides vital services to children exposed to Meth or other drugs. The METH funded projects assists the non-offending parent or caregiver to best care for the child/children who have been emotionally or physically impacted by the home situation. Additionally the non-offending parent or caregivers are given information and resources for their own self-care, and to assist the children in their recovery.

METH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Tipton County Child Advocacy Center: The Department of Children Services referred a fourteen year old boy to the Center who had been drug exposed. The child's parents were arrested for cocaine and methamphetamine possession. The Department removed the child, and was placed in the paternal grandmother's care.

The Family Advocate was able to provide several services, as the child was exhibiting defiant behavior. The Family Advocate worked with him on controlling his emotions and making good decisions. The Family Advocate also educated him about drugs and how it affects the body, relationships, and the community. In addition, the Family Advocate worked with the child on social skills and his self-esteem.

The Child Advocacy Center and the Department ensured the child's safety and is able to give the family the tools needed to overcome challenging obstacles. This child is still able to preserve a family bond and remain in a loving, safe, healthy environment.

Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Program

In 1998, the state of Tennessee adopted Article 1, §35 of the Tennessee Constitution, the Victims Bill of Rights, requiring victims to be notified when there is any release, transfer, or escape of an offender from confinement. The TN State Automated Victim Information Notification (SAVIN) program is responsible for ensuring victim notification and providing immediate and accurate information concerning the movement of offenders in county jails.

The TN SAVIN program is funded through § 67-4- 602, enacted in 2009, which added an additional privilege tax upon conviction in relation to criminal cases. In FY 2015, OCJP granted \$600,000.00 in state appropriated funding from the privilege tax. The OCJP is the designated state office to administer funds collected and annually issues a grant to finance the TN SAVIN project. The Tennessee Sheriff's Association (TSA) is charged with the statutory duty of administering the notification program.

In FY 2015, the TSA brought the system statewide by maintaining the SAVIN programmatic services to all 95 counties in the state. Since the system was implemented in Tennessee in 2008, over 165,000 victims have registered for notification, and 4,360,021 inquiries from the public have been made for information on offender status.

This automated system has provided an infrastructure in Tennessee to notify victims immediately when an offender's status changes at a county jail. The system is connected to each county's booking system so that jail employees make one entry in the system and it automatically generates the notification to the victim. Prior to this system, jail employees were required to contact victims over the phone or via U.S. Postal Service. This could take multiple calls to try to locate the victim. Now the victim can be contacted via telephone, email or U.S. postal service and the notification is automatically generated.

Victim Assistance Academy (Senator Tommy Burks)

The purpose of the Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy is to improve services to victims of all types of crime by providing a comprehensive, basic-level victim assistance curriculum and training program to victim services providers and allied professionals. The Academy is a comprehensive; basic-level training designed for victim services providers. The week-long Academy offers a Tennessee-specific 40 hour curriculum modeled after the National Victim Assistance Academy.

The Academy addresses issues specific to Tennessee crime victims and offers individuals who are fairly new to the field of victim advocacy opportunities to expand their skills and knowledge of Tennessee law and advocacy by learning from experts and each other. The training is appropriate for individuals working in victim advocacy programs, prosecutor's offices, law enforcement, probation, corrections, emergency responders, domestic and sexual violence programs, child advocacy centers and other victim advocacy agencies. The Academy is also appropriate for students who are interested in the field of victimology.

An annual state appropriation is made to the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the purpose of planning and coordinating the annual training event. There is no match requirement for the state funds.

The 2015 Academy reported the following accomplishments:

- 53 attendees received 40 hours of training;
- 100% agreed or strongly agreed that the training session had a clearly defined purpose;
- 97% agreed or strongly agreed that they learned a great deal in the training session;
- 97% agreed or strongly agreed that they will apply what they learned back on their job; and
- 95% agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the training they received.

Victim Academy participants included these comments while completing a training participant survey:

- “I learned a great deal of information about working with different types of victims.”
- “Better understanding of cultural differences.”
- “I have learned how to be more active in my community.”
- “Sharpening my skills on bystander intervention, prevention through social media, and reinforced by skills in other areas.”
- “The training opened my eyes to a broad scope of topics that had been unrevealed to me. I see so much more I need to do.”

Additional services offered as part of the grant project:

The Coalition provides technical assistance throughout the year to victim service advocates, including Academy graduates.

Ignition Interlock System Program

In FY 2010, TCA § 55-10-403 was expanded by enhancing the penalty for violations of §§ 55-10-401 through 55-10-404 and providing a portion of the fees assessed to be transmitted to the Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Criminal Justice Program. The fees are utilized for funding grant awards that allow law enforcement to purchase equipment and hire personnel needed in the enforcement of alcohol related traffic offences. The fees also support halfway houses whose primary focus is to assist drug and alcohol offenders. In FY 2013, TCA Section 55 was amended to require ignition interlock devices for all convicted drunk drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or greater. Beginning July 1, 2013, the new law went into effect, requiring first-time drunk driving offenders to use an interlock device for a period of six months as a condition of a restricted license. The law also requires an in-vehicle camera with the installation of every

ignition interlock device. This advanced technology will snap a photograph each time the Breathalyzer is activated.

The Ignition Interlock System Program accumulated enough funding in FY 2015 to support one grant project. During FY 2015, OCJP funded one project to Mending Hearts Inc. for a total of \$28,005.00 for halfway house purposes.

Mending Hearts, Inc.: Through this project, Mending Hearts is providing case management for up to (62) women offenders including supportive services such as moral reconnection therapy (MRT), life skills training, employment training and employment placement assistance and transportation assistance. Mending Hearts is providing safe and secure halfway housing in a recovery community environment such that 80% of the women remain in the housing for at least six months under supervision of the Program Coordinator, Outpatient Counselor, Operations Director and Case Manager. Mending Hearts is committed to providing a full continuum of services, which includes incorporating housing with recovery support services that build a “recovery-oriented system of care” for the women offenders in the program. These services address the overall goals of access and retention through a logical continuum of recovery-oriented services that address the needs of women offenders. This process proactively anticipates and eliminates obstacles to their ongoing recovery. These services are consumer-centered, community-based, integrated and holistic, and focus on maintaining the individual in the community rather than in treatment. Mending Hearts uses evidence-based curriculums in their recovery model to include job training and job placement assistance. The program also requires life skills classes, budgeting and parenting classes, building/repairing relationships with family and friends as well as moral reconnection and a relapse prevention program for treatment strategies and group support. In addition to life skills classes, Mending Hearts provides housing with intensive case management, recovery check-ups, and trauma therapy as needed.

Victim Services Unit

The Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP), Victim Services Unit, is responsible for administering funds to state and local victim service agencies and entities addressing the needs of victims (domestic violence shelters, sexual assault programs, MADD, etc.) across Tennessee to meet the needs of victims of crime. The unit also works to increase the availability of current training and best practices for those who work with victims of crime. In FY 2015, the Victim Services Unit oversaw 143 grants (72 programs) to state and local entities totaling approximately \$13,606,940.00 in federal, and state and local funds.

Federal grant sources include:

- Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)
- Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
- Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program (ARREST)

The Victim Services Unit coordinates several streams of state funding including:

- The Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council
- Governor's Family Violence Appropriation
- Family Violence Shelter Fund
- Sexual Assault Fund
- Child Abuse Fund

Additionally, OCJP Victim Services has been instrumental in implementing Action Step 33 of the Governor's Public Action Safety Plan.

Victim services programs receiving OCJP grants are varied and include domestic violence programs; child advocacy centers; sexual assault programs; sexual assault, dating violence and stalking; victim-witness coordinators, and civil legal assistance projects; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD); and elder abuse projects.

Services to victims include:

Counseling	Criminal Injuries Compensation Assistance
Therapy	Sexual Assault Forensic Exams
Domestic Violence Shelter	Crisis Counseling
Emergency Civil Legal Representation	Community Resource Information/Referral
Civil and Criminal Court Advocacy	Language Services
Personal Advocacy	Community Outreach
Transportation	Victim-focused Training
Crisis Hotlines	Support Groups and Others

Strategic Planning: OCJP's Victim Services Unit conducts annual planning sessions in order to determine the best way to utilize state and federal dollars allocated for the provision of services for victims of crime. Every year, the Victim Services Unit staff attends training events, participates in issue specific webinars, attends local and state meetings focused on victim issues, and frequently talks with agencies from across the state that provide victim service programming. This information is utilized to determine which services are needed, where services are limited or unavailable, how to better serve underserved populations, and to identify new trends for victim services programming.

In order to help agencies maintain their victim services programming, the Victim Services Unit is committed to providing continuation funding to those agencies that have a history of providing needed services to victims of crime while proving to be good stewards of limited federal and state dollars. As needs are determined through the strategic planning process and as funding becomes available, new or enhanced projects are funded that address service gaps, provide innovative programming and/or are evidenced-based programs.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

In 1984, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), CFDA # 16.575, established the Crime Victims Fund in the U. S. Department of Treasury and authorized the Fund to receive deposits of fines and penalties levied against criminals convicted of federal crimes. The Office for Victims of Crime in the U.S. Department of Justice is responsible for the distribution of the Crime Victim Fund to the states, which are collected by U.S. Attorney's Offices, U.S. Courts, and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

The purpose of VOCA grant funding is to provide high quality services that directly improve the health and well-being of victims of crime with priority given to victims of child abuse,

domestic violence, sexual assault and services for previously underserved victims. The services:

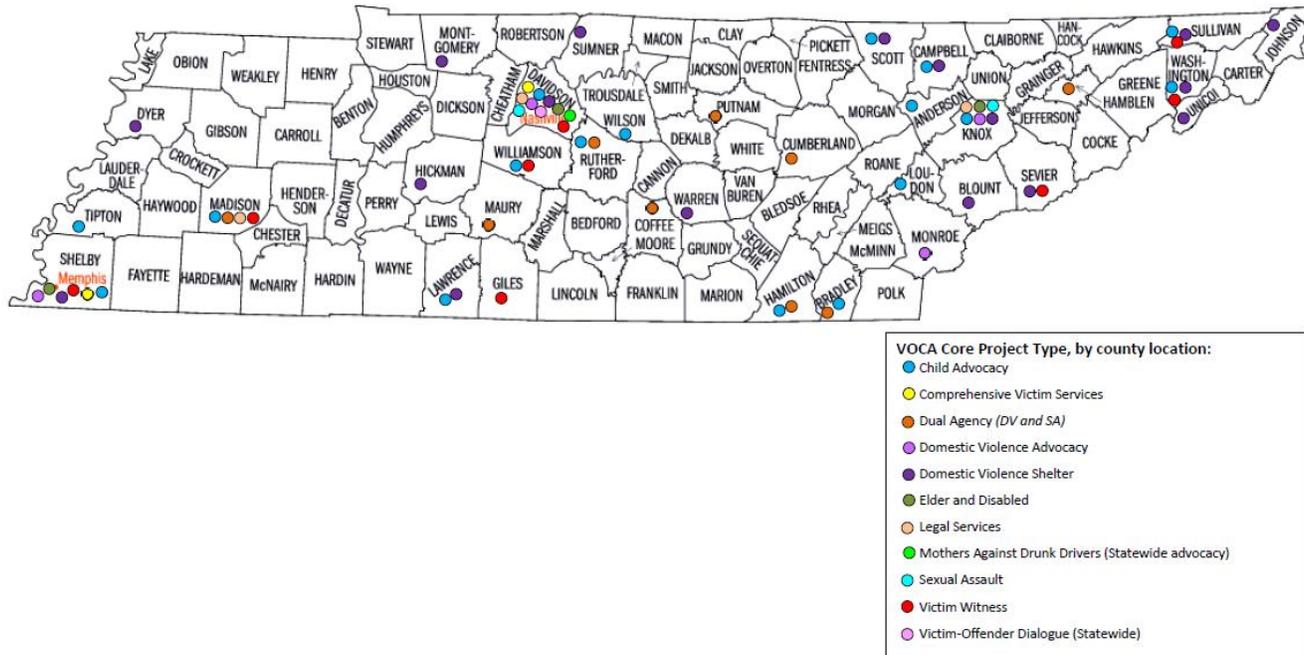
- Respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims;
- Assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization;
- Assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and
- Provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security.

In FY 2015, Tennessee obligated \$7,700,323.00 in VOCA funding. VOCA subrecipients are required to contribute 20% of the total project costs in the form of a cash or in-kind match. VOCA has four priority areas for project funding: domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and underserved crime victims (including homicide survivors, elder abuse, DUI/DWI crash victims, adults molested as children, robbery, assault, etc.). States must allocate a minimum of 10% of the VOCA victim services funds to each of the four priority areas.

In FY 2015, VOCA provided funding to 81 Victim Services projects including:

- 22 Child Advocacy projects
- 4 Comprehensive Victim Services (multiple victim types served) projects
- 10 Dual Agency (Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) projects
- 6 Domestic Violence Advocacy projects
- 19 Domestic Violence Shelter projects
- 3 Elder and/or Disabled projects
- 1 Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (statewide Advocacy) project
- 4 Legal Services projects
- 2 Sexual Assault projects
- 9 Victim-Witness projects
- 1 Victim Offender Dialogue (Statewide) project

2015 VOCA Project Types by County Location



Below is an overview of the VOCA supported outputs related to clients served and services provided for FY 2015:

- 37,279 crime victims served by VOCA funded projects
- 22,741 crime victims received in-person, community resource information/referral
- 12,903 crime victims received personal advocacy
- 6,403 crime victims received legal advocacy
- 2,807 crime victims received therapy
- 14,277 crime victims received criminal justice support/advocacy

VOCA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Metro Nashville Police Department, Victim Intervention Program (VIP): The agency VOCA therapist contacted Sally, the long-time partner of a criminal homicide victim (Tom); who was robbed and fatally shot while talking on his cell phone outside their apartment unit. Sally had been living with Tom for over a decade and they had 4 young children together. Although both Tom and Sally were undocumented and spoke very limited English; their children are U.S. Citizens. Tom was the breadwinner of the family while Sally was dedicated to raising the children, one of which is disabled and dependent on others for all activities of daily living. In a matter of minutes Sally and her

children's lives changed drastically; they were not only trying to cope with the traumatic death of Tom but with the imminent loss of housing and income.

The VOCA funded LPC-MHSP, who is bilingual, contacted Sally soon after the incident; informed her of the services provided by the Victim Intervention Program and scheduled an appointment for a psychosocial evaluation. V.I.P., in collaboration with other community agencies, was able to help Sally and her children in their healing journey. Sally received weekly counseling sessions which included family sessions. The counselor referred Sally's children to Catholic Charities' Hope Program. The counselor interpreted for their intake session and assisted with coordinating appointments and communicating updates.

V.I.P. assisted Sally with applying for the TN Criminal Injury Compensation Fund and advocated for her throughout the eligibility process (Sally was not married to the victim and three of the four children needed DNA testing to prove paternity). V.I.P. provided Sally with information about the Nonimmigrant U Status which she may be eligible for and encouraged her to consult with an immigration attorney (referred to "Justice for Our Neighbors" pro-bono attorney at Casa Azafran). V.I.P helped Sally meet her and her family's basic needs through referrals to community programs that provided emergency food boxes, diapers, assistance with rent/utilities, Christmas gifts/food baskets, and school supplies for her children.

Today Sally and her children are adapting well to the life changes triggered by the homicide of Tom She is working full-time and lives independently with her children, only occasionally having to access community resources. Sally is taking English as a Second Language classes and is applying for legal residency in the U.S.A. through an immigration attorney.

The names used in this story are fictitious to protect the confidentiality of the victim.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)

The purpose of the Federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Program (FVPSA); CFDA # 93.671, under the Department of Health and Human Services of the Federal Government is:

- to assist nonprofit organizations, local public agencies, approved partnerships, and faith-based organizations in supporting the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of programs and projects to prevent incidents of family violence, domestic violence and dating violence;
- to provide immediate shelter, supportive services, and access to community-based programs for adult and youth victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, and their dependents; and

- to provide specialized services for children exposed to family violence, domestic violence or dating violence, underserved populations, and victims who are members of racial and ethnic minority populations.

FVPSA grant funded programs provide immediate shelter, supportive services and access to community based programs for their dependents. States must provide specialized services to underserved populations. Special emphasis is given to the support of community-based projects of demonstrated effectiveness. Shelter Programs must provide the following nine (9) core components:

- Safe confidential shelter
- 24 hour crisis hotline
- Counseling
- Advocacy
- Specialized services to children and to underserved populations
- Transportation
- Community education
- Referral
- Follow-up

The FVPSA funded programs must adhere to the best practices of Trauma Informed Care. This is applicable to all services, including shelter, supportive services, and/or prevention services to adult and youth victims of family violence, domestic violence or dating violence and their dependents. The service priorities include:

1. Operating and administering shelter facilities
2. Assistance in developing safety plans and supporting the efforts of victims to make decisions related to their ongoing safety and well-being
3. Offering individual and group counseling, peer support groups, and referral to community-based services to assist victims and their dependents in recovering from the effects of violence
4. Offering services, training, technical assistance, and outreach to increase awareness of family violence, domestic violence and dating violence, and increasing the accessibility of these services
5. Offering culturally and linguistically appropriate services such as using interpreters, having documents translated into other languages used in the service area, etc.
6. Offering services for children exposed to family violence, domestic violence or dating violence, including age appropriate counseling, supportive services and services for the non-abusing parent along with the child
7. Offering advocacy, case management services, and information and referral to victims, concerning issues related to family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence

Every shelter program that receives FVPSA/State funding must annually report on 100% of the clients and services provided by the program. Below is an overview of the FVPSA/State funding supported outputs related to clients served and services provided for FY 2015:

- 30 domestic violence shelter agencies received funding from FVPSA/state funding to support
- 34 individual domestic violence shelters and 53 nonresidential service sites
- 1 Family Justice Center received funding from FVPSA/State Family Violence funding to support emergency sheltering through hoteling services
- 4,009 victims of domestic violence and their children were sheltered
- 95,410 bed nights provided by domestic violence sheltering programs
- 24 days was the average length of stay for shelter residents
- 18,929 victims of domestic violence and their children received non-shelter supportive services including safety planning, individual counseling, support group, legal/personal/housing advocacy, community referrals, etc.
- 862 school-based domestic violence prevention programs were offered
- 34,979 crisis hotline calls were received by shelter programs
- 88,052 volunteer hours were provided at shelter programs

During FY 2015, 6,947 domestic violence shelter program clients responded to survey questions and reported the following benefits:

- 95% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the agency helped them in learning how to access benefits or community resources
- 96% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the information and help they received helped her/him feel safer
- 97% of respondents were satisfied with the services that they received

TCA §71-6-203 establishes an Advisory Committee on Family Violence Shelters. The committee has five members, of which, one is to be a former client of a family violence shelter. The primary goal of the Advisory Committee is to provide input on the allocation of funds for shelter in Tennessee. Committee membership currently includes:

- Teresa Grant, Executive Director – The HOPE Center, Inc., Athens
- Amy Hilliard, Survivor and Former Shelter Resident
- Regina McDevitt, Program Director – Partnership for Families, Children and Adults, Inc., Chattanooga;

- Kathy Walsh, Executive Director – Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, Statewide Coalition
- Jackie Williams, Executive Director – YWCA of Greater Memphis, Memphis

The Advisory Committee on Family Violence Shelters helped develop the Family Violence Shelter Standards which became effective 12/28/2001 and are still guiding the family violence shelters today.

The committee typically convenes during an annual conference call and discusses the distribution of state funds to family violence shelters and any relevant changes effecting Tennessee's shelters. There was difficulty in convening the annual conference call in FY2015. Throughout the year, the committee members have provided input on the allocation of funds for shelter programs in Tennessee, face to face, and as a subgroup at of OCJP sponsored strategic planning meetings.

FVPSA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Wo/Men's Resource and Rape Assistance Program: Janie is a woman in her early thirties with two autistic children from a remote, rural West Tennessee County. She was referred to WRAP by the Sheriff's office, who had removed her from the dangerous situation at her home and had called the state Department of Children's Services to take her children. Janie entered shelter fleeing a severely abusive relationship with her husband of thirteen years. She had been confined to her home and abused verbally and physically. Learning disabled, Janie had never completed high school and had not been permitted to work. Though she received full disability benefits, she had not had access to those benefits since getting married. The benefits were automatically deposited into a joint bank account to which she, in fact, had no access. Janie's 13 year history of domestic violence had been preceded by a childhood of unreported sexual abuse by family members and abandonment by her mother.

WRAP advocates worked with Janie in shelter to help her meet her needs related to justice, autonomy, restoration, and safety. With respect to justice, Janie cooperated with the Sheriff's Department and DCS and her husband was held fully accountable for the abuse he had inflicted on his family. She also regained control of her disability benefits and developed a plan with Children's Services for the return of her children.

In Janie's work with WRAP she learned skills in self-advocacy so that she could take the actions needed to regain her benefits and have her children returned to her. Janie was also able to work with her advocate to develop a plan to get her GED and find a part-time job to supplement her income. Advocates also taught Janie how to budget and coached her in parenting. Janie was also provided with resources that would be helpful to her when she regained custody of her children. She had never had any responsibility for taking care of herself or her children and was worried that she wouldn't

be able to do it. As she learned about budgeting and parenting and about what resources were available and how to access them, Janie gained confidence and a clearer vision of a brighter future for her and her children without her abuser. When Janie was placed in WRAP's transitional housing program 37 days after coming to the program, she felt proud of her accomplishments and confident that she could continue successfully on her own.

Restoration involves restoring a person's sense of self-worth and identity. It means reconnecting a person with community. Through individual and group counseling as well as through personal interaction with other shelter advocates, Janie's sense of self-worth and well-being improved significantly. She told the shelter Coordinator that she felt like she was finally finding out who she was and what she wanted to do. She had never had the freedom to make her own decisions before and so hadn't really learned how; she was now relishing her success at this newfound ability as she successfully worked toward achieving her goals of independence. Janie also cultivated a positive relationship with her DCS worker, who also collaborated well with the WRAP advocate, and was successfully working her permanency plan, which gave her hope that her children would be returned to her.

Regarding safety, upon entering shelter, Janie worked with advocates to immediately file a petition for an Order of Protection, which was ultimately granted to her. WRAP advocates referred her to West Tennessee Legal Services so that she could begin divorce proceedings as well. Obtaining her GED and finding a part-time job would also minimize safety risks for Janie in that she will never again have to depend on an abuser for her survival.

As of October 2015, Janie is living on her own in WRAP's Transitional Housing program; she is receiving and managing her disability benefits. She has started a savings account and is actively working toward her GED. She has found a part-time job to supplement her income, and she has weekend custody of her children. She expects to have full custody by the end of the year.

The names used in this story are fictitious to protect the confidentiality of the victim.

Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), CFDA 16.017, was created by the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005), 42 U.S.C. §14043g, and is the first Federal funding stream solely dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault.

Overall, the purpose of SASP is to provide:

- Intervention
- Advocacy
- Accompaniment (e.g., accompanying victims to court, medical facilities, police departments, etc.)
- Support services
- Related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault, family and household members of victims and those collaterally affected by the sexual assault.

Intervention and related assistance may include:

- 24-hour hotline services providing crisis intervention services and referral;
- Accompaniment and advocacy through medical, criminal justice, and social support systems, including medical facilities, police, and court proceedings;
- Crisis intervention,
- Short-term individual and group support services,
- Comprehensive service coordination and supervision to assist sexual assault victims and non-offending family or household members;
- Information and referral to assist the sexual assault victim and non-offending family or household members;
- Community-based, linguistically and culturally specific services and support mechanisms, including outreach activities for underserved communities; and
- The development and distribution of materials related to the services described in the previous bullets.

In FY 2015, Tennessee obligated \$301,060 in federal SASP funding and \$30,000 in state sexual assault funds to non-profit agencies. There is no match requirement for SASP funding. This was the first year the SASP federal award allowed for governmental Rape Crisis Centers to be funded, resulting in a grant to Shelby County Government Rape Crisis Center.

During FY 2015, state allocations allowed for funding increases from \$18,020 to \$25,500 through contract amendments for many sexual assault agencies. This funding increase permitted agencies to enhance and/ or expand on services offered to sexual assault victims; such as, strengthen community outreach and increasing therapeutic services.

Funding for the Tennessee non-profit, non-governmental and government sexual assault agencies comes not only from SASP, but also from the state sexual assault fund. The

sexual assault fund is legislated by TCA §40-24-108 and is funded from proceeds of a fine imposed on those convicted of a sexual offense.

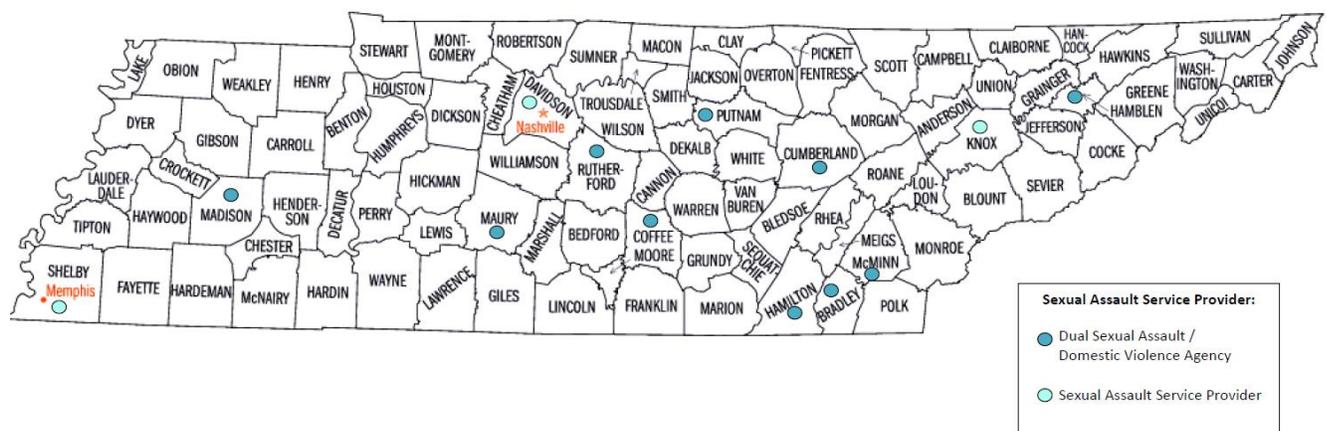
TCA §71-6-303 establishes an advisory committee. The committee consists of five members, of which, one is to be a former client of a sexual assault program. The FY2015 membership included:

- Rachel Freeman, Vice President of Programs- Sexual Assault Center, Nashville
- Kathy Walsh, Executive Director – Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, Statewide Coalition
- Daryl Chansuthus, Executive Director – Wo/Men's Resource and Rape Assistance Program, Jackson
- Carmen Wyatt, Executive Director – Avalon Center, Crossville
- Vacant, designated to be filled by a Former client of a sexual assault program

The committee makes recommendations as to the allocation of funds under the sexual assault fund. The committee has an annual conference call to review the sexual assault fund collections.

During the 2014 calendar year, SASP/State grants provided funding to 13 sexual assault agencies.

Sexual Assault Services Program Grants – 2014



The following is an overview of the SASP funding supported outputs related to clients served and services provided for the 2014 calendar year:

- 548 sexual assault victims received SASP funded services;
- 260 victims received counseling services;

- 469 victims received crisis intervention;
- 260 victims received criminal justice advocacy;
- 24 victims received transportation;
- 130 victims received civil legal advocacy; and
- 94% of the sexual assault victims served were female, 22% of victims were ages 7 - 17, 18% of victims had a known disability, and 34% of victims lived in a rural area.

The [Best Practices for Tennessee Sexual Assault Agencies](#), July 2010, serves as a guideline for agencies in Tennessee that are serving victims/survivors of sexual assault. The document provides specific definitions and basic components of what a sexual assault agency is and how the agency can determine eligibility for services. It also outlines specific components for agencies serving minors.

The document outlines confidentiality requirements, including legal and ethical requirements, as well as, required written policies addressing confidentiality. There are required sexual assault agency policy and procedure language examples for the following topics: confidentiality, maintenance of confidential records, release of client information, and duty to inform.

Best Practices also outlines the required six core services to be provided to eligible victims of sexual assault as well as guidelines for non-core services like therapy and forensic medical exams. The service delivery process is outlined including intake, assessment, client service planning, case record requirements, and evaluation of client services. Additionally, since most of the provider agencies are non-profits, there are governance components, grievance procedures, and other requirements including training requirements for staff and volunteers.

In November 2014, the federal OVW Program Specialist conducted a site visit with OCJP to identify any technical assistance needs and promising practices being implemented, ensure implementation of approved grant activities and special conditions of the grant are being met, and to review policies and protocols in line with current accepted practices. In addition to these discussions, OVW Program Specialist conducted a tour of three (3) SASP funded programs with promising practices and evidence-based approaches: Center of Hope (Columbia); Sexual Assault Center (Nashville); and Wo/Men's Resource and Rape Assistance Program (Jackson). There was also a site visit to the TN Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. Along with a tour of selected programs, topics of discussion included: services provided to sexual assault victims/ survivors; staff expertise and training to enhance work with this population; organizational structure, specific issues, challenges, or accomplishments related to sexual assault services; collaboration efforts with OCJP and sexual assault programs; victim safety issues; and training and technical assistance needs.

SASP funded agencies participated in a Sexual Assault Assessment in February 2014 to evaluate the status of sexual assault services in the states. Responses from the assessment process guided the development of the first ever Sexual Assault Leadership Institute hosted by the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence on April 23, 2015. Thirty-four (34) leaders representing thirteen (13) programs serving victims of sexual assault attended the institute. The North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (a nationally recognized expert) lead a day of training and conversations focused on victim centered multi-disciplinary relationship building, trauma's impact on the brain, and addressing generational profiles through service delivery and messaging. This institute and other training and technical assistance opportunities are made available to improve sexual assault service delivery and enhance dual program's (agencies that serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault) ability to serve victims.

SASP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CEASE, Inc.: SASP Program funding has allowed this agency to provide quality trauma informed services to survivors of sexual assault including crisis intervention through their 24 hour crisis hot line, legal and medical accompaniment, and information about victim rights. This funding has also allowed CEASE to begin bringing the community together in a coordinated response to the problem of sexual assault and in underserved populations in their area.

Sexual Assault Center (SAC) Nashville: SASP funding has made it possible for this agency to provide healing therapeutic services to additional victims of sexual assault. These survivors are receiving compassionate and evidence based treatment empowering them to regain the power and control taken from them as well as increasing positive coping skills. Through the use of SASP funds, the Sexual Assault Center is able to provide therapy, crisis counseling, support, advocacy, and information and referrals to individuals who were victimized by sexual violence. Through therapy, SAC works with clients to decrease the trauma symptoms, increase positive coping skills, and ultimately decrease the likelihood that victims/survivors will develop long-term negative effects of sexual assault.

Helen Ross McNabb Center formerly Sexual Assault Center of East TN (SACET): SASP Program funding has helped the SACET in several ways. SASP funding allows SACET to staff a 24/7 crisis hotline to assist victims/survivors with crisis intervention, referrals, and information. SACET significantly increased the number of hotline calls from 113 in 2013 to 314 in 2014. Additionally, SACET was able to serve more victims/survivors, increasing from 61 in 2013 to 79 in 2014. SACET advocates also assisted 35 victims/survivors with criminal justice assistance in 2014, as compared to only 6 in 2013. Lastly, advocates were able to provide 152 outreach activities to victims/survivors, compared to 79 in 2013. These increases were in part due to the increased funding from OCJP. SASP Program funding allows SACET advocates to

continue to provide services to victims/survivors throughout their recovery and the criminal justice process.

The HOPE Center: The SASP Program funding has allowed the Center to concentrate more on the needs of the 13 to 18 age group in a variety of ways. Some of those being through crisis intervention, follow up, and court advocacy. In addition to providing these services to the child, the advocate is also able provide crisis intervention to the non-offending parent in hopes to aid them in better caring for their child throughout the process of the investigation and beyond. After the child leaves the Center, the agency is able to provide regular client follow up to ensure that all the family's questions and concerns are addressed. This enables the advocate to continue building rapport with the victim and the victim's family. As a whole, the SASP Program funding is vital for advocates to be able to provide these types of services to this age group, who need the support. Because of SASP funding, the advocate is able to provide continued support to these victims.

Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program (ARREST)

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is a component of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) and awards the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program (ARREST Program). The ARREST program recognizes that sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are crimes that require the criminal justice system to hold offenders accountable for their actions through investigation, arrest, and prosecution of violent offenders, and through close judicial scrutiny and management of offender behavior.

This discretionary grant program is designed to encourage State, Local, and Tribal governments and State, Local, and Tribal courts to treat sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as serious violations of criminal law requiring the coordinated involvement of the entire criminal justice system. The Arrest Program challenges the community to listen, communicate, identify problems, and share ideas that will result in new responses to ensure victim safety and offender accountability.

Tennessee received the ARREST award in FY 2014 for the Tennessee Sexual Assault Response Project. OCJP contracted with the TCEDSV to implement the Tennessee Sexual Assault Response Project which will conclude September 30, 2016. The information in this report section reflects progress made since the implementation of the project.

The primary goal of the Tennessee Sexual Assault Response Project is to improve the sexual assault response of the entire Tennessee criminal justice system. The project has the following objectives:

- To develop Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) and support Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) by partnering with sexual assault victim advocates at 6 nonprofit agencies serving thirteen (13) counties in Tennessee to actively respond to sexual assault;
- To distribute and implement statewide policies and protocols on forensic rape exams, sexual assault reporting, and evidence collection and retention in sexual assault cases that hold perpetrators of sexual assault accountable and protect survivor safety, self-determination, and confidentiality.

An award amount of \$852,260.00 was passed through to the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (TCEDSV) for a thirty-month period (March 1, 2014 - September 30, 2016). They administer project components, including subcontracting funds to 6 nonprofit sexual assault agencies for the provision of direct services to sexual assault victims; policy and protocol distribution and implementations; SART coordination and legal advocacy program; SANE support; and training and technical assistance.

With ten (10) months remaining; the expected achievements and successes from the Tennessee Sexual Assault Response Project have been met and/or exceeded in most areas. For example:

- The number of fully functioning SARTs in the 13-targeted counties was expected to increase from three (3) to at least six (6).
 - **Currently eight (8) SARTs are functioning in the 13-targeted counties.**
- Every county in the project was expected to be part of a freestanding or multi-county SART by the end of the project.
 - **Currently every county in the project is part of a freestanding or multi-county SART.**
- Expectation was for all thirteen (13) counties to implement the statewide best practices on forensic rape exams, sexual assault reporting, and evidence collection and retention in sexual assault cases in their local communities.
 - **All programs are actively implementing the statewide best practices through the program itself as well as their SARTs.**
- An expectation of the program was for fifty (50) local legal advocates and SART members in Tennessee to report improvements in their knowledge, skills, and leadership ability in responding to sexual assault.
 - **Currently eighty-six (86) have reported improvements.**
- Four (4) SANE nurses are expected to receive scholarships to assist with certification.
 - **Currently, five (5) nurses have applied for scholarships with one (1) having received thus far.**

- Three hundred (300) bench cards are expected to be distributed to judges statewide.
 - **In 2014 three hundred (300) bench cards have been distributed. An additional three hundred (300) are currently in the process of being distributed for calendar year 2015.**

As part of the previous Arrest project, the OCJP in collaboration with the TN Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence and the TN Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council (DVSCC) created [Tennessee Best Practice Guidelines for Sexual Assault Response Services for Adult Victims](#). A sub-committee of the DSVCC reviewed various state and national protocols and drafted the Best Practices. The purpose of the Tennessee Best Practice Guidelines for Sexual Assault Response Services for Adult Victims is to provide communities across the state with important information and considerations when responding in the aftermath of a sexual assault.

These guidelines are designed to help communities assess whether policies presently in place throughout the state of Tennessee are victim-centered and honor the spirit behind forensic compliance mandates. The guidelines focus on facilitating victim-centered care for first responders, increasing victim access to justice, and supporting victims in navigating various systems following an assault. The Best Practice Guidelines were finalized in July 2012 and disseminated electronically to all OCJP victim service grantees. With funding from the current ARREST project a condensed guide, in the form of a laminated flip-book, containing the statewide sexual assault best practices is in the final stages of the approval process and an updated Sexual Assault Bench Card will soon be sent to print. Both the laminated guide and bench cards will be distributed to every local jurisdiction in Tennessee.

Governor's Family Violence Appropriation

In FY 2014 Governor Haslam recognized the need for additional funding to address the issue of domestic violence and initiated a re-occurring annual appropriation of \$250,000.00. This funding supported several projects.

The annual Domestic Violence Leadership Institute was funded by the Governor's Appropriation through a grant to the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police. This Institute provided a training spanning two half days and one full day focusing on the implementation of a coordinated community response (CCR) model. The Institute provided 16 hours of specialized training and was attended by 29 shelter programs' leadership and 20 law enforcement partners from many communities where shelter programs are housed.

This funding also supported a coordinated community response (CCR) model in Shelby County, allowing multiple agencies to work together **to address the emergency shelter needs** of victims. The model afforded flexibility in how shelter beds can be provided. This resulted in a first of its kind comprehensive shelter plan which began implementation in FY16.

Additionally, the Governor's Appropriation supported a competitive process for any shelter program that met the requirements of the Tennessee Family Violence Shelter State Standards. A total of 24 applications were submitted, with 16 awards made totaling \$166,370.00. The two largest awards, at \$34,000 and \$27,726, were made to programs implementing the only evidenced-based program for victim services in the state, an innovated economic empowerment curriculum for victims, and software for all staff to learn rudimentary Spanish. These two agencies provide promise for model programs to be duplicated around the state in shelter programming.

Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council

The purpose of the Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council (DVSCC) is to increase awareness and understanding of domestic and family violence within the state. The DVSCC's responsibilities include designing statewide policy for law enforcement and judicial response to domestic violence; designing training for law enforcement personnel across the state that focuses on the dynamics of domestic violence and the handling, investigation and response procedures concerning reports of domestic violence; and designing training for all judges and judicial personnel across the state that focuses on the dynamics of domestic violence and the handling and response procedures concerning allegations of domestic violence. Additionally, the DVSCC develops regulations for batterers' intervention programs and is the certifying body for these regulations. Membership is legislated by TCA §38-12-103 and meets quarterly.

An annual state appropriation is made to the TCEDSV in the amount of \$71,500.00. An additional \$7,000 collected from the Domestic Violence Community Education Fund is added to fund an annual grant to the TCEDSV of \$78,500 for the purposes of providing necessary support services to the DVSCC. These support services include a total of 1.15 FTE's at the TCEDSV and also support travel reimbursements for the 23 volunteer council members who attend quarterly meetings.

The DVSCC reported the following FY 2015 accomplishments:

- 2 webinars were attended by 61 participants including advocates, domestic violence program staff and batterers intervention staff;
- 4 quarterly meetings and 8 committee meetings were held;
- 8 batterer intervention programs were certified, 11 programs were recertified; and 13 programs were monitored.

Child Abuse Fund

The Child Abuse Fund was created through TCA §39-13-530 and requires forfeiture of any conveyance or real or personal property used in a sexual offense committed against minors to be transmitted through the general fund to a child abuse fund.

TCA §39-13-530 requires that 50% of the monies from the child abuse fund be used for child advocacy centers; 25% of the monies be used for the court appointed special advocates (CASA); and 25% of the monies be used for child abuse prevention.

In FY 2015, the OCJP did not receive any new collections of the Child Abuse Fund and thus no additional monies were granted. All prior Child Abuse Fund grants had expended their funding in prior years.

Governor's Public Safety Action Plan

In developing the Governor's Public Safety Action Plan, the Subcabinet Working Group met with over 300 stakeholders from across the state to gather information about a variety of public safety issues.

The Governor's Public Safety Action Plan is a result of the stakeholder meetings and other work undertaken by the Governor's Public Safety Subcabinet group. The three goals of the Plan are to reduce drug abuse and drug trafficking, curb violent crime and cut the rate of repeat offenders. From these three goals eleven objectives and forty action steps were developed.

OCJP Victim Services is leading the initiative for Action Step 33.

Goal: Curb Violent Crime

Objective: Reduce the Level of Violence in the Home

Action Step 33: There have been two long term outcomes to Action Step 33. The first is to provide more support for domestic violence victim shelters and family safety centers.

To address the first outcome, OCJP Victims Services has increased the training and technical assistance opportunities for domestic violence shelter program leadership. During FY 2015, OCJP Victim Services sponsored the following training/technical assistance for domestic violence shelter program leadership and upper level shelter staff.

➤ **During the first quarter of FY 2014- 2015:**

A seventy minute conference call was conducted by OCJP and the Coalition with 27 shelter programs represented and 38 Shelter Leaders attending. Topics included confidentiality considerations in selecting data management systems, future

trainings, needs assessment, implementation of programming for underserved populations, peer training from senior shelter directors and the effects of national trends on shelter services.

- **During the second quarter of FY 2014 – 2015:**
55 DV Shelter Leadership attended an all-day training on developing grant application Logic Models and subsequent use of these models in ongoing agency management and strategic planning. Trainings were offered in each of Tennessee's three grand regions to accommodate shelter staffing needs and to alleviate travel considerations. 83% of Shelter Directors were accompanied by one of their top managers resulting in 55 shelter leadership attendees.
- **During the third quarter of FY 2014 – 2015:**
Ten DV Shelter Leadership staff attended a 3 day, 17 hour training with their Family Justice Center MOU partners. This training was hosted by the Knoxville Family Justice Center. (More information is provided below).
- **During the fourth quarter of FY 2014 – 2015:**
55 Shelter Leadership staff participated in a variety of trainings this quarter including Building a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence; Assessing Community Safety; Sexual Assault Community Response and Treatment Best Practices; as well as how to maintain compliance with Federal Grant Funders.

A total of 628 hours of training was completed, with participation by all 30 Shelter Programs presently funded by OCJP. Three trainings were designed specifically to increase the strategic development of efforts to coordinate community assessment and response to domestic and sexual violence.

The second long term outcome for Action Step number 33 of the Governor's Public Safety Plan calls for OCJP to increase the number of family justice/safety centers in the State from the current two to at least five and to increase the number of formal community partnerships serving victims of domestic violence. Significant progress was made on this outcome during fiscal year 2015. Nashville was the first of the family justice center implementation sites to open their doors, the Jean Crowe Advocacy Center (as they chose to name their FJC) began providing services in September of 2014. Through continued work with the Family Justice Center Technical Assistance Provider, the Chattanooga and Cookeville Family Justice Centers opened their doors on July 1, 2015, (see a highlight of the Chattanooga opening on page 20 in this report). The OCJP initiated two additional family justice center implementation sites in FY 2015, one in Jackson and one in Johnson City, which will also receive technical assistance from the Knoxville Family Justice Center. Once fully implemented and open, this will bring the total number of family justice centers in Tennessee to seven.

A coordinated community response (CCR) to domestic violence is credited with increasing victim safety and offender accountability. The OCJP has taken the Tennessee Family Justice Center Initiative further than just providing a location for victims to receive services needed, to include increasing the collaboration and coordination of the agencies working at the family justice center.

In May of 2015, to increase the capabilities of our Family Justice Center sites, teams from the communities attended training on the Safety and Accountability Audit, which is an in-depth examination of how work routines and ways of doing business strengthen or impede safety for victims and accountability of offenders within public safety and service systems. An Audit examines one or more points of intervention in depth and seeks to make visible any contradictions between the assumed response and the actual response. To be successful, this approach requires sound working relationships and a high level of trust between community partners.

In performing a Safety and Accountability Audit, trained interagency teams conduct interviews and observations with practitioners who are skilled and well-versed in their jobs. The teams analyzes case files, policies, and other documents. The Audit also introduces and reinforces new ways for interveners to collaborate. This is just one example of a tool available to the communities to explore how their systems are functioning and identify opportunities to make improvements based on the coordinated response model.

Monitoring Unit

Monitoring is the review process used to determine a subrecipient's compliance with the requirements of a state and/or federal program, applicable laws and regulations, and stated results and outcomes. Monitoring also includes the review of internal controls to determine if the financial management and the accounting system are adequate to account for program funds in accordance with state and/or federal requirements. Monitoring should result in the identification of areas of non-compliance with the expectation that corrective action will be taken to ensure compliance.

Grant oversight continues to remain a key priority for distribution of federal funds. The OCJP complies with Circular A-133, 2 CFR 200 - Uniform Guidance (Electronic) issued by the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The Tennessee Department of General Services (DGS), Central Procurement Office is tasked with the oversight of grants and grant monitoring. Policy 2013-007 issued by the DGS contains the requirements for subrecipient contract monitoring for the State of Tennessee. The purpose of Policy 2013-007 is to "provide uniformity in the reporting of, and controls over, the expenditure of awards in connection with the delivery of services by subrecipients of federal and State awards."

The OCJP monitoring unit is responsible for performing monitoring activities in accordance with Policy 2013-007, to ensure that Federal and State awards are used for authorized purposes in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements and performance goals are achieved. In addition to state and/or federal program specific monitoring requirements, all reviews must address fourteen core areas as applicable. The core areas are:

- I. Activities Allowed or Unallowed
- II. Allowable costs/Cost Principles
- III. Cash Management
- IV. Davis-Bacon Act
- V. Eligibility
- VI. Equipment and Real Property Management
- VII. Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking
- VIII. Period of Availability of Funds
- IX. Procurement, Suspension and Debarment
- X. Program Income
- XI. Real Property Acquisition and Relocation Assistance
- XII. Reporting

XIII. Special Tests and Provisions

XIV. Title VI

Policy 2013-007 requires the submission of a Monitoring Plan to the Department of General Services annually. The OCJP Monitoring plan is part of the Finance and Administration plan and describes the methodology and goals for the monitoring fiscal year which is October 1 to September 30. In addition to personnel and fund source descriptions the plan includes a listing of all grants, the current year available funds, and the assigned risk assessment score.

Monitoring Overview

The purpose of the OCJP Monitoring Unit is to determine contracted agencies' compliance by:

- Adhering to OMB Circular A-133 and Policy 2013-007 requirements,
- Adhering to contract requirements,
- Adhering to the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Administrative Manual requirements, and
- Working with program staff in fulfilling the requirements of the review.

And to support the OCJP mission by:

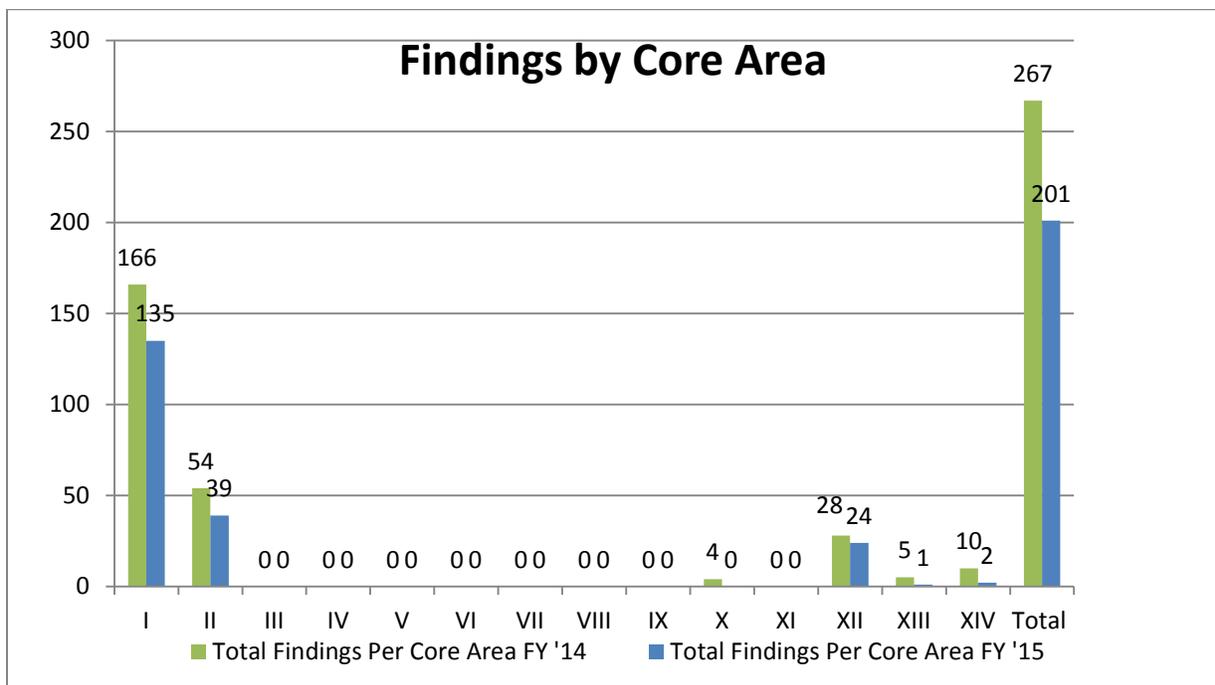
- Providing some level of technical assistance,
- Achieving improved sub-recipient grant implementation, and
- Sharing in OCJP outcomes as an integral part of its success.

In addition to the two Assistant Directors, the Monitoring Unit was comprised of three full-time program monitors, one full-time and one part-time fiscal monitor in fiscal year 2015. The Monitoring Unit reviewed 115 contracts in 59 monitoring visits. This represented 38% of the total number of contracts and 46% of the total dollar amount of available grant funds.

Summary of Findings

In FY 2015, the unit monitored 59 criminal justice and victim service agencies with 115 contracts to ensure compliance with state and federal grant requirements. There were 201 findings of non-compliance and 14 observations for improvement. This is compared to 76 agencies with 151 contracts with 267 findings and 26 observations in 2014. This is a 2.5% decrease in average number of findings (3.51 vs 3.41) per agency. See Chart below:

	FY 2014	FY 2015
Number of Agencies Monitored	76	59
Number of Contracts Monitored	151	115
Number of Findings	267	201
Number of Observations	26	14
Average number per agency	3.51	3.41



Monitoring Summary

In FY 2015 the Monitoring Unit continued to focus on program/project implementation, goal approximation, as well as contract compliance. The findings and observations in 2015 reflect improvement in compliance with notifications of staff changes, reporting due dates, and purchase approvals. The most significant increase in number of findings related to inadequate data collection methods. This was due in part to requiring agencies to provide year-to-date reports for the monitoring review. By comparing the last annual report, the year-to-date reports and the client records, monitors were able to discern deficiencies in data collection methods. This is an important aspect of meeting the federal requirements for evaluating program performance.

Subrecipient agencies are required to submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for findings and observations within 30 calendar days after the report is issued. The CAP must outline strategies to correct the specific finding(s) and observation(s) as well as, avoid findings of similar nature in the future. Program managers are responsible for ensuring receipt of an acceptable CAP and approving it timely. In addition, program staff use information gathered during the monitoring visits and the findings summary to identify areas for training and technical assistance during the year. This information may also be taken into consideration in the application process. It is critical for agencies to align with the OCJP strategic plan and prove capable of providing quality programs to their clients and beneficiaries to receive funding. The monitoring process, including receipt and approval of acceptable CAPs, helps improve the system of criminal justice and victim service agencies for the State of Tennessee. A concerted effort by program and monitoring staff to hold agencies accountable for programs/projects that benefit their communities will help OCJP realize its goal of working for a safer Tennessee.

Ongoing Strategies

In addition to the grant management, technical assistance and monitoring, the Office of Criminal Justice Programs is also involved in a number of special projects, advisory committees and other events that add to the strategic planning and project implementation oversight of the agency. Although there are examples of a variety of these activities throughout this report, below is a summary of a few of under taken during the last fiscal year that merits further discussion.

As domestic violence continues to be at the forefront of violent crime in Tennessee, the OCJP continues to prioritize proper prevention, enforcement, offender accountability and victim services to address this issue. The OCJP partnered with the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence and conducted a survey of current needs with all domestic violence and sexual assault service providers receiving funding from the OCJP. Following up on the survey, the OCJP conducted various stakeholder meetings with a diverse group of community leaders who engage in this work on a daily basis, which included representatives from law enforcement, courts, prosecutors, and various community organizations that hold offenders accountable, and those support and provide services to its victims to further flesh out the needs and gaps for enforcement and intervention beyond what had been identified in the survey.

Commissioner Gibbons with the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, along with the OCJP, convened a group of state agency leaders who also address domestic violence in various manners. This group included the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Board of Parole, the Department of Children's Services, the Department of Correction, the District Attorneys General Conference, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Public Defenders Conference, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy. During these various local and state agency stakeholder meetings, the OCJP sought information on the ongoing needs and gaps as it relates to how Tennessee addresses this crime, holds offenders accountable and assist victims as they cope with the impact of domestic violence. Meetings such as these further the OCJP strategic planning process to insure proper prioritization of funding to bring about the greatest impact.

Furthermore, with the Governor's Action Step number 33 focusing on increasing the number of family justice centers across the state from two to at least five; and the OCJP adding another two implementation sites in FY 2015 (see page 56 for more information), it became apparent there was a need for ongoing communication and collaboration between the family justice centers statewide. Thus, the OCJP sought to develop a Family Justice Center Advisory Committee. The FJC Advisory Committee is comprised of the Directors/Site Coordinators from the seven current and implementing family justice centers in Tennessee. The Committee

meets quarterly to discuss current issues. This past year the Advisory Committee addressed the following topics:

- Sites began looking at California's FJC standards in order to begin the creation of Best Practices for FJC in Tennessee.
- Sites also began developing the definition of an FJC and what Tennessee would like to consider an FJC.
- Sites discussed the processes in which clients go through upon entering their FJC in order to receive cross-training from each other.

In 2015, the OCJP victim service unit was in a unique position given the timing of grants ending and working towards new contracts to begin in FY 2016. With the increased focus on project implementation, performance measures and adherence to funding requirements, the OCJP sought to minimize the burden on subrecipients with multiple grants from various fund sources, each with their own set of requirements for data collection, reporting and allowable and unallowable costs. The result was a consolidated funding plan that looked to decrease the administrative responsibilities on agencies so that they could concentrate on the project performance. The result of this was an overall decrease in multiple grants to a single agency from multiple fund sources while maintaining the same level of financial support to the organization.

In line with this consolidation process, the OCJP as part of the application process conducted regional logic model trainings underscoring the importance of a sound logic model that is in line with the organization's mission statement and strategic plan. It was emphasized that the logic model should be built on the needs of the local community and how the organization and the project itself would meet those needs through service delivery to produce the anticipated outputs and outcomes desired. These trainings were well received and agency leaders reported feeling more knowledgeable about the logic model process and comfortable tailoring their projects to the current needs of the community.

Finally, in response to federal changes in the emphasis and requirements for grant management the OCJP launched an initiative to ensure the office has and maintains the staff and processes to meet these challenges. With the increased emphasis at the federal level on program performance it was determined that a more comprehensive knowledge of the subrecipient organization and grant project would be required to adequately and accurately monitor for compliance and evaluate performance. Planning began in early 2015 to bring together the responsibilities of program management and program monitoring. As a result all program manager and monitoring positions were revised to include responsibilities in both areas with the title of Program Manager. In addition, the office engaged in extensive process re-engineering which included a Lean Process Improvement event in August. With input from a survey of subrecipients and data gathered from the existing process the staff was able to reduce the steps in the monitoring process and the redundancy of documentation while

increasing the depth of the program review. The goal is to help ensure grant subrecipients maximize grant funding to benefit the citizens of Tennessee. The new processes will be implemented in fiscal year 2016.

Conclusion

The mission of the Office of Criminal Justice Programs is to function as a strategic planning agency that secures, distributes and manages federal and state funds for Tennessee while collaborating with other public and non-profit agencies to leverage these funds with other state and local resources to implement innovative projects to reduce crime, provide services for victims of crime and promote overall enhancement of the criminal justice system in Tennessee.

In furtherance of this mission OCJP implements a rigorous strategic planning process that includes continued collaboration with Federal, State, and Local stakeholders to provide the very best decision making process to identify needs, gaps in services, potential funding streams, and best practices in program development, implementation and evaluation.

As stewards of these funds OCJP staff maintains the highest standards of grants management through extensive technical assistance grant monitoring, output and outcome reporting and program evaluation. OCJP staff continues to work with the Federal agencies to draw down criminal justice and victim services formula funds as well as securing competitive grant funds. These Federal funds along with several State appropriated and fee based funding sources allow OCJP to direct funding to the areas with the greatest need as determined from the strategic planning process. By directing its limited resources into areas that promise the best return for the public's investment OCJP continues to positively impact the lives of citizens.

The planning and management of these State and Federal funds improves the quality of life for all Tennesseans by helping achieve OCJP's vision of a safer Tennessee.