



**OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS
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Mission

“The Office of Criminal Justice Programs is committed to a safer Tennessee for all of its citizens. OCJP 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”.

Vision

“Working Together For A Safe Tennessee”

Services

Services supporting state departments, local governments, and private agencies in achieving their program goals include:

- ◆ Technical Assistance
- ◆ Program Monitoring
- ◆ Planning
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Assessment
- ◆ Interagency Coordination
- ◆ Program Facilitation
- ◆ Program Development
- ◆ Program Management

Currently Administered Federal Programs

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

The OCJP administers the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Through the Byrne JAG Grant the OCJP works in partnership with state and local government to make communities safe and to improve the criminal justice system. The Byrne JAG Grant assists state and local criminal justice agencies in reducing crime, violence and drug abuse. Special issues addressed by this program include improvement of criminal justice records in Tennessee, domestic violence prevention and intervention, prevention of school violence, drug offender prosecution and treatment, information system technology, community based program support, court and drug task force support and correctional systems improvement.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program

The Office administers the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Grant Program. The State uses these funds to support drug treatment programs in state correctional institutions. This program funds projects that prepare the offender for reunification into the community by incorporating re-entry planning activities into treatment programs prior to and post-release from the correctional institution.

National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)

The OCJP convenes the state level interagency taskforce which leads the effort to improve the collection and reporting of criminal histories throughout Tennessee’s criminal justice system. The Office administers grant funds and coordinates activities statewide to improve this system.

Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants Program (Coverdell)

OCJP administers the Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants Program (Coverdell) for the State of Tennessee. Coverdell’s primary purpose is to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services. Among other things, funds may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog.

STOP Violence Against Women Program

The purpose of the STOP Violence Against Women Grant is to improve the criminal justice system’s response to violence against women, to secure safety for women and to hold offenders accountable for their crime. Funding from this grant is provided to law enforcement, prosecution, courts and victim services programs.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

The OCJP administers Tennessee’s VOCA program that is designed to provide high quality services that directly improve the health and well-being of victims of crime. Priority is given to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and services for previously underserved victims.

Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA)

FVPSA provides grants for shelter and non-residential programs that serve adult and youth victims of family violence, domestic violence and dating violence and their dependents. The services provided include: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week shelter, crisis hotline, counseling, advocacy, transportation, referral, follow-up and community education.

Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) 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, and 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.

