



Department of
**Finance &
Administration**

Office of Criminal Justice Programs

2026 Addendum

to

OCJP 2022 Five Year Strategic Plan



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS	4
FISCAL YEAR 2026	5

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.

INTRODUCTION

The Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Program's (OCJP) five-year strategic plan began in state fiscal year 2022 and will continue to be the overarching guide for the agency throughout its duration. In order to provide the most current information related to OCJP's ongoing planning process, each year OCJP briefly outlines updates in our strategic planning process and program priorities. All annual updates will be in the form of an addendum to the five-year strategic plan, from this point forward referenced as the [FY22 Plan](#).

OCJP will maintain its focus on the impact of violent crime, especially that which is a result of dangerous cartels, transnational organized crime, gangs, human trafficking and smuggling and the ongoing issues with fentanyl, methamphetamine and opioids that continue to plague Tennessee. OCJP will continue to ensure our criminal justice professionals have the training and equipment necessary to effectively and efficiently carry out their duties and promote public safety which has been part of our ongoing strategic planning process for the last four years. OCJP will continue to ensure compliance with all state and federal laws, regulations and rules as it sets its funding priorities for the future.

Once again, much of OCJP's planning and programming focus has been to address the overall reduction by the federal government in the Victims of Crime Assistance Fund (VOCA), the federal fiscal year 2024 VOCA award is just over \$16 million which will result in further cuts for FY 2027 and beyond. To date, OCJP has not received an estimate of the amount of the VOCA funding that will be available for the federal fiscal 2025 year. Of note, the domestic violence and sexual assault programs have been supplemented by available federal American Rescue Plan funding that will be ending at the end of FFY2025 and further impact what is available in state fiscal year 2026 given the projected VOCA funding cuts.

The recent state appropriations and new state funded programs have all been successfully obligated with and will be continuing through state fiscal year 2026. This includes the Violent Crime Intervention Fund, Tennessee Strong Families and Evidence-Based Programming for local jails. All of these projects are fully underway with programming operational and OCJP providing ongoing support and assistance to ensure accurate and timely reporting and the ability to measure and demonstrate success of the projects.

OCJP remains committed to the strategies outlined in OCJP's five-year strategic plan and looks forward to continuing our work promoting public safety and the safety of our law enforcement and services to victims of crime.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Hearing from Tennesseans

To inform our FY26 priorities, OCJP conducted a number of strategic planning activities between the time of publication of our FY22 5-year strategic plan and the publication of this FY26 addendum. In addition to ongoing taskforces and statewide advisory groups, these activities include:

- **FY25 Criminal Justice Roundtable** – OCJP’s standing roster of roundtable participants serve three-year terms and meet in the fall to discuss topics including innovative projects, essential priorities, and ongoing community and organizational support. The participants include Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, Judges, District Attorney Generals, Public Defenders, Executive Directors of community-based victim service organizations, and other experts in the field of criminal justice and victim service work in Tennessee.
- **FY25 Victim-Centered Forums** – Facilitated by OCJP subrecipient agency, Tennessee Voices for Victims, this year two forums were conducted, one group included individuals representing crime survivors ranging from domestic violence, sexual assault homicide, sexual assault, aggravated assault and homicide, and the other group included victim advocates employed by domestic violence shelters, sexual assault centers, and family justice centers, as well as those who work to address victimization through city initiatives, non-profit programming, and the criminal justice system. Each group was guided through a two-hour long discussion exploring what is currently working within the criminal justice and victim service systems and should be replicated, as well as gaps and opportunities for improvement.
- **Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) Advisory Board Committee** – SCIP funding requires reach state to convene an advisory board to inform and guide the state’s related violence reduction programs and initiatives. The Advisory Board meets quarterly and is comprised of experts from the justice system and community from across the State of Tennessee and includes representation from two Tennessee Municipal Law Enforcement Chiefs of Police, two Tennessee County Sheriffs, a representative of the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts; a Community Member; two Tennessee State Prosecutors; a Behavioral Health Provider; a Victim Services Provider; Counsel from the Department of Finance and Administration Office of General Counsel; OCJP’s Director and select staff.

FISCAL YEAR 2026

Staying the Course

With the significant reduction in VOCA funding, the pending end to American Rescue Plan funding and the new Federal Administration, OCJP will be focusing efforts on continuing core necessary services to crime victims to enhance safety, mitigate the impact of trauma and promote healing.

OCJP will continue its work towards overall goals:

- Cultivate meaningful, ongoing coordination around communities' response to domestic violence by supporting evidence-based collaborative best practices
- Increase access to consistent, evidence-based sexual assault services for all victims and cultivate coordination of services, resources, and training.
- Coordinate approach to apprehension and prosecution of drug offenses & violent crimes
- Enhance data-driven, location-based strategies to crime reduction
- Enhance the continuum of evidence-based services for Justice Involved Individuals
- Meet basic infrastructure needs in criminal justice and victim services
- Promote a trauma informed response to crime victims in Tennessee

OCJP will continue its focus to ensure grant dollars maximize their potential impact through the promotion of evidence-based programming in its solicitations and project designs to the greatest extent possible and continue its use of a logic model project design that delineates how goals, objectives, activities, output and outcomes are all interconnected and dependent to ensure success of the initiative.

Over the last several years, OCJP has worked to bring technology into the forefront of our daily practices in the work we do. To that end, we will be moving to a cloud-based grants management system to increase efficiency in our work and to create less burden on our subrecipients as they apply for funding, oversee their grants, and submit invoices and reports. Although not fully complete to date, OCJP anticipates further incorporating the new system throughout the next fiscal year.

OCJP will continue its mission of good stewardship of state and federal funding, ensuring subrecipients are aware of state and federal laws and regulations and providing ongoing technical assistance and support to ensure our state and local government partners and our non-profits have the tools they need to successfully implement their projects and reduce the risk of fraud, waste and abuse.