



# VIOLENT CRIME INTERVENTION FUND

Office of Criminal Justice Programs – with Governor’s Office,  
Department of Safety, Central Procurement Office,  
Department of Transportation

FY 2023

# Goals for today's informational webinar:

- **Understand the purpose and goals of Violent Crime Intervention Fund (VCIF)**  
Implement evidence-based programs, technology, and strategies that will reduce violent crime in communities via:
  - Formula grants – Set grant allocation for each agency
  - Competitive Enhancement grants – Up to \$2 million for regional/collaborative projects
- **Understand how to access the grant application and helpful resources**
  - Application Packet
  - Website: [tn.gov/crimefund](http://tn.gov/crimefund)
  - UT Institute for Public Service: Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC)\*\*
- **Understand what types of projects and expenses are allowed and not allowed with these funds**
  - Evidence-based violent crime interventions
  - Equipment, technology & staff
  - Coordinated community engagement projects
  - Training and technical assistance
  - Questions about equipment & state contracts welcome
- **Understand deadlines and requirements – and where to find them**
  - Intent to Apply Deadline: **December 15, 2022**
  - Final Application Deadline: **January 16, 2023**

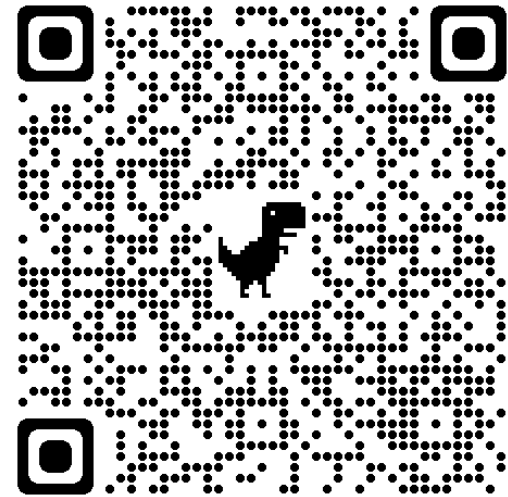
# VCIF Background: What Works for Safer TN Communities

- Planning Question – “What do local LEAs need to combat violent crime?”
  - 3 Law Enforcement Roundtables – Chiefs and Sheriffs from all over TN
  - TN Association of Chiefs of Police
  - TN Sheriff’s Association
  - TN Dept of Safety & TN Dept of Commerce and Insurance
- Results:
  - Violent crime looks different depending on where you live in TN
  - TN’s unique geography and interstate system make it harder to combat trafficking, vehicle theft, firearms offenses, and similar crimes, which often lead to greater violence
  - Meaningful collaboration and engagement is needed with local communities
  - LEAs need skilled, well-trained officers to meet the needs of their communities

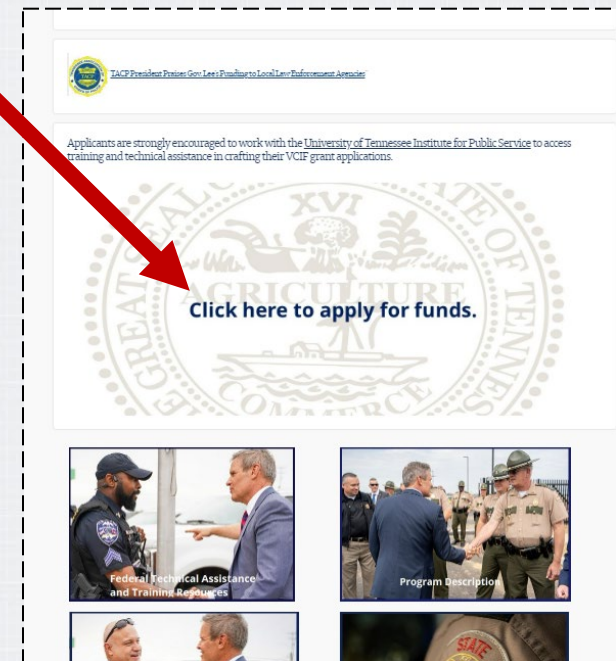
# TN.gov/CRIMEFUND

## Official Online Resource for VCIF

- **Application Packet (solicitation)**
  - Contains everything you need to apply
  - Eligibility, Allowables, Requirements, Deadlines
  - Read it carefully then send it to your team
- \*\*Access contact info for UT LEIC to help prepare applications
- Links for resources (checklist, models, best practices)



Scan this QR code to access [TN.gov/CRIMEFUND](https://www.tn.gov/CRIMEFUND)





# Formula Based Grants & Competitive Collaborative Enhancement Grants

## TWO SEPARATE APPLICATIONS:

- FORMULA BASED
  - Support local violent crime intervention strategies
  - Refer to the Funding Formula Plan (link on p. 4 of application packet) for your agency's allocation
- COMPETITIVE COLLABORATIVE ENHANCEMENT
  - Support collaborations between multiple law enforcement agencies to address regional violent crime needs
  - Priority given to evidence-based strategies
  - Any LEA can apply for up to \$2 million
  - **Project MUST involve collaboration (sharing the funds) between AT LEAST TWO law enforcement agencies**

# SCOPES: Formula & Competitive Grants

page 6 in application packet

- **WHAT:** Plan for spending the grant funds and implementing project(s)
- **WHERE:** Linked in Application Packet (p. 6)
- **HOW:** Click link to download word doc template
- **REMINDER:** Answer every question!
- Review team will score each section to make the funding determination
- Funding depends on how **complete, detailed and thoughtful** your scope is
- **Scope and budget docs are the most important part of this process and must reflect each other**
- \*\*UT LEIC is here to help!

**Formula Based Grant - Scope of Services  
Violent Crime Intervention Fund Grant  
FY 2023-2025**

*This scope template is for agencies applying for Formula Based Grant funding, which is intended to support local law enforcement in developing and implementing proven public safety strategies to combat violent crime in their community. Click here to view the [Formula Funding Plan](#)*

*All VCIF applicants are strongly encouraged to work closely with the [University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service](#) to access training and technical assistance in crafting this application.*

APPLICANT AGENCY NAME:

**A. CRIME DATA, PROBLEM STATEMENT, AND TARGET POPULATIONS**  
*Discuss the nature and magnitude of the problem(s) to be addressed by the proposed funding. This should be based on current data from reliable sources that describe in detail the most pressing issues.*

A.1. Please provide current population, demographics, and violent crime data for your jurisdiction, including Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TBIRS) data, local law enforcement data, and local court data.

A.2. Based on the information provided above, please identify which target crime types, victim types, hot spots, and other areas and issues of particular interest VCIF funding will help to address.

A.3. Please briefly describe any obstacles or issues your agency has experienced with addressing these targets previously. How will VCIF funding help your agency to mitigate those obstacles?

**B. PURPOSE**  
*State the goals and objectives of the project. Describe the factors and strategies required to conduct activities and to achieve its goals and objectives.*

*For a list of Goals, Objectives and Activities please see the [VCIF Abstract](#). You are strongly encouraged to work with UTLEIC to determine which goals, objectives, and activities are appropriate for your project.*

B.1. Please select one or more GOAL of the multijurisdictional/regional violent crime interventions your agency will implement with VCIF FORMULA funds:  
Example:  
Goal 1: Improve forensic investigation capabilities

B.2. For each GOAL selected above, please list one or more OBJECTIVES that VCIF FORMULA funds will support:  
Example:  
Goal 1: Improve forensic investigation capabilities  
Objective 1.1: Upgrade digital evidence forensic equipment  
Objective 1.2: Train staff in digital evidence collection and analysis

B.3. For each OBJECTIVE, please list one or more ACTIVITIES that VCIF FORMULA funds will support:  
Example:  
Goal 1: Improve forensic investigation capabilities  
Objective 1.1: Upgrade digital evidence forensic equipment

Page 1 of the Formula Grant Scope document

# Project Goals, Objectives, & Outputs

See **Abstract** – Part of Scope (link on p. 7 of Solicitation)

## Select Goals (examples)

- Improve communication with neighboring police departments
- **Prevent juvenile violent crime [in X jurisdiction/ neighborhood/community]**
- Improve forensic investigation capabilities for [crime type/ region]
- **Enhance identification of suspects and repeat offenders of violent crime**
- Improve ability to prosecute violent offenders [in X jurisdiction/ community/ region]
- Improve digital evidence processing for [crime type/ region]

## Select Objectives (examples)

- Upgrade communications equipment for [for X unit/regional partners]
- Purchase forensic equipment and technology, hire forensic investigators, pay for training for officers on forensic investigation practices [for X unit/regional partners]
- **Partner with [X community-based or local govt agency] to prevent/investigate/prosecute juvenile violent crime**
- Purchase/upgrade digital evidence forensic equipment, hire and train staff in digital evidence collection and analysis
- **Conduct outreach activities [in X community/neighborhood]**
- Partner with [X community-based agency] to assess safety needs

## Select Outputs (examples)

- # Staff hired
- **# Trainings provided**
- # Equipment purchased
- **# New investigations as a result of this funding**
- # Felony and misdemeanor arrests as a result of this funding
- **# Identified/prioritized hotspots as a result of this funding**

# How to Apply:

1. Go to the [tn.gov/crimefund](https://tn.gov/crimefund) and click on **the “Click here to apply for funds”** link
2. Read through the **application packet** – print it out, make notes, send it to others on your team
3. Contact **\*\*UT Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC)**– ask questions, get ideas, even get help writing parts of the scope
4. Submit the Intent to Apply (link on p. 8) by **December 15<sup>th</sup>**



## How to Apply (continued):

5. Complete the **SCOPE(s)** for each fund source you want (Formula/Competitive) (p. 6)
6. Complete **BUDGET** documents for each fund source (p. 6)  
(If you're applying for both Formula and Competitive, you'll have **2 separate budgets** for each year of funding).
7. Complete the Application Checklist (p. 8)
8. Email [Info.OCJP@tn.gov](mailto:Info.OCJP@tn.gov) with questions about the application
9. **SUBMIT APPLICATION(S) BY JAN 16<sup>th</sup>**

# University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service – Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC)

- Contact Info: [rhiannon.jones@tennessee.edu](mailto:rhiannon.jones@tennessee.edu); (865) 946-3219
- **During application process:**
  - **Answer questions about project design**
  - **Help plan project (implementation, staffing, training, evaluation)**
  - **Help write scope document(s) and budget**
- Ongoing through life of the grant:
  - Provide trainings on best practices and successful violent crime intervention models
  - Provide subject matter experts to advise and consult agencies
  - Maintain toolkit of resources and guidance on using them

# Allowable Expenses & Unallowable Expenses

Starts on **pp 11-14** of solicitation

## 4.2.6 Equipment and Technology Purchases

Read this section carefully and reach out with questions

- **Dept of Safety : Les Dolente**, Deputy Commissioner and Chief of Staff of the Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security
- **Central Procurement Office: Trey Norris**, Director of Category Management
- **TDOT: Brian Dickerson**, Manager TDOT Excess Land Office

“**License Plate Readers** may only be purchased with grant funds if they are to be installed on state right of ways and are approved by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-8-198.”

“...agencies are strongly encouraged to **utilize statewide contracts** and cooperative agreements, to expedite the purchasing process. Equipment and technology purchases under this application will **first identify products currently on state contract or local cooperative agreement as the first choice** to allow for consistency across entities, enhanced data collection, and a uniform system of tracking violent criminals” – VCIF Solicitation p. 13

# Reminders:

- WHAT IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?
  - **January 16, 2023**
- WHO CAN APPLY?
  - **Local law enforcement agencies** (can subcontract to community-based partner agencies as part of project)
    - Can subcontract with other partners (nonprofits, DTFs, etc.)
- HOW MANY APPLICATIONS DO I SUBMIT?
  - Up to TWO SEPARATE APPLICATIONS:
    - **Formula Grant:** Agency applies for up to their allotted amount
    - **Competitive Grant:** One agency applies – MUST PARTNER WITH AT LEAST ONE OTHER LEA – Max \$2 million
- WHAT IF I HAVE A QUESTION?
  - Utilize **UT Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC)** – tips, guidance, resources
  - Email OCJP with questions: [Info.OCJP@tn.gov](mailto:Info.OCJP@tn.gov)



# Final tips...

- Your jurisdiction's crime stats are likely to **go up** in the short term – this is a measure of success (enforcement, access, coordination)
- Law enforcement agency **MUST be the grant applicant and contract holder** BUT can subcontract with any type of partner agency (nonprofits, DTFs, etc.)
- Think creatively and demonstrate in your scope how such a partnership would **strengthen violent crime intervention** for your region/community
- **Begin partnership conversations as soon as possible** – MOUs often take longer than anticipated
- Explain in your scope how you will track **outputs**
- Check your vendor ID!

# Questions?

- Questions about the solicitation?  
Email: [Info.OCJP@tn.gov](mailto:Info.OCJP@tn.gov)
- For help with planning & writing application, contact:
  - Law Enforcement Innovation Center at UT  
Institute for Public Service:
  - [rhiannon.jones@tennessee.edu](mailto:rhiannon.jones@tennessee.edu)
  - (865) 946-3219



**THANK YOU**