

Tennessee Narrative Statement

2025 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

The Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) operates a comprehensive, year-round system to address emerging issues within the criminal justice system. This includes monitoring trends in Tennessee communities, evaluating state resources, setting program priorities, making grant allocation decisions, managing funded projects, and assessing the outcomes of these initiatives. Our strategic program management process extends beyond day-to-day grants management, anticipating the evolving needs of Tennessee's justice system. This approach enables OCJP to shape future program descriptions, establish funding priorities, prepare budget requests, and allocate limited resources to areas with the highest potential return on public investment.

In Tennessee, like in most states, the majority of criminal justice funding comes from tax revenue and is allocated to address local and state priorities. Crimes are committed locally, and it is at the local level that offenders are apprehended, defendants tried, sentences determined and carried out. This is also where services are provided for both crime victims and offenders.

The Statewide Multi-Year Strategy serves as the blueprint for all coordinated drug and violent crime control efforts in Tennessee. It includes rehabilitative services for offenders and reparative services for victims. Therefore, it is crucial for the State to employ a strategic planning process that incorporates the perspectives of practitioners from all levels and must be as inclusive as possible.

The OCJP utilizes a data-driven approach and actively seeks input from practitioners at the local, state, and federal levels in developing this strategy. OCJP gathers information through planned data collection efforts, training conferences, webinars, informal meetings, and surveys. This strategy document reflects a comprehensive synthesis of both state and national data.

The OCJP integrates its strategic plan into the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) application to tackle systemic issues within the criminal justice system. This is achieved by addressing community needs identified through current and relevant data on crime and victimization, with the goal of implementing impactful projects at both local and state levels. OCJP aims to maximize the effectiveness of these initiatives by leveraging all available state and federal funding sources.

The data contained in the 2022 Five Year Strategic Plan and recent addendums highlights the following areas of need for the State of Tennessee:

- **Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:** Continue enhancing services to build on the progress made in these areas.
- **Gang Intelligence and Violent Crime Prosecution:** Implement a coordinated approach to apprehend and prosecute violent crimes and drug offenses effectively.
- **Data-Driven, Location-Based Crime Reduction:** Utilize strategies based on data and specific locations to reduce crime and address trauma.
- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Address basic infrastructure issues, including technology and equipment enhancements.
- **Evidence-Based Training:** Provide training on best practices, policy development, data analysis, and other identified gaps for criminal justice and victim service practitioners.
- **Trauma-Informed Victim Services:** Enhance services focusing on best practices for unserved and underserved victims.

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The OCJP is excited about the opportunities this plan provides to address criminal justice issues in Tennessee over the next five years. OCJP will continuously seek information and input from local and state peers to enhance our understanding of Tennessee's evolving needs and challenges. Each year, specific strategies will be developed to address the most pressing issues, ensuring that our efforts remain relevant and effective throughout the course of this multi-year plan.

JAG Priority Areas	OCJP Project Description	# of Projects	2026 Funding Amounts
Corrections and Community Corrections Programs	Correctional Programming	8	\$1,167,274.00
Drug Treatment and Enforcement Programs	Multi-Jurisdictional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	16	\$1,265,045.00
Law Enforcement Programs	Criminal Justice Professional Enhancement Training	3	\$343,985.00
Law Enforcement Programs	Law Enforcement Equipment	2	\$220,000.00
Planning Evaluation and Technological Improvement Programs	Victim Services	2	\$303,834.00
Prosecution and Court Programs	Court Support	6	\$695,115.00