

TENNESSEE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS

FY 2016 Statewide Strategy for Drug and Violent Crime Control and Criminal Justice System Improvement Update



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Chapter 1. Summary:

This section updates the 2012 Statewide Strategy for Drug and Violent Crime Control and Criminal Justice System Imp.

The Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP), which is located within the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration and serves as the State Administrative Agency for the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program in Tennessee. For two decades, this Program has provided a vehicle for seeding and pioneering new programs in Tennessee.

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 to enhance public safety. The CJU meets regularly with the OCJP Victim Services Unit to coordinate strategies and maximize resources. As part of this strategic plan, the CJU also considers the priorities and funds available in the other Federal and State funding streams it administers.

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)

State funding sources include:

- Automated Fingerprint Identification System Funding (AFIS)
- Internet Crimes Against Children Funding (ICAC)
- Automated Victim Notification Funding
- Ignition Interlock System Program
- Methamphetamine Initiative

With this annual update, the Criminal Justice Unit proposes to continue the Multi-Year Statewide Strategy laid out in its *2012 Statewide Strategy for Drug and Violent Crime Control and Criminal Justice System Improvement*. 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.

This plan specifically targets evidence-based interventions that support the Governor's Public Safety Action Plan. In 2012, Governor Haslam and his cabinet unveiled their plan to the citizens of Tennessee. The Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs participates in planning meetings and has identified areas of the plan where OCJP can impact the outcomes through funding projects. Many of the action steps in the plan are ongoing, and the Committee is considering updating the plan in FY 2016. Specifically, OCJP is targeting priority areas that address the following areas with JAG funding:

- Domestic Violence
- Methamphetamine production and distribution
- Human Trafficking
- Gang Activity
- Pre-Trial Assessment

- Offender Re-Entry
- Other Drug and Violent Crime Activity
- Technology and Planning/Evaluation

Chapter 2. Data and Data Analysis

This section updates the 2012 Statewide Strategy for Drug and Violent Crime Control and Criminal Justice System Improvement. No significant changes to our process or data have occurred.

The Criminal Justice Unit (CJU) 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 to address 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 2013***)
- 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 overall violent and ***drug-related crime*** rates per 100,000 place it in the top quintile of all states' rates, along with several other southeastern states. 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 two 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 five 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. States such as Ohio, Michigan and California are all struggling to meet the demand. Tennessee is no different. 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.

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 entitled *The Geography of Trafficking in Tennessee* in 2013. Reports indicate that law enforcement is becoming increasingly aware of the occurrence and frequency of this type of crime. The studies indicate that many have previously had little understanding of the crime itself. Through education by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Child Advocacy Centers of Tennessee law enforcement and the public in general are becoming more aware of the nature and prevalence of this crime.

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, continuing education, and criminal justice record systems automation and integration.

For the State Fiscal Year 2016 planning process, the CJU met with OCJP leadership and looked at current funding across Tennessee, reviewed data collected from our various state level partners, including but not limited to: The Tennessee District Attorney Generals Conference, the Tennessee Department of Correction, the Tennessee Chiefs of Police Association, the Tennessee Sheriff's Association, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Tennessee Department of Safety, the Tennessee Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force Directors, the Tennessee Methamphetamine and Pharmaceutical Task Force, the Tennessee Regional Organized Crime Information Center, , the Tennessee Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, the Tennessee Community Crime Reduction Projects and others.

In November 2014, the CJU hosted our second annual planning meeting of local criminal justice practitioners, representing judges, District Attorney Generals, public defenders, Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs. These professionals brought decades of experience in their respective fields to bear on OCJP's strategic planning process. They provided valuable insight on the current needs in local communities and offered their expertise on problems, needs and possible solutions in the Criminal Justice System. This group identified the following possible opportunities for improvement:

- Vertical and Specialized Prosecution for gang related cases
- Improving state capacity to process forensic evidence to include:
 - Training for law enforcement
 - Decreasing the backlog of evidence at crime labs
 - Training for county medical examiners
 - Addressing the transportation needs for autopsies
- Victim Programs such as family justice centers
- Increased evidence-based programs for community supervision of offenders to reduce recidivism
- Pre-Trial Diversion
- School Intervention Strategies to include:
 - Positive Action
 - Gang Resistance and Education Training
 - SRO led classes in life skills, citizenship and taking responsibility
- Improvements to the Court system such as:
 - An integrated and automated computer system
 - Video capabilities between courts and jails
- Continued emphasis on coordinated law enforcement efforts in:
 - Drug Enforcement
 - Gang Interventions
 - Domestic Violence Response
 - Local Community Crime

Their insight confirmed needs expressed in meetings with our state level partners and enhanced this strategic planning process.

Each fall, OCJP staff reconciles the grants that were allocated with the funds expended. After the reconciliation process, the Criminal Justice Unit is able to begin its strategic planning process. For FY 2016, the CJU anticipates allocating new JAG funds to state and local entities.

Chapter 3: Resource Needs and Gaps

This section updates the 2012 Statewide Strategy for Drug and Violent Crime Control and Criminal Justice System Improvement. No significant changes to the approach will be undertaken. The information below demonstrates initiatives that will be emphasized during FY 2016.

Tennessee maintains a strong state level planning and implementation approach to reducing crime. Governor Haslam's Public Safety Action Plan is a unique approach to addressing crime in Tennessee, in that it requires Department Leads to act in coordination with each other and leverage resources to address Tennessee's most pressing crime issues, rather than a more traditional approach of these agencies taking a silo approach and addressing the needs on their own and in their own way.

System Weaknesses in Gang Intelligence: One weakness identified early on was the gap in intelligence related to known gang members. These gang members cross jurisdictional and geographical boundaries and the technology to track these members was missing. As a result a partnership was developed between the Tennessee Department of Correction and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to enhance the tracking of known gang members across the state via the creation of a Tennessee gang database that local law enforcement agencies can access. In FY 2015 additional enhancements to the system were made with JAG funds. OCJP will continue to work with our state partners on increasing the capacity of this system, including possible training of jail staff as needed on identification of gang members and use of the system.

System Weaknesses tied to Domestic Violence: While the overall violent and drug related crime in Tennessee has gone down, the amount of crime classified as domestic violence continues to be the root cause for over 50% of all crimes against the person in Tennessee. In 2013, 333 murders occurred in Tennessee and 86 (25.8%) of those were attributed to domestic violence. Tennessee had 28,718 aggravated assaults reported in 2013 and 11,168 (38.8%) of those were attributed to domestic violence. The impact of crime against the person as a result of domestic violence is clear. A high percentage of the overall crime against the person is related to domestic violence.

A 2013 report by the Tennessee Economic Council on Women found that, in 2012, domestic violence, human sex trafficking, and sexual assault cost Tennessee at least \$886,171,950. The majority of this expense was manifest in tax dollars and health care payments, but charity, lost wages, workplace expenses and inefficiency played significant roles as well. Additionally, while the Economic Council cannot provide an exact estimate, it appears that domestic and sexual violence committed against women likely influenced the needs of the children who received a majority of the Department of Children's Services 2012 operational spending, which, itself, totaled approximately \$527.6 million¹.

The Governor's Public Safety Action Plan identifies action steps to be taken to reduce the level of violence in the home.

¹ Tennessee Economic Council on Women, The Economic Impact of Violence Against Women in Tennessee: Executive Summary. Pg. 5

One of the action steps which support the recommendations made in 2006 and 2013 by the Tennessee Economic Council on Women is to increase the number of Family Justice Centers (FJCs) in the state. To date, Memphis and Knoxville both have fully operating (FJCs). With grant funding through OCJP, Nashville, Chattanooga and Cookeville began planning for Family Justice Centers in FY 2014, and Jackson and Johnson City began planning in FY 2015. Nashville opened the Jean Crowe Advocacy Center in the fall of 2014, making it Tennessee's third operating FJC.

The Criminal Justice Unit has been monitoring these issues for the current planning period and will leverage state and federal funding to support programs geared toward prevention and enforcement of existing policies and laws, while at the same time supporting programs that increase victim safety and batterer accountability.

System Weakness Tied to Crime Prevention and Education Activities: Tennessee is bordered by 9 states, more than any other state. There are six major interstate highway systems, with 37 of Tennessee's 95 counties having an interstate pass through it. This makes Tennessee an ideal location for human and drug trafficking. Tennessee has seen a continued increase in human trafficking, and has taken steps to address this crime. Housing for the victims of human trafficking, especially where juveniles are involved, continues to be a need that OCJP works with other stakeholders to identify possible solutions. A lack of public awareness as to the dangers of methamphetamine and prescription drugs continues to be an issue in this State. It is difficult to combat the use of prescription pain medication and methamphetamine. The addictive nature of the drugs, the ease in obtaining prescriptions, and the low cost and simplicity of producing methamphetamine are all factors that contribute to the widespread drug problem in Tennessee. In 2012, Prescription opioids surpassed alcohol as the primary substance of abuse in the state. Additionally, the influx of methamphetamine and heroine from Mexico are adding to the complexity of the drug problem. Traditional methods of enforcement and treatment alone have had little effect on mitigating this problem. Therefore a combination of public awareness, enforcement and treatment methodologies is necessary. Efforts to educate the public as well as medical practitioners have taken on increased meaning. Educating treatment providers (facilitated by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services) and law enforcement officers/agents continue to be a part of the education strategy as well.

In the area of child sexual abuse and human trafficking, Tennessee's identification and tracking of these cases is sporadic at best. While our laws and policies receive national attention for being model policies, continued training is needed to insure proper identification and prosecution of these cases. Therefore increased efforts are needed to inform the public of how to identify child sexual abuse and human trafficking and the steps to be taken in reporting it. Current projects include implementing the Stewards of Children training for the public to better understand child sex abuse and human trafficking. This training provides the general public information on how to identify possible victims and resources to assist them. The Tennessee Bureau of Information has implemented training for law enforcement and allied professionals on human trafficking that has been recognized nationally. Additional training is needed, especially in regards to the trauma informed treatment needed for working with victims.

Historical economic struggles have led to budget crunches with State and local budgets, where cuts to training have not been restored yet. Unfortunately training is what makes the criminal justice practitioners more professional and use tax payer dollars wisely. The training offered

makes practitioners in prevention, law enforcement, courts and corrections more efficient and effective. Efforts to continue and expand training for criminal justice personnel are being made at OCJP.

System Weaknesses tied to Court Services: As with other States Tennessee's court system is burdened by overflowing dockets of repeat offenders. These cases take time away from judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys forcing the system to make decisions based on system caseload rather than individual justice. Systems become bogged down because repeat offenders continue to cycle into the system without the root causes for their criminality being met. Many of these defendants could be diverted from the system permanently if they were appropriately assessed on the front end and afforded the appropriate treatment plan.

Another impediment to more efficient court processes is the transporting of pretrial defendants to and from the jail. Time is spent waiting for these defendants to come to court. Two ways to deal with this issue are to offer a pretrial release alternative to bail and to allow for video arraignment of defendants being held in custody of the jail or prison.

A Lack of Evidence-based and Data Driven Programs/Strategies: For several years now the Office of Criminal Justice Programs has been working with criminal justice agencies throughout the State to promote evidence-based programs/strategies. However, the expansion of those programs has been slower than expected. Many agencies still use anecdotal information to drive their projects, believing that their knowledge of the system and their sixth sense is a better determiner of the direction the effort should take. Data necessary to support strategies is often times difficult to collect so agencies opt for the data easiest to collect, not the most pertinent to support programs. OCJP continues to work with agencies through training and technical assistance as well as through funding of pilot programs that support the effort to promote evidence-based programming in prevention, enforcement, courts and corrections.

Missing Collaboration and Program Sustainability: Traditionally, criminal justice agencies work in silos to address a problem. They identify the issue(s) and feel it is their responsibility to solve the issue or that it is someone else's problem to solve. By doing this they greatly limit their ability to even address the problem let alone resolve it. With resources limited, agencies may simply decide to avoid problem solving at all or continue to use the old methods with a slightly different approach. Additionally, by failing to partner with others who may be able to share resources they are also failing to receive input of new ideas or alternative strategies not previously thought of. There may already be resources in place to address the issues at hand and it would only take diverting some of those resources to the problem in order to mitigate its effects. These resources can come from agencies outside the criminal justice system as well as from within.

Strategies that are only internal tend to have difficulty being sustained once funding is gone. Typically they are implemented with one-time internal fund sources or with time-limited grant funding which goes away over time.

OCJP has been working with agencies as well as cities and counties to provide training, technical assistance and funding to bring partners together to develop multi-pronged, sustainable strategies to combat crime.

Issues with Dated Law Enforcement Equipment in Economically Depressed Areas: Smaller agencies often work on outdated equipment that can hinder law enforcement activities and be dangerous for the officers. The rural areas of Tennessee have numerous law enforcement agencies who can ill afford to replace worn out or non-existent modern technology. Grants from the Federal government rarely make it to these agencies due to parameters around population. OCJP works with these agencies to fund one time equipment purchases to assist in upgrades.

Chapter 4: Tennessee's Priorities and Select Responses

This section updates the 2012 Statewide Strategy for Drug and Violent Crime Control and Criminal Justice System Improvement. No significant changes to the priorities will be undertaken. The information below provides a review of the priorities that will be emphasized during FY2065.

Multi-jurisdictional Response to Gangs: As part of the approach to mitigate the effects of an influx of gangs in Tennessee and to gangs coming up from Atlanta, OCJP has started and will continue to fund projects which are multi-jurisdictional in nature and which employ data-driven and/or evidence-based approaches. Multi-jurisdictional Gang Task Forces and other data driven approaches have been supported by OCJP. These efforts have aided in the gathering of intelligence on gangs and their individual members across the State and have assisted in solving multiple serious violent crimes and obtain convictions on some high level gang members.

Additionally, OCJP initiates discussions with gang investigators to learn what is working and determine where gaps still exist. Discussions such as these often assist OCJP in determining possible initiatives needed in various jurisdictions to combat the problem.

Response to Violence in the Home: OCJP takes a multi-pronged approach to assist in the alleviation of this issue. In addition to the multitude of services offered to victims of crime through the Victim Services Unit fund sources, OCJP uses Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds to augment these traditional victim service funds. Child Advocacy training and technical assistance efforts are supported by OCJP staff and funds. Legislation has been passed, and the Governor's Public Safety Action Plan has action steps to address human trafficking. Human trafficking training and research is also supported by this office.

Additionally, as a result of the Governors Public Safety initiative OCJP is leading the expansion of Family Justice Centers across the state. The Family Justice Center model has been identified as a best practice in the field of domestic violence intervention and prevention services by numerous local, state and national organizations including the United States Department of Justice. The documented and published outcomes (See Casey Gwinn, Gael Strack, Hope for Hurting Families: Creating Family Justice Centers Across America, Volcano Press 2006; "The Family Justice Center Collaborative Model," 27 St. Louis University Public Law Review, 79, 2007, pp. 79-120) in the Family Justice Center model 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;
- Increased efficiency in collaborative services to victims among service providers;
- Increased prosecution of offenders; and
- Dramatically increased community support services to victims and their children.

Using a model of collaboration to provide “wraparound” services from one location, the Family Justice Center concept seeks to marshal all available resources in a community into a coordinated, centralized service delivery system with accountability to victims and survivors for the effectiveness of the model.

The Criminal Justice Unit will continue to support the growth of Family Justice Centers through the funding of additional local communities in the start-up of a Family Justice Center as well as through the continued funding of a technical assistance provider to assist local communities in starting Family Justice Centers. The CJU continues to look at other possible opportunities to support domestic violence offender accountability, such as global positioning systems, batterer intervention programming, and evidence-based prosecution in future projects.

Criminal Justice Professionals Education: The Criminal Justice Unit will continue to support projects that educate professionals, such as law enforcement and social workers, as well as projects that educate the community at large, such as churches and local civic groups. This office has and will continue to fund training to law enforcement. The following projects have been or may continue to be funded:

- Human Trafficking
- Child Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Advanced Criminal Investigation (at the National Forensic Academy in Oak Ridge)
- Law Enforcement Management Institute
- Gangs Investigations
- Narcotics Investigations
- Community Crime Prevention
- Critical Incidence Teams (LE dealing with the mentally ill offender)
- Peer-led Traumatic Incident Stress Management Education

Court and Pre-trial Services: The Office of Criminal Justice Services provides funding for a variety of court services in the State Prosecutors Offices:

- Victim Advocates (VOCA funding)
- Special Prosecutors (STOP and JAG funding)
- Training (JAG funding)
- Records Management Support (JAG)

OCJP has also funded equipment and training needs for both the Public Defenders as well as Judges through the Public Defenders Conference and the Administrative Office of the Courts respectively.

OCJP has assisted the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in implementation of an Automated Case Judgment System. The long-range goal of the system is to create a paperless system that shares information between the courts, Tennessee Department of Correction, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, prosecutors, and the FBI’s Criminal History File. The system is now in the testing phase and will continue to be a part of OCJP’s strategic plan in FY 2016.

It is the intention of OCJP to continue to assist the courts in the administration of justice by providing funding opportunities in the area pre-trial services to local jurisdictions as well as assist in statewide

infrastructure issues. Funding may be available for local jurisdictions to implement projects which will improve efficiency and effectiveness. Projects may include:

- Video conferencing for arraignment and other hearings
- Defendant needs assessment and referral program
- No bond pre-trial release alternatives
- Other pre-trial services
- Evidence-based prosecution

Evidence-Based Offender Intervention Programs: Tennessee continues to see an increase in the felon population in the state. To fill the need for pilot programs which employ evidence-based treatment and re-entry programming OCJP is continuing funding of these programs. The Governor's Public Safety Action Plan addresses the need for evidence-based re-entry programming. OCJP, in collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Correction and the Tennessee Sheriffs Association, is identifying re-entry programming that is needed across Tennessee. Programs to address the inmate/probationer/parolee needs must be evidence-based or evidence-informed. Programs such as substance abuse treatment, victim-offender reconciliation, batterer intervention, vocational rehabilitation, cognitive behavioral therapy and community reentry programs will fill this need.

OCJP will work with the Tennessee Department of Correction to determine if Day Reporting Centers (DRCs) are a viable option for Tennessee in FY 2016. DRCs are an intermediate sanction being used to help manage offenders in other state's overburdened criminal justice systems. DRCs have the potential to fulfill three separate and distinct purposes: 1) enhanced supervision and decreased liberty of the offender; 2) treatment of the offenders' problems; 3) reduced crowding in state and local facilities.

Data-Driven, Location-Based Strategies to Crime Reduction: Tennessee has been a leader in implementing evidence-based interventions to reduce crime in local communities. A major goal was to demonstrate how strategic program planning could use actionable crime data and inter-agency collaboration to overcome barriers that were inhibiting crime reduction, by building local approaches that would survive after the funding ended.

OCJP's innovation was creating a specialized solicitation that required selected localities to come up with a data-driven strategy to impact the local drivers of their high crime rates. Strategies were to be collaborative, addressing not one or two, but three approaches: prevention, enforcement and offender intervention. Cities were also required to have an evaluation partner to help evaluate crime trends, and assist with data collection. The targeted grants required many hours of training and TA prior to grant awards.

Beginning in the 2010 strategic planning cycle, OCJP initiated the Targeted Community Crime Reduction Project (TCCRP), focusing targeted resources on five mid-size Tennessee cities (Clarksville, Cleveland, Columbia, Jackson, and Murfreesboro) with high rates of violent and drug-related crime. By FY 2013, 6 cities were operating TCCRPs including Johnson City, which also expanded the project from focusing on three approaches, to focusing on four approaches, adding neighborhood revitalization.

These projects are evidence based and use proven strategies to reduce crime. Projects use the www.crimesolutions.gov website to locate effective programming. Projects include evidence-based programs such as:

- **Hot Spots Policing and Broken Windows:** These practices have found that crime is likely to flourish in areas with high levels of physical and social disorder. It entails the use of broken windows policing, also known as disorder policing, to produce a crime-reduction effect by improving order in problem areas. The program is based on the idea that, by reducing overall disorder, conditions will improve and crime will be reduced. The program uses a problem-oriented policing approach to concentrate specifically on the reduction of nuisance crime, in combination with a hot spots policing approach to target specific high-crime areas.
- **Positive Action:** The program is designed to improve youth academics, behavior, and character. It uses an audience-centered, curriculum-based approach to increase positive behaviors and decrease negative ones. It relies on intrinsic motivation for developing and maintaining positive behavioral patterns and teaches skills focused on learning and motivation for achieving success and happiness for everyone.
- **Specialized Multi-Agency Response Team (SMART):** Once a site has been identified, the police visit the area and meet with various stakeholders (such as community representatives, landlords, and business owners) to establish working relationships. Police attempt to communicate to the stakeholders that they (the police) are invested in cleaning up the area. The police suggest simple crime prevention measures and explain landlords' rights and tenants' responsibilities. Activities can vary by site and include alternative, problem-solving tactics as well as traditional law enforcement tactics.

For FY 2016, the CJU proposes to implement a TCCRP that targets the crime of domestic violence, and to initiate at least one other traditional TCCRP. These TCCRP projects help to fill previously identified gaps by modeling “evidence based”, “data driven”, “partnering” and “sustainability”.

Tennessee's Targeted Community Crime Reduction Projects



By the end of FY 2015, five TCCRPs will have ended, Clarksville, Cleveland, Columbia, Jackson and Murfreesboro. The projects implemented unique designs with evidence-based programming. All drove enforcement action with data, and changed the ways their communities

collaborated. Three projects demonstrated measureable reductions in blight, and noticeably improved residents' perceptions of change, while three TCCRPs improved students' resistance to gangs, drugs and crime. Jackson demonstrated a 20% reduction in TIBRS rates of targeted violent crimes. Murfreesboro showed anecdotal evidence of reduced gang crime; which was strong enough for the city to continue the Gang Unit after the grant ended. Cleveland's community partners reported perceived reductions in criminal activity, and found that community collaboration was the most important change for their community in addressing crime. Clarksville saw a reduction in numerous crime types, including a 68% reduction in aggravated assaults in the target zone between the first half of calendar year 2012 and the same period in calendar year 2014. At the end of the project, Clarksville sustained the community center, the epicenter of the project, with local funds. Columbia saw a 73% reduction in the number of calls for service for disturbance / shots fired from calendar year 2012 to 2014. OCJP will continue to explore methods to maintain the local coordination of criminal justice strategic planning within these jurisdictions and how to bring similar strategies and collaboration to new communities.

Law Enforcement Equipment Program: OCJP will continue to develop the state level resources needed to support community based initiatives and decrease crime, the Criminal Justice Unit at OCJP will distribute JAG funds to state agency equipment needs through projects with the Tennessee Law Enforcement agencies, such as Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Tennessee Department of Safety and others. For 2016, funds distributed will address emergent needs that the state has identified to continue to improve the criminal justice system's efforts to reduce the incidence of drug violations and violent crime within the State's boundaries, and whenever possible, OCJP will work with other state leaders to insure the needs identified in the Governor's Public Safety Plan are addressed.

Additionally, OCJP has and will continue to support projects that improve the data collection capacity of law enforcement projects and will work with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to address gaps that exist in the sharing of data amongst law enforcement agencies.

Multi-Jurisdictional Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces: In FY 2016, OCJP will continue to monitor legislation and priorities as it evaluates its commitment to maintaining funding to Tennessee's Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces. Quality Multi-Jurisdictional Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces bolster enforcement efforts at methamphetamine and prescription drugs and support collaboration by bringing together local resources to attack the problem. Tennessee has seen increased attention paid to Drug Task Forces (DTFs) in the 2013 and 2014 Tennessee General Assembly legislative sessions and 2015 looks to continue this trend. The Tennessee District Attorney Generals Conference (TNDAGC) continued its work to train DTFs on best practices and to provide technical assistance. The TNDAGC has worked closely with OCJP since FY2013 to assist DTFs with their projects.

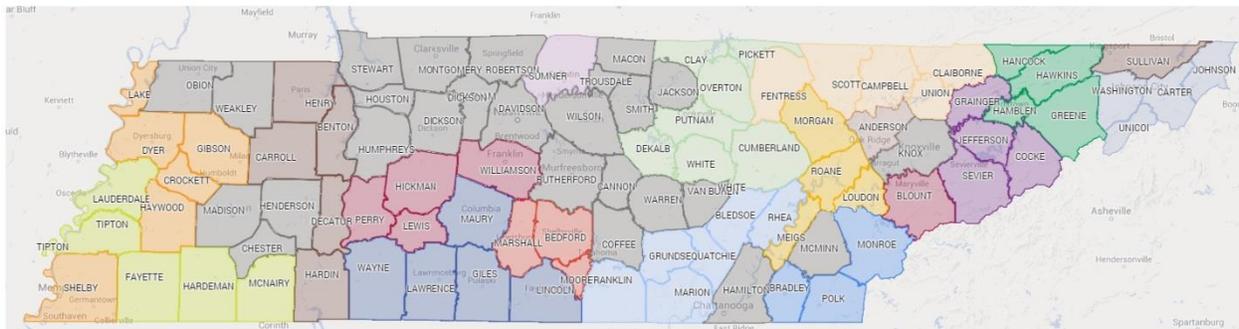
Both OCJP and the TNDAGC have coordinated regional and statewide meetings with DTF Directors and their staff. Both agencies have ensured that topics relating to the Tennessee Comptroller's Audit Reports have been covered at these meetings. These meetings and trainings assist in strategic planning for the DTFs.

A needed resource to combat drug crime is the Authorized Central Storage Container (ACS) program. In July of 2011, OCJP joined TBI and the Methamphetamine Task Force to create the ACS program that reduced the clean-up cost per lab by 80%. The Tennessee program has

received national attention. OCJP has funded this needed project since its inception and will monitor the need for FY2016.

The CJU will monitor the 2015 legislative session and will work with the TNDAGC, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security and Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to determine the state's needs in combatting drug and violent crime issues throughout Tennessee. Funding determinations will be made once all of the data is gathered from these partners.

OCJP Funded Judicial Drug Task Forces in Tennessee



Judicial District With no OCJP Funded DTF

NOTE: The above strategies fall into the following BJA approved OCJP Priority Areas;

Byrne JAG Purpose Area: Prevention and Education Programs
OCJP Priority – Community-Based Crime Prevention Services

Byrne JAG Purpose Area: Prevention and Education Programs
OCJP Priority – Targeted Community Crime Reduction Program

Byrne JAG Purpose Area: Law Enforcement Programs
OCJP Priority – Multi-Jurisdictional Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces

Byrne JAG Purpose Area: Law Enforcement Programs
OCJP Priority – Innovations in Criminal Investigations

Byrne JAG Purpose Area: Law Enforcement Programs
OCJP Priority – Criminal Justice Professional Enhancement Training

Byrne JAG Purpose Area: Law Enforcement Programs
OCJP Priority – Law Enforcement Equipment

Byrne JAG Purpose Area: Planning, Evaluation and Technology
OCJP Priority – Criminal Justice Technology

Byrne JAG Purpose Area: Prosecution and Court
OCJP Priority – Court Support

Byrne JAG Purpose Area: Corrections/Community Corrections
OCJP Priority – Correctional Programming

Byrne JAG Purpose Area: Crime Victim & Witness
OCJP Priority – Victim Services

Chapter 5: Coordination Efforts

This section updates the 2012 Statewide Strategy for Drug and Violent Crime Control and Criminal Justice System Improvement. The information below demonstrates any notable changes in this section.

Effective August 2012, the Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) finalized the rule adopting the national standards to prevent, detect and respond to prison rape. Tennessee facilities are actively working toward implementing these standards. OCJP is collaborating with the University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service, the Tennessee Sheriffs Association, and the Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) to assist state and local facilities in their implementation efforts. The CJU funded TDOC in FY 2015 with JAG PREA funds for improvements to their facilities to insure compliance with PREA. The OCJP Victim Services Unit is strategically planning with the University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service to identify the needs of local jails under contract with the Tennessee Department of Correction, to address the PREA needs and possibly fund with the STOP PREA set aside.

OCJP is currently working with many state agencies to implement a Relief from Disabilities Program, as required under the NICS Improvement Act of 2007 (NIAA), Public Law 110-180, Section 105. The group working on this process includes individuals from TBI, TDOC, AOC, TNDAGC, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, the Clerks Association, and the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association.

Summary

While the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs is not implementing significant changes to the 2015 Statewide Strategy for Drug and Violent Crime Control and Criminal Justice System Improvement plan submitted last fiscal year, OCJP is excited about the opportunities this plan provides to impact crime in Tennessee in 2016. OCJP will continue to seek information and input from our local and state level peers to enhance our understanding of the current needs and issues Tennessee faces over the course of this fiscal year.

The ongoing partnership between the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference, the District Attorneys, the Drug Task Forces and OCJP continue to be a source of ongoing safety planning for the state as a means of addressing the drug and violent crime our citizens face. Gang issues continue to trouble this state and as such, OCJP will continue to explore opportunities to do more to intercede in this issue. In 2015, OCJP funded the West Tennessee Gang Task Force and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to enhance the areas ability to address gang issues. In meetings with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and local law enforcement agencies, it is clear that more is needed to address the growing gang issues across the state. OCJP will continue to work with key stakeholders to determine logical next steps to address gangs in Tennessee. OCJP staff anticipates significant outcome

data from the Tennessee Community Crime Reduction Projects and as the office evaluates this data over the next year, it is expected that it will inform future endeavors.

OCJP also looks forward to the continued process of opening the Family Justice Centers that are a part of the Governor's Public Safety Action Plan. These initiatives bring a coordinated community response to the issue of domestic violence. As Tennessee continues to see a high incidence of this crime across the state, OCJP is hopeful that after the three year implementation phase of these projects, the data will start to demonstrate an impact on the domestic violence crime rate.

The Governor's Public Safety Plan provides an opportunity for a variety of State Agencies and Departments to come together to impact the criminogenic issues Tennessee faces in a collaborative and synergistic manner. OCJP will continue to monitor the needs addressed in this Safety Plan and identify opportunities to support its goals and targets as they align with OCJP's Statewide Strategy for Drug and Violent Crime Control and Criminal Justice System Improvement.