



Department of  
Finance &  
Administration

# Office of Criminal Justice Programs Annual Report

## FY 2018/2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... 3

OCJP ORGANIZATIONAL CHART..... 5

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION ..... 6

    OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS MISSION STATEMENT:..... 6

    OCJP STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS..... 6

    GRANTS MANAGEMENT ..... 6

    EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING ..... 7

    LOOKING AHEAD ..... 7

CHAPTER 2 FUND SOURCE OVERVIEW ..... 8

CHAPTER 3 FUND SOURCE DESCRIPTION ..... 9

    Criminal Justice Information Sharing Funds ..... 9

    Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council (DVSCC) ..... 9

    Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) ..... 10

    Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) ..... 11

    Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)..... 12

    Methamphetamine Initiative (METH)..... 12

    Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants (Coverdell)..... 12

    Project Safe Neighborhoods..... 12

    Re-entry from Prison or Jail Funds..... 13

    Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)..... 14

    S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula Grants (STOP)..... 15

    Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)..... 16

CHAPTER 4 INNOVATIVE PROJECTS ..... 18

    Restorative Justice..... 18

    Human Trafficking..... 18

    Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)..... 19

    Public Defender Social Worker Program..... 19

    Trauma Re-Entry Program – Freedom Inside by the YWCA Knoxville and the Tennessee Valley ..... 20

    Innovations in Narcotic Analysis ..... 21

    Outcome Information ..... 22

CHAPTER 5 MONITORING ..... 23

    Monitoring Overview ..... 23

    Summary of Findings..... 23

    Monitoring Summary..... 24

CHAPTER 6 FISCAL UNIT..... 25

SUMMARY ..... 25

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 funds related to criminal justice and services to victims. OCJP utilizes strategic program management, a structured process that looks three to five years ahead of daily grants management activities to identify the changing needs of Tennessee's justice system and the needs of its victims of violent crime. OCJP tracks problems surfacing in the criminal justice system, monitors trends in Tennessee's communities, assesses the condition of the state's resources, and measures the recent performance of OCJP-funded programs. To address crime and victimization in Tennessee, OCJP manages a systematic, year-round cycle for determining the communities' needs, identifying the justice system's problems, setting program priorities, making grant allocation decisions, managing those funded projects, and evaluating the results of those decisions.

In January 2019, Governor Bill Lee became the 50<sup>th</sup> Governor of Tennessee. Governor Lee signed Executive Order 6, Establishing the Tennessee Criminal Justice Investment Task Force (CJITF). Director Jennifer Brinkman attends meetings of the CJITF. The Task Force will be releasing recommendations in December of 2019, which will impact OCJP's 2020 strategic planning. OCJP looks forward to working with Governor Lee's administration priorities, one of which aligns with OCJP's mission, Public Safety & Criminal Justice Reform, to promote the safety and security of Tennesseans.

The annual subrecipient grant management training occurred in July 2019. This training brings together newly funded subrecipients, subrecipients that have been longtime receivers of OCJP funding, and OCJP staff. The day-long training introduces subrecipients to the OCJP Grants Manual and answers subrecipient questions about grant management. The purpose of this annual event is to strengthen subrecipients' knowledge of State and Federal funding requirements to ensure compliance with those requirements. The training also enhances the partnership between subrecipients and OCJP staff, which in turn assists with the programming that is offered with OCJP funding.

FY2019 saw an expansion of federal funding to OCJP. OCJP received Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) funding for each of Tennessee's grand divisions East, Middle, and West. PSN is designed to create and foster safer neighborhoods through a sustained reduction in violent crime, including, but not limited to, addressing criminal gangs and the felonious possession and use of firearms. The program is designed for ongoing coordination, cooperation, and partnerships of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve, engaged in a unified approach led by the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO). This new funding will provide much-needed grants to local law enforcement agencies across the state to combat violent crime.

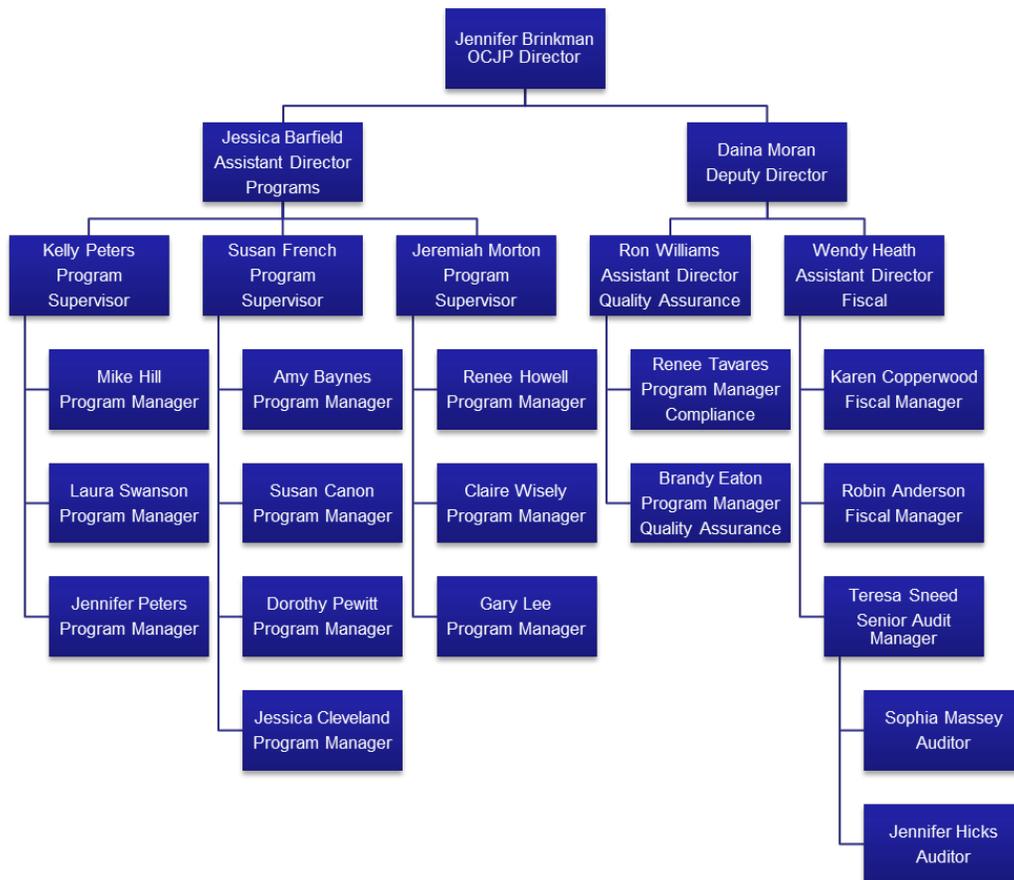
In FY 2019, OCJP was responsible for 24 different state and federal fund sources; approximately 390 grants totaling \$63,659,220.00 in funding to various State Departments, local governments, and non-profit agencies for criminal justice and victim service grants.

The focus of the funding provided by the Office of Criminal Justice Programs centered on the following themes:

- Promoting evidence-based programs/strategies in criminal justice approaches and direct victim services to ensure victim safety and offender accountability;
- Promoting a multidisciplinary team approach to a coordinated community response to address domestic violence, sexual assault, crimes against children and to improve the criminal justice system's response to crime;
- Promoting data-driven funding decisions based on population, crime rate, service availability, and regional topography;
- Continuation and expansion of training opportunities for professionals in the criminal justice and victim services fields;
- Supporting Multijurisdictional Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces and Gang Task Forces to decrease drug trafficking, human trafficking and gang violence throughout the State;

- Supporting local law enforcement through equipment and technology grants to enhance their ability to combat crime;
- Improving technology to enhance the quality, completeness, and accessibility of criminal history record information (including purchasing new Livescan machines), continued improvements to the Tennessee Instant Check System (TICS), the ongoing development of the technology for automated case judgments, improvements to the TN State Automated Victim Information Notification (SAVIN) program, as well as, piloting a GPS project to track domestic violence offenders;
- Continuing and expanding victim service programs, including: domestic violence programs; sexual assault programs; child advocacy centers; victim-witness coordinators; legal aids; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); human trafficking; and elder abuse projects; and
- Expanding victim services in the areas of restorative justice initiative, reaching underserved populations and culturally specific victims.

# OCJP ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

## **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.*

## **OCJP STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**

Foremost in assisting OCJP to determine avenues of funding for state and local entities is Strategic Planning - one of the core functions of OCJP. To address crime and victimization in Tennessee, OCJP manages a systematic, year-round cycle for determining the communities' needs, identifying the justice system's problems, setting program priorities, making grant allocation decisions, managing those funded projects, and evaluating the results of those decisions.

Strategic program management is a structured process that looks three to five years ahead of daily grants management activities at the changing needs of Tennessee's justice system. OCJP tracks problems surfacing in the criminal justice system, monitors trends in Tennessee's communities, assesses the condition of the state's resources, and measures the recent performance of OCJP-funded programs. In FY19, the Director of OCJP also attended meetings of the Tennessee Criminal Justice Investment Task Force to assist with planning decisions.

Additionally, OCJP convenes a group of experts in the field of criminal justice to help determine the greatest need and possible approaches. This stakeholder focus group consists of Sheriffs, Chiefs of Police, District Attorneys General, Public Defenders, judges, criminal justice practitioners, and victim advocates. These roundtable members represent all three grand divisions of the state as well as urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state. This information helps OCJP focus its future program descriptions, set its funding priorities, prepare its budget requests, and direct its limited resources into areas that promise the best return for the public's investment.

With the completion of the decision-making process for allocation of funds, OCJP distributes notification of funding intent, then canvases the state for both local and state-level submitted projects that appear to be a fit for the program models that have been determined to meet the needs of Tennessee. The projects are reviewed, by a team of criminal justice professionals and other stakeholders, to assure that the very best submitted project applications will then receive a chance for funding.

## **GRANTS MANAGEMENT**

Funded projects are then monitored (which includes an agency site visit) by OCJP program staff. Contacts frequently occur throughout the agency's funding period to assist them (if necessary) in maintaining their stated goals and objectives as originally agreed upon in their contract(s) with OCJP. Quarterly and annual data-driven reports are required to ensure the previously established outputs and outcomes are being tracked and outcomes, as indicated in the grant, are being met.

These reports reflect any impact the program may be having on the intended problem area. Any continuation of agency funding is based on all agreed-upon performance measurements being met.

## ***EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING***

In today's fiscal climate where federal, state and local funds are fluctuating, and agencies are continually being asked to do more (often without increased funding), it is imperative to ensure that scarce grant dollars are directed towards areas with the greatest needs and that those funds are utilized in such a way as to garner a positive outcome. Evidence-Based Programming is one way to attempt to affect such an outcome. Evidence-Based Programs have been researched and have a history of producing a positive change on the identified problem the program addresses. By strongly encouraging and at times requiring agencies to implement evidenced based projects and programs, OCJP increases the likelihood that the funding creates a positive impact on the issue at hand.

## ***LOOKING AHEAD***

The next sections of this report will provide greater detail regarding the types of state and federal funding received and disbursed by this office; examples of the projects funded and the impact of those on local communities, victims and their families, and the citizens of Tennessee. Finally, the Office of Criminal Justice Program's perspective on monitoring is defined, and a review of the outcomes of project monitoring is provided. The results of the program monitoring and fiscal reviews of grant-funded projects in one year provide an opportunity for increased technical assistance and training of the projects by the OCJP program managers in the next fiscal year.

## CHAPTER 2 FUND SOURCE OVERVIEW

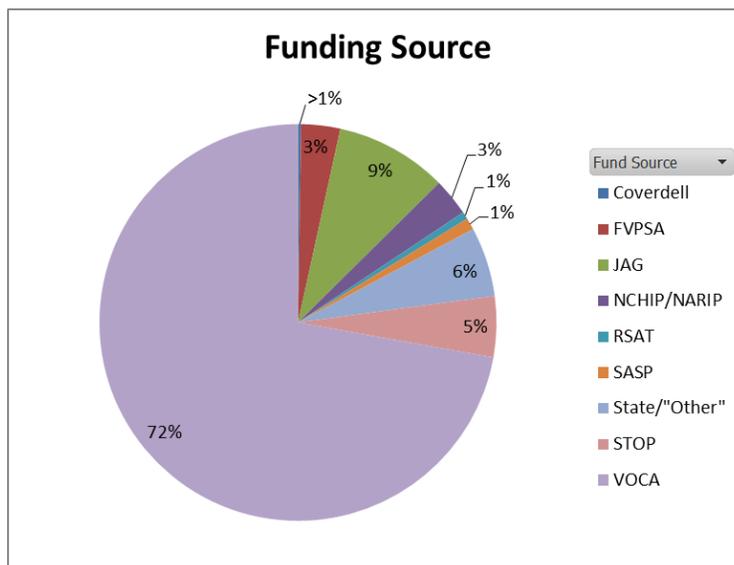
As a result of numerous funding sources, OCJP must stay abreast of the current funding climate at both the state and the federal level. This includes anticipating potential increases or decreases in funding and preparing for the impact of these changes at the local community level in order to best meet the public safety needs of Tennessee's citizens.

When planning the award of grants funds, OCJP looks to maximize opportunity, increase resource availability, and establish new programs in Tennessee that benefit the citizens. OCJP routinely reviews statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports, the Department of Justice, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and other State and Federal resources. OCJP gathers information from state and local experts to determine priorities. One example of a planning resource for the 2019 state fiscal year was the Criminal Justice Investment Task Force, which was established by Governor Lee. The Task Force is directed to develop legislative and budgetary recommendations over the course of the next two legislative sessions regarding: a) Addressing the growing fiscal and social costs of incarceration; b) Preventing crime, especially reducing recidivism; c) Punishing violent crime promptly and effectively; d) Revising sentencing guidelines and parole and probation standards; e) Preparing offenders for reentering society, including educational opportunities and technical job training; f) Addressing the mental health and substance use crises that plague our incarcerated population; and g) Equipping offenders' families and communities with tools to help released offenders become productive members of society.

Additionally, OCJP participates in a number of advisory committees, task forces, and specific issues committees and groups to gain insights into the pressing criminal justice issues and victim service needs which are plaguing local Tennessee communities and the State as a whole to further enhance annual strategic planning. Some of these groups include the Building Strong Brains Public Sector Group, the TN Vulnerable Adults CCR, TN's Dangerous Drugs Task Force; the Sexual Assault Services Working Group; the Family Violence Advisory Committee; and the Tennessee Chiefs of Police Association.

In fiscal year 2019, OCJP awarded a total of \$63,659,220.00 in funding, this included \$59,929,553.08 in Federal dollars and \$3,729,667.00 in State dollars. Additionally, \$12,107,404.00 in state and local community matching funds contributed to the projects.

### PERCENTAGE OF FUNDING BY ALL FUND SOURCES



## CHAPTER 3 *FUND SOURCE DESCRIPTION*

### Criminal Justice Information Sharing Funds

OCJP oversees two federal fund sources and one state fund source that assist with the upkeep and improvement of Tennessee's Criminal Justice Information Sharing systems. **The National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)** awards grant funds to States to help improve the Nation's safety and security by enhancing the quality, completeness, and accessibility of criminal history record information and by insuring the nationwide implementation of criminal justice and noncriminal justice background check systems. State funding from the **Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)** is used in conjunction with NCHIP funding to improve Tennessee's criminal history reporting. AFIS was established through TCA § 67- 4-606 (a) (12) which requires 2.3056% of litigation tax proceeds to be deposited in the state general fund for grants awarded and administered by OCJP. Automated fingerprint identification is the process of automatically matching one or many unknown fingerprints against a database of known and unknown prints. Automated fingerprint identification systems are primarily used by law enforcement agencies for criminal identification initiatives, such as identifying a person suspected of committing a crime or linking a suspect to other unsolved crimes. With NCHIP and AFIS funding, OCJP assists the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, other State Agencies and local law enforcement agencies to report required criminal history data to the Federal Government as required by law. As a part of that criminal justice information sharing, **NICS Act Records Improvement Program (NARIP)** seeks to address the gap in information available to NICS about such prohibiting mental health adjudications and commitments, and other prohibiting factors. The NICS<sup>1</sup> Improvement Amendments Act of 2007, Pub. L. 110-180 (NIAA or the Act), was signed into law on January 8, 2008, in the wake of the April 2007 shooting tragedy at Virginia Tech. Filling these information gaps will better enable the system to operate as intended to keep guns out of the hands of persons prohibited by federal or state law from receiving or possessing firearms. The automation of records will also reduce delays for law-abiding persons to purchase firearms.

### Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council (DVSCC)

The purpose of the Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council (DVSCC) is to increase awareness and understanding of domestic and family violence within the state. The DVSCC's responsibilities include: designing statewide policy for law enforcement and judicial response to domestic violence; designing training for law enforcement personnel across the state that focuses on the dynamics of domestic violence and the handling, investigation and response procedures concerning reports of domestic violence; and designing training for all judges and judicial personnel across the state that focuses on the dynamics of domestic violence and the handling and response procedures concerning allegations of domestic violence. Additionally, the DVSCC develops regulations for batterers' intervention programs and is the certifying body for these regulations. Membership is legislated by TCA §38-12-103 and meets quarterly.

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<sup>1</sup> NICS stands for National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS)

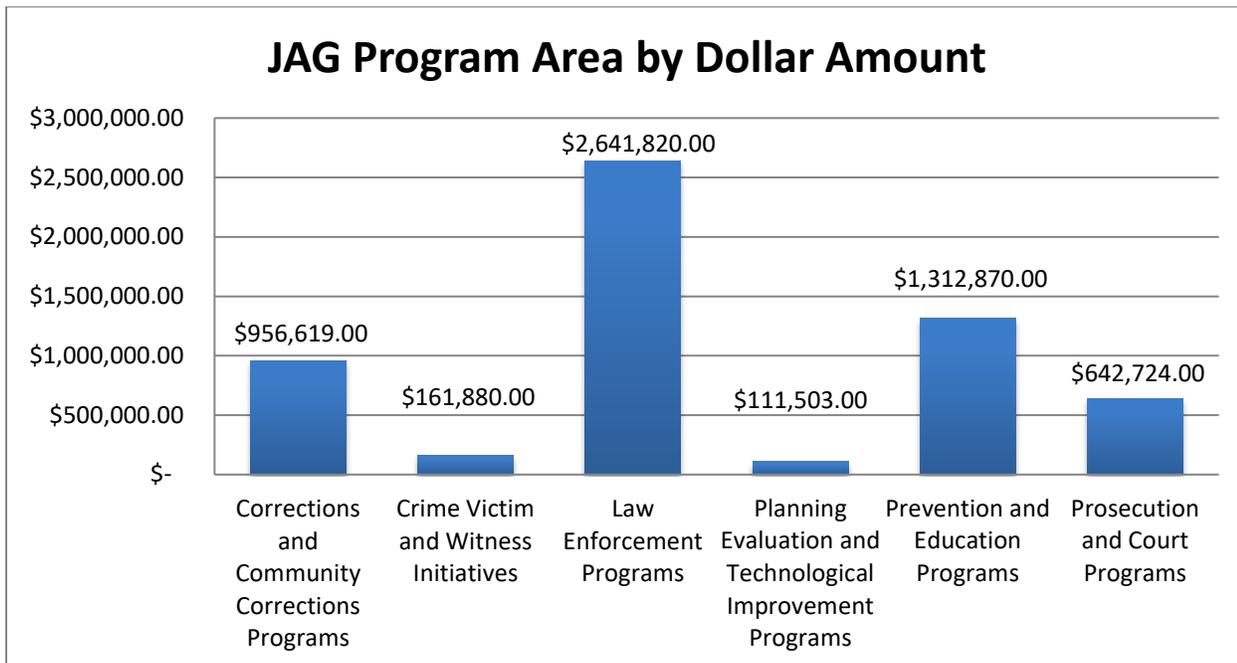
## Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

The purpose of the JAG Formula Grant Program is to counter the violent crime and the threat of violent crime that has seriously eroded the quality of life for all citizens. JAG formula grant programs are intended to allow states to broaden their strategies in addressing both drug and violent crime issues. Tennessee's JAG formula grant program is instrumental in addressing the priorities set forth by the Public Safety Subcabinet, providing funding for varied projects such as Family Justice Centers, Gang Task Forces, Training Professionals.

JAG grants support:

Law Enforcement  
Prosecution and Courts;  
Crime Prevention and Education;  
Corrections;  
Community Corrections;

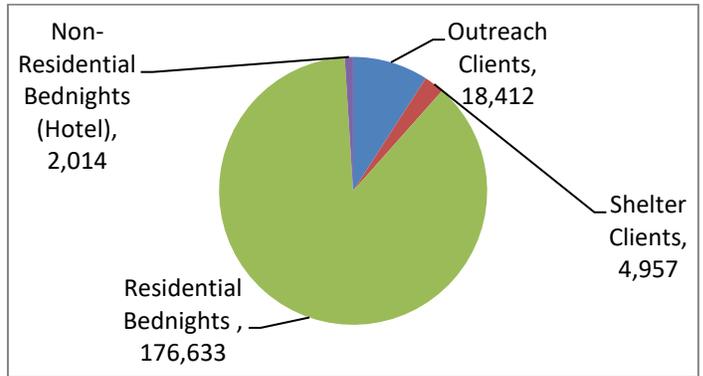
Drug Treatment and Enforcement;  
Planning and Evaluation;  
Technology Improvement, and;  
Crime Victim and Witness Programs



**Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) Grant**

The funding for Tennessee domestic violence programs comes from the federal fund source FVPSA, and three (3) legislated state funding sources. The State Family Violence Shelter (FVS) fund sources are: Original Marriage License Fee- TCA 67-4-411; Additional Marriage License Fee- TCA 36-6-413; and Defendant Fine- TCA 39-13-111. TCA 71-6-203 establishes an Advisory Committee on Family Violence Services. The committee consists of five members. The primary goal of the Advisory Committee is to provide input on the allocation of funds for Family Violence programs in Tennessee. The Advisory Committee helped develop the [Family Violence Shelter Standards](#), which are still guiding the family violence service providers today.

**Domestic Violence Shelter Services**

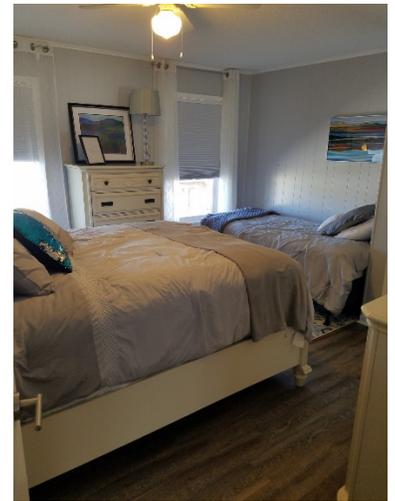


FVPSA supports programs that prevent incidents of family violence, domestic violence and dating violence. FVPSA Programs provide immediate shelter, supportive services and access to community-based programs for victims and their dependents.



*I couldn't be more thankful for all the help I was given from Haven House. You guys will always be the people who gave me a hand to reach out to, to pull me and my son out from the dark hold of desperation. You are that light that led me in that difficult time in my life.*

- Haven House Survivor



Photos courtesy of Ida's Place

In 2019, the OCJP and partnering agencies increased to a total of **678** beds in Tennessee; 89 more than in FY2018.

## **Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)**

The State of Tennessee Internet Crimes Against Children program awards grants to three Metropolitan Police Departments to establish, implement, and operate a statewide network of regional Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task forces. Funding from this program arises from a state appropriation. This state funded program is intended to support the national mission of the Department of Justice to help state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to cyber enticement and child pornography cases. This assistance encompasses forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community education. In FY19, State ICAC funds for the City of Knoxville, City of Memphis, and the Metro Government of Nashville & Davidson County allowed investigators to obtain continuing education in forensic data extractions for cellular devices, computers, tablets and other electronic devices. During Fiscal Year 2019, Tennessee's ICAC Units investigated thousands of crimes against children and made approximately 236 arrests for offenders involved in the sexual abuse of children.

## **Methamphetamine Initiative (METH)**

The Methamphetamine Initiative (METH) was created to address the impact of methamphetamine (Meth) use and production in Tennessee. This funding assists with the clean-up of the contaminated areas and the neutralization of dangerous contaminants. This funding increases awareness of the impact of the use of drugs on individuals, their children and families as a whole and it enhances services to assist drug endangered children. METH funding supports the Tennessee Authorized Central Storage Program, implemented by the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force. In FY2019, there were 552 hazardous waste extractions (precursor chemicals, finished meth, seizures of methamphetamine and laboratory dump seizures) from clan labs that were seized in Tennessee as reported via the Tennessee Drug Investigation Intelligence Integrated system (TDI3). The DEA hazardous waste contractor removed hazardous waste from the ACS containers 4 times across the state during the reporting period. In FY19, 40 local Tennessee officers in the state were able to attend DEA Level A school; 16 attended an ACS Certification/Training; and 321 local Basic Clandestine Laboratory Certified officers received Basic Clan Lab Re-Certification.

## **Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants (Coverdell)**

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program (Coverdell) awards grants to States and units of local government 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.

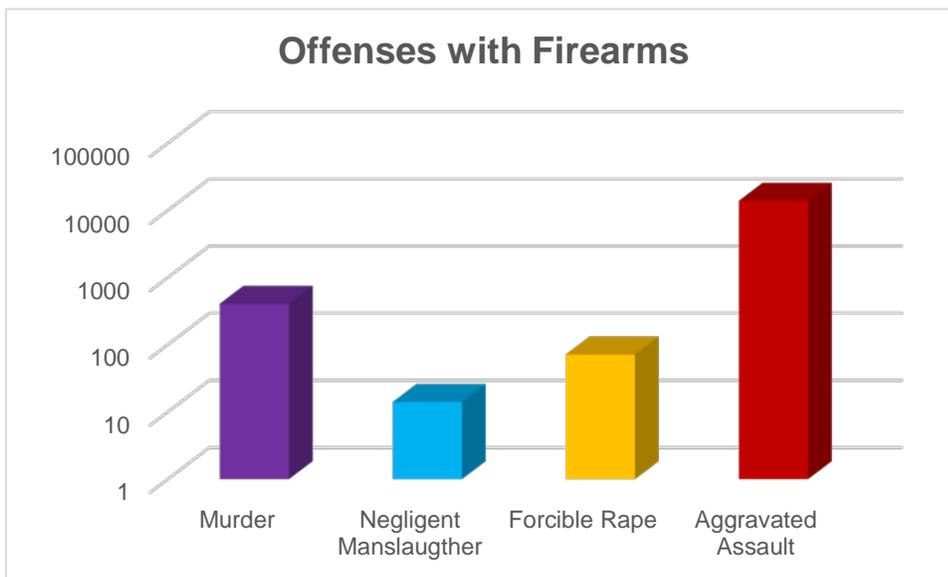
## **Project Safe Neighborhoods Grants**



Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is federal discretionary funding designed to create and foster safer neighborhoods through a sustained reduction in violent crime. The program's effectiveness depends upon the ongoing coordination, cooperation, and partnerships of local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies working together with the communities they serve, engaged in a unified approach led by the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) in each of Tennessee's three grand divisions. Acting decisively in a coordinated manner at all levels; federal, state, local, and tribal, will help sustain recently achieved reductions in crime and keep communities safe. PSN provides the critical funding, resources, and training for PSN teams, including law enforcement, prosecutors, community groups, researchers, and others, to combat violent crime and make their

communities safer through a comprehensive approach to public safety that marries targeted law enforcement efforts with community engagement, prevention, and reentry efforts.

A solicitation was issued for new PSN projects in East, Middle, and West Tennessee in FY19. Programs are scheduled to start in the fall and winter of FY2020.



**Chart Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, 2018 data:**

<https://crimeinsight.tbi.tn.gov/public/View/disview.aspx>

### **Re-entry from Prison or Jail Funds**

OCJP administers one Federal and one State fund source to assist individuals with a successful re-entry from prison or jail to the community. The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 established a program of federal grants administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. This program, known as **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT)**, assists states and units of local government in developing and implementing residential substance abuse treatment programs within State and local correctional and detention facilities. OCJP awards these funds to Tennessee Department of Correction to be facilitated in two Correctional Facilities: West Tennessee State Penitentiary and Morgan County Correctional Complex, providing just over 300 treatment. In FY19, 390 participants had enrolled in the program. State funds for re-entry services are provided thru the **Ignition Interlock System Program**. In FY 2010, TCA § 55-10-403 was expanded by enhancing the penalty for violations of §55-10-401 through §55-10-404 and providing a portion of the fees assessed to be transmitted to the Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Criminal Justice Programs. The funds OCJP administers support halfway houses whose primary focus is to assist drug and alcohol offenders. OCJP supported one program with these funds in FY19, Mending Hearts. In FY2019, Mending Hearts has provided 81 beds in safe and secure halfway housing for 115 women offenders at Mending Hearts. During this time period, 99 women have remained in the recovery program past 6 months.

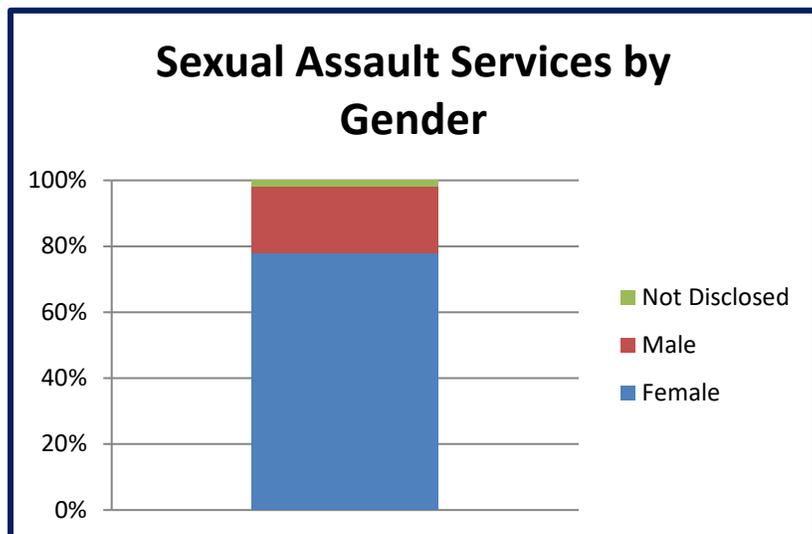
## Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Grant

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) was created by the Violence Against Women Act 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.

In addition to federal funds, OCJP utilizes State Sexual Assault funds to supplement federal funds. The state sexual assault collection fund is legislated by TCA 40-24-108 and is funded from proceeds from a fine imposed on those convicted of a sexual offense. TCA 71-6-303 establishes an advisory committee, consisting of five members. The committee makes recommendations as to the allocation of funds under the sexual assault fund collections.

A victim of sexual assault recently said of her therapy at Helen Ross McNabb, “EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) has played a huge part in the processing of my traumas, and my therapist is phenomenal. This agency and the people I have worked with have been so understanding, considerate, and compassionate, and this has helped me to live a better-quality life.”

*“A client of ours was emotionally, physically, and sexually abused by her husband (a trafficker). This client had been planning her getaway for some time, but she had a daughter which made escape difficult. While at shelter, she received legal assistance, counseling, and specific assistance that helped her regain her sense of self sufficiency.” – Genesis House Employee*

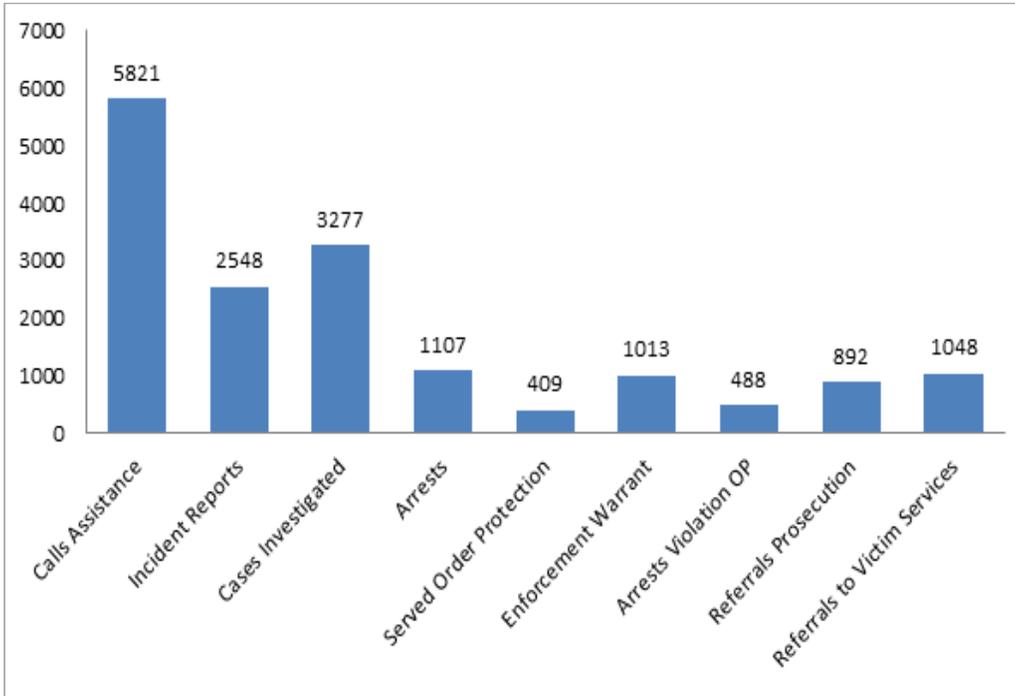


SASP funding allows the Avalon Center to provide a high level of trauma informed services. We are able to provide extensive crisis intervention, safety planning, court advocacy, employment and financial advocacy, education on the dynamics of sexual assault, professional counseling, support groups, emergency crisis line, emergency shelter, child and youth programs, and a Legal Advice Clinic. ◀  
- Avalon Center Employee

**S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula (STOP) Grant**

STOP Grants promote a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. This approach envisions a partnership among law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, victim advocates and service providers to ensure victim safety and offender accountability. STOP funding is included in the Violence Against Women Act, which was reauthorized in 2013. STOP funding is divided into projects in the following categories: Victim Services; Law Enforcement; Prosecution; and Court.

**Law Enforcement Calls and Responses  
(DV/SA Combined)**

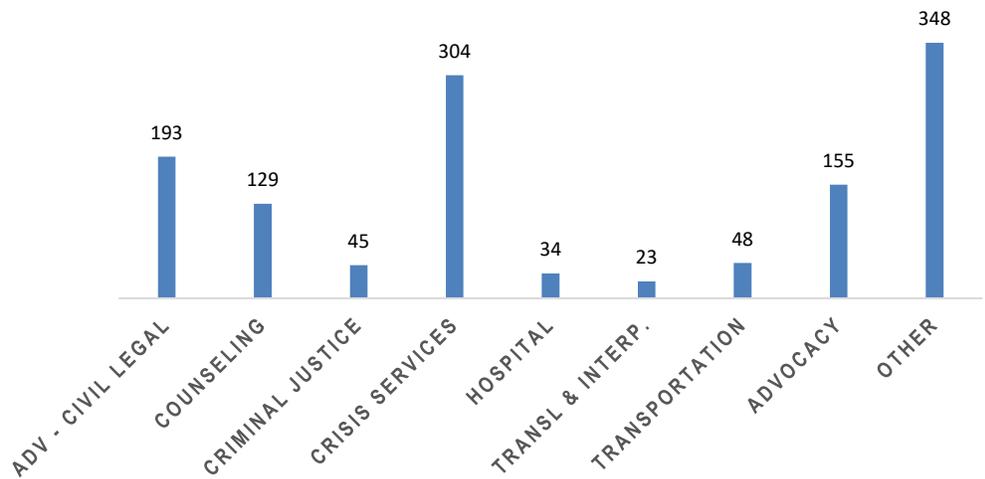


Additionally, STOP funds were used to bring training and awareness to college campuses in Tennessee. The Sexual Assault Center travelled across the state in continued partnership with the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police to bring sexual assault training to colleges and universities. Training dollars were also used by the Sexual Assault Center to develop a regional peer support training group to bring service providers together to collaborate on future training.

**FY 2019 STOP Facts:**

- 187 trainings conducted
- 4,617 participants trained
- 3,250 Law Enforcement personnel trained
- **47 positions** funded to assist victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking throughout Tennessee

**VICTIMS SERVED WITH STOP FUNDS**



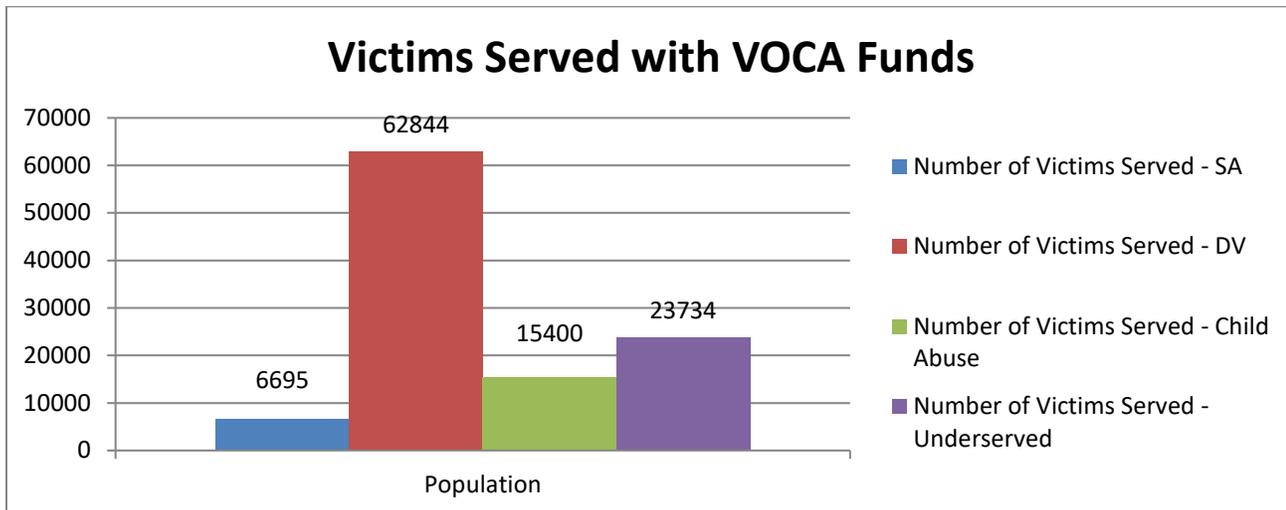
## Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant

In 1984, VOCA established the Crime Victims Fund in the U.S. Treasury and authorized the Fund to receive deposits of fines and penalties levied against criminals convicted of federal crimes. The Department of Justice is responsible for the distribution of the funds, which are collected by U.S. Attorney's Offices, U.S. Courts, and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. This Fund provides the source of funding for all activities authorized by VOCA. The purpose of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is to provide high quality services that directly improve the health and well-being of victims of crime with priority given to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and services for previously underserved victims.

The Office for Crime Victims (OVC) makes annual VOCA crime victim assistance grants from the Fund to states.

*The Madison County Sheriff's Office VA (Victim Advocate)...has assisted me throughout this whole process. I had others telling me that I should just stop everything, and "continue to protect my abuser" by making sure his career would stay intact because it (was) financially better for me and this was making (me) feel further victimized. However, the VA did not tell me that I had to do anything. The VA has only encouraged me, informed me, and stood by my side throughout all of this and I know that the VA will continue to be a support to me throughout the rest of my fight for justice.-Domestic Violence Victim and Client of Madison County Sheriff's Office*

VOCA funds are used to support many different types of agencies – from District Attorneys' Offices, shelter agencies, human trafficking services agencies, sexual assault agencies, child advocacy centers and law enforcement agencies.



Two state fund sources, [Victim Assistance Academy \(Senator Tommy Burks\)](#) and [Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Program](#) are state funded continuation projects that started with Federal VOCA discretionary funding. The purpose of the Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy is to improve services to victims of all types of crime by providing a comprehensive, basic-level victim assistance curriculum and training program to victim services providers and allied professionals. The week-long Academy offers a Tennessee-specific 40-hour curriculum modeled after the National Victim Assistance Academy.

The Tennessee Statewide Automated Victim Information Notification (SAVIN) program is responsible for ensuring victim notification and providing immediate and accurate information concerning the movement of offenders in county jails. The TN SAVIN program is funded through TCA § 67-4- 602. OCJP is the designated state office to administer funds collected and annually issues a grant to finance the TN SAVIN project. The Tennessee Sheriff's Association (TSA) is charged with the statutory duty of administering the notification program.

In FY 2019 TN-VINE recorded more than 2,201,059 total offender searches and provided approximately 946,179 offender updates to registered users. Throughout the year staff from the Tennessee Sheriff's Association provide trainings and updates for all SAVIN agencies as their administrative staff. This year the project conducted more than thirteen different meetings across the state which provided updates to approximately 2,372 individuals.

## CHAPTER 4 INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

On occasion, OCJP has the exciting opportunity to afford funding towards innovative, evidence-based projects. These projects have the ability to increase Tennessee's capacity to serve victims of crime and impact the operations and efforts of the criminal justice system. Many of these types of projects are highly collaborative and provide foundational efforts for statewide replication.

### Restorative Justice Projects

In FY 2019, OCJP became one of the first states to fund Restorative Justice projects through VOCA funding. The goal of this solicitation is to support restorative justice approaches that engage multiple systems to promote healing for victims. Projects were to be focused on juvenile restorative justice projects, voluntary and victim centered with priority given to programs utilizing evidence-based models. Projects are highly collaborative and include entities from the criminal justice system, victim services, and/or community-based service programs.

Funds were awarded to three agencies: Raphah Institute, Nashville Conflict Resolution Center, You Have the Power...Know How to Use It, for a total funding amount of over \$1,000,000 over 3 years.

### Human Trafficking Projects

OCJP used VOCA funding to support 5 agencies' work to combat human trafficking in FY19; End Slavery TN (Nashville), Second Life TN (Chattanooga), Memphis Leadership Foundation (Memphis) and Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking (Knoxville) Seventh Well (Chattanooga) to provide:

Photo  
courtesy of  
Memphis  
Leadership  
Foundation



- **Immediate Health and Safety Services** which respond to the immediate emotional and physical needs, such as crisis intervention; accompaniment to hospitals for medical examinations; crisis line counseling; emergency food, clothing, transportation and shelter.
- **Mental Health Assistance** providing support services to victims to better understand the dynamics of victimization and to stabilize their lives through counseling, group treatment and therapy.
- **Advocacy in Criminal Justice Proceedings** on behalf of human trafficking victims including: accompaniment to criminal justice offices and court; transportation to court; notification of victims regarding trial dates; case disposition information and parole consideration proceedings; restitution advocacy; and assistance with victim impact statements.

## Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) VOCA Project

Through VOCA grant funding via the OCJP, MADD Tennessee has been able to provide free direct support services to Tennessee residents who are either primary or secondary victims, or who have been affected by the sudden, violent death and/or injury of a loved one caused by an impaired driving crash. Comprehensive services provided consist of a detailed assessment of the victim's needs, empathetic listening and emotional support, support groups, referral services, opportunities to participate in the criminal justice process, and support information for the family members who are directly affected as requested by the victim. Last year MADD Tennessee provided support services to more than 390 victims and their families who have been impacted by an impaired driver through 2,223 services.

In addition to support services for primary and secondary victims, MADD Tennessee also provides services to the community. Last year MADD Tennessee:

- Presented information to the Tennessee District Attorney Generals' Conference to better prepare officials when faced with grieving family members.
- Conducted death notification training for law enforcement, emergency medical personnel, and members of the clergy.
- Conducted one Victim Advocacy Training Institute (VATI) training.
- Assisted families in the placement of three memorial signs along roadways in Tennessee in honor of victims killed as a result of impaired driving crashes.
- Honored and remembered victims of substance impaired driving and underage drinking through a candlelight vigil ceremony.



## Public Defender Social Worker Program

In FY 2019, OCJP opened a pilot project solicitation, using JAG monies, to hire social workers in the public defender's office in order to provide offenders with informed, evidence-based rehabilitative programs to decrease recidivism. Three Public Defenders Offices, one in each Grand Division of the state, adopted a "whole patient" approach by integrating social workers into their offices. Programs focused on

assessment, referral and linkage to informed, evidence-based programs and support both during incarceration and in the community. The approach works to seek justice while working to reduce recidivism and empower clients to be healthy and productive members of their communities.

Funds were awarded to three agencies: Public Defender Judicial District 26, Madison County; Public Defender Judicial District 9, Roane County; Public Defender Judicial District 21, Williamson County for a total funding amount of \$585,000.00 over 3 years.

Combined, these programs reported assisting over 200 clients. Individuals reported receiving more access to residential treatment facilities, detox facilities, therapeutic resources, and community support groups. The social workers also worked with the attorneys on an alternative to incarceration plan. The social workers held weekly appointments with the individuals to conduct bio-psycho social assessments, drug and alcohol screenings, psychiatric rating scales, and adverse childhood experiences assessments. These needs-based assessments allow the attorneys and social workers to develop client specific recommendations to the judge hearing the case.

### **Trauma Re-Entry Program – Freedom Inside by the YWCA Knoxville and the Tennessee Valley**

YWCA Knoxville and the Tennessee Valley's VOCA-funded re-entry and recidivism program, Freedom Inside, provides evidence-based programming and support services for female inmates in the Roger D. Wilson Detention Facility in Knox County who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. Working with jail staff to identify eligible women at least six weeks before their exit from jail, YWCA staff members provide trauma-focused support groups, one-on-one case management, clinical oversight and therapeutic groups, and exit planning. Both before and after their exit from jail, clients work with staff to identify their goals, locate housing and employment, and navigate post-release criminal justice system requirements while focused on addressing trauma.



Many Freedom Inside clients need ongoing support related to their experience of domestic and/or sexual violence and upon their exit choose to attend YWCA Victim Advocacy Program support groups for victims and survivors. YWCA's Keys of Hope Women's Program was founded in 1901 and provides supportive transitional housing for women who would otherwise be homeless. OCJP-administered VOCA funds allow the YWCA to subsidize housing and utility costs for Freedom Inside clients until they can locate work and earn a meaningful wage, and to provide transition essentials, access to transportation, and basic needs supplies. The YWCA is a provider of recovery support and relapse prevention programming through the State of Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, providing Addiction Recovery Program (ARP) from its downtown location. Freedom Inside was launched in 2017 and has served 180 women, with a two-year recidivism rate of <10%.

## Innovations in Narcotic Analysis

Tennessee is among the hardest-hit states when it comes to the opioid epidemic. As part of OCJP's mission to support the state's criminal justice infrastructure, grant funds were provided to the state's judicial drug task forces to purchase handheld narcotics analyzers. The spectroscopic analyzers allow drug agents to analyze the molecular content of substances in sealed containers to determine whether or not the substance is one of more than 450 suspected controlled substances with a single test.



**TruNarc Spectroscopic Analyzer**

This field-test permits agents to quickly determine if a material is a controlled substance allowing them to sometimes bypass the more lengthy scientific tests on unknown matter conducted at the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. The device has a secondary benefit of allowing agents to analyze unknown substances within their sealed containers which greatly reduces their risk of exposure to hazardous substances such as fentanyl which can reportedly be lethal to human beings in quantities as low as 2 mg<sup>2</sup>.

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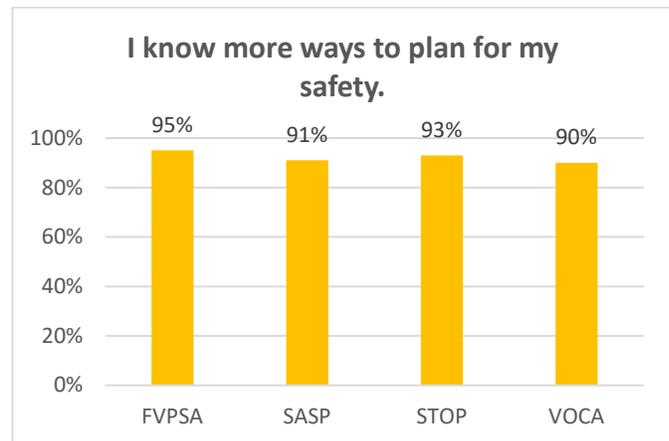
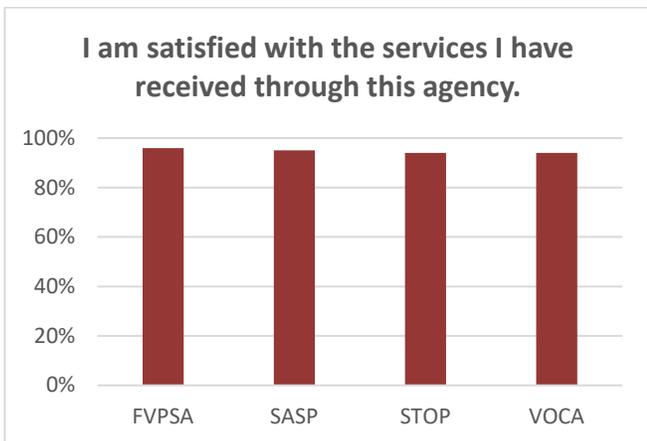
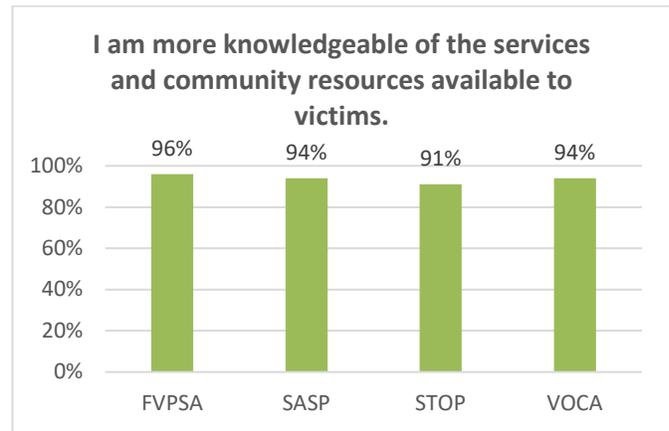
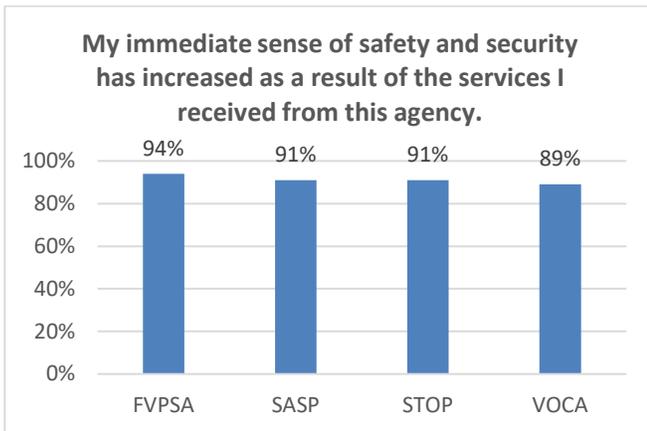
<sup>2</sup> <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drug-profiles/fentanyl>

## Outcome Information

OCJP requires subgrantees to formally survey clients for feedback on the services they receive. The client surveys are required to have three standard outcome measures, choose at least one optional measure, and add as many additional measures as the subgrantee chooses. The surveys capture the outcome measure using a Likert scale: (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree). They measure increases in safety and security, increases in knowledge about victim services, and the client's satisfaction with the services they received. In addition, all OCJP funded Domestic Violence shelters are required to measure a client's improved ability to plan for safety.

Because a client is vulnerable and often in a crisis when receiving services from an OCJP funded agency, the agency has the discretion to determine the appropriate time to ask the client to complete a survey. The clients are encouraged to complete the survey to assist the agency with process improvement but are **not** required to do so.

In FY19, outcome measures indicate OCJP funding is having a positive impact on the victims/clients served in Tennessee.



## CHAPTER 5 MONITORING

### Monitoring

Monitoring is the review process used to determine a subrecipient's compliance with the requirements of a state and/or federal program, applicable laws and regulations, and stated results and outcomes. Monitoring also includes the review of internal controls to determine if the financial management and the accounting system are adequate to account for program funds in accordance with state and/or federal requirements. Monitoring should result in the identification of areas of non-compliance with the expectation that corrective action will be taken to ensure compliance.

The OCJP Program Management unit is responsible for performing program monitoring activities in accordance with 2 CFR 200 - Uniform Guidance (Electronic) issued by the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Tennessee Department of General Services, Policy 2013-007, to ensure that Federal and State awards are used for authorized purposes in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements and performance goals are achieved. The Fiscal Unit is responsible for performing monitoring financial procedures and activities. In addition to state and/or federal program specific monitoring requirements, the Quality Assurance/Compliance Unit oversees all monitoring activities.

### Monitoring Overview

The purpose of OCJP Monitoring is to determine contracted agencies' compliance by:

- ✓ Adhering to 2 CFR 200 - Uniform Guidance, Department of Justice Financial Guide, and all related supplemental guidance and special conditions.
- ✓ Adhering to Policy 2013-007 requirements,
- ✓ Adhering to contract requirements,
- ✓ Adhering to the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Grants Manual requirements, and
- ✓ Working with program staff in fulfilling the requirements of the review.

And to support the OCJP mission by:

- ✓ Providing some level of technical assistance,
- ✓ Achieving improved sub-recipient grant implementation, and
- ✓ Sharing in OCJP outcomes as an integral part of its success.

The Assistant Director; Quality Assurance provides oversight of the monitoring function. Monitoring is performed by Program Managers and Fiscal Monitors, who review implementation of the grant funded project, including activities performed with grant funds and expenses incurred by the grant.

### Summary of Findings

In FY 2019, OCJP monitored 141 criminal justice and victim service agencies with 212 contracts to ensure compliance with state and federal grant requirements. This represented 54% of the total number of contracts and 53% of the total dollar amount of available grant funds. There were 177 findings of non-compliance and 18 observations for improvement. This is compared to 103 agencies with 143 contracts with 216 findings and 19 observations in 2018. **See Chart (next page):**

	FY 2018	FY 2019
Number of Agencies Monitored	103	141
Number of Contracts Monitored	143	212
Number of Findings	216	177
Number of Observations	19	18

### Monitoring Summary

In FY2019 the findings and observations reflect improvement in compliance from FY2018 with board and project director oversight, as well as, personnel and client file administration. The increase in the number of contracts and subrecipients monitored do not correlate to an increase in findings. Subrecipient trainings and resources provided throughout the year substantially increased subrecipient understanding of state and federal requirements. Feedback received from agencies indicates overall satisfaction with the monitoring process, the professionalism of the program and fiscal monitors, and the manner in which they conduct monitoring.

Subrecipient agencies are required to submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for findings and observations within 30 calendar days after the report is issued. The CAP must outline strategies to correct the specific finding(s) and observation(s) as well as, avoid findings of similar nature in the future.

Program managers are responsible for ensuring receipt of an acceptable CAP and approving it timely. In addition, program staff use information gathered during the monitoring visits and the findings summary to identify areas for training and technical assistance during the year. This information may also be taken into consideration in the application process. It is critical for agencies to align with the OCJP strategic plan and prove capable of providing quality programs to their clients and beneficiaries to receive funding. The monitoring process, including receipt and approval of acceptable CAPs, helps improve the system of criminal justice and victim service agencies for the State of Tennessee. A concerted effort by program and fiscal staff to hold agencies accountable for programs/projects that benefit their communities will help OCJP realize its goal of working for a safer Tennessee.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### ***FISCAL UNIT***

During the past fiscal year, there were several internal process changes made to help strengthen fiscal oversight and subrecipient compliance. OCJP added additional review of financial information submitted to the office; a pre-award fiscal risk assessment of new agencies prior to contract; and a monthly contract reconciliation process that is shared with the program unit and all of leadership. This was all to ensure compliance in administration of the Federal and State awards. The addition of these tasks aid OCJP in ensuring projects are properly implemented and comply with fiscal requirements.

OCJP had several audits and site visits conducted in FY 2019. These included the conclusion of the review by the federal Office of Inspector General, OIG, (which began in the prior year); Office of Chief Financial Officer, OCFO, and several federal programmatic site visits and desk reviews; and OCJP was a part of the TN Department of Finance and Administration's Sunset Audit. As with any audit or review, there were opportunities for OCJP to share all the positive work that is done to be good stewards of State and Federal funding and to enhance its procedures and practices.

### **SUMMARY**

The mission of the Office of Criminal Justice Programs is to function as a strategic planning agency that secures, distributes and manages federal and state funds for Tennessee while collaborating with other public and non-profit agencies to leverage these funds with other state and local resources to implement innovative projects to reduce crime, provide services for victims of crime and promote the overall enhancement of the criminal justice system in Tennessee.

In furtherance of this mission, OCJP implements a rigorous strategic planning process that includes continued collaboration with Federal, State, and Local stakeholders to provide the very best decision-making process to identify needs, gaps in services, potential funding streams, and best practices in program development, implementation and evaluation.

As stewards of these funds, OCJP staff maintains the highest standards of grants management through extensive technical assistance, grant monitoring, output and outcome reporting and program evaluation. OCJP staff continues to work with the Federal agencies to draw down criminal justice and victim services formula funds as well as securing competitive grant funds. These Federal funds along with several State appropriated and fee-based funding sources allow OCJP to direct funding to the areas with the greatest need as determined from the strategic planning process. By directing its limited resources into areas that promise the best return for the public's investment, OCJP continues to positively impact the lives of citizens. The planning and management of these State and Federal funds improves the quality of life for all Tennesseans by helping achieve OCJP's vision of a safer Tennessee.

*A special thank you to OCJP staff who assisted in completing this annual report: Program Managers: Amy Baynes, Susan Canon, Brandy Eaton, Gary Lee, Dorothy Pewitt, Laura Swanson, and Renee Tavares. OCJP leadership appreciates Jason Smith's final review and editing, which made the final format of this report more succinct.*