



Department of
Finance &
Administration

Office of Criminal Justice Programs Annual Report FY 2019/2020

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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 victim services. 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 2019, Governor Bill Lee signed Executive Order 6, establishing the Tennessee Criminal Justice Investment Task Force (CJITF). In 2020, Director Jennifer Brinkman continued to attend meetings of the CJITF. The Task Force released its first recommendations in December of 2019, which will be included in OCJP's fiscal year 2021 strategic planning.

While OCJP was implementing the strategic plan for fiscal year 2020, the pandemic struck, and OCJP was called to action to expedite additional funding to respond to COVID-19. OCJP implemented grants for hospitals, victim services agencies and criminal justice agencies. In addition to providing funding, many federal grant regulations were relaxed due to the pandemic and OCJP regularly communicated these changes with Tennessee subrecipients. OCJP hosted conference calls and implemented surveys to learn about emerging needs from the pandemic.

As part of the office annual training plan, OCJP held the annual subrecipient grant management training in July 2019. The day-long training introduces subrecipients to the OCJP Grants Manual and answers subrecipient questions about grant oversight. The purpose of this annual event is to strengthen subrecipients' knowledge of State and Federal funding requirements to ensure compliance. The training also enhances the partnership between subrecipients and OCJP staff, which in turn enhances the programming that is offered with OCJP funding.

FY2020 saw an expansion of federal and state funding. State funding to support the newly created grant program in the area of Mental Health Transportation under TCA 33-6-406 as well as state funding which supported the state's hard-to-count census program were both new projects OCJP undertook. The federal Bureau of Justice Assistance provided federal funding from the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Fund and the Department of Health and Human Services provided Family Violence Prevention Services Act funding for the purpose of helping criminal justice and victims service agencies prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. OCJP also oversaw \$10 million in CAREs funding to local hospitals.

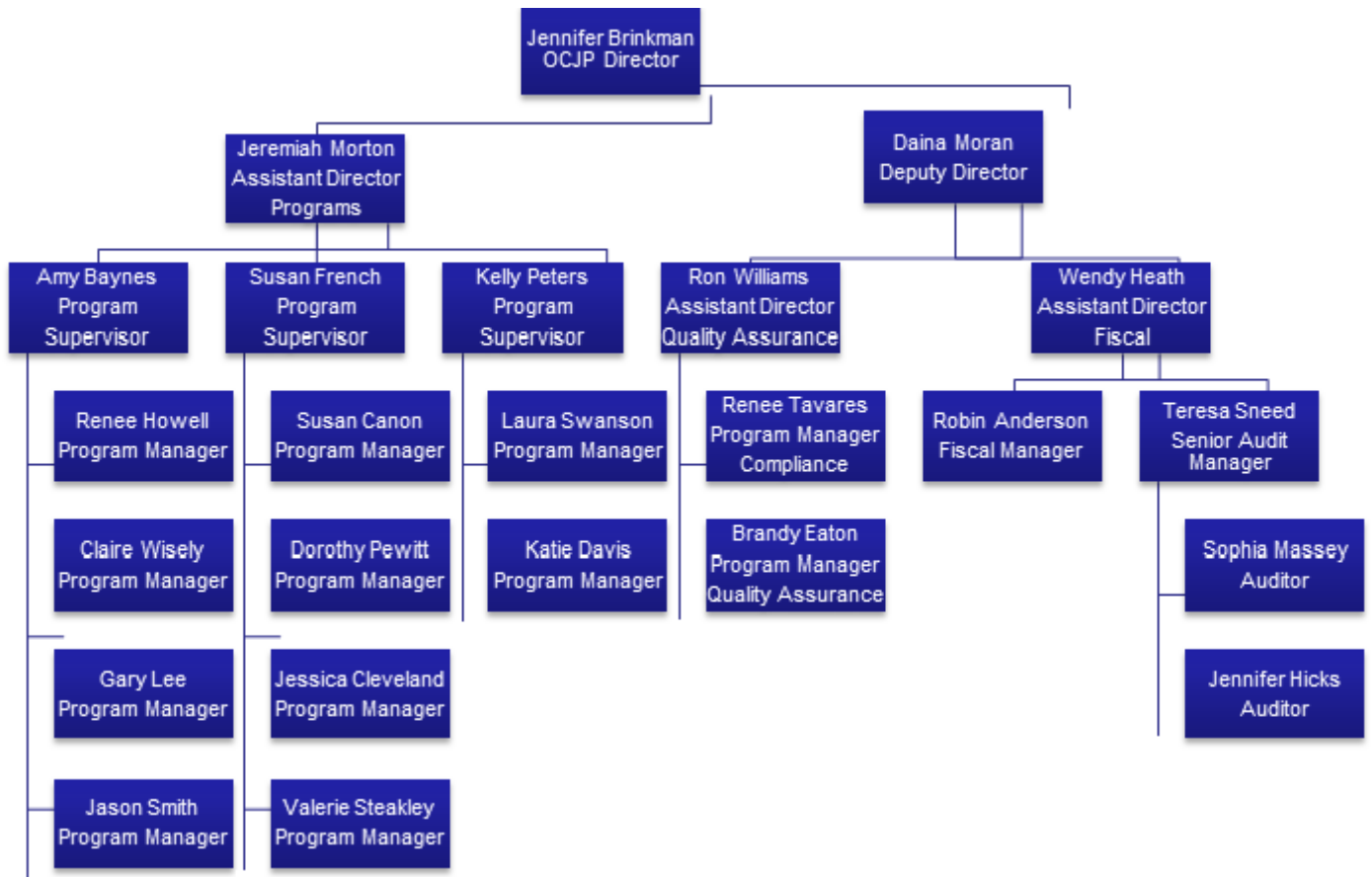
In FY 2020, OCJP distributed funding through approximately 430 grants totaling \$79,012,348.00 in funding to various State Departments, local governments, and non-profit agencies for criminal justice and victim service grants.

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.

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 monitored 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.

With the pandemic striking in fiscal year 2020, OCJP switched from onsite monitoring to desk reviews for all monitoring activities, which included using video technology to conduct interviews with project funded staff.

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.

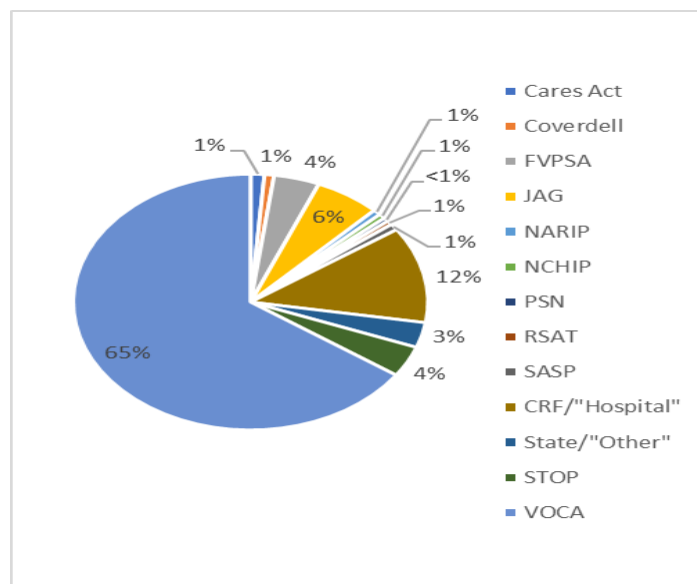
When planning the award of grants funds, OCJP looks to maximize opportunity, increase resource availability, and establish new programs in Tennessee that benefit the citizens. OCJP routinely reviews statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports, the Department of Justice, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and other State and Federal resources. OCJP gathers information from state and local experts to determine priorities.

In FY 2020 OCJP received additional state funding for the purpose of addressing specific priorities in the State of Tennessee during the year. These funds included an appropriation to support a new grant program established under TCA 33-6-406 to provide resources to local sheriff's offices for the transport of individuals needing psychiatric evaluation. One important goal of this project has been the development of policies which encourages funded law enforcement agencies to transport these individuals as patients and not as prisoners.

OCJP also received a one-time appropriation for the purposes of supporting Tennessee's hard-to-count census initiative. This funding was made available to local communities for the purpose of encouraging residents who are hesitant to respond or are unaware of the importance of responding to the census.

At the end of fiscal year 2020 the State of Tennessee was awarded Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance and Family Violence Prevention Services Act CAREs funding from the federal Department of Health and Human Services. This funding is available to the state in order to support criminal and victim service needs for preventing, preparing for, or responding to the coronavirus pandemic. OCJP has been working aggressively to grant this funding to state and local governments and domestic violence shelters in order to meet the needs of their constituents during the public health crisis.

In fiscal year 2020, OCJP awarded 431 contracts totaling of \$74,852,096.00 in federal funding and \$4,160,252.00 in state funding. Additionally, \$13,578,797.00 in state and local community matching funds contributed to the projects.



CHAPTER 3

FUND SOURCE DESCRIPTION

Criminal Justice Information Sharing Funds

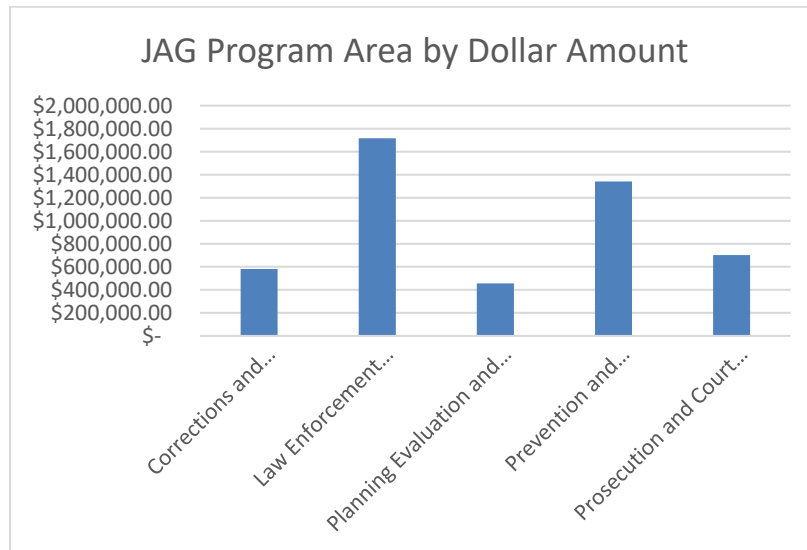
OCJP oversees two federal fund sources and one state fund source that assist with the upkeep and improvement of Tennessee's Criminal Justice Information Sharing systems. **The National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)** awards grant funds to States to help improve the Nation's safety and 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 **National Criminal Instant Background Check (NICS)** about such prohibiting mental health adjudications and commitments, and other prohibiting factors. The NICS 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.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

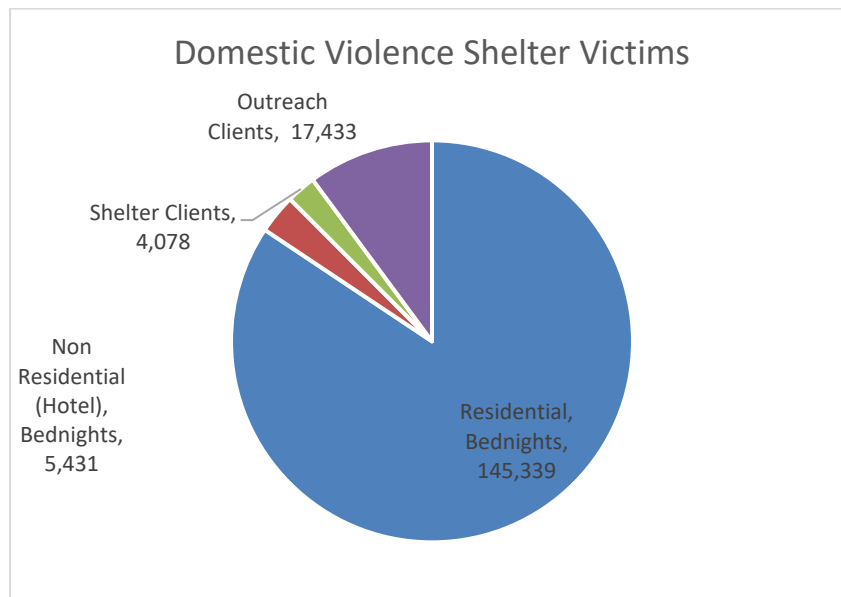
The purpose of the JAG Formula Grant Program is to counter the violent crime and the threat of violent crime that has seriously eroded the quality of life for all citizens. JAG formula grant programs are intended to allow states to broaden their strategies in addressing both drug and violent crime issues. 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, and Training Professionals. FY20 added the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) JAG Program to provide funding to assist state and local units of government in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus. The CESF Program is authorized by Division B of H.R. 748, Pub. L. No. 116-136 (Emergency Appropriations for Coronavirus Health Response and Agency Operations); 28 U.S.C. 530C. Both JAG and CESF supported projects such as: Law Enforcement; Technology Improvement; Corrections; Drug Treatment and Enforcement; Crime Victim and Witness Programs; Prosecution and Courts; Community Corrections; and Planning and Evaluation.



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.

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.



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 FY20, 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 2020, Tennessee's ICAC Units investigated thousands of crimes against children and made approximately 283 arrests for offenders involved in the sexual abuse of children.

Mental Health Transport

Subject to annual appropriations, a grant program was established to assist sheriffs required to transport persons to a hospital or treatment resource for emergency mental health transport under Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) §33-6-406. These are individuals who are experiencing a behavioral health trauma. All 95 county Sheriff's Offices are eligible for grant funding.

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 FY2020, there were 25 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 3 times across the state during the reporting period cleaning up 718.9 pounds of toxic waste. 34 officers attended two ACS Certification/Trainings; and 205 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, and local, 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

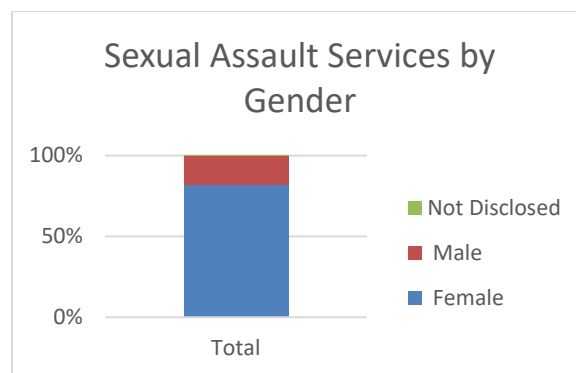
safer through a comprehensive approach to public safety that marries targeted law enforcement efforts with community engagement, prevention, and reentry efforts.

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. 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 FY20, Mending Hearts.

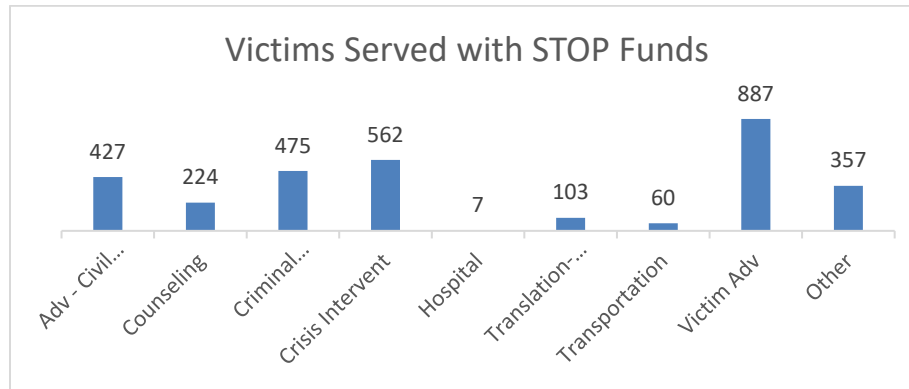
Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Grant

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.



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.



Tennessee Counts

This grant program was designed to encourage residents who are hesitant to respond to or are unaware of the importance of responding to the Census to respond. This was one-time funding that assisted 27 projects across the state to increase the number of respondents to the 2020 Census.

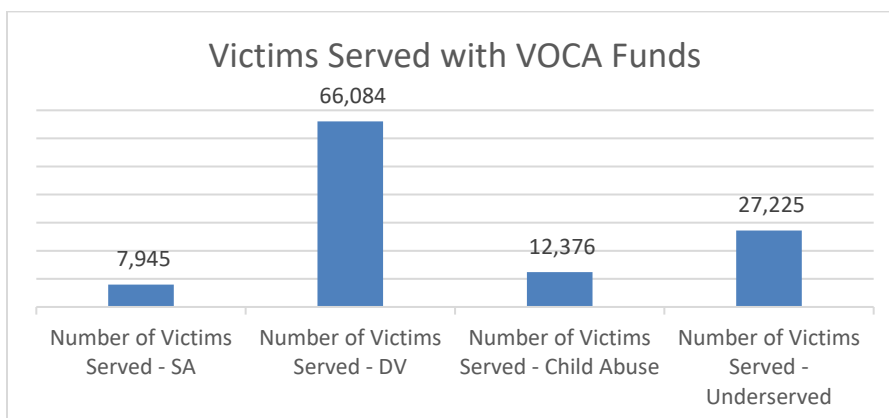
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant

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.

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. In all there were 224 OCJP contracts to agencies in FY 2020.

- ✓ 45 were grants going to agencies to conduct child advocacy, such as Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs);
- ✓ 25 grants were to domestic violence shelter agencies;
- ✓ 34 were to support Victim Coordinators in Tennessee's District Attorneys General Offices;



CHAPTER 4

INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

Family Justice Centers

In FY20, OCJP awarded JAG grants to four communities across Tennessee to fund the next generation of Family Justice Centers (FJC). The three-year grants provide a full-time Site Coordinator to oversee the planning and implementation of this highly collaborative project. The communities of Anderson County, Claiborne County, Haywood County and Overton County will each host the FJC building and co-located agencies serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse, human trafficking and more. Following two full years of community assessments, survivor focus groups, and strategic planning, the four FJCs will open their doors by June 2021. Partner agencies located onsite to serve victims and their families include local law enforcement, prosecution, non-profit victim services, civil legal assistance, and others. The composition of co-located agencies at each FJC reflects the unique needs and resources of that specific community.

Each FJC also facilitates coordination of the myriad agencies comprising the local criminal justice and victim service system, which can be overwhelming and dangerous for unsupported victims. These Coordinated Community Response teams (CCRs) work toward improving the system's responses to domestic and sexual violence, prioritizing victim safety and offender accountability.

The addition of these four FJC will bring the grand total of operational FJCs in Tennessee to thirteen.



Franklin County Youth Court

Through JAG grant funding, Franklin County Prevention Coalition's Bridge Program has been able to provide free after-school programming and activities for families and their children in Franklin County who are experiencing substantial issues at home or school that place the youth at high risk to engage in the justice system.

Bridge Program is an after-school program designed using a multi-faceted approach to work with the youth in the program. At Bridge, staff work with children by teaching life skills, providing team building activities, art, physical activities, social skills, emotional management, service-learning projects, and more.

- The program uses a curriculum called Positive Action; this curriculum teaches that positive actions create a positive self-concept, causes you to think positively, and makes you desire to do more positive actions.
- The program believes that parent involvement is critical for the success of the child and the family as a unit. They provide many opportunities for children and parents/guardians to connect and build their relationship. Bridge also hosts parent workshops quarterly, addressing current issues that parents are facing with their children.

- The program believes that parent self-efficacy is a huge factor in the success of the family. In response to this, staff makes sure that families are provided with every resource available in the county (and beyond, if needed). That connection includes referrals to food, jobs, tutoring for children, adult education, alcohol and drug addiction services, and therapy.



(County Mayor David Alexander addresses students belonging to Townsend School's Bridge Program. Credit: Herald Chronical)

Human Trafficking (VOCA)

The Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) has allocated federal Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to supports 6 agencies' work across the state to combat human trafficking in FY20; End Slavery TN (Nashville), Memphis Leadership Foundation (Memphis), Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking (Knoxville) Seventh Well (Chattanooga), Rescue 1 Global (Middle Tennessee) and Street Grace (Chattanooga). In state FY 21, Tennessee has allocated \$2.4 million VOCA dollars to provide direct services. These agencies provide comprehensive services to victims of human trafficking which include:

- **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.

In addition to direct services, OCJP has assisted with funding to enhance the criminal justice response to human trafficking. State and Federal funding has been provided to the Administrative Office of the Courts to create a validated risk assessment to identify possible victims in juvenile court and training for judges on the topic. The General Assembly passed TCA 49-6-3004 which required that beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, each local board of education shall require that each teacher employed by the board receive a one-time in-service training on the detection, intervention, prevention, and treatment of human trafficking in which the victim is a child, which must be accomplished through the viewing of a video recording approved by the LEA. OCJP provided federal VOCA funding to End Slavery to create an online training in collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Education to meet the requirement.

OCJP participates in the Southeastern Regional Human Trafficking Task Force, which is coordinated by the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and families. Tennessee has been a leader in the nation and shares the work of the state in these meetings.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation coordinates the Tennessee Human Trafficking Task Force. Many state agencies participate in this task force, as does OCJP.

Metro Nashville Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN)

As the largest city in middle Tennessee, Metro Nashville's Police Department (MNPd) combats gun and gang violence daily. According to the MNPd, 1,286 robberies and 2,140 aggravated assaults were committed in Nashville/Davidson County in FY19, the last year for which data is available. For the Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative, MNPd's Crime Gun Unit collaborates with the United States Attorney's Office for Middle Tennessee to identify, locate, surveil, and prosecute individuals who use firearms in the commission of crimes. In FY20, MNPd investigated over 100 National Institute of Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) hits which lead to 40 interviews with citizens. Twelve guns were seized, and fifteen arrests were made with most being prosecuted at the federal level. Federal prosecutions for FY20 exceeded 140 offenders which is due in part to PSN funding.



(Firearms confiscated due to a recent NIBIN investigation).

Pre-Trial Validated Risk Assessment Projects

OCJP continues to develop pre-trial validated risk assessment projects in partnership with the Crime & Justice Institute (CJI). Three projects are currently in development in Dyer/Lake County, Hamilton County and Madison County. These federally funded JAG contracts started on November 1, 2019 and are anticipated to end on June 30, 2022. CJI is working diligently with each jurisdiction to develop data analytics that will track defendant appearance rates as well as overall corrections expenditures from the agency. These projects seek to minimize risks to public safety while ensuring those at low risk can continue to work and care for their families while involved in the court system.

The success of OCJP's pre-trial projects in Knox County and Metro Government of Davidson/Nashville was evident as outcomes were significant enough that both Knoxville and Nashville decided to budget local funding in order to continue the programs when federal funding ended. The achievement in several communities implementing an automated court notification system, which seeks to ensure citizens are aware of their court dates and to minimize the negative impacts of failure to appear for both our citizen and our local jails, has also led to increased interest by other communities and across various professionals in the criminal justice system. In FY20, OCJP partnered with the Administrative Office of the Courts to explore the implementation of a statewide automated text messaging system. This system is intended to be implemented by the end of FY21.

Restorative Justice – Raphah Institute

Raphah Institute is a 501 c-3 organization in Nashville, TN, founded in 2017, whose mission is to help communities heal from social harm by confronting and solving its root causes. Raphah is dedicated to the idea that when people have the opportunity and resources to lead trauma-free lives, they will.

Their flagship program is a restorative justice diversion (RJD) program, a voluntary, person-harmed-centered approach to resolving court cases in the Davidson County juvenile court. Resulting from a partnership with Juvenile Court Judge, Sheila Calloway; District Attorney General, Glenn Funk; Public Defender, Martesha Johnson; and former Police Chief, Steve Anderson, the RJD program is a pre-prosecution restorative justice diversion for felony cases.

RJD focuses on youth-related crimes of Aggravated Burglary, Felony Theft, Theft of a Vehicle, Simple Robbery and Auto Burglary. Restorative Justice Facilitators facilitate voluntary conversations between the person harmed in a case and the youth responsible for that harm. Together, they talk about the harm, its impact, and explore how the youth can repair it. The goal is to give both parties the option and opportunity to experience healing and positive transformation.

Once a case is referred from juvenile court, facilitators contact all parties and inform them that their case has been diverted from the court to Raphah. Once all parties agree to participate, staff work with them separately first, in a highly supported and committed relationship with a Restorative Justice Facilitator, as they seek to understand what has happened. For the person harmed, this involves exploring the physical, mental, social, and spiritual needs that this harm has created in their life and what healing and repair would look like. For the youth, this involves understanding and taking true accountability for causing the harm, learning how to take responsibility for repairing it as much as possible, and committing to never do it again.

Once all parties are willing and ready, we bring them together for a Restorative Community Conference that includes them and their supporters. Here, the parties share their stories with one another and then work together to create a plan for how the youth will repair the harm caused. Once this restoration plan is complete, the case is closed.

Since accepting its first case in July, 2018, RJD has shown early success in addressing the needs of people harmed by crime and lowering rates of youth violence, arrests and repeat offenses. Of the 12 cases that have completed the entire RJD process, none of the youth have recidivated and over 92% of the people harmed express satisfaction with the process and the outcomes.

Victim Coordinators (VOCA)

Victim Coordinators work in local courts of jurisdiction, either through the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference (TNDAGC) or through grants with local county governments. The role of the Victim Coordinator is to help the victim navigate the court system by acting as a liaison between the Victim and the Prosecutor. A Victim Coordinator does not pressure victims to prosecute but provides information to victims, so they better understand their rights in the process. Victim Coordinators also assist victims with referrals to community service organizations that 1) respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; 2) assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after their victimization; 3) assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and 4) provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security.

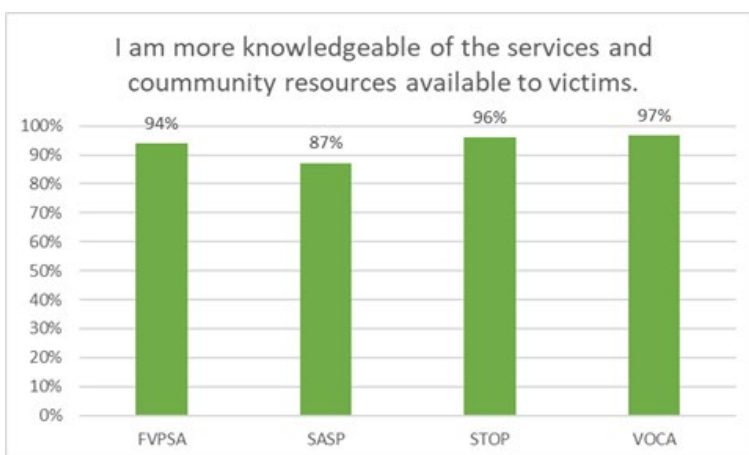
In FY 2016, OCJP funded 12 Victim Coordinators in Tennessee. In FY 2019, OCJP released an open solicitation for county governments to apply for Coordinators to work specifically with victims of domestic assault, sexual assault, and stalking cases. An additional 18 Victim Coordinator position were created through this application, bringing the total number of Victim Coordinators across the state to 30. In FY 2020, OCJP extended another grant opportunity for county governments to apply for Victim Coordinators. An additional 7 positions were created through this application. That is a 250% increase in Victim Coordinators from FY 2016 – FY 2020!

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 FY20, outcome measures indicate OCJP funding is having a positive impact on the victims/clients served in Tennessee.



CHAPTER 5

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 2020, OCJP monitored 160 agencies with 244 contracts to ensure compliance with state and federal grant requirements. This represented 56% of the total number of contracts and 61% of the total dollar amount of available grant funds. There were 312 findings of non-compliance and 21 observations for improvement. This is compared to 141 agencies with 212 contracts with 177 findings and 18 observations in 2019. **See Chart (next page):**

	FY2020	FY2019
Number of Agencies Monitored	160	141
Number of Contracts Monitored	244	212
Number of Findings	312	177
Number of Observations	21	18

Monitoring Summary

OCJP tackled numerous monitoring challenges in FY2020. The most significant hurdle was addressing COVID-19, which increased the overall monitoring caseload and prevented on-site monitoring visits for most of the cycle. OCJP Program Managers and Fiscal Monitors broke previous office records with the number of contracts monitored, reports issued, and areas identified for improvement. The increase in the number of contracts and subrecipients monitored correlated to an increase in findings. Feedback received from agencies indicated overall satisfaction with the monitoring process, the professionalism of the program and fiscal monitors, and the way the monitoring was conducted.

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 2020 fiscal year, there were some internal process enhancements from the prior year that strengthened fiscal oversight and subrecipient compliance. OCJP fiscal staff improved the review of financial information submitted to the office; new agencies received extra technical assistance and fiscal review prior to their first invoice submission; the office increased the frequency of expenditure reviews for all contracts; and the monthly contract reconciliation process was enhanced to give a better overall view of the agencies contract spending. Enhancements were made to administrative time to accurately reflect project costs. The process enhancements were all to ensure compliance in administration of the Federal and State awards. Any additional tasks aid OCJP in ensuring projects are properly implemented and comply with fiscal requirements.

This fiscal year also brought COVID-19 funds into the office to contract out to agencies in need of additional funding due to the pandemic. The Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) act and Tennessee Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program brought millions of dollars to the office to assist the State of Tennessee, local units of government and nonprofit agencies in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus.

OCJP had a site visit conducted in FY 2020 along with conclusions from prior year reviews. These included the RSAT site visit and the resolution of the audits conducted by the OIG and OCFO, and some federal programmatic site visit. OCJP was a part of the TN Department of Finance and Administration's Single 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.