



Department of
Finance &
Administration

Office of Criminal Justice Programs

Annual Report

FY 2023

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This report represents a snapshot of OCJP’s FY23 data as it is currently reported. Additionally, the numbers in this report may be an aggregate derived from various reports. OCJP works closely with subrecipient agencies and other stakeholders to validate and refine reported data to ensure the ongoing integrity of our program funding and output data.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP), a division of the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, functions as a strategic planning agency that secures, distributes, and manages federal and state grant funds. 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 justice system in Tennessee.

OCJP continued to work closely with subrecipient agencies for the last several years to anticipate and prepare for forthcoming reductions in federal funding, especially in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. OCJP staff have engaged with agencies at every level, from boots on the ground to senior-level leadership, to help identify agencies' essential resources and services needed to continue their vital victim service and justice missions. Our strategic planning process empowers us to leverage state and discretionary federal grants to help supplement agencies' reduced VOCA funding and build capacity.

In FY 2023, OCJP distributed \$92,646,324 in funding through 625 grants to various state departments, local governments, and non-profit agencies for justice and victim service grants. The focus of the funding provided by OCJP centered on the following themes:

Promoting **evidence-based** programs/strategies in justice system 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, elder abuse, and to improve the justice system's response to crime;

Promoting **data-driven funding decisions** based on population, crime rate, service availability, and regional topography;

Continuing and expanding **training opportunities** for professionals in the justice system and victim services field; continue providing comprehensive technical assistance;

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 violent crime;

Sustaining **victim service programs**, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking programs, child advocacy centers, victim-witness coordinators, civil-legal services, court appointed special advocates, and elder abuse services;

Expanding **data-driven, location-based strategies** to crime reduction and victim services, specifically for underserved and culturally specific populations, and in areas experiencing high crime rates.

This past year, OCJP has managed a significant reduction in federal funding by braiding new funding streams in with the current inventory of fund sources to support vital direct service provision. Sadly, OCJP also had to respond to two devastating mass violence events, leveraging the mass violence response toolkit to better assist the survivors and those left behind in accessing needed services in the immediate aftermath of these events. Despite these struggles, during FY23, there has been continuous growth in Tennessee’s victim service programs, including the sexual assault, human trafficking, transitional housing programs through training and adoption of evidence based, trauma informed, programming. OCJP gathered feedback from stakeholders, providers, and victims throughout numerous collaborative gatherings as part of our strategic planning process. This feedback was instrumental in the program development and implementation of the Violent Crime Intervention Fund, a state-funded direct appropriation of \$100 million used to support local law enforcement agencies across Tennessee in combating violent crime.



103,820 VICTIMS SERVED

THIS INCLUDES, BUT IS **NOT LIMITED TO**,
THESE PRIORITY PROJECTS:

16,191 CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS

15,868 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

13,929 FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS

3,839 SEXUAL ASSAULT

1,266 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

178,166

NIGHTS OF TRAUMA-INFORMED,
SAFE SHELTER

14,090

THERAPY SESSIONS FOR SEXUAL
ASSAULT CLIENTS

1,362

SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC
EXAMS PROVIDED WITH OCJP
FUNDING

13 FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS

10,110 SAFETY PLANS

9,506 ASSESSMENTS

5,068 PROFESSIONALS TRAINED

8,747 COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

25%

INCREASE IN CLIENTS SERVED
FROM FY22 TO FY23



**Supporting
Tennessee
Victims**



Keeping
Tennesseans
Safe

17 DRUG TASK FORCES

1,407 FELONY ARRESTS

1,623 INVESTIGATIONS CLOSED

63 GANGS DISRUPTED

16 DRUG LABS SHUT DOWN
(UP **300%** FROM FY22)

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST
CHILDREN

2,180 INVESTIGATIONS

238 ARRESTS

36%

DECREASE IN TIME TO PROCESS
SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT BACKLOG

COVID-19 FUNDING

50 GRANTS

\$5,423,428

SUPPORTING:

- SUSTAINED AND EXPANDED SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
- REDUCTION IN SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT BACKLOG
- ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT REMOTE INVESTIGATIONS AND CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

VICTIM SERVICES

State and federal funding to support services for victims of crime constitutes 47% of program funding that OCJP administered in FY23. OCJP strategically braids a variety of fund sources to support crucial, foundational services for victims of crime, including safe housing, crisis hotlines, forensic exams, victim advocacy, therapeutic services, legal assistance, and more; while also providing opportunities for innovative, systems-level projects that focus on coordination between multiple agencies and levels of government, like Family Justice Centers, Sexual Assault Response Teams, and High-Risk Domestic Violence Response Teams.

For FY23, the first reductions in VOCA since the federal 2018 award were felt primarily by the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault programs. OCJP utilized available American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding, and a one-time state appropriation provided by the Legislature, for both the provision of direct services and program capacity building. Further reductions are expected to continue through future state fiscal years. OCJP remains committed to the strategies outlined in OCJP's five-year strategic plan and looks forward to continuing our work promoting public safety and services to victims of crime.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence (DV) has been a significant contributor to violent crime in Tennessee for a number of years. For 20 out of the past 25 years, Tennessee has been in the top 10 states in terms of rates females are killed by males.¹ OCJP strives to cultivate meaningful, ongoing coordination around communities' response to domestic violence by supporting evidence-based collaborative best practices.



¹ <https://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2023.pdf>

Shelter Expansion

Abuse Alternatives, Inc. a domestic violence shelter in Bristol, TN gained a brand-new space for victims. Their former shelter was in an aging building donated approximately 42 years ago, required significant upkeep over the past few years and lacked adequate privacy for residents.



Figure 1 Abuse Alternatives new shelter building

The new building housing the shelter expands the number of beds available from 13 to 22, includes spaces which have been specifically designed to encourage trauma-informed practices, and allows residents a greater degree of privacy when needed. It includes an apartment which can house up to five more residents and can be used to quarantine individuals due to illness or other special circumstances.

The **Family Resource Center**, located in Cleveland, TN, provides domestic violence shelter services, and acquired a new facility to serve as their shelter. The newly remodeled, 4,500 square foot house, obtained with little debt, enables the agency to expand shelter

services from 12 beds to 21 beds.

DCS/DV Liaison

This project specifically funds a multidisciplinary approach between the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) and community agencies for the prevention and intervention of domestic violence. A liaison, employed by a domestic violence program, will be co-located at the domestic violence shelter and the local DCS office to assist families and community agencies supporting and seeking assistance for victims of domestic violence. After much collaboration between OCJP and DCS, the thriving project has expanded to five additional sites and has remained a primary focus for DCS since implementation. A policy change within DCS now enables more effective project evaluation, revealing the need for the project in other areas.

This program will complement the Safe and Together model, which is an evidence-based practice offered by DCS staff. The Safe and Together model equips DCS to work with the courts, shelters, and state certified batterer intervention programs to educate offending parents on the effects of domestic violence on children who witness the abuse. This project profoundly impacts the child welfare landscape in Tennessee and helps to break the cycle of trauma.

TN DV Statewide Help Line Change in Management

The Tennessee Domestic Violence Help Line is a 24/7 service that has been in operation for the past 25 years. Throughout Tennessee, 19 domestic violence shelter programs rely on this service to answer their own crisis lines during off hours at night, on weekends, and during holidays. During FY23, OCJP facilitated a smooth and rapid transition of the management of the help line to the Tennessee Community Services Agency, allowing the service to remain operational without a lapse in coverage.



From FY22 to FY23:

- **93%** more therapy sessions
- **30%** reduction in trauma symptoms after therapy
- **29%** more forensic exams
- **12%** more clients served

By leveraging the American Recovery Plan sexual assault funding, OCJP sought to increase access to sexual assault services across Tennessee. Sexual assault programs were able to continue and expand access to evidence-based sexual assault services (SANEs, SARTs, advocacy and therapy) for all victims and cultivate coordination of services, resources, and training.

Sexual Assault Kit Backlog

OCJP provided over \$2 million in funding to TBI to assist in the outsourcing of backlogged sexual assault kits (SAK) to an accredited lab in an effort to improve turnaround time and reduce current delays in processing. Currently reported data shows an additional 3,178 tests have been analyzed using these funds. TBI recently reported that 64 cases have been uploaded to Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), which has led to 18 sexual assault related investigations being solved.

A month-to-month comparison of turnaround time before and after OCJP-funded outsourcing shows the following:

SAK Processing Time Decreased 36% in FY23



Human Trafficking

OCJP provides federal funding to human trafficking programs throughout the state of Tennessee. In FY 23, OCJP provided fourteen (14) separate grants to seven (7) programs across the state. Three of which are considered Single-Point of Contact agencies and work directly with TBI and DCS as a first response when a victim is identified. This increase in support enabled the human trafficking program to make significant increases in service provision.



From FY22 to FY23:

- **60%** more clients (**1,266** in all)
- **28%** more mental health services in the form of therapy, counseling, support groups
- **12** new shelter beds were added, nearly doubling bed nights

In preparation for the start of FY 2023, OCJP released an open solicitation for projects providing direct services to human trafficking victims. As a result, Advocating Opportunity, Inc. was selected to receive funding for the first time from OCJP. This project provides trauma informed and holistic civil legal advocacy, support, and representation associated with their client's victimization. They incorporate their Resiliency Model into all interactions with those they serve with the goals of increasing resiliency and decreasing risk of revictimization.

Justice Involved Human Trafficking Services

Many justice-involved individuals are not identified as victims of trafficking until post incarceration. The Tennessee Justice-Involved Human Trafficking Services Program enhances services to human trafficking (HT) victims who are currently incarcerated in Tennessee prisons or have recently been released to community supervision. This Program delivers victim-centered, specialized services to victims of human trafficking by providing a full-time therapist who will coordinate one-on-one and group therapeutic services onsite in the prison setting. This funding will significantly increase the capacity of each HT agency to address the growing number of requests for services they receive from TDOC staff and other partners, as well as directly from victims themselves.

Thistle Farms, a Nashville-based nonprofit, runs a program that serves women who have experienced trafficking and addiction. OCJP funding assists with Thistle on the Inside, a program where Thistle Farms staff works within the Debra K. Johnson Rehabilitation Center, formerly the Tennessee Prison for Women, providing outreach, education, and support groups for victims of trafficking. Thistle Farms also offers a shelter program for when victims are released on parole. OCJP funding provided the support needed to reach 112 more individuals in this program.

Stop Prosecutors

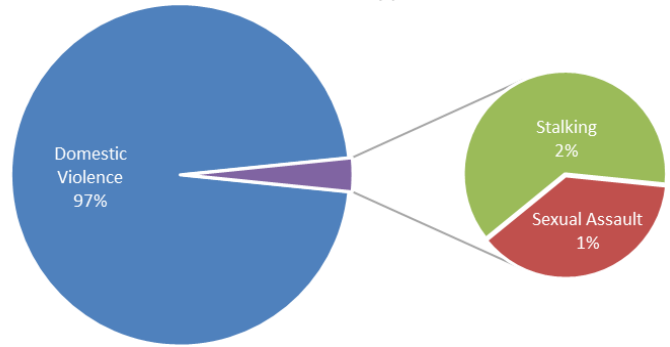
OCJP administers STOP funding to support specialized prosecutor positions throughout the state. These positions collaborate closely with local law enforcement and victim service agencies, including Family Justice Centers, to ensure systemic coordination around interpersonal violent crime. By specializing in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, STOP Prosecutors identify repeat offenders to hold them accountable

and establish trust and rapport with victims to help keep them safe, ensuring improved prosecution outcomes. These positions stay up to date on the latest research and training for these sensitive cases and provide training throughout the year to law enforcement in their district on trauma-informed and evidence-based prosecution practices.

OCJP collaborated with the Tennessee District Attorney’s General Conference (TNDAGC) to develop a trauma informed training plan, focusing on crime victimization, for state prosecutors and victim-witness coordinators. As case law and prosecution practices continue to evolve, it is vitally important that the district staff of any tenure be given access to the most up-to-date information possible.

A second opportunity for learning occurred in May and involved the use of STOP funds to send approximately 50 victim witness coordinators, prosecutors, staff from the TNDAGC, to the Crimes Against Women Conference. This was an in-person conference in Dallas, Texas that convenes the leading experts from across the country to educate and train first responders, direct service providers, and community stakeholders on best practices regarding the identification, investigation, and prosecution of crimes against women. More than 200 workshops, case-studies, and computer labs were offered where attendees could collaborate and problem solve with other professionals in the field. Breakout sessions included in-depth case studies with real examples of effective and healing communication between advocates and survivors. Attendees left the conference reenergized and equipped with new ideas and solutions to implement in their district.

FY23 Types of Cases Received



5,676

cases accepted
by STOP Prosecutors
for prosecution in FY23

INNOVATIONS WITH JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

Tennessee Leading the Nation with Public Defender Social Worker Program

The Public Defender Social Worker (PDSW) Program utilizes forensic social workers as integrated members of the client's defense team. To align with the National Association of Social Worker code of ethics, the PDWS advocates for a holistic, client-centered defense to best support each client. The PDSW Program is staffed by master level social workers who have had substantial training geared towards client needs: struggling with substance abuse, untreated mental health concerns, homelessness, unemployment, poverty, and life consequences that follow arrests. The forensic social worker assists clients in achieving maximum self-sufficiency by addressing the client's needs for housing, healthcare, employment, education, life skills, support systems, etc. The model seeks justice while simultaneously working to reduce recidivism and empowering clients.



- **90%** of clients contacted by PDSW
- **>85%** received a Needs Assessment
- Of the **107** that identified housing as a need, **69** were successfully housed
- Alcohol and drug resources &/or referrals provided to **62%** of clients

Evidence-Based Programming in Local Jails

Evidence-Based Programming (EBP) grants are intended to support jails in creating and enhancing evidence-based programming for inmates. As part of Governor Lee’s public safety initiative and the Re-Entry Success Act of 2021, in FY23, OCJP administered 24 grants totaling \$4,759,299 million to local jails. To improve offender outcomes, this funding supports the implementation and enhancement of evidence-based re-entry programming in local jails. The programming varies and includes educational, therapeutic, and vocational programs to assist inmates in successfully transitioning back to their communities upon release.

OCJP has worked closely with state agency partners to support local government agencies in their implementation of innovative and effective jail-based programming, with the goal of more successful re-entry outcomes for inmates and safer communities.



In FY23:

- **24** grants totaling **\$4,759,299**
- **89** programs implemented
- **2,747** individuals benefited

5 most implemented evidence-based programs:

- MRT
- Seeking Safety
- Nurturing Parenting
- Thinking for a Change
- Vocational Programs



Carroll County – MRT Graduates

EBP Spotlight

“Since implementing the Evidence Based Programming in January of 2021, over 150 inmates have successfully completed Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT). This is an opportunity that many inmates have expressed interest in and are excited to participate. Our classes are virtually full and we have a waiting list. These classes would not be offered at this facility if not for the grant funding.” – Rhea County

“This grant provides hope for their future and allows for opportunities for inmates to change their lives not only for themselves but potential family relationships. Barriers that once were preventing our inmates from receiving services are now being removed and we are seeing lives being changed from the opportunities that the EBP grant provides.” – Washington County Sheriff’s Office

Lawrence County Government, an OCJP evidence-based jail grant recipient posted the happy story of its first graduate on their Facebook account:

“[Paul] is the first graduate of the Lawrence County jail’s five-week welding course, which is funded through a grant that pays for its Tennessee College of Applied Technology Pulaski instructor and for other supplies. Advanced Design Solutions (ADS) in Lawrenceburg provides use of two welding booths and tools for the program. In order to participate, Paul first completed a 10-week Certified Production Technician course which is taught in the jail by TCAT and is funded through the same grant. Paul now has a MIG Welding for Industry certificate from TCAT and passed a pre-employment test that ADS gives to assess welding skills. Congratulations to Paul [...]”.

INNOVATIONS IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Violent Crime Intervention Fund

\$100 million for the Violent Crime Intervention Fund (VCIF) was included in the 2023 state budget by the 111th General Assembly for the purpose of enhancing law enforcement ability to respond to violent crime across the state. OCJP, has partnered closely with Department of Safety, and Department of Commerce and Insurance, as well as the Central Procurement Office to develop and implement a strategy for administering these funds. To make the VCIF program responsive and relevant for prospective applicants, OCJP facilitated a discussion among chiefs and sheriffs during three virtual roundtables. During these conversations, local law enforcement agency leaders, representing each grand division of the state, provided invaluable feedback and guidance that OCJP used to shape the project design.

This Grant Program included formula funding available to over 300 local law enforcement entities based on violent crime reported and population. Additionally, there was funding for Competitive Collaboration Enhancement projects which support collaborations and a sharing of funds and resources between multiple law enforcement agencies to address regional violent crime needs. OCJP forged a partnership with the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service – Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC) to assist local law enforcement agencies with access to training and technical assistance in crafting their VCIF grant project designs, submitting their applications, planning, and implementing grant activities, and evaluating the impact of their programs.

Internet Crimes Against Children

The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) program awards grants to three regional Police Departments, one in each grand division, to establish, implement, and operate a statewide network of regional ICAC task forces. This state appropriation-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 FY23, Tennessee’s ICAC units **investigated 70% more crimes against children** (2,180 total) and made **31% more arrests** (238 total) for offenders involved in the sexual exploitation of children than in FY22. State ICAC funds for the City of Knoxville, City of Memphis, and the Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County allowed investigators to obtain continuing education in forensic data extractions for cellular devices, computers, tablets, and other electronic devices.

Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP)

OCJP was awarded more than \$6.5 million in funding through the SCIP program to address crisis intervention and violent crime reduction in Tennessee. The goal of this program is to lessen the prevalence of gun violence in communities by implementing specialty programs which divert, deflect, or educate individuals who impact the level of violence found within communities.

As part of the award requirements, OCJP established a SCIP Advisory Committee that consists of representatives from the Administrative Office of the Courts, behavioral health providers, sheriff's offices, Department of Finance and Administration staff, police chiefs, prosecutor, victim services provider and community members.

This collaborative group will determine key program elements such as selecting the priority areas of focus, task slated for the beginning of FY24.

Public Service Announcement – Proper Firearm Storage

On August 1, 2022, OCJP initiated a JAG grant with TBI in the amount of \$240,000 to provide a public service announcement to all Tennesseans promoting public safety and education to prevent legal firearms from ending up in the hands of criminals. The [PSA](#) stressed the importance of proper storage of firearms in secure lock boxes, especially when in a vehicle. TBI subscribed to the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters Public Education Program (PEP) to maximize the impact through a broad distribution across television, radio, and digital properties across the state. This method guaranteed a 3:1 return on investment, but the campaign resonated so well with member stations, there was a 15:1 return in June. Over 89,000 users have been exposed to the video message and well over four thousand not only saw the link to the PSA but clicked on it and went to the TBI website for viewing. Concurrently, gun safes and safety devices sold at retail were exempt from sales and use tax during the period, July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This is just one example of the collaborations between federal funding, state stakeholders and legislation that promote and align the vision of public safety for Tennessee.



MNPD:

24 gang members arrested

Marion County Government:

52 firearms confiscated

105 people arrested

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Program is a nationwide initiative that brings together federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, community-based partners, and other stakeholders to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in a community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. 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. Here are just a couple of examples of how this program impacts local communities:

- Overtime to detectives to investigate and arrest subjects involved in shooting events
- Hire Intelligence analysts
- Data extraction from cell phones and thousands of pages of social media and phone records



MASS VIOLENCE RESPONSE

During FY 2023, OCJP directly addressed two incidents of mass violence. The first occurred in September 2022 and involved a live-streamed spree shooting that left three dead, three wounded, and countless others traumatized in Memphis, Tennessee. Sadly, a second tragedy struck Nashville on March 27, 2023, when a mass shooting occurred at the Covenant School where six people were left dead and a community left in anguish. In instances of mass violence, the initial attention goes to securing the crime scene and collecting evidence. Processing through numerous eye-witness accounts as well as caring for survivors can easily overwhelm local law enforcement agencies. To mitigate the strain on local resources, DOJ administers the Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance (EFLEA) program which supports states in their responses to mass violence incidents by addressing unbudgeted overtime and resources. Leveraging this funding in combination with other funding, OCJP was able to support both the Memphis and Nashville communities in their responses to these tragic events. OCJP has served as the contact with DOJ and convenes with the community to identify needs and connect the community to the needed resources.

In the immediate aftermath of a mass violence event, after the crime happens but before victims begin receiving services such as counseling, local Tennessee communities may lack an adequate response plan to ensure the complex needs of all survivors are met. Local communities need to develop a mass violence response plan for their jurisdiction that focuses on building collaboration among statewide agencies, including local law enforcement agencies, both national and state level and district attorneys, TEMA, universities, hospitals, educational organizations, media, and faith communities to develop a protocol for using existing resources as well as utilizing victim advocates to support the immediate needs of survivors experiencing trauma such as shock, fear, and anxiety.

Long before the tragic mass violence incidents in Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee began discussions around the need for a mass violence victim response plan in 2018. Since then, not only has OVC released a mass violence toolkit to help states develop protocols for responding to mass violence incidents, but Tennessee has also enhanced their own statewide protocols.

Over the past year, OCJP has provided Tennessee Voices for Victims funding to support work with District Attorneys in the state to create a victim response team for their judicial districts. At the time of the Covenant School shooting, the protocols enabled a quick and immediate response for those impacted by the incident. The community is still receiving needed trauma services and support, and OCJP continues to work with Nashville to identify resources as needs change.

ENHANCING TENNESSEE'S JUSTICE SYSTEM

Use of Force Certification

This requirement is supported by a Tennessee executive order, state and federal requirements. The Use of Force Requirement states that the agency must have a certification from the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police (TACP) regarding their Use of Force policies. The agency must also comply with TCAs 38-3-121, 38-8-101, 38-8-113, 38-8-1288:131, and 40-6-105. OCJP has partnered with TACP to provide training and technical assistance around use of force policies. To be eligible for OCJP funding, a law enforcement agency's policies must include certain elements pertaining to use of force that are required under state laws. TACP maintains a list of agencies with compliant policies and works with OCJP to validate policies for agencies seeking funding. Agencies whose policies have not been reviewed, are provided TA by TACP to come into compliance with best practices prior to a grant award being initiated.

Death in Custody Reporting Act

The Death in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA) (Federal Public Law 113- 242) requires all states that receive funding under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program report to the Attorney General information regarding the death of any person who is detained, under arrest, in the process of being arrested, enroute to be incarcerated, or incarcerated. As part of their state JAG reporting, State Administering Agencies (SAAs) are responsible for collecting DCRA data on a quarterly basis from state and local entities and submitting that data to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Notably, OCJP is the only state administering agency in the entire country to have reported quarterly DCRA data since the rollout in 2019, which is due to our already existing state laws, data infrastructure, and the steel-forged relationships with other state partners. OCJP has worked with TBI and TDOC to document their reporting process for submitting quarterly reports to OCJP. Additionally, OCJP has been working with DCS to outline the reporting process of deaths within Juvenile Detention Centers (JDC) and Youth Detention Centers (YDC) to DCS and then to OCJP on a quarterly basis. These partnerships between departments and agency stakeholders help ensure accurate and timely reporting.

DEDICATED AND NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

OCJP works closely with stakeholders to maintain and enhance training and technical assistance. Individualized technical assistance is part of OCJP's mission to empower and support agencies, as they experience periods of growth and transition, to ensure that they have the information and tools they need to successfully manage their state and federal grants and serve Tennesseans.

OCJP meets individually with agencies and staff that are new to OCJP grant administration, to orient them to what is required for grant management. The New Project Director Orientation is conducted year-round as the need arises, and is available to nonprofit, local government, and state agency grantees.

OCJP requires 501c3 board training for nonprofit board members, which is crucial in equipping agencies with skills and knowledge they need to fulfill their duty to be responsible stewards of the funds and programs they oversee. These trainings provide structure that might otherwise be absent for some smaller organizations and serve to better position subrecipient agencies for success over time.

OCJP staff hold an annual Subrecipient Grant Management training, where OCJP program and fiscal staff spend a day with subrecipients reviewing the basic tenets of managing state and federal grants, needed financial controls, and specific grant requirements.

In addition, OCJP staff offer additional trainings as needed throughout the year and have made video trainings, available online, that include:

- Fund Source Specific trainings that review the specific requirements of federal fund sources.
- Cost Allocation and Indirect Cost Rates
- Accrued Liability
- OCJP Financial Grants Management
- Equipment Grant Reporting
- Civil Rights

In addition to training agencies on OCJP's requirements, OCJP identified a need to assist local agencies in applying for Federal Discretionary Funding. Through a collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), OCJP coordinated with BJA Deputy Director Michelle Garcia on a webinar that was held in April that detailed the federal discretionary grant solicitations BJA offers and general tips on applying for federal discretionary grants and oversight of these grants. OCJP hopes to see more Tennessee agencies applying for this federal funding.

OCJP is also seen as a national expert on grant management and oversight. Due to that reputation, staff are often asked to facilitate trainings at a national level. Some examples in FY23 include:

- OCJP Assistant Director of Fiscal, Wendy Heath, drafted and presented a national training for the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) membership on indirect direct cost and cost allocation plans. The feedback from the 35 training participants was positive and highlighted the need for this type of training to be made available on demand, and OCJP has created and posted a video training on the OCJP website.

- OCJP’s structure allows it to be nimble and flexible as new grant needs arise in the state. This flexibility has been seen as a strength by other State Administering Agencies, who have requested consultation with OCJP to learn more. In FY23, OCJP provided consultation to Washington State on our onboarding process and the structure of the quality assurance unit.



EVALUATING PROGRAM IMPACT

OCJP uses qualitative data (feedback from experts, survivors, and other stakeholders) and quantitative data (statistics and counts) to shape and focus funding priorities, as described in our strategic planning process. Supporting validated, evidence-informed programs, ensures that certain activities and outputs will likely lead to certain corresponding long-term changes, referred to as program outcomes. It is crucial to accurately track the outputs of funded projects in order to gauge progress toward the broader intended outcomes of the programs funded. OCJP continues to refine reporting tools and processes to allow for accessible reporting that yields accurate and comprehensive data on project activities and outputs. The information presented below is an illustration of the important work OCJP-funded agencies accomplished during FY23.

Evidence-Based Programming

In the current fiscal climate where federal, state, and local funds fluctuate and grant applicants must compete with myriad other agencies and priorities, it is imperative to demonstrate that limited grant dollars are being directed toward areas with the greatest needs, and that those funds are utilized as effectively as possible to yield positive outcomes. The application of evidence-based programming is one way to reliably pursue this goal. Evidence-based programs have been validated by peer-reviewed research and have a demonstrated history of producing a positive impact on the identified issue the program addresses. By strongly encouraging, and at times requiring, agencies to implement evidenced-based models as part of their grant funded projects, OCJP increases the probability that the funding creates a positive impact on the issue.

Office of Evidence and Impact Program Inventory

In collaboration with OCJP leadership, the Research and Evaluation unit completed an [Office of Evidence and Impact Program Inventory](#). This forward-facing tool is a one-stop shop for stakeholders, including the public and decision-makers, to gain an understanding of the impact of the funding OCJP administers. This inventory, updated annually, provides the structure of OCJP's programs and related interventions; outputs and outcomes and their results; and the evidence-based programs used in these interventions.

Impact on Federal Reporting

Measuring Provider Responses to Victimization Experiences

OCJP Director Brinkman served on a national committee of experts to create measures which collect information on service outcomes and the quality of services from those served. As a part of this work, a free, easy-to-use online tool, Measuring Provider Responses to Victimization Experiences (iMPROVE), for collecting information from survivors about the outcomes and quality of the services provided was created and released in the fall of 2023. OCJP is working to recruit TN victim service providers to test the tool and provide feedback. This benefits service providers by reducing the burden of manual data entry, providing easily downloadable data for reporting or analysis, and includes an interactive dashboard that allows agencies to explore how their services impacted their clients.

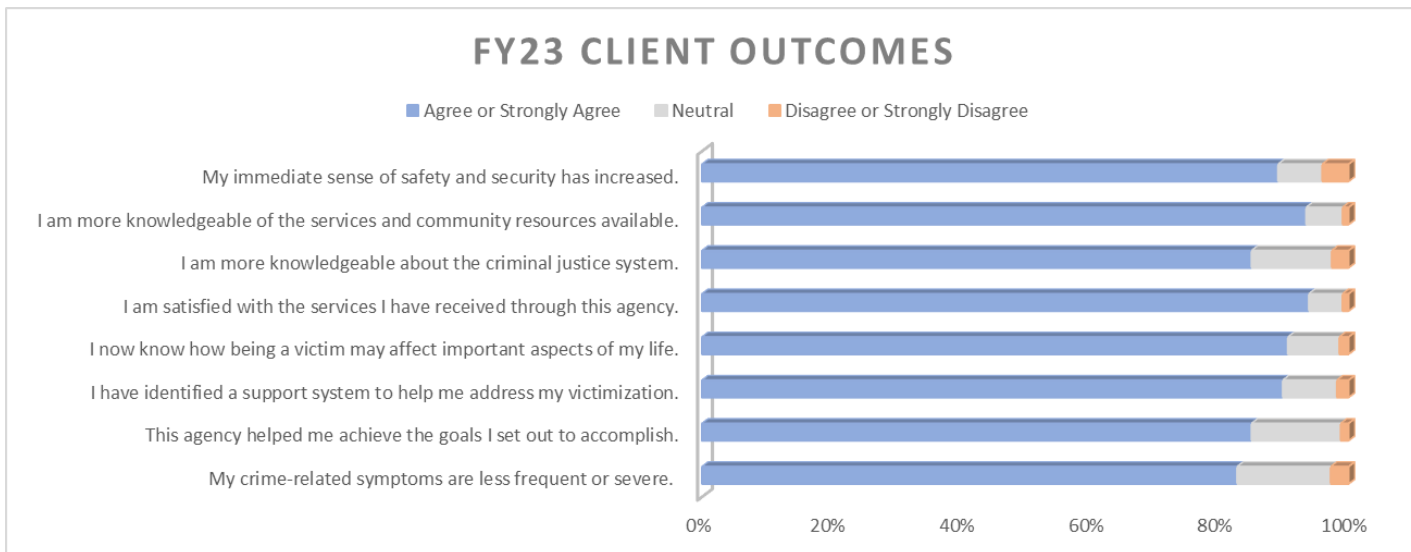
Bureau of Justice Assistance JAG Performance Measures Revision Steering Committee

OCJP attended the BJA Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Performance Measures Revision Steering Committee providing valuable input, one of only 12 states to do so, to determine areas for which the measures can be revised and streamlined. Annually, OCJP distributes approximately \$4 million dollars in JAG funding making it the third largest federal fund source in FY23. With input from the states on all 14 modules, BJA revised the structure and measures to improve the user experience and quality of data gathered. The proposed changes are currently being reviewed for approval.

VOCA Performance Measurement Visualization Project

OCJP partnered with the OVC VOCA Center in development of a dashboard that offers an intuitive and comprehensive interface to analyze, review, and interpret reported data from agencies. The dynamic visualization tool, updated quarterly, will improve data accessibility, enhance the decision-making process, and provide invaluable insight to drive strategic initiatives. In the initial stages of the project, OCJP provided access to our data, making the project feasible and the tool comprehensive. OCJP previously served as a lead state for a similar project for JAG data. The VOCA project will impact all states' ability to wield the power of data visualizations. The tool is anticipated to be released in January 2024. OCJP's much sought after expertise in this field continues to lead the nation towards data-driven solutions regarding public safety. Below is a screen shot of the draft VOCA PMT dashboard.

OCJP Outcomes



OCJP is invested in evaluating the longer-term impact of grant funded programs. To that end, OCJP subgrantees are required to annually report data on program outcomes, which are defined in each agency's grant contract, and are generally collected via a survey that is distributed to program clients during their experience with the grant funded agency. Depending on the type of program, the surveys include a set of standardized, required measures, as well as additional optional measures that may be selected by the agency. The surveys capture the outcome measures using a Likert scale: (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree).

Since the surveys are completed by the clients themselves, the purpose of the survey is to evaluate self-reported changes in the knowledge, perceptions, and feelings of each client, with the goal of improving and empowering the client through the program interventions.

Clients are also asked about their “crime-related symptoms” such as sleeplessness, nervousness, fear, and anxiety – symptoms known to be associated with a trauma response in many individuals. Clients are asked whether they experience these symptoms less frequently or less severely since becoming involved with the victim service agency. While research has shown that it often takes time for complex trauma response symptoms to decrease, this question serves as a potential foundation for measuring future progress toward clients experiencing some relief from the physical and psychological toll that their victimization might have caused.

In FY23, **83%** of surveyed clients responded that they either “agree” or “strongly agree” that **their crime-related symptoms are less frequent or less severe** since becoming involved with the agency, an increase of **seven (7) percentage points from FY 2022**. It should be noted in a year where additional funding for mental health services was dedicated to our human trafficking and sexual assault programs, client surveys noted a decrease in crime-related symptoms.

SUMMARY

The mission of OCJP 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. OCJP leverages 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 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.



APPENDICES

[Appendix A About OCJP](#)

[Appendix B FY23 Obligations](#)

[Appendix C Fund Source Overview](#)

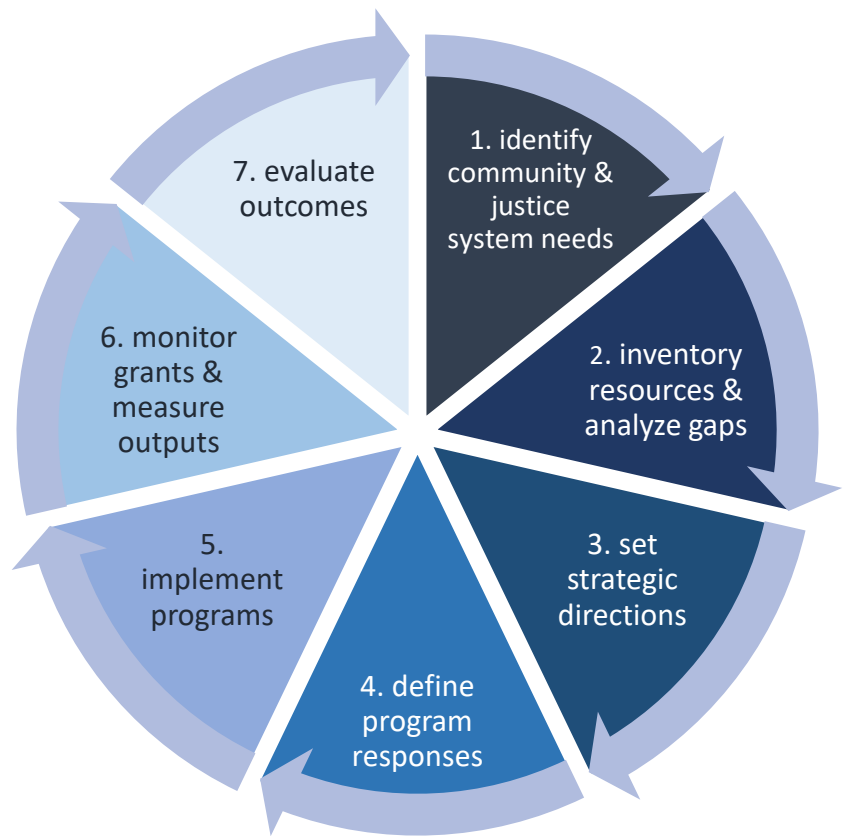
[Appendix D Program Overview](#)

[Appendix E Monitoring](#)



APPENDIX A About OCJP

OCJP uses a year-round structured process that looks three to five years ahead of current grants management activities, to identify the changing needs of crime victims and Tennessee’s justice system. OCJP tracks problems surfacing in the justice system, monitors trends in Tennessee’s communities, assesses the condition of the state’s resources, and measures the performance of OCJP-funded programs.



GRANTS MANAGEMENT:

Funded projects are monitored by OCJP staff, who maintain frequent contact throughout the agency’s funding period to assist them in maintaining their project goals as originally agreed upon in their contract(s) with OCJP. Quarterly and annual data-driven reports are utilized to ensure that established outputs and outcomes are accurately tracked and fulfilled. In the aggregate, these reports also help to indicate the overall impact the project may be having on the intended issue or need.

For more information on these crucial components and more, please visit the [OCJP Grants Manual](#).

Click here to view the [OCJP Organizational Chart](#)

HEARING FROM TENNESSEANS:

Annually, OCJP convenes a variety of advisory groups, including community engagement and listening sessions to learn about successful programs, identify gaps that exist across the system, explore areas of greatest need, and gather diverse perspectives from a broad range of Tennessee stakeholders. The ground-level insight provided by these groups provides the foundation for OCJP’s annual strategic planning process, helping to clarify priorities and identify opportunities for focus.

- OCJP operates two advisory committees that are designated in statute to advise on the needs of domestic violence and sexual assault victims. The **Sexual Assault Advisory Committee** was established in TCA 71-6-303 and the **Family Violence Advisory Committee** was established in TCA 71-6-203. Both advisory committees are comprised of stakeholders who have experience in services to victims of interpersonal violence.

- The **Justice System Roundtable** meets annually and comprises a group of leaders in the field of criminal justice, including Sheriffs, Chiefs of Police, District Attorneys General, public defenders, judges, criminal justice practitioners, community corrections/re-entry practitioners, and victim advocates. The roundtable members represent all three grand divisions of Tennessee as well as urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state.
- OCJP's annual **Victim Centered Focus Groups** consisted of two meetings with groups representing a variety of perspectives, classified as: domestic violence advocates and survivors, system providers and non-profit partners, and underserved survivors and advocates. The groups reflected statewide representation, including rural and urban areas, and broad demographic representation of race, gender, victimization, and role within the justice system.

Across the stakeholder meetings, common themes emerged regarding successful and promising programs that should be replicated or enhanced throughout the state. The most common of these included:

- Co-located, multi-disciplinary models of service provision, such as the Family Justice Center (FJC), to improve victim safety and cultivate trusting, collaborative relationships among agencies and service providers.
- Co-located law enforcement and service provider programs, allowing mental health professionals and victim advocates to access individuals as soon as possible following law enforcement interaction.
- Coordinated, cross-system response teams, including Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) and High-Risk Review Teams. Such teams are usually composed of law enforcement, prosecution, victim services agencies, local hospitals, family justice centers, civil-legal, judges and local government agencies.

The information collected through these sessions 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.

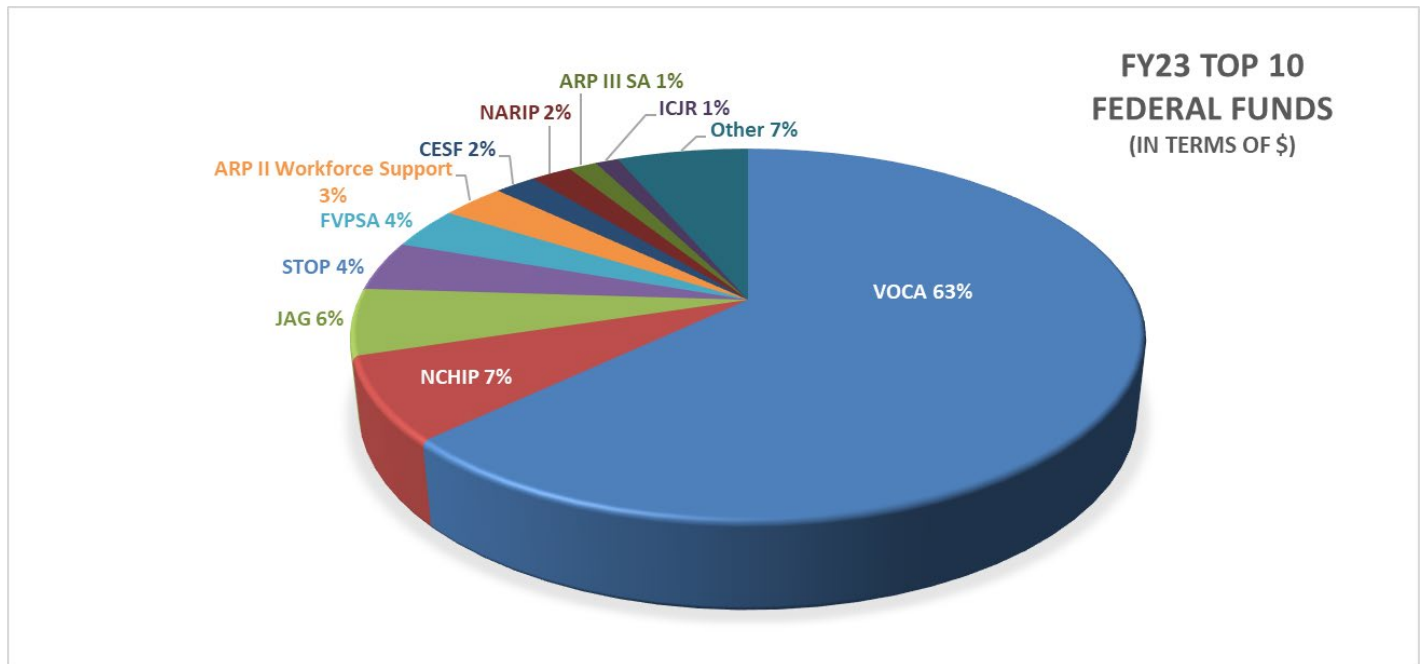
APPENDIX B FY23 Obligations

The table below lists all fund sources, both federal and state, used in FY23, and the amount of funds obligated. Additionally, many fund sources are linked to the OCJP Grants Manual in the first column.

FEDERAL FUND SOURCES ▼ \$71,902,107 ▼	
VOCA	Victims of Crime Act
NCHIP	National Criminal History Improvement Program
JAG	Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant
STOP	STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grants
FVPSA	Family Violence Prevention Services Act Programs
ARP II Workforce Support	FVPSA American Rescue Plan II
CESF	Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding
NARIP	National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Act Record Improvement Program
ARP III SA	FVPSA American Rescue Plan III - SA
ICJR	Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Grant Program
PSN	Project Safe Neighborhoods
SASP	Sexual Assault Services Program
ARP I	FVPSA American Rescue Plan I
RSAT	Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program for State Prisoners
AEAP	Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program
HT OVC	Services for Trafficking Victims
COVERDELL	Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program
Connect and Protect	Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program
PREA	JAG Prison Rape Elimination Act
EFLEA	Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Program
STATE FUND SOURCES ▼ \$20,744,217 ▼	
VCIF	Violent Crime Intervention Fund
MHT	Mental Health Transport
EBP	Evidence Based Programming
FVS	Family Violence Services
SAVIN CCN	SAVIN Criminal Court Notifications (CCN)
ICAC	Internet Crimes Against Children
SAVIN	Sexual Assault Victims Notification
AFIS	Automated Fingerprint Identification System
METH	Methamphetamine Initiative
Pretrial	Pretrial Services
STATE SASP	State Sexual Assault Services
TommyBurks	Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy
State Coordinating Council	Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council
Ignition Interlock	Interlock Ignition Fee for Halfway Houses

APPENDIX C Fund Source Overview

In FY23, OCJP awarded **625 contracts**, totaling **\$71,902,107 in federal funding** and **\$20,744,217 in state funding**. State and local community agencies also contributed \$2,776,816 in matching funds to these projects.



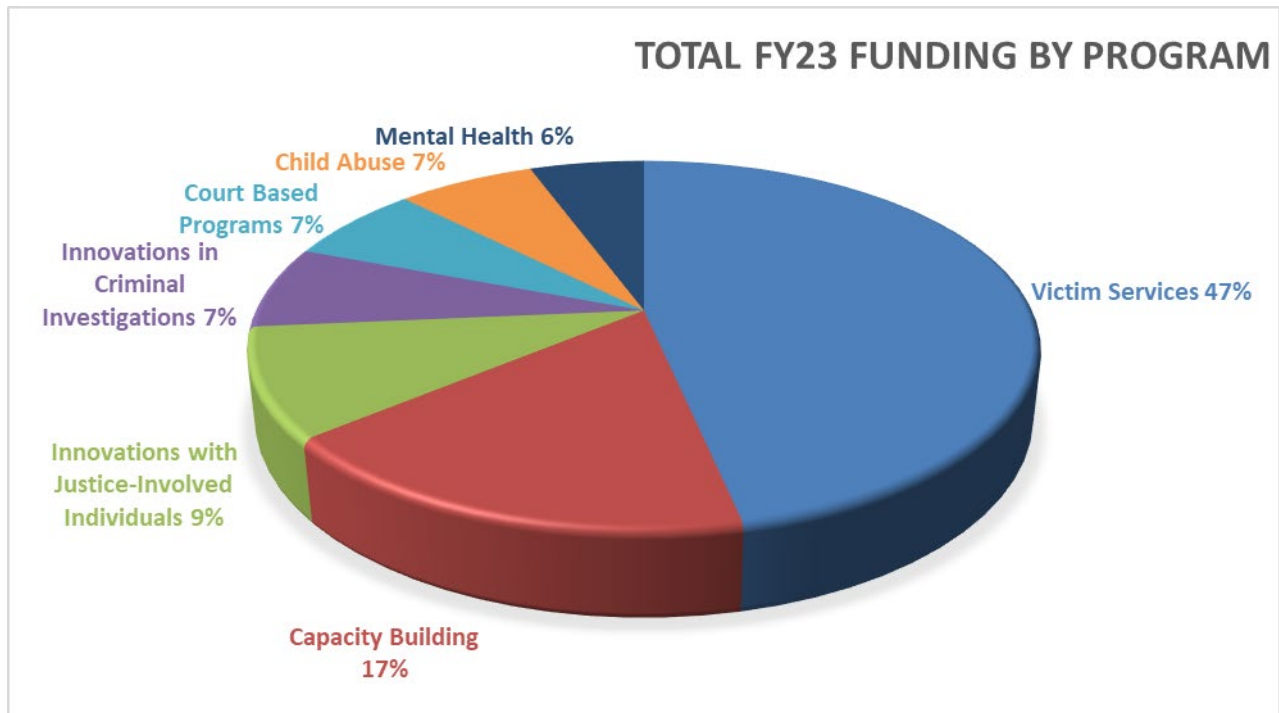
Fund sources included in the "Other" category: PSN, SASP, ARP I, RSAT, AEAP, HT OVC, COVERDELL, Connect and Protect, PREA, EFLEA

OCJP continued to receive federal funds to address COVID-19 and the myriad obstacles and additional needs the pandemic brings to agencies and communities across the state. This includes Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance, and funding specifically to support domestic violence and sexual assault victim services through ARP funding. This COVID-19 federal funding was intended to support criminal justice and victim service needs for preventing, preparing for, or responding to the coronavirus pandemic. Also, in FY23 OCJP received additional state funding to address specific priorities for Tennessee, including VCIF and EBP for local jails.

It should be noted that there was a National Pandemic Match Waiver instituted and the VOCA match requirement was waived, in full, as of October 1, 2021. Since VOCA normally requires a match and comprises a majority (63%) of the federal funding administered by OCJP, these match funds are considerably lower than in previous years. The remaining 37% of federal funds included 19 funding streams, as seen in the graph.

Appendix D Program Overview

As seen in the graph below, OCJP categorizes grant programs based on the overall purpose of the programming. For the nine (9) core programming areas sighted below, OCJP's greatest investment in FY23 was in victim service programming.



For more information on these programs benefit Tennesseans, go to [OCJP in the News](#).



Appendix E 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. When monitoring results in the identification of areas of non-compliance it's the expectation that corrective action will be taken to ensure compliance. OCJP utilizes monitoring to strengthen relationships with subrecipient agencies, identifying future opportunities for technical assistance and training.

The OCJP Program Management and Fiscal units are responsible for performing 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.

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, and
- Adhering to the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Grants Manual requirements.

Monitoring supports OCJP's mission by:

- Providing 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.

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 and fiscal managers are responsible for ensuring receipt of an acceptable CAP and approving it within a specific timeframe. In addition, OCJP 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 demonstrate capability of providing quality programs to their clients and beneficiaries in order

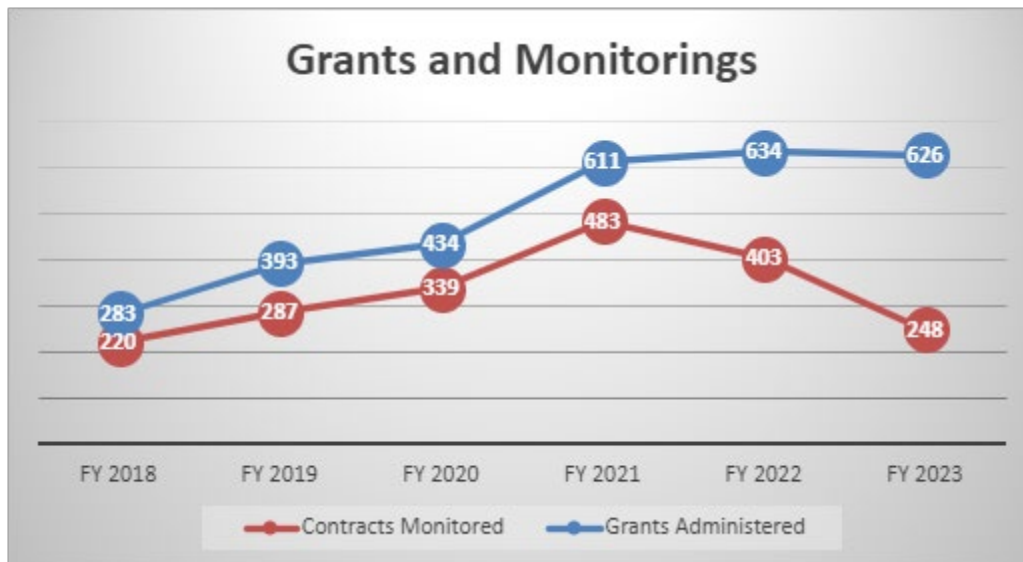
to receive funding. The monitoring process, including receipt and approval of acceptable CAPs, helps improve the system of criminal justice and victim services for the state of Tennessee. A concerted effort by program and fiscal staff to ensure projects benefit their communities helps OCJP realize its goal of working for a safer Tennessee.

FY 2023 MONITORING SUMMARY:

In FY23, OCJP monitored 134 agencies with 248 grant contracts² to ensure compliance with state and federal grant requirements. This represents 39% of the total number of contracts and direct appropriations and 43% of the total dollar amount for FY23. There were 301 findings of non-compliance and 48 observations for improvement.

Common programmatic findings were late reports, inadequate background check policy, and agency did not implement a project component. Frequent fiscal findings were related to late reports and charging unallowable costs. 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.

- There was an average of 2.6 programmatic findings and 1.7 fiscal findings per report.
- 169 contracts reviewed programmatically, 194 reviewed fiscally.
- 60 contracts reviewed fiscally received a no findings report.



² Please note, a grant contract can be reviewed either programmatically, fiscally, or both. This number reflects the total number of **unduplicated** grant contracts that were monitored either fiscally or programmatically or both.