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Department of
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Office of Criminal Justice Programs Annual Report FY 2022

FY22 Annual Report Prepared By:

Office of Criminal Justice Programs

Department of Finance and Administration

312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 800

William Snodgrass Tennessee Tower

Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1102

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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 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 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.

Evidence-Based Programming in Local Jails

As part of Governor Lee’s public safety initiative and the Re-Entry Success Act of 2021, OCJP administered \$5 million in FY22 in state grant funds to local jails. Evidence-Based Programming (EBP) grants are intended to support jails in creating and enhancing evidence-based programming for inmates. Through FY22, county jails accessed EBP funds to support a range of programming – educational, therapeutic, and vocational – to assist inmates in successfully transitioning back to their communities upon release. In FY22, EBP funds supported 18 local jails as they worked to develop 48 evidence-based re-entry programs, which annually serve an average of 6,647 incarcerated individuals.

Mental Health Transport

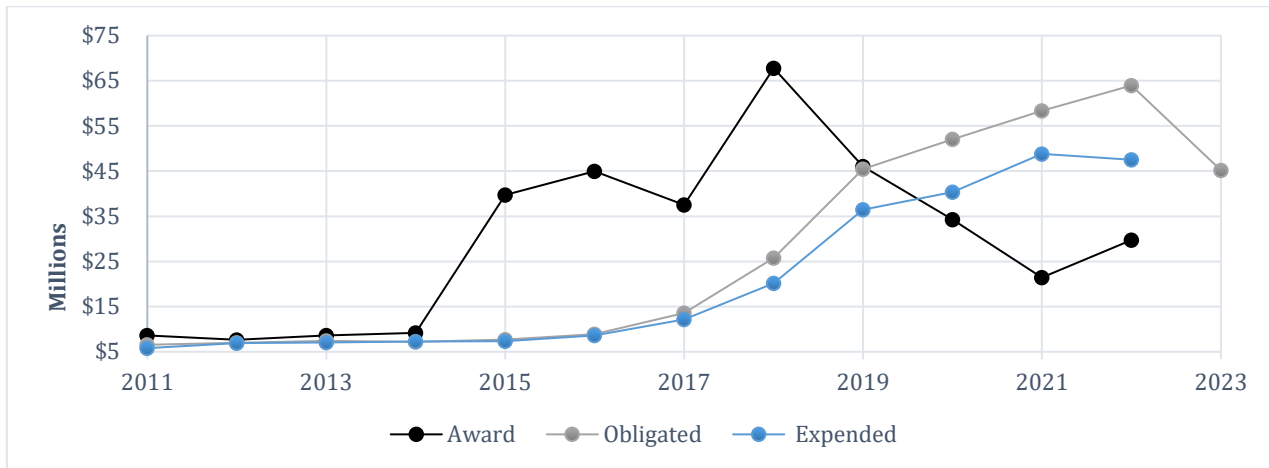
In FY22, OCJP administered the Mental Health Transport (MHT) grant program to assist local sheriffs required to transport persons to a hospital or treatment resource for emergency mental health transport under Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) §33-6-406. OCJP made funding available to 32 local Sheriff’s Offices to support humane mental health transport and mental health awareness training for law enforcement. Funded agencies are also allowed to subcontract with other municipal law enforcement agencies or third-party providers to provide safe and humane transport for individuals in crisis.

COVID-19 Response Funding:

Throughout FY22, OCJP worked closely with federal funders, state agencies, and local communities to continue to respond creatively and prudently to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. OCJP was again called upon to expedite special funding to help nonprofits and government agencies remain equipped to address an ever-changing landscape of crime and victimization. Through administration of 125 grants, \$12,971,691 in special federal funding was made available. OCJP remains vigilant and flexible to continue to counter obstacles arising from COVID-19 as they develop.

Strategically Responding to Reductions in Federal Funding:

OCJP has worked 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 criminal justice missions. Our strategic planning process reflects this ongoing work and includes leveraging state and discretionary federal grants to help supplement agencies' reduced VOCA funding and build capacity.



Prior to obligating the FFY14 VOCA award, the amount of funding returned was 5% or less. Once OCJP began obligating the increased funding, the gap between obligations and expenditures has increased to an average of 19%, peaking in 2022 at 26%.

Safe Housing for Displaced Victims

One area of particular focus for these efforts is ensuring the accessibility of safe housing for displaced victims of crime throughout the state. When victims of interpersonal violence – whether domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, or human trafficking – are displaced from their home, they experience a complete loss of place, property, and self. The availability of safe, accessible housing for these individuals and their children is imperative to ensuring their safety and wellbeing.

173,222 the # of times clients were provided safe housing in FY22

Safe housing for displaced victims is provided through OCJP's domestic violence, human trafficking, transitional housing, sexual assault, and elder abuse programs.

Training and Technical Assistance:

As part of our comprehensive training plan, OCJP held the annual Subrecipient Grants Management training in July 2022 where 249 attendees represented 105 subrecipient agencies. The annual day-long training orients subrecipients to the OCJP Grants Manual and answers subrecipient questions about grant oversight. The purpose of this resource 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.

In FY 2022, OCJP distributed \$91,925,197 in funding through 622 grants 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, elder abuse, 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;

Continuing and expanding **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;

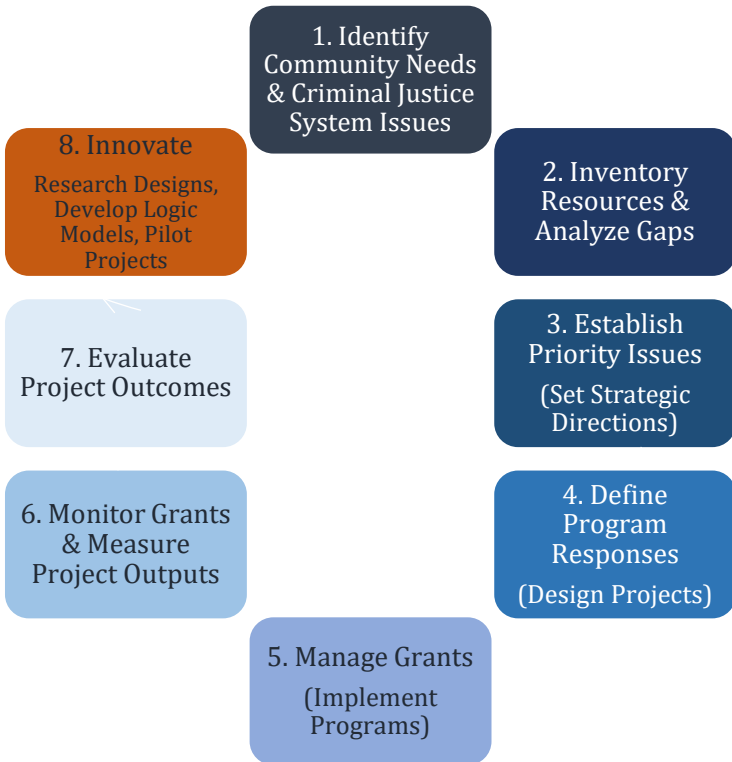
Continuing and expanding **victim service programs**, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking programs, child advocacy centers, victim-witness coordinators, civil-legal services, court appointed special advocates, and elder abuse services;

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.

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:

Strategic Planning is a core function of OCJP and assists the office in determining avenues of funding for state and local entities. To address crime and victimization in Tennessee, OCJP manages a systematic, year-round cycle for determining communities' needs, identifying issues within the justice system, setting program priorities, making grant allocation decisions, managing 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 issues 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.

HEARING FROM TENNESSEANS:

Annually, OCJP convenes a variety of 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.

- The annual **Criminal Justice Roundtable** 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, and victim advocates. The roundtable members represent all three grand divisions of Tennessee as well as urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state. In FY22, the

Roundtable met virtually and shared their professional expertise, local and regional perspectives, and broad state-level recommendations for funding, coordination, and technical assistance.

- OCJP’s annual **Victim Centered Focus Groups** consisted of three two-hour 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 criminal justice system.
- **Elder Victims of Crime Stakeholder Forums:** as part of a VOCA-funded state assessment of underserved victimizations, OCJP hosted three forums with elder survivors of crime, elder victim service providers and other stakeholders to explore elder crime in Tennessee. The primary goal of the forums was to identify what opportunities and obstacles exist for elder victims of crime seeking justice, assistance, and resources throughout the state. The forum results, coupled with subsequent stakeholder and survivor surveys, will inform the statewide elder victims of crime services assessment, which identifies systemic strengths and gaps in accessibility, training, and coordination.

The information collected through these groups 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.

Upon completion of the decision-making process for allocation of funds, OCJP publicly distributes notification of funding intent, then canvases the state for both local and state-level project proposals that potentially fit the program models that have been determined to meet the prioritized needs of Tennesseans. The project applications are reviewed by a team of victim service and criminal justice professionals and other stakeholders to assure that the most qualified project applications will receive a chance for funding.

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.

GRANTS MANAGEMENT:

Funded projects are monitored by OCJP program 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

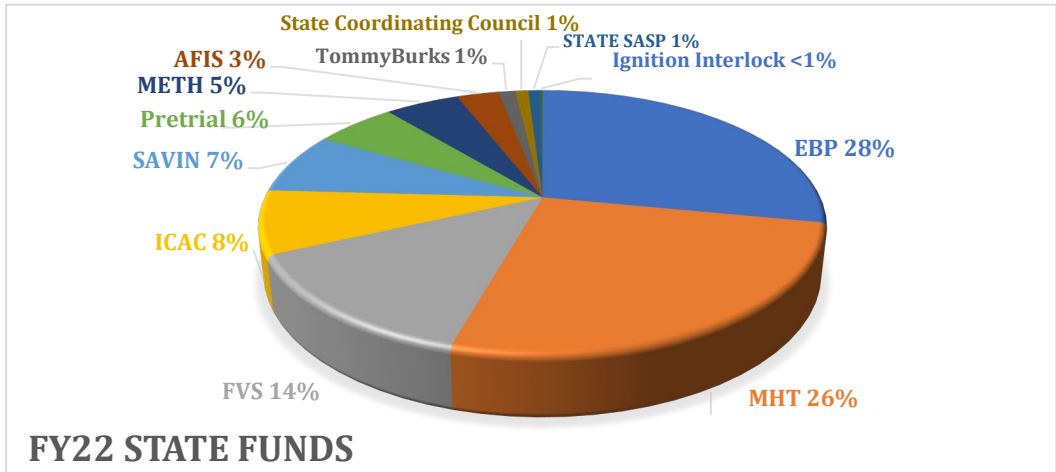
outputs and outcomes are accurately tracked and fulfilled. In the aggregate, these reports also help to indicate the overall impact the program may be having on the intended issue or need.

In FY22, OCJP conducted program monitoring through a hybrid of virtual desk reviews and onsite, in-person visits. The use of technology to conduct interviews with grant-funded staff and secure file-sharing programs to review important documents have afforded many agencies greater access to OCJP's guidance, training, and technical assistance. In the coming year, OCJP looks forward to increasing its presence in local communities and will maintain many of the virtual access points created as a result of COVID in order to facilitate connection between local communities and OCJP staff.

FUND SOURCE OVERVIEW

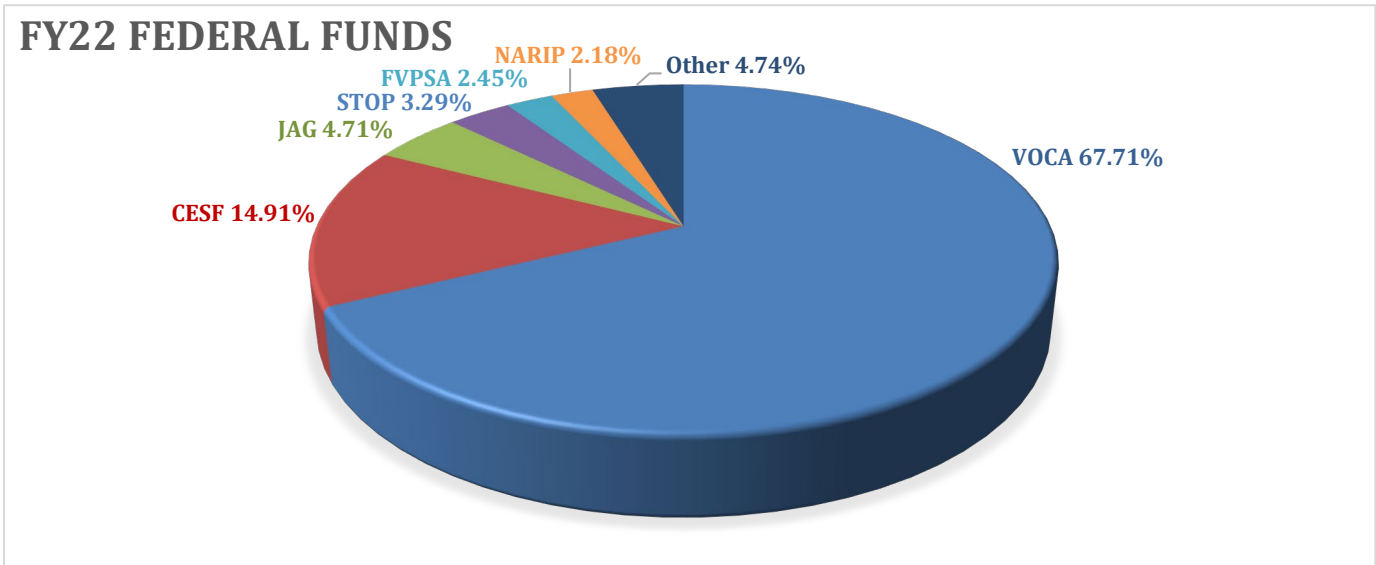
In FY22 OCJP received additional state funding to address specific priorities for Tennessee, including Mental Health Transport (MHT) and Evidence-Based Programming (EBP) for local jails.

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 (CESF) from the federal



Bureau of Justice Assistance, funding specifically to support domestic violence and sexual assault victim services through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), as well as Family Violence Prevention Services Act CAREs funding from the federal Department of Health and Human Services. 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.

In FY22, OCJP awarded 622 contracts, totaling \$83,200,648 in federal funding and \$8,724,549 in state funding. State and local community agencies also contributed \$4,978,008 in matching funds to these projects. 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. Thus, these match funds are considerably lower than in previous years. As in previous years, the VOCA fund source comprised a majority (68%) of the federal funding administered by OCJP. The remaining 32% of federal funds included 15 funding streams, as seen in the graph.

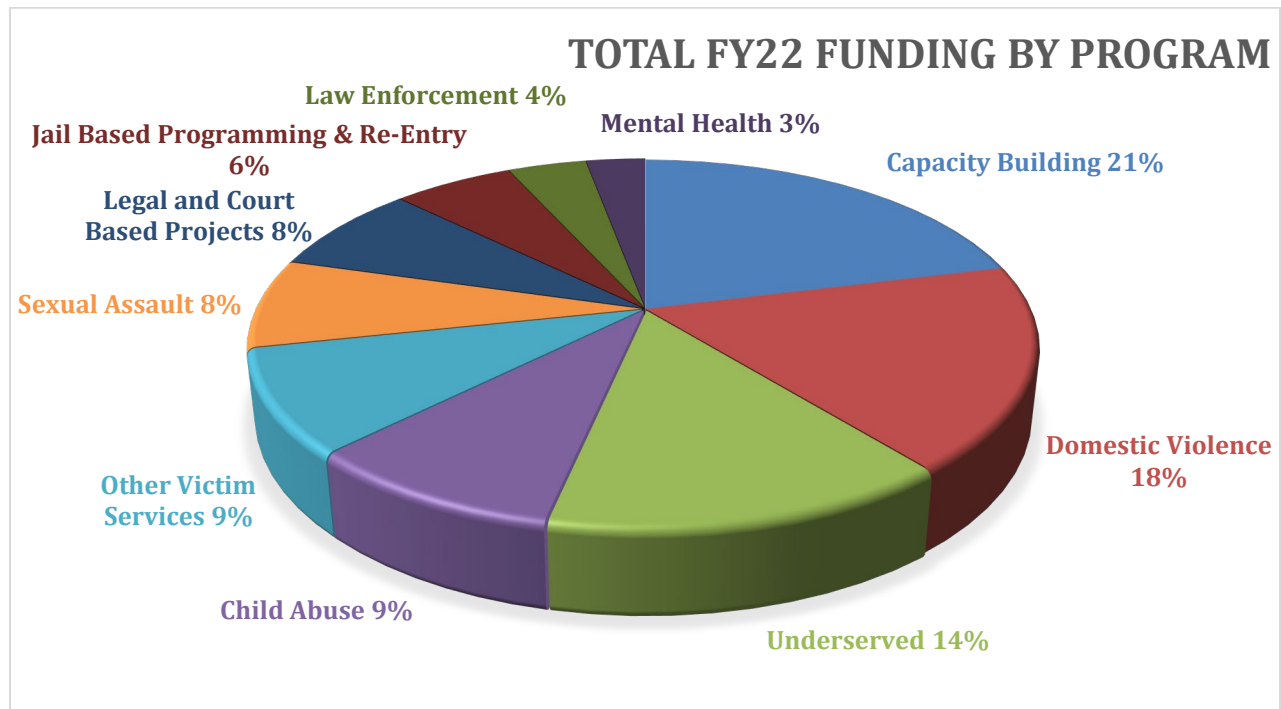


Funds included in the "Other" category: ICJR, NCHIP, RSAT, FVPSA CARES, SASP, COVERDELL, PSN, EFLEA, ARP

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 FY22.

As seen in the graph below, OCJP's greatest investment in FY22 was in capacity building. In order to help increase capacity while avoiding creating a situation where agencies would be forced to decrease services due to some of the changing workforce environment as a result of the pandemic, OCJP funded a large number of equipment and technology grants so that local programs could develop creative solutions to continue service provision. Additional enhancements came in the form of technology and training grants to ensure criminal justice professionals had the latest information and tools to enhance their work in public safety and responding to victimization.

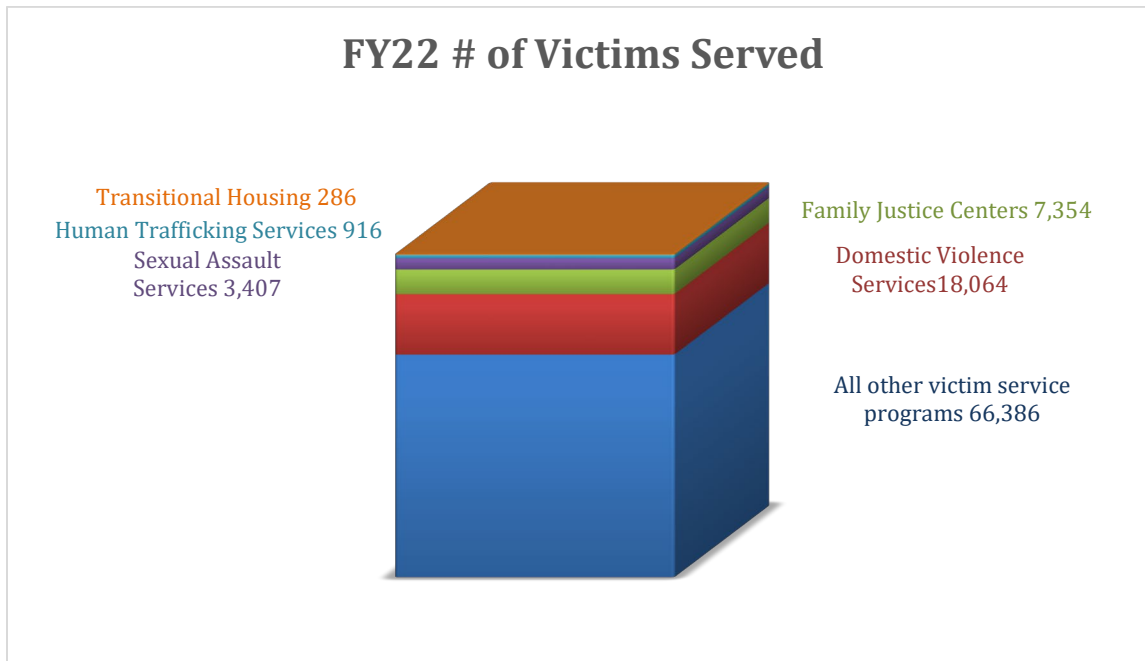


PROGRAM OUTPUTS

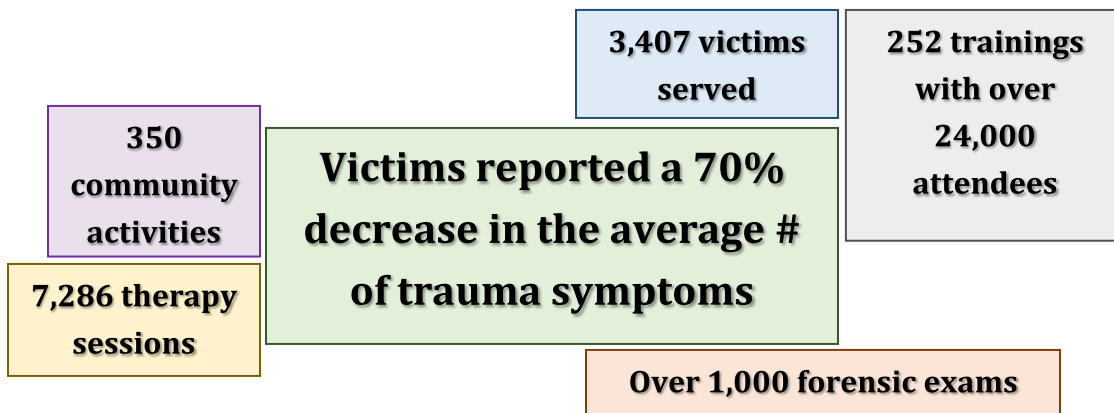
VICTIM SERVICES

State and federal funding to support services for victims of crime constitutes 70% of program funding that OCJP administered in FY22. 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.

Victim Services in FY22



Sexual Assault Services in FY22

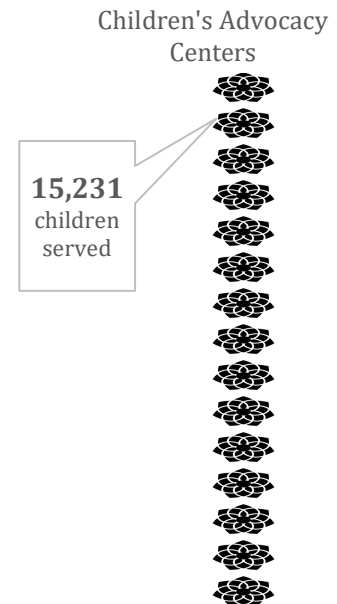


CHILD ABUSE SERVICES

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)

A children's advocacy center provides services to victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and their non-offending family members in a safe, child-friendly environment. CACs provide trauma informed services that include forensic interviews, therapy, advocacy, court orientation, medical examinations, and child and family advocacy. A CAC is a unique setting where victims can receive services in one place and law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical and mental health professionals may share information and develop effective, coordinated strategies sensitive to the needs of each unique case and child.

In FY22, 15,231 child victims were provided support and counseling at Tennessee's children's advocacy centers.



Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

The ICAC program awards grants to three 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. During FY22, Tennessee's ICAC units investigated 1,285 crimes against children and made 182 arrests for offenders involved in the sexual exploitation of children. 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.

COVID-19 FUNDING

Throughout FY 2022, OCJP worked closely with federal funders, state agencies, and local communities to continue to respond creatively and prudently to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. OCJP expedited special funding to help nonprofits and government agencies remain equipped to address an ever-changing landscape of crime and victimization.

\$12,971,691

in Covid-19 funding was administered through 125 grants in FY22

Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF)

CESF funding was awarded to local governments to support innovative solutions to the safety and accessibility issues posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Common uses of the funds included:

- Technology that allowed the public to have remote access to criminal justice services

- Technology to conduct criminal proceedings remotely, including video arraignments and virtual hearings
- Replacement of outdated desktop computers that required users to remain in a fixed location with laptop computers that allow for mobility
- Air handlers and filtration equipment for courts and law enforcement agencies to improve occupants' health and safety

These technology and equipment solutions were implemented within a wide array of public spaces, including courthouses, correctional facilities, public defenders' offices, mental health providers' offices, and even public vehicles.



CESF funded this Justice Bus to support access to legal assistance in remote regions of the state.

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

ARP funds are designated to support domestic violence and sexual assault service agencies responding to COVID-19. In FY22, OCJP collaborated with the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence to support Sexual Violence programs and Nurture the Next to support Domestic Violence programs through the planning process for full implementation of the ARP funding in 2023.

Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) CARES

FVPSA CARES funding, from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, is intended to support family violence shelter programs and their community-based offices' needs for preventing, preparing for, or responding to the coronavirus pandemic. In FY22, OCJP administered 15 FVPSA CARES grant contracts totaling \$495,446.

RE-ENTRY

Re-entry programming is provided to individuals while they are incarcerated in the state's prisons and jails. Re-entry begins at adjudication and includes the entire spectrum of rehabilitative services including medical, behavioral health, substance use treatment, education, vocational training, spiritual and volunteer services, correctional counseling, and employment services and assistance. Re-entry enhances public safety through a continuous system of care by identifying an individual's risks and needs upon entry into the justice system and developing a system of individualized treatment and programming throughout their incarceration, transition, and re-entry into the community.

OCJP administers state and federal funding to expand and enhance the quality and quantity of re-entry services:

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

The purpose of the VOCA Re-Entry project is to expand and enhance the quality and quantity of services to victims of child abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking and/or domestic violence who are incarcerated prior to and upon release from incarceration in local adult correctional facilities. The goal of this priority area is to minimize the long-term effects resulting from the past or recent victimization of individuals who are under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system and who are preparing to re-enter society. These programs provide wrap around trauma informed services that allow for a successful transition back into the community. These services include case management and therapeutic services to include group and individual therapy. Therapeutic services begin in the facility and continues post release. After care case management begins prior to release and continues for at least six months post release.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

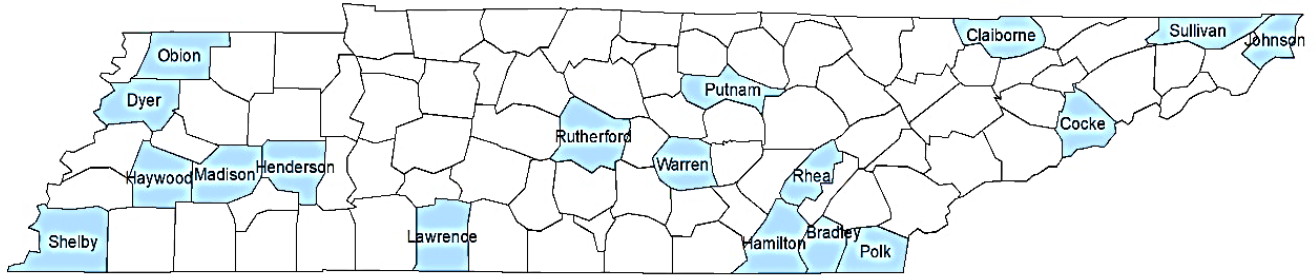
OCJP administers JAG funds to provide resources, services, and training to formerly incarcerated and soon-to-be-released Tennesseans. OCJP has approached this through a myriad of funded projects that aligns with Governor Lee's priority for criminal justice reform such as a project with the Workforce Services Division of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development to increase job placements for those that are justice involved; a grant with the Department of Correction for transportation services for the justice involved living within local communities; training for local jail staff in implementing the STRONG R risk and needs assessment and Moral Reconciliation Therapy and other local jail based re-entry projects. The goals of this programming include reduced recidivism rates, improved social mobility, and empowered economic sufficiency - for justice involved individuals returning to local communities.

Evidence-Based Programming (EBP) in Local Jails

In FY22, an EBP state grant was made available to local county jails that house TN Department of Correction (TDOC) inmates. The funds are intended to support the implementation and enhancement of evidence-based re-entry programming to improve offender outcomes. Evidence-based programming is defined as "a program or programs shown by scientific research to effectively reduce recidivism rates and increase an offender's likelihood of success following release from incarceration, including programs focused on education, vocational training, mental health, substance abuse rehabilitation, or building healthy relationships."

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

*In FY22, EBP funds supported **18 local jails** as they worked to develop 48 evidence-based reentry programs, which annually serve an average of 6,647 incarcerated individuals:*



Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)

OCJP administers the RSAT program in partnership with the TDOC. The goal of the program is to break the cycle of substance abuse, criminal behavior, and incarceration in order to provide a safe and drug-free living and working environment both within state correctional facilities as well as in the local communities to which offenders return. The comprehensive, collaborative approach includes providing mental health and behavioral programming, substance abuse counseling, mentoring, transportation, housing, and employment support, and more. The RSAT funded portion of the program occurs within the state correctional facility and includes a re-entry care plan for supportive wrap around community-based services upon release.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING

OCJP administers three programs that support the maintenance and enhancement of Tennessee’s criminal justice information sharing systems.

The National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) awards federal 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 ensuring the nationwide implementation of criminal justice and noncriminal justice background check systems.

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. In FY21 and FY22, collection of these funds decreased significantly. OCJP continues to monitor the status of tax litigation collections and communicates concerns with F&A leadership. Automated fingerprint identification is the process of automatically matching one or many unknown fingerprints against a database of known and unknown prints. It is 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 criminal history data to the federal government as required by law.

NICS Act Records Improvement Program (NARIP) seeks to address the gap in information available to National Criminal Instant Background Check (NICS) about prohibiting mental health adjudications and commitments, and other prohibiting factors. The NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 was signed in the wake of the April 2007 shooting tragedy at Virginia Tech.

Filling information gaps enables 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 reduces delays for law-abiding persons to purchase firearms.

MENTAL HEALTH TRANSPORTATION (MHT) PROGRAM

The MHT program which began in FY22 and continues today, set aside \$4 million in state funds specifically to assist Sheriffs required to transport persons to a hospital or treatment resource under TCA 33-6-406. The purpose of the funds is to offset the costs that local sheriff's offices incur when providing safe and humane transport of individuals who are not under arrest but in mental health crisis and require assistance in reaching a hospital or mental health facility. As part of continued planning and refinement of the project, OCJP also collaborates with the Tennessee Sheriffs Association for ongoing input and feedback.

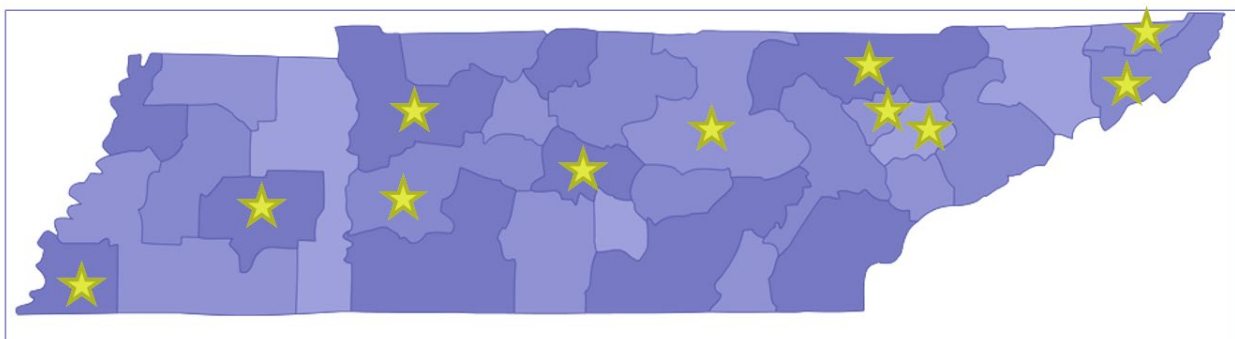


STOP

One way OCJP utilizes STOP funding is 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.

In FY22, STOP funding supported 12 Prosecutor positions in 11 state judicial districts.

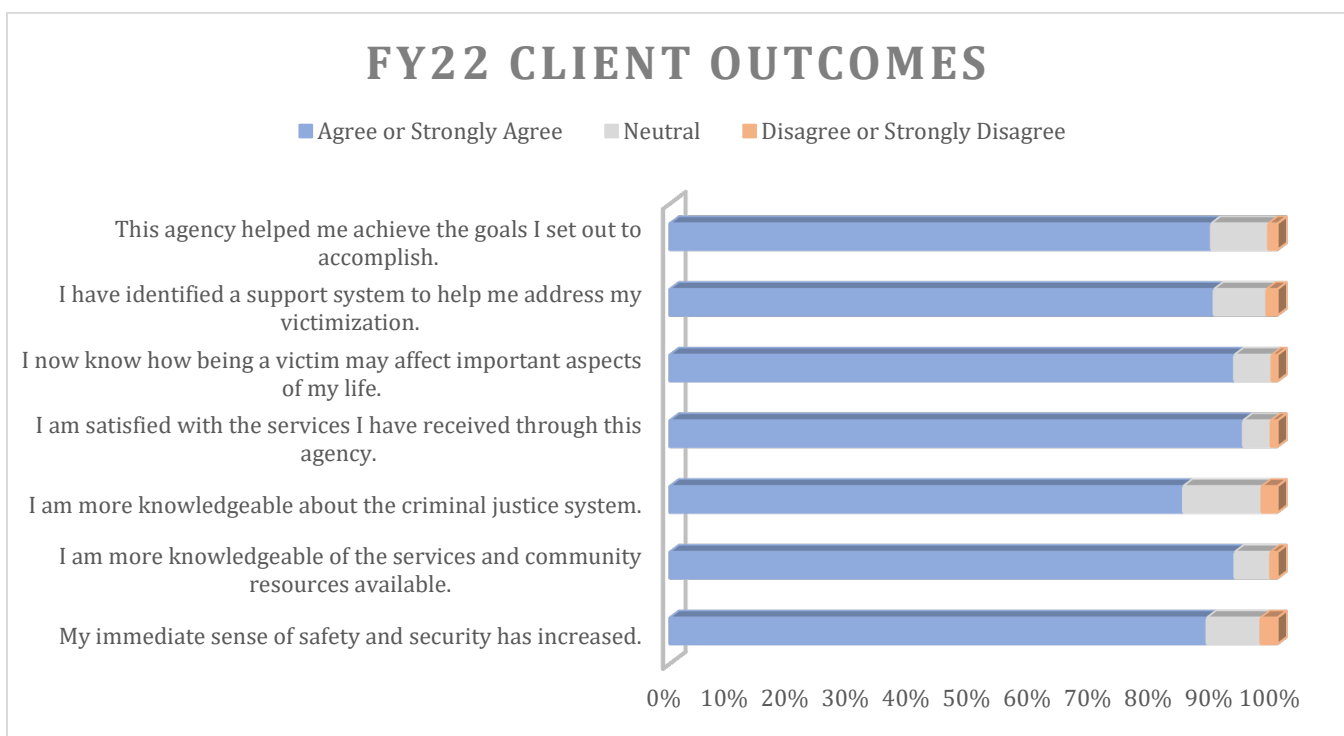
Tennessee State Judicial Districts with STOP Prosecutor Positions:



PROGRAM 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 the course of their experience with the grant funded agency. Depending on the type of program, the surveys include a set of standardized, required measures, as well 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.

For FY22, 76% 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. 19% were “neutral”, and just under 5% responded with “disagree” or “strongly disagree.”

INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

VICTIM WITNESS COORDINATORS

The purpose of the VOCA-funded Victim Witness Coordinator (VWC) program is to educate, support, and aid victims and witnesses of crime as they move through the criminal justice process. VWCs inform victims of their rights, advocate for enforcement of those rights, and coordinate with community agencies to ensure the continuation of support for victims once their case has been resolved in the court system.

In FY22, OCJP administered VOCA funding to support 29 VWC positions through a combination of grants to the state's District Attorney General's Conference, as well as through local county governments. This funding allows district attorney's offices in judicial districts across TN to provide support for victims of crime from the onset of the case and continue throughout the court process. VWCs establish contact as early as possible to obtain information about the victim and the case, and to assess any immediate concerns for safety and well-being the victim may have. They make victims aware of their constitutional right to be present and to participate in the prosecution of their case. VWCs function as liaisons between the victims and the District Attorney's offices prosecuting their cases to facilitate the exchange of information and keep the victims informed at each step in the process. This support and advocacy for victims has been shown to improve case outcomes, increase offender accountability, and increase the satisfaction of victims with the criminal justice system. It also helps victims plan for their continued safety and a better quality of life following the disposition of their cases by providing information about victim service programs and community resources and making referrals when applicable.

"We are working with a victim whose abuser has been formally charged with aggravated assault, kidnapping, and violation of order of protection. The victim has no family support system, so she fled the state out of fear for her safety and the safety of her children. **The assigned VOCA-funded VWC keeps in regular contact with her to keep her informed and to notify her of the status of the two cases she is involved in. She has been informed of her rights as a victim and received a victim's packet with helpful information.** She expressed concern about the financial burden of having to relocate. **The VWC talked with her about the Criminal Injuries Compensation fund, letting her know that she may qualify to be reimbursed for her moving expenses and explaining the application process to her.** Because the defendant reoffended, the ADA filed a Motion to Revoke Bond in the domestic assault case. The victim was subpoenaed to testify during the bond revocation hearing. Understandably, she was upset and expressed fear of travelling back to our area, having to see the defendant again, and having nowhere to stay overnight. Additionally, she feared retaliation and intimidation from the defendant and his family. **VWC explained the hearing process to her and what to expect on that day. Her concerns were addressed and taken seriously. VOCA funds were used to pay for a hotel room for her to safely stay overnight. The VWC met her in the parking lot on the day of the hearing and escorted her into the DA's office. The VWC sat with her out of view of the defendant and his family. After the victim testified, she was visibly upset so VWC escorted her to her car to ensure her safety. The defendant's bond was revoked and he was placed in custody and taken to jail.**"

-- FY22 VOCA-funded VWC Annual Report excerpt

2022 FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER SYMPOSIUM



Family Justice Centers (FJCs) are real-time collaborations of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals who work together, under one roof, to provide coordinated services to victims of family violence. The “one call to make, one place to go” model has been enormously successful across the state, providing trauma-informed care for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, stalking and other forms of interpersonal violence without compelling victims to travel all over their community, often with children in tow, to seek services, safety, and justice. In Tennessee, every Family Justice Center facilitates a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) team, which includes law enforcement, prosecution, civil-legal assistance, victim services (including shelter, forensic exams and much more), judges and clerks, and other community stakeholders, all working together to close gaps, keep victims safer, and hold offenders accountable.

of clients served by TN FJCs in FY22

 , 7,354

OCJP has leveraged JAG, VOCA, STOP and other state and federal funding to support the development and growth of FJC locations throughout the state. In FY22, FJCs were open and served 7,354 victims and their families in thirteen TN counties: Anderson, Claiborne, Davidson, Hamilton, Haywood, Knox, Madison, Overton, Scott, Shelby, Sullivan, Putnam, and Washington.

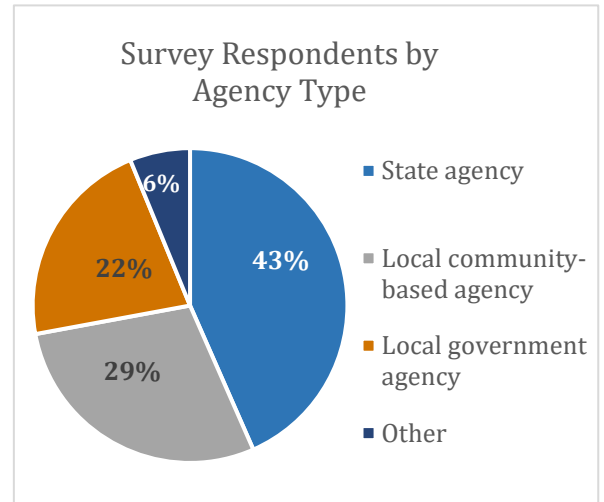
The 2022 Tennessee FJC Symposium was held May 16-18 to provide meaningful training and technical assistance opportunities for TN FJCs and their partner agencies, as well as opportunities for collaboration, development, and community-building. The conference included fourteen workshops on a variety of topics ranging from resiliency and trauma to innovative practices. Presenters from across a spectrum of professions in the field provided expertise for a wide range of attendees. The symposium also included voices of survivors who shared their direct experiences with interpersonal violence and seeking assistance through FJCs. Each FJC in the state was represented along with an emerging future FJC site in Henderson County.



VOCA UNDERSERVED VICTIMS OF CRIME STATE LIAISON PROJECT

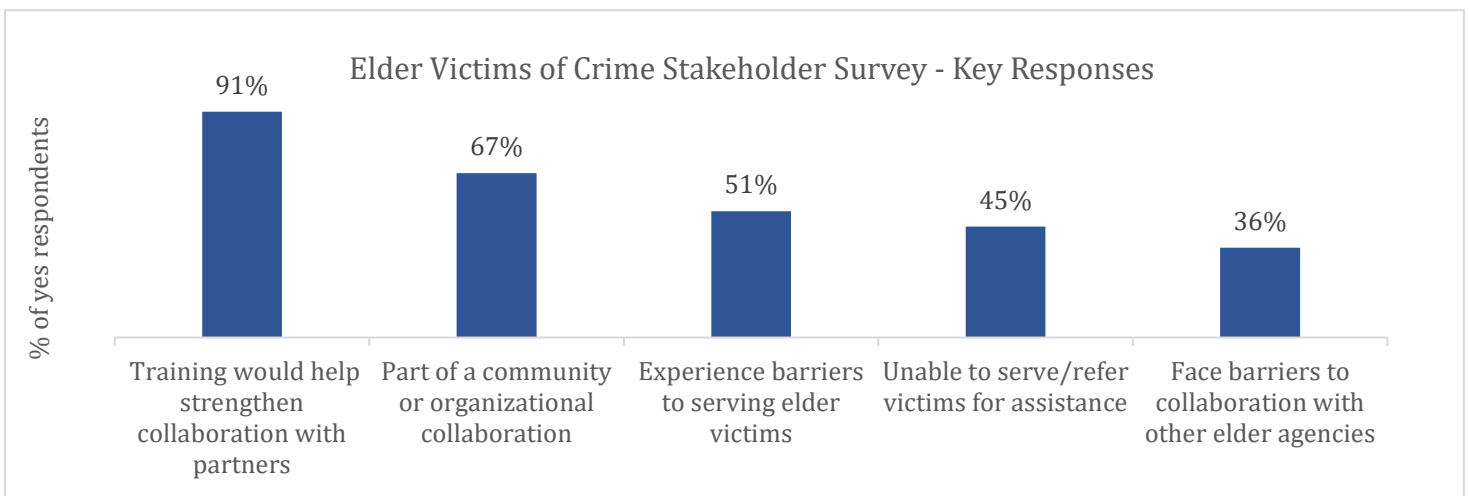
OCJP received a discretionary VOCA grant to implement the Underserved Victims of Crime Statewide Assessment. OCJP chose to focus on two specific underserved populations: elder victims of crime and victims of crime residing in a rural community. As part of the project, OCJP received funding to hire a Statewide Underserved Victims of Crime Liaison, as well as a Coordinator, to implement the assessment activities and provide technical assistance and training to local communities wishing to conduct their own local underserved victims of crime assessments.

Throughout FY22, the Liaison, supported by Assistant Director of Special Projects, conducted the assessment for the Elder Victims of Crime population, evaluating existing local, state, and federal resources for elder victims of crime to identify models that are working well and opportunities for systems-level improvement. Goals for these activities include:



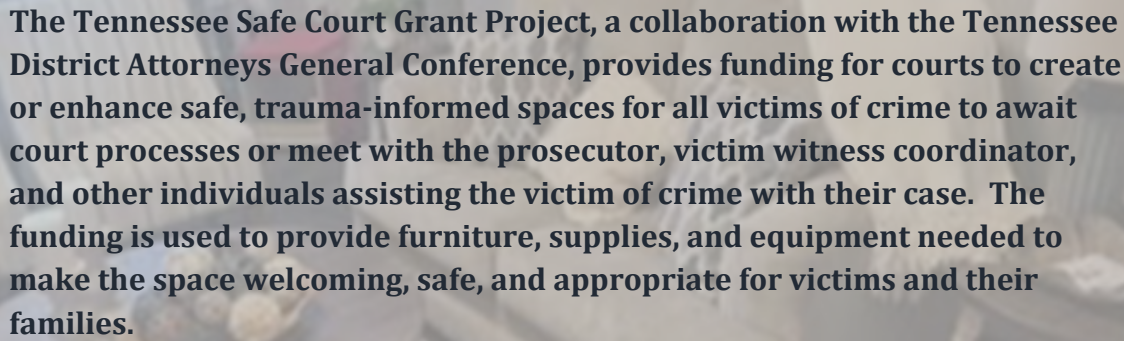
- Evaluate statewide services to determine if the services are meeting demand for victim assistance
- Improve statewide collaboration to enhance access to services for victims
- Conduct forums and surveys to identify the needs of victims and stakeholders
- Develop concrete recommendations for enhancing access to services

The assessment includes one-on-one interviews with elder victim service stakeholders throughout the state, victim service provider forums set in each of Tennessee’s grand divisions, and a stakeholder and elder victim survey. The Liaison will further serve as a training and technical service provider for local communities seeking to enhance their service provision and expand accessibility to the elder population.



The Liaison project team will continue to collect victim survey results to include in the final data analysis. The toolkit of resources, discussion guides, forum and survey templates, and other tools will be provided to local communities wishing to implement a local-level assessment of elder crime service accessibility.

SAFE COURT PROJECT



The Tennessee Safe Court Grant Project, a collaboration with the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference, provides funding for courts to create or enhance safe, trauma-informed spaces for all victims of crime to await court processes or meet with the prosecutor, victim witness coordinator, and other individuals assisting the victim of crime with their case. The funding is used to provide furniture, supplies, and equipment needed to make the space welcoming, safe, and appropriate for victims and their families.

To date, OCJP has utilized \$61,158 in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to support seven Safe Court projects throughout the state.

OCJP TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

OCJP works closely with stakeholders to maintain and enhance training and technical assistance. OCJP utilizes processes and tools to orient agencies that are new to OCJP grant administration, as well as for management staff who are new to an existing program. This New Project Director Orientation is conducted year-round as the need arises, and is available to nonprofit, local government, and state agency grantees.

OCJP's required 501c3 board training for nonprofit board members is crucial in equipping agencies with skills and knowledge they need to act as 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 our subrecipient agencies for success over time

This level of technical assistance is part of OCJP's mission to empower and support agencies, even as they experience periods of growth and transition, to ensure that they have the information and tools they need to successfully serve Tennesseans.

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.

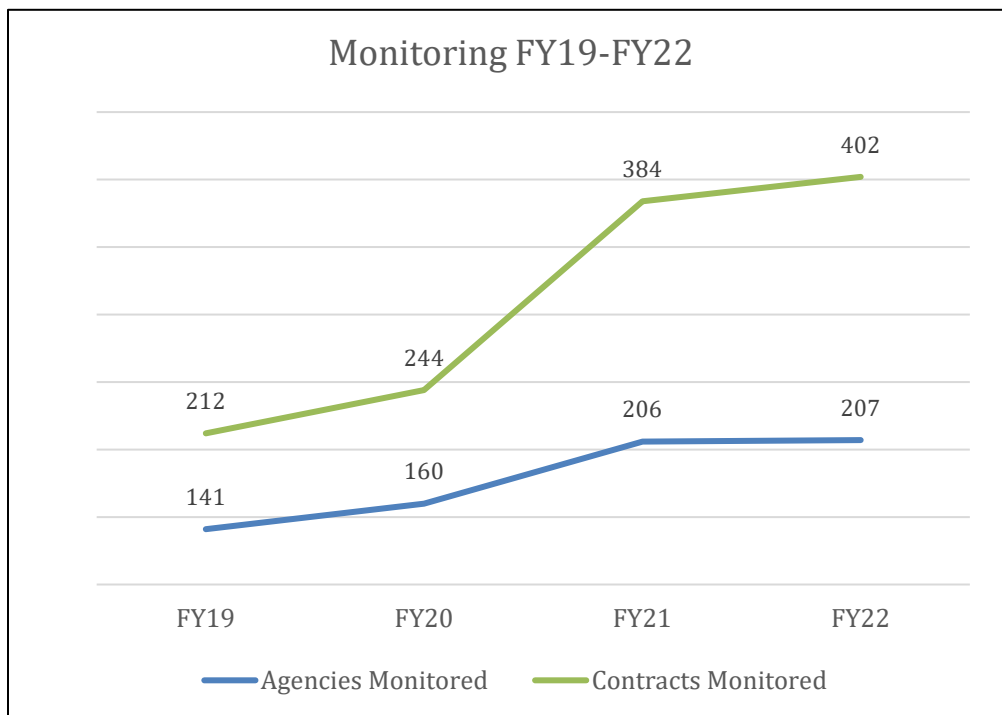
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

In FY22, OCJP monitored 207 agencies with 402 contracts to ensure compliance with state and federal grant requirements. This represents 63% of the total number of contracts and 60% of the total dollar amount of available grant funds. There were 384 findings of non-compliance and 33 observations for improvement.

MONITORING SUMMARY:

OCJP faced numerous monitoring challenges in FY22. The most significant hurdle was again addressing COVID-19, which increased the overall monitoring caseload and prevented on-site monitoring visits for most of the cycle.

For four consecutive years, OCJP program managers and fiscal monitors broke office records with contracts monitored and reports issued. This increase in the number of contracts and subrecipients monitored did correlate to an increase in findings. For agencies with findings, there was an average of 2 findings per report. The historic monitoring accomplishments in FY22 are further illuminated by the disruption of the monitoring cycle due to an extended contracting cycle. 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.



FISCAL UNIT

During FY22, OCJP's Fiscal Unit hosted a series of trainings to help OCJP staff and subrecipient agencies better understand two important but often misunderstood topics: Cost Allocation Plans and Indirect Cost Rate Proposals.

The training was designed to help subrecipient agencies gain foundational knowledge of these budget considerations; and help develop the skills to successfully create and negotiate an indirect cost rate agreement. The training also focused on:

- understanding Uniform Guidance 2 C.F.R Part 200 requirements related to indirect costs (IDC);
- recognizing the necessary components for an IDC proposal packet and cost allocation plan;
- articulating why it is important to charge IDC to cover all costs for services provided;
- understanding the various types of IDC rates and methodologies for determining each one;
- recognizing when it might be best to apply the de minimis rate;
- identifying what goes into building a cost allocation plan and indirect cost rate proposal; and,
- knowing where to go for additional helpful tools and resources on these topics.

Additionally, OCJP Program and Fiscal Unit staff worked with the federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) training and technical support team to create and present a training for other state administrating agencies (SAAs) on the issue of commingling funds. The goal of the training was to help other states that administer state and federal grant funds better understand the following:

- Department of Justice (DOJ)/Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) regulations regarding commingling;
- DOJ/CFR regulations regarding accounting systems;
- how to prevent commingling at the SAA level (ex: time tracking for staff);
- separation of funds tracking at the SAA level;
- how to trace subrecipient expenditures to identify commingling; and,
- examples of common subrecipient monitoring findings regarding commingling.

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. 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.

APPENDIX

The table below lists all fund sources used in FY22, the number of grants funded, and the amount of funds obligated. Additionally, most federal fund sources and some state fund sources are linked to the OCJP Grants Manual in the first column. This report represents a snapshot of OCJP's FY22 data as it is currently reported. 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.

Abbreviation & Link ¹	Fund Source	Grants	FY22 Funds Obligated
FEDERAL FUND SOURCES			
VOCA	Victims of Crime Act	289	\$56,334,924
CESE	Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding	108	\$12,407,735
JAG	Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant	48	\$3,921,623
STOP	STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grants	35	\$2,737,542
FVPSA	Family Violence Prevention Services Act Programs	8	\$2,039,200
NARIP	National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Act Record Improvement Program	4	\$1,817,441
ICJR	Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Grant Program	1	\$766,473
NCHIP	National Criminal History Improvement Program	5	\$692,041
RSAT	Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program for State Prisoners	1	\$539,625
FVPSA Cares	FVPSA Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act	15	\$495,446
SASP	Sexual Assault Services Program	4	\$491,793
COVERDELL	Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program	4	\$473,581
PSN	Project Safe Neighborhoods	12	\$362,733
EFLEA	Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Program	4	\$51,980
ARP II Workforce Support	FVPSA American Rescue Plan II	1	\$43,510
ARP III SA	FVPSA American Rescue Plan III - SA	1	\$25,000
STATE FUND SOURCES			
EBP	Evidence Based Programming	19	\$2,448,505
MHT	Mental Health Transport	32	\$2,296,621
FVS	Family Violence Services	10	\$1,198,611
ICAC	Internet Crimes Against Children	3	\$677,000
SAVIN	Sexual Assault Victims Notification	1	\$650,000
Pretrial	Pretrial Services	9	\$493,332
METH	Methamphetamine Initiative	5	\$444,280
AFIS	Automated Fingerprint Identification System	1	\$252,700
Tommy Burks	Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy	1	\$100,000
State Coordinating Council	Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council	1	\$78,500
STATE SASP	State Sexual Assault Services	1	\$70,000
Ignition Interlock	Interlock Ignition Fee for Halfway Houses	1	\$15,000
¹ not all fund sources have a link	Grand Total	624	\$91,925,197

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