



PSN TTA Engagement Profile NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

The Department of Justice's 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 customized to account for local violent crime problems and resources.

PSN is supported by a robust training and technical assistance (TTA) program, the Project Safe Neighborhoods Training and Technical Assistance (PSN TTA) program. The PSN TTA program assists PSN teams with planning, implementing, and assessing their violence-reduction strategies. PSN teams receive TTA in a variety of formats, including in-person and virtual trainings, assessments, subject matter expert (SME) consultations, peer exchanges, and webinars.

The Northern District of Ohio has actively taken advantage of TTA opportunities to enhance its PSN efforts. The US Attorney's Office (USAO) for the Northern District of Ohio established the Northern Ohio Violent Crime Consortium (NOVCC) in 2007 to reduce violent crime through a coordinated and effective intelligence-led, data-driven, multijurisdictional, and multiagency strategy. The partnership engages federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies; universities; and subject matter experts to develop and implement core activities. Training is a key objective of the NOVCC.

"We couldn't be happier with the support received from TTA. TTA has been excellent to work with, and in helping to identify superb training solutions for our District. We have been able to rely on TTA's expertise and professionalism in providing training to our law enforcement partners, which provides opportunities for them to learn new methods, techniques and best practices in the ongoing effort to reduce violent crime. With so many agencies facing tough budgetary environments, collaboration with TTA is now more important than ever." - Thomas Weldon, Supervisory Law Enforcement Coordinator, USAO, Northern District of Ohio

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Highlighted below are a few notable PSN TTA engagements that the district has participated in.

CRIME ANALYSIS AND SOCIAL MEDIA INVESTIGATIONS TRAINING

The USAO for the Northern District of Ohio hosted an in-person, multi-day training on crime analysis and social media investigations for law enforcement professionals representing more than a dozen federal, state, county, and local organizations throughout the district. The training was led by SMEs Julie Wartell, Christopher Bruce, and Sam Palmer. Ms. Wartell provided training on basic Excel, which was geared toward new users and those wanting additional knowledge. Mr. Bruce provided training on advanced Excel analytical techniques and on using Excel in conjunction with other technologies. Mr. Palmer provided training on social media investigations, which instructed participants on the various ways to use search and browser developer tools, along with the utilization of search sites for helpful open-source information. The training was evaluated as being extremely effective and relevant by the participants.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS ASSESSMENT

A large police department in the Northern District of Ohio requested to participate in a strategic communications assessment. The department's goal was to grow community trust and build a team approach to combating violent crime. PSN TTA SME Laura McElroy conducted this assessment. To conduct the assessment, Ms. McElroy interviewed relevant department personnel and local reporters, studied local media coverage of the department and all department internal and external messaging, and reviewed department social media content. The assessment resulted in 18 actionable recommendations for the department to maximize communication channels, strengthen community relationships, and build trust. A final report was delivered to the requesting department containing the observations, analysis, and recommendations from the assessment.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER PRESENTATION AT NORTHERN OHIO VIOLENT CRIME CONSORTIUM PSN KICK-OFF MEETING

The USAO for the Northern District of Ohio reached out to the PSN TTA team to request an SME to provide the keynote speaker presentation for the NOVCC PSN Kick-Off Meeting. The NOVCC consists of eight cities that are the focus of the district's PSN efforts. The district sought a speaker who could present a national perspective on gun violence. The PSN TTA team identified SME Dr. Scott Decker to provide this presentation. Dr. Decker's presentation focused on the nature and magnitude of gun violence, its causes, and best practice responses that involve law enforcement.

"Scott, thank you very much for your presentation today. It was very informative, and I believe provided valuable insight to our partner agencies as they develop and/or refine their projects." - Kyle Walton, Community Outreach Specialist, USAO, Northern District of Ohio

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VICTIM AND WITNESS RELOCATION PEER ASSISTANCE

Based on a request from the Northern District of Ohio, the PSN TTA team organized a virtual meeting with representatives from Detroit Ceasefire and the Northern District of Ohio PSN team to discuss a variety of issues related to victim and witness relocation. Bishop Daryl Harris of Detroit Ceasefire talked about Detroit's experience working with the faith community to fund and organize hotel rooms and longer-term housing for victims and witnesses of violence. The Northern District of Ohio was interested in starting relocation assistance services for victims and witnesses in their jurisdiction and asked the Bishop how the relocation services were provided, sources of funding, challenges and how they were overcome, and how law enforcement agencies were involved in the program.

"Bishop Harris is clearly a gift to his community for his personal and professional efforts to meet the needs of victims and witnesses of violence. His methods were very impressive and helped us to identify avenues to better serve clients in Cleveland." - Peer Assistance Attendee



Visit the PSN TTA website at <https://psntta.org/> to learn more about available TTA opportunities.

