

PSN TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Monthly Newsletter



Thank you for following our monthly Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) bulletin. The monthly bulletin highlights TTA and resources provided to PSN task forces and local law enforcement agencies. TTA requests can be made online [here](#). If you have questions regarding TTA, please contact your regional TTA liaison or the PSN TTA team at psntta@cna.org.

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POLICE USE SCIENCE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

This article by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) summarizes a recent NIJ podcast episode on evidence-based, scientifically sound methods to reduce gun violence in communities. The three experts featured on the podcast are all alumni of NIJ's [Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science \(LEADS\) Scholars Program](#) and have championed the use of science and evidence to reduce gun violence victimization.

Topics discussed include the following: focusing on the people, community collaboration and strategic problem solving, a coordinated approach, and the importance of buy-in.

Read the full article [here](#).



REPORT SPOTLIGHT: SAVING LIVES: TEN ESSENTIAL ACTIONS CITIES CAN TAKE TO REDUCE VIOLENCE NOW

The [Council on Criminal Justice \(CJC\)](#) launched a Violent Crime Working Group in July 2021. Composed of a diverse range of leaders, the group dedicated itself to saving lives by producing anti-violence guidance that is timely, relevant, and reliable. Since then, the group has met 11 times, consulted with the field's leading experts, produced three reports on national crime trends, held two live public web events, and issued seven bulletins highlighting its key findings and featuring concrete recommendations to improve policy and practice in this critical area.

[Four principles](#) guide the work of the group. First, the group is solution-focused, with an emphasis on providing concrete assistance to leaders in the field. Second, it is evidence-informed, recognizing that reliable research and data are critical to understanding the complex challenge posed by violent crime. Third, it is community-engaged, noting the importance of involving those who are most frequently and directly exposed to crime and violence. Fourth, it is humanity-centered, reaffirming the humanity of all those impacted by promoting healing and minimizing harm.

In this final report, the group identifies Ten Essential Actions that cities can take now to reduce community gun violence. This list is not comprehensive; instead, it highlights the actions that members believe are most likely to make the greatest immediate impact on violence. Listed in roughly sequential order, the actions are short-term measures that can be carried out within a year. They are not a substitute for longer-term strategies and investments that can address poverty, inequality, racism, and other underlying systemic causes of crime and violence.

[VIEW THE FULL REPORT HERE](#)

WEBINARS

Handling Sensitive Investigations in Rural Communities: Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Cases Webinar

Date:

August 17, 2023
2:00–

3:00 p.m. EDT

[Registration link](#)

Child Abuse: From Suspicion to Disclosure

Date:

August 30, 2023
10:00 a.m.–

5:00 p.m. EDT

[Registration link](#)

Follow [@PSNTTA](#) on Twitter to receive regular updates, learn about resources, or ask questions.



GRANTS SPOTLIGHT BY JOAN BRODY: CREATING A GRANTS MATRIX

Dear Fellow Grant Strategists,

During the next few months, you will receive new grant requests; if you handed out your Grants Idea Sheets last month, you probably have a pile of returned forms sitting on your desk right now. You may be wondering what to do next.

August is the ideal month to begin drafting your grants matrix. This will help you organize all the great ideas that you will consider pursuing in FY24, which by the way, is just a few months away! But don't panic. You still have plenty of time before the feds release their first FY24 grant solicitations. If you use this time wisely, you can identify priority needs now and even receive pre-approval for pursuing those grant-funded projects. This will set you up for a stress-free grant season once FY24 grant solicitations begin rolling out.

Although you can make your first grants matrix as fancy as you like, I usually start with a simple table.

Example Grants Matrix:

| Program Name | Concept | Subject Matter Expert | Estimated Cost | Potential Funding Sources |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Just take the information from your Grants Idea Sheets and fill in the blanks. It's that easy!



GRANTS SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED

For example, start by creating a “**Program Name.**” Grants typically will not just support the equipment or technology that you need. You have to integrate all needs into a proposed project. Using a name that is catchy or unique will get your project noticed.

You can then fill in the “**Concept**” section from the summaries in your Grants Ideas Sheets. I would limit the concept section to a few sentences.

Your “**Subject Matter Expert**” (SME) is the person on your grants committee or working group who came up with the idea. They are the brains or expert behind your proposed project.

The “**Estimated Cost**” column should also come from the Grants Idea Sheets.

The only cells that may remain blank for now are the “**Potential Funding Sources**” column. This is where you would list all future funding opportunities that could support your proposed project.

Next month, I will discuss how to fill this in and provide a sample Grant Strategy graphic. But even with this column blank, you now have a document or wish list in an organized easy-to-read format that you can send up your chain of command for approval. This will give you a great head start in the FY24 grant season.

Moreover, you now have a place to write down all those ideas that people want funding for throughout the year. So, the next time someone stops by your desk saying they need a helicopter, just write it in your grants matrix, which by the way, is really the first draft of your Grant Strategy! When you pass on your draft Grant Strategy to your superiors for their review, they will most likely cross out the helicopter, but at least you tried.

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The Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Training and Technical Assistance program developed the PSN Research in Brief series to provide a summary report of scholarly articles, studies, and publications relevant to the PSN program. This sixth issue of the PSN Research in Brief series summarizes the following study by Laceé Pappas and Amy Dent in the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*: **The 40-year debate: a meta-review on what works for juvenile offenders.** [1]

BACKGROUND:

- In recent years, the media has reported on increasing juvenile crime, [2] although the reality such is debated.[3]
- Regardless of media portrayals, law enforcement agencies are working to address juvenile offenders while considering the restrictions built into juvenile justice systems.
- Many people question the ability of the juvenile and criminal justice systems to deal with youth in an effective and humane manner.
- Research and theory have focused on how to address juvenile offenders for more than 40 years.

THEORY AND PRACTICE:

- The following two models have dominated policy and practice in responding to juvenile offending:
 - Rehabilitative model: Criminal justice system involvement in preventive programs will result in positive outcomes for juvenile offenders.
 - Punitive model: Tough sentencing for juveniles will deter offending.
- This article—a meta-review—uses both systemic reviews and meta-analyses to develop findings about juvenile offenders.
 - A systemic review addresses research questions by summarizing empirical evidence using specific eligibility criteria.
 - A meta-analysis, a subset of systemic reviews, uses statistical methods to create a summary of the results of studies on a particular topic.

STUDY OUTCOMES:

- The outcome measure for the studies reviewed was juvenile recidivism after their interaction with justice systems.
- This meta-review, focused on youth in the criminal justice system, had two main goals:
 - To determine if juvenile offender intervention programs have an impact on reoffending
 - To understand what factors may affect juvenile reoffending
- The authors found that juveniles who participated in intervention programs significantly reduced their recidivism (17.4%) compared to those that did not.. This finding indicates that programs for juvenile offenders are important for addressing public safety, victimization, and criminal behavior.

1 Pappas, L. N. & Dent, A. L. (2023). The 40-year debate: a meta-review on what works for juvenile offenders. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 19: 1-30. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-021-09472-z>

2 For example, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/violent-crime-rate-juvenile-11674485556>

3 <https://www.npr.org/2022/09/04/1121072142/youth-crime-is-down-but-media-often-casts-a-different-narrative>

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- The models had different results based on the type of program and offenders, with the rehabilitative model showing more promise than the punitive model did:
 - Of the juveniles who participated in an intervention program, serious, violent, or sexual offenders had the strongest association with recidivism.
 - Juveniles who participated in intervention programming while incarcerated (rather than in non-institutional settings) had greater decreases in recidivism, although programming in both settings was associated with reductions in reoffending.
 - Participation in diversion, corrections, and re-entry/aftercare programs is associated significantly with decreased recidivism, although the effect is much greater for juvenile offenders who were institutionalized.
 - Juveniles who engaged in behavioral treatments (multisystemic, family-based, and cognitive), wilderness therapy, and restorative justice showed significant reductions in reoffending, with multisystemic therapy demonstrating significantly more reductions in recidivism than other types of programs did.
- The findings of this meta-review should inform practitioners and policy-makers in creating systems for juveniles that balance accountability and reintegration.

[**DOWNLOAD A PDF OF THE DOCUMENT HERE**](#)