

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 TTA team at psntta@cna.org.

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PSN WEBINAR FOR FY22 GRANT RECIPIENTS

In January, the PSN Team hosted a webinar for FY22 Grant Recipients.

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GRANTS SPOTLIGHT: THE DOJ FY23 PROGRAM PLAN

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS WEBINAR FOR FY22 GRANT RECIPIENTS

In January, the PSN Team hosted a webinar for FY22 Grant Recipients. The purpose of the webinar was to provide guidance to grantees for the FY22 PSN Formula Grant Program. We highlighted program requirements, important topics to remember, and ways you can ensure your program is successful for the new year. The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) allocated approximately \$18 million for FY22.

You can review a recording of the webinar [here](#)

Access the PowerPoint slides [here](#)



PSN TTA ENGAGEMENT PROFILE: NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The Northern District of Illinois (NDIL) has actively taken advantage of TTA opportunities to enhance the district’s PSN efforts. The US Attorney’s Office (USAO) and law enforcement agencies in the NDIL focus resources on the investigation and prosecution of violent criminals in communities that are plagued by the highest rates of shootings and other crimes. To use its limited resources efficiently, the USAO has designed and implemented systems to exchange important information with state and local law enforcement partners. As part of these systems, the NDIL Law Enforcement Coordinator collaborates with the district’s 350-plus federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and regularly utilizes the PSN TTA program to bring the trainings that the agencies request.

“Our office is proud to work with PSN task forces and local law enforcement agencies on vigorous training and technical assistance programs,” said John R. Lausch, Jr., United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. “I encourage all levels of law enforcement to take advantage of these informative and educational training opportunities.”

“When multiple agencies request assistance with the same topic, or the USAO sees a need for training in a certain area, we make a request for training on behalf of the whole district, rather than one single agency. We have found this to be incredibly beneficial, and we have found value in partnering with the state training board to get officers credit for state mandates whenever possible. All of the PSN catalog trainings we have brought into this district have received high praise from our local law enforcement.” – Kali Thomas, Law Enforcement Coordinator

Access the full spotlight [here](#)

WEBINARS

Addressing
Victim and
Witness
Intimidation
Through
Relocation
Assistance (see
page 5 of this
bulletin)

Date:

February 15, 2023

[Registration link](#)
(link)

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



GRANTS SEASON INTEL! - THE DOJ FY23 PROGRAM PLAN

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) FY23 Program Plan is officially out. The Program Plan is an interactive webpage where you can learn about all the grant solicitations that DOJ anticipates releasing in 2023. The information is presented in less than one page and includes:

- an expected solicitation release date
- a short solicitation summary paragraph
- estimated total program funding
- estimated award amounts
- applicant eligibility information
- an estimated number of awards that will be given

It is a great way to quickly learn about forthcoming grant opportunities.

You can access this great piece of grant intelligence at:

[Department of Justice Program Plan](#)

Just scroll down and use the interactive chart with more than 200 funding opportunities that you can filter through their excellent search tool. I know, it's not often that you hear someone tout a great search tool!

Because Grant Season is here NOW, and you don't want to miss any grant solicitations, here are three websites to track open solicitations:

1. [Office of Justice Programs \(OJP\)](#)
2. [Office on Violence Against Women \(OVW\)](#)
3. [Community Oriented Policing Services \(COPS\) Office](#)

Next month, I will talk about grant writing tips. But if you are working on a proposal now and can't wait, please reach out to me directly. My contact info is below.

Joan L. Brody, Grant Strategist Contact Info:
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RESEARCH IN BRIEF

ISSUES 3, 4, & 5

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. The third, fourth, and fifth issues of the PSN Research in Brief series summarize the following studies:

Issue 3: Data-Informed and Place-Based Violent Crime Prevention: The Kansas City, Missouri Risk-Based Policing Initiative (Joel M. Caplan, Leslie W. Kennedy, Grant Drawve, and Jonas H. Baughman in *Police Quarterly*)

Access Issue 3 [here](#)

Issue 4: Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violence? Evidence from “Gang Takedowns” in New York City (Aaron Chalfin, Michael LaForest, and Jacob Kaplan published in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*)

Access Issue 4 [here](#)

Issue 5: Reducing Crime by Remediating Vacant Lots: The Moderating Effect of Nearby Land Uses (John Macdonald, Viet Nguyen Viet, Shane T. Jensen, and Charles C. Branas published in the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*)

Access Issue 5 [here](#)



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 third issue of the PSN Research in Brief series summarizes the following study by Joel M. Caplan, Leslie W. Kennedy, Grant Drawve, and Jonas H. Baughman in *Police Quarterly*: **Data-Informed and Place-Based Violent Crime Prevention: The Kansas City, Missouri Risk-Based Policing Initiative.**

- BACKGROUND:**
- Kansas City Police Department (KCPD) deployed place-based crime prevention strategies as a natural experiment.
 - The program evaluation occurred after the initiative was implemented (rather than while it was occurring).
- THEORY AND PRACTICE:**
- Place-based crime prevention strategies place police in particular areas with the goal of identifying or deterring criminal activity.
 - KCPD adopted a risk-based policing (RBP) strategy that included agency-wide training, data management technology and protocols, data-informed decision-making, multifaceted intervention actions in target areas, and multistakeholder accountability (described in detail in the article).
 - The RBP strategy was guided by an analytic technique known as risk terrain modeling, which considers features of the environment that can generate risks for violent crime.
 - KCPD identified and prioritized areas to be addressed with interventions that target the underlying problems.
- STUDY OUTCOMES:**
- The evaluation looked at data from one year before and one year after KCPD implemented the intervention.
 - The RBP strategy reduced violent crime by nearly 23 percent without significant increases in arrests or citations.
 - The benefits of this strategy were spatially diffused, meaning that the areas proximate to the specifically targeted areas also experienced effects.



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 fourth issue of the PSN Research in Brief series summarizes the following study by Aaron Chalfin, Michael LaForest, and Jacob Kaplan published in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*: **Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violence? Evidence from “Gang Takedowns” in New York City.**

- BACKGROUND:**
- Prior research shows that police presence and visibility can reduce crime.
 - Over the last 40 years, police departments have used strategies that deploy large numbers of police to high-crime areas in strategy sometimes called “hot spots” policing.
 - In New York City between 2002 and 2011, the number of street stops made by police increased each year until federal litigation found this practice to be unconstitutional.
 - As a result, the New York Police Department (NYPD) deployed precision policing strategies, in partnership with district attorneys and federal prosecutors.
- THEORY AND PRACTICE:**
- A small number of predictable places are the sites of an outsized number of crimes.
 - Precision policing in this study involved targeted enforcement against criminal gangs.
 - The specific goal of the NYPD’s strategy was to reduce gang violence by building conspiracy cases implicating large numbers of associates. This change constituted a shift from mass enforcement to precision policing.
 - To evaluate the outcomes of this shift, researchers used data on crime, arrests, and street stops obtained from NYPD’s open data website.¹ To identify “gang takedowns” (i.e., simultaneous arrests of multiple gang members), researchers looked for data arrest clusters for the crime of conspiracy.
- STUDY OUTCOMES:**
- Looking for clusters of two or more arrests for conspiracy that occurred over the same week, researchers identified 109 probable gang takedowns that occurred within 500 feet of a public housing development since 2011.
 - Model estimates found that homicides declined between 50 and 61 percent; however, because homicides are uncommon, only one of four model estimates was found to be statistically significant.
 - Model estimates found that shootings decreased between 30 and 36 percent with three of four models found to be statistically significant.
 - Researchers estimate that gun violence declined by approximately 40 percent and that the effect persisted for as long as 18 months after gang takedowns occurred without detecting displacement effects.



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 fifth issue of the PSN Research in Brief series summarizes the following study by John Macdonald, Viet Nguyen Viet, Shane T. Jensen, and Charles C. Branas published in the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*: **Reducing Crime by Remediating Vacant Lots: The Moderating Effect of Nearby Land Uses.**

- BACKGROUND:**
- Crime tends to be concentrated in a small number of places and to remain relatively stable over time.
 - Physical disorder has been shown to affect how community members interact with their environment and each other.
 - Most studies focusing on the effects of physical disorder on crime do not consider how surrounding areas may affect outcomes.
- THEORY AND PRACTICE:**
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), situational crime prevention, routine activities theory, crime pattern theory, and broken windows theory all support the idea that surveillance in many forms can help suppress crime.
 - This study employs quasi-experimental and experimental methods to examine the effects of vacant lot remediation programs on crime as well as how the areas surrounding those lots affect outcomes.
 - This program followed what has become known as a “greening” strategy that included removing trash and debris, planting grass, and installing small wooden fences. Lots are maintained twice monthly from April through October.
- STUDY OUTCOMES:¹**
- Examining 12,788 vacant lots, of which 4,046 were treated between 2008 and 2016, researchers found that greening vacant lots reduced crime.
 - Greening a vacant lot has a greater influence on total crime when the lot is not in proximity to a train station or an establishment that sells alcohol (bar, club, restaurant, etc.).

Addressing Victim and Witness Intimidation Through Relocation Assistance

February 15, 2023
2:00pm - 3:30pm ET



Many PSN sites identify victim and witness intimidation as a problem in their jurisdictions. Intimidation tactics discourage continued engagement with the criminal justice system and negatively impact crime victims, their families, community relationships, and crime investigations and prosecutions. Intimidation can instill fear and lead victims to experience psychological distress. For many, the threats of violence or retaliation necessitate emergency and sometimes long-term relocation to ensure safety of the victim and their family.

Relocation services vary by jurisdiction, require significant resources, and require a whole-of-community approach, particularly in regions with tight housing markets. Relocation programs may rely on a mixture of hotels, short-term housing, public housing, and other rentals to provide the best options for each victim. Victim service advocates frequently provide expansive case management services to victims in relocation programs to maintain communication, manage safety risks, and connect the victims to supportive services

Discussion Topics

- General information on victim and witness relocation
- What districts should consider when expanding relocation services
- Innovative ways jurisdictions are addressing the needs of victims:
 - Detroit Ceasefire: A Detroit-based program that partners with faith leaders to provide emergency relocation to victims and witnesses
 - Philadelphia District Attorney's Office: State and local funding supports this Philadelphia program that provides relocation assistance to victims
- Various relocation services, the role of partner agencies in the community, and funding sources
- Significant challenges, how they were overcome, and lessons learned



REGISTER NOW!

SPACE IS LIMITED

Speakers

Gabriella Alessi

National Center for Victims of Crime

Gabriella Alessi, Esq. is a Staff Attorney for the National Center for Victims of Crime. Gabby has been with NCVC for over two years, and currently manages the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Gabby also works on the Safety and Justice Challenge Initiative and the National Crime Victim Bar Association. Prior to joining the National Center, Gabby worked at the National Network to End Domestic Violence and the Reentry Ready Project at Convergence Center for Policy Resolution.

Gabby holds a Juris Doctorate and Graduate Diploma in Comparative Law from the Louisiana State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from Tulane University. Gabby is currently pursuing her master's degree in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling at West Virginia University.

Tanesha Gordon

Philadelphia District Attorney's Office

Tanesha Gordon is the Supervisor of the Relocation Unit with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. She previously worked as a relocation coordinator, working in partnership with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office to assist victims and witnesses in relocating to safe housing. Prior to working in relocation assistance, Ms. Gordon supported diversion programs for first time juvenile drug offenders under the direction of the Honorable Judge Abram Frank Reynolds by helping youth to achieve recovery goals and getting their records expunged. Ms. Gordon graduated from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, PA.

Bishop Daryl Harris

Total Life Christian Ministries

Bishop Daryl Harris is the founding pastor of Total Life Christian (TLC) Ministries, Inc. in Detroit, MI. Under the charismatic leadership of this anointed man of God, TLC Ministries has become a transformational force in the city of Detroit. Bishop Harris has been able to provide hope and empowerment to families and others in Northeast Detroit and beyond for over twenty-three years.

Bishop Harris serves in the building of the Church by means of pastoring congregations, mentoring leaders, empowering members and providing professional counseling. He is also very passionate about the community and about empathic solutions to community issues. Most recently he is the Faith Based Director for Cease Fire; a joint law enforcement gang intervention effort to reduce crimes in the city of Detroit by reaching out to direct perpetrators of such crimes. He is also the founder and director of the Faith Based Coalition, a collaboration of ecumenical clergy in the community that responds to the needs of victims of violent crimes.

Bishop Harris has been married for 30 years to Wytrice Harris who joins him in ministry as the Pastor of TLC. Together they have two adopted and two biological children (boy-girl twins) and have been surrogate parents to many others. Bishop Harris holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Michigan and is currently working on a master's degree. He has also been honored with a Doctorate of Divinity from Faith Evangelical Christian Schools.

