

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 teams 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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PSN SPOTLIGHT: BJA'S 2023 VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION SUMMIT

More than 1,100 local, state, and federal law enforcement leaders and partners from around the country gathered in Indianapolis December 11 through 13 to share innovative and promising solutions to one of the most urgent questions they confront: How can we reduce violent crime?

At the 2023 Violent Crime Reduction Summit: Partnerships for Safer Communities—sponsored by BJA—police leaders, prosecutors, and public officials spotlighted an array of programs that utilize new approaches or technologies to bring down crime rates and protect the public. Violence is a huge, complex issue, and only in working together can we reduce it in communities across the country.

Read more about the summit and the violent crime reduction strategies supported by grant funds and training programs provided by BJA [here](#).



NEW PSN TTA ENGAGEMENT PROFILE: EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

The Eastern District of Wisconsin has actively taken advantage of TTA opportunities to enhance their PSN efforts. Read an excerpt from their profile below:

Reducing violent crime involving firearms continues to be a focus for Milwaukee’s law enforcement agencies. The Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) has identified two significant sources responsible for Milwaukee’s increase in violent crimes involving a firearm: (1) organized violent groups and (2) individuals who consistently engage in firearm-related crimes. To address firearm violence in Milwaukee, the PSN effort pursues a strategy designed to (1) enhance community engagement; (2) assist in the focused prosecution of the most high-risk firearm offenders and groups; (3) increase place-based interventions, collective efficacy, and neighborhood revitalization; and (4) initiate firearm violence deterrence programs.

While the main PSN focus is on Milwaukee, the US Attorney’s Office (USAO) understands that relationships with law enforcement are important throughout the district in combating violent crime, which can be transient. PSN TTA is the keystone for developing and maintaining strong partnerships throughout the entire district.

“My office prioritizes the work of our PSN partners because we see it as an essential piece of the Department of Justice’s strategy to drive down firearm violence in our district. We rely on TTA’s expertise and training to our law enforcement partners because it ensures that all agencies are on the forefront of best practices in our collaborative effort to reduce violent crime.”

Gregory J. Haanstad, United States Attorney—Eastern District of Wisconsin

[ACCESS THE FULL SPOTLIGHT HERE!](#)

WEBINARS

Weekly JustGrants Webinars, topics include post-award management, entity management, application mechanics, and award acceptance.

Dates and times vary; see registration link. [Registration link](#)

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



GRANTS SPOTLIGHT BY JOAN BRODY: UP YOUR GRANT WRITING GAME

Dear Grant Seekers,

As you begin working on FY 2024 grant applications, here are a few grant writing tips to “up your grant writing game!”

1. Print out the grant solicitation, read through every page, and highlight all you are asked to include in your application. Note areas that seem particularly important to the grantor. Be sure to carefully follow the instructions and ensure that you included everything you highlighted. Some grant writers even convert highlighted sections into questions and write their first draft by simply answering those questions.

2. Often, I need help structuring my proposal. I want to present it all in a way that makes it easy for the peer reviewers to find the required information and give me the most points. To help me achieve this goal, I review previous winning applications. Sometimes grantors post winning sample proposals, but many times I look up previous winners and call them.

Getting this information is easier than you might think! You simply call the winning agency and ask for their grants unit. I try to find the highest ranking member I can find, even if that is someone in the chief’s office because staff usually answer the phone anyway. I first introduce myself. Then, I explain that I’m working on a grant that they already won and ask whether they can connect me to the person who wrote their winning grant so I can ask them for advice.



GRANTS SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED

As you may have noticed, many people are happy to share advice; someone from the winning agency will likely be willing to tell you how they did it. This means that someone in the agency that submitted the winning proposal will want to tell you how they did it. They may even share their winning proposal with you. Seldom have I asked and been told no. The agency is probably proud of its achievement and wants to promote it. Plus, once you are connected with someone, you may be able to trade helpful grant information in the future.

3. Enlist a proofreader who had nothing to do with writing your grant application. Do everything in your power not to submit your proposal on the day it is due in case technical glitches or last-minute questions arise and you cannot get through to the helpline. But even more importantly, if you leave time for a proofreader, you will have time to identify and easily fix typos and add any needed clarification.

Sometimes when I write a grant, I am too close to my draft. I get stuck in the details of writing the proposal and lose perspective. I forget that not everyone reading the proposal has the background knowledge needed to quickly and easily understand everything I've written. Engaging a proofreader who was not involved in writing your proposal will help you submit a better grant application and win a grant award.

Good luck and happy grant writing!

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