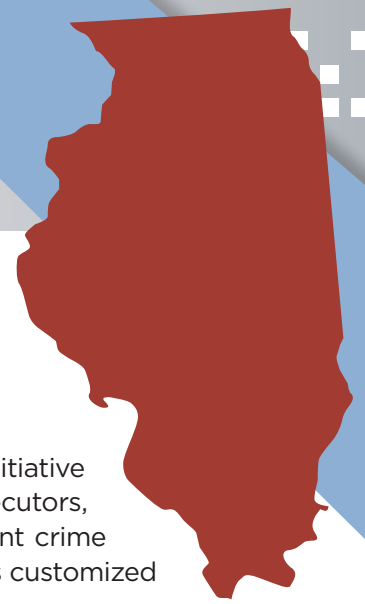




PSN TTA Engagement Profile NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



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 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."

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"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

"The PSN technical assistance program has improved our collaboration with our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners. As a result, we have been more effective at identifying, investigating, and prosecuting our most dangerous violent crime offenders." - AUSA Ronald DeWald, Counsel to the US Attorney on Violent Crime Matters and PSN Coordinator

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

GANGS AND GUNS: MAKING YOUR FIREARMS CASE MORE PROSECUTABLE TRAINING

The USAO for the NDIL has hosted two virtual Gangs and Guns: Making Your Firearms Case More Prosecutable trainings for more than 300 law enforcement officers and prosecutors representing more than 60 agencies throughout the district. The full-day training is led by two nationally recognized SMEs, Detective Stephen Barborini and Detective James Grindey of the Palm Beach County (FL) Sheriff's Office. Detectives Barborini and Grindey detail the essential components of establishing a solid firearms case, focusing on proper firearm recovery, documentation, and follow-up; available investigative tools; using social media proactively and reactively; state and federal firearms laws; and establishing a firearms protocol. The PSN TTA team worked with the Law Enforcement Coordinator to get the training certified in the state of Illinois so that all participants received credit. During the trainings, the US Attorney and PSN Coordinator for the NDIL had the opportunity to address attendees and share relevant information related to the district's PSN strategy.

"This class was very informative and directly related to the daily operations of a police officer. It will be beneficial to any police officer who is involved in the recovery of firearms, the investigation of firearm-related cases, and prosecution of gun offenders."
- Training participant

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TRAUMA-INFORMED PROSECUTIONS TRAINING

The Kane County State's Attorney's Office hosted an in-person Trauma-Informed Prosecutions training for approximately 100 prosecutors. This four-hour training, led by SME Jane Anderson, Attorney Advisor with AEquitas, helps prosecutors to understand the effect trauma has on victims of crime and how they can employ a trauma-informed approach to engaging and working with victims. Topics include the effect of trauma, power and control dynamics, investigation strategies, trauma-informed interviews, and promising practices to bring victims' voices into the courtroom. Attendees received continuing education unit credits for this training.

"Very knowledgeable and engaging speaker. I was impressed that she goes around the country doing this and yet she was very conversant with Illinois law and case law. She offered wonderful strategies and it really was an eye-opening event. Thank you." - Training participant

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PSN GRANTS WORKSHOP SERIES

The USAO for the NDIL requested access to the PSN Grants Workshop Series for law enforcement agencies throughout the district. The workshop, led by SME Joan Brody, is an online self-paced five-part series that covers the following topics: grants 101, grant strategy development, identifying funding, grant writing, and grant implementation. The USAO was particularly interested in sharing this workshop series with smaller agencies throughout the district who may not have grant writing capacity. The district has also supplemented its participation in the grants workshop series by engaging in follow-up consultations with grants expert Joan Brody.



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

