North Central Texas Council of Governments
Criminal Justice Program

2018-2019 REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Central Texas Council of Governments' Criminal Justice Program (CJP) prioritizes funding requests and provides technical assistance to existing and potential grantees seeking justice-related grants. Local governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher learning, and non-profit agencies apply for funds to implement new programs or strengthen existing ones. Additionally, the CJP encourages agencies to develop special projects with multiple agencies to address individual needs in a more cost effective manner through sharing of resources and efficiencies of scale.

The CJP's strategic vision is to reduce crime, improve public safety and enhance the quality of life in our 16-county area, as a result of local crime reduction strategies and program funding. The CJP plays an important role in assessing community needs, planning of the community response, equitable prioritization of funding applications, and support of criminal justice program implementation in this region.

The CJP's mission is to facilitate the provision of comprehensive coordinated services to the citizens of North Central Texas communities; reflecting the priorities identified in the Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Planning process; while also supporting the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division (CJD) stated mission, priorities and preferences.

Process:

With the input and guidance of the Criminal Justice Policy Development Committee (CJPDC), the inaugural electronic needs assessment project was developed in 2013 and results were incorporated in the 2014-2015 Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan. Drawing on local priorities identified via the subsequent 2016-2017 plan, an online region-wide survey of community stakeholders was developed and distributed in December 2017.

Prior to survey distribution, a CJPDC Strategic Planning Subcommittee was formed. These subject matter experts provided valuable feedback and technical assistance to NCTCOG staff on the survey content.

Topics addressed in the online survey include criminal justice/law enforcement, juvenile justice, mental health, substance abuse, and victims of crime. Stakeholders consisting of elected officials, community-based organizations, judicial and law enforcement organizations, ISDs, state agencies, public health, local governments, social service providers, colleges and universities, and interested citizens provided input to the survey.

NCTCOG will evaluate, update and submit the Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan and an Executive Summary by a deadline set by CJD.

LOCAL PRIORITIES:

VICTIMS OF CRIME (*Not listed in order of priority*):

- Counseling/Therapy for victims of crime
- Crisis Intervention services for victims of crime (including hotline, assistance with crime victim compensation claims, information and referral, safety planning)
- Housing services for victims of domestic violence (including emergency shelter and/or transitional housing)
- Legal assistance (including navigating the justice system, protective orders)
- Projects focused on victims of sexual assault (adult and/or children)

NOTE: Underserved Populations (not listed in order of priority): Homeless, non-English speaking; racial or ethnic minorities

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION (*Not listed in order of priority*):

- Counseling/therapy (including specialized mental health assessment/treatment, suicide prevention/intervention, aftercare/reentry after secure confinement)
- Employment skills/job training for juveniles
- Prevention and/or intervention focused on reducing the use of alcohol, tobacco, and/or illicit drugs
- Projects that promote character building, improve life skills and/or family stability (including after-school programs, community service initiatives, and/or parent education)
- Projects that support School Resource Officers

NOTE: Underserved Populations (not listed in order of priority): Non-English speaking; racial or ethnic minorities, rural

MENTAL HEALTH (*Not listed in order of priority*):

- Assisting individuals in navigating the justice system and/or social services
- Counseling/therapy (including dual diagnosis)
- Housing needs for people with mental illness
- Improving access to medications for people with mental illness
- Specialized training for law enforcement, victim advocates, and/or court personnel on mental-health related calls/cases

NOTE: Underserved Populations (not listed in order of priority): Homeless, non-English speaking, rural

SUBSTANCE ABUSE (*Not listed in order of priority*):

- Counseling/therapy for youth and/or adults
- Outpatient treatment programs
- Residential treatment
- Specialized drug courts
- Substance abuse prevention and/or intervention

NOTE: Underserved Populations (not listed in order of priority): Homeless, non-English speaking; rural

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:

Law Enforcement (*Not listed in order of priority*):

- Crime reduction (including increased police visibility in community, surveillance systems, traffic enforcement)
- Law enforcement training (including training on mental health-related calls, training for law enforcement-based victim advocacy staff)
- Projects that improve response times to emergency calls
- Specialized investigations (including crime scene investigation, domestic violence investigation, sexual assault investigation, child abuse investigation)
- Specialized technology/equipment improvements (including in-car computers and/or video systems, radio systems, records management systems, body worn camera, body armor)

Judicial / Courts (*Not listed in order of priority*):

- Enhanced court security
- Reentry services for formerly incarcerated individuals
- Specialized family violence courts
- Specialized investigators and/or prosecutors (including domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking)
- Specialized mental health courts

NOTE: Underserved Populations (not listed in order of priority): Homeless, non-English speaking; racial or ethnic minorities