



2016-2017 REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Criminal Justice Program (CJP) prioritizes funding requests and provides technical assistance to existing and potential grantees seeking grants for federal and state funds. Local governments, independent school districts, and non-profit agencies apply for the funds to implement new programs or strengthen existing ones. Community stakeholders receive assistance with the development of Strategic Plans, designed to encourage local governments and agencies to examine their own needs based on current statistical data. Additionally, the CJP assists agencies in developing special projects with multiple agencies to address individual needs in a more cost effective manner through sharing of resources and efficiencies of scale.

The strategic vision of the CJP 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 will be a driving force for the assessment of community needs, planning of the community response, equitable prioritization of funding applications, and support of the implementation of criminal justice programs in this region.

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

Process:

With the input and guidance of the Criminal Justice Policy Development Committee (CJPDC), the electronic needs assessment project was developed in fall of 2013 and results were incorporated in the 2014 Regional Strategic Plan. In accordance with CJPDC policies and procedures, the Strategic Plan will be updated at least every two years. Drawing on local priorities identified via the 2014 plan, an online region-wide survey of community stakeholders was developed and distributed to over 700 contacts in December 2015. Prior to distribution, CJPDC members assisted in providing feedback 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, ISD's, social service providers, colleges and universities, and interested citizens provided input to the survey.

In December 2016 the CJPDC reviewed and discussed local priorities and elected to retain the current priorities below for the FY18 grant cycle. The Regional Needs Assessment Survey will be distributed in late 2017/early 2018 in order to collect information for the plan's next update.

LOCAL PRIORITIES:

VICTIMS OF CRIME (not listed in order of priority)

- Programs focused on victims of sexual assault (adult and children)
- Protective Order assistance for victims of crime
- Crisis Intervention services for victims of crime
- Counseling/Therapy for victims of crime
- Shelter services



North Central Texas Council of Governments
Criminal Justice Program

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROJECTS (not listed in order of priority)

Staffing-Based Priorities

- Programs focused on child abuse, family violence and/or sexual assault crimes
- Programs to reduce and/or respond to drug trafficking
- Programs to reduce and/or respond to DWI/DUI crimes
- Programs to enhance crime scene investigation
- Programs providing law enforcement training

Equipment-Only Priorities

- Community Policing and/or Crime Prevention
- Equipment System Improvements
- Evidence Collection and/or Processing
- Interoperability Communications
- Traffic Enforcement

JUVENILE JUSTICE (not listed in order of priority)

- Programs that improve life skills and/or family stability (including parent education)
- Prevention and/or intervention programs focused on reducing the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs
- Counseling/therapy programs to address mental health issues in juveniles
- Drop-out prevention programs and/or diversion programs
- Programs focused on employment skills/job training for juveniles

MENTAL HEALTH (not listed in order of priority)

- Specialized training for law enforcement on mental health issues
- Outpatient treatment programs
- Access to medication
- Housing needs for people with mental illness
- Residential treatment programs

SUBSTANCE ABUSE (not listed in order of priority)

- Substance abuse intervention
- Substance abuse prevention
- School-based prevention programs
- Outpatient treatment programs
- Counseling/therapy

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (not listed in order of priority)

- Programs focused on adult female victims of sexual assault (including prosecution and investigation services)
- Programs focused on adult female victims of family violence (including prosecution and investigation services)
- Court technology improvements (including GPS monitoring of offenders)
- Training for professionals who serve female victims of sexual assault and/or family violence
- Crisis Intervention Services for female victims of sexual assault and/or family violence