



## 2020-2021 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 Public Safety Office - Criminal Justice Division's (CJD) stated mission, priorities and preferences.

### **Process:**

With 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 the content of prior needs assessments and strategic plans, an updated online region-wide survey of community stakeholders was developed and distributed in December 2019. These survey results are incorporated in the 2020-2021 plan.

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.

NOTE: Priorities listed below were utilized in reviewing and prioritizing FY21 grant cycle applications.

### **LOCAL PRIORITIES:**

#### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:**

Law Enforcement:

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Crime reduction (including improved police visibility in community, drug enforcement, traffic and/or DWI 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 family violence investigation, domestic violence investigation, child abuse investigation)
- Specialized technology/equipment improvements (including crime scene equipment/supplies, in-car computers and/or video systems, information sharing systems, radio systems, records management systems, body worn camera, body armor, K-9 equipment/supplies)

Judicial / Courts:

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Reentry services for formerly incarcerated individuals
- Specialized investigators (including domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse)
- Specialized prosecutors (including domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault)
- Specialized courts (including mental health court, human trafficking court, domestic violence court, reentry court, veterans court)
- Treatment services for offenders

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

**JUVENILE JUSTICE:**

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Counseling/therapy (including specialized mental health assessment/treatment, suicide prevention/intervention, dual diagnosis treatment)
- Projects focused on violence prevention
- Projects that promote character building, improve life skills and/or family stability
- Projects that improve school safety
- Specialized training for professionals who work with youth

**NOTE:** Underserved Populations (not listed in order of priority): Non-English speaking; youth dealing with trauma-related experiences, youth with mental health needs, LGBTQ

**MENTAL HEALTH:**

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Assisting individuals in securing services
- Counseling/therapy (including dual diagnosis and intensive outpatient treatment)
- Projects focused on serving veterans
- 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, youth, persons with disabilities

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE:**

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Counseling/therapy for youth and/or adults (including dual diagnosis and intensive outpatient treatment)
- Residential treatment
- Culturally competent services
- Specialized drug courts
- Substance abuse prevention and/or intervention

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

**VICTIM SERVICES:**

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Counseling/therapy for victims of crime
- Crisis intervention services for victims of crime (including law enforcement-based victim advocates, hotline, assistance with crime victim compensation claims, information and referral, safety planning)
- Emergency shelter services for victims of domestic violence
- Legal assistance (including navigating the justice system, court advocacy, 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, persons with disabilities