



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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RHODE ISLAND  
PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT  
ADMINISTRATION  
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# RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

## Public Safety Grant Administration Office 2023 Annual Report



*This document meets the reporting  
requirements §42-26-12  
of the General Laws of Rhode Island,  
the enabling legislation creating the  
**Public Safety Grant Administration Office***

**George Zainyeh**  
Chair, Criminal Justice Policy Board

**Michael J. Hogan**  
Executive Director

# Letter from the Executive Director

In 2023, the Public Safety Grant Administration Office (PSGAO) expanded our efforts to advance public safety and improve outcomes for individuals involved in the juvenile justice and criminal legal systems here in our state. We continue to build on our record of success over the past five years as we work to fulfill our mission of improving the statewide response to crime and victimization and enhance public safety.

In March, the PSGAO and Criminal Justice Policy Board began the process of developing a statewide strategic plan for the entirety of Rhode Island's public safety and criminal legal systems. PSGAO staff spent most of the year conducting strategic stakeholder outreach to state agencies, the state judiciary, public defense, law enforcement, and state legislators, as well as community organizations working with or advocating on behalf of individuals who are or have been system-involved, youth in the juvenile justice system, survivors of crime, survivors of domestic violence, and individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. Input and feedback gathered during this process will be used to generate the plan's guiding principles along with public safety funding priorities over the next five years.

The Department of Justice requires states to submit a statewide strategic plan every five years in order to unlock federal public safety grant funds, particularly from the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program; however, Rhode Island has not had such a plan since 2009. Once complete, the plan will serve as roadmap for improving outcomes for individuals whose lives are entwined in some way with Rhode Island's public safety and criminal legal systems and bring the state into compliance with federal funding requirements. Moreover, our approach to the strategic planning process—namely seeking and prioritizing feedback from people with lived experiences—is being held up as a national model for other states. We expect a draft statewide strategic plan to be complete in Q2 of 2024.

Our office also spent the better part of 2023 working alongside municipal and state law enforcement agencies to bring them into compliance with the statewide body-worn camera policy. In October of 2022, \$16 million in grants were awarded to outfit Rhode Island's nearly 1,800 law enforcement officers with body-worn cameras. Our office worked alongside these agencies to select and purchase the cameras, provide officers with training on their use, and offer additional technical assistance as necessary. Over the course of 2023, we deployed over 1800 cameras

and provided nearly 1700 hours of training to law enforcement officers statewide. The successful rollout of this program—a true collaboration between state, federal, and law enforcement leaders—will undoubtedly result in an increase in public trust by improving accountability and transparency across Rhode Island’s law enforcement ecosystem.

We also continued our work to strengthen and diversify the Criminal Justice Policy Board in 2023 by adding new members who can act as voice for those constituencies that have been historically absent from the decision-making process. These are only initial steps towards making the board to more representative of the communities it affects.

The PSGAO and Criminal Justice Policy Board continues to make progress enhancing public safety in Rhode Island by expanding interagency cooperation and improving communication between law enforcement, the courts, prosecutors, and community partners, as well as focusing on reducing crime and violence through intervention based in evidence and data. We look forward to carrying this critical work into 2024 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Hogan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael J. Hogan,  
Executive Director

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# The Public Safety Grant Administration Office

The Public Safety Grant Administration Office (PSGAO), was established in 1969 as the Rhode Island Justice Commission. The primary responsibility of the Office is to facilitate the development of comprehensive planning, coordination, and programming to improve the state

(see Appendix) which also creates a supervisory body identified as the Criminal Justice Policy Board.

The Office pursues a variety of activities authorized by state and executive designation. The support of these efforts is primarily facilitated through the administration federal grants, which are applied for and subsequently awarded to the PSGAO on behalf of the State of Rhode Island:

PSGAO is placed within the Central Management Office of the Department of Public Safety. PSGAO is responsible for planning, coordination, data collection/statistical analysis, grant administration and distribution for the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems.

## Objectives

- Comprehensive/specialized planning and grantsmanship efforts in support of the justice/criminal justice systems present and future;
- Ensure that sub-grantees utilize their funds consistent with federal and state grant administration regulations;

### *Mission Statement:*

*To facilitate interagency cooperation and collaboration throughout the Rhode Island criminal justice system by way of strategic planning, program coordination, data collection and statistical analysis; while providing fair, efficient and accountable grant administration so as to improve the system's overall response to crime and victimization and enhance public safety.*

criminal response justice system.

The Public Safety Grant Administration Office derives its authority from R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-26-1

- Initiate and support programs designed to impact crime and/or improve the criminal and juvenile justice system;
- Produce studies/reports describing the status of particular crime problems;
- Continuing support of criminal history record improvement and criminal justice information systems;
- Perform detailed monitoring, evaluation and analysis of grant funded programs.

### ***Criminal Justice Policy Board***

The Criminal Justice Policy Board is the oversight board for the programmatic activity of the PSGAO. The composition of the Board is set by R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-26-6 comprised of law enforcement personnel, the Attorney General, the Public Defender, judges, directors of various state agencies, representatives from community service provider organizations and private citizens named by the Governor. The Board should meet four times per year to review and approve planning and grant funding recommendations from various grant program advisory committees and the Criminal Justice Steering Committee.

### ***Local Law Enforcement Planning Committee***

The Local Law Enforcement Planning Committee is the state's planning committee for the "Variable Pass-Through" to local police departments and the "Under 10K" portions of the Byrne/JAG program. The committee is comprised of ten chiefs of local police departments who are appointed by the president of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association.

### ***Criminal Justice Oversight Committee***

The Governor's Commission to Avoid Future Prison Overcrowding and Terminate Federal Court Supervision Over the Adult Correctional Institutions was established through Executive Order 92-26 in December 1992. The Commission arose out of efforts to resolve the Palmigiano cases, the longstanding litigation involving conditions of confinement at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections Adult Correctional Institutions. *(cont. on page 9)*

## 2023 Criminal Justice Policy Board Members

**George A. Zainyeh**

*Chairperson*

**Hon. Peter Neronha**

*RI Attorney General*

**Colonel Darnell S. Weaver**

*Superintendent, RI State Police*

**Collin Geiselman**

*RI Public Defender*

**Wayne Salisbury**

*Interim Director, Department of Corrections*

**Kimberly Merolla-Brito**

*Acting Director, Department of Human Services*

**Louis Cerbo**

*Acting Director, Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals*

**Dennis Duffy**

*Interim Chair, Board of Education*

**Ashley Deckert**

*Director, Department of Children, Youth, and Families*

**Hon. Michael B. Forte**

*Chief Judge, RI Family Court*

**Chief Kevin Lynch**

*President, RI Police Chiefs Association*

**Sidney Wordell**

*Police Chief selected by RI Police Chiefs Association*

**Hon. Paul A. Suttell**

*Chief Justice, RI Supreme Court*

**Hon. Alice B. Gibney**

*Presiding Justice, RI Superior Court*

**Hon. Jeanne E. Lafazia**

*Chief Judge, RI District Court*

**Ernest Almonte**

*Director, RI League of Cities and Towns*

**Dr. Upatla Bandy**

*Interim Director, Department of Health*

**Timothy McLaughlin**

*RI State Fire Marshal*

**Caitlin O'Connor**

*Grant & Research Specialist, Roger Williams University (Researcher)*

**Deborah DeBare**

*Private Citizen Member*

**P.J. Fox**

*Private Citizen Member*

**Meko Lincoln**

*Private Citizen Member*

**Vacant**

*Private Citizen Member*

**Toby Ayers**

*Executive Director, RI for Community & Justice (Community Service Organization)*

**Mavis Nimoh**

*Executive Director, Center for Health & Justice Transformation*

**Cedric Huntley**

*Executive Director, Nonviolence Institute*



Because of this lawsuit, a class action on behalf of the inmates in the state's correctional facilities, the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island had exercised control and authority over broad aspects of the prison system since August 1977.

Legislation was subsequently enacted to create the Criminal Justice Oversight Committee (R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-26-13) within the Public Safety Grant Administration Office "for the purpose of maintaining the secure facilities at the adult correctional institutions within their respective population capacities as established by court order, consent decree or otherwise."

The composition of the Committee is set by statute and was last chaired by Bernard Jackvony, Esq. As the populations of the various correctional facilities are monitored by the Department of Corrections, meetings of this committee are called by the Chair periodically to review the population trends or to address potential overcrowding issues.

### ***Violence Against Women Act Advisory Committee***

The Violence Against Women Act Advisory Committee was formed in 1995 by the House Finance Committee. The purpose of this group is to ensure the development and implementation of a comprehensive, statewide plan to reduce the incidence of crimes of violence against women and to improve services to victims. The members include delegates from the Office of Attorney General's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit, the Judiciary's Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit, Department of Health, State Police, Police Chiefs' Association, Department of Corrections, the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence (and its member agencies), and Day One (in its role as the state's de facto sexual assault coalition). This group still meets on a regular basis and has grown to include participation from the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals.

### ***VOCA Victim Assistance Grant Advisory Committee***

Established in 1986, the VOCA Advisory Committee consists of five volunteers. The Committee meets throughout the year and works with the VOCA program manager to identify the needs of victims of crime, set goals for distribution of

federal dollars, and establishes procedures for applicants to submit grant requests. The Committee and PSGAO staff review all VOCA subgrant award applications and make a recommendation to the Policy Board of which programs to fund. The VOCA Advisory Committee also participated in monitoring the progress of VOCA subgrantees toward stated goals.

### ***Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group***

The citizen members of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) are appointed by the Governor per the federal statute that establishes the program. Appointees come from the public and private sectors and represent a broad cross-section of experience and philosophy. As the Governor's appointees, the JJAC membership has the credibility and influence necessary to work effectively with local communities and organizations. With their ties to local communities, state and local organizations, JJAC members can generate a local investment in the fight against youth crime which often translates to a financial investment from state and local government. By leveraging federal funds with these other resources, the JJAC has been able to maximize the impact of the JJDPA formula grant money.

### ***Public Safety Grant Administration Office Staff***

PSGAO staffers administer specifically assigned grant programs. Additionally, staff plans and implements many statewide training sessions and conferences, as well as disseminates discretionary grant information to prospective applicants. Each of the federal/state grant programs require many administrative activities that include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- liaise with and staff the appropriate advisory committee(s);
- develop and submit program plans and applications;
- coordinate data collection for programmatic and financial reporting;
- develop request for proposals and sub-grant solicitations;
- review submitted applications;
- present advisory committee recommendations to the Policy Board;

- create sub-recipient databases;
- craft sub-grant awards and distribute;
- create and maintain sub-grant files;
- validate sub-recipient requests for reimbursement;
- liaise with fiscal administrator to process sub-grant payments;
- monitor and evaluate programs/projects via both desk audits and on-site visits;
- prepare annual program progress reports;
- provide administrative support/technical assistance to sub-recipients; and
- perform grant closeout and audit procedures.

## *PSGAO Staff Contacts*

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# Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) through the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Act (FSIA) provides funds to states in a formula grant program.

Funds received through the FSIA are to be used to improve the quality, timeliness, and credibility of forensic science services for criminal justice purposes. NIJ requires certification that the State has an established forensic science laboratory or laboratory system that is accredited by an appropriate certifying body or will use a portion of the grant to prepare and apply for such accreditation within 2 years after the grant is awarded.

Rhode Island has used its Coverdell funding to support an accreditation readiness program. Rhode Island laboratories began the accreditation process with the Coverdell 2002 award. The exercise has required that the State Crime Laboratory at the University of Rhode Island and the State Forensic Science Laboratory at the Department of Health meet or exceed the required forensic laboratory standards that have been identified by international accreditation standards (ISO/IEC 17025).

**2023 Total Award**  
**\$312,708**

Effective April 9, 2007, the State Crime Laboratory was assessed and found to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and accrediting body supplemental forensic requirements for accreditation. That accreditation expired April 9, 2011. The Laboratory underwent an ISO audit inspection by FQS, Inc. in March of 2011 and was re-accredited for a second four-year term: May 25, 2011 to May 25, 2015. In January of 2015, FQS merged with ANSI-ASQ and is now known as the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board or ANAB. The laboratory underwent an ISO audit inspection by ANAB in March of 2015 and was re-accredited for a third four-year term: May 25, 2015 to May 25, 2019. The laboratory underwent an ISO audit inspection by ANAB in April of 2019 under the updated ISO/IEC 17025:2017 requirements. The review of the audit

by ANAB took longer than expected, so ANAB extended the Laboratory's current accreditation, due to expire in May of 2019, until August of 2019. In July of 2019, the Laboratory was notified that ANAB had renewed their accreditation for a fourth four-year term under the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 requirements. Their current certificate of accreditation is effective through August 31, 2023.

The Rhode Island Department of Health Laboratory's Forensic Sciences Unit is accredited to the ISO 17025 International Standard and to the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards (QAS). In addition to internal audits by their Quality Assurance Officer, external audits are needed to maintain accreditation, which runs on a four-year cycle. Currently, their accreditation expires on January 31, 2025.

The Rhode Island Public Safety Grant Administration Office, as the state administering agency (SAA), will retain \$31,270 which is the allowable 10% of the award to perform all grant-related planning and administrative functions.

Rhode Island's four (4) Coverdell funded laboratories agreed to split the 2023 program funding as follows:

**URI State Crime Lab** – The RI State Crime Laboratory will use \$70,360 in Coverdell funds to pay salary and benefit expenses to retain the Technician I position within the Laboratory for a second year. At the end of the second year, Technician I position will be promoted to Criminalist II Firearms and Tool Mark Examiner. This position will assist in keeping the significant backlog manageable in the Firearms section.

**RI Department of Health Center for Forensic Sciences Laboratory** – The RI Department of Health Forensic Sciences Unit will use \$70,360 in 2023 Coverdell funds to maintain and increase the scope of accreditation status by their accrediting body, pay travel and registration costs for trainings and conferences, and to purchase a new ductless fume hood and laptop computer. Effectiveness of backlog reduction will be monitored through performance measures for illicit drugs, including opioids, and improvement in turnaround times that result from this award.

**RI Office of State Medical Examiners (OSME)** - The RI Office of State Medical Examiners (OSME) will use their \$70,360 in 2023 Coverdell funds to purchase equipment and supplies to improve workflow and efficiency within OSME and pay annual fees to the accrediting body. Funds will also support a temporary employee to help with increasing efficiency in all aspects of OSME office duties.

**RI State Police Forensic Services Unit (FSU)** - RI State Police Forensic Services Unit (FSU) will use their \$70,358 in 2023 Coverdell funds to maintain accreditation by undergoing an annual off-site monitoring session to ensure the unit continues to meet all accreditation standards. Funds will also be used to purchase laboratory equipment and supplies, and to pay for FSU members to attend vital trainings and conferences. These conferences will allow existing members to earn continuing education credits and obtain certification in a particular specialty such as fingerprint examination or crime scene investigation.

# Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act

The Rhode Island Department of Public Safety Grant Administration Office (PSGAO) continues to manage the **Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Title II Formula grant**. The FY 2023 Title II Formula grant continues to operate under an approved Three-Year Plan and was awarded to RI in December 2023.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) became law in 1974 and was amended in 2002. The State of Rhode Island has been an active participant since 1975 and receives appropriations annually if in compliance with the core requirements of the Act. Grant funds may be used for many purposes related to delinquency prevention and improvement of the juvenile justice system. Funding recommendations are developed by the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) and then approved by the Criminal Justice Policy Board. The goals of the JJAC have remained unchanged. Principally, they are to carry out the core requirements of the JJDP Act:

- Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO);

**2023 Total Award**  
**\$600,659**

- Jail Removal (juveniles not to be detained or confined in any jail or lockup for adults);
- Separation of Juveniles from Adult Inmates;
- Racial and Ethnic Disparity – implement policy, practice and system improvement strategies to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

Rhode Island has maintained substantive compliance with the four JJDP Act mandates since 1995. The Juvenile Justice Specialist, along with the JJAC, has committed its energies to:

Creating conditions in RI communities that promote positive development of youth;

Increasing use of community-based Juvenile Hearing Boards as an alternative to entry in the juvenile justice system and to direct youth to services;

Advocating the development and implementation of projects related to young people;

Increasing collaboration among community sectors, such as human service, business, law enforcement and religious institutions, to address youth problems.

### **Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee**

**Mr. F. Paul Mooney Jr.,**  
*Chair*

**Hon. Michael Forte,**  
**Chief Judge,**  
*RI Family Court*

**Larome Myrick,**  
*Dept. of Children, Youth & Families*

**Dr. Mary Archibald,**  
*Providence School Department*

**Ms. Jennifer Griffith,**  
**Esq.,**  
*Child Advocate*

**Judge Laureen D'Ambra,**  
*RI Family Court*

**Ms. Shilpa Naik,**  
**Esq.,**  
*RI Family Court*

**Judge Feidlim Gill,**  
*RI Family Court*

**Ms. Susan Mansolillo,**  
*Local Elected Official*

**Beth Lemme-Bixby**  
*Tides Family Services*

**P.J. Fox**  
*Nonviolence Institute*

**Mr. James Queenan,**  
**Esq.,**  
*Representing Experience with Child Neglect*

**Dr. Judith Gnys,**  
*Psychologist*

**Sam Fry,**  
*Narragansett Indian Tribe*

**Mr. John Moreira,**  
**Esq.,**  
*Office of the Attorney General*

**Ms. Lori Coppa Fernandes,**

*Dept. of Children, Youth & Families*

**Ms. Kaila Madera,**  
*RI Family Court, Youth Representative*

**Ms. Veronica Godina**  
*Youth Representative*

**Mr. Corey Nim,**  
*Youth Representative*

**Mr. Sean Swepson,**  
*Youth Representative*

**Mr. Neal Sweet**  
*Youth Representative*

**Gina Tocco**  
*Public Safety Grant Administration Office*



## Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Title II Formula Grant

Agency/Organization	Project Description	2023 Award	State Match
Rhode Island Public Safety Grant Administration Office	Planning and Administration	\$60,000	\$60,000
Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee	JJAC – Administration/Prevention Activities	\$9,000	
Compliance Monitoring	Compliance Monitoring Activities	\$65,659	
RI Family Court	Specialty Courts	\$158,000	
RI for Community & Justice	Community-based Alternatives to Incarceration	\$72,000	
RI Kids Count	JDAI	\$72,000	
Narragansett Indian Tribe	Tribal Youth Programs	\$4,000	
	Diversion	\$83,750	
TBD – JJAC will be requesting project proposals – Will require approval of a revised budget –	Truancy Prevention	\$36,250	
Will be awarded 3 years of funding using 2021-2023 funds	Community-based Intervention	\$40,000	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$600,659</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

Planning and administration funds cover the salary of a full-time Juvenile Justice Grant Administrator who also serves as the state's Compliance Monitor and Racial/Ethnic Disparity Coordinator.

The State Advisory Group allocation is for the **Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee**. This committee develops and reviews the three-year plan, continuation funding applications and any sub-grantee applications. Funding is also used for travel costs of staff to attend national and regional OJJDP conferences and workshops, as well as any local conferences and workshops.

Rhode Island is given a required Native American pass-through allocation under Title II and a small additional allocation amount is added. This total allocation goes to the federally recognized **Narragansett Indian Tribe** to support programming to address youth justice and delinquency prevention issues. Funding is used for programs and activities for at-risk tribal youth that continues to focus on Tribal traditional values and address topics such as drug and alcohol prevention, conflict resolution, child safety and anger management.

**Compliance Monitoring** funds are used to maintain compliance with the first three core requirements of the JJDP Act. To ensure that youth are not unlawfully being held in secure facilities, including jails and lockups, Title II funds are used to support partial salary and benefits of the Juvenile Justice Specialist who is also the Compliance Monitor, or under contract with a consultant, to audit, site visit and provide technical assistance to all police departments, secure court holding facilities and the juvenile detention center in the state.

The **Rhode Island Family Court**, through its specialty court programs, has set goals to offer juvenile justice through diversion and treatment calendars and services. Specific program goals encompass reducing juvenile criminal justice involvement (recidivism), reducing youth substance abuse, improving individual and family functioning, and ultimately, increasing a youth's opportunities for success in life. These highly specialized calendars offer alternatives to formal proceedings and aim to provide families a holistic and comprehensive approach to treatment services. These calendars/services include: the Juvenile Drug Court; Family Treatment Drug Court; the Truancy Calendar; and the Mental Health Clinic. With funding under the Title II Formula grant program area related to comprehensive juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs that meet the need of youth through system collaboration, the Court seeks to maintain these diversionary and treatment calendars as well as expand their ability to provide case management on identified mental health needs. The Family Court intends to

provide services to over 1200 youth involved in the specialty court calendars. Case management and tracking is a central goal to ensure youth are diverted from the court in a timely manner with a focus on mental health and behavioral interventions. Juveniles who are handled informally are now receiving mental health screens in conjunction with the standard intake and, as a result, juveniles are receiving more mental health services at the “front end” of the system.

**Rhode Island for Community and Justice (RICJ)** is a statewide non-profit community organization working to improve the juvenile justice system and promote best practice community diversionary alternatives for at-risk juveniles, with the goal of making incarceration a last resort. With support under the Title II Formula grant, RICJ convenes the Community Advocacy Coalition (CAC) a statewide consortium of community, non-profit and youth programs, government, and professionals from across the justice system. The goal of the CAC is to improve systems and policies to help divert juveniles into community alternatives that keep arrested youth out of the justice system, increase awareness and effectiveness of community alternatives, and build cultural competency of those working with juveniles at risk. RICJ works to strengthen community alternatives to incarceration with increased use of Juvenile Hearing Boards (JHBs) across the state. JHBs are comprised of community volunteers who review the circumstances of certain minor, non-violent offenses committed by youth. The hearing boards allow for early intervention, youth accountability, restorative sanctions, and the diversion of youth accused of status offenses and misdemeanors from the juvenile justice system. RICJ works closely with the Juvenile Hearing Boards, allowing them to share best practices through regional/statewide meetings and trainings; connecting JHBs with networks of resources needed by juveniles, such as mental health, social services, mentoring, etc.; and collaborating to build capacity of urban JHBs in particular.

**Rhode Island KIDS COUNT** coordinates Rhode Island's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation that seeks to reduce unnecessary and inappropriate detention and improve juvenile justice systems overall. Funding to RI KIDS COUNT is used to work with JDAI partners, including RI Family Court to encourage a continued decrease in detention/incarceration at the Training School through a range of strategies including expanded use of probation, mediation, restitution, community service, treatment, electronic monitoring, and tailored community-based services including health, mental health, education, and job training. RI KIDS COUNT and JDAI partners are also charged with identifying and expanding community-based alternatives to the Training School that can provide supervision and therapeutic services for

youth. Focus continues on implementing a Risk Assessment Instrument to determine which youth should be placed at the RI Training School. Finally, RI KIDS COUNT works with JDAI partners including the RI Department of Children, Youth & Families, the RI Family Court, RI for Community and Justice, and community-based providers to develop a greater number of community-based alternatives to incarceration and institutionalization. They also focus on increasing community-based programs and services for status offenders, other youth and their parents and family members to strengthen families so that juveniles may remain in their homes, including programs/services for parents/families with limited English-speaking ability.

RI Department of Public Safety Grant Administration Office will put out a solicitation of approximately \$36,250 for projects related to truancy prevention through community based or school based interventions rather than court filings and projects coordinating and encouraging enrollment into community resources to ensure comprehensive access to education, vocational planning, job placement, health, mental health, substance abuse and other services essential to targeted youth.

RI Department of Public Safety Grant Administration Office will put out a solicitation of approximately \$83,750 for projects related to diversion such as prioritizing diversion for juveniles with addiction, mental and behavioral health disorders; improving conditions among diversion efforts between the Department of Children, Youth & Families, Family Court diversion, Juvenile Hearing Boards and School departments; and building police capacity and resources for community diversion.

RI Department of Public Safety Grant Administration Office will put out a solicitation of approximately \$40,000 for additional community-based intervention projects such as addressing workforce crisis situations in community services, community-based mobile crisis intervention and family stabilization, assisting with transition of youth from state care/foster care, etc.

Projects funded under these new solicitations would receive sub-grants for 3 years of funding under approved FY 2021, FY 2022 and FY 2023 Title II budgets for RI Department of Public Safety Grant Administration Office.

### ***Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Reallocation***

The JJDPa is subject to the **Prison Rape Elimination Act**, which provides in part that if a Governor is not able to certify to the Department of Justice that their

state or territory is in full compliance with the National PREA Standards, and elects not to submit an assurance to the Department, that not less than 5% of certain Department grant funds (including Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act funding) will be used solely for the purpose of enabling the state or territory to achieve full compliance with the standards in future years, then the state or territory is subject to a reduction of five percent of grant funds it would otherwise receive.

# The National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)

Since 1995, the **National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)** has helped states to improve the accuracy and national accessibility of criminal histories. NCHIP is an umbrella program designed to assist states in meeting evolving legislative and technical requirements regarding criminal histories and related records, such as protection order and sex offender registries. Interstate availability of such records is crucial with regard to criminal investigations, background checks for those applying for certain licenses, firearms purchases and those who work with children, the elderly and the disabled.

The goal of NCHIP is to improve the Nation's safety and security by enhancing the quality, completeness, and accessibility of criminal history record information and by insuring the nationwide implementation of criminal justice and non-criminal justice background check systems. In past years, these funds have been used to upgrade and enhance the criminal history infrastructure statewide,

The NCHIP grant is a discretionary program administered through the Bureau of Justice Statistics. A budget

**2023 Total Award**  
**\$588,653**

of \$55,703 has been allocated for costs incurred by PSGAO for staffing and administration of the program. The FY2023 program budget is as follows:

The **Rhode Island State Police Technical Services Unit** awarded amount is \$420,000. The award will be used to fund the enhancement of the RILETS user multi-factor authentication security and where possible, improve general network security and offer a higher level of protection of the criminal justice information that is accessed through the RILETS network.

The **Office of the State Court Administrator** awarded amount is \$86,250. The award will cover the overtime costs associated with the ongoing research and data entry of criminal dispositions, verifying criminal cases, and entering warrants and waivers.

The **Little Compton Police Department** awarded amount is \$26,700. The award will be used to purchase one (1) LiveScan fingerprinting machine. The LiveScan fingerprinting machine will be used for criminal fingerprinting and submission of sex offender data, as well as civil fingerprinting for daycare employees, teachers, medical licensing, concealed pistol permit holders etc.

# Project Safe Neighborhoods

**Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)** is designed to create and foster safer neighborhoods through a sustained reduction in violent crime, including, but not limited to, addressing criminal gangs and the felonious possession and use of firearms. The program's effectiveness depends upon the ongoing coordination, cooperation, and partnerships of local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies—and the communities they serve—engaged in a unified approach led by the U.S. Attorney (USA) in all 94 districts. Acting decisively in a coordinated manner at all levels—federal, state, local, and tribal—will help reverse a rise in violent crime and keep American citizens safe. PSN provides the critical funding, resources, and training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and their PSN teams to combat violent crime and make their communities safer through a comprehensive approach to public safety that marries targeted law enforcement efforts with community engagement, prevention, and reentry efforts.

With PSN, each USA is responsible for establishing a collaborative PSN team of federal, state, local, and tribal (where applicable) law enforcement and other community members to implement a strategic plan for

**2023 Total Award**

**\$85,329**

investigating, prosecuting, and preventing violent crime. Through the PSN team (referred to as the “PSN task force”), each district will implement the five design features of PSN—leadership, partnership, targeted and prioritized enforcement, prevention, and accountability—to address violent crime in their respective districts.

PSN is the lead grant initiative in a suite of programs focused on reducing violent crime. The programs in the PSN Suite are PSN, Strategies for Policing Innovation, Innovative Prosecution Solutions, Crime Gun Intelligence Centers, National Public Safety Partnerships, Technology Innovation for Public Safety, Innovations in Community-based Crime Reduction, and Community-based Violence Prevention Demonstration. These separate initiatives coordinate proactively with the PSN task force in the respective district of the USAO to enhance collaboration and strengthen the



commitment to reduce violent crime.

The Public Safety Grant Administration Office (PSGAO) and the Rhode Island PSN Task Force submitted a project proposal to implement a violence reduction strategy. This strategy will develop and apply the critical incident screening and response models within the City of Providence that have been successful elsewhere in reducing incidents of violence. Central to the practice of critical incident reviews is the creation of a multi-disciplinary crime response strategy that includes data sharing, data collection and monitoring, and intentional action.

The target jurisdictions of Providence, Central Falls, Pawtucket, Woonsocket, and Cranston (Urban Corridor) share similar challenges associated with violent crime. PSGAO and the USA Office will work to coordinate with both the local law enforcement agencies and the Rhode Island State Police to form the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT).

The CIRT will develop and establish a formal information collection process to generate a more complete understanding of the criminal activity within the Urban Corridor. This criminal network identification system will allow for more informed policing, the development of stronger investigations, more focused and efficient provision of social services, and codification of street-level observation and assessments made by law enforcement officials across jurisdictions that do not readily have the capacity to quickly share information.

To complement these efforts, an allocation of funding is being made available to competitive procurement for an organization to field a community violence intervention specialist who is familiar with street dynamics of youth crews and gangs. This person should be able to help gather information to first understand conflict dynamics and the environment in which conflict exists, control rumors, reduce retaliation, prevent conflict from erupting, communicate nonviolent messages to active crew members, and when possible connect them to positive skill based and mentoring outlets.

## **2023 Project Safe Neighborhoods Task Force Members**

### Law Enforcement

RI State Police

RI Fusion Center

Providence Police Department

Pawtucket Police Department

Central Falls Police Department

Woonsocket Police Department

Cranston Police Department

### Prosecution

U.S. Attorney's Office

RI Attorney General's Office

### Department of Corrections

Investigator

### US Probation

Deputy Chief Federal Probation

### Outreach Workers

Nonviolence Institute

### Schools

Providence Drug Free Schools

Johnson and Wales University

### Faith Community

Jewish Alliance of RI

RI Council of Muslim Americans

African Community Leadership  
Forum

### Non-Profits/Community Service Agencies

Justice Assistance

Downtown Improvement District

Rhode Island Foundation

### Social Services

RI Mental Health Advocate

### Research

Roger Williams University

### Federal Law Enforcement

Department of Homeland  
Security Investigations

FBI Safe Streets

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives

Drug Enforcement Agency

US Marshals Service

### Fiscal Agent

RI Public Safety Grant  
Administration Office

# Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Grant

The **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)** for State Prisoners Formula Grant Program was created by Title III of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. It provides funding for substance abuse treatment programs in state and local correctional facilities. The program encourages states to adopt comprehensive approaches to treatment for offenders, including relapse prevention and aftercare services. Prisoners in these facilities must be incarcerated for a period sufficient to permit substance abuse treatment.

Studies and statistics indicate that the fastest and most cost-effective way to reduce the demand for illicit drugs is to treat chronic, hardcore drug users. They consume the most drugs, commit the most crimes and burden the health care system to the greatest extent. Without treatment, chronic hardcore users continue to use drugs and engage in criminal activity, and when arrested, they too frequently continue their addiction upon release.

**The RI Public Safety Grant Administration Office (PSGAO)**, the state administering agency (SAA)

**2023 Total Award**  
**\$197,621**

takes the allowable 10% of the award to perform all grant-related planning and administrative functions. After deducting the PSGAO 10% administrative funds, the remaining \$177,859 in 2023 RSAT funding is proposed to be used as follows:

**The Rhode Island Department of Corrections, Division of Rehabilitative Services**, RSAT allocation of \$177,859 will be used to continue support of a residential substance abuse program for adult male offenders incarcerated at Medium Security. The program offers a four and six-month treatment phase followed by a six-month recovery phase that can accommodate up to 100 offenders at a time. The goals of the program are to provide intensive substance abuse treatment and recovery case management services to include discharge planning for those

offenders who will be prepared for re-integration into the community. Drug treatment services are provided through the RFP selected vendor, The Providence Center (TPC). All offenders referred to the program are assessed for history of substance abuse and prior treatment/recovery experiences. Individual treatment plans are developed and implemented.

Offenders are tested for drugs of abuse as an integral part of the treatment program according to established Department protocols. Transitional planning begins immediately upon assignment to the unit, which includes a written plan to deal with offender transitional issues including plans for housing, finance, family reunification, and community substance abuse treatment/recovery services following discharge from prison. This discharge plan is developed with treatment staff as well as the Division of Probation and Parole. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services are provided to all offenders in every facility who are screened and assessed as appropriate. These services are provided to participants of this program as well.

# Sexual Assault Services Program

The **Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP)** is formula grant program from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). It assists states in supporting rape crisis centers and other nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations or tribal programs that provide services, direct intervention, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault and their families.

SASP is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. Funds provided through SASP are designed to supplement other funding sources directed at addressing sexual assault on the state and territorial level. In the past few years, Rhode Island has been slow to spend due to pandemic related issues.

As a result, Rhode Island now has funds from 2021, 2022, and incoming 2023 funds available to distribute. SASP has additionally seen the federal allocation rise during this time, leading to a glut of funds. After a competitive application process, four agencies were selected for two-year awards.

**2023 Total Award**  
**\$1,369,510**

A two-year award will have multiple beneficial effects. Most importantly, this helps expand funding to three agencies that have not previously been SASP recipients. A two-year award will help the agencies launch the new programming and give it time to succeed. This will also allow the excess funds to be allocated and will help return spending to a normal pace.

The **Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center (BVAC)** will use their award of \$403,862 to collaborate with the Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center (EBCC) to provide statewide services to victims of sexual assault. BVAC will serve clients in Providence and Bristol counties, and EBCC will provide services in Kent, Washington, and Newport counties. This application and budget pertain to BVAC services in the designated catchment areas. EBCC is submitting a separate application.

With this funding, BVAC will provide in-person advocacy to hospitals in Providence County, Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 8 pm. Data shows that most calls from hospitals occur during this period. Calls received during overnight hours and weekends will continue to be processed by helpline staff. BVAC will also work with RICADV member agencies and community partners to process referrals to the program and provide trauma-informed crisis intervention, case management, advocacy, accompaniment, and service coordination to clients.

In this proposal, BVAC will offer support groups in English and Spanish on weekly basis. BVAC will also facilitate Family and Friends support groups weekly. EBCC will provide individual counseling to BVAC clients through other funding. All individual and group support will be offered in BVAC's centrally located Providence office and in Pawtucket, as needed. BVAC uses an evidence-based curriculum as the basis for discussions during support groups. There are no fees for clients for these services. Part of their budget is to contract with Spanish language clinicians.

Sexual Assault Services Program funding of \$332,408 will allow the **Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center (EBCC)** to hire a full-time Sexual Assault Counselors and a Sexual Assault Advocate/Case Manager with experience in sexual assault treatment and trauma informed practice. Additional staff would allow EBCC to address capacity issues with its current sexual assault program as well as grow its ongoing partnership to serve clients from Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center (BVAC). EBCC will also run support groups, both at their community agency in Warwick and in the East Greenwich/North Kingstown area to create accessibility for sexual assault survivors in Southern Rhode Island and Newport County.

In addition, the Sexual Assault Case Manager and Sexual Assault Counselors will ensure clients have accurate information about reporting options, will help clients manage emotional needs and traumatic triggers during criminal justice proceedings, assist with filing for victims of crime compensation, and will offer appropriate referrals for additional services as needed. The SA Program employees will work with EBCC staff to increase understanding of the needs of victims of sexual assault and to increase trauma informed interactions between staff and sexual assault clients. EBCC Sexual Assault Program staff members are professionally trained to approach counseling in a trauma-informed, victim-centered, culturally responsive, LGBTQ+-friendly manner. Specific objectives of the Sexual Assault Program Expansion include comprehensive promotion of EBCC's Sexual Assault Program Services to partners, professionals, schools, and the general community. Counselors will continue to provide individual counseling

services through in-person meetings at EBCC, at our sister agency/partner site Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center, and virtually.

**Sojourner House** will use its \$600,00 award to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault in Rhode Island. The goal is to assist victims in crisis, help them stay safe and connect them with resources to support their recovery and, if they choose, to support them through the criminal justice process.

The goal is to provide trauma-informed supportive services that comprehensively support victims and survivors of sexual assault. These services assist victims with healing from trauma, navigating through legal and immigration systems, help them to develop plans to keep them safe and to prepare for the future, assist with accessing basic needs, and address immediate crises that are impeding the victim from moving forward. The objective is to serve a total of approximately 2,000 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking each year. All of their services are trauma-informed, which means that they acknowledge the pervasive nature of trauma and promote healing and recovery while avoiding practices that may unintentionally re-traumatize clients. Trauma can cause victims to become overwhelmed and feel powerless to make changes in their lives.

Depression and anxiety are common among survivors. Behaviors that are related to trauma can be easily misinterpreted by those not familiar with the impacts of trauma and the dynamics of abuse. Staff are trained in trauma-informed care, and they also employ a harm reduction approach and will not turn away a victim who uses drugs or alcohol to numb their pain. The objective is always to reduce harm while offering support and encouraging individuals to envision a better life.

**Day One** will use \$332,408 of requested funding to offer child, youth, and adult victims of sexual assault programming and services that are responsive to their immediate and longer-term needs. Specifically, the agency will provide support through the 24-hour Victims of Crime Helpline. They will also provide crisis intervention, trauma-informed individual, family, and group support services, as well as comprehensive care coordination and case management services and referrals to assist victims and their non-offending family or household members.

As part of the referral process, Day One will distribute informational materials related to victim services. Materials will be made available in English and Spanish. Working with its partners to eliminate structural barriers and strengthen outreach to underserved and specific cultural communities, Day One will work to ensure appropriate support mechanisms are in place and that the services provided are

culturally specific.

Finally, Day One will continue to communicate and collaborate with law enforcement, prosecutors, and others to offer victims support throughout the entire legal process. Specifically, Day One will provide victims accompaniment to medical facilities, police stations, and court proceedings. The agency will also offer advocacy to victims as they make their way through the medical, criminal justice, and social support service systems. The objectives in providing the core services, direct intervention, and related assistance described above are to improve the state's response system to sexual violence and increase victims' access to sexual assault services overall, as well as for specific underserved populations.



# Violence Against Women Act: Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors

The **Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution (STOP) Violence Against Women Act**, enacted by the 103rd Congress, is enumerated in Title IV of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and was re-authorized in 2005 and 2013. The STOP grant program is committed to enhancing the nation's criminal justice system response to the violence perpetrated against women including domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

In early 1995, the Finance Committee of the Rhode Island House of Representatives established a multi-disciplinary committee to prepare for the implementation of VAWA. Subsequently, then-Governor Lincoln Almond named the Rhode Island Public Safety Grant Administration Office to administer the Violence Against Women Act programs for the state. The original committee continues to meet, serving as the VAWA Planning and Advisory Committee. This committee has developed a comprehensive statewide plan to reduce the incidence of crimes of violence against women and to improve services to victims.

**2023 Total Award**  
**\$1,047,311**

Because of the efforts of this committee, Rhode Island was the second state in the nation to receive funding under the Violence Against Women Act. In addition, the Rhode Island State Implementation Plan was the first in the nation to be approved by the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

In 2022, Rhode Island continued to spend 2021 STOP funds and drafted the 2022-2026 Implementation Plan. This new plan was approved by the Department of Justice in 2023 and will guide STOP funding through 2026 and was a result from over a dozen meetings with the Violence Against Women Act Planning and Advisory Committee. Numerous other meetings with stakeholders occurred and a survey was sent to approximately 200 individuals representing a broad swath of the criminal justice system.

STOP has statutory programmatic categories that dictate the distribution of the award funds: 30% is required for victim services, 25% for prosecution, 25% for law enforcement, 5% for courts and 15% is discretionary. The discretionary funds must support one of the Office on Violence Against Women statutory program purpose areas and align with one of the program categories. Rhode Island has historically utilized this discretionary 15% to augment the victims' services component.

As mentioned, the Department of Justice approved the new four-year implantation plan in the fall of 2023. A solicitation process is currently being worked on with funds expected to be available in early 2024.

# Victims of Crime Act Victims Assistance Formula Grant Program

The Public Safety Grant Administration Office has administered the **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victims Assistance Program** since 1985, when the program was first enacted by Congress. The Act is funded through fines paid by those convicted of violating federal laws.

The VOCA program has the most restrictive regulations of all PSGAO-administered grant programs as funds are strictly intended to support direct services to victims of violent crime. The Act requires priority be given to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and other groups identified by the state as being "underserved" victims of violent crimes.

The Public Safety Grant Administration Office made fifty-nine VOCA sub-grant awards for the 2023 program totaling \$4,877,215.00. The fifty-eight awards were all made to previously existing projects. The decision was made in the FY2021 year that due to the unpredictable amount of VOCA funds that we receive each year that we would give out three-year awards to all the sub-recipients. This enabled the sub-recipients to feel some sense of security knowing that they

**2023 Total Award**  
**\$4,795,700**

would be able to fund their programs for at least three years, of which 2023 is the last year. The VOCA fund went from \$5,096,442.00 in 2022 to \$4,795,700 in 2023. The 2021 award was only for \$3,718,574 in 2021. This enabled the PSGAO to give a 3% increase to all the sub-recipients from 2021. Awards in 2023 remained stable to their 2022 levels.

**VOCA Advisory Committee**  
Originally established in 1986, the VOCA Advisory Committee consists of volunteer representatives from both the public and private sectors. The Committee meets throughout the year and works with the Public Safety Grant Administration Office to identify the needs of victims of crime, set goals for distribution of federal dollars, establish procedures for applicants to submit grant requests, and make recommendations for the funding of

grant programs. The 2023 VOCA Advisory Committee was comprised of:

- **Deborah DeBare**, Senior Deputy Director at NNEDV and former executive director at RICADV;
- **PJ Fox**, independent consultant and former executive director at the Nonviolence Institute;
- **Frank Pannozzi**, retired Rhode Island Public Defender and former Chief, Parental Rights Division; and
- **Bradley Orleck**, Grant Project Specialist at the RIPSGAO

## **VOCA Victims Assistance Sub-grants for 2023**

<b>Agency/Organization</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>2023 Award</b>
Adoption Rhode Island	Child and Family Support Services	\$59,480
Amos House	VOCA for Men	\$47,586
Office of the Attorney General	AG Statewide Victim Assistance Support	\$55,835
Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center	Providence County LEA Program	\$343,338
Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center	Providence County Court Advocacy Program	\$31,683
Center for Southeast Asians	Seeing and Serving Southeast Asian Women	\$46,988
Child and Family Services	VOCA 2023	\$41,501
Community Care Alliance	Behavioral Health Services for Victims	\$37,986
Comprehensive Community Action, Inc.	VOCA - Victim of Crime Case Management	\$41,715
Day One	Children's Advocacy Center Program	\$66,824
Day One	Human Trafficking Victim Services Program	\$59,000
Day One	Law Enforcement Advocacy Program	\$140,000
Day One	Sexual Assault Victim Services Program	\$81,174
Domestic Violence Resource Center	Law Enforcement and Advocacy Program	\$103,000
Dorcas International Institute	Immigrant Victim's Rights Project	\$61,537

<b>Agency/Organization</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>2023 Award</b>
East Bay Community Action Program	East Bay VOCA	\$58,626
Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center	Law Enforcement Advocate Program	\$335,080
Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center	Sexual Assault Counselor	\$30,343
Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center	Crisis Case Manager	\$24,270
Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center	Felony Case/TRO Advocate	\$24,681
Family Service of Rhode Island	Police Go Teams	\$158,462
Foster Forward	Therapeutic Services for Youth	\$34,103
House of Hope CDC	Street Outreach and Housing Program	\$86,089
Interfaith Counseling Center, Inc	Client Care	\$31,763
Judiciary of the State of Rhode Island	VOCA 2023	\$126,433
Justice Assistance	Project Victims Services	\$63,036
Lucy's Hearth	Victim Advocate	\$33,847
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	MADD RI's Victim Services Program	\$41,636
Nonviolence Institute	Nonviolence Outreach Specialists	\$71,545
Nonviolence Institute	VOCA Victim Services	\$127,509
Progreso Latino, Inc.	Progreso Latino's Ayudame Program	\$66,361
Refugee Development Center	Breaking Barriers	\$69,392

<b>Agency/Organization</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>2023 Award</b>
Rhode Island DCYF	VOCA 2023-24	\$75,990
Rhode Island Hospital	Aubin Child Protection Center	\$108,220
Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc.	Safe Family Project	\$285,368
Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc.	Elder Protection Project	\$140,923
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships	\$28,033
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Hate Crimes Training	\$16,940
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence Counseling Program	\$35,744
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence	24-hour Victims of Crime Helpline	\$118,808
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Victim Advocacy Program	\$296,387
Saint Elizabeth Community	Haven for Elder Justice	\$47,971
Sojourner House	Community-Based Advocacy	\$26,692
Sojourner House	Immigration Advocacy	\$37,564
Sojourner House	LGBTQ+ Advocacy	\$28,763
Sojourner House	RISE Shelter and Woonsocket Services	\$78,751
Sojourner House	School-Based Advocacy	\$33,062
Sojourner House	THEIA	\$80,539
Sojourner House	Transitional Housing	\$51,073

<b>Agency/Organization</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>2023 Award</b>
St. Mary's Home for Children	The Shepherd Program	\$205,400
Office of the Child Advocate	Project Victim Services	\$8,090
The Providence Housing Authority	Victim Services and Supports	\$78,094
Thundermist Health Center	Victim Advocacy Program	\$99,321
Tri-County Community Action Agency	Elder, Deaf, Blind, Hard of Hearing	\$212,344
Women's Resource Center	Law Enforcement Advocacy	\$70,000
Women's Resource Center	Crisis Advocacy	\$18,741
Women's Resource Center	Transitional Housing for Victims	\$38,502
Youth Pride, Inc.	Advocacy and Support for LGBTQ+ Youth	\$55,072
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$4,877,215</b>



# Appendix:

## Rhode Island General Laws §42-26-1

### **CHAPTER 42-26-1**

### **RHODE ISLAND JUSTICE COMMISSION**

As of 6/2014

Section.

42-26-1 Short title.

42-26-1.1 Name change.

42-26-2 Legislative findings and purpose.

42-26-3 Public safety grant administration office created – Composition.

42-26-4 Power and duties.

42-26-5 Chairperson and vice chairperson.

42-26-6 Criminal justice policy board – Appointment of members.

42-26-7 Committees and by-laws.

42-26-8 Policy board – Meetings – Quorum.

42-26-8.1 Policy board – Regional committees.

42-26-9 Administration – Public safety grant administration office.

42-26-10 Staff.

42-26-11 Cooperation of departments.

Section.

42-26-12 Termination or modification.

42-26-13 Committee created – Purpose and composition.

42-26-13.1 Staff, facilities and supplies.

42-26-13.2 Duties and responsibilities of committee.

42-26-13.3 Prison inmate population capacity – Enforcement mechanisms.

42-26-14 – 42-26-17. [Repealed.].

42-26-18 Gang violence prevention advisory committee.

42-26-19 After school alternative program – Legislative intent.

42-26-19.1 After School alternative program – Purpose – Duration.

**§ 42-26-1 Short title.** – This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Rhode Island Justice Commission Act".

**§ 42-26-1.1 Name change.** – Wherever in the general or public laws, there appears the words, "Rhode Island Justice Commission", it should now read, "public safety grant administration office".

**§ 42-26-2 Legislative findings and purpose.** – The general assembly recognizes and declares that:

- crime and delinquency are essentially state and local problems;
- crime and delinquency are complex social phenomena requiring the attention and efforts of the criminal justice system, state, and local governments, and private citizens alike;
- the establishment of appropriate goals, objectives, and standards for the reduction of crime and delinquency and for the administration of justice must be a priority concern;
- the functions of the criminal justice system must be coordinated more efficiently and effectively;
- the full and effective use of resources affecting state and local criminal justice systems requires the complete cooperation of state and local government agencies; and training research, evaluation, technical assistance, and public education activities must be encouraged and focused on the improvement of the criminal justice system and the generation of new methods for the prevention and reduction of crime and delinquency.

**§ 42-26-3 Public safety grant administration office created –**

**Composition.** – (a) There is hereby created within the department of public safety a public safety grant administration office which shall be under the jurisdiction of the governor.

- (b) The public safety grant administration office shall consist of:
  - (1) a criminal justice policy board, and
  - (2) such permanent and ad hoc committees and task forces as the board deems necessary.

**§ 42-26-4 Powers and duties.** – The public safety grant administration office shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Serve as the state planning agency for administration of federal criminal justice related grant programs including, but not limited to, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended;
- (2) Advise and assist the governor and the director of public safety in developing policies, plans, programs, and budgets for improving the coordination, administration and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in the state;
- (3) Prepare a state comprehensive criminal justice plan on behalf of the governor and the director of public safety. The plan, and any substantial modifications thereto, shall be submitted to the legislature for its advisory review of the goals, priorities and policies contained therein. The plan, to be periodically updated, shall be based on an analysis of the state's criminal justice needs and problems and shall be in conformance with state and other appropriate regulations;
- (4) Establish goals, priorities, and standards for the reduction of crime and the improvement of the administration of justice in the state;
- (5) Recommend legislation to the governor and legislature in the criminal justice field;
- (6) Encourage local comprehensive criminal justice planning efforts;
- (7) Monitor and evaluate programs and projects, funded in whole or in part by the state government, aimed at reducing crime and delinquency and improving the administration of justice;
- (8) Cooperate with and render technical assistance to state agencies and units of general local government, and public or private agencies relating to the criminal justice system;
- (9) Apply for, contract for, receive, and expend for its purposes any appropriations or grants from the state, its political subdivisions, the federal government, or any other source, public or private, in accordance with the appropriations process;
- (10) Have the authority to collect from the department of corrections and any

state or local government departments and agencies, such public information, data, reports, statistics, or other material which is necessary to carry out the functions of the public safety grant administration office; and to collect from non-profit organizations which receive state or federal funds all information necessary to carry out the commission's functions;

(11) Disseminate to state agencies, units of local government, public or private agencies, and others, information such as criminal justice program advancements, research results, training events, and availability of funds;

(12) Review, no less often than annually, the administration, operation programs and activities of correctional services in the state including input from the general public and other interested persons; conduct such other reviews and studies in conjunction with the department of corrections as may be appropriate; and report findings and recommendations to the governor;

(13) Perform other duties which may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

**§ 42-26-5 Chairperson and vice chairperson.** – The chairperson and vice chairperson of the commission shall be appointed by the governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

**§ 42-26-6 Criminal justice policy board – Appointment of members.** – The criminal justice policy board shall consist of:

- (1) The attorney general;
- (2) The superintendent of the state police and director of the department of public safety;
- (3) The public defender;
- (4) The director of the department of corrections;
- (5) The director of the department of human services;
- (6) The director of the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals;
- (7) The chairperson of the state board of regents;
- (8) The director of the department of children, youth, and families;
- (9) The chief justice of the family court;
- (10) The president of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association;
- (11) One police chief selected by the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association;

- (12) The chief justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court;
- (13) The presiding justice of the superior court;
- (14) The chief judge of the district court;
- (15) The executive director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns;
- (16) The director of health;
- (17) The director of the division of fire safety;
- (18) One university or college faculty member with a research background in criminal justice appointed by the governor;
- (19) Four (4) citizens appointed by the governor;
- (20) Three (3) representatives appointed by the governor from community service organizations.

**§ 42-26-7 Committees and by-laws.** – (a) The commission may establish and the chairperson may appoint such subcommittees, task forces, or advisory committees it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. Appointments to subcommittees, task forces, and advisory committees are not restricted to the membership of the criminal justice policy board.

- (b) The commission may delegate responsibilities and functions to subcommittees, task forces, and advisory committees as it deems appropriate.
- (c) The commission shall promulgate rules of procedure governing its operations, provided they are in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, chapter 35 of this title.

**§ 42-26-8 Policy board – Meetings – Quorum.** – (a) The criminal justice policy board shall meet at the call of the chairperson or upon petition of a majority of the members, but not less than four (4) times per year.

- (b) A quorum at meetings of the policy board shall consist of a majority of the current membership, and all subsequent voting shall be representative of the full policy board.
- (c) A policy board member has the right to send, in his or her place, a designated representative to a meeting and/or meetings. If the designation is made in writing, the representative shall have full voting privileges.

**§ 42-26-8.1 Policy board – Regional committees.** – The criminal justice policy board may establish regional committees to perform such functions as the

policy board may direct.

**§ 42-26-9 Administration** – Public safety grant administration office. – The director of public safety shall appoint a qualified individual from the department of public safety who shall be responsible for the following:

- (1) Supervise and be responsible for the administration of the policies established by the policy board;
- (2) Establish, consolidate, or abolish any administrative subdivision within the public safety grant administration office and appoint and remove for cause the heads thereof, and delegate appropriate powers and duties to them;
- (3) Establish and administer projects and programs for the operation of the public safety grant administration office;
- (4) Appoint and remove employees of the public safety grant administration office and delegate appropriate powers and duties to them;
- (5) Make rules and regulations for the management and the administration of policies of the public safety grant administration office and the conduct of employees under his or her jurisdiction;
- (6) Collect, develop, and maintain statistical information, records, and reports as the public safety grant administration office may determine relevant to its functions;
- (7) Transmit bi-monthly to the policy board a report of the operations of the public safety grant administration office for the preceding two calendar months;
- (8) Execute and carry out the provisions of all contracts, leases, and agreements authorized by the public safety grant administration office with agencies of federal, state, or local government, corporations or persons;
- (9) Perform such additional duties as may be assigned to him or her by the governor, the policy board, or by law; and
- (10) Exercise all powers and perform all duties necessary and proper in carrying out his or her responsibilities.

**§ 42-26-10 Staff.** – Employees of the commission, other than the executive director, shall be subject to the provisions of the State Merit System Act as set forth in chapters 3 and 4 of title 36 as amended and any further provisions of that act that are enacted by the general assembly.

**§ 42-26-11 Cooperation of departments.** – All other departments and agencies of the state government are hereby authorized and directed to cooperate with the commission and to furnish such information as the commission shall require.

**§ 42-26-12 Termination or modification.** – The Rhode Island justice commission shall annually submit a performance report to the governor and the general assembly. This report and other relevant material shall be the basis for determining whether to continue the commission, modify the commission, or abolish the commission.

**§ 42-26-13 Committee created – Purpose and composition.** – (a) There is hereby created within the Rhode Island justice commission pursuant to the provisions of § 42-26-7 of this chapter the criminal justice oversight committee for the purpose of maintaining the secure facilities at the adult correctional institutions within their respective population capacities as established by court order, consent decree or otherwise.

(b) The criminal justice oversight committee (hereinafter referred to as the "committee") shall consist of the following members who shall assemble no less than four (4) times annually or more often at the call of the chairperson or upon petition of a majority of its members:

- (1) The presiding justice of the superior court;
- (2) The chief judge of the district court;
- (3) The attorney general;
- (4) The public defender;
- (5) The superintendent of state police;
- (6) The director of the department of corrections;
- (7) The chairperson of the parole board;
- (8) The executive director of the Rhode Island justice commission;
- (9) A member of the governor's staff selected by the governor;
- (10) Four (4) members of the general assembly, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker and one of whom shall be appointed by the president of the senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the house minority leader and one of whom shall be appointed by the senate minority

leader.

(11) A qualified elector of this state who shall be appointed by the governor and designated as chairperson of the committee.

(12) A member of the Victims' Rights Group, appointed by the speaker of the house.

Each member of the committee may appoint a permanent designee to attend committee meetings in his/her absence. A quorum at meetings of the committee shall consist of a majority of its current membership.

**§ 42-26-13.1 Staff, facilities and supplies.** – The executive director of the Rhode Island justice commission shall provide the committee with such staff, facilities, equipment and supplies necessary for its operation and maintenance.

**§ 42-26-13.2 Duties and responsibilities of committee.** – The committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(1) Establish goals or projections annually, based on an analysis of past activity, for each component of the criminal justice system; set capacities for each secure facility; and incorporate inmate population limits set by court order, consent decree or otherwise, as may be amended from time to time.

(2) Monitor closely the compliance of each component of the criminal justice system with its established annual goals or projections.

(3) Coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of systemic improvements and intermediate sanctions as may be recommended and adopted by the committee from time to time.

(4) Coordinate and oversee such remedial measures as may be needed to address and reduce overcrowding at the adult correctional institutions, including, but not limited to, construction of additional prison beds.

**§ 42-26-13.3 Prison inmate population capacity – Enforcement mechanisms.** – (a) Whenever the overall population of the adult correctional institutions exceeds ninety-five percent (95%) of the annual capacity set by the committee for thirty (30) consecutive days or whenever the prison inmate population of any secure facility within the adult correctional institutions exceeds one hundred percent (100%) of its capacity established by court order, consent decree or otherwise, for five (5) consecutive days, the director of corrections shall notify the chairperson of the committee in writing and said chairperson shall



schedule an emergency meeting of the committee within five (5) business days of notification to develop measures to address the overcrowding.

(b) The committee shall without delay encourage, coordinate and oversee efforts to initiate one or more of the following measures, as the committee deems appropriate, to address the overcrowding:

(1) Accelerate the implementation of systemic improvements, including, but not limited to, existing measures for the processing of bail for pretrial detainees, disposing of pending cases of sentenced inmates, providing accelerated bail hearings and expediting hearings for probation and parole violators.

(2) Implement immediately other systemic improvements on a temporary or permanent basis which may have a positive impact on expediting the processing of pretrial and/or sentenced inmates as may be necessary and to reduce incarceration days.

(c) In the event such systemic initiatives fail to reduce overcrowding of the inmate population at any secure facility or facilities to mandated levels within sixty (60) days of notification to the committee by the director of corrections of the overcrowding, the committee shall determine whether the source of the overcrowding is in the pretrial or sentenced inmate population. If the committee determines that the overcrowding results from the pretrial inmate population, the committee shall, without delay, encourage, coordinate and oversee efforts to initiate one or more of the following plans of action as may be necessary:

- (1) Review cases of all pretrial detainees for possible release or bailment;
- (2) Utilize alternative measures wherever possible to release pretrial detainees to community supervision;
- (3) Establish a temporary bail fund to release nonviolent pretrial detainees, with or without community supervision.

(d) If the committee determines that the overcrowding problem results from the sentenced inmate population, the committee shall, without delay, encourage, coordinate and oversee efforts to initiate one or more of the following plans of action as may be necessary:

- (1) Expand the availability of intermediate punishments;
- (2) Accelerate parole hearings for those currently eligible and expedite release of those granted parole;
- (3) Temporarily suspend existing guidelines for parole eligibility and consider all prisoners statutorily eligible for release or parole;

(4) Utilize statutorily authorized grants of meritorious good time to accelerate the release of nonviolent sentenced offenders who are within thirty (30) days of expiration of sentence.

(e) If the measures described in subsection (d) above fail to reduce the inmate population of any secure facility of the adult correctional institutions to mandated levels within an additional sixty (60) days (or within one hundred twenty (120) days after written notification to the committee by the director of corrections of the overcrowding crisis), the committee shall be authorized to direct the parole board to consider the good time earned by nonviolent offenders pursuant to the provisions of § 42-56-24 and § 42-56-26 for the purpose of expediting the parole eligibility of the minimum number of nonviolent sentenced offenders needed to meet mandated population levels. A "nonviolent offender" is defined as one who is not currently serving a sentence of incarceration resulting from a conviction for a crime of violence defined by §42-56-20.2.

(f) If the measures described in subsection (e) above fail to reduce the inmate population of any secure facility to mandated levels within an additional sixty (60) days (or within one hundred eighty (180) days after written notification to the committee by the director of corrections of the overcrowding crisis), the chairperson of the committee shall notify the governor and recommend the grant of sufficient emergency good time to nonviolent offenders to expedite eligibility for parole of the minimum number of sentenced offenders to meet the mandated population caps. The governor shall direct the director of corrections to grant such emergency good time in ten (10) day increments to all nonviolent sentenced offenders. Such ten (10) day increments of emergency good time shall be granted to make the minimum number of offenders eligible for and actually released on parole to meet mandated population caps. Upon notification of the governor of the grant of emergency good time, the parole board shall consider emergency good time in determining eligibility for parole. A "nonviolent offender" is defined here, as above in subsection (e), as one who is not currently serving a sentence of incarceration resulting from a conviction for a crime of violence as defined by § 42-56-20.2.

**§ 42-26-14 – 42-26-17. [Repealed].** –

**§ 42-26-18 Gang violence prevention advisory committee.** – (a) There is established in the Rhode Island justice commission the gang violence prevention advisory committee. The committee exists as a permanent sub-committee of the

Rhode Island justice commission, juvenile justice advisory committee. The committee shall be composed of members of the Rhode Island justice commission, juvenile justice advisory committee, which currently exists within the Rhode Island justice commission and is charged by the governor and the office of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, to address issues relating to delinquency and youth violence within the state. Membership qualifications are described in subparagraphs (i) – (iii) of § 223(A)(3) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 [42 U.S.C. § 5633(a)(A)(i) – (iii)] as amended. The function and structure of this committee along with its historic activities in gang intervention/prevention will enable it to carry out the intent of this section.

(b) The gang violence prevention advisory committee shall coordinate, review, purpose and oversee gang prevention, intervention, and suppression programs on a state level. The committee shall also coordinate with Rhode Island justice commission in efforts to obtain federal funds, grants, or other appropriations necessary and useful to carry out the purpose of this section.

**§ 42-26-19 After school alternative program – Legislative intent.** – The legislature hereby finds and declares the following:

- (1) There is a greater threat to public safety resulting from gang and drug-related activity in and near Rhode Island's inner cities.
- (2) Young people, especially at-risk youth, are more vulnerable to gang and drug-related activity during the potentially unsupervised hours between the end of school and the time their parents or guardians return home from work.
- (3) Without local prevention and treatment efforts, hard drugs will continue to threaten and destroy families and communities in and near the inner cities. Drug-related violence may then escalate dramatically in every community, and thereby burden the criminal justice system to the point that it cannot function effectively.
- (4) It is the intent of the legislature that a pilot program, the "After School Alternative Program" (ASAP), be established and implemented within a specified Rhode Island community. This community program would utilize the public schools, businesses, and community facilities to provide supportive programs and activities to young people during the time between the end of school and the return home of their parents or guardians (from approximately 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.).

**§ 42-26-19.1 After school alternative program – Purpose – Duration.** –

(a) There is hereby created within the Rhode Island justice commission, a pilot program known as the "after school alternative program" (ASAP). The establishment of the pilot program pursuant to this section shall be contingent upon the availability and receipt of federal and/or private funding for this purpose. The goal of the pilot program shall be to reduce gang activity and drug-related crime in and near the targeted schools, businesses, and community sites. This shall be accomplished by coordinating the efforts of community-based organizations, public schools, law enforcement officials, parents, and business leaders in participating communities to prevent the illicit activities of current and potential gang members and drug users by making alternative activities available. These activities may be provided at school or community sites, and may include:

- (1) Recreational, arts, crafts, computer or academic tutorial programs.
- (2) Job counseling and training, with the participation of community business representatives.
- (3) Presentations by law enforcement officials, and informal get-togethers.
- (4) Group and individual (as needed) drug and/or gang counseling.
- (5) Community awareness presentations.

(b) A Rhode Island community may elect to participate in the pilot project established pursuant to subsection (a) by establishing an ASAP program. The community may be any designated area that contains up to two (2) public high schools and feeder schools, as well as active business enterprises and a viable local community-based organization.

(c) The community shall submit its program to the gang violence prevention advisory committee for review. The committee upon receipt of all programs from applying communities shall select one project to receive funding. The project selected shall receive funding for one calendar year from the date of selection. All rules and regulations for application, review and award shall be promulgated by the committee.

(d) This section shall remain operative only until June 30, 2000 and is repealed on that date unless a later enacted statute extends that date.