

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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# RHODE ISLAND
# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

## Public Safety Grant Administration Office

## 2024 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

During calendar year 2024 the Criminal Justice Policy Board met seven times. This year was spent working on the statewide strategic plan in addition to regular grant business. Staff have been training and working to implement the state's new grants management system known as eCivis. There was one major new initiative launched, Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

In 2024 we were able to work with the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Urban Corridor Task Force to release and award several years of grant funding to local law enforcement agencies working together to address violent crime through several participating cities.

There was another difficult set of decisions to make about the Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance (VOCA) program. Funding for VOCA has fluctuated wildly over the last eight years. PSGAO continues to work with government and community partners to find solutions to stabilize this funding source.
The Policy Board set about implementing the State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) by creating the Advisory Committee. The committee began holding meetings and developing a strategic plan as required by the grant. The SCIP program is fully funded for five years through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

Another accomplishment during the year was the development and adoption of a newly required plan to collect data for the Deaths in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA). Starting in 2019, the Department of Justice brought this requirement back to the Justice Assistance Grant. PSGAO must collect this data from all law enforcement statewide and report it in the Performance Management Tool.

We also began a project at our headquarters office, the Captain Richard Rhodes House (1794) on the campus of the Department of Public Safety in Scituate. It is a long overdue project to bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and refresh the PSGAO office space.

Lastly, we made progress working with the Department of Public Safety and the Office of Management and Budget to address the staffing requirements of the office. There has been a steadily increasing burden of new grant and reporting requirements coming with the grant awards. There is an increased need to conduct monitoring and performance evaluation of grant subaward projects.

Thank you for your continued support for the work of the Criminal Justice Policy Board and the Public Safety Grant Administration Office.



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 criminal response justice system.

*Mission Statement:*

*To facilitate interagency cooperation and collaboration throughtout 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.*

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

- 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)*

# 2024 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**
*Director, Department of Human Services*

**Richard Leclerc**
*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*

**Col Bradford Connor**
*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. Jerome Larkin**
*Director, Department of Health*

**Timothy McLaughlin** *RI State Fire Marshal*

**Caitlin O'Connor**
*Research Specialist*

**Deborah DeBare**
*Private Citizen Member*

**Meko Lincoln**
*Private Citizen Member*

**Vacant**
*Private Citizen Member*

**Vacant**
*Private Citizen Member*

**Katherine Brown**
*Justice Assistance, Community Service Organization*

**Vacant**
*Community Service Organization*

**Vacant**
*Community Service Organization*

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

| Name | Phone | Email Address |
|---|---|---|
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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).

**2024 Total Award**

**$294,696**

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 July 31, 2027.

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 July 31, 2028.

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 2024 program funding as follows:

**URI State Crime Lab** – The Laboratory hired a Technician I, starting on July 30, 2023, using 2022 Coverdell funds. The technician is undergoing a multi-year process of being trained as a Firearms and Tool Mark Examiner. The Technician I was retained through 2024 and the beginning of 2025 using 2023 Coverdell funds. Funds from the Coverdell 2024 program will be used to retain the Technician I position through to the end of the training period when the position is expected to be promoted to a Criminalist I Firearms and Tool Mark Examiner position. There is a significant backlog in the Laboratory's Firearms section and this position will assist in keeping the backlog manageable.

**RI Department of Health Center for Forensic Sciences Laboratory** – The lab will utilize their 2024 Coverdell funds to maintain the scope of accreditation by their accrediting body. Funds will pay travel and registration costs for trainings and conferences to keep abreast of new methods and drugs. Funds will also be used for overtime in the Forensic Toxicology and Forensic Drug Chemistry labs to improve casework backlogs.

**RI Office of State Medical Examiners (OSME)** - The OSME will use their $66,307 in 2024 Coverdell funds to pay overtime for current scientists within the Forensic Toxicology Laboratory and the Forensic Drug Chemistry Laboratory to assist with improving the turnaround time of testing samples from autopsies and seized drugs. Funds are to be used to purchase equipment and supplies to improve workflow and efficiency within Office of State Medical Examiners as well as the NAME annual accreditation renewal fee.

**RI State Police Forensic Services Unit (FSU)** - RI State Police Forensic Services Unit (FSU) will use their $66,307 in 2024 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 educations 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 2024 Title II Formula grant began a new approved Three-Year Plan and was awarded to RI in December 2024.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) 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);
- 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.

**2024 Total Award**

**$621,857**

Rhode Island has maintained substantive compliance with the four JJDPA 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*

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

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

**Katelyn Medeiros,**
*Child Advocate*

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

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

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

**Susan Mansolillo,**
*Local Elected Official*

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

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

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

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

**P.J. Fox,**
*Office of the Attorney General*

**Lori Coppa Fernandes,**
*Dept. of Children, Youth & Families*

**Veronica Godina** *Youth Representative*

**Corey Nim,**
*Youth Representative*

**Sean Swepson,**
*Youth Representative*

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

## Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Title II Formula Grant

| Agency/Organization | Project Description | 2024 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 | $9,500 | |
| Compliance Monitoring | Compliance Monitoring Activities | $65,857 | |
| RI Family Court | Specialty Courts | $160,000 | |
| RI for Community & Justice | Community-based Alternatives to Incarceration | $75,500 | |
| RI Kids Count | JDAI | $75,500 | |
| Narragansett Indian Tribe | Tribal Youth Programs | $5,000 | |
| TBD – JJAC will be requesting project proposals – Will require approval of a revised budget – Will be awarded 3 years of funding using 2024-2026 funds | Diversion | $86,000 | |
| | Truancy Prevention | $40,000 | |
| | Community-based Intervention | $44,500 | |
| | **Totals** | **$621,857** | **$60,000** |

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 $40,000 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 $86,000 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 $44,500 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.

These last three program areas with anticipated RFPs for projects are subject to change based on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee assessing current projects funded in late 2024 under the 2021 – 2023 Three Year Plan. Once determined, projects funded under these new solicitations would receive sub-grants for 3 years of funding under approved FY 2024, FY 2025 and FY 2026 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 of $56,927 has been allocated for costs incurred by PSGAO for staffing and administration of the program. The FY2023 program budget is as follows:

**2024 Total Award**

**$667,596**

The **Rhode Island State Police Technical Services Unit** awarded amount is $411,784. The award will be used to fund the purchase, configuration and installation of new RILETS Core Network Switches, the purchase, configuration and installation of Network Switches at RISP Lincoln Barracks, RISP State Data Center, RISP Academy and the Headquarters/ Gamming Unit. Additionally, the award will fund the purchase of software designed for in-state audits and the upgrading of the RISP Facilities Access Control Systems.

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 **Bristol Police Department** awarded amount is $23,087. 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.

The **Coventry Police Department** awarded amount is $23,087. 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.

The **East Greenwich Police Department** awarded amount is $23,087. 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.

The **Narragansett Police Department** awarded amount is $20,287. 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.

The **University of Rhode Island Campus Police Department** awarded amount is $23,087. 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 effe ctiveness 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 effo rts with community engagement, prevention, and reentry effo rts.

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 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. 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.

**2024 Total Award**

**$80,551**

The target jurisdictions of Providence, Central Falls, Pawtucket, Woonsocket, Cranston, and Warwick (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.

Funding has primarily been used to support information collection and intelligence sharing between these jurisdictions and federal law enforcement partners including the Postal Inspection Service, FBI, ATF, HSI, and the Marshals Service.

2021 – 2023 PSN active awards:

Selection Committee Recommendations:

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total | $ 84,102 | $ 84,187 | $ 85,329 |
| Admin | $ 8,410 | $ 8,418 | $ 8,532 |
| Avail. | $ 75,692 | $ 75,769 | $ 76,797 |
| | | | |
| RISP | $ 5,692 | $ 5,769 | $ 5,797 |
| Prov | $ 15,000 | $ 15,000 | $ 26,000 |
| Pawt | $ 15,000 | $ 15,000 | $ 10,000 |
| CF | $ 15,000 | $ 15,000 | $ 10,000 |
| Woon | $ 15,000 | $ 15,000 | $ 10,000 |
| Cran | $ 5,000 | $ 5,000 | $ 10,000 |
| War | $ 5,000 | $ 5,000 | $ 5,000 |
| CBO | $ - | | |
| Total | $ 75,692 | $ 75,769 | $ 76,797 |

**Selection Committee:**

Paul F. Joyce, Chair of the Criminal Justice and Criminology Program at Salve Regina University

Napolean Brito, Manager of Community Security for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island

LeRoy V. Rose Jr., Executive Director of Campus Safety & Security for Johnson and Wales University Providence Campus

# Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Grant

**2024 Total Award**

**$148,996**

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) 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 $134,097 in 2024 RSAT funding is proposed to be used as follows:

The **Rhode Island Department of Corrections, Division of Rehabilitative Services**, RSAT allocation of $134,097 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.

In 2023, after a competitive application process, four agencies were selected for two-year awards using 2021-2023 funding. Once completed, a funding plan for 2024 funds will be determined.

**2024 Total Award**

**$785,823**

These awards help to 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)** is using 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, while EBCC will provide services in Kent, Washington, and Newport counties.

| | Sojourner House | BVAC | Day One | EBCC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Two-year award amount | $600,000.00 | $403,862.00 | $332,408.00 | $332,408.00 |

With this funding, BVAC is providing 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.

BVAC is now able to offer support groups in English and Spanish on weekly basis. BVAC facilitates 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 allowed the **Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center (EBCC)** to hire a full-time Sexual Assault Counselor and a Sexual Assault Advocate/Case Manager with experience in sexual assault treatment and trauma informed practice. Additional staff will 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 is now able to 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 are able to ensure clients have accurate information about reporting options, help clients manage emotional needs and traumatic triggers during criminal justice proceedings, assist with filing for victims of crime compensation, and offer appropriate referrals for additional services as needed. The SA Program employees 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 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** is using its $600,000 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** is using $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 provides support through the 24-hour Victims of Crime Helpline. They are providing 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 distributes informational materials related to victim services. Materials are 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 continue working to ensure appropriate support mechanisms are in place and that the services provided are

culturally specific.

Finally, Day One continues to communicate and collaborate with law enforcement, prosecutors, and others to offer victims support throughout the entire legal process. Specifically, Day One provides victims accompaniment to medical facilities, police stations, and court proceedings. The agency also offers 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.

**2024 Total Award**

**$1,038,449**

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 was put together with funds expected to be available in early 2025.

# Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program

The Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) in Rhode Island represents a critical initiative to address gun violence and suicide prevention in the nation's smallest state. Despite its size, Rhode Island faces unique challenges related to firearms, mental health, and public safety across its 5 counties and 39 municipalities. The state has made significant strides in reducing gun deaths, with a notable 45% decrease in 2022 compared to the previous year, primarily due to a reduction in suicides.

The state's efforts to combat gun violence have included recent legislative victories, such as prohibitions on ghost guns and high-capacity magazines. These measures, combined with existing regulations, have likely contributed to Rhode Island's lower gun death rates compared to national averages. However, the state has not been immune to concerning spikes in gun violence. In 2020, Rhode Island saw an 87% increase in gun deaths compared to 2019, coinciding with a surge in firearm background checks, which more than doubled that year.

The implementation of the Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law represents a significant step in preventing gun violence and suicide. However, challenges remain in its execution, including limited awareness among law enforcement officers and the general public, varying willingness to use ERPOs, and procedural complexities.

**2024 Total Award**

**$698,613**

To address these challenges, the Byrne Statewide Crisis Intervention Advisory Board (SCIB), composed of representatives including law enforcement, community members, courts, prosecution, behavioral health providers, victim services, and legal counsel, collaborated closely with the Public Safety Grants Administration Office to develop the program and budget plan for the Byrne SCIP initiative.

The SCIB's decision is to focus award funds on developing a comprehensive training program for law enforcement and the community on ERPO procedures and implementation. A Request for Proposals will be forthcoming from the PSGAO.

In addition, the SCIB actively participated in informing and guiding the development of a strategic plan to ensure alignment with community needs and best practices. After thorough review and discussion, the SCIB formally approved plan, affirming its role in shaping and endorsing the strategies to address gun violence effectively. The RI Byrne SCIP strategic plan was later approved by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

| | Total Award Amount | State Share (60% per Formula) | Required Local Pass-through (Direct) | Required Local Pass-through (<$10,000) | Maximum for Direct Administrative Costs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022-2023 | $ 1,213,223 | $ 727,934 | $ 407,835 | $ 77,454 | $ 121,322 |
| 2024 | $ 698,613 | $ 419,168 | $ 234,460 | $ 44,986 | $ 69,861 |

**The SCIP Advisory Committee** is a sub-committee of the PSGAO Criminal Justice Policy Board. Its members include:

- Dr. Lou Cerbo Deputy Director of BHDDH (Chairperson)
- Julie P. Hamil, Esq. State Court Administrator
- Caitlin O'Connor, Grant & Research Specialist, Roger Williams University
- Lt. Col. Creamer RI State Police
- Sid Wordell Executive Director, RI Police Chiefs Association
- Chief Thomas Oates City of Woonsocket Police Department
- Director Kasim Yarn Office of Veterans' Services
- P.J. Fox Office of the Attorney General
- David Leach (Moms Demand Action), Community Seat 1
- Brenda Jacob (RI Revolver and Rifle Association), Community Seat 2
- Margaret Holland-McDuff (Family Service of RI), Behavioral Health Provider 1
- Shelley Cortese RIDOC Community Corrections
- Rosanna Pfrimmer (Horizon Healthcare Partners/988), Behavioral Health Provider 2
- Lisa Pina-Warren (Nonviolence Institute), Victim Services
- Ian Anderson, Department of Public Safety - Legal Counsel
- Adam Sholes, Department of Public Safety - Legal Counsel

# 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 "under-served" victims of violent crimes.

The Public Safety Grant Administration Office made thirty-seven VOCA sub-grant awards for the 2024 program. This is a stark reduction from 2023 when the federal allocation was close to five million and enabled fifty-nine awards. A competitive solicitation process was conducted, and a slate of awards was recommended by the VOCA Advisory Committee.

VOCA has been the subject of extreme funding fluctuations in recent years and 2024 saw a 38% decrease in funds.

**2024 Total Award**

**$2,935,210**

These awards will be funded on a three year cycle with FY24 being year one. This will reduce the application burden and uncertainty for agencies for this period.

**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.

| Agency/Organization | Project Description | 2024 Award |
|---|---|---|
| Adoption Rhode Island | Adoption Rhode Island Child and Family Behavioral Health Services | $ 59,480.00 |

Funding will allow ARI to serve child victims and adult survivors of childhood victimization, as well as their families, providing permanency-competent, trauma-informed treatment and support services in collaboration with a wide array of community partners. In conjunction with direct services and professional consultation to other community providers, ARI serves as an educator and disseminator of best practice across the state to those who interact with victims of crime who have been impacted by foster care, adoption, or other family separation. VOCA funding supports comprehensive and holistic approaches to providing evidence-based clinical and supportive interventions for children and families; provide parent/caretaker psychoeducation, advocacy, and support; and build a collaborative, community-based network of providers that are trauma-informed and permanency-competent.

| | | |
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| Amos House | VOCA for Men | $ 34,633.00 |

The Amos House VOCA for Men Program provides trauma-informed services to men who have faced victimization and trauma, often leading to struggles with substance use disorder and incarceration. This initiative is dedicated to serving approximately 90 men annually, all of whom are engaged in Amos House's recovery-oriented shelter and housing programs. In concert with an array of comprehensive support services, participants collaborate with a designated case manager, engage in trauma-focused support groups, receive personalized counseling, connect with peer mentors, and apply cognitive behavioral techniques to address the emotional aftermath of their experiences.

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| ATTORNEY GENERAL, RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF | VOCA FY24 RIAG | $ 27,917.00 |

For both capital and non-capital offenses at the District Court level, it is at this stage when victims come to court for the first time since the offense occurred. Often, they must face the defendant and testify in open court. Since these hearings usually take place within 10 days of the offense, often times, victims are still in crisis mode and are under tremendous emotional stress. It is imperative that they have the personal support and helpful information that is provided by an empathetic and knowledgeable criminal justice professional. Not only does this reduce anxiety and trauma to victims but it also aids in the successful prosecution of the offender. This early intervention program also allows for trust building with victims and witnesses, especially in immigrant communities and communities of color where there may be inherent distrust of law enforcement.

In the performance of these duties, the Liaison/Advocate will continue to maintain a working relationship with other appropriate agencies such as the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Day One/Child Advocacy Center, Victim Support Center/Nonviolence Institute, Justice Assistance, Family Service of Rhode Island, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Crossroads, Tri-Town Community Action/Elder Abuse, Office of the Child Advocate, Department for Children, Youth, and Families, Rhode Island Legal Services, all police departments, and other support groups and community agencies in order to coordinate all necessary support services to victims.

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| Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center | Providence County Law Enforcement Advocacy Program | $ 343,338.00 |

This proposal funds five law enforcement advocates (LEAs) for the areas of Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket, Central Falls, Bristol, East Providence, Warren, Barrington, Cumberland, and Burrillville. The program service areas align with the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center's (BVAC) existing court advocacy program in the Garrahy Judicial Complex. BVAC has been the sole provider of court advocacy services at Garrahy for over a decade, and has successfully implemented LEA programming since 2009.

The program provides emergency advocacy and support to victims involved with local police departments. The LEAs also provide crisis intervention, hospital and court accompaniment, assistance with navigating the judicial system, and connecting victims with much-needed counseling and support services, including shelter. The LEA remains closely involved with the client until the case is closed, which oftentimes takes over a year.

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| Center for Southeast Asians | "See SEA in RI" Seeing and Serving Southeast Asian Women in RI | $ | 34,301.00 |

SEA women do not have access to any other culturally specific services in the state; CSEA is the only organization in RI that serves victims of violence in this community. Because of the many cultural and linguistic barriers that exist the services we offer are transformative in the lives of many SEA women who previously did not feel safe or comfortable seeking support. Because these victims are often unseen or left unidentified, we believe in the importance of awareness and capacity-building for partner organizations, businesses, and institutions that serve the SEA community to help identify and access services particularly trauma-informed counseling and case management-- to more SEA individuals. This program also believes in increasing peer support for survivors and those experiencing violence to provide knowledge, resources, and companionship to each other in a trusted, safe space in which they might also build confidence and face their fears. Services like these could mean the difference for members of this population in seeking and receiving services or not. CSEA has a proven track record over the years in demonstrating that our programming can help at-risk Southeast Asian/American women and continue to make a positive difference in Rhode Island's Southeast Asian community by supporting them to leave situations of violence and achieve self-sufficiency.

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| Day One | Adult Services Program: CARES | $ | 154,327.00 |

Building on the work of victim services program funded in prior years, the goal of CARES is to provide innovative, trauma-informed, victim-centered services from the acute crises to the navigation of the judicial system. Addressing a continuum for healing and justice for adult victims of sexual assault and interpersonal violence, the CARES Program will fill critical gaps in the support system for victims of sexual assault. The requested funds will be used to provide victim advocacy services for those navigating the criminal justice and court processes. In addition to court accompaniment and emotional support, CARES will offer wraparound services and referrals for trauma-informed clinical care and connections to social services like housing, medical, financial support, victim compensation, and other basic needs.

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| Day One | Child Services Program: CAC | $ | 66,824.00 |

The child services program are to:

1. Reduce the recurrence of abuse and victimization of children;
2. Increase the use of the multidisciplinary team response approach; and
3. Raise awareness and understanding of child sexual abuse and the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island CAC at Day One is the only resource of its kind for children in the state. Serving hundreds of sexually abused and exploited children each year, there is a continuum of services needed to treat the whole child. The requested funding will enable that holistic work.

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| Day One | Adult Services Program: LEA/SAA | $ | 140,000.00 |

The Law Enforcement/Sexual Assault Advocacy (LEA/SAA) program. Aligned with Day One's mission, law enforcement advocates and sexual assault advocates are essential to supporting victims. Their work is not just about providing immediate physical and emotional safety, but about restoring hope and dignity to survivors. Providing victims of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking with early intervention and one-on-one advocacy, the law enforcement/sexual assault advocates begin working with victims as soon as they report the crime, reaching out and making referrals to appropriate and much-needed services. Our advocates also help victims navigate the legal and criminal justice processes, serving as their liaison to the police, prosecution, and the courts.

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| DCYF | VOCA-Human Trafficking Coordinator | $ | 37,995.00 |

This grant will allow for the continued funding of the Human Trafficking Coordinator position that has provided support to child victims since 2018. The Human Trafficking Coordinator position is a direct resource for DCYF staff, and with trafficking victims and their families.

The Human Trafficking Coordinator works directly with victims to ensure they are effectively navigated through the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children First Responder Protocol, including transporting to medical, legal and support appointments and also provides on-site support to high-risk group homes that traffickers target.

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| Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County | Law Enforcement and Court Advocacy Program | $ | 103,000.00 |

VOCA funding allows DVRC to have specialized advocates work in the police departments, specifically to support victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. The advocates are also available to assist with the felony court cases in Superior Court. The mission of the Law Enforcement & Court Advocacy Program is to serve as a liaison to the police departments that bring forth criminal cases to the McGrath Judicial Complex, and provide legal advocacy to all eligible victims. This support empowers victims, validates their concerns, represents their wishes to the prosecutors and promotes access to services. The Law Enforcement/Court Advocacy program bridges the gap between police response and the court system, providing support to victims and their families, and assisting with generating a package of evidence available for prosecutors. Specifically, the Advocates provide crisis intervention; safety planning; advocacy and support services; hospital/court accompaniment; information regarding the court system/status of the defendant; and referrals to other appropriate service providers in the victim's community as needed. The Advocate ensures victims are well informed, represented, and supported through the legal system from arrest to adjudication.

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| Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island | Immigrant Victims' Rights Project | $ | 44,922.00 |

Immigrant victims are often reluctant to seek help, report crime, and cooperate with law enforcement due to fear of removal from the United States. Immigration relief for crime victims is an essential part of achieving safety, protection and healing. The goal of this Project is to help immigrant victims escape violence, access services, and stabilize their lives by obtaining employment authorization, legal residence and citizenship. The Project achieves these goals by assessing a victim's immigration status through consultation, and by representing eligible immigrant victims on petitions and applications before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Obtaining legal immigration status for victims restores a measure of security to their lives because it enables self-sufficiency, and it removes the threat of deportation - a threat that is systematically weaponized by abusers and other criminals in the perpetration of crimes against immigrants. With an average success rate of 96% on applications filed over its eight years, and over 80% of clients surveyed consistently reporting better jobs, improved housing and living free of violence, the Project has demonstrated that this intervention is effective and removes a critical barrier for immigrant victims.

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| Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center | Law Enforcement Advocacy Program | $ | 195,080.00 |

This initiative aims to provide specialized direct support services and crisis intervention to victims of interpersonal violence; including domestic violence, sexual assault, child molestation, and stalking through collaboration with local police departments and communities within Providence and Kent County. It ensures a smooth transition for victims involved in criminal cases from LEA support to court advocacy and beyond. This program aids victims in navigating the judicial system and accessing essential support services. Immediate contact with victims post-incident is vital for connecting them to critical services. This expansion addresses service delivery gaps, ensuring cohesive and collaborative wrap-around services and referrals immediately after an incident.

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| Foster Forward | Therapeutic Services for Youth and Staff Training | $ | 25,447.00 |

Foster Forward provides VOCA funded short-term restorative therapy, family systems therapy, counseling, and crisis management support to young adults victims of crime, ages 18-26 years old who have been impacted by the foster care system and/or are experiencing homelessness. This population is disproportionately more likely to experience violence, be victims of crime, and have negative social, emotional, physical, and economic consequences as a result of their trauma. Clients can access these evidence based services via one-on-one counseling sessions and group therapy. Support is available during drop-in center hours, by scheduled appointment (both in person and via telehealth as public health measures require). Clients are supported in accessing community services and programs, as well as connected into the array of programs offered within Foster Forward as appropriate.

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| House Hope Hope CDC | Victims of Crime Street Outreach and Housing Program | $ | 62,845.00 |

The purpose of this program is to outreach, engage, and provide comprehensive social services to homeless individuals who are victims of crime, or who are at an increased likelihood of victimization. While House of Hope CDC provides traditional victims services such as addressing immediate needs following a crime, providing supports to assist victims in overcoming the long-term effects of victimization, the agency also provides services specific to the needs of homeless individuals to ensure that they are able to achieve permanent housing and other supports necessary to end their homelessness and prevent further victimization.

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| Judiciary | Domestic Violence Court | $ | 63,216.00 |

This project funds one domestic violence advocate to assist on the restraining order calendar.

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| Justice Assistance, Inc | Project Victim Services | $ | 46,016.00 |

Through Project Victim Services, victims of crime are provided with support from a case manager to assist them in navigating the often confusing justice system. To assist them with navigating the justice system the case managers use a variety of strategies to make the initial contact to not just update them on the status of the case they are a victim in, but to also collect necessary information for them to begin to receive restitution. The organization aims to have the victim be an active participant in the case after the disposition, but to also alleviate any unnecessary burdens.

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| Nonviolence Institute | NVI Victim Services Team | $ | 93,081.00 |

The goal of Victim Services is to provide support services for Rhode Island residents who have been the victim of a violent crime or experienced the loss of a loved one as the result of a violent crime. NVI's Victim Advocates provide comprehensive services including emergency response, crisis management, home visits, long-term case management, education, and advocacy to Rhode Island residents. They help victims to access the Victims Compensation Fund resources, as well as to understand and participate in the criminal justice system. Victim Advocates also provide nontraditional therapies, including vigils, memorials, community engagement, and wellness programming. Services are available to any loved one of a homicide victim, as well as to anyone exposed to a violent crime.

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| Nonviolence Institute | NVI Outreach Specialists | $ | 47,480.00 |

The Outreach Specialists work with hundreds of victims each year, leveraging their knowledge of street dynamics of youth crews and gangs to educate about nonviolence, prevent retaliation, and address the needs of victims and their families. Our staff track and evaluate activity within specific neighborhoods and understand the complex relationships that underly violent incidents and the players who might be most impacted by an assault or a homicide. They respond to every shooting and stabbing that presents at Rhode Island Hospital, often in collaboration with the NVI Victim Services Team. Outreach Specialist staff work in neighborhoods and schools in Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Woonsocket. These four communities have disproportionately high rates of childhood poverty, joblessness, and low educational attainment. Young people who live in high-poverty communities have a greater likelihood of becoming involved in violence, either as a victim or a perpetrator.

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| Progreso Latino, Inc. | Progreso Latino, Inc., AYUDAME, Domestic Violence, Intervention Program | $ | 48,443.00 |

AYUDAME was developed to address the disparities faced by the Latino population in Rhode Island, in particular the higher rates of domestic violence. AYUDAME is comprised of four crucial components: Education, Case Management, Legal Advocacy and Clinical Services. AYUDAME also including emergency food, legal advocacy and both individual counseling and support groups. Each AYUDAME component is delivered by bilingual, bicultural, trauma-informed staff knowledgeable of the population.

The AYUDAME program is dedicated to supporting and empowering survivors of domestic violence, particularly low-income, immigrant women who face poverty, cultural and language barriers, and heightened fear of deportation. With a committed team of bilingual professionals and a core group of trained volunteers, AYUDAME offers comprehensive services that address the unique needs of this vulnerable population.

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| Refugee Development Center | Breaking Barriers | $ | 50,656.00 |

Breaking Barriers is a culturally sensitive initiative designed to support refugee crime victims in navigating their experiences. This program aims to overcome cultural, linguistic, and stigma-related barriers, provide information on accessing services, and educate refugees about their rights and protections. It also works to empower refugee men and women and address gender-related challenges. We have selected five dedicated refugee community leaders, known as Survivor Leaders, to represent major refugee groups. These leaders play a crucial role in educating crime victims, intervening on their behalf, connecting them with community resources, identifying unmet needs, and addressing stigma. They also monitor unsafe living conditions and instances of domestic violence.

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| Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence | Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Program | $ | 216,362.00 |

The RICADV requests VOCA funds to support the Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Program which allows advocates to provide essential core direct services for victims of abuse in community and residential settings statewide. The Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Program's core services (Court Advocacy, Residential Services, and Client Advocacy Services) are needed each year, provided continually, and do not vary. Without them, many victims of domestic violence would find themselves recovering from abuse and navigating complex systems alone, without the support of a trained advocate. This is particularly true of the RICADV's Court Advocacy Program in which advocates from our member agencies manage the Restraining Order Offices at each of the four courthouses in the state. Court Advocates are convened monthly by the RICADV whose role is to provide technical assistance, training, data collection, and support to address the systemic issues identified by advocates through its systems and policy advocacy work.

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| Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence | Victims of Crime Helpline | $ | 86,729.00 |

The Victims of Crime Helpline Project (The Helpline) provides the state's only 24-hour toll-free confidential Helpline for victims of crime. The Helpline offers 1) virtual and in-person accompaniment for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, hate crimes, or trafficking at hospitals emergency departments and/or at local police departments, 2) an online text chat feature so that victims can chat with an advocate anonymously through the computer, 3) an accessible and responsive website with resources for victims of crime, and 4) emotional support, safety planning, information, and referrals via the telephone. The Helpline makes professionally trained advocates available to speak in real-time with victims, professionals, and bystanders with multi-language capacity and operates 24/7. In 2023 alone, there were 3,703 Helpline calls, 161 Go-Outs and 94 text chat calls. The Helpline is a lifeline to victims of crime year-round, answering calls during nonbusiness hours (weekends, holidays, and after 5 pm) when other providers are closed.

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| Rhode Island Hospital | Aubin Child Protection Center | $ | 108,220.00 |

The Lawrence A. Aubin Sr. Child Protection Center stands as Rhode Island's sole facility dedicated to delivering comprehensive direct-service medical care for victims of child maltreatment. Since its establishment in 1996, the Center has upheld its mission to address not only the immediate medical needs of victims but also the associated psychosocial and mental health challenges stemming from trauma. The interdisciplinary team at the Center is adept at recognizing the extensive impact of trauma on a victim's life, providing acute care aimed at fostering healing and mitigating the long-term adverse effects of victimization.

Since the introduction of a second victim advocate in 2021, the Center has experienced a notable increase in patient evaluations, a trend that has persisted. With the addition of this second advocate, the Aubin Center is now equipped to offer support across all hospital settings, including outpatient clinics, emergency departments, intensive care units, and inpatient psychiatry, as well as for medical admissions. This enhancement has significantly improved the continuity of care, facilitating smoother transitions to community resources such as law enforcement, investigative agencies, and mental health clinicians.

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| Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. | Elder Protection Project | $ | 102,873.00 |

The EPP is staffed by a Project Director, a Supervising Attorney, a .5 FTE Staff Attorney, and a Legal Assistant. The target population for the EPP totals 273,831 residents aged 60 and older, which is 20% percent of the state population according to the 2022 U.S. Census. Data trends show that the group of seniors aged 65-and-over will grow while the individuals under age 45 will decline over the next several years. Consequently, the state must respond to the daunting challenge of meeting the legal needs of a rapidly growing vulnerable population.

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| Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. | Safe Family Project | $ | 208,318.00 |

Rhode Island Legal Services Inc. (RILS) is the only full-service legal services provider in the State of Rhode Island and has a long and successful history of representing victims of domestic violence as they stand up to their abusers in court and obtain the legal protection they need and deserve. These funds will allow the Safe Family Project (SFP) to represent, counsel, and advise 650 victims of domestic violence. Moreover, the funds will support and enhance the Safe Family Project (SFP) and ensure that it can continue to provide expert and specialized legal representation to victims of domestic abuse in the Rhode Island Courts. Without VOCA funding, RILS will be unable to maintain the same level of services provided to victims and survivors of domestic violence as it currently does.

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| SAINT ELIZABETH COMMUNITY | THE HAVEN FOR ELDER JUSTICE | $ | 35,018.00 |

Saint Elizabeth Haven for Elder Justice provides temporary shelter and community-based support to elders in Rhode Island who are victims of physical, emotional, sexual abuse, financial exploitation and/or intentional neglect. The Haven is the state's only dedicated program that provides temporary shelter and community-based victim services to meet the needs of frail elder victims, male and female, aged 60 and over. The program builds on evidence-based best practices and a multi-disciplinary approach to enhance services for some of the most vulnerable and underserved crime victims in our state. An Elder Justice Advocate works with each elder to achieve safety through safety planning, case management and social and legal advocacy. Saint Elizabeth requests a continuation VOCA grant to provide direct services for elder victims, increase the number of elder victims the program serves, and enhance outreach and direct services to underserved communities.

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| Sojourner House | Immigration Advocacy Program | $ | 27,421.00 |

Sojourner assists victims of abuse to pursue immigration relief options which enhances their safety and independence from their abuser and enables them to access resources including financial assistance, benefits, and work authorization.

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| Sojourner House | LGBTQ Sexual Assault Advocacy | $ | 20,997.00 |

People who are marginalized, such as individuals who identify as LGBTQ+, are as likely (and in some cases more likely) to experience sexual violence as any other group, and often have a harder time accessing services due to stigma, discrimination, and lack of programs tailored to their needs. The LGBTQ+ Advocacy Program offers trauma-informed and harm reduction approaches to ensure that victims receive services in a manner that supports their healing and empowerment regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The program provides crisis intervention, LGBTQ+ support groups, case management services, criminal justice information and advocacy, assistance with applying for victim's compensation, and safety planning.

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| Sojourner House | RISE Shelter & Woonsocket Safehouse | $ | 57,488.00 |

VOCA funding helps to operate two emergency shelters for victims of abuse: our Woonsocket Safe House for women and children and RISE (Respect, Inclusion, Safety, and Empowerment), our shelter for LGBTQ+ and male-identified victims. Victims fleeing abuse often need immediate safety, shelter, and support. People who are marginalized, such as male victims and LGBTQ+ individuals, are as likely (and in some cases more likely) to experience intimate partner and/or sexual violence as any other group, and often have a harder time accessing services due to stigma, discrimination, and lack of programs tailored to their needs. Both shelters provide access to advocacy, counseling, support groups, basic needs, and case management to support clients in achieving their long-term goals.

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| Sojourner House | THEIA | $ | 58,793.00 |

VOCA funding supports the Trafficking, Housing, Empowerment, Immigration, and Advocacy Program (THEIA) which comprehensively supports victims of human trafficking and provides them with shelter, housing, and wrap-around services for their unique needs. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center defines trafficking as when one person uses force, fraud or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will. Traffickers are similar to domestic violence abusers - they exert power over their victims, use physical and sexual abuse to maintain control, and keep them isolated from others.

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| The Providence Housing Authority | VICTIM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR PROVIDENCE PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS | $ | 53,748.00 |

PHA's Community Safety Coordinators will provide a comprehensive array of support, including information and referral, personal advocacy, emotional support, safety planning, shelter and housing assistance, and criminal and civil justice system navigation, ensuring that no aspect of victim support is overlooked. To address the deep psychological and emotional impacts of violence, which have intensified post-pandemic, PHA will integrate these services with its Wellness Resource Center, which is compromised of Community Health Workers, Mental Health Coordinators and Resident Service Coordinators. This integration will enhance coordination across the agency's Resident Services, Property Management, and Security Departments, as well as with the Providence Police Public Housing Unit.

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| Thundermist Health Center | Transgender Behavioral and Social Health Program | $ | 72,504.00 |

Thundermist's Trans Health Action Team (THAT) opened in spring 2015 as the only multi-disciplinary health care team for trans youth and adults in Rhode Island. THAT aims to create and sustain a competent and caring point of access to primary care for transgender people of all ages. THAT includes a range of outpatient care and services to provide comprehensive care to transgender individuals. THAT connects trans individuals with behavioral health care and peer navigation services; this is especially important given the high prevalence of behavioral health needs arising from the pervasive targeting of the trans community coupled with the lack of available and affordable services. THAT now serves more than 2,100 patients, many of whom could not access care before this program and many of whom are victims of crime.

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| Tides Family Services | Supporting the Mental and Behavioral Health of Youth | $ | 102,700.00 |

Tides Family Services (TFS) aims to support youth who have been victims of crime in a variety of ways to best meet each child's individual needs. VOCA funds support youth through partially funding three programs: NEXO Behavioral and Mental Health Center, Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS), and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) as well as additional supports for youth, such as emergency hardship funds, and group therapeutic activities. TFS expects to serve 200 individuals through this grant per year.

Our overall aim is to support victims of crime, especially youth and their families, through providing mental and behavioral health needs in a variety of ways. Services are individualized to meet the unique needs of children and families and often prioritize increasing overall functioning, increasing mental health, and increasing connections with the community.

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| Tri-County Community Action Agency | Elder, Deaf, Deafblind, Hard of Hearing Victim Advocacy Program | $ | 116,258.00 |

The proposed project aims to deliver comprehensive services to Elder, Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing victims of crime across the State of Rhode Island. The project team consists of two victim advocates proficient in deaf culture and American Sign Language, including one advocate skilled in communicating with Deafblind individuals. Additionally, an advocate specializing in elder victimization will complement the team. This initiative will offer an extensive range of victim support services, including crisis intervention, information on the criminal justice system, assistance with police reports and restraining orders, accompaniment to law enforcement and court proceedings, help with victim compensation applications, and referrals to other support and medical services.

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| Women's Resource Center | Law Enforcement Advocacy | $ | 70,000.00 |

The Women's Resource Center's Law Enforcement Advocacy program is an evidence-informed Advocate Initiated Response strategy for reaching and supporting victims who may not otherwise request services. The WRC's Law Enforcement Advocate currently partners with the Jamestown, Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Little Compton Police Departments to provide an integrated community response to support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The anticipated results from enhanced trauma-informed, victim-centered responses are: increased safety, decrease in trauma affects, empowerment that may include participation in the criminal justice system, and an increased quality of life.

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| Women's Resource Center | Transitional Housing for Domestic Violence Victims | $ | 27,199.00 |

The purpose of the program is to increase economic empowerment and victim autonomy for low income domestic violence survivors by providing both transitional housing and voluntary supportive services. WRC anticipated 85% of program participants will report maintaining achieve long-term affordable housing at one year post-program.
The primary activities funded through this project are 1) Two (2) transitional housing units in a scattered site, rent and sublet model, 2) comprehensive, voluntary supportive services with a focus on economic autonomy. Progress toward goals will be monitored via client data tracked in EmpowerDB, WRC's VAWA-compliant client services database.

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| Youth Pride, Inc. | Advocacy and Support Project | $ | 40,202.00 |

Youth Pride Inc.'s (YPI) Advocacy and Support Project provides direct services to LGBTQ* youth crime victims under 25. As the only organization in Rhode Island dedicated exclusively to meeting the needs of LGBTQQIA2S+ youth, YPI provides comprehensive social service, educational, and advocacy services. YPI is often the only place where LGBTQ+ youth feel comfortable when seeking assistance after being a victim of a crime such as a hate-related crime, relationship violence, sexual assault, child abuse, or other forms of trauma. Many YPI youth have experienced hate crimes and personal or family trauma that leave them feeling helpless, worthless, and alone. Through YPI's Advocacy and Support Project, LGBTQ* youth overcome the impact of their victimization in a trauma-informed, strengths-oriented environment. YPI staff empower youth in a safe environment with compassionate intervention strategies and high-quality personal development activities. Interventions are designed to meet the specific needs of this marginalized population.

# 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.