


**2019/  
2020**



# **Annual Report**

*Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency*



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## MESSAGE FROM PCCD'S CHAIRMAN

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To our stakeholders:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), I am pleased to present the agency's Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 Annual Report.

The FY 2019-20 Annual Report provides updates on our current and new initiatives, and is organized to highlight the main tenets of our mission: *Criminal Justice System Improvements; Juvenile Justice; Violence Prevention; Victims' Services and Child Advocacy; and School Safety and Security.*

***FY 2019-20 represented another year of growth and change for PCCD. The agency was tasked with a number of new responsibilities and faced a myriad of challenges in the midst of a global pandemic.***

In addition to its longstanding programs and initiatives, the agency was tasked with developing new resources related to threat assessment teams in K-12 school entities under Act 18 of 2019, convening stakeholders to identify recommendations related to preventing and reducing gun violence through the Governor's Executive Order 2019-06, and overseeing efforts to enhance county adult probation and parole departments across the Commonwealth as required by Act 114 of 2019.

The Annual Report also includes updates regarding the agency's operations, including an overview of key performance measures and activities for FY 2019-20.

I am proud of our agency's work with state and local partners to address justice issues affecting individuals and communities across Pennsylvania. If you have any questions regarding the content of this report, please contact Mike Pennington, PCCD's Executive Director, at (717) 265-0888.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles H. Ramsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

CHARLES H. RAMSEY  
PCCD Chairman



An aerial photograph of a suburban town, showing a mix of residential houses, green lawns, and trees. A prominent church steeple is visible in the middle ground. The sky is overcast and grey. The text is overlaid in a white, italicized serif font.

*Since 1978, PCCD has supported justice system improvements, victim services and compensation, and other initiatives responsive to the needs of practitioners, communities, and the Commonwealth.*





*Photo top*

*View of the City of Harrisburg and the Susquehanna River in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.*

*Photo bottom*

*Chairman Ramsey, Executive Director Pennington, Commission members, and PCCD staff participate in the December 2019 Commission meeting at PASSHE's Dixon Center.*

*Photo right (opposite page)*

*PCCD's offices at 3101 North Front Street in Harrisburg, PA.*



## ABOUT PCCD

***PCCD's mission is to enhance the quality, coordination, and planning within the criminal and juvenile justice systems, to facilitate the delivery of services to victims of crime, and to increase the safety of our communities.***





***Established by law in 1978, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) serves as the justice planning and policymaking agency for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.***

By bringing together a wide range of experts in the fields of criminal and juvenile justice, victim services, and related professions, PCCD coordinates the collective examination of problems, proposes solutions, and evaluates the impact of those solutions.

PCCD facilitates partnerships among federal, state, and local policymakers; fosters interagency coordination and cooperation; develops and coordinates policy issues; provides statewide criminal statistical and analytical services; fosters community-based initiatives in the areas of delinquency prevention and offender reintegration; promotes the use of information technology and information sharing to enhance operational effectiveness in criminal justice agencies; and grants federal and

state funds to provide monies to support best practices and innovation.

The agency is specifically tasked with providing services to victims of crime (e.g., administration of the state's Crime Victims' Compensation Fund, Children's Advocacy Centers, etc.); implementing Act 115 of 2019 specifically related to sentences of probation with restrictive conditions of supervision; administering support for County Adult Probation Services pursuant to Act 114 of 2019; coordinating training for sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and constables per their respective statutes; and administering the school safety and security program established by Act 44 of 2018.

You can learn more about PCCD by visiting its website at [www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov).



## Advisory Committees and Boards

To better inform the Commission in its work, PCCD is comprised of six Advisory Committees, the School Safety and Security Committee, and two Training Boards:

### ***Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Committee (CACAC)***

CACAC was established by Act 28 of 2014 to advise the Commission on the development and promotion of programs and projects related to Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC's) and Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs). CACAC was also directed by the Act to advise the Commission in the distribution of grants to support both existing and developing CACs and MDITs throughout the Commonwealth.

### ***County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee (CAPPAC)***

Established by Act 114 of 2019, the CAPPAC advises the Commission on all matters pertaining to the administration of the county adult probation and parole system and assists in the implementation of Act 115 of 2019, specifically related to sentences of probation with restrictive conditions of supervision. By statute, CAPPAC is responsible for directing technical assistance; reviewing grant applications for county intermediate punishment treatment programs and discretionary grants; developing a funding plan for county adult probation and parole departments; analyzing data to identify trends and determine effectiveness of programs and practices; as well as making recommendations and adopting standards for probation and parole personnel, including standards for services, caseload standards, risk assessment, responses to violations, collection of restitution, and other evidence-based programs and practices.

### ***Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)***

CJAC is a collaborative forum for state, county, and other criminal justice partners throughout the Commonwealth to share and discuss their collective issues and solutions. CJAC focuses on the development of long-range strategies and plans and sets priorities for justice projects supported by PCCD's various funding streams.

### ***Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJDCP)***

JJDCP was established by Act 30 of 2001, and is the official juvenile justice planning, coordinating, and policy-setting body for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The committee develops a comprehensive, long-range plan and related policies for the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system. Additionally, the group sets priorities for juvenile justice projects supported by PCCD's various funding streams. JJDCP also ensures compliance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

### ***Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC)***

PCCD partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DHS/OMHSAS) to establish MHJAC in 2009. MHJAC provides guidance and structure to ensure statewide coordination and effectiveness of Pennsylvania's criminal justice and mental health systems, enabling PCCD to continue supporting statewide strategies that direct technical assistance to evidence-based practices; guide the operation and sustainability of jail diversion and reentry programs; and provide a clearinghouse for resources related to criminal justice, mental health, and substance use disorder.

### ***School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC)***

Established by Act 44 of 2018, the SSSC is tasked with developing criteria school entities can use in performing school safety and security assessments, issuing a survey to school entities to measure school safety and security preparedness, and administering grants to improve school safety.

### ***Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC)***

Established by Act 111 of 1998, VSAC serves in an advisory capacity to PCCD and to assure that the voices, needs and perspectives of all crime victims/survivors will be considered in the development of services, services standards, policies, funding priorities, legislation, and victim compensation assistance.

### ***Constables' Education and Training Board (CETB)***

Established by Act 102 of 1992, the CETB advises PCCD in the development, implementation, and operation of legislatively mandated basic training, continuing education, and firearms qualification that serve as the basis for certification of constables and deputy constables within the Commonwealth.

### ***Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board (SDSETB)***

Established by Act 2 of 1984, the SDSETB advises PCCD in the development, implementation, and operation of legislatively mandated basic training and continuing education that serve as the basis for certification of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs within the Commonwealth's 67 counties.



## Internal Offices

In addition to the Advisory Committees and Boards, PCCD is staffed by four Offices and underlying units that facilitate Advisory Committee work and implement the actions taken by the Commission. The Offices are as follows:

### ***Office of Justice Programs (OJP)***

The Office of Justice Programs was established in 2020 to oversee four areas of PCCD's work:

- ***Criminal Justice System Improvements:*** The unit of Criminal Justice System Improvements advances the criminal justice system by coordinating with all levels of criminal justice agencies in identifying their issues, developing policies and programs, and implementing innovative justice improvement solutions that enhance public safety.
- ***Juvenile Justice:*** OJP's unit of Juvenile Justice develops policy recommendations and administers federal and state funds to support programs designed to improve the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system.
- ***Violence Prevention:*** OJP's unit of Violence Prevention works collaboratively with private and public sector partners to prevent children and youth violence, delinquency, substance misuse, school dropout, and related problem behaviors.
- ***Bureau of Training Services:*** OJP's Bureau of Training Services oversees training and continuing education programs for constables and deputy constables as well as sheriffs and deputy sheriffs for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Staff also support activities related to PCCD's relevant Training Boards.

### ***Office of Victims' Services (OVS)***

The Office of Victims' Services works to help crime victims transcend their trauma by funding victim service agencies that work directly with victims, offering financial help to victims through the Victims Compensation Assistance Program, and collaborating with criminal justice and allied professionals that advocate and respond to the needs of victims.

### ***Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development (ORESPOD)***

The Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development provides research support and data analysis to the other Offices and analyzes policies and legislation that impact the juvenile and criminal justice system and victims. This Office also supports the implementation of safety-related initiatives, such as the Nonprofit Security Grant Fund; supports the CACAC's efforts; and assists in the administration of school safety grants and related initiatives under the SSSC. The Office also provides oversight of the Office of the Safe Schools Advocate (OSSA), which provides support and advocacy for students and staff who are victims of school-based violence and/or crimes committed within the School District of Philadelphia.

### ***Office of Financial Management and Administration (OFMA)***

The Office of Financial Management and Administration administers and monitors the distribution of grant funding, performs budgeting and procurement services, and oversees administrative support services. OFMA is responsible for ensuring accountability of financial resources and works with the aforementioned program offices to ensure funds are utilized consistent with statute, interagency agreement, Memorandum of Understanding and/or federal regulation.





# Agency-wide Initiatives

*Programs & Activities*  
FY 2019-2020

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION  
CRIME & DELINQUENCY



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# FY 2019-2020

## AT A GLANCE

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*Summary of Activities from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020*

### AGENCY PROGRAMS & GRANTMAKING

PCCD initiates, validates, and makes financial investments in justice-related programs aligned with promising practices identified by practitioners and experts. The agency focuses on research, policy, planning, training, evidence-based programming, technology, outreach, and support services. PCCD fosters interagency coordination and cooperation by:

- Developing and coordinating policy issues;
- Providing statewide criminal statistical and analytical services; and
- Granting federal and state funds to provide investments in new or existing efforts.

*PCCD administered 36 state and federal grant programs in FY 2019-20. In a single year, the agency made approximately \$284 million in awards to 1,940 organizations and agencies across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*

The administration of federal and state funding programs remains a central responsibility of the agency. In FY 2019-20, PCCD administered 36 state and federal grant programs, and - in a single year - made approximately \$284 million in awards to 1,940 organizations and agencies across the Commonwealth. Among these various grant programs, in FY 2019-20, PCCD

provided funding to support a wide range of initiatives and activities, including but not limited to the following:

- Applying for and administering federal Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) designated for “State and Local Law Enforcement” in response to COVID-19;
- School Health and Safety Grants and other public safety initiatives for schools and communities;
- Victims services supports, including grants to victim service providers and children’s advocacy centers;
- Intermediate punishment (IP) program grants;
- State violence and delinquency prevention program grants;
- Grants to support victims of juvenile offenders;
- Grants to address issues of substance misuse and substance use disorder; and
- Administering the new Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which supports security enhancements for churches, synagogues, mosques, and other organizations representing populations at greater risk of experiencing hate crimes.

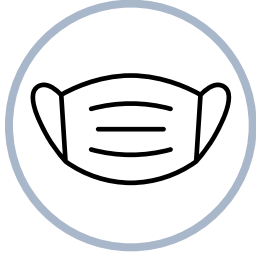
Nearly 1,000 of PCCD-issued grants for FY 2019-20 were supported by \$195 million in federal funding.



# Working Toward Safer & More Just Communities

*FY 2019-2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges and moments of significance, from a global pandemic that claimed the lives and livelihoods of millions to widespread calls for social justice and racial equity in the wake of police-involved shootings.*





## ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19

### ***Federal CARES Act Funding***

In April 2020, Congress authorized \$850 million in Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) designated for “State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance” in response to COVID-19. PCCD was eligible to apply for approximately \$17.6 million in state share CESF dollars. Funds awarded under this program were designated for use by state and local law enforcement to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the spread of the novel coronavirus (e.g., overtime, equipment and supplies, hiring, training, travel expenses, addressing medical needs of inmates, etc.).

To determine the level of local need, PCCD administered a statewide survey for criminal justice system stakeholders, including county jails, juvenile detention centers, law enforcement, probation and parole officers, victim service providers, judiciary/court houses, and other relevant stakeholders. PCCD received 632 responses representing all 67 counties in Pennsylvania, with most responses coming from local law enforcement. More than half of responding agencies indicated a need for financial support, with the main request for supplies and equipment (e.g., personal protective equipment, cleaning solutions, thermometers, etc.).

Due to the unprecedented need to immediately address COVID-19 prevention, preparation, and response, PCCD staff quickly developed a plan to immediately administer up to \$8 million in CESF funding using a formula to counties and their Criminal Justice Advisory Boards (CJABs) to coordinate an application with their local criminal justice agencies for eligible uses. Additional CESF dollars were made available in October 2020 as part of the two-phased approach approved by the Commission.

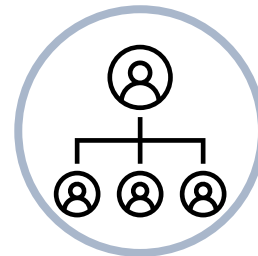
### ***Maintaining Services and Supports During a Global Pandemic***

In mid-March 2020, Governor Wolf issued a directive to all Commonwealth staff to shift to teleworking to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. PCCD staff met this challenge head-on and was able to devise strategies to ensure minimal disruption of services for our grantees and VCAP claimants.

PCCD staff proactively reached out to grantees to gauge how the pandemic and resulting social distancing measures were impacting program activities and operations. Recognizing the significant challenges COVID-19 wrought for organizations across the Commonwealth, PCCD extended application deadlines for

funding announcements and extended deadlines for submitting some quarterly reports. PCCD staff were also able to continue to make payments to grantees, expediting Project Modification Requests, and finding alternative methods to continue the process of approving and processing grants. Staff also quickly implemented an electronic signature process and continued to operate the Egrants Helpdesk remotely.

OVS staff supporting VCAP were able to devise a new process to handle claims, as the VCAP process is heavily reliant upon paper-based records. Working through those challenges, OVS was able to continue to make payments during the early weeks of the pandemic while following the Governor’s social distancing orders.



## WELCOMING NEW LEADERSHIP

FY 2019-20 marked a transition in leadership for the agency. On September 16, 2019, PCCD announced that Michael Pennington was named by Governor Tom Wolf to serve as Executive Director of the agency. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Pennington served as the Director of PCCD’s combined Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Office of Criminal Justice System Improvements (OCJSI). Mr. Pennington came into this role with over 27 years of experience working in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.



## ADDRESSING RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITIES

In the spring and summer of 2020, Pennsylvania saw more than 100 demonstrations pushing for racial justice across the Commonwealth, from large cities to small rural towns. In reaction to these protests, state policymakers in Harrisburg advanced new law enforcement reforms aimed at building trust between communities and police.

As the Commonwealth's justice planning and policymaking agency, PCCD is committed to playing a role in promoting equity and addressing racial/ethnic disparities within the justice system. In June 2020, Governor Wolf announced a series of reforms to help improve the relationship between communities and law enforcement, including several responsibilities for PCCD. Among these, PCCD was tasked with helping law enforcement in Pennsylvania adopt the principles outlined as part of the [report](#) produced by the *President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing* in 2015. The agency also initiated procedures to provide technical assistance to develop [citizen advisory boards](#), one strategy to improve law enforcement and community relations, as well as other best practices and procedures to build and promote community trust.

Finally, PCCD established an Adult Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Subcommittee under the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, complementing an existing youth-focused Subcommittee of the same name already in place within its Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Committee.



## PREVENTING & REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

### *Reducing Gun Violence Grants*

Between 2017 and 2020, PCCD awarded more than \$3 million in state and federal funds to support local efforts to prevent and reduce gun violence within 11 municipalities through the agency's Reducing Gun Violence Grants Program. To be eligible for funds, these jurisdictions demonstrated collaboration with key stakeholders and a commitment to the implementation of evidence-based programming, such as Operation CeaseFire, Cure Violence Public Health Model, or other strategies that have proven to be effective in reducing gun violence.

In FY 2019-20, PCCD continued to monitor FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19 Reducing Gun Violence Grant projects and provide support and assistance. In May 2020, PCCD staff conducted a survey of Gun Violence grantees asking them to share information about how the pandemic was impacting their program activities and operations. Many reported significant disruptions, especially for youth-focused and school-based initiatives, in the wake of stay-at-home orders and other mitigation efforts aimed at preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus. PCCD offered flexibility and other supports, including extending timelines for spending dollars, as a result of needs expressed by grantees during this challenging time. PCCD documented the challenges and programmatic adjustments made to local gun violence prevention efforts in a ['Lessons Learned' report](#) published in April 2021.



### *Governor's Executive Order on Reducing Gun Violence (2019-06)*

Signed into effect by Governor Tom Wolf on August 16, 2019, [Executive Order 2019-06](#) tasks state agencies with working together to identify and implement evidence-based initiatives to help address the public health and public safety crisis of gun violence in Pennsylvania. The Order established entities within state government to support these efforts, including a new Office of Gun Violence Prevention at PCCD and a Division of Violence Prevention at the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The Governor's Executive Order also named PCCD's Chairman as senior advisor charged with coordinating and facilitating gun violence reduction efforts in the Commonwealth.





### ***Governor's Special Council on Gun Violence***

The Governor's Executive Order also created an 18-member Special Council on Gun Violence within PCCD that included representatives from public health, public safety, law enforcement, victim services, education, human services, criminal and juvenile justice, research institutions, and state/local government. PCCD's Chairman Charles H. Ramsey served as Chair of the Special Council.

The Council's responsibilities included:

- Conducting its first meeting within 60 days of the Executive Order.
- Adopting a public health and community engagement strategy that included gun owners, health care professionals, and victims of gun-related incidents, to provide direction, duties, and responsibilities to PCCD's Office of Gun Violence Prevention.
- Reviewing current background check processes for firearm purchasers and making recommendations for improvement.
- Reviewing best practices and making recommendations that keep weapons from dangerous individuals.
- Identifying and defining strategies across Commonwealth agencies to align resources to reduce gun violence.
- Providing the Commission and the Senior Advisor for Gun Violence Prevention with recommendations to reduce incidents of community violence, mass shootings, domestic violence, suicide, and accidental shootings in Pennsylvania within 180 days of its initial meeting.

The Council held its first meeting in Harrisburg on October 9, 2019. Over the course of the next four months, the Council initiated a comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy to better understand the root causes of gun violence in the Commonwealth, as well as identify potential solutions, through public hearings, workgroups, and an online public comment survey. Through this process, PCCD engaged more than 600 individuals representing victim services, gun owners, public health, state and local law enforcement, public safety, victims/survivors, advocates, parents/family members, veterans, educators, community leaders, and concerned citizens. A [Report of Initial Findings and Workgroup Recommendations](#) outlining key findings and themes from this initial stakeholder engagement phase was presented to the Special Council for its review and consideration in January 2020.

On February 26, 2020, the Special Council reviewed and reached consensus on a final [Report of Findings, Recommendations & Action Steps](#). A copy of this report was presented to the Governor and the Commission during its March 11, 2020 meeting. You can learn more about the Special Council's efforts and recommendations by reading its [Report](#).



*Members of the Special Council on Gun Violence convene in PCCD's offices to deliberate recommendations to present to the Governor and Commission in Jan. 2020.*



*Members of the Special Council on Gun Violence hear testimony from community-based organizations and other stakeholders during a hearing in Philadelphia in December 2019.*



*PCCD Executive Director Mike Pennington and Dr. Jack Rozel of UPMC ReSolve Crisis Center discuss the work of the Special Council on Gun Violence on WITF's Smart Talk program.*



## PREVENTING & REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE (CONT.)

### **PCCD's Office of Gun Violence Prevention**

PCCD's [Office of Gun Violence Prevention \(OGVP\)](#) was established through Executive Order 2019-06. The mission of OGVP is to reduce gun violence in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by supporting state and community decisionmakers and leaders, advancing knowledge and understanding through data and research, and investing in effective prevention and intervention strategies. OGVP's work is guided by the [Report of Findings, Recommendations & Action Steps](#) developed by the Governor's Special Council on Gun Violence.

Among its responsibilities, the Office is charged with coordinating a system of focused police deterrence in neighborhoods and cities where violence is most extreme. The Office also works with other Commonwealth agencies and stakeholders on community gun violence prevention, lost/stolen firearms reporting, and other initiatives.

OGVP's priorities include:

- **Funding:** Supporting adoption and implementation of innovative, evidence-based violence reduction strategies through grants, subject to availability of funds, with a focus on Pennsylvania's most at-risk communities.
- **Technical Assistance & Stakeholder Engagement:** Establishing a "Community of Practice" and information sharing network to spread promising practices and directly engage communities.
- **Data & Research:** Collect, collate, and analyze available data and research to evaluate outcomes and make adjustments to strategy as needed.



## NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT FUND

Administered by PCCD, the Nonprofit Security Grant Fund was established as part of Act 83 of 2019, which directed PCCD to administer grants to nonprofit organizations that principally serve individuals, groups, or institutions that are included within a bias motivation category for single bias hate crime incidents as identified by the [FBI's 2017 Hate Crime Statistics publication](#).

In January 2020, Governor Wolf [announced](#) the availability of \$5 million in funding for security enhancement projects for nonprofit organizations serving diverse communities throughout the Commonwealth. Applicants were eligible to apply for grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$150,000 for security enhancements designed to protect the safety and security of their membership, including:

- Safety and security planning
- Purchase of safety and security equipment
- Purchase of security-related technology (*including, but not limited to, metal detectors, protective lighting, surveillance equipment, special emergency communications equipment, electronic locksets, deadbolts, trauma kits, theft control devices, etc.*)
- Safety and security training
- Threat awareness and response training
- Upgrades to existing structures that enhance safety and security
- Vulnerability and threat assessments
- Specialty-trained canines
- Any other safety or security-related project enhancing the safety or security of the nonprofit organization

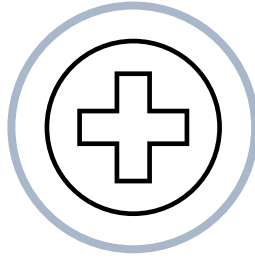
On March 11, 2020, PCCD [announced](#) awards for security enhancement projects for 113 churches, synagogues, and other nonprofit organizations throughout the Commonwealth.



## FY 2019-20 AT A GLANCE: GUN VIOLENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA

- *Guns are used in most homicides in Pennsylvania (77% in 2019). Firearms also play a role in other violent crimes, such as robbery and aggravated assault.*
- *Interpersonal gun violence disproportionately affects people of color and historically marginalized communities. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that Black and Hispanic/Latinx Pennsylvanians are more likely to be murdered using firearms compared with Whites (23x and 7x, respectively).*





## COMBATTING THE OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC

### Comprehensive Prevention Initiatives

Utilizing a combination of state and federal funds, PCCD administers and supports several evidence-based primary prevention initiatives, including:

- **PA Start and PA Stop:** A primary prevention initiative focused on building healthy, capable children and supporting positive actions, the campaigns feature downloadable materials that can be used for promoting proven, evidence-based programs addressing substance use initiation. PA Start and PA Stop materials are available to all 67 counties in Pennsylvania, and features partnerships with Single County Authorities (SCAs) and local coalitions to increase reach and dissemination of materials.
- **Opioid Misuse Prevention Pilot (OMPP):** PCCD and DDAP have partnered to support a multi-year prevention initiative focused on early education and awareness in five sites located in areas hardest hit by Pennsylvania's opioid crisis. The OMPP initiative focuses on stopping the initial misuse of all substances and developing protections for youth and families that lead to better, more prosocial behaviors. An estimated 5,000 parents/family members and children are served each year through the program.
- **Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction (SAEDR):** Under the Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction Act (Act 198 of 2002), PCCD must annually administer grants to support interventions, planning, public media awareness, and education campaigns that seek to prevent substance misuse. Given their focus on both youth- and adult-centered strategies, SAEDR funds are administered jointly by OJP's units of Criminal Justice System Improvements and Violence Prevention. In FY 2019-20, PCCD awarded \$1,759,491 to 10 applicants for adult-focused Category One, Two and Three SAEDR projects in addition to \$704,167 for five youth-focused SAEDR grants.

### Naloxone for First Responders Program

Since 2017, PCCD has supported the distribution of lifesaving naloxone to communities across the Commonwealth. Launched in November 2017, the Naloxone for First Responders Program provides intranasal naloxone kits to eligible first responders statewide at no cost using a network of local distribution hubs, or Centralized Coordinating Entities (CCEs). PCCD received \$1.5 million in federal State Opioid Response (SOR) funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to support the program in FY 2019-20. Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, CCEs provided 26,751 kits of naloxone to first responder groups in all 67 counties. These efforts resulted in 6,944 reported overdose reversals, as well as 1,737 kits left behind during the year by EMS agencies and other first responders.

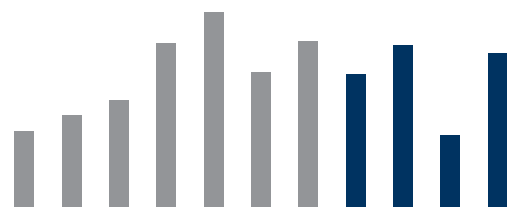
In anticipation of increased need for naloxone access due to social distancing and mitigation efforts put in place in response to COVID-19, PCCD provided an emergency supply of 8,856 kits of naloxone to nine CCEs serving 11 counties, as well as organizations serving statewide populations, including state prisons and county jails.

### NALOXONE OVERDOSE REVERSALS

**+11%**

16,233 cumulative overdose reversals reported since program's inception; 6,944 reported in FY 2019-20 - an 11% increase over the prior year (6,258).

### NALOXONE KITS DISTRIBUTED BY QUARTER (NOVEMBER 2017- JUNE 2020)



75,053 cumulative naloxone kits distributed since start of program; 26,571 kits in FY 2019-20 (35%)



### **Overdose Prevention Technical Assistance Center (TAC)**

Throughout FY 2019-20, PCCD continued to support its contract with the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy's Program Evaluation Research Unit (PERU) for the development and management of an Overdose Prevention Technical Assistance Center (TAC). The TAC helps counties develop strategies to address the needs of individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) and substance use disorder (SUD) and reduce overdoses in their communities. During FY 2019-20, the TAC at PERU assisted 48 counties in establishing and/or supporting their own overdose prevention coalitions. The TAC continues to welcome new counties interested in receiving training, technical assistance, and planning/prevention supports through the program. More information about PERU's TAC initiative can be found on [www.overdosefreepa.org](http://www.overdosefreepa.org).

### **County Intermediate Punishment (CIP)**

Established by 42 Pa.C.S. Chapter 98, County Intermediate Punishment (CIP) is a diversionary sentencing program specifically for certain non-violent offenders as an alternative to incarceration. For FY 2019-20, PCCD received \$18,167,000 in state appropriations for the CIP program, which was distributed to applicants representing 61 counties throughout the state for a two-year grant.

Under CIP criteria, eligible individuals must undergo a diagnostic drug and alcohol dependency assessment to be eligible for the program. Beginning in FY 2016-17, PCCD expanded the use of CIP funds to include individuals who would otherwise be sentenced to a period of incarceration under Level 2 of the Pennsylvania Sentencing Guidelines. To ensure these monies support the target population, funds are made available to counties currently using a risk and needs assessment tool. In FY 2017-18, the use of CIP funds was also expanded to include individuals in need of mental health treatment services who are eligible to receive an intermediate punishment (IP) sentence and would otherwise have been sentenced to incarceration under Levels 2, 3, or 4 of the Pennsylvania Sentencing Guidelines.

In FY 2019-20, 18,313 individuals were served through PCCD's CIP funding. Funds supported drug and alcohol treatment, assessment, evaluation, case management, and supervision services related to CIP activities. Ultimately, the program resulted in participants averting 691,194 jail days (calculation is based on the minimum sentence range of the sentencing guidelines), and 85% of all participants successfully completed program requirements.



## **FY 2019-20 DATA SNAPSHOT: INTERMEDIATE PUNISHMENT**

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- 61 counties with IP programs supported with PCCD funding
- 18,313 individuals actively participating in an IP sentence during the fiscal year
- \$17,457 - Average savings per offender who completed an IP sentence
- 691,194 total number of jail days averted for all offenders who completed their IP sentence during FY 2019-20 (up from 565,500 in FY 2018-19).

### **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)**

PCCD administered \$884,920 in federal RSAT funding in FY 2019-20 for projects to support evidence-based programs that develop an inmate's cognitive, behavioral, social, vocational, and other skills to address substance use disorder and related issues through in-house county jail and/or work release center. The goal of the RSAT program is to further the U.S. Department of Justice's mission by assisting state, local, and tribal efforts to break the cycle of drug addiction and violence by reducing the demand for, use, and trafficking of illegal drugs. In addition, in FY 2019-20, PCCD utilized a portion of its federal RSAT award, in combination with federal State Opioid Response (SOR) dollars, to support a new two-year technical assistance and training initiative led by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC). The initiative provides trainings for staff at county jails implementing MAT in 23 counties across Pennsylvania focused on several evidence-based programs (Seeking Safety; Smart Recovery; Inside Out; Co-Occurring Disorders; Helping Men Recover; Helping Women Recover; and ASAM Training).



### **Problem Solving Court Initiatives (Including Drug Courts)**

According to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), Pennsylvania's first problem-solving court (PSC) was an adult drug court program opened in Philadelphia in 1997. The success of that initial PSC and those that followed prompted significant expansion across the Commonwealth over the past two decades. Pennsylvania now has more than 100 PSCs, including those focused on specific types of behaviors or conditions, such as substance use disorder, DUI, mental health/illness, as well as juvenile drug and veteran's courts. As an alternative to incarceration, defendants in these courts are given counseling, treatment, emotional assistance, and healthcare support. More information on PSCs and their locations can be found on [AOPC's website](#). In September 2019, the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) awarded \$1.5 million in federal State Opioid Response (SOR) Supplemental Grant funding to support county-based drug courts and innovative pre-trial diversion initiatives. In September 2019, the Commission approved 13 applications totaling \$1,624,164 to Allegheny, Berks, Blair, Forest, Franklin, Greene, Mifflin, Montgomery, Northampton, Northumberland, Tioga, Wayne, and Westmoreland counties. The funds supported the expansion of existing drug courts, enhanced support services for drug court participants, and/or opioid-related treatment services to problem-solving court participants.



### **FY 2019-20 DATA SNAPSHOT: PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS**

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- 9,105 individuals were served by Problem Solving Courts in FY 2019-20.
- PCCD funding supported 52 problem solving courts statewide in 2019-20, up from 50 in the prior year and just 35 in FY 2016-17.
- 67% of Pennsylvania's population has access to an adult mental health court, up from 65.8% in the prior fiscal year.
- 87.4% of Pennsylvania's population has access to an adult drug court, DUI court, or hybrid drug/DUI court

### **County Jail-based Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program**

For FY 2019-20, PCCD announced the availability of \$4,000,000 in state Act 80 funds for the 2019 County Jail-based Vivitrol Program. These funds were initially administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, but through a collaborative effort, PCCD's Criminal Justice System Improvements unit now administers these funds. PCCD awarded \$5,858,800 to support 16 counties seeking to provide Vivitrol injections and comprehensive substance abuse treatment to eligible individuals in county jails and upon release to the community.

In September 2019, PCCD also received \$2 million in federal State Opioid Response (SOR) funds from DDAP to support additional forms of medication assisted treatment (MAT) in combination with cognitive behavior treatment (CBT) in county jails across the Commonwealth. In late December 2019, PCCD awarded nine applications totaling approximately \$1.2 million to Armstrong, Bucks, Cambria, Franklin, Lawrence, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northumberland, and Washington counties.



### **FY 2019-20 DATA SNAPSHOT: COUNTY JAIL-BASED MAT**

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- 1,114 individuals were served in county jail-based MAT programming in FY 2019-20, compared with 154 in FY 2018-19.



# **Criminal Justice System Improvement**

*Key Initiatives*  
FY 2019-2020



# Improving the Justice System

*PCCD is tasked by statute with coordinating the functions of the criminal justice system so it runs more efficiently and effectively, and makes full use of the resources available to State and local criminal justice systems.*

PCCD provides planning assistance, promotes digital technology, funds innovative projects, supports the development and implementation of best practices, coordinates information sharing, and facilitates collaboration between and among key criminal justice stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth.

There are multiple advisory committees responsible for addressing criminal justice initiatives within PCCD. The **Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)** focuses on the development of long-range strategies and plans for the system as a whole. CJAC sets priorities for justice projects supported by PCCD's various federal and state funding streams. The **Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC)** coordinates statewide strategies that direct technical assistance to evidence-based practices; guides the operation and sustainability of jail diversion and reentry programs; and provides a clearinghouse for resources related to criminal justice, mental health, and substance use disorder. Finally, the **County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee (CAPPAC)**, established by Act 114 of 2019, advises the Commission on all matters pertaining to the administration of the county adult probation and parole system and assists in the implementation of Act 115 of 2019, specifically related to sentences of probation with restrictive conditions of supervision. CAPPAC is also responsible for directing technical assistance; reviewing grant applications for county intermediate punishment treatment programs and discretionary grants; developing a funding plan for county adult probation and parole departments; analyzing data to identify trends and evaluate programs and practices; as well as make recommendations and adopting standards for probation and parole personnel.

In addition to these Advisory Committees, PCCD also includes two training boards. The **Constables' Education and Training Board**, established by Act 102 of 1992, advises PCCD in the development, implementation, and operation of legislatively mandated basic training, continuing education, and firearms qualification that serve as the basis for certification of constables and deputy constables within the Commonwealth. The **Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board**, established by Act 2 of 1984, advises PCCD in the development, implementation, and operation of legislatively mandated basic training and continuing education required for certification of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs within the Commonwealth's 67 counties.



## FY 2019-20 AT A GLANCE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

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- All 67 Pennsylvania counties have a Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) in place.
- 62% of police officers worked in an accredited police force in 2019-20.
- 31 active reentry coalitions in Pennsylvania.
- 18 counties actively participating in Pennsylvania Stepping Up Technical Assistance Center, and Stepping Up policies adopted in 35 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.
- 744 prosecutors and 132 public defenders received training through PCCD-funded initiatives in FY 2019-20.
- 75 courses offered on PA Virtual Training Network (VTN).
- Since its launch, PA VTN has served 24,900 law enforcement officers, with 63,210 successfully completed trainings.
- 1,058 constables participated in initial training and continuing education provided by PCCD in FY 2019-20.
- 2,125 sheriffs and deputy sheriffs participating in initial training and continuing education



## COLLABORATION & PLANNING ASSISTANCE

### ***Criminal Justice Advisory Boards (CJABs)***

CJABs serve as the primary vehicle for PCCD's efforts to improve county justice systems. As boards comprised of criminal justice stakeholders from various disciplines within a county, CJABs use a collaborative approach to justice planning and innovative problem solving. PCCD assists CJABs in every stage of development, from start-up grants to strategic planning assistance to project implementation support. Currently, all 67 counties in Pennsylvania have an active CJAB that meets PCCD's minimum operating standards. A [map identifying those counties](#), their CJAB contact information, and copies of publicly available county strategic and reentry plans is available on PCCD's website.

Each year, PCCD hosts an annual conference to provide information on timely issues that all counties are experiencing and to promote CJABs and their use. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 CJAB Conference was cancelled; the annual conference was ultimately delivered in a virtual environment – a first for the agency – in April 2021.

### ***Bipartisan Criminal Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI 2) Bills Enacted***

In December 2019, the Governor [signed](#) two ***Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI 2) bills*** into law, a continuation of efforts initiated in 2016 through the interbranch Justice Reinvestment Workgroup Group. The two JRI 2 bills – SB 500 and SB 501 – addressed the high cost of incarceration in Pennsylvania, strengthen support for county probation programs and address sentencing guidelines; and reform the post-trial criminal justice system to ensure work towards successful rehabilitation and reentry.

Among its provisions, JRI2 established the ***County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee (CAPPAC) within PCCD*** to provide direction on county probation and parole funding, planning, and recommendations for best practices. CAPPAC held its inaugural meeting on June 11, 2020. The Advisory Committee's work is informed by three subcommittees to carry out Act 114's mandates: the Funding Subcommittee, the Standards Subcommittee, and the Training Subcommittee. The CAPPAC also serves as the former Firearms Education and Training Commission. Ultimately, the goal of the CAPPAC is to improve the supervision of offenders by promoting best practices at the county level – a critically important endeavor since approximately 87% of community-based criminal offenders in Pennsylvania are supervised by county probation departments across the Commonwealth.



*Governor Tom Wolf, surrounded by legislators and advocates, signing two JRI 2 bills into law on December 18, 2019.*





**Mental Health Initiatives**

PCCD staff engaged with partners and stakeholders over the course of FY19/20 to support state, county, and local level efforts to provide services and supports related programs for people with mental illness/co-occurring disorders, intellectual disabilities, and/or autism spectrum disorders and reduce avoidable justice system contact.

Under the auspices of MHJAC, PCCD staff recommended and facilitated funding for programs to provide training for law enforcement, behavioral and mental health specialists, and their partners; improve cross-systems data collection and information sharing of behavioral health and substance abuse data; and implement evidence-based practices including trauma and recovery treatment programs for veterans in the criminal justice system, peer supported warm handoff and co-responder programs.

In addition to MHJAC support staff, PCCD staff agency-wide partnered with specialists in the fields of mental health/co-occurring disorders and criminal justice diversion to provide guidance on criminal justice system changes, targeted action planning, and promoting promising programs and initiatives across the state.

**Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training**

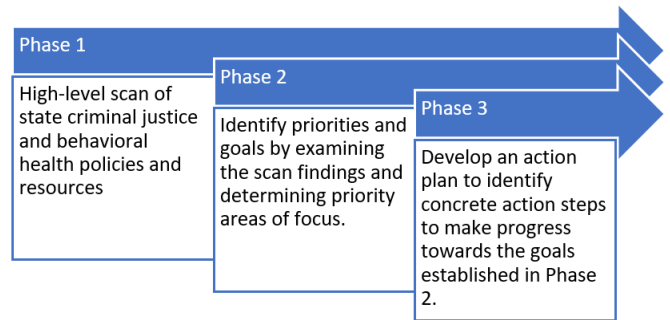
During FY 19/20, PCCD supported Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for law enforcement, justice practitioners, mental and behavioral health specialists, and addiction professionals. The goal of this innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention training is to connect people with mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders to meaningful services and treatment rather than place them in the criminal justice system due to illness-related behaviors. It also promotes officer safety and the safety of the individual in crisis.



**Stepping Up Initiative**

Stepping Up was launched in May 2015 as a partnership of the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, National Association of Counties, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation. In January 2019, PCCD established the Pennsylvania Stepping UP Technical Assistance Center – the first in the nation to provide free technical assistance to counties to reduce the overrepresentation of people with serious mental illness (SMI) in their jails. As of FY 2019-20, 35 Pennsylvania counties had passed Stepping Up resolutions and 18 counties were actively participating in the TA Center.

During FY 2019-20, CSG continued to provide supports for the statewide Stepping Up strategic planning pilot, which was organized in three phases:





**Reentry Programs**

Since 2011, PCCD has supported a **Reentry Coordinator** role housed within the unit of Criminal Justice System Improvements. PCCD's Reentry Coordinator works to ensure linkages and collaboration around reentry efforts among community and faith-based service providers and county planners. PCCD has supported reentry efforts through numerous grant opportunities focused on the development of reentry strategic plans and implementation of reentry programming.

Coalitions of local stakeholders meet regularly to assess reentry practices and programming, identify gaps in service, and develop resources, programming, and practices to fill those gaps. These coalitions are comprised of local stakeholders working to positively impact the lives of returning citizens.

PCCD started the process to develop **County Reentry Coalition Minimum Operating Standards** similar to those established for CJABs following the endorsement of this strategy as part of CJAC's strategic plan in 2019. To develop these standards, PCCD staff engaged reentry coordinators from six successful coalitions and worked in consultation with relevant state partners. On March 11, 2020, the Commission adopted [Minimum Operating Standards for County Reentry Coalitions](#). These Standards outline requirements for membership, bylaws, reentry strategic planning, recidivism data collection, as well as coalition compliance and recognition.

PCCD also continues to be a key participant in the [Pennsylvania Reentry Council \(PARC\)](#), which was convened in 2017 by Governor Tom Wolf and Attorney General Josh Shapiro with the sole purpose of exploring all issues related to the successful reintegration of returning citizens.

PCCD staff were also active participants in the [Pennsylvania Department of Health's COVID-19 Health Equity Response Group](#) as members of the Incarcerated/Returning Citizens subgroup. The COVID-19 Health Equity Response Group was responsible for developing recommendations for mitigating the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic among vulnerable populations.



**National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)**

The primary objective of NCHIP is to enhance the quality, completeness, and accessibility of the Commonwealth's criminal justice record information and to collect the information and develop the procedures necessary to ensure the accurate and timely identification of individuals who are ineligible to purchase a firearm and to provide for the safety of the Commonwealth's citizens. Applications are awarded to state agencies or private non-profit agencies.

In FY18/19, PCCD submitted a competitive application to the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics for federal National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) funds. PCCD was awarded an unprecedented \$6,589,444, which was passed through to the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) to support the replacement of the aging infrastructure of PSP's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) system, and support the training needs of police officers, central booking personnel and magisterial district courts due to the new e-filing system.

**NCHIP FUNDING LEVELS** (2010-2020)



*PCCD received \$2,182,968 in federal NCHIP funds in FY 2019/20 following an unprecedented award in FY18/19.*

In FY19/20, PCCD also submitted a competitive application to the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics for federal NCHIP funds. PCCD was awarded \$2,182,968, which was passed through to PSP and the Pennsylvania Office of Administration/Office of Information Technology to support an update to the Pennsylvania Access to Criminal History (PATCH) public facing website to match the current Criminal History Repository code, to support the automation of DNA fingerprint file transfers for the improvement and increase in the number of updated criminal records, and to support the PA Data Redundancy and Continued Record Submission to NICS project. This project will provide a secondary network should the primary Commonwealth Technology Center (CTC) network become unavailable to allow for the continued reporting to national records systems.





**NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP)**

The primary objective of the NARIP is to enhance the completeness, automation, and transmittal of records to state and federal systems used by the NICS. These include records of criminal history, felony convictions, warrants, protective orders, convictions for misdemeanors involving domestic violence and stalking, drug arrests and convictions, mental health adjudications, and other information that may disqualify an individual from possessing or receiving a firearm under federal law.

In FY 19/20, PCCD submitted a competitive application to the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics for federal NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) funds. PCCD was awarded \$986,398, which was passed through to the PSP to support mental health data submissions into NICS, updates to criminal history and/or mental health records, and the conversion of paper Application of Sales into the electronic database.

**Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)**

The purpose of the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative is to bring together federal, state and local agencies to focus community attention and energy on reducing gun violence. The initiative utilizes the United States Attorney’s Offices to implement or enhance innovative and collaborative efforts to address public safety issues related to gun violence. Each U.S. Attorney is required to establish a task force to develop a comprehensive gun violence reduction strategy and assess how new resources can impact resolution of the problem. PCCD acts as the Fiscal Agent for these funds to the United States Attorney in the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of PA.

In FY 2019/20, \$629,633 in PSN funds were awarded, including \$299,308 to the Eastern District, \$153,292 to the Middle District, and \$177,033 to the Western District. Throughout these districts, a broad spectrum of stakeholders work together to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in the community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSAs) have been designated to support the prosecution of firearms cases which have disrupted drug and firearm trafficking operations. Targeted investigative efforts have taken place which were driven by research data designed to establish a baseline for violent crime and identify those individuals and locations closely associated with previous crimes of violence and/or gun crimes.



**Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Act (NFSIA)**

This program provides funding for programs designed to improve the quality, timeliness and credibility of forensic science services for criminal justice purposes. The program permits funding for expenses related to facilities, personnel, computerization, equipment, supplies, accreditation, certification, education and training. FY 2019/20 was the seventh year of NFSIA funding.

In December 2018, PCCD awarded five applications requesting up to \$482,223 in federal Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvements funds to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic services throughout Pennsylvania, support the development of strategies/ protocols for the accreditation of forensic laboratories in Pennsylvania and/or the certification of forensic science specialists in an acceptable forensic science discipline. Funding will support the costs for training, travel, materials, consultant services, equipment, and/or software needed to obtain or maintain accreditation and/or certification in a forensic science discipline.

In FY 19/20, PCCD, upon receiving notification of the 2019 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvements formula award in the amount of \$733,134, released a competitive solicitation to support accreditation activities of forensic laboratories, activities to maintain accreditation of forensic laboratories or the certification of forensic analysts in a forensic discipline. As a result of the competitive solicitation, four subgrants were awarded.

**NFSIA GRANT FUNDS (2009-2020)**



*PCCD received \$733,134 in NFSIA funds in FY19/20, a decrease from the \$993,111 awarded in FY 18/19, but still relatively high compared to historical levels.*



### ***Body-Worn Camera Policy***

In July 2017, Act 22 was signed into law, which required PCCD to develop policy recommendations regarding the use of body-worn cameras (BWC). According to the Act, any recipient of PCCD grant funds for the purchase of BWCs must have a written, publicly-available policy in place that meets or exceeds the standards set by the Commission. Over FY17/18, Office of Criminal Justice System Improvements (OCJSI) staff formed a workgroup with a wide variety of stakeholders to research best practices in BWC policy and discuss the development of a model framework. In March 2018, the Commission formally adopted the policy recommendations, which outlines the use, maintenance and storage of BWCs. A copy of the adopted BWC standards can be found on PCCD's website.

In FY18/19, PCCD was also the recipient of a \$1.4 million competitive federal award for Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program (BWC-PIP) funds to support the development and implementation of policies and practices for effective program adoption, and includes factors such as the purchase, deployment, and maintenance of camera systems and equipment; data storage and access; and privacy considerations. Funding was administered to local law enforcement and other related criminal justice agencies via grants throughout FY19/20. PCCD received an additional \$975,801 in federal BWC-PIP funds in FY19/20 to support these initiatives.

In FY2019/20, PCCD continued to support over 100 law enforcement agencies receiving BWC-PIP funds. PCCD was highlighted several times by the Bureau of Justice Assistance Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Team for its efforts to assist qualifying PA agencies in their BWC Policy and Implementation. PCCD and the Bureau of Justice Assistance TTA team hosted a regional meeting in PA as an opportunity for agencies to network and discuss successes, challenges, and to hear from BWC subject matter experts on best practices and lessons learned related to BWCs.





## TRAINING, CERTIFICATION & ACCREDITATION

### ***Sheriffs' and Deputy Sheriffs' Training***

Act 2 of 1984 created the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board to train and certify deputies employed by the Commonwealth's 67 county sheriffs' offices. Twenty years later, Act 114 of 2014 renamed it as the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board (SDSETB). The new law enhanced the original Act by including requirements for the training of sheriffs and provisions for certification revocation.

Under the oversight and staff support of PCCD, SDSETB continues to implement and improve training and certification processes as delineated by the Act. The current program consists of 760 hours of basic training provided by Pennsylvania State University followed by biennial continuing education through 20 hours of instruction provided by Temple University. The SDSETB also offers additional training in Basic and Advanced Supervision, Firearms Instruction, and Patrol Riflery as well as optional subjects on-line.

The Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Information System (SDSIS) is used to track both individual training and certification history and current training needs and requirements. During the 2019 calendar year, 2,315 active sheriffs and deputy sheriffs out of 2,323 in the Commonwealth were trained and certified/re-certified by the Board. For more information and the Sheriffs' Annual Reports, please see the [SDSETB web page](#).

### ***Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Virtual Training Network (PAVTN)***

PCCD and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) developed a Virtual Training Network (PAVTN) in 2012. When PAVTN was launched, there were five courses and 2,000 registered users. For FY19/20, PAVTN registered over 24,900 users and offered 75 training courses. In FY19/20, law enforcement successfully completed 63,210 trainings through PAVTN – a 17% increase compared with the prior fiscal year. This web-based training has saved thousands of dollars for law enforcement departments and municipalities by reducing trainer costs, travel expenses, and overtime costs. It has also reduced the amount of time officers are off-duty while attending training.

### ***Constables' Training***

In Pennsylvania, constables are elected for a six-year term and are required to undergo training every year to perform their services. Although historically considered peace officers, today constables are mainly relied upon to aid the judicial process (e.g., serving writs and notices). Act 44 of 1994 established the Constables' Education and Training Board (CETB) within PCCD, which is responsible for the training and certification of the Commonwealth's approximately 1,200 elected and appointed constables and deputy constables. The CETB fulfills this charge by providing state-of-the-art curriculum development and delivery, ensuring timely and accurate constable certification and recertification, and coordinating the services of three regional training delivery contractors and one curriculum development contractor. Certifications and individual trainings are tracked through the Constables' Certification Education and Training System (CCETS).

As of April 15, 2019, there were 1,071 constables and deputy constables currently listed as active and certified. Of these, 881 or 82% were also certified to carry a firearm in the performance of their constable duties. A total of 27 newly elected or appointed constables and deputy constables successfully completed the 80-Hour Basic Training and were certified in 2019. A total of 1,099 constables attended the 8-Hour Continuing Education Training and were certified in 2019. An additional 21 constables successfully completed the 40-Hour Basic Firearms Training and attained firearms certification in 2019. Also, during 2019, 858 constables successfully completed the 4-Hour Annual Firearms Qualification to carry a firearm while performing judicial duties. For more information and the Constables' Annual Reports, please visit the [CETB web page](#).

### ***Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program***

PCCD supports the PA Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, which provides a blueprint for the professionalization of law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. The cornerstone of this strategy consists of the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. During FY19/20, 60% of police officers in the Commonwealth worked in one of the 118 accredited agencies. In 2016, PCCD partnered with PCPA to develop a map identifying accredited police departments throughout the state. The current map can be found on the [PA Accreditation](#) page on PCCD's website.



# Juvenile Justice System Improvement

*Key Initiatives*

FY 2019-2020



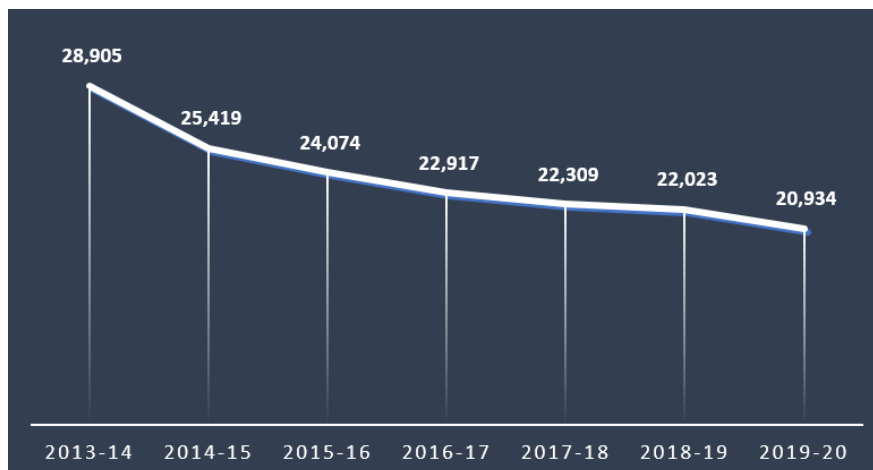
# Juvenile Justice

*Since 1978, PCCD has served as the Commonwealth's designated state planning agency for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, pursuant to the requirements of the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.*

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJDC) is comprised of representatives from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), juvenile court judges, law enforcement, chief juvenile probation officers, non-profit prevention and treatment service providers, special education specialists, youth, and other related stakeholders. JJDC is tasked by law to:

- Develop a [comprehensive plan](#) relating to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention for the Commonwealth;
- Serve in an advisory capacity to the Commission on awards, standards, and programs;
- Collaborate with all state agencies on planning and programming related to juvenile delinquency prevention and reduction and prevention of violence by and against children; and
- Advise and assist the Commission in designing and promoting comprehensive research-based initiatives to assist communities and community-based organizations in reducing risk to and promoting the positive development of children and in preventing juvenile delinquency and youth violence.

## NUMBER OF PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH RECEIVING A JUVENILE JUSTICE DISPOSITION (2013-2020)



*20,934 Pennsylvania youth received a juvenile justice disposition in FY 2019/20 - a 4.9% decrease from the prior year, and a 27.5% reduction from 2013/14 levels.*



## JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVES

### ***Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES)***

The goal of the JJSES is to build the capacity of practitioners within the juvenile justice system to better achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission through quality implementation of evidence-based practices and programs and data-driven decision-making. PCCD provides funding to support the ongoing efforts of the PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers (Chiefs' Council) and the JCJC to implement the JJSES. Representatives from each of these entities, and from PCCD, serve on the JJSES Leadership Team to provide immediate oversight and guidance to this project.

The Chiefs' Council receives funding from PCCD to support the work related to the JJSES. Decisions on future planning to move this initiative forward are made annually through a strategic planning process conducted by the Chiefs' Council with the participation of PCCD and the JCJC. Recent trends documenting reductions in juvenile violent crime arrest rates, juvenile delinquency dispositions, placements, detention center admissions, and placement costs all serve to confirm the efficacy of the evidence-based practices that now form the foundation of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. More information on JJSES can be found in the JJSES Monograph on PCCD's website or at [www.jcjc.pa.gov](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov).

### ***Reducing Racial/Ethnic Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System***

In October 2019, the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) transitioned terminology from "Disproportionate Minority Contact" (DMC) to "Racial/Ethnic Disparities" (RED).

In FY 2019-20, PCCD approved \$250,000 in federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) funds for Georgetown's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform to bring their ***Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Certificate Program*** to Pennsylvania. The program is available to juvenile justice practitioners throughout the country to improve how jurisdictions address possible disparities among black and Hispanic youth at various points in the system.

An inaugural five-day training was originally scheduled for October 2020; however, the training was ultimately delayed until September 2021 due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.



### **FY 2019-20 AT A GLANCE: JUVENILE JUSTICE**

- 20,394 juveniles received a juvenile justice disposition, down from 22,023 in FY 2018-19.
- 21 counties participated in SPEP evaluation in FY 2019-20.
- More than 1,300 juvenile probation officers supported and trained to advance the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy.
- 361 compliance monitoring visits conducted by PCCD with respect to holding juveniles.



### ***Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)***

Used for more than two decades to promote quality improvement in juvenile justice services, SPEP™ is a tool developed based on research findings on aspects of service provision for juvenile offenders associated with reduced likelihood of re-arrest. Through a partnership with the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) Leadership Team and the EPISCenter, 21 counties participated in SPEP™ evaluation in FY 2019/20, an increase from the prior year (20 counties). In January 2020, researchers presented JJDP members with a final report on A Validation of SPEP™ in Pennsylvania. The report summarized findings from a validation study initiated by the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, JCJC, and PCCD to inform juvenile justice stakeholders on the impact of statewide implementation of SPEP™. The study was conducted by Dr. Edward P. Mulvey, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry from the University of Pittsburgh, in collaboration with other study team members.

### ***Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force***

On December 16, 2019, Governor Wolf joined legislative leaders and judges to [announce](#) a joint agreement with Pew Charitable Trusts establishing a **Juvenile Justice Task Force**. The bipartisan and interbranch Task Force is charged with developing a report outlining data-driven findings and policy recommendations to strengthen Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. Task Force [members](#) include individuals appointed by both the Governor and General Assembly who have expertise in various areas related to the juvenile justice system, including youth members who bring an important and unique perspective to the group's deliberations. PCCD's Executive Director Mike Pennington represented the agency on the Task Force, which first met on February 5, 2020. The Juvenile Justice Task Force released its [Final Report & Recommendations](#) in June 2021.



*On December 16, 2019, Governor Wolf joined legislators and judges to [announce](#) the establishment of an interbranch Juvenile Justice Task Force.*

### ***Second Chance Act of 2016***

\$1 million in funds was appropriated for Second Chance Act activities in FY 2019-20. These funds help juvenile courts/probation departments and their communities reduce juvenile recidivism rates through strategies addressing challenges inherent in youth reentry while improving outcomes for this population. Funds, when appropriated, support implementing a statewide plan to better align juvenile justice policy, practices, and resources at the local level using comprehensive data- and research-driven approaches for juvenile reentry following placements.

A Semi-Annual Progress Report was submitted to federal OJJDP in January 2020 indicating that requested extensions of pilot sites was approved and the University of Pittsburgh continued work to complete an evaluation and final report.





# Violence Prevention

*Key Initiatives*  
FY 2019-2020



# Preventing & Reducing Violence

*In 2019-20, PCCD established the unit of Violence Prevention in the newly created Office of Justice Programs (OJP). This unit is tasked with advancing policies and programs to prevent youth from engaging in problem behaviors (such as delinquency, violence, substance abuse, and school dropout) and to improve the quality of life for youth, their families, and their communities across Pennsylvania.*

## **VIOLENCE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION INITIATIVES**

### ***Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS)***

Since 1989, the Commonwealth has conducted a survey of students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 to learn about their behavior, attitudes, and knowledge concerning alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and violence. The Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) is sponsored and conducted every two years by PCCD, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Departments of Education (PDE) and Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), to gather critical information concerning risk factors and changes in patterns of substance misuse. The 2019 PAYS was the 15th biennial administration of the survey and included responses from almost 281,000 students in 413 school districts across the Commonwealth - an increase in participation levels compared with the 2017 PAYS administration. As with prior administrations, in 2019, a significant portion of students reported feeling sad or depressed most days and reported rates of suicide ideation and self-harm remained high. PCCD released a full report with findings and trends from the 2019 PAYS in Spring 2020. All the State PAYS Reports are available on PCCD's website, as well as County Reports for every county in Pennsylvania that had at least two participating school districts.

### ***Community Violence Prevention/Reduction (CVP/R) Grants***

In FY 2019/20, the School Safety and Security Committee released \$7.5 million (30 awards) in the form of community violence grants, which were a subset of the \$60 million total allocation, to nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education to implement programs that are designed to prevent violence. These programs include increasing access to trauma-informed support and behavioral health services, coordinated health and intervention strategies, mentoring and intervention services for those that have experienced trauma, and improving communication between schools, communities and law enforcement.



## **FY 2019-20 AT A GLANCE: VIOLENCE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION**

- 239,000 youth participating in PAYS in 2019
- 80% of school districts participating in PAYS (up from 76% in 2017)
- 83 active CTC sites in FY 2019-20
- 58% of youth had improved behavioral outcomes after participating in evidence-based programs funded by PCCD
- 75% of youth improved academic performance after participating in evidence-based programs

### **Violence and Delinquency Prevention Program (VDPP)**

Since 1998, the Commission has administered the Violence and Delinquency Prevention Program (VDPP), which provides resources and technical assistance to communities who have implemented evidence-based violence and delinquency prevention programs that address risk and protective factors identified through sources such as the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS). These “evidence-based” programs have undergone rigorous scientific evaluation to determine if they are effective in producing lasting, positive outcomes in youth. Programs supported by VDPP span pre-K through high school, reaching a broad range of ages, and have demonstrated the ability to prevent violence, substance use, delinquency, and trauma.

#### **VDPP APPROPRIATIONS (2010-2020)**



*PCCD received \$4,039,000 in state VDPP funds in the FY 2019/20 budget. A portion of these funds were used to support programs serving youth and families in 18 counties.*

For FY 19/20, PCCD invested a total of \$2,060,557 in state VDPP dollars in 14 evidence-based programs serving youth and families in 18 counties throughout Pennsylvania. Funding supported Positive Parenting Program, The Incredible Years, Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies, Strengthening Families (10-14) Program, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Positive Action. These supported projects seek to prevent or reduce unhealthy problem behaviors in youth, such as violence, delinquency, substance use, and school failure and dropout. Due to the pandemic, this funding opportunity was not offered in 2020/21.

PCCD also collaborates with the Department of Human Services, the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission, the Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, the Department of Education, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, and other youth-serving agencies to improve inter-agency planning and use of evidence-based programs.





### **Partnership with Safe2Say Program**

Safe2Say Something is a youth violence prevention program run by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General in partnership with Sandy Hook Promise. The Safe2Say Something 2020 report includes an overview of the most common types of tips provided to the Program's anonymous tip line for Pennsylvania, as well as regional breakdowns.

In December 2019, the Commission approved an award of up to \$120,000 in Violence & Delinquency Prevention Program (VDPP) funds to the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation to organize and host a National School Safety Anonymous Reporting System Conference. The conference, which was originally scheduled to take place in Pittsburgh in September 2020, was rescheduled for September 2021 due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.



### **Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter)**

PCCD partners with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to support Penn State's EPISCenter ([www.episcenter.psu.edu](http://www.episcenter.psu.edu)), which provides technical assistance to Pennsylvania's schools and communities as they plan and implement evidence-based prevention and intervention programs for at-risk youth.

The EPISCenter:

- Directs outreach and advocacy efforts to foster recognition, at the federal, state, and community levels, of the value and impact of proven prevention and intervention programs;
- Provides technical assistance to communities to improve implementation quality and fidelity, promote the collection and use of program impact data, and foster proactive planning for long-term program sustainability;
- Develops and provides educational opportunities and resources to disseminate current prevention science research and facilitate peer networking; and
- Conducts original research to inform more effective prevention practice and the successful dissemination of evidence-based programs.

During FY 2019/20, the EPISCenter provided technical assistance and training to CTC coalitions across the Commonwealth. They also actively supported 49 implementations of evidence-based programs serving over 5,500 youth and 500 parents, and organized networking meetings for 6 programs.



### **First Chance Trust Fund**

Act 44 of 2017 became law on October 30, 2017 and established the First Chance Trust Fund within PCCD. Act 44 authorized PCCD to allocate revenues from the Fund for the following purposes:

- 1) to establish and operate a scholarship program for students in those regions of this Commonwealth which have statistically higher high school dropout rates, incarceration rates or high crime rates as determined by the Commission; and
- 2) to provide grants to programs that benefit children in those regions of this Commonwealth which have statistically higher high school dropout rates, incarceration rates or high crime rates as determined by the Commission.

Although no dollars were designated or deposited into the Fund during FY18/19, 19/20, or 20/21, PCCD continues to have a workgroup meet to determine which geographic regions of the state meet the data requirements of the Act.



# **Victim Services & Child Advocacy**

*Key Initiatives*

FY 2019-2020



# Responding to Victims' Needs

*We work with partners to reduce the impact of crime on victims and survivors, including enhancing the quality and availability of services, addressing the economic needs of victims through the Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP), and supporting victims/survivors of child sexual abuse and child abuse.*

PCCD's **Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC)** and the **Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Committee (CACAC)** are each responsible for addressing the needs of crime victims and survivors throughout the Commonwealth.

**VSAC** was established through Act 27 of 1995 Special Session #1 and reauthorized in the Crime Victims Act (Act 111 of 1998) with the purpose of developing services, setting standards for those services, creating policies, and setting funding priorities to support the state's network of victim services providers - which include providers that address sexual assault, domestic violence, or comprehensive centers that address all crime. VSAC members include Cabinet secretaries from related agencies, including Corrections, Human Services, State Police, JCJC, and Aging; the Victim Advocate; a district attorney; representation from statewide victim coalitions; mental health advocate; disabilities advocate; victim-witness programs; victim services providers; the courts; and a direct victim/survivor of crime.

Established by Act 28 of 2014, **CACAC** was created to advise the Commission in the development and promotion of programs and projects related to children's advocacy centers (CACs) and multidisciplinary investigative teams (MDITs). CACs are used by MDITs to provide state-of-the-art treatment for victims/survivors of child sexual abuse, child abuse, and neglect. The CACAC is comprised of a variety of experts representing children and youth services, prosecution, CACs, state and municipal police, victim services, physicians, nurses, mental health professionals, and hospital administrators.



## **FY 2019-20 AT A GLANCE: VICTIM SERVICES & CHILD ADVOCACY**

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- 394,647 victims served in Pennsylvania in FY 2019-20
- 12,255 claims processed for VCAP in FY 2019-20
- \$11,190,000 paid to or on behalf of crime victims through VCAP
- 12,948 children were served by CACs in FY 19-20
- 99% of Pennsylvania's population has a CAC available within 60 minutes of travel time
- 7,550 attendees provided training on victim service subjects



## VICTIM SERVICES INITIATIVES

*In FY 2019/20, PCCD's Office of Victims' Services (OVS) administered state and federal funding supporting 208 victim services programs, providing vital services for approximately 395,000 victims of crime across Pennsylvania.*

PCCD's Office of Victims' Services (OVS) administers and provides oversight to multiple funding streams, including federal *Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)* and *STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant* funds, as well as state *Rights and Services Act (RASA)* and *Victims of Juvenile Offenders (VOJO)*. VOCA monies are utilized to provide direct services to victims of crime to help them cope with the physical, emotional, and criminal justice issues associated with crime. STOP Violence Against Women federal grants help improve the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, and enhance services available to victims of these crimes. Counties use state RASA monies to provide services that fulfill mandated victims' rights, as established by the Crime Victim's Act, and state VOJO dollars to assist crime victims whose offenders were under the age of 18. Collectively, these funding streams supported 208 victim services programs for FY 2019-20, providing vital services for approximately 395,000 victims across Pennsylvania.

### **Sexual Assault Counseling Claims**

On November 26, 2019, Governor Wolf signed House Bill 962 into law ([Act 87 of 2019](#)). The bill added a new section under 42 Pa.C.S. §9730.3, which covers the costs of therapy and counseling for victims of childhood and adult sexual abuse in the Commonwealth.

The sexual assault counseling claim process was modeled after the Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP), also administered by PCCD. Unlike standard VCAP claims, sexual assault victims seeking counseling services related to their abuse under this new claim process are not required to have reported the assault to police or other authorities in order to be eligible to receive these counseling benefits. In addition, other considerations typically reviewed during the VCAP process, such as late filing, conduct, or non-cooperation, are also not included in this new claim process.

Under the new law, a victim of sexual abuse who was 18 or older at the time of the crime is potentially eligible for up to \$5,000 in counseling services (mental health therapy performed by or under the supervision of a psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed professional counselor, or licensed social worker). A victim of sexual abuse who was under 18 years of age at the time of the crime is potentially eligible for up to \$10,000 in counseling services. A total of \$5 million was allocated to cover the cost of the Program. On February 11, 2020, PCCD's Office of Victims' Services announced acceptance of sexual assault counseling claims for victims of sexual abuse. More information about this initiative is available on the PA Crime Victims website [here](#).

### **Pennsylvania Crime Victims' Mobile App (PCV)**

In March 2017, PCCD created and launched the free PCV Mobile App to serve Pennsylvania's crime victims and supporters who rely on their smart phones for information and assistance. The app, which received a 2017 PA Excellence in Technology Award at the PA Digital Government Summit and has been recognized as a Governor's Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management and Efficiency (GO-TIME) initiative, provides basic information on available services, including nearby victim services providers, the option to text or call victims' organizations, and the ability to check the status of a victims' compensation claim. In October 2017, the app was expanded further to allow victims and their families to file compensation claims directly.

During FY 19/20, over 1,100 individuals utilized the app to file 354 VCAP claims, which amounts to a 285% increase in claims being filed through the app since its launch in FY17/18.





## **Legislation Expanding Protections and Support for Crime Victims in Pennsylvania**

The 2019-2020 legislative session included significant milestones and progress in passage of laws seeking to protect crime victims in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On July 15, 2019, Governor Wolf [signed](#) a package of six bills into law expanding protections and support for crime victims in the Commonwealth.

- [HB 315](#), which criminalizes female genital mutilation by making it a first-degree felony;
- [HB 502](#), which amends the Crime Victims Act to allow the victim to be present in any criminal proceeding unless the court determines the victim's own testimony would be altered by hearing other witnesses;
- [HB 504](#), which prevents prosecutors from bringing up a victim's sexual history or prior allegations of sexual abuse while prosecuting certain crimes;
- [SB 399](#), which updates the Sexual Assault Testing and Evidence Collection Act, including requiring Pennsylvania State Police to establish procedures for anonymous victims and establishing timelines for submitting, testing, and storing rape kits.
- [SB 469](#), which established procedures protecting victims and witnesses with intellectual disabilities or autism spectrum disorder, including allowing for testimony and questioning to take place outside of a courtroom; and
- [SB 479](#), which expanded the list of crimes for which an out-of-court statement made by a child under 12 can be used.

### **2019 Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Awards**

The 2019 Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Award recipients were honored and recognized for their commitment to enhancing the lives of victims in Pennsylvania on December 3, 2019. The 2019 Pathfinder Award recipients included:

- Ms. Brenda Nogales of Nationalities Service Center (Philadelphia County) in the category of Individual Direct Service Award;
- Ms. Roxanne Davis of Crisis Center North (Allegheny County) in the category of Survivor Activist Service Award; and
- Mr. Kevin Steele, Montgomery County District Attorney, in the category of Allied Professional Service Award.

The Pathfinder Awards are administered by PCCD's Office of Victims' Services annually.



*The 2019-2020 legislative session included passage and enactment of important legislation expanding rights and protections of crime victims.*



## CHILD ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

*In FY 2019/20, PCCD's Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Committee continued its efforts to increase funding and supports for Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) across the state. CACs served 12,948 children in FY 19/20, and 99% of Pennsylvania's population now has a CAC available an hour or less away.*

### **Children's Advocacy Centers**

PCCD's Office of Research and Child Advocacy (ORCA) has been working with law enforcement, prosecutors, children and youth providers, medical professionals and victim service providers to establish a network of accredited CACs throughout the Commonwealth. CACs are utilized by Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs) to provide state-of-the-art treatment for the victims of child sexual abuse, child abuse, and neglect. They coordinate medical care, treatment and other social services for victims while gathering evidence, through age-appropriate forensic interviewing and other methods employed by MDITs, to build effective cases against alleged perpetrators. Research demonstrates that child abuse investigations handled through a CAC have a shorter length of time to disposition, better prosecution outcomes, higher rates of caregiver and child satisfaction, more referrals to mental health services, and better access to medical care.

During FY19/20, PCCD continued support for 40 accredited, accredited satellite, associate, and affiliate National Children's Alliance (NCA, the national association and accrediting body for CACs and MDITs) member CACs, as well as the PA State Chapter of CACs and MDITs, through \$2.2 million in state Act 28 funds. In FY 16/17, only 31 NCA members were supported; thus FY19/20 levels represent a 29% increase in NCA-member CAC services throughout Pennsylvania. PCCD also supports developing MDITs and CACs throughout the Commonwealth. A map of [CAC locations](#) is available on PCCD's website, and information on the individual grants awarded can be found on the [Grants](#) map.

### **Addressing Child Sexual Abuse through Endowment Act Funds**

The Endowment Act (Act 1 of 2013) directs PCCD to expend the \$48 million in monetary penalties imposed on the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to aid the victims of child sexual abuse in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The CACAC assists in advising the Commission in dispersing these funds.

Per the statute, funds must be distributed for the following purposes and for the benefit of the residents of the Commonwealth:

- 1) Programs or projects preventing child sexual abuse and/or assisting the victims of child sexual abuse;
- 2) Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams established under 23 Pa.C.S.;
- 3) Children's Advocacy Centers;
- 4) Victim Service Organizations providing services to children subjected to sexual abuse; and
- 5) Training of persons mandated by law to report child sexual abuse or to treat victims of child sexual abuse.

In FY19/20, PCCD awarded a total of 33 grants amounting to \$2.4 million. Grants were released to support programs assisting child abuse victims and adult survivors of child sexual abuse, CACs, victim service organizations, and the training of mental health therapists in evidence-based therapeutic modalities.

For further detailed information on the grants distributed under the Act, Annual Reports, and outcomes, please see PCCD's website on the [Endowment Act](#).



### ***New Study: Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Pennsylvania (2020)***

In January 2020, researchers from Pennsylvania State University presented findings from a study on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Pennsylvania. Sponsored by a grant from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, the study sought to understand characteristics of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and how it is identified and investigated by examining more than 2,000 Pennsylvania Children and Youth Services (CYS) reports of child sexual abuse or sexual exploitation between 2016-2017 within 10 counties. Ultimately, findings also included broader issues with child welfare response to sexual abuse and exploitation in Pennsylvania.

A few of the report's key findings and recommendations included:

- A need to look beyond fatalities and foster care placement through a statewide systematic review of county child maltreatment screening decisions and investigations;
- Amend Pennsylvania's statutory requirement for expungement of CYS cases dispositioned as "unfounded," "invalid," or "screened-out" without an investigation;
- Improve, standardize, and streamline statewide practice standards, including centralizing screening with highly trained and experienced staff;
- Modernize Pennsylvania's system for documenting CYS cases through a comprehensive and high-quality electronic case management system;
- Targeting state-level investments and increasing cross-county coordination of CACs to enhance service response and increase capacity; and
- Increase standards and investments for the professionals responsible for intake and response to ChildLine and CYS reports.

The CACAC took the findings of this report, as well as its members own observations from the field, to develop legislative recommendations to the General Assembly in early 2021.





# School Safety & Security

## *Key Initiatives*

FY 2019-2020



# Protecting PA's Students

## *Article XIII-B (School Safety and Security) of the Public School Code of 1949 created the School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) within PCCD.*

The SSSC was tasked with developing the criteria school entities are to use in performing school safety and security assessments, issuing a survey to school entities to measure school safety and security preparedness, and administering grants. Recent amendments by [Act 18 of 2019](#), [Act 67 of 2019](#), and [Act 30 of 2020](#) included the development of a model trauma-informed approach plan; model trainings for threat assessment teams; set training requirements for school resource officers (SROs), school police officers (SPOs) and school security guards; and created a grant program for school entities to address COVID-19.



### **School Health and Safety Grants to Address COVID-19**

Act 30 of 2020, enacted on June 5, 2020, transferred \$150 million in federal CARES Act funding to PCCD to be distributed to school districts, area career and technical centers, intermediate units, charter schools, regional charter schools, and cyber charter schools to support COVID-19 Disaster Emergency School Health and Safety Grants. Under Act 30's formula distribution, over 770 eligible school entities were eligible for funds.

In addition, \$7.5 million was allocated to PCCD to support COVID-19 Disaster Emergency Targeted School Health and Safety Grants for the 2020-2021 school year. Funding was made available to intermediate units applying on behalf of nonpublic schools for targeted grants to address COVID-19-related health and safety needs.

Eligible uses for the funding include the purchase of cleaning and sanitizing products; training and professional development of staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases; equipment purchases; modifying existing areas to support appropriate social distancing of students and staff; providing mental health services and supports; purchasing educational technology for distance learning; and other health and safety programs, items or services necessary to address the COVID-19 disaster emergency.

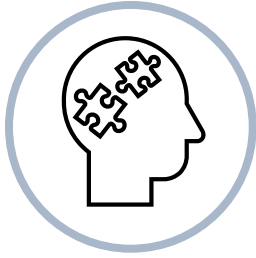
In June 2020, the Governor and PCCD announced the SSSC's approval of two funding announcements totaling \$157.5 million to help school entities address COVID-19-related health and safety needs for the 2020-2021 school year.



### **School Safety and Security Grants**

Among its various responsibilities, the SSSC administers the School Safety and Security Grant Program. In February 2020, PCCD announced the approval by the SSSC of \$53.7 million in school safety and security grants to 524 school entities and \$7.5 million in community violence prevention/reduction grants to 30 organizations located throughout the Commonwealth.

Projects were required to support the eligible categories/activities listed under Section 1306-B of the Public School Code of 1949, which includes performing school safety assessments; purchasing security-related technology and equipment; supporting school safety-related and behavioral-health trainings; preparing all-hazards plans; hiring school resource officers, school police officers, school counselors, social workers and school psychologists; and providing for trauma-informed approaches to education.



### ***Model Trauma-Informed Approach Plan***

To help educators and other school personnel understand how trauma can affect students in order to more effectively meet their needs, many schools and communities across the country – and in Pennsylvania – have implemented a trauma-informed approach to education. Trauma-informed school communities foster supportive learning environments through a whole-school systems change approach, beginning with universal efforts to increase awareness and understanding of trauma for all staff to become trauma sensitive and moving toward more comprehensive trauma responsive efforts providing tiered strategies and supports.

[Act 18 of 2019](#) was signed into law on June 28, 2019, amending Act 44 of 2018 and establishing new requirements and initiatives related to school safety and security in Pennsylvania. Among its provisions, Act 18 added Section 1311-B to Article XIII-B (School Safety and Security) of the PA Public School Code supporting the creation of a Trauma-Informed Approach Plan. The Act also established additional requirements in the PA Public School Code for training of board members and school employees in trauma-informed approaches to education.

Under [Article XIII-B](#) of the PA Public School Code, school entities can apply for funding through the SSSC for programs that address safety and security, including, but not limited to those that promote trauma-informed approaches to education. The law also required that, no later than August 31, 2019, the SSSC develop and adopt a Model Trauma-Informed Approach Plan that school entities must use when applying for School Safety and Security Grants.

Pursuant to these requirements, the SSSC established a Trauma-Informed Approaches to Education Workgroup comprised of stakeholders representing education, mental and behavioral health, social work, psychology, youth-serving organizations, and other disciplines, to develop guidelines providing a minimum set of criteria and elements for inclusion in school entities' Trauma-Informed Approach Plan which could be adapted to meet the unique needs, capabilities, and goals of specific school communities. Utilizing the Workgroup's input, PCCD developed and the SSSC adopted the [Model Trauma-Informed Approach Plan: Guidelines for School Entities](#) in August 2019.



### ***K-12 Threat Assessment Teams***

For nearly two decades, federal law enforcement and education agencies have recommended the use of multidisciplinary threat assessment in schools as a strategy to prevent targeted violence and other safety concerns. Originally developed by the U.S. Secret Service to identify potential threats to public officials, the threat assessment process is a fact-based, investigative approach to identify, assess, and manage individuals and situations where there is a risk of violence against self or others.

Research [suggests](#) that, as part of broader efforts to build a positive school climate that promotes student engagement and supports student needs, establishing or enhancing threat assessment capabilities as part of a comprehensive violence prevention strategy can reduce the likelihood of violence and can help address the mental and behavioral health needs of students. The [2018 Pennsylvania School Safety Task Force Report](#) also highlighted the need to increase access to mental health services for students, build connections to the community, as well as increase information sharing among schools, law enforcement agencies, and social services.

[Act 18 of 2019](#) amended the Public School Code of 1949 by adding Article XIII-E, Threat Assessment, which requires each school entity in Pennsylvania to establish a threat assessment team. The Act also tasked the SSSC within PCCD to research, develop, and provide free threat assessment guidelines, training and informational materials, as well as model procedures and guidelines for school entities. In December 2019, PCCD published resources for school entities, including:

- [Model K-12 Threat Assessment Procedures and Guidelines](#), to support school entities in developing their own policies and threat assessment teams in compliance with the expectations delineated in Act 18.
- [Guidance on Communication and Information on Confidentiality](#), in a Q&A format, to assist schools in ensuring open communication with other school-based intervention teams (particularly Student Assistance Program (SAP) and Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams) and maintaining appropriate confidentiality in accordance with state and federal law.
- [Information for School Staff, Parents, and Guardians](#), in a PowerPoint format, that school entities can adapt to include local connections and utilize as part of an interactive presentation.
- [Students Preventing Violence in School](#), in a PowerPoint format, provides information tailored to students





that students can access directly, teachers can use in the classroom, or school entities can otherwise adapt and incorporate into an interactive or multimedia presentation.

In 2019, PCCD applied for and was awarded \$777,282 in federal FY 2019 [Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing \(STOP\) School Violence Technology and Threat Assessment Solutions for Safer Schools Grant Program](#) by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). This three-year grant will support the development of a statewide Threat Assessment Technical Assistance and Training Network, developed and implemented by PCCD in collaboration with a well-qualified provider and other partners, including the PA Department of Education, PA State Police, and PA Emergency Management Agency. In April 2020, the SSSC approved the selection of Risk and Strategic Management (RSM) Corporation as the qualified entity to design, launch, and deliver Network activities using federal STOP School Violence funding. The Network launched during the 2020-2021 school year and will provide free, comprehensive training (online and in-person) and technical assistance to help schools work through the questions and challenges of implementing threat assessment.

#### **2019 PA Excellence in Technology Award**

PCCD was awarded a PA Excellence in Technology Award at the PA Digital Government Summit for its work to develop a school safety and security provider registry and application process. The project was created in response to requirements set forth in Act 44 of 2018, which created the School Safety and Security Committee within PCCD to establish criteria for physical safety and security assessments and student assistance and behavioral health support assessments in schools. In addition, the Act mandated the SSSC establish criteria for registration of individuals with knowledge and experience in matters of school safety and security qualifying the individual to conduct assessments.

The registry website was created through a collaborative effort of the staff of the Office of Administration Public Safety Delivery Center and PCCD. Dan Oneufer, Kelly Nissley, Ravi Petta, Ujjwal Mittal, Rakesh Paidi, Vanita Kakarla, Abhishek Kumar, Kirsten Kenyon and John Pfau accepted the award on behalf of PCCD at the Summit's recognition ceremony at the Harrisburg Hilton on December 12th, 2019. This technology award was the third in three consecutive years for PCCD. Prior awards were given for PCCD's mobile application for crime victims and JHELD system upgrades, which collects information from law enforcement and jail facilities on juvenile detention practices.

#### **Training for School Resource Officers, School Police Officers & School Security Guards**

On July 2, 2019, [Act 67 of 2019](#) was signed into law, amending Article XIII-C of the Pennsylvania School Code and making updates to Pennsylvania's school safety laws, specifically regarding the training and credentials required for school resource officers (SROs), school police officers (SPOs), and school security guards. In November 2019, Article XIII-C of the PA Public School Code was amended through Act 91 of 2019 requiring all school security personnel take the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Basic School Resource Officer Course or an equivalent course as determined by PCCD.

PCCD established a workgroup to assist in the determination of what constitutes an "equivalent training." Representatives from schools and school security personnel, local law enforcement, the Pennsylvania State Police, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and PCCD developed a set of criteria to be used when determining a program that is equivalent and beneficial for school security personnel. These criteria/standards were presented to the SSSC for review in November 2019 and were ultimately accepted and approved for use by the Commission on December 11, 2019. Additional information regarding school security personnel training and PCCD's [School Security Personnel Training Standards](#) is available on [PCCD's website](#).



#### **FY 2019-20 AT A GLANCE: SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY**

- 95,161 school safety incidents were reported by school entities in FY 19-20, compared with 152,430 reported in the prior year.
- 524 school entities received \$60,909,000 in state-appropriated School Safety and Security Grants in FY 2019-20.
- 2,095 School Resource Officers (SROs) and School Police Officers (SPOs) and 325 school security officers completed NASRO or equivalent training, as required by Act 67 of 2019.



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