



2020/2021 Annual Report

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency



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MESSAGE FROM PCCD'S CHAIRMAN



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) 2020-2021 Annual Report.

The FY 2020-21 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 2020-21 overlapped with one of the most trying and devastating time periods in our Commonwealth's - and nation's - history. Much of this report reflects on the ways PCCD and our partners adapted and adjusted operations and strategy in light of continued and compounding effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The Annual Report also includes updates regarding the agency's operations, including an overview of key performance measures and activities for FY 2020-21.

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) 265-8461.

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 city, likely Boston, showing a dense urban landscape with various buildings, streets, and green spaces. The sky is clear and blue. A large, dark blue, italicized text overlay is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image.

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.



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.

PCCD's Core Values

- ***Service*** - We shape our priorities around service, with a commitment to providing resources and supports that are responsive to the needs of individuals, organizations, and communities.
- ***Integrity*** - We maintain integrity in pursuit of our goals by ensuring fairness, equity, transparency, and excellence in all aspects of our work and adhering to the highest standards of ethical behavior.
- ***Collaboration*** - We empower communities through collaboration and expand our understanding by listening to individuals with lived experience and expertise.
- ***Innovation*** - We help launch evidence-informed, innovative programs at the state and local levels aligned with our mission, priorities, and values.
- ***Preparedness*** - We support training and education to ensure the preparedness of our practitioners.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES & 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 (CACs) 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.

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 (JJJPC)

JJPC 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. JJPC 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.

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.

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. The SSSC also administers the Violence Intervention & Prevention (VIP) Grant program.

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:*** OJP's 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 (ORESPD)

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 systems and victims. ORESPD 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. ORESPD 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 2020-21

AT A GLANCE

Summary of Activities from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

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 37 state and federal grant programs in FY 2020-21. In a single year, the agency made approximately \$374 million in awards to 970 unique organizations and agencies across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

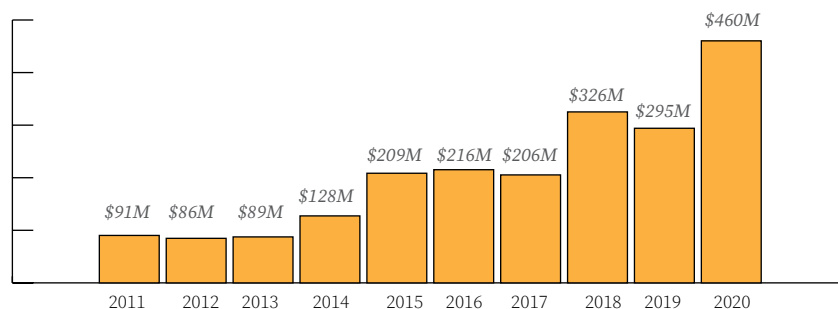
The administration of federal and state funding programs remains a central responsibility of the agency. In FY 2020-21, PCCD administered 37 state and federal grant programs, and – in a single year – made approximately \$374 million in awards to 970 unique organizations and agencies across the Commonwealth.

Among these various grant programs, in FY 2020-21, 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;
- Increasing available funding to support community-driven Gun Violence Reduction Grants;
- Victim services supports, including grants to victim service providers and children’s advocacy centers;
- Intermediate punishment (IP) program grants;
- 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 Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which supports security enhancements for churches, synagogues, mosques, and other organizations representing populations at greater risk of experiencing hate crimes.

Over 800 of PCCD-issued grants for FY 2020-21 were supported by \$262 million in federal funding.

TOTAL FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY PCCD PER YEAR, 2011-2020



The amount of funding administered by PCCD has more than quadrupled in the past decade, increasing from \$91 million in FY 2011-12 to approximately \$460 million in FY 2020-21.



Working Toward Safer & More Just Communities

Faced with continued and compounding impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic, rising rates of gun violence, and surges in overdose-related deaths, FY 2020-2021 was a difficult year for the Commonwealth and the nation.

Charting a New Path Forward:

PCCD's 2021-2025 Strategic Framework

In May 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, PCCD launched a virtual strategic planning process to update the agency's Strategic Framework for 2021-2025. The Strategic Framework serves as a foundation for setting agency-wide priorities and informing decision-making by the Commission, Advisory Committees, Subcommittees, and staff.

This strategic planning process included four phases:

- **Phase 1:** Initial planning and information gathering;
- **Phase 2:** Identifying priority areas and early drafting;
- **Phase 3:** Refining and finalizing the Strategic Framework; and
- **Phase 4:** Implementation planning and execution of the 2021-2025 Strategic Framework.

PCCD's strategic planning process was informed by feedback shared by individuals who make PCCD's work possible, as well as relevant data and research. Like other parts of PCCD's operations in FY2020-21, the agency's strategic planning efforts looked differently from prior editions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. PCCD's Executive Director and staff shared their perspectives on Pennsylvania's virtual strategic planning success with the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) in a [podcast episode](#).

On December 9, 2020, the Commission unanimously approved PCCD's [2021-2025 Strategic Framework](#). The goals, objectives, and strategies identified within the Strategic Framework will serve as a roadmap for PCCD as it continues to take on new responsibilities and initiatives to make the agency's mission a reality across

Addressing Continuing Impacts of COVID-19

The global COVID-19 pandemic, which began in spring 2020, impacted nearly every aspect of PCCD's programs, activities, and operations in FY 2020/2021, forcing the agency and its partners, subgrantees, and stakeholders to make adjustments as they navigated uncharted waters.

The coronavirus pandemic continued to play a significant and disrupting role in programming, operations, and priorities during FY 2020-21. As a grantmaking agency, PCCD closely monitored the needs of grantees as well as the evolving dynamics of the ongoing pandemic to provide flexibilities and supports as needed.

PCCD staff worked remotely during FY 2020-21 in response to continued safety concerns related to the global COVID-19 pandemic. According to an agency-wide staff engagement survey conducted in fall 2020, the majority of PCCD employees reported appreciating the opportunity to work remotely and feeling productive while working from home. As with other state agencies, PCCD continued to evaluate teleworking practices, policies, and procedures to ensure the agency's work could move forward in a productive and effective manner.

In FY 2020-21, PCCD also continued to administer funding



programs aimed at mitigating risks associated with COVID-19, including [grants](#) to school districts and other Pennsylvania school entities. The agency also administered [Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funds \(CESF\) grants](#) supporting state agencies (DOC, AOPC, PSP) as well as jails, juvenile detention centers, local law enforcement, district attorney's offices, probation and parole offices, judiciary/court houses, victim service providers and any other relevant criminal justice stakeholders

Preventing & Reducing Gun Violence

Providing support for effective, community-led gun violence prevention is one of PCCD's top strategic priorities.

PCCD's work is guided by [Executive Order 2019-06](#), signed by Governor Tom Wolf in August 2019, and by the [Report of Findings, Recommendations & Action Steps](#) developed by the [Special Council on Gun Violence](#).

PCCD's gun violence prevention and reduction initiatives include:

- [Grants & Funding](#): Supporting adoption and implementation of innovative, evidence-based violence reduction strategies through grants, with a focus on supporting community-driven approaches.
- [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.



GRANTS & FUNDING TO ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE

In recent years, PCCD has made investments to support local gun violence reduction efforts using available state and federal funds. PCCD has worked diligently to do what we can with the resources at our disposal to make progress on recommendations identified by the Special Council in its March 2020 report and respond to the needs of local communities.

For FY 2020-21, the School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) prioritized applications for state **Community Violence Prevention/Reduction (CVP/R) Grants** that proposed utilizing evidence-based or evidence-informed programs to reduce or prevent gun violence and group-related violence. In February 2021, the Committee [approved](#) \$7.5 million in CVP/R Grants, including \$3.2 million to support 11 projects specifically focused on gun violence prevention and reduction strategies.

In May 2021, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) approved a **funding framework** to make additional investments in community-led strategies to reduce gun violence. PCCD

announced availability of \$5 million in state 2021 Gun Violence Reduction grant funding to support eligible applicants in areas of Pennsylvania with the highest rates of gun violence. Ultimately, the goals of this competitive grant program were to:

- Address immediate, short-term, and long-term public safety needs in Pennsylvania's communities;
- Help fulfill one of the Special Council's recommendations by focusing specifically on supporting smaller, grassroots groups working in areas with the highest rates of gun violence; and
- Propose investments in strategies and promising practices endorsed by the Special Council, including violence interruption and street outreach initiatives, "Safe Passages" programs designed to improve safety for youth and adults going to and from schools and community centers, and improving coordination of care for individuals who have survived shootings, among other approaches.



SPECIAL COUNCIL ON GUN VIOLENCE

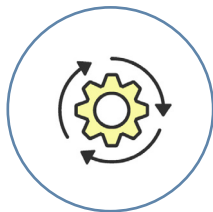
The Special Council on Gun Violence met twice during FY 2020-21. On October 9, 2020, the Special Council [reconvened](#) to mark one year since their initial meeting. State agencies provided updates on progress in implementing recommendations from the Council's [Report of Findings, Recommendations, and Action Steps](#). Special Council members also heard presentations from local communities working to address gun violence. The Council met again on April 30, 2021 to examine the data and drivers of gun violence statewide, as well as specifically looking at the surge of violence occurring in the City of Philadelphia; members were briefed on state and local efforts to curb gun crimes by Philadelphia Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw and members of the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

To understand the *impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local gun violence prevention efforts*, PCCD staff met virtually with nine grantees implementing gun violence reduction strategies. These conversations, which took place between December 2020 and January 2021, were also designed to gather information about strategies grantees employed using state funding to prevent shootings, homicides, and other firearm-related crime in their communities. Grantees shared success stories as well as “lessons learned” from their efforts to curb gun violence using a variety of models and programs. This included adaptations and adjustments made in light of the global pandemic. In April 2021, PCCD published a [report](#) highlighting common themes and promising practices gleaned from these discussions, including areas for additional support and assistance identified by grantees.

In addition, in June 2021, the Commission approved funding to support a new full-time *Philadelphia Gun Violence Reduction Coordinator* position within the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. The Coordinator works with state and local leadership on an ongoing basis, as well as with community-based organizations, to assess available resources and gaps in services. Over the next three-year period, the Coordinator will also help develop strategies that impact gun violence and support grassroots groups and other community-based organizations within the City of Philadelphia.



DATA & RESEARCH

As part of its efforts to implement recommendations from the Special Council, in September 2020, PCCD published a [new research agenda](#) for gun violence in the Commonwealth to answer key questions and address current gaps. The agency also continued to coordinate with related state agencies and other partners to access and analyze relevant public safety and public health datasets that can increase understanding of gun violence and inform action at the state level.



GUN VIOLENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA

- 1,752 Pennsylvanians died from gunshot wounds in 2020 – a 13% increase over the prior year.
- The number of gun-related homicides and aggravated assaults with firearms also sharply increased between 2019 and 2020 across Pennsylvania. According to the CDC, the number of gun homicides statewide in 2020 increased 44% compared with 2019 (788 vs. 548 gun homicides, respectively). The number of aggravated assaults with firearms also reached a five-year high in 2020 (6,395).
- According to [PSP](#), guns are used in the vast majority of homicides in Pennsylvania (78.3% in 2020).
- The surge in firearm-related deaths in 2020 coincided with record gun sales. According to [data](#) from PSP, background check requests through the PA Instant Check System (PICS) increased by 47% in 2020 compared with the prior year. More than 1.1 million firearm sales and transfers were completed statewide in 2020.
- Gun violence also disproportionately impacts people of color and historically marginalized communities. Black Pennsylvanians are three times as likely as White Pennsylvanians to die as a result of firearm-related injuries, according to CDC [data](#).

Addressing Racial & Ethnic Disparities

PCCD is committed to supporting programs and practices that promote justice for all citizens and communities in Pennsylvania, including efforts to identify and address racial and ethnic disparities within the systems we engage.



NEW ADULT RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITIES SUBCOMMITTEE GETS UNDERWAY

In June 2020, PCCD announced the creation of a new Adult Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Subcommittee under the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC), complementing an existing youth-focused Subcommittee of the same name already in place within its Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Committee (JJDCP).

In July 2020, PCCD announced that Keir Bradford-Grey of the Defender Association of Philadelphia would serve as chair of the new Subcommittee, which held its first meeting on January 14, 2021. The overarching focus of the Subcommittee's first meeting was on identifying where disparities exist and what can be done to eliminate them. Group members undertook efforts to develop goals and priorities, as well as identify potential resources related to data analysis.



REVIEWING CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING SHERIFFS & DEPUTY SHERIFFS

In response to calls for law enforcement reform and accountability, on July 7, 2020, the Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Education and Training Board (SDSETB) announced new efforts to review the Board's use of force training standards and related curriculum. The goal of this review was to identify areas that could improve community relations and prepare sheriffs and deputy sheriffs across the Commonwealth to interact with community members in a professional, safe, and fair manner. The Board used the "Policing in the 21st Century" report as a guide to identify necessary revisions. Several outcomes resulted from Board discussions:

- Revisions were made to basic subjects, including communications, de-escalation, and cultural diversity, with revisions currently underway for the use of force module.
- The Board will establish a de-escalation continuing education subject in 2023 for all sheriffs and deputies, along with continuing education focused on addiction and substance use disorder.
- PCCD staff, course instructors, and several workgroup members reviewed all of the videos used in training and the LaserShot scenarios to identify any implied bias. The videos were found to be adequately diverse.
- Staff worked with PSU on diversifying the instructor pool.
- Staff began revisions on many of the hands-on scenarios to have more de-escalation components.

PENNSYLVANIA ENACTS NEW LAW ENFORCEMENT REFORM BILLS

On July 14, 2020, PCCD hosted a bill signing for two law enforcement reform measures by Governor Tom Wolf. The governor was joined by Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro, PCCD Executive Director Mike Pennington, members of the legislature, the Pennsylvania State Police, and Adult R/ED Subcommittee Chair Keir Bradford-Grey for the bill signing.

House Bill 1841 mandates a thorough background check for law enforcement applicants prior to being offered employment, and also requires law enforcement agencies to disclose employment information. The bill also established an electronic database containing separation records of law enforcement officers housed and maintained by the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC).

House Bill 1910 requires mental health evaluations of law enforcement officers as a condition of continued employment, with a particular focus on PTSD. The bill also requires training for police officers on use of deadly force, trauma-informed care, de-escalation and harm reduction techniques, community and cultural awareness, implicit bias, procedural justice, and reconciliation approaches. Under the bill, magisterial district judges (MDJs) must also complete one course on the identification and reporting of suspected child abuse and court proceedings involving children as part of their annual continuing education requirements.



Governor Tom Wolf joins lawmakers and other guests at a bill signing ceremony on July 14, 2020, hosted at PCCD's offices in Harrisburg, PA.

Nonprofit Security Grant Program

Established in 2019 by Act 83, the Nonprofit Security Grant Program provides funding to enhance safety and security efforts for faith-based institutions and non-profit organizations.

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 2021, 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; and
- Any other safety or security-related project enhancing the safety or security of the nonprofit organization

On March 10, 2021, PCCD [announced](#) awards for security enhancement projects for 130 churches, synagogues, and other nonprofit organizations throughout the Commonwealth.



Governor Wolf joins legislators and advocates to sign Act 83 of 2019, which established the Nonprofit Security Grant Program within PCCD.

Combating the Overdose Epidemic

PCCD works with partners at the federal, state, and local levels to invest in a wide range of programs and strategies aimed at preventing, addressing, and mitigating impacts of Pennsylvania’s substance use crisis.



COMPREHENSIVE, EVIDENCE-BASED 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 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 2020-2021, PCCD awarded \$1,140,162 to eight applications for adult-focused Category One projects, and two applications requesting up to \$550,000 for Category Two and Three SAEDR projects. In addition, PCCD awarded \$704,167 for five youth-focused SAEDR grants.



OVERDOSE PREVENTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (TAC)

Throughout FY 2020-21, 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 2020-21, the TAC at PERU assisted 48 counties in establishing and/or supporting their own overdose prevention coalitions.

NALOXONE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS PROGRAM (NFRP)

Since 2017, PCCD has supported statewide distribution of lifesaving naloxone to communities across the Commonwealth. The [Naloxone for First Responders Program](#) provides intranasal naloxone kits to a wide range of first responders statewide at no cost using a network of local distribution hubs, or Centralized Coordinating Entities (CCEs).

FY 2020-21 was a record year for naloxone distribution. Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, CCEs provided 43,657 kits of naloxone to first responder groups in all 67 counties. These efforts resulted in 3,389 reported overdose reversals, as well as 16,418 doses left behind during the year by EMS agencies and other first responders.

In addition to the network of County/Regional CCEs, PCCD also designated a state-level allocation of naloxone to supplement local naloxone distribution efforts and provide Narcan® to community-based organizations serving priority populations. The NFRP Statewide Naloxone Allocation Request Portal [launched](#) in March 2021, allowing eligible organizations to request additional naloxone nasal spray directly from PCCD.

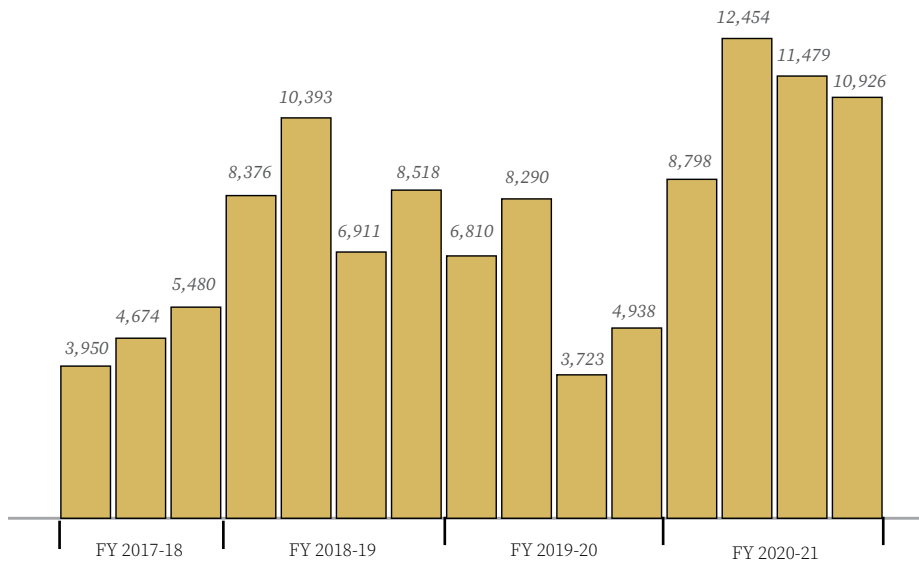
PCCD also launched two new initiatives focused on increasing naloxone access in Pennsylvania, which leveraged support and

funding from Vital Strategies and Bloomberg Philanthropies:

- In March 2021, PCCD launched a new County Jail Naloxone Reentry Initiative, developed in partnership with the Pennsylvania Sheriffs’ Association, which aimed to increase the number of jails implementing naloxone distribution protocols for individuals leaving facilities and reentering the community.
- PCCD also partnered with Prevention Point Pittsburgh to develop and launch a new technical assistance program for grassroots organizations seeking to start or expand community-based naloxone programs.
- In addition to strategies aimed at increasing naloxone access for organizations and agencies in the Commonwealth, PCCD also provided Narcan® to support a [new statewide mail-to-home naloxone program](#) for individuals to request medication for personal use. The program was developed through a partnership with Prevention Point Pittsburgh and NEXT Distro.

These efforts were made possible through federal State Opioid Response (SOR) funds sub-awarded to PCCD from DDAP in FY 2020-21.

NUMBER OF KITS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH NFRP BY QUARTER, 2017-2021





PARTNERSHIP WITH VITAL STRATEGIES/BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES

In FY 2020-21, PCCD received \$500,000 in funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies through Vital Strategies to support the reduction of overdoses among probation and/or reentry populations at the county level. The County Overdose Reduction Program aims to fulfill that goal through three focus areas: 1) training and/or education for justice practitioners on substance use disorder, overdose prevention, and harm reduction; 2) non-incarcerative and non-coercive alternatives for substance-related technical violations and connections to supports; and 3) peer recovery support. In March 2021, the Commission approved applications for eight Pennsylvania counties under this funding announcement (Allegheny, Berks, Chester, Delaware, Franklin, Lackawanna, Lebanon, York).



COUNTY INTERMEDIATE PUNISHMENT (CIP)

Established by 42 Pa.C.S. Chapter 98, County Intermediate Punishment (CIP) provides funding support to participating counties for programs offering restrictive intermediate punishments for certain non-violent offenders. Act 115 of 2019 replaced County Intermediate Punishment as a sentencing option with an Order of Probation, for which restrictive conditions may be imposed. County Intermediate Punishment programs are restrictive conditions of probation imposed under section 9763 (c) or (d) (relating to adoption of guidelines for restrictive conditions).

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. 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 for IP and would otherwise have been sentenced to incarceration under Levels 2, 3, or 4 of the Pennsylvania Sentencing Guidelines.

In September 2020, PCCD awarded \$17,127,180 in state appropriations for the CIP program, which was distributed to 57 applicants representing 62 counties throughout the state. Under the 2020 CIP solicitation, eligible projects and activities included electronic monitoring; intensive supervision; work release; day reporting; and treatment services. Counties were expected to comply with current guidelines for CIP programs as restrictive conditions of probation in order to be eligible for funding.

In FY 2020-21, 18,939 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 167,423 jail days (calculation is based on the minimum sentence range of the sentencing guidelines). 85% of all participants successfully completed program requirements.



FY 2020-21 AT A GLANCE: INTERMEDIATE PUNISHMENT

- 63 counties with IP programs supported with PCCD funding.
- 18,939 individuals actively participated in an IP sentence during the fiscal year.
- 2,682 offenders successfully completed IP in FY 2020-21.
- \$7,224.41 - Average savings per offender who completed an IP sentence in FY 2020-21.
- 167,423 - Total number of jail days averted for all offenders who completed their IP sentence during FY 2020-21.



COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID, STIMULANT & SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION (COSSAP)

In 2020, PCCD submitted a competitive application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance seeking \$5,363,824 in federal COSSAP funds to support eight counties in implementing law enforcement diversion programs, jail-based screening protocols, and comprehensive reentry services. PCCD, in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh's Program Evaluation Research Unit (PERU) and the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General will provide training and technical assistance to counties. Each of the eight participating counties will hire a Local Case Manager to ensure linkage to treatment and support services for individuals referred through the LETI Program and other initiatives. Local Program Coordinators will also support implementation of key activities across diversion, screening, and reentry initiatives.



PROBLEM-SOLVING COURT INITIATIVES (INCLUDING DRUG COURTS)

Problem-solving courts, including specialty drug courts, and other diversionary programs provide alternatives to incarceration for Pennsylvanians in need of drug and alcohol and/or mental health services. According to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), Pennsylvania's first problem-solving court was an adult drug court program opened in Philadelphia in 1997. The success of that initial problem-solving court and those that followed prompted significant expansion across the Commonwealth over the past two decades. Pennsylvania now has more than 100 problem-solving courts, 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 about problem-solving courts and their locations can be found on [AOPC's website](#).

In September 2019, DDAP sub-awarded \$1.5 million in federal State Opioid Response (SOR) Supplemental Grant funding to PCCD to support county-based drug courts and innovative pre-trial diversion initiatives in 13 counties (Allegheny, Berks, Blair, Forest, Franklin, Greene, Mifflin, Montgomery, Northampton, Northumberland, Tioga, Wayne, and Westmoreland). 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.

In FY2020-21, drug courts experienced significant challenges in the wake of COVID-19, with many operating at limited capacity. Many of the counties supported through PCCD's Drug Court grants submitted Project Modification Requests (PMRs) to make adjustments to their grant activities due to evolving needs and challenges resulting from the pandemic, such as reallocating funds originally reserved for pro-social/recreational events, trainings, and travel costs.



FY 2020-21 AT A GLANCE: PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

- 8,662 individuals were served by Problem Solving Courts in FY2020-21.
- PCCD funding supported 55 problem solving courts statewide in 2020-21, up from 52 in the prior year and just 35 in FY 2016-17.
- 67% of Pennsylvania's population has access to an adult mental health court.
- 87.4% of Pennsylvania's population has access to an adult drug court, DUI court, or hybrid drug/DUI court.

*The number of individuals served through PCCD's County Jail-based Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program **increased 54% in FY 2020-21** compared with FY 2019-20, and has expanded more than tenfold from levels three years ago.*



RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT (RSAT)

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. PCCD administered \$905,766 in federal RSAT funding in FY 2020-21 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.

COUNTY JAIL-BASED MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT)

In FY 2020-21, PCCD continued to support a number of projects providing for medication assisted treatment (MAT) within county jails and upon release to the community that had been awarded in the previous fiscal year. In FY 19-20, PCCD awarded approximately \$5.6 million in state Act 80 funds to 16 counties 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/OJP'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.

As with other subgrantees, County Jail-based MAT Program grantees faced significant challenges due to COVID-19. All county jail grantees implemented protocols to mitigate the spread of the virus within their facilities, including limiting the access of outside treatment providers. As such, many grantees struggled to provide treatment services such as CBT and other group therapies as originally planned. In addition, counties had to navigate issues related to early releases, including coordinating and scheduling treatment services for program participants as they returned to the community.



FY 2020-21 AT A GLANCE: COUNTY JAIL-BASED MAT

- 1,718 individuals were served in county jail-based MAT programming in FY 2020-21, compared with 1,116 in the prior fiscal year and just 154 individuals in FY 2018-19.



Criminal Justice System Improvements

Key Initiatives

FY 2020-21

Improving PA's Criminal 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 making 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 2020-21 AT A GLANCE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

- All 67 Pennsylvania counties have a Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) in place.
- 62% of police officers worked in an accredited police force in 2020-21.
- 34 active reentry coalitions in Pennsylvania, up from 31 in the prior fiscal year.
- 18 counties actively participating in Pennsylvania Stepping Up Technical Assistance Center, and Stepping Up policies adopted in 35 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.
- 2,126 prosecutors and 389 public defenders received training through PCCD-funded initiatives in FY 2020-21.
- 81 courses offered on PA Virtual Training Network (PA VTN), an increase from the prior year (75).
- Since its launch, PA VTN has served 24,900 law enforcement officers, with 73,404 successfully completed trainings.
- 1,047 constables participated in initial training and continuing education provided by PCCD in FY 2020-21.
- 2,125 sheriffs and deputy sheriffs participating in initial training and continuing education provided by PCCD.

Collaboration & Planning Assistance

PCCD aims to increase the efficacy of state and local efforts to prevent crime and increase safety through interagency planning and collaboration.



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. More information about CJABs is available on PCCD's website.

The 2021 CJAB Conference took place virtually on April 20-22, 2021. The event was hosted in partnership with the County Commissioners Association of PA (CCAP). There were more than 470 participants who attended sessions covering a variety of topics in the criminal justice field. This was the first time that PCCD's CJAB Conference took place in an online setting, and post-conference feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive.



EMERGENCY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

On May 30, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf signed and authorized a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency authorizing the PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to use all available resources and personnel to respond to civil unrest and disturbances within Pennsylvania jurisdictions.

In August 2020, PCCD received an invitation from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance to apply for funds under the Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Program to support overtime costs incurred by local and state law enforcement due to incidents of civil unrest. PCCD received an award of \$3,546,047, which was awarded to PEMA and then sub-awarded to 18 counties and a sub-award to PSP.



BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) FUNDS

The [Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\) program](#) is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and is the primary source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. JAG funds can support a [wide range of program areas](#), including law enforcement; prosecution and court; prevention and education; corrections and community supervision; drug treatment and enforcement; planning, evaluation, and technology improvement; and crime victim and witness initiatives.

In September 2020, the Commission approved 38 applications requesting \$3.8 million in federal 2019/20 JAG Single Solicitation funds to implement projects and programs addressing the goals and objectives outlined in PCCD's 2016-2020 Strategic Framework.

One of PCCD's strategic priorities is to increase availability of high-quality reentry programs and practices across the Commonwealth.



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.

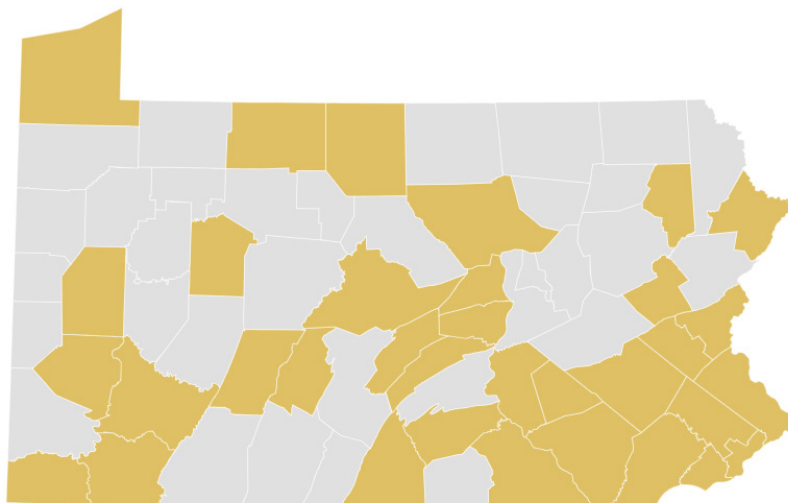
Coalitions of local stakeholders meet regularly to assess reentry practices and programming, identify gaps in service, and develop resources, programming, and practices to fill those gaps. These coalitions are comprised of local stakeholders working to positively impact the lives of returning citizens.

Following adoption of CJAC's strategic plan in 2019, PCCD started the process to develop County Reentry Coalition Minimum Operating Standards similar to those established for CJABs. In March 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.

There were 34 county-based reentry coalitions active in FY 2020/21, up from 31 in FY 2019/20. In FY 2020/21, federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds were also awarded to support reentry efforts in 11 counties.

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.

PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES WITH AN ACTIVE REENTRY COALITION (2020-21)



34 counties in Pennsylvania had active reentry coalitions in FY 2020-21 - an increase from the prior fiscal year.

BODY WORN CAMERA POLICY & RELATED PROGRAMS

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 FY 2017-18, PCCD 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 FY 2018-19, 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 FY 2019-20. PCCD received an additional \$975,801 in federal BWC-PIP funds in FY 2019-20 to support these initiatives.

In FY 2019-20, 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.

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 violent crime, including 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 2020/21, \$423,259 in PSN funds were awarded, including \$267,022 to the Eastern District and \$156,237 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.



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.

PCCD submitted a competitive application to the Bureau of Justice Statistics for federal NCHIP funds and was awarded \$2,182,968 in FY 2020/21. The application identified PSP and the Pennsylvania Office of Administration (OA) as the funding recipients to update the Pennsylvania Access To Criminal History (PATCH) public facing website, DNA fingerprint automation, and support for the Pennsylvania data redundancy project. The FY 2020 NCHIP funding was designed to assist states with finding ways to make more records available to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), including records in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), criminal history record information available through the Interstate Identification Index (III), and records in the NICS Indices. Through this funded project, the quality, completeness, and timeliness of records will be improved, and more records will become available in these 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 2020-21, 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 \$245,000, which was passed through to the PSP to support enhancing the completeness, automation, and transmittal of records to state and federal systems used by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).



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 2020-21 was the eighth year of NFSIA funding.

In December 2020, PCCD awarded five applications requesting \$684,688 in federal Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement 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 supports 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.



ADAM WALSH ACT FUNDS (AWA)

PCCD submitted a competitive application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for federal Adam Walsh Act (AWA) funds and received an award in the amount of \$400,000. The federal application identified PSP as a recipient for up to \$212,251 in funds to support efforts to convert paper files into digital format, overtime funds for sex offender compliance checks, mandated case review requirements, and to support PSP costs to train regionally based law enforcement officers in the requirements of the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA).

Mental Health Initiatives

In FY 2020-21, PCCD continued to invest in statewide and local efforts to improve coordination of and access to services for people with mental health, behavioral health, intellectual disabilities, and/or substance use disorders who come into contact with the justice system.

PCCD staff engaged with partners and stakeholders over the course of FY 2020-21 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.

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 2020-21, 35 Pennsylvania counties had passed Stepping Up resolutions and 21 counties were actively participating in the TA Center.

During FY 2020-21, CSG continued to provide supports for the statewide Stepping Up strategic planning pilot. In November 2020, CSG Justice Center staff presented preliminary findings from the [Behavioral Health-Criminal Justice Policy Scan and Planning Project](#). As part of that process, Justice Center staff conducted an initial review of statutory, administrative, and judicial policies across areas reflecting the most common and pressing challenges and gaps faced by communities. This work was complemented by interviews with more than 40 individuals at the state and local levels representing a wide range of expertise and experience.

A final version of the Policy Scan and accompanying [report](#) was published in June 2021. The project identified 15 recommendations focused on three priority areas:

- **Priority Area 1:** Improving local capacity to collect data and share information
- **Priority Area 2:** Increasing local diversion as early as possible
- **Priority Area 3:** Increasing local availability of and connections to housing

Making Improvements to County Adult Probation & Parole

Act 114 of 2019 tasks PCCD with reviewing and approving county adult probation and parole grant funding, 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.



IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT 114 OF 2019

Act 114 of 2019 provides for PCCD to review and approve county adult probation and parole grant funding, which includes Continuing County Adult Probation and Parole Grant (CCAPPG) funds, County Intermediate Punishment (IP) Programs, and Justice Reinvestment Initiative II (JRI-2) savings funds. CAPPAC's Funding Subcommittee was established and tasked with establishing a new Funding Plan for County Adult Probation and Parole and examining required and additional data elements that could be considered as part of the formulation of three funding formulas, pursuant to Act 114.



IMPROVEMENT OF ADULT PROBATION SERVICES FUNDS

Act 114 of 2019 provided for PCCD to review and approve county adult probation and parole grant funding, which includes Continuing County Adult Probation and Parole Grant funds. In December 2020, the Commission approved 65 grant awards totaling \$16,150,000 in state funds, allowing for counties to receive level funding and be 'held harmless' until a funding formula has been recommended by the CAPPAC and approved by the Commission.



BASIC TRAINING ACADEMY

In FY 2020/21, PCCD staff and CAPPAC undertook efforts to revise the training curriculum for the County Adult Probation and Parole Basic Training Academy (CBTA). Revision of the existing basic training curriculum was identified as a crucial need to enhance officer safety and the effectiveness of county offender supervision. The impetus to update the training content was due, in part, to the inability to conduct in-person training sessions due to COVID-19, and the recognized need to enhance county probation and parole officers' professional development to include evidence-based practice curricula. In the interim of establishing the new curriculum, PCCD signed a MOU with the Department of Corrections who conducted two, two-week, virtual classroom CBTA sessions in FY 2020-21. Between the two sessions, a total of 157 county adult probation officers successfully completed the basic training academy.



OPERATING STANDARDS

The Standards Subcommittee undertook work to review operating standards recommended by the County Chief Adult Probation and Parole Officers Association of PA. The group made some further refinements and additions to address priority areas, including diversity, equity, and inclusion, among other training topics. During the June 9th meeting, the Commission approved 81 initial County Adult Probation and Parole Operating Standards.

Training, Certification & Accreditation

One of PCCD's core values - and statutory responsibilities - is supporting training and education programs to increase the preparedness of practitioners, including constables, sheriffs/deputy sheriffs, law enforcement, and other justice-related stakeholders.



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 online.

In 2020, the Board continued to revise and update its curriculum, as well as explore the use of web-based training to better meet the needs of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs and produce cost savings. During the year, Board staff shifted to a teleworking model and developed an action plan and protocols for the safe return of sheriffs/deputies and continued Board training. With the approval of the Board, PCCD, and Pennsylvania State University (the Board's certification training provider), training resumed in June 2020.

Notably, the passage of Act 134 of 2020 increased surcharge collections for the Training Account and will help the SDSETB begin reimbursements to counties. This legislative fix was sought by PCCD and other stakeholders to help address longstanding fiscal challenges, and to ensure that training enhancements and other activities that were delayed can resume.

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 2020 calendar year, 2,243 active sheriffs and deputy sheriffs out of 2,250 in the Commonwealth were trained and certified/re-certified by the Board. For more information and the Sheriffs' Annual Reports, please see the [SDSETB webpage](#).



PENNSYLVANIA LAW ENFORCEMENT VIRTUAL TRAINING NETWORK (PA VTN)

PCCD and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) developed a Virtual Training Network (PA VTN) in 2012. When PA VTN was launched, there were five courses and 2,000 registered users. For FY2020-21, PA VTN recorded over 14,142 active users and offered 81 training courses. In FY 2020-21, law enforcement successfully completed 73,404 trainings through PA VTN – a 16% 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 with other programs at PCCD, the Constables' Training Program felt the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. PCCD program staff continued to provide guidance and assistance to constables via phone, email, and website updates while teleworking, and also recommended several courses of action to the Board to continue to meet training and certification needs. In August 2020, the Board approved a reduction to the training requirement for 2020 from 12 hours of continuing education (eight hours classroom and four hours online) to four hours online only. The Board also approved an extension to the firearms certification for constables who had a current firearms certification in 2020 until December 31, 2021.

There were 1,139 constables and deputy constables currently listed as active and certified in 2020. Of these, 862 or 76% were also certified to carry a firearm in the performance of their constable duties. A total of 25 newly elected or appointed constables and deputy constables successfully completed the 80-hour Basic Training and were certified in 2020. A total of 992 constables attended the 4-Hour online training to meet the Continuing Education Training requirement and were certified in 2020. An additional 13 constables successfully completed the 40-hour Basic Firearms Training and attained firearms certification in 2020. Also, during 2020, 29 constables successfully completed the four-hour Annual Firearms Qualification to carry a firearm while performing judicial duties. For more information and the Constables' Annual Reports, please visit the [CETB webpage](#).



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 FY 2020-21, 65% of police officers in the Commonwealth worked in an accredited agency. In 2016, PCCD partnered with the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association 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

Key Initiatives

FY 2020-21

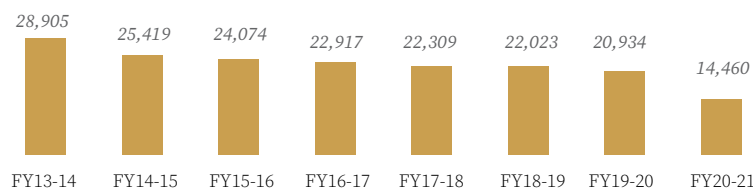
Juvenile Justice System Improvements

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 (JJJPC)* 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. JJJPC 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 (2013-2021)



14,460 Pennsylvania youth received a juvenile justice disposition in FY 2020-21 - a 30.9% decrease from the prior year, and a 50% reduction from 2013-14 levels.



FY 2020-21 AT A GLANCE: JUVENILE JUSTICE

- 14,460 juveniles received a juvenile justice disposition, down from 20,934 in FY 2019-20.
- 23 counties participated in SPEP evaluation in FY 2020-21.
- More than 2,170 juvenile probation officers supported and trained to advance the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy.
- 443 compliance monitoring visits conducted by PCCD with respect to holding juveniles.

Juvenile Justice Initiatives

PCCD aims to increase the efficacy of state and local efforts to prevent crime and increase safety through interagency planning and collaboration.



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.



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" (R/ED).

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 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.

In September 2021, the *Pennsylvania Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program* was conducted by Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. The Certificate Program is an intensive week-long training designed to support selected local counties within Pennsylvania in their efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in their juvenile justice systems. The three primary goals of the Certificate Program are to help jurisdictions reduce: disproportionate representation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system; disparate treatment of youth of color as compared to white youth within the juvenile justice system; and unnecessary entry and movement deeper into the juvenile justice system for youth of color.

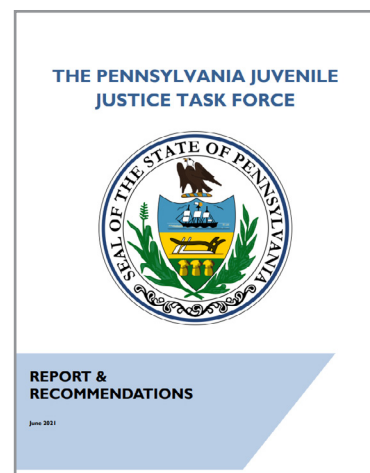
Seven county-level teams and one state-level team were chosen to participate in the Certificate Program; each team was comprised of eight members. These members could include: a juvenile justice professional, a juvenile court judge, a law enforcement leader, a community partner, a youth/family representative, and an individual coordinating reducing racial and ethnic disparities at the local level. All teams worked together to complete this intensive certificate program and began the development of a capstone project to address and reduce R/ED in their county juvenile justice systems.

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, 23 counties participated in SPEP™ evaluation in FY 2020/21, an increase from the prior year (21 counties).

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. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJJPC) has been reviewing the Task Force report and recommendations, to see how they will affect the Juvenile Justice System. The JJJPC is now waiting to review legislation or Juvenile Court Procedural Rules being introduced to address the recommendations made by the 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.

PCCD partnered with four counties to serve as pilot programs to develop and implement enhanced reentry services to youth (Allegheny, Lehigh, Berks, and Philadelphia). In addition, the University of Pittsburgh was sub-awarded funds to support their role as researcher and evaluator of the pilot efforts. These pilot programs focused on enhancing services in the academic and employment arenas and incorporating programming to focus on family engagement to help youth adjust to reentry, as well as succeed in a pro-social lifestyle, to influence recidivism. Across the four counties, 619 youth were served by the state's two-year pilot project. The University of Pittsburgh evaluation offers recommendations on the feasibility of replicating any of the approaches used by each of the pilot counties. Based on the recommendations in the evaluation, PCCD expects to use this information for planning discussions with both the JJSES Leadership Team and the Pennsylvania State Advisory Group to determine next steps, which would include replication of the most promising of these approaches.





Violence & Delinquency Prevention

Key Initiatives

FY 2020-21

Supporting Youth, Families & Communities

PCCD's unit of Violence Prevention is tasked with advancing policies and programs to prevent youth from engaging in problem behaviors (such as delinquency, violence, substance misuses, and school dropout), and to improve the quality of life for youth, their families, and their communities across Pennsylvania.

FY 2020-21 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 Department of Education (PDE) and the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), to gather critical information concerning risk factors and changes in patterns of substance misuse.

Over 281,000 Pennsylvania students from 413 school districts participated in the 2019 administration of PAYS - 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. The 2021 administration of PAYS will occur during the 2021-22 school year, with results being reported in spring 2022.

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 GRANTS

In FY 2020-21, the School Safety and Security Committee [approved](#) \$7.5 million (30 awards) in the form of community violence grants, which were a subset of the School Safety and Security Grants allocation, to nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education to implement programs that are designed to prevent violence. Historically, these grants have supported numerous violence prevention and intervention programs, ranging from mentoring to educational campaigns to dating, interpersonal, and sexual violence prevention programs. These programs also include increasing access to trauma-informed care and service delivery as well as school violence and bullying prevention.

In FY 2020-21, the Committee prioritized applications that proposed utilizing evidence-based or evidence-informed programs to reduce or prevent community-based violence (e.g., gun violence, group-related violence, etc.) in areas of the Commonwealth with high rates of violent crime. Of the 30 approved CVP/R grants, 11 projects totaling \$3.2 million focused on activities to specifically address gun violence.

VIOLENCE & 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 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 (2010-2021)



PCCD received \$4,039,000 in state VDPP funds in the FY 2020-21 budget, level with the amount appropriated in FY 2019-20. A portion of these funds were used to support programs serving youth and families in nine counties.

For FY 2020-21, PCCD invested a total of \$1,681,891 in state VDPP dollars in 12 evidence-based programs serving youth and families in nine counties throughout Pennsylvania. 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 FY 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.



EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION & INTERVENTION SUPPORT CENTER (EPIS)

PCCD partners with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to support [Penn State's EPIS](#), 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.

EPIS 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 2020-21, EPIS provided technical assistance across multiple areas, including:

- Supported 71 Communities That Care (CTC) sites across the Commonwealth, including the seven new Community Coalition Capacity Building projects onboarded in FY 2020-21;
- Assisted 51 evidence-based program implementations, 44 of which are PCCD-funded;
- Conducted approximately 20 PAYS presentations, some in partnership with PCCD staff;
- Hosted multiple program-specific learning communities where sites implementing a specific program (or those interested in learning more about the program to see if they would want to implement it) are able to meet quarterly to troubleshoot barriers, celebrate successes, and share ideas on how to improve their projects;
- Developed the "1st Wednesday at 1" webinar series, an ongoing, monthly event highlighting various aspects of PAYS to help the field better understand and utilize their PAYS data; and
- Engaged with DHS' Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) on both Families First as well as their Kinship Navigator projects, helping them to incorporate evidence-based principles into the design of each initiative.

During this fiscal year, EPIS served over 3,200 individual youth and over 340 parents with evidence-based 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 FY 2018-19, 2019-20, or 2020-21, PCCD continues to have a workgroup meet to determine which geographic regions of the state meet the data requirements of the Act.



FY 2020-21 AT A GLANCE: VIOLENCE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 281,000 youth participated in PAYS in 2019.
- 83% of school districts participated in PAYS in 2019 (up from 76% in 2017).
- There were 71 active Communities That Care (CTC) sites in FY 2020-21.
- 62% of youth had improved behavioral outcomes after participating in evidence-based programs funded by PCCD.



Victim Services & Child Advocacy

Key Initiatives

FY 2020-21

Responding to Victims' Needs

PCCD works 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 2020-21 AT A GLANCE: VICTIM SERVICES & CHILD ADVOCACY

- 328,548 victims served in Pennsylvania in FY 2020-21.
- 11,548 claims processed for VCAP in FY 2020-21.
- \$12,374,375 paid to or on behalf of crime victims through VCAP.
- 12,278 children were served by CACs in FY 2020-21.
- 99% of Pennsylvania's population has a CAC available within 60 minutes of travel time.
- 16,055 attendees provided training on victim service subjects.



FY 2020-21 VICTIM SERVICES INITIATIVES

In FY 2020/21, PCCD's Office of Victims' Services (OVS) administered state and federal funding supporting 208 victim services programs, providing vital services for approximately 329,000 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.

STOP IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

Under the federal Violence Against Women Act, states are required to submit "implementation plans" to the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) as a condition for receipt of their Services*Training*Officers*Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Funds. In FY 2020-21, PCCD/OVS staff began the statewide implementation planning process for use of Pennsylvania's STOP Formula Grant funding between 2021 through 2025. A 26-member statewide STOP Implementation Planning Committee was assembled, with representation from law enforcement, prosecution, major and minor judiciary, court administration, both the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) and the PA Coalition Against Rape (PCAR), the Office of Victim Advocate (OVA), and several members of VSAC. The Committee met six times over the course of the year.

To inform the planning process, OVS staff released a Statewide Stakeholder Survey to solicit feedback on issues facing police, prosecutors, courts, and victim advocates as they respond to the needs of all victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. PCCD also conducted five focus groups with front-line responders in civil legal services, victim services, prosecution, law enforcement, and the courts. In May 2021, VSAC approved Pennsylvania's 2021-2025 STOP Implementation Plan for submission to OVW for review and approval. A copy of the 2021-2025 STOP Implementation Plan is available on PCCD's website [here](#).

PA 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 2020-21, over 403 individuals utilized the app to file 122 VCAP claims, which amounts to a 63% decrease in claims being filed through the app since last fiscal year.



2020 GOVERNOR'S VICTIM SERVICE PATHFINDER AWARDS

On January 15, 2021, PCCD announced winners of the Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Awards. The 2020 Pathfinder Award recipients included:

- Jo Ellen Bowman of HAVIN, Inc. (Armstrong County) in the category of Individual Direct Service Award;
- Joyce McAneny of the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, recognized posthumously in the category of Individual Direct Service Award;
- Pearl Kim of Murphy Law Firm, in the category of Pathfinder Survivor Activist Award;
- Gail Brown of the Pittsburgh Action Against Rape in the category of Individual Prevention, Education and Outreach Award; and
- Lara Dushkewich of the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County in the category of Community Service Award.

Finally, the Pathfinder Program Award was awarded to the Nationalities Service Center's Immigrant Survivor Services Program, which provides culturally responsive support and advocacy for immigrant survivors, training and technical support for law enforcement, as well as efforts to enhance language accessibility.

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

2020 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE FINALIST

Stacie Brendlinger, VCAP Manager within the Office of Victims' Services, was a finalist for the 2020 Governor's Award for Excellence. While Stacie was not selected for an award, her actions rose to the level of a finalist due to her exceptional performance. Stacie was nominated as a result of the unexpected office closing as a result of COVID-19, coupled with VCAP's need to rely solely on a paper-based, hard-file claim processing system. Through Stacie's leadership, collaboration, and delegation skills, VCAP employees were able to begin teleworking two weeks after the office closing began. Stacie's actions were considered exceptional and beyond her assigned duties in that the unprecedented events of the COVID-19 pandemic required a complete restructuring of VCAP.



FY 2020-21 CHILD ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

In FY 2020/21 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 12,278 children in FY 2020-21, 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, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development (ORESPO) 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 FY2020-21, 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 2016-17, only 31 NCA members were supported; thus FY 2020-21 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.

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 FY 2020-21, PCCD awarded a total of seven grants amounting to \$494,573. Grants were released to support projects included under category 2 (MDITs) and category 5B (training of persons who treat victims of child sexual abuse). Collectively since 2015, a total of 245 grants amounting to \$18.6 million in Endowment Act funds have been awarded throughout the Commonwealth to support over 68,000 child victims and adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

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



RECOMMENDATIONS TO CHANGE PENNSYLVANIA'S CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES LAW (CPSL)

In FY 2020-21, members of the CACAC identified legislative and policy recommendations for potential amendments to Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law (CPSL), including:

1. Amendments to improve information sharing amongst multidisciplinary investigative team members;
2. Revising current law to allow both counties and the state to retain General Protective Services and Child Protective Services reports beyond the current expungement rules; and
3. Improving the requirements for mandated reporter training.

In March 2021, PCCD staff presented CACAC's recommendations to relevant Committee Chairs of the General Assembly for their consideration.



School Safety & Security

Key Initiatives

FY 2020-21

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 in 2018.

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.

Later in the fall, an additional \$49.8 million in federal ESSER funding was also transferred to PCCD from the PA Department of Education to be distributed to school districts via formula to support COVID-19 Disaster Emergency School Health and Safety Grants.



FY 2020-21 AT A GLANCE: SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

- 37,412 school safety incidents were reported by school entities in FY 2020-21, compared with 95,161 reported in the prior year.
- 78 trainings were provided in Pennsylvania during FY 2020-21.
- 735 School Resource Officers (SROs) and School Police Officers (SPOs) and 639 school security officers completed NASRO or equivalent training, as required by Act 67 of 2019.



BASELINE CRITERIA GUIDANCE DEVELOPED FOR SCHOOL ENTITIES

On February 24, 2021, the SSSC was presented with “Baseline Criteria” guidance that schools can use to guide their decisions about physical security and behavioral health needs. These criteria organize safety and security-related equipment, trainings, policies, programs, and activities into a tiered structure (e.g., from Tier 1, which would be the most basic element, to Tier 3, the most advanced). The tiered guidance serves as a resource schools can reference to help determine their level of need. These criteria were also designed to be flexible enough to meet the unique needs and varied requirements of all schools in Pennsylvania.



SCHOOL SAFETY & 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.

PCCD’s School Safety team developed a monitoring protocol, documentation templates for staff, and a monitoring report walkthrough PowerPoint presentation for schools to guide them as they complete the documentation. The monitoring tool was developed in Egrants for ease of access for all involved as well as to generate reports. A percentage of school entities was randomly chosen to be monitored by PCCD, in addition to school entities identified as “high risk” for reporting purposes. In total, PCCD identified 34 schools to be monitored from July through December 2021.



K-12 THREAT ASSESSMENT TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK LAUNCHES

[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 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 was designed to provide free, comprehensive training (online and in-person) and technical assistance to help schools work through the questions and challenges of implementing threat assessment. The Network launched its website and online training modules in April 2021, with plans to provide regional trainings starting in summer/fall 2021.



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