



## REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Central Texas Council of Governments' Criminal Justice Program (CJP) prioritizes funding requests and provides technical assistance to regional partners seeking justice-related grants. Local governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher learning, and non-profit agencies apply for funds to implement new programs or strengthen existing ones. Additionally, the CJP encourages agencies to develop special projects with multiple agencies to address individual needs in a cost effective manner through sharing of resources and efficiencies of scale.

The CJP's strategic vision is to reduce crime, improve public safety and enhance the quality of life in our 16-county area, as a result of local crime reduction strategies and program funding. The CJP plays an important role in assessing community needs, planning of the community response, equitable prioritization of funding applications, and support of criminal justice program implementation in this region.

The CJP's mission is to facilitate the provision of comprehensive coordinated services to the citizens of North Central Texas communities; reflecting the priorities identified in the Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Planning process; while also supporting the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office's (PSO) stated mission, priorities and preferences.

### **Process:**

With input and guidance from the Criminal Justice Policy Development Committee (CJPDC), the inaugural electronic survey project was developed in 2013, and results were incorporated in the 2014-2015 Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan. It has been routinely updated, with the latest version finalized June 2020.

Prior to survey distribution, a CJPDC Strategic Planning Subcommittee was formed. These subject matter experts provided valuable feedback and technical assistance to NCTCOG staff on survey content.

Following PSO guidelines stating the plan should not exceed a five-year cycle, an electronic regional survey of community stakeholders was developed and distributed in December 2024. Those survey results are incorporated in this July 2025 version.

Topics addressed in the survey include criminal justice / law enforcement, juvenile justice, mental health, substance abuse, and victim services. The survey was distributed via email to stakeholders consisting of elected officials, community-based organizations, judicial and law enforcement organizations, ISDs, local governments, state agencies, public health, social service providers, colleges and universities, and interested citizens.

NCTCOG will evaluate, update and submit the Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan and an Executive Summary by a deadline set by the PSO.

NOTE: Priorities listed below were utilized in reviewing and prioritizing FY26 grant cycle applications.

## **LOCAL PRIORITIES:**

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:**

#### **Law Enforcement:**

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Crime prevention programs and/or crime prevention equipment
- Equipment / technology for law enforcement
- Officer safety equipment (i.e., body armor, shields)
- Specialized investigators (i.e., sexual assault, cold case, crimes against children, family violence, financial crimes, human trafficking investigation)
- Specialized training for law enforcement

**Judicial / Courts:**

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Court-based victims services
- Specialized courts (i.e., family violence court, adult / juvenile drug court, mental health court, DWI court, human trafficking court)
- Specialized investigators (i.e., family violence, crimes against children, elder abuse, financial crimes, human trafficking)
- Specialized prosecutors (i.e., family violence, crimes against children, elder abuse, financial crimes, human trafficking)
- Treatment services for offenders

**JUVENILE JUSTICE:**

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Counseling / therapy (including specialized mental health assessment / treatment)
- Drop-out prevention and/or intervention
- First offender programs
- Job skills training – includes vocational / trade skills
- Diversion programs

**MENTAL HEALTH:**

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Access to medications
- Counseling / therapy (including dual diagnosis and/or intensive outpatient treatment)
- Residential treatment programs
- Specialized mental health training (i.e., for court personnel, law enforcement, victim assistance advocates)
- Substance abuse treatment services

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE:**

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Aftercare treatment services
- Alternatives to incarceration
- Counseling / therapy for youth and/or adults (including dual diagnosis and/or intensive outpatient treatment)
- Residential treatment programs
- Substance abuse prevention and/or intervention

**VICTIM SERVICES:**

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Advocacy
- Counseling / therapy for victims of crime
- Crisis intervention (includes hotline, assistance with crime victim compensation claims, information and referral, safety planning)
- Emergency shelter
- Legal services (i.e., protective orders, court accompaniment, court advocacy, court preparation)

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**UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS:**

*Not listed in order of priority:*

- Children
- Persons experiencing homelessness
- Persons with disabilities
- Senior citizens
- Socioeconomically disadvantaged