BJA nttac
National Training and Technical Assistance Center

Needs Assessment for a Mid-size, Rural Sheriff's Office

Policing & Crime | Courts | Corrections | Community-based

Criminal Justice Focus Area:

Policing & Crime

Topic:

Needs Assessment

Activity Description:

Initial Request:

The county's crime landscape has changed in recent years with an increase in vice crimes due to summer tourism, proximity to a casino, and a growing homeless population. Recent agency growth has felt reactive rather than strategic. The sheriff's office requested a needs assessment to identify and prioritize agency growth challenges, solutions, and available resources.

Agreed Upon Activities:

- Review and assessment of agency documents and data, including organization chart; mission, vision, and values; crime data; computer-aided dispatch data; annual reports; standard operating procedures and executive orders; training materials; and website and social media accounts.

- Virtual and onsite interviews and meetings with staff and community partners.

Learning Objectives:

- Assess organizational performance through document review, interviews, and onsite observation.

- Prepare a report documenting key findings and recommendations for agency growth.

Sustainable Outcomes:

- Organizational assessment report

- Best practices and recommendations for organizational change in a law enforcement setting