BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Program Goals

- SSP seeks to develop and test innovative strategies and implement evidence-based probation and parole approaches that improve supervision success rates. This will in turn increase community safety and reduce violent and other crime by effectively addressing participants' risks and needs and reducing recidivism. Among SSP's many objectives are to:

- Improve supervision strategies that will reduce recidivism.

- Promote and increase collaboration among agencies and officials who work in probation, parole, pretrial, law enforcement, treatment, reentry, and related community corrections fields.

- Develop and implement strategies for the identification, supervision, and treatment of young adult supervisees that may serve as a model for other agencies throughout the nation.

Smart Supervision Program (SSP)

Purpose of Report

The SSP Grantee Feedback Report is a biannual report prepared by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) that allows grantees to compare their project's reported performance measurement data to the SSP program as a whole. All reported data represent the 6-month period of April–September 2015, unless otherwise noted.

Purpose[1]

SSP's purpose is to improve probation and parole success rates and reduce crime committed by those under probation and parole supervision. Improved success rates lead to greater public safety, fewer admissions and returns to prisons and jails, and increased taxpayer savings.

Report Highlights

Grantees are training a significant number of community supervision officers and service providers and substantially increasing service referrals.

Compared with the previous 6-month period:

- The number of trainings increased by more than 50 percent.

- The number of community supervision officers trained slightly decreased (3 percent), but the number of service provider representatives trained increased (60 percent).

- The number of new participants nearly doubled (94 percent increase).

- The number of participants who were referred to services more than tripled (276 percent increase).

- The number of governance board meetings (down 7 percent) and membership (down 8 percent) both saw slight declines.

- The number of agencies creating new policies or procedures increased by one (four, up from three).

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[1] The Biannual Grantee Feedback Report includes performance data reported by BJA SSP grant recipients that conducted grant activities through September 2015. The following data comes from the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) data covering SSP grants from FY 2012 through FY 2014. The data reflected in this report represents the information as entered by grantees.

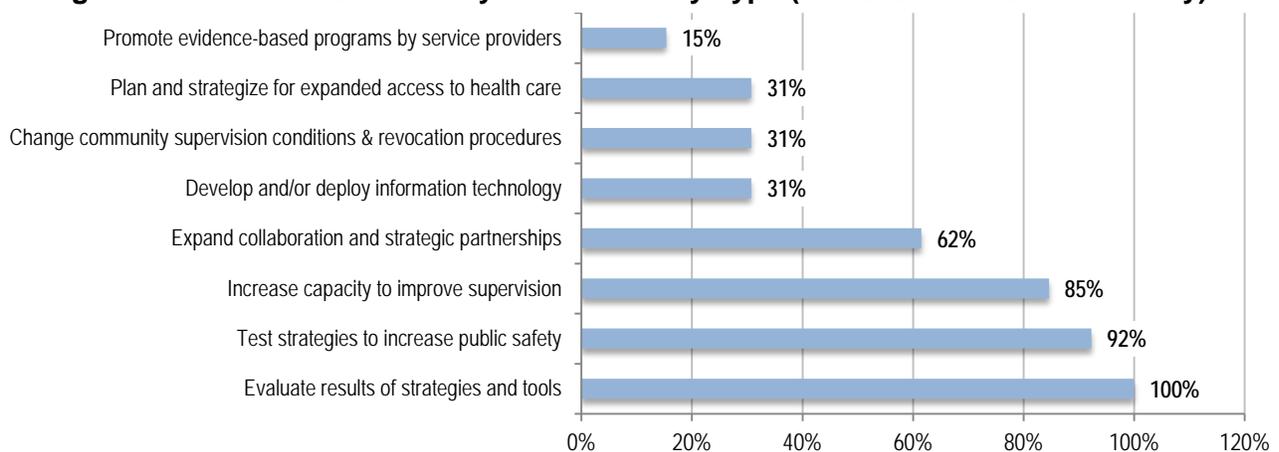*This report was prepared by Matthew D. Kenyon, CSR, Incorporated, under contract number GS-10F-0114L from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.*

Grantee Overview

Figure 1. Map of SSP Sites

Table 1. Active SSP Awards by Fiscal Year (FY)[2]

Federal FY	Number of active awards	Amount of active awards	Total funds awarded
2012	5	$2,253,926	$3,675,366
2013	6	$3,837,793	$3,837,793
2014	7	$4,749,846[3]	$4,558,858
2015	0[4]	$0	$4,771,344
Total	18	$10,841,565	$16,843,361

Figure 2. Percent of Grantees by Award Activity Type (FY 2013–2014 Grantees Only)[5]

Promote evidence-based programs by service providers	15%
Plan and strategize for expanded access to health care	31%
Change community supervision conditions & revocation procedures	31%
Develop and/or deploy information technology	31%
Expand collaboration and strategic partnerships	62%
Increase capacity to improve supervision	85%
Test strategies to increase public safety	92%
Evaluate results of strategies and tools	100%

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[2] An active award is one with an end date that has not expired, the grantee has not completed a final report in the PMT, and the award is still opened in the Grants Management System.

[3] Amount of active awards exceeds total funds awarded because one grantee received a supplemental award from FY15 funds.

[4] FY15 awards were not yet active as of this report. Seven awards were made in FY15 and are expected to begin reporting in October 2015.

[5] Activity types come from the FY 2015 solicitation: https://www.bja.gov/Funding/15SmartSupervisionSol.pdf. Grantees may pursue more than one strategy.

Table 2. Supervised Population of SSP Grantees

Measure	Total	Minimum	Average per grantee	Maximum
Supervised population of SSP grantees (*N* = 9)	100,556	84	11,173	48,989

SSP Program Completion Rates (*N* = 12)

Figure 3. Completion Rates (*N* = 12)
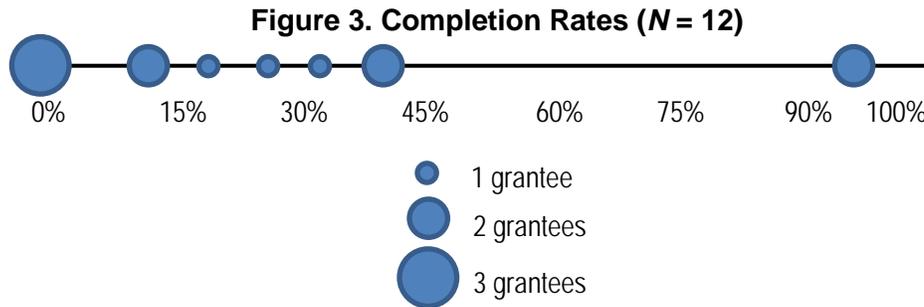
Completion rate is the ratio of those who successfully completed a program to all participants who exited a program. Eighty-three percent of grantees had a completion rate of less than 42 percent since the start of their awards. Only two grantees rose above this mark, with both achieving rates in the mid-90 percent range. Three awards had a completion rate of zero, indicating they had no successful exits since the start of the award, but they did have unsuccessful exits from their program (13, 10, and 1 participants unsuccessfully exiting, respectively).

Grantees Providing Training

Table 3. Grantee Training Activities

Measure	Total	Minimum	Average per grantee	Maximum
Number of trainings conducted (*n* = 13)	142	1	10.9	70
Number of community supervision officers trained (*n* = 13)	1,283	3	98.7	752
Number of service provider representatives trained (*n* = 5)	229	9	45.8	102

Training community supervision officers and service provider representatives was a common activity, with more than 1,500 people total trained over the course of 142 trainings. These trainings varied from statewide training on the SSP model to local trainings on risk-assessment instruments.

Grantees Providing Direct Services (*N* = 8)

Table 4. Program Progress by Time Elapsed and Participants Served

Measure	Overall	Minimum	Average value	Maximum
Estimated number of participants enrolled in program (as of September 2015)	8,198	52	1,025	6,658
Actual number of participants enrolled in program (as of September 2015)	7,392	33	924	5,884
Percent of estimated participants actually enrolled	87%	31%	83%	150%

For grantees that provide direct services as part of their grant, the estimated number of participants enrolled in the program as of September 2015 was calculated based on the estimated population to receive services and the program time elapsed. This was then compared with the actual number enrolled as of that date. Overall, 87 percent of the estimated total was actually enrolled. Programs varied between exceeding their estimate (150 percent) and serving less than a third of their estimate (31 percent).

Figure 4. Risk Assessment Level of New Participants
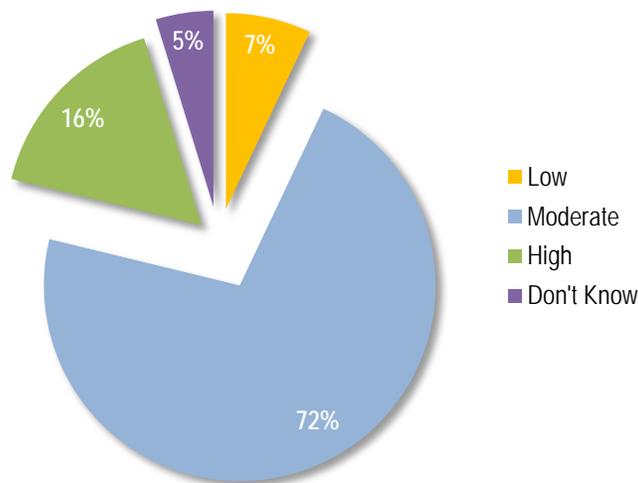
More than 1,000 new participants were enrolled in SSPs during the 6-month period, and grantees used a wide variety of validated risk assessment tools to determine their level of risk to recidivate. The majority of the participants had a moderate level of risk assessment (72 percent).

Grantees Providing Intervention and Treatment Services (*N* = 9)

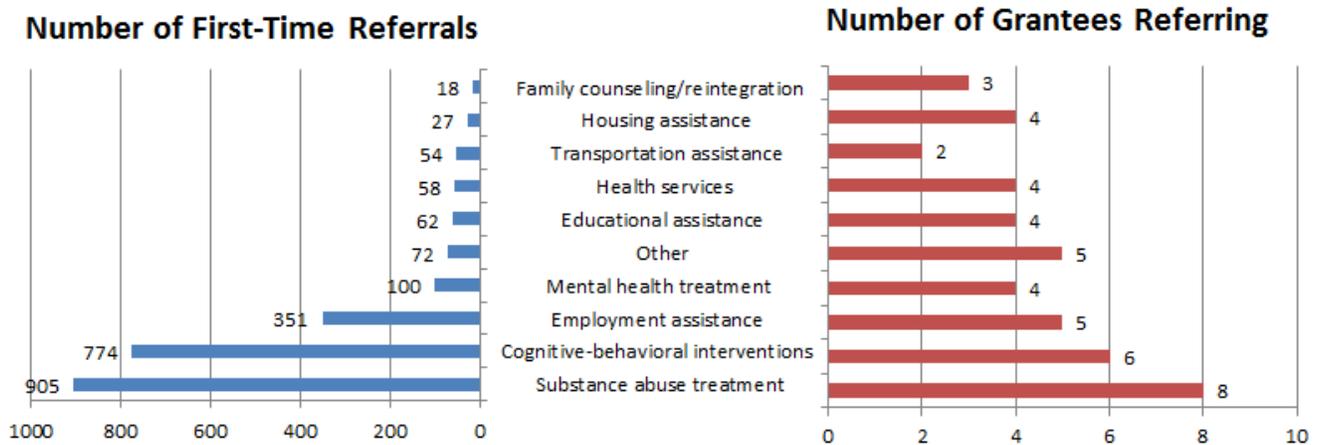**Figure 5. Most Referred Services, by Number of First-Time Referrals and Number of Grantees Referring**

Number of First-Time Referrals

Service	Number
Family counseling/reintegration	18
Housing assistance	27
Transportation assistance	54
Health services	58
Educational assistance	62
Other	72
Mental health treatment	100
Employment assistance	351
Cognitive-behavioral interventions	774
Substance abuse treatment	905

Number of Grantees Referring

Service	Number
Family counseling/reintegration	3
Housing assistance	4
Transportation assistance	2
Health services	4
Educational assistance	4
Other	5
Mental health treatment	4
Employment assistance	5
Cognitive-behavioral interventions	6
Substance abuse treatment	8

Table 5. Participants Under Supervision and Referred to Services

Measure	Total	Minimum	Average per grantee	Maximum
Total participants referred to one or more services	1,983	11	220	680

Almost 2,000 participants were referred to one or more services during the April–September 2015 period; substance abuse treatment was the most commonly referred service. The "Other" services include financial, legal, and domestic abuse.

Project Progress

Table 6. Governance Board Meetings and Membership

Measure	Total	Minimum	Average per grantee	Maximum
Number of times governance board met (*n* = 10)	30	1	3	8
Number of agencies on governance board (*n* = 10)	77	1	7.7	21

The governance board is responsible for overseeing SSP planning and implementation. On average, governance boards met three times during a 6-month period and had representation from 7.7 agencies. Most governance boards had representation from courts, community service providers, prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel.

Table 7. Organizational Change

Type of Change	Percent of grantees since start of their award (*N* = 18)
Implementing new policies or procedures	50% (9)
Producing new policy guides	11% (2)
Updating policies or procedures	33% (6)

One SSP goal is to create organizational change around the program. Since the start of their respective awards, nine grantees have implemented new policies or procedures, two produced new policy guides, and six updated policies or procedures. Policy changes grantees mentioned include guidelines for implementing evidence-based practices, changing participant service options to include the SSP, and updating policies on risk assessment.

Technical Assistance to Improve Outcomes

Do you have questions about how to get the most from your SSP grant? Be sure to contact CSG, the SSP program technical assistance provider.

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CSG Justice Center Website: https://csgjusticecenter.org/

Contact your CSG Team:
Heather Tubman-Carbone: htubman-carbone@csg.org
Nicole Jarrett: njarrett@csg.org

Upcoming CSG/SSP Events:
Webinar (March 15, 2-3:30 pm): Research Partner Practitioner Webinar for FY 15 SSP Grantees (all grantees welcome)
Webinar (Recorded): Impact of Trauma Exposure on Corrections Professionals.