

# BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

## 2019 Innovations in Supervision Initiative: Community Corrections Collaborations to Reduce Violent Crime and Recidivism

A critical opportunity for jurisdictions to increase public safety and reduce crime and recidivism is implementing targeted approaches to address crime committed by people currently under some form of community supervision. Coordinated, collaborative responses from law enforcement, prosecutors, and probation or parole agencies allow for better support and swifter sanctions. These agencies have traditionally been seen as distinct from one another on the front and back ends of the criminal justice system, but identifying shared goals and ways to best leverage resources can lead to improved outcomes.

A project of the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the *Innovations in Supervision Initiative: Community Corrections Collaborations to Reduce Violent Crime and Recidivism* seeks to understand what makes effective partnerships between these agencies and develops guidance for others to replicate successful efforts across the country.

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center—together with its partners the Police Foundation, Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, and George Mason University's Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence—worked with BJA to select three sites that have implemented these partnerships. The CSG Justice Center and its partners seek to glean information on how these sites established roles in the partnership and manage responsibilities; work together to improve information sharing, identify problems, and make collaborative decisions; and perform continual auditing and adjustment of processes. From this information, the CSG Justice Center and partners will identify common themes and promising elements for jurisdictions interested in planning and implementing similar partnerships.



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The selected sites below have opened their operations to the project partners as they (1) participate in an advisory committee to inform resources that guide future community corrections partnerships with law enforcement and/or prosecuting agencies, and (2) expand or improve their existing partnerships.

### **Dallas County (Texas) Community Supervision & Corrections Department (CSCD)**

Since 2014, CSCD has operated the Felony Domestic Violence Court (FDVC) program, which promotes victim and community safety by increasing the court's monitoring of those who are assessed to be of high risk of lethal domestic violence and placed on felony probation in the community. FDVC aims to increase accountability



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for the participant while also providing opportunities for prosocial change through cognitive behavioral intervention in areas of need. Representatives at all levels from several agencies—including CSCD leadership and community supervision officers, victim service providers, Battering Intervention and Prevention Program staff, and representatives from the district attorney and public defender’s offices—collaborate on the implementation of the program.

CSCD plans to assign two full-time officers to specialized caseloads and provide the officers with training focused specifically on intimate partner violence and supervising people with high risk of lethal violence, and to expand their target population geographically or by other factors.

## Michigan Department of Corrections (MI DOC)

One of MI DOC’s programs serves individuals who are placed on probation and assessed as moderate to high risk of being arrested within 3 years of release for another violent offense or nonviolent felony offense. MI DOC, the circuit court, the Muskegon County Prosecutor’s Office, and community-based providers collaborate to provide support and tailored case management services, including substance use treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy, trauma therapy, and residential services for people on probation who need higher levels of substance abuse treatment.

MI DOC plans to expand their partnership to include Michigan State Police, offer mediation and restorative

services, provide after-hours home visits with parole officers and law enforcement as well as implement a system to inform clients of potential sanctions.

## Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC)

The PA DOC’s Philadelphia Call-In Program is a Project Safe Neighborhood initiative that has been in operation since 2013 in the 22nd and 39th police districts and has since expanded to the 24th and 25th districts. PA DOC and the U.S. Attorney’s Office (USAO) for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania identify participants for the program by taking into consideration the risk level, location of residence, and community service needs for each person who is released to parole supervision. Aimed at serving people who are on parole and assessed as high risk of recidivism, the Call-In Program entails a one-time meeting with community and service providers, the USAO’s office, and law enforcement. This meeting is followed by a 3-day life skills orientation, assignment to a designated parole caseload, and a meeting with service providers to inform them of available services and initiate linkages. The two-fold message of severe consequences for continued criminal activity and the ability to make positive life change is reinforced by law enforcement, community members, and service providers.

PA DOC plans to expand the program to six additional districts; enhance the program with follow-up meetings to continue planning for success and reinforce accountability; provide transportation assistance; and connect clients to services for other basic needs.

## ABOUT BJA

BJA helps to make American communities safer by strengthening the nation’s criminal justice system: its grants, training and technical assistance, and policy development services provide state, local, and tribal governments with the cutting-edge tools and best practices they need to reduce violent and drug-related crime, support law enforcement, and combat victimization. To learn more about BJA, visit [bjajp.gov](http://bjajp.gov) or follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs.