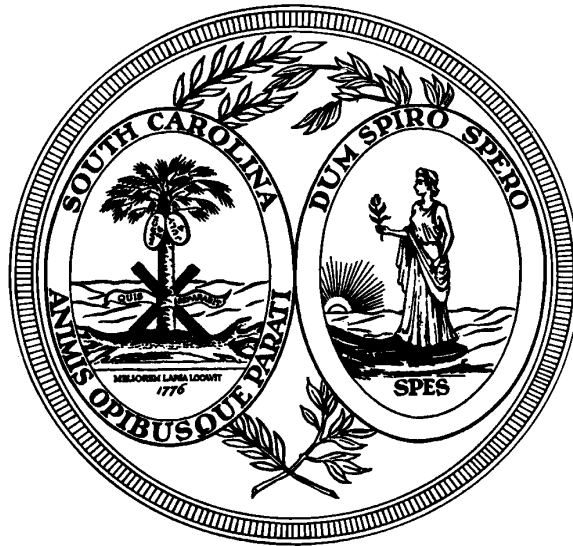


(Attachment 1A)

# South Carolina STATE STRATEGY

**JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM  
FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2013 - 2014**



---

**South Carolina Department of Public Safety  
Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs**

# CONTENTS

	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	1
DATA AND ANALYSIS .....	4
DRUGS .....	4
State Geography and Infrastructure .....	4
State Overview .....	4
VIOLENT CRIME .....	6
GANGS .....	6
JUVENILES .....	8
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE .....	9
CHILD ABUSE .....	9
ELDER ABUSE .....	10
COURTS .....	10
RESOURCE NEEDS .....	11
PREVENTION .....	11
LAW ENFORCEMENT .....	12
JUDICIAL .....	13
VICTIMS .....	13
RECORDS MANAGEMENT and INFORMATION SYSTEMS .....	14
PRIORITIES .....	16
SELECTED PROGRAMS .....	18
COURT SYSTEM EFFICIENCY .....	18
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS .....	18
DRUG and VIOLENT CRIME ENFORCEMENT .....	19
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE .....	20
CHILD/ELDER ABUSE .....	21
STATE FORENSIC and LOCAL DRUG ANALYSIS LABORATORIES .....	21
LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT .....	22
WHITE COLLAR CRIME .....	22
COORDINATION EFFORTS .....	23
STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION .....	23
OTHER COORDINATION EFFORTS .....	24

**State of South Carolina**

**Department of Public Safety, Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs**

Post Office Box 1993, Blythewood, South Carolina 29016  
Phone: (803) 896-8709 FAX: (803) 896-8714

Dr. Ed Harmon, Administrator

Bonnie Burns, Program Manager

Terri Reed, Administrative Assistant

Ginger Dukes, Program Coordinator

Joi Brunson, Program Coordinator

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, South Carolina's *Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2013-2014 State Strategy* is focused on drug and violent crime control, improving the functioning of the criminal justice system, and enhancing the delivery of justice.

Implementation of the JAG Program in South Carolina has been a cooperative effort among federal, state and local agencies working to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system. A wide array of programs and projects have been initiated through JAG grants and subsequently supported by state or local monies once grant funding was no longer available. Services provided by these grant funds have primarily addressed state and local law enforcement initiatives, followed by criminal justice records improvement, court system efficiency, substance abuse treatment and crime prevention.

Efforts to reduce drug and violent crime in South Carolina through enforcement, prevention and education have been successful as measured by a sustained decline in crime rates. Our violent crime rates (mirroring national declines) are at thirty-five year lows. South Carolina's property crime rates are at levels not seen since the mid-1970's (Source: *South Carolina Criminal and Juvenile Justice Trends, 2012*).

In the estimation of staff with the Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs in the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, no single identifiable initiative is responsible for these multi-decade improvements in crime reduction. We do believe, however, that the judicious application of grant funds into key sectors of the state and local criminal justice systems has promoted and perhaps accelerated these declines. The prudent allocation of funding to areas of greatest need (i.e., highest crime and modest resources), to initiatives that promote measureable efficiencies (e.g., Live Scan devices), and projects which demand multijurisdictional cooperation (e.g., task forces) has been a successful strategy.

A good example of a specific program that has been widely acknowledged as a success has been the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. By bringing law enforcement personnel into the public schools and taking a proactive rather than a reactive stance, these projects encourage students to avoid becoming involved in illegal activities. The positive feedback received from participants and continued interest in establishing SRO projects indicate that this will remain an important funding area. Also, with the reported increased presence of gangs, funding of gang investigators and other anti-gang initiatives will be given added importance.

Providing relief to the state's overburdened criminal court system has been accomplished by various methods and will continue to be a funding priority. Caseload data show that funding additional personnel in solicitor's (prosecutor's) offices has been one method of attacking the problems of jail overcrowding and case backlogs. Grant-funded drug prosecutors remain an important component of multijurisdictional narcotics task forces. Through these additional positions, solicitors can keep pace with the increase in drug-related cases that are generated

through task force investigations. Specialized prosecution units for violent crime, domestic violence and child/elder abuse have also made an impact on the quality of prosecution efforts for these types of cases.

Improvement of criminal justice information systems through advanced technology and automation of records has continued through projects implemented with JAG grants. More departments have acquired Live Scan devices allowing them to improve the quality of fingerprints submitted to the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) equipment has allowed more agencies to analyze latent prints retrieved from crime scenes and has led to the identification of hundreds of offenders who otherwise may have avoided arrest and prosecution. The use of computerized information systems has also progressed, and enhancements are constantly being made to the databases through which agencies access information concerning individuals in prisons and jails, dispositions of court cases, and persons wanted on outstanding warrants. Additionally, the JAG program will continue to support the projects for case management systems for all levels of court within the state.

Grant-funded narcotics and violent crime task forces continue to prove effective by bringing together law enforcement agencies from neighboring jurisdictions for the purpose of sharing resources and investigating offenders who cross jurisdictional boundaries. Joint operations yield more arrests and seizures of drugs and assets than any one of the agencies can attain by themselves. Task forces that have full-time prosecutors as members of their teams are a positive trend. For years this additional component has been beneficial by allowing the prosecutors to advise on the legal aspects of investigations and bring appropriate cases to federal court where longer sentences may be handed down. The creation of Multijurisdictional Task Forces (MJTF) has produced more comprehensive investigations by targeting individuals who have committed both violent and drug-related crimes as well as improving cooperation between law enforcement and solicitor's offices.

The priority of funding child/elder abuse investigations has steadily gained attention and has developed into a highly effective program area. Improved casework performed by specially trained officers and the increase in arrests they are able to make by concentrating solely on these crimes are significant achievements. Also impressive is the degree of inter-agency cooperation that has resulted from these projects. Improvements in the handling of incidents and a reduction of victim trauma (by decreasing the number of interviews and redundant questioning) have been attained by coordinating the efforts of law enforcement agencies with children's advocacy centers and the Department of Social Services. Dedicated Child/ Elder Abuse Prosecutors have also been funded.

Domestic violence will continue to be a priority. Investigators and prosecutors specializing in domestic violence cases have been funded over the past few years and the demand for these services is expected to increase. In addition, subgrantees are working with related agencies (such as social services) to coordinate efforts and ensure these crimes are reported and prosecuted. This multidisciplinary approach will be encouraged in future projects.

Until recently, drugs and other illegal substances submitted to SLED for analysis created a backlog, delaying cases going to trial. This situation has been eased somewhat by using grant funds to establish regional drug analysis labs at several local departments in accordance with SLED standards using grant funds. However, an expansion of sites throughout the state complete with appropriate staff and equipment is still needed to handle the volume of tests.

The JAG Program has provided tens of millions of dollars to support drug control and system improvement initiatives in the past several years, resulting in clear advancements in South Carolina's criminal justice system. Ultimately, achievement of the *State Strategy* objectives relies on both the priorities established through the process described earlier, as well as the subject matter and quality of the applications submitted by potential subgrantees. Through communication with local agencies, the expansion and replication of successful projects, and the implementation of innovative concepts, the Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs will continue to administer funding to worthwhile projects that further the reduction of crime in South Carolina.

## DATA AND ANALYSIS

### DRUGS

#### **State Geography and Infrastructure**

Although South Carolina is a small state, ranking 40th of the fifty states in terms of total land area, the state has a coastline of 187 miles and a system of intra-coastal waterways that reaches beyond its borders to the southern tip of Florida. The seacoast has numerous bays and harbors as well as the major Atlantic seaport of Charleston.

South Carolina's highway system includes five numbered interstate routes- 95, 20, 26, 77, and 85. These corridors and our rail system allow for effective passage of contraband through the state, to and from northern, southern and western points of supply and distribution. In addition, South Carolina has numerous county and private airstrips that provide another source of transit for operations in the importation of cocaine and marijuana.

South Carolina continues to be extremely vulnerable as an importation base and transit area for illicit drugs bound for the eastern seaboard of the United States. With its extensive coastline, numerous rural airstrips and matrix of interstate highways, South Carolina represents an attractive trans-shipment point.

#### **State Overview**

According to the latest data available, South Carolina's drug law arrest rate decreased 8.5 percent from 2010 to 2011 and has increased 167.9 percent since 1976. Information provided by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) indicates that there were 32,400 reported drug law arrests in South Carolina in 2011. The drug law arrest rate includes arrests for crimes related to the possession, distribution or manufacture of illegal narcotic substances. Marijuana arrests accounted for 63 percent of all drug arrests from 2005 to 2009. Crack cocaine was the second most frequently reported illicit substance in drug arrests from 2005 to 2009 accounting for 18.5 percent of drug arrests, followed by powder cocaine which accounted for 8.9 percent.

In calendar year 2013, there were 631 methamphetamine labs in South Carolina reported to SLED. During that same period, there were 61 children removed from meth lab environments by law enforcement officers in South Carolina. More inmates within the South Carolina Department of Corrections are serving time for drug offenses than any other offense category, 19.1 percent of the total 24,808 inmate population in FY 2010.

According to data recently provided by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), South Carolina is increasingly documented as a trans-shipment corridor for all manners of illicit drugs and drug proceeds. There is increasing evidence of organizational activity extending to major distribution hubs such as New York City, Southern Florida, Southern

Texas/Mexico, and Southern California. South Carolina is strategically located mid-way between Miami and New York City, where I-20, I-26 and I-77 intersect with I-95 and I-85. South Carolina's location is ideal for trans-shipping contraband throughout the Eastern Seaboard. From Mexico and the southwest Border States, traffickers travel on I-20 and I-85 to supply northeastern states with cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine and heroin.

The number of Mexican drug-trafficking cells is increasing at an alarming rate in South Carolina. These groups are importing multi-hundred kilogram quantities of cocaine, multi-pound quantities of methamphetamine and heroin, and ton quantities of marijuana into the state. The typical Mexican drug trafficker operating in South Carolina forwards drug proceeds back to the Southwest border area and Mexico by way of bulk currency shipments, money remittance services, and in private and commercial vehicles. Mexican drug traffickers are also using the state as a secondary hub for staging and distributing drugs and consolidating illicit drug proceeds. The greatest facilitator of this process is South Carolina's geographic location and a network of national and state-owned highways that criss-cross South Carolina's three major metropolitan centers, and traverse its borders with Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina. The geographic proximity of the state essentially makes a section of the state a suburb to Charlotte, North Carolina. Some Mexican, Asian, Canadian, and other international drug traffickers use wire remitter/wire transfer services and structured currency transactions that fall under the Bank Secrecy Act reporting requirement threshold.

Mexican money-laundering specialists use South Carolina to accumulate large quantities of illegal drug proceeds from both inside and outside of the state, and then forward bulk shipments at times in excess of a million dollars to Mexico. Over the past several years Mexican-manufactured Ice availability has accelerated. This methamphetamine is either converted from a liquid form domestically or imported in a crystal form directly from Mexico. Over the past year, there has been a sharp increase in the use and availability of heroin in the state. Seizures have been made targeting both Mexican heroin traffickers and domestic traffickers moving supplies of Colombian and Asian heroin into the region from New York and directly from overseas. The abuse of controlled pharmaceuticals in South Carolina is increasing at an epidemic rate. Lower-income Caucasians are the predominant abusers, but middle and upper-class households have also been found to abuse these drugs. According to investigations by the DEA Columbia Diversion Group, OxyContin®, methadone, Fentanyl, and hydrocodone pose the greatest concerns. These Schedule II and III drugs are usually taken with benzodiazepines and Soma®.

Specifically, cocaine prices in South Carolina have increased dramatically over the past two years, averaging \$32,000 to \$38,000 per kilogram. There has been a shift of cocaine from Atlanta to South Carolina as a trans-shipment point. According to the DEA, this is the result of intensive enforcement efforts in the Atlanta area. South Carolina is additionally a distribution point for Mexican marijuana and locally grown marijuana. There is also an ongoing trend of cartels sending representatives who establish remote marijuana grows on public land in the state. Meth continues to be manufactured and used by the local population in South Carolina as well as imported from Mexico.



## **VIOLENT CRIME**

South Carolina has consistently ranked among the states with the highest annual violent crime (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) rate. The state ranked first in the nation for seven consecutive years from 2002 through 2008 and ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2011. The state's violent crime rate has been higher than the national rate every year since 1975. In 2011, South Carolina's violent crime rate was 59.6 compared to a national violent crime rate of 38.6. Despite South Carolina's consistently high ranking among the states and the disparity between the state and national violent crime rates, South Carolina has followed the national pattern of sharp drops in violent crime in recent years. The state's 2011 violent crime rate represents a 2.2 percent decrease from 2010 and an 11.8 percent decrease from 2009.

South Carolina's murder rate ranked fourth nationally in 2011. Although the murder rate of .68 represented a 21.2 percent increase from 2010, 2009 represented the fewest number of murders reported in a year, as well as the lowest murder rate recorded since 1975. In 2011, firearms were involved in 66.7 percent of the murders, with handguns being the type of firearm most often reported. South Carolina's rape rate ranked 13<sup>th</sup> among all states. The 2011 rape rate of 3.56 represents a 6 percent increase from 2010. Rape victims were most often assaulted by acquaintances (50.7 percent) or a family member (14.5 percent). South Carolina's robbery rate ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> among the states. The state robbery rate of 9.86 represents an 8.1 percent decrease from 2010 to 2011. South Carolina's aggravated assault rate ranked third among the states in 2011. Although South Carolina's aggravated assault rate has been higher than the national rate every year since 1975, the 2011 rate of 45.5 represents a 1.7 percent decrease from 2010.

South Carolina has devoted great time and effort to developing an accurate and efficient crime reporting system. The state was a pioneer in crime reporting, having implemented a statewide incident-based reporting system in 1975. South Carolina participated in the FBI's pilot testing of National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in 1991 and for several years was the only state to have virtually 100 percent participation in NIBRS reporting among law enforcement agencies. Although there is speculation that this effective crime reporting system might contribute toward the state's high crime rates relative to other states, it almost certainly provides a highly accurate and reliable basis for internal comparisons within the state over time.

## **GANGS**

Gang violence represents a small, but potentially deadly, portion of overall violence in South Carolina. The *2011 National Gang Threat Assessment* estimated 2 to 4 gang members per 1,000 inhabitants in South Carolina, putting the state in the third of four tiers in terms of level of gang membership. That same document identified 104 separate gangs across the state. State estimates of gang violence were largely anecdotal prior to a modification to the South Carolina Incident-Based Reporting System (SCIBRS) in 1999 to allow for the identification of gang-related incidents.

According to the *2006-2010 Gun and Gang Crime in South Carolina* report, the number of gang incidents decreased 3.9 percent from 2006 to 2010; however, gang-related Index I Violence incidents increased 9.1 percent from 2006 to 2010. While the gang contribution of gang-related incidents to crime overall is small, it remains an important and dangerous contributor. A notable finding was that gang-related incidents are more likely to involve firearms. Gang-related murders were more likely to involve firearms than total murders (88.3 percent compared to 68.4 percent), gang-related robberies were more likely to involve firearms than total robberies (60.2 percent compared to 55.5 percent) and gang-related aggravated assaults were more likely to involve firearms than total aggravated assaults (45.3 percent compared to 23.2 percent). These findings point to a potentially deadly problem. The highest gang offender rate was reported among the 13 to 17 year old age group, followed by the 18 to 24 year old age group. The 13 to 17 year old age group accounted for 42.1 percent of all gang offenders, while offenders 24 years and younger accounted for 82.3 percent of all reported gang offenders.

Many of the gangs in South Carolina identify themselves as neighborhood sets or “crews” (e.g. the Six Deuce Brim and Tree Top Piru, the 48 Street crew, etc.) that are often loosely affiliated with national organizations, such as Bloods and Crips. These sets are often identified by School Resource Officers, who have proven to be an excellent source for intelligence on active groups. School Resource Officers in Myrtle Beach have confiscated gang rule books, known as “Books of Knowledge”, from members of the Gangster Disciples. This department has also identified almost 15 members of the Six Shot Crew. This group has members that range in age from 17 to 23 and have been known to carry weapons, commit armed robberies, and are involved in narcotics distribution. Gang investigators in the Greenville metropolitan area have identified over 1,800 gang members. The majority of these claim affiliation to Blood, Crip or Folk sets.

The City of Anderson Police Department (Upstate) has come into contact with the following Hispanic gangs, Sur 13, MS-13, Vatos Locos, and 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Approximately 45 individuals have been identified as members of these gangs. Anderson Gang Investigators have continued to maintain contact with informants to learn more about their members and activities. One informant recently provided valuable information leading to the solving of a high profile jewelry store robbery. Anderson County Gang Task Force has also been hard at work to collaboratively combat gangs in the Upstate. They have documented over 350 gang members in Anderson County. Among their investigations, the “Black Mafia Family” in particular has been responsible for home invasions, armed robberies, and narcotics offenses and have come under Federal investigation. MS-13 is also known to be active in narcotics distribution across the South and to be particularly aggressive towards law enforcement. Gang officers in Richland County (Columbia area) have also reported an increase in the presence of members of MS-13. This organization has a strong presence in Charlotte, NC and members have begun to relocate to suburban border communities in South Carolina in order to avoid detection and continue their criminal enterprises. Intelligence from the Myrtle Beach Police Department indicates that there has been MS-13 graffiti in a public housing project, and they have also identified several members of Vatos Locos and the Mexican Mafia in the

area. The area members of Vatos Locos are primarily ages 15-19 and have thus far been involved in property crimes including vandalism and tagging.

The Lowcountry area of the state, including Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties, has reported 32 known gangs in the area, and these groups have been responsible for crimes ranging from vandalism to murder-for-hire. The majority of the crimes are narcotics-related. Anecdotal evidence from the North Charleston Police Department indicates that South Carolina is home to over 1,000 members of the Insane Gangster Disciples, with over half of these persons living in the Lowcountry.

An additional group that is active in the state is the Hell's Angels. The Myrtle Beach Bike Week Spring Rally attracts over 100 Hell's Angels members from across the country and internationally according to area law enforcement agencies. The state is home to almost 20 known members, with several prospective members. This group is believed to be involved in prostitution, narcotics and extortion. Law enforcement in Lexington County also reports a local chapter of the Warlocks, which is another nationally known outlaw motorcycle gang.

The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) has long been a strong partner in anti-gang efforts across the state. As of June 30, 2011 the Security Threat Group (STG) Unit had identified 1,831 inmates that have been identified as being associated with gangs. Of these, they have identified 54 associated gangs including the Bloods, Folk Nation, the Five Percenters and Crips. The STG also reports the presence of gangs like the Aryan Brotherhood, Aryan Nations and various cult groups such as the Satanists and the Pecker Woods. The SCDC is a significant source of gang information, as all inmates are closely monitored for indications of gang membership or association. STG has maintained a practice of evidence collection and documentation including gang paraphernalia, mug shots and photographs of tattoos.

## **JUVENILES**

While the causes of delinquency are complex in nature, the following information provides insight into social factors that may influence delinquency. In the South Carolina Kids Count 2013 it was reported that 297,000 (or 28 percent) children under age 18 lived in families with incomes below the poverty level and that 48.6 percent of those live in families with incomes below 200 percent of the poverty level. There were 146,000 (13 percent) of our children under age 18 with no health insurance in 2011. In 2012, 555,000 children were living in single-parent homes, representing 52 percent of all children.

The *South Carolina Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2011* documented exposure to drugs and violence among School Year 2010-2011 students in both middle and high school. Among middle school students, 39.8 percent reported that they had carried a weapon, and 4.9 percent reported being in a gang in the past 12 months. Middle school students reported that 10.7 percent had ever used marijuana and that 7.2 percent had used marijuana in the past 30 days. Among high school students, 10 percent of the high school students considered themselves members of a gang in the last 12 months, and 8.1 percent carried a gun on school property in the past 30 days. Marijuana use among high school students was measured at 44.1 percent of

high school students having ever used marijuana and 24.1 percent having used marijuana in the past thirty days.

South Carolina's 2012 juvenile violent crime arrest rate of 4.5 per 10,000 juveniles represents a decrease of 8.9 percent from 2011. Following a similar pattern, the 2012 juvenile property crime arrest rate of 28.1 represents a 1.5 percent decrease from 2011. A total of 17,180 juvenile cases were referred to South Carolina solicitors in 2012, representing 15.8 percent decrease from 2010.

The number of juvenile referrals to solicitors has decreased every year since 2004. In 2011, 60 percent of all dispositions in South Carolina Family Court resulted in a sentence of probation supervision. In 2012, 1,265 children were admitted to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Reception & Evaluation Centers, representing a 23% decrease from 2011.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

In South Carolina in 2012, according to "The South Carolina Silent Witness Story, Report on Domestic Violence Homicide Victims from 2012", there were a total of 48 people murdered by a household member, according to the South Carolina definition. The demographics of the victims were as follows: 54% were White, 44% were African American, and 2% were Asian. The average age of the victims was 45 years old. Guns were the primary weapon used in the homicides. In 60% of the cases, a gunshot wound was listed as the primary cause of death. Knives were used in 19% of the cases; 11% were caused by blunt force trauma; 4% were strangulation; 4% were from asphyxiation; and 2% were from medical neglect. The state courts have disposed of eight cases. There are twenty-three trials pending, sixteen defendants have committed suicide, and one died while awaiting trial.

### **CHILD ABUSE**

According to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, statewide there were 27,295 reports of child abuse or neglect reported in 2012-2013. Of these, 5,794 (34.4 percent) were founded.

According to findings discussed in *By Force and Without Consent: A Five Year Overview of Sexual Violence: 2007- 2011*, 62 percent of all victims of sexual violence were under the age of 18. The rate of sexual violence against children remained the same from 2007 to 2011. Among children, the highest victimization rate was among 15 to 17 year old girls, followed by girls from ten to 14 years old. Although girls were the primary target of sexual violence against children (81.3 percent), 17.7 percent of child sexual violence victims were boys. Children were most often sexually attacked in a private residence (78.8 percent).

As computer technology advances, the Internet is often being used by perpetrators to target young victims. Young people continue to be bombarded with pornography and sexual approaches over the Internet, according to a study by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The study found that one in seven young people between ten and 17 who regularly use the Internet received unwanted sexual solicitations. A third of the young people

surveyed saw unwanted online sexual material during the same period. This was despite increased use of filtering, blocking and monitoring software in households of youth Internet users. On-line harassment was also reported by 9 percent of the youth surveyed. Grant-funded investigators in South Carolina have reported that they are continuing to see many cases involving the use of computers and the internet.

### **ELDER ABUSE**

According to the United States Census Bureau projections, the percentage of South Carolinians age 65 and over will increase significantly by the year 2030. In the 2000 Census, 12.1 percent of the population was 65 and older. By 2010, this age group will make up 13.6 percent of South Carolina's population. By 2030, about 1.1 million people 65 and over will live in South Carolina, making up 22 percent of the population - a 133.7 percent increase from 2000. South Carolina is projected to rank 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 2030 in terms of the population aged 65 and older. According to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, there were 3,272 maltreatments of adults assessed and 1,694 cases substantiated.

Elder abuse includes sexual, physical, or emotional abuse, as well as financial exploitation. Many cases involve neglect by the caregiver that fails to provide food, medicine and the maintenance of safe living conditions. Like children, elderly citizens are often the victims of abuse, because many are unable to care for themselves or provide a defense against the violent actions of others. Caregiver stress in many instances escalates to physical abuse of the elder person for whom services are provided. Another growing problem is financial exploitation of the elderly that includes the theft of assets (often by those closest to them), telemarketing scams, and Medicaid fraud.

Unfortunately, the problem of elder abuse still remains largely hidden. While there are no official national statistics on the prevalence of elder abuse, the National Center on Elder Abuse estimates that as many as 84 percent of abusive situations may go unreported.

### **COURTS**

Criminal justice professionals report that delays in the judicial process often hinder effective prosecution. If too much time passes between an incident/arrest and the subsequent hearing or trial, witnesses may be difficult to track down and testimony as to what occurred may no longer be clear. Specialized prosecutors and investigators for major and time intensive cases can speed the advance of these cases through the system.

Computerization of court records was a problem for many smaller judicial jurisdictions with no standardized format and ability to share information. In an effort to rectify this shortcoming, the South Carolina Judicial Department, with JAG and other federal funding, implemented a statewide technology plan to automate all systems within the Judicial Department and allow for the sharing of information between judicial jurisdictions. Implementation of this case management system (CMS) has been completed statewide. The CMS collects and manages the case information that is the basis for all of the court

operations. Access to information and consistency of processes and forms in the courts is “leveling the playing field” between rural and non-rural counties and courts. Through collaboration among counties, the Judicial Department, court personnel, and information technology professionals, consistent information is now electronically available across numerous court jurisdictions in South Carolina.

## **RESOURCE NEEDS**

Law enforcement officers, judges, treatment, prevention and education professionals across South Carolina are working to maximize services as budgets remain flat or decline. With extremely tight state and local budgets, Byrne funding is essential in many instances for agencies to implement needed programs. Even so, financial resources to fund more personnel, equipment and supplies are not the only needs identified by criminal justice agencies. Increasingly, improved coordination among federal, state and local criminal justice agencies is cited as a way to maximize resources. Innovative minds in all areas of criminal justice are exploring the uses of automation, computers and emerging technologies to reduce the time necessary to complete routine tasks, free personnel for more important work and gain greater accountability. Finally, leaders in criminal justice are increasingly focused on the evaluation of existing programs and methods to ensure that available funding is spent effectively. The following is a summary of resource needs in the South Carolina criminal justice system.

### **PREVENTION**

Because the future of our society rests in the hands of today’s young people, it is of vital importance to take all steps possible to keep them from becoming involved in criminal activity. A key element in prevention is to familiarize youth with law enforcement and the responsibilities of officers in order to foster relationships based on respect. In this regard, the School Resource Officer (SRO) program has functioned in South Carolina for several years with great success and will continue to be implemented in most schools. However, additional funding is needed to hire officers. SROs receive specialized training, provide pupils with law-related education, counseling services and referrals to social services agencies. They also serve as a deterrent to misconduct by being present full-time at the schools. While all middle and high school students would gain from the interaction with law enforcement, children living in high drug and crime areas and otherwise classified as “at-risk” would receive the most benefit. Early intervention via after-school and summer activities initiated and overseen by SROs (e.g. Explorer Clubs, sporting events, camps) can serve to instill pride and self-determination in juveniles and promote academic achievement.

A growing area of concern relates to an increase in drugs and violence linked to a larger gang presence in the state. Specialized gang investigators and other anti-gang initiatives are needed to stem this growing problem before it becomes unmanageable. Public awareness and prevention education would be beneficial for the entire community but, in particular, to young people who are targeted for recruitment into gangs.

On a wider scale, more participation in community-policing efforts would assist in crime prevention. It has been shown that creating mutually beneficial partnerships between citizens and law enforcement can lead to the elimination of street drug sales, the demolition of crack houses and safer neighborhoods. The reluctance to modify traditional methods of policing or thinking must be overcome if lasting progress toward achieving a crime-free environment is to be made. However, law enforcement agencies that want to make this effort often initially need financial assistance to implement the programs.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

As officers have become more specialized in the types of cases they handle, the importance of receiving appropriate training has grown. Narcotics officers would benefit from courses on conducting undercover drug buys and keeping up with the methods of operation employed by those in the illegal narcotics trade. Investigators specializing in family violence (domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse) need to learn more about handling these types of crimes for their own protection and for the welfare of those involved in the incidents. With a growing Hispanic and Asian population in South Carolina, officers should also be trained in cultural factors and language to help them effectively and appropriately handle situations involving these citizens. Additionally, white collar and computer crimes and financial exploitation of the elderly are complicated issues, difficult to investigate, and require specialized training. After receiving specialized instruction, these officers could go on to share their knowledge with others in their departments.

Favorable collaborations between and among agencies on local, state and federal levels need to be stressed to avoid fragmentation of services and to launch successful multijurisdictional investigations. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the formation of task forces that incorporate law enforcement agents from neighboring cities and counties. However, care must be taken to ensure that all participating departments are aware of their responsibilities and that cooperation and coordination with other agencies remains a top priority. The inclusion of assistant solicitors in the task forces is of great importance. Besides being on-hand to help guide the agents' investigations, they may be cross-designated as special assistant US attorneys and empowered to bring a number of investigations up to the federal level for prosecution. This blending together of law enforcement and prosecutorial elements is a worthwhile trend that makes for stronger cases against offenders and better assures that court hearings will proceed in a timely manner. Fatality Review Teams that examine cases of elder deaths, much like Child Fatality Review Teams, would help ensure that cases in which death resulted from abuse would not be written off as natural deaths.

Over the past several years, the lack of adequate drug testing facilities in law enforcement agencies has consistently been mentioned as a significant contributor to delay in prosecuting criminal cases. Until recently, the overwhelming majority of substances to be examined were submitted to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), and the limited number of criminologists there were unable to keep pace with the demand. This situation has been eased somewhat by establishing regional drug analysis labs at several departments in accordance with SLED standards. However, continued expansion of subgrantee sites

throughout the state, complete with knowledgeable staff and technically advanced equipment, is needed to handle the escalating volume of tests.

## **JUDICIAL**

Efforts to more effectively handle offenders should include the implementation or expansion of specialized courts, such as Domestic Violence Courts, Mental Health Courts, and Drug Courts. Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts have shown to be effective in allowing non-violent offenders a chance to receive treatment instead of being processed through the system and given probation or jail time, neither of which is likely to keep the individual from recidivating.

A second area of need regarding the increase of court efficiency is that of personnel. The addition of prosecutors generally leads to a decrease in the number of pending cases. Prosecutors should receive training in elder abuse, especially financial exploitation, and computer-related crimes, which are increasing. There should be a close working relationship between prosecutors and investigators, particularly in the specialized courts.

South Carolina also supports projects which focus on improving the operational effectiveness of the court process by expanding prosecutorial and judicial resources and implementing court delay reduction programs. In this area, the key components are personnel and automation. Increasing resources in one area of the justice system can have an adverse effect on other components of the system. It is important in this area to focus on coordination among all agencies to better manage the court dockets. The South Carolina Judicial Department has completed an initiative, with the help of grant funds, to provide reliable information systems on which to improve efficiency in day-to-day operations. This is being done by automating processes, providing connectivity and improving technology through a statewide case management system.

## **VICTIMS**

Domestic violence continues to be a problem in South Carolina. Children who witness domestic violence often learn to be violent and take these values and behaviors into their own relationships. Suggestions for changes in the way these cases are handled include: forming specialized units of law enforcement officers; creating more Domestic Violence Courts capable of mandating appropriate counseling, treatment, incarceration, and monitoring; establishing batterer treatment programs; and establishing prevention programs in schools to teach non-violent relationship skills.

The issues of child and elder abuse have become more prominent in South Carolina, as well as throughout the entire country. In response to the likelihood that the problems are much more pervasive than the statistics indicate, more law enforcement agencies are creating specialized units which specifically deal with allegations and incidents of these types of abuse. However, with elder population numbers expected to rise as the “baby boomers” begin “aging out”, the need for these specialized personnel will undoubtedly increase. Additionally,



reports of financial exploitation of the elderly by family members and caretakers, or by telecommunication fraud, and Medicaid fraud have shown an increase in the past few years.

Creating additional child/elder abuse units within city and county agencies would not only focus resources on the problem but also enable more investigators to share their knowledge with fellow officers. In particular, elder abuse needs to be better documented so that law enforcement agencies can begin to develop methods to address and solve the problems of senior citizens who are taken advantage of or abused by caregivers. The elderly often have special problems that can only be solved through multidisciplinary teams of law enforcement and service providers. In addition, more investigation of child and elder abuse will necessarily mean an increased need for specialized prosecutors.

### **RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

The South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) has recognized that the availability of information that can be shared by departments throughout the state and beyond is crucial to the future of the criminal justice system. In the area of offender identification, support must continue for equipment such as the Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS), which enable criminologists to enter latent fingerprints from a crime scene and compare them to a series of like prints electronically transmitted from the state's central database at SLED. The ongoing use of Live Scan Devices will also be encouraged, with the electronic scanning of prints being more efficient than the traditional inking method. SLED is building a database of palm prints, in addition to fingerprints, in anticipation of future requirements for the FBI national database. The Live Scan Devices have the ability to transmit the arrestees' prints to the state agency via dedicated T1 lines replacing the need to send them on print-out cards. SLED's software integration also allows the Devices to receive transmissions back from the central database to assist in verifying the identity of the persons being fingerprinted.

Another South Carolina priority is to integrate the criminal justice information system. Law enforcement agencies, solicitor's offices, judges, the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice, the S.C. Department of Corrections and the S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services need access to fully automated criminal history records. While significant technological advances and systems improvements have occurred in recent years, the various components of the South Carolina criminal justice system are still, to a large extent, "islands." Although the criminal justice system is a continuum, offenders are processed through the system as new entities at each juncture. Major concerns are the duplication of information on each offender, uniform sentencing sheets and the inadequacy of information exchange among system components. While the technical means of accomplishing this system continue to be worked on by software and hardware developers, policy issues and procedural requirements for this system must also be developed, as well as the fiscal resources required. In addition, a determination should be made regarding how the system will fit in with other informational systems.

Docket management, automation and staffing at the local court level, as well as automated disposition reporting from all levels of the court system remain high priorities. The South

Carolina Judicial Department's initiative discussed in the Judicial section has taken great strides toward the achievement of automating and connecting all levels of court. However, there is still much work to be done, and Byrne funding will be needed, particularly by the local courts in the system.

One of the best tools available to investigators is the rapidly expanding area of forensics. Criminal investigators need the best and most modern equipment to examine crime scenes and evidence. The results of drug testing, DNA testing, latent fingerprint examination, blood alcohol testing, firearms testing and tests on trace evidence must be available to state and local law enforcement agencies quickly in order to thoroughly investigate criminal cases and supply legally sufficient evidence to prosecutors. In addition, laboratory technicians and criminalists must be properly trained to conduct these tests so they provide incontrovertible results that withstand scrutiny by judges and defense attorneys.

Most drug law arrests require drug testing to verify the substance as illegal. Test backlogs can be from six months to a year and, in most cases, offenders will not accept a plea arrangement, and/or the solicitor cannot prosecute the cases until the drug test results have been received. Incarcerated pre-trial defendants are very expensive to house, and arrestees who post bond are likely to reoffend. Solicitors' caseloads continue to increase, because these cases cannot be processed. Therefore, the number of regional drug analysis laboratories in areas that have high drug arrest rates should be increased.

## **PRIORITIES**

### **STRATEGY PRIORITY: COURT SYSTEM EFFICIENCY**

#### **PRIORITY EFFORTS:**

- Improving Court Technology
  - Specialized Prosecutors
  - Court Security
- 

### **STRATEGY PRIORITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

#### **PRIORITY EFFORTS:**

- LIVE SCAN Device and Verification Station
  - Records Improvement Systems
- 

### **STRATEGY PRIORITY: DRUG AND VIOLENT CRIME ENFORCEMENT**

#### **PRIORITY EFFORTS:**

- Multijurisdictional Task Forces
  - Methamphetamine Enforcement
  - Gang Investigators
  - School Resource Officers
  - Crime Scene/Forensic Investigators
- 

### **STRATEGY PRIORITY: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

#### **PRIORITY EFFORTS:**

- Domestic Violence Investigators
  - Domestic Violence Prosecutors
-

---

**STRATEGY PRIORITY: CHILD/ELDER ABUSE**

**PRIORITY EFFORTS:**

- Child/Elder Abuse Investigators
- Child/Elder Abuse Prosecutors

---

**STRATEGY PRIORITY: STATE AND LOCAL FORENSIC LABORATORIES**

**PRIORITY EFFORTS:**

- Enhancement of Laboratories
- Regional Drug Analysis Laboratories
- State Computer Crime Laboratory

---

**STRATEGY PRIORITY: LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT**

**PRIORITY EFFORTS:**

- Providing basic law enforcement equipment to agencies that do not receive direct JAG awards.
- Enhancing officer safety through proper equipment.

---

**STRATEGY PRIORITY: WHITE COLLAR CRIME/IDENTITY THEFT  
INVESTIGATORS**

**PRIORITY EFFORTS:**

- Specialized Investigators

## SLELECTED PROGRAMS

Priority programs that South Carolina plans to continue funding during the next four years are discussed on the following pages. The programs are each discussed under the state's funding priority that is most appropriate.

### 1. COURT SYSTEM EFFICIENCY:

#### Drug Crimes Prosecutors Violent Crime Prosecutors

**Authorized Program Area:** B: Prosecution and court programs.

**Description of Program:** The overall goal of this program to improve court effectiveness is to reduce the overall backlog in the court system and achieve higher conviction rates by aggressive prosecution of adult violators of drug and violent crime laws with the addition of equipment and resources to more effectively manage caseloads.

#### **Performance Measures:**

- Number of additional prosecutors and other judicial personnel hired.
- Number of cases prosecuted.
- Number of outstanding cases by age of case.
- Total value of funds and assets seized and forfeited.

### 2. CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

#### LIVE SCAN Device Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Records Management Systems Upgrade

**Authorized Program Area:** F: Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement.

**Description of Program:** The goal of the criminal justice information system programs is to improve the completeness, accuracy and timeliness of criminal history records information at the S.C. Central Criminal Records Repository (CRR) located within the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED). The objectives focused on improvements throughout the entire spectrum of criminal history records. This included projects to achieve the following: automate records management systems; enhance access of law enforcement agencies to criminal history records information; develop the capability to electronically report criminal record dispositions to the state repository; improve identification of offenders through latent fingerprints collected via Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS); improve

upon the quality of inked fingerprint cards; and decrease the time it takes to fingerprint a suspect and allow for the electronic transmission of prints to SLED.

**Performance Measures:**

- Number of criminal justice records automated.
- Number of systems enhanced or automated.
- Number of fingerprint records electronically transmitted.
- Number of fingerprint records rejected.
- Number of positive identifications made through fingerprints.
- Number of inquiries resulting in arrest.
- Number of training sessions attended.

**3. DRUG AND VIOLENT CRIME ENFORCEMENT:**

**Narcotics Multijurisdictional Task Force**  
**Violent Crime Multijurisdictional Task Force**  
**Methamphetamine Enforcement**

**Authorized Program Area:** A: Law enforcement programs.

**Description of Program:** Enhancement of existing efforts in enforcement, prosecution and conviction of major drug and violent crime offenders through shared critical resources and elimination of jurisdictional problems is the goal of these programs. This is accomplished through the formation of true, separate and distinct entities that pool manpower, equipment, intelligence and other pertinent resources. While providing assistance to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, the task forces jointly plan operations and strategy for targeting drug and violent crime offenders. Coordinating efforts with prosecutors to build stronger cases and raise the conviction rate is a primary objective.

**Performance Measures:**

- Number of offenders arrested.
- Number of offenders prosecuted.
- Number of drug seizures.
- Quantity of drugs (by weight and drug type) seized.
- Total value of funds and assets forfeited.
- Number of training courses task force personnel attended.

**School Resource Officer**

**Authorized Program Area:** C: Prevention and education programs.

**Description of Program:** The goal of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program is to bridge the gap between police officers and adolescents in order to increase positive attitudes toward law enforcement and reduce juvenile crime and drug use through counseling, teaching

about the criminal justice system and taking a personal interest in the students. The objectives of this project focus on maintaining a safe and secure environment on the school campus which would then be conducive to an educationally stimulating atmosphere, preventing criminal activities and disturbances, and promoting positive attitudes regarding the role of police in society.

**Performance Measures:**

- Number of students served.
- Number of law-related education classes presented.
- Number of gang awareness/prevention classes presented.
- Number of incidents reported.
- Number of arrests made.
- Number of extra-curricular activities attended.
- Number of conferences held with students, faculty and parents.
- Number of training courses officers attended.

#### **4. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**Domestic Violence Investigators and Prosecutors**

**Domestic Violence-Child/Elder Abuse Investigators and Prosecutors**

**Domestic Violence Court**

**Authorized Program Area:** A: Law enforcement programs and B: prosecution and court programs.

**Description of Program:** The primary purpose of this program is to improve investigation and prosecution of cases of domestic violence through increased resources, to improve coordination of the various agencies responsible for family welfare, and to increase the number of officers and prosecutors with specialization in these areas. Successful prosecution and a decrease in the number of cases dropped is also the objective of the Domestic Violence Court with the added aim of providing access to treatment for offenders and victims. A secondary purpose is to take a proactive stance in an effort to prevent further abuse by raising public awareness regarding these problems. Together, these efforts should then cause a decline in the cases of domestic violence and other criminal activity associated with such acts.

**Performance Measures:**

- Number of offenders arrested.
- Number of offenders prosecuted.
- Number of charges made by offense.
- Number of offenders completing treatment programs.
- Number of training courses grant personnel attended.
- Number of public awareness presentations made.

## 5. CHILD/ELDER ABUSE:

### Child/Elder Abuse Investigators and Prosecutors

#### Child/Elder-Domestic Violence Investigator

**Authorized Program Area:** A: Law enforcement programs and B: prosecution and court programs.

**Description of Program:** This program's goal is to improve law enforcement response to crimes of child abuse, child neglect and abuse of the elderly. The objectives of the program are: increased investigators' skills in child/elder abuse investigation; increased coordination among agencies responsible for child/elder welfare; increased successful prosecution of child/elder abuse cases and penalties levied by the court; decreased child/elder abuse homicides; and increased knowledge of all law enforcement officers, other professionals who come into contact with children/elders, and the general public regarding signs of child/elder abuse and reporting requirements.

#### **Performance Measures:**

- Number of offenders arrested.
- Number of offenders prosecuted.
- Number of charges made by offense.
- Number of offenders completing treatment programs.
- Number of training courses grant personnel attended.
- Number of public awareness presentations made.

## 6. STATE FORENSIC and LOCAL DRUG ANALYSIS LABORATORIES

### Regional Drug Analysis Laboratories

**Authorized Purpose Area:** A: Law enforcement programs.

**Description of Program:** The broad goal of this program is to increase the ability to solve crime by providing sufficient, modern laboratory equipment, laboratory facilities and other technology to rapidly analyze evidence and return accurate results to requesting agencies. The objectives of this program include: substantial reduction of drug analysis backlog and turnaround time that, in turn, improves drug disposition rates for law enforcement agencies and judicial circuit solicitor's offices; improvement in drug test results' reliability through state-of-the-art technology; and increased knowledge of laboratory technicians through training in current technology and procedures.

#### **Performance Measures:**

- Number of positive drug analyses by type of drug.
- Number of negative drug analyses by type of drug.
- Number of analysis conducted for other agencies.
- Number of training courses lab personnel attended.
- Total value of equipment purchased.



## **7. LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT**

### **Law Enforcement Equipment**

**Authorized Purpose Area:** A: Law enforcement programs.

**Description of Program:** The broad goal of this program is to increase the ability of agencies to properly equip their personnel. This in turn increases officer safety and ability to enforce laws and solve cases.

**Performance Measures:**

- Reduction in amount of repairs compared to old equipment.
- Improvement in officer safety.
- Number of times equipment used.
- Number of training courses related to equipment use.
- Total value of equipment purchased.

## **8. WHITE COLLAR CRIME:**

### **White Collar Crime/Identity Theft Investigators**

**Authorized Program Area:** A: Law enforcement programs.

**Description of Program:** This program's goal is to improve law enforcement response to white collar crime. Identity theft and other white collar crimes have been linked to supporting drug-related and other criminal organizations. The objectives of the program are: increased investigators' skills in white collar crime investigation; increased successful prosecution of white collar crime cases and penalties levied by the court; and increased knowledge of all law enforcement officers, other professionals and the general public regarding signs of potential white collar crime victimization.

**Performance Measures:**

- Number of offenders arrested.
- Number of offenders prosecuted.
- Number of charges made by offense.
- Number of training courses grant personnel attended.
- Number of public awareness presentations made.

## COORDINATION EFFORTS

### STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

In the development of South Carolina's *State Strategy*, a variety of information-gathering techniques and analytical procedures were used to identify successful federal, state and local efforts and to respond to the specific needs and concerns throughout South Carolina. The process attempted to include as many points of view as possible and all significant competing interests. This information was compared to the criminal justice data gathered during the past year and to previous State Strategies. This plan examines the nature and extent of the problem, summarizes current efforts and promotes coordination of drug and violent crime control efforts by illustrating existing state and local collaboration activities. The Strategy also identifies goals and recommendations designed to meet the challenge of controlling violent crime and substance abuse.

Throughout the year, contacts seeking data and comments for the *Strategy* were made by staff members of Criminal Justice Programs (CJP) with the following agencies:

- \* **State and Local Criminal Justice System, Drug Treatment and Education/Prevention Agencies:** S. C. Law Enforcement Division; S.C. Department of Corrections; S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services; S.C. Department of Education; S.C. Judicial Department; S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice; S.C. Criminal Justice Academy; S.C. Department of Mental Health; S.C. Attorney General's Office, S.C. Bar and the S.C. Commission on Prosecution Coordination. In addition, contacts were made with several of the state's Sheriffs, Chiefs of Police, and Solicitors, as well as organizations including the S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association, the South Carolina Police Chief's Association, and the South Carolina Sheriff's Association.
- \* **Federal Agencies:** Federal Bureau of Investigation; Drug Enforcement Agency; U.S. Customs; U.S. Attorney's Office; Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and Office of National Drug Control Policy.
- \* **Public, Legislative and Executive Agency Review:** The federally required intergovernmental review process solicits public agency input. A Public Notice was posted on the SCDPS, Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs website seeking citizen input on the best use of Justice Assistance Grant funding.
- \* **Justice Assistance Grant Program:** Semi-annual progress reports were analyzed for each of the JAG grant projects. In addition, on-site monitoring of grants provided many insights into criminal justice needs throughout the state.
- \* **Federally Funded Programs:** The S.C. Department of Public Safety (SCDPS), Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs, is responsible for the following grant programs: JAG, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners, Bullet Proof Vest

Partnership, Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant, Victims of Crime Act, Violence Against Women Act, and Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program. The project administrators of these programs coordinate during staffing of grants on projects that impact areas of specific interest to another grant program.

\* **Advisory or Policy Board:** The South Carolina Public Safety Coordinating Council (SCPSCC) was created to administer certain responsibilities of the SCDPS and coordinate certain activities among the department, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and municipal and county law enforcement agencies. As part of its responsibilities, the SCPSCC oversees the process for the solicitation of applications for public safety grants and reviews and approves the disbursement of funds. Members of the SCPSCC include the Governor or her designee, Chief of the S.C. Law Enforcement Division, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chairman of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, and Director of the S.C. Department of Public Safety or their representative(s). Additionally, the Governor appoints a Sheriff, Chief of Police and a victim of crime representative as members of the SCPSCC.

### **OTHER COORDINATION EFFORTS**

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety and the Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs are also involved, both directly and indirectly, in many efforts to recognize and address the criminal justice needs and concerns within the state. These efforts involve federal, state and local agencies and funding. Some examples are:

#### **U. S. Attorney's Office:**

**Federal Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC):** The LECC has been primarily involved from the perspective of this office in identifying critical drug, and more recently, violent crime-related training needs in the state and offering opportunities to federal, state and local law enforcement personnel to learn about important enforcement areas. For example, seminars on narcotics task forces, law enforcement and schools, and domestic violence have been very well received by the law enforcement community. During this past year, members of the Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs actively participated in seminars and served as members of the LECC Drug and Violent Crime Subcommittees.

**Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) and Anti-Gang Initiative:** These national programs were created to fund innovative projects to reduce the incidence of gun violence and criminal gang activity. Types of programs include dedicated gun or gang prosecutors and investigators, training, community outreach efforts and programs aimed at reducing the incidence of gun and gang-related crime. These programs are implemented through the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) for the District of South Carolina. The Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs was designated to serve as the fiscal agent for the sub-grant programs when the funds were distributed on a formula basis. The South Carolina Department of Public Safety continues to provide support to the USAO in these

efforts throughout the competitive grant application process and serves as the fiscal agent when asked to do so.

### **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA):**

**Methamphetamine Training and Education Program:** The DEA sponsors law enforcement officers from South Carolina to attend specialized training to deal with clandestine methamphetamine (meth) labs conducted at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

### **South Carolina Methamphetamine Action Group:**

**Drugs of Abuse Conference:** The South Carolina Methamphetamine Action Group is comprised of the following federal, state, and local agencies: S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Carolina's Institute for Community Policing, Greenville Technical College, Lexington Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, Parenting Partners, Richland County Sheriff's Department, Shoreline Behavioral Health Services, S.C. Association of Prevention Professionals and Advocates. S.C. Department of Education, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, S.C. Department of Public Safety, S.C. Department of Social Services, S.C. Emergency Medical Service Association, S.C. HIV/AIDS Council, S.C. Criminal Justice Academy, U.S. Attorney's Office—District of South Carolina, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

The South Carolina Drugs of Abuse Conference (SCDAC) is the most comprehensive examination of drug use in South Carolina. The SCDAC is designed to integrate instruction from nationally recognized speakers with the experience of South Carolina professionals. The past statewide summits, the most recent of which was held in December 2013, examined the impact of, and solutions to, drug abuse in South Carolina, especially the methamphetamine problem. The SCDAC takes a look at drugs of abuse and how they are interrelated to other problems in a given town, city, or region. Oftentimes, the problems created by drugs of abuse are more than one agency or organization can handle, so the SCDAC promotes "Solutions through Partnership." Each of the member agencies provided staff support for the planning and management of the conference as well as monetary support for different costs associated with the production of the conference. As part of its support for this training endeavor, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs provided funding for speaker expenses.

### **South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division (SLED):**

**Live Scan and Automated Fingerprint Information Systems (AFIS):** SLED has begun to establish a database of palm prints to enhance its fingerprint database. Using Live Scan device technology, law enforcement agencies across the state can collect near perfect fingerprints and palm prints from arrestees to send electronically to SLED's database. Verification of the offender's identity has also been made easier. The fingerprints are then forwarded to the FBI database. Palm prints will be forwarded once the FBI has established its palm print database. AFIS technology allows agencies to

search these databases for a match to latent fingerprints. A major source of funding for this technology has been Byrne (JAG) grant funds.

**Computer Crime Center (CCC):** SLED's Computer Crime Center began with Byrne grant funding and was later further enhanced with direct federal funding. The CCC conducts cyber crime investigations, which have predominantly involved internet child pornography. They also perform forensic examinations of computers and provide information and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies across the state. The Secret Service has designated the Computer Crime Center (CCC) as an Electronic Crimes Task Force (ECTF), one of only thirteen in the country and the only one not managed by the Secret Service on a day-to-day basis. Representatives from different states have visited the CCC to view the facility and operation in an effort to replicate it in their respective jurisdictions.

### **South Carolina Judicial Department:**

**Court System Efficiency Improvements:** The South Carolina Judicial Department (SCJD) initiative has provided reliable information technology systems on which to build, improved efficiency in day-to-day operations by automating processes, and improved both education and technology within the state's forty-six county Clerk of Court offices, county magistrates' offices and municipal courts. Through their website, SCJD now provides court calendars, assignments, reports, procedure manuals and forms and has completed statewide implementation of the case management system (CMS). A portion of this effort has been funded either with Byrne (JAG) funds or direct federal funding.

### **South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS):**

**Enforcement of Underage Drinking Task Force Grant:** DAODAS received federal funding to expand the Task Force's efforts statewide to reduce underage drinking and increase enforcement. The Administrator of the Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs is co-chair of the Task Force. The Task Force has been coordinating with the Governor's Cooperative Agreement for Prevention Task Force (G-CAP) to establish a common web link among all state agencies that have an interest in prevention with a standardized resource page for each agency.

### **South Carolina Attorney General's Office:**

**STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA):** With funding from Violence Against Women grants, the Attorney General's Office developed law enforcement protocols and prosecution procedures for criminal domestic violence, criminal sexual conduct and stalking crimes. This includes conducting training in this area for prosecutors, victim advocates and judges.

**Internet Crimes Against Children-SC Task Force:** Through Congressional direction, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) created the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program. South Carolina's Task Force is

operated through the Attorney General's Office and works closely with SLED - the chief ICAC investigation agency in the state. The purpose of the ICAC program is to help law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to cyber enticement and child pornography cases that encompass forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community action.