

PROSECUTION ASSESSMENT



The successful prosecution of violent crime is key to ensuring that violent offenders are held accountable for their actions and that communities are safe. However, prosecutor's offices around the country are sometimes plagued with issues related to office organization and structure, case processing, and quality of work that can hinder their efforts to prosecute violent crime offenders successfully. Through the Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) program, CNA and the National District Attorneys Association offer sites prosecution assessments to support their efforts to enhance the prosecution of violent crime.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

- Assess capacity to prosecute violent crime using federal and state law.
- Identify strengths, gaps, and enhancements needed in violent crime prosecutions.
- Identify local and national resources to improve prosecution results.

THE PROCESS

The key steps of the assessment process include the following:

1. **Pre-assessment data:** The PSN TTA team asks the requesting agency to complete a pre-assessment questionnaire, which provides the subject matter experts (SMEs) a preliminary review of the agency's capacity and needs.
2. **Kick off call:** CNA will host a kick off call with the PSN team—including the requesting agency's TTA liaison, analyst, and DOJ support team member—to identify the desired goals and objectives of the assessment and potential dates for the on-site portion of the assessment.
3. **Site visit:** During a two to three-day site visit, SMEs will conduct interviews with key personnel from the requesting prosecutor's office and with representatives from relevant local, state, and federal partners. SMEs will also observe internal briefings, such as CompStat or homicide or gun case review meetings, if applicable.



PRE-ASSESSMENT DATA



01

KICK OFF CALL



02

SITE VISIT



03

ASSESSMENT REPORT



04

PROSECUTION ASSESSMENT

4. **Assessment report:** The assessment team will develop an assessment report with findings and recommendations to enhance the prosecution of violent crime. SMEs will discuss their findings with the site while developing the report. The PSN TTA team will provide a final report to the site within six weeks of the site visit. The SMEs can debrief the findings of the report via a conference call, at the request of the site.

SAMPLE ON-SITE VISIT AGENDA

- Hold interviews with prosecutorial personnel.
 - Elected prosecutor, first assistant, and managers of prosecution units
 - Prosecutors assigned to cases from intake through sentencing
 - Prosecutor staff who provide victim/witness services
 - Investigators and crime analysts in the prosecutor's office
- Hold interviews with local law enforcement agency representatives.
- Hold interviews with federal partners (U.S. Attorney's Office).

POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

- Modified practices or implementation of new practices based on lessons learned
- Reduction in violent crime as more violent offenders are successfully prosecuted



QUESTIONS AND MAKING AN ASSESSMENT REQUEST

If you have questions about this assessment or would like to request the assessment, please consult with your TTA liaison or PSN TTA analyst. You can also complete the PSN TTA request form at the link below.

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