# BIENNIAL REPORT TO THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

Public Safety Office Office of the Governor





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### Introduction

The Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO), authorized under Texas Government Code, Chapter 772, is dedicated to supporting Texas' first responders, emergency management personnel, victim service providers, and other criminal justice professionals. The PSO's mission is to enhance public safety, support victims of crime, prevent terrorism, and strengthen community resilience against significant risks to Texans.

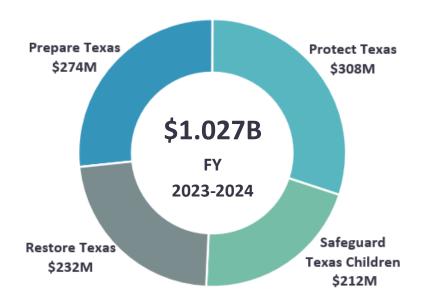
Through strategic investments, targeted support, and collaborative partnerships, the PSO actively addresses emerging challenges and systemic gaps while promoting innovative solutions that benefit public safety professionals and the communities they serve. By effectively using state and federal resources, the PSO ensures that current investments build a safer, more resilient Texas, while also providing survivors with essential support for recovery and resilience. Between fiscal years 2023 and 2024, the PSO distributed more than \$1.027 billion to:

**Prepare Texas** communities to prevent, respond and recover from threats;

**Protect Texas** by promoting efficient operations and investigations as well as accountability and effectiveness within the criminal justice system;

Safeguard Texas Children while encouraging them to become productive citizens; and

**Restore Texas** survivors of violent crime to full physical, mental, and emotional health.



"The State of Texas continues to prioritize the safety of all Texans through programs and services that safeguard our communities. With this crucial grant funding, we will further bolster organizations and agencies in their work to prevent human trafficking, secure our border, and bring justice to crime victims, among other critical public safety initiatives. Working together, we will create an even safer Texas of tomorrow."

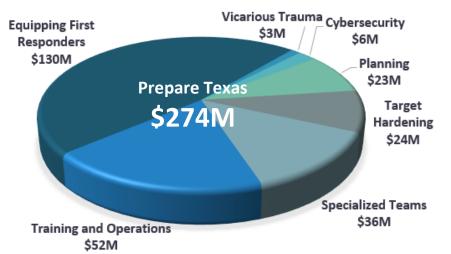
-Governor Greg Abbott

### **Prepare Texas**

PSO's *Prepare Texas* strategy promotes activities to prevent terrorism and other critical incidents, while preparing communities to respond to and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risks to the security and resilience of Texas. PSO provides financial resources to assist local jurisdictions in building, sustaining, and delivering core capabilities to further the national preparedness goal.

In FY2023-24, PSO invested \$274 million to support personnel, training, and operational costs associated with law enforcement, first responders, emergency management, and planning.

PSO-funded projects address gaps identified through the annual Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) in achieving capability targets set through the annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). These assessments identify capability targets and Texas' current ability to meet those targets.



More than 9,500 Bullet-Resistant Shields Purchased

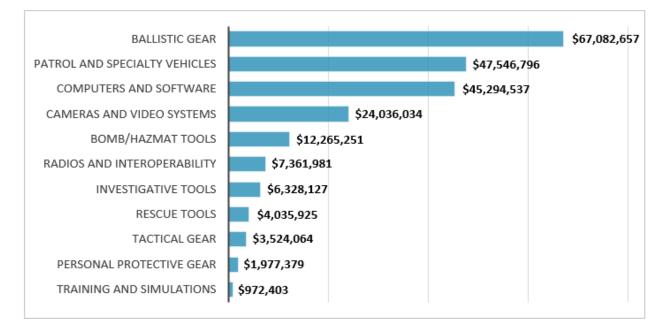


In June 2023, the Texas Legislature transferred \$53 million to PSO to enhance active shooter response capabilities and improve the safety of Texas communities by providing bulletresistant shields and Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) travel assistance to local law enforcement agencies.

To date, PSO has equipped Texas law enforcement agencies with more than 9,500 bullet-resistant shields and 72 peace officers have taken advantage of the ALERRT travel assistance funds.

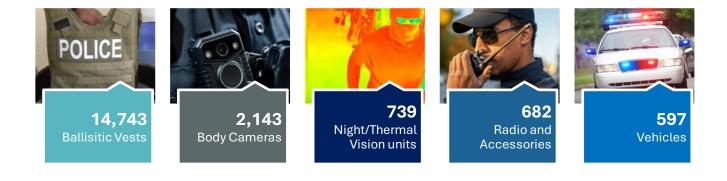
#### **Equipping First Responders**

Texas' first responders work tirelessly to protect their communities, risking their lives every day. The nature of threats facing Texas are constantly evolving, requiring first responders to use up-to-date technology and tools to ensure public safety.



"It takes an extraordinary human being to be willing to put their life on the line to make sure that others are protected and that communities are safe", said Governor Abbott. "As Governor of Texas, know that I speak for everyone in this state when I say that you have the gratitude of the people of the great state of Texas. Thank you for putting your lives on the line to keep your communities safe."

In FY23-24, the PSO awarded \$220 million to local jurisdictions for specialized equipment, tools and supplies enabling law enforcement, special response teams, and emergency managers to carry out their mission of protecting Texas communities.



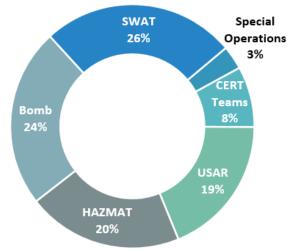
#### **Special Operations Teams**

Special Operations Response Teams (SORTs) are elite units of police, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians deployed to situations requiring specialized emergency response that play a critical role in responding to complex emergencies across the state. SORTs have been instrumental in managing hazardous material spills and conducting search and rescue operations during natural disasters, providing vital assistance to communities across Texas. To support this critical mission, the PSO invested \$36 million in FY23-24 to sustain and enhance SORTs across Texas. This included funding for equipment, training, and exercises for SWAT,

Bomb/Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), HAZMAT, and Search and Rescue Teams.

In addition to SORTs, Texas is dedicated to enhancing community preparedness by investing in Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) that train volunteers in essential disaster preparedness skills, including medical operations, fire safety, and light search and rescue, empowering individuals to assist themselves and their neighbors during emergencies and bolstering community resilience.

Below are examples of how this funding has prepared local communities and impacted everyday Texans.



**City of Dallas – Special Operations.** The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington region, home to key sites like the Federal Reserve Bank and the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, frequently hosts major national events and is situated within a critical transport route used for hazardous materials. This makes the area a potential target for terrorism, prompting the Special Operations Division of the Dallas Fire Department to remain on standby with specialized teams in Hazardous Materials Response, Medical, and Urban Search and Rescue. Equipped with advanced training and equipment, these teams are prepared to detect weapons of mass destruction and manage complex rescue operations, ensuring public safety during critical incidents.

**City of Houston – Law Enforcement Sustainment/Enhancements.** In recognition of its status as the fourth largest city in the United States and a pivotal hub for the petroleum and chemical industries, the Houston Police Department (HPD) has significantly enhanced the capabilities of its specialized teams to effectively respond to acts of terrorism and other emergencies. The HPD Bomb Squad, one of only four Type I units in the region, has



acquired advanced equipment and training to address potential terrorist incidents involving explosives and weapons of mass destruction. Concurrently, the HPD SWAT team has benefited from tactical upgrades aimed at improving communication and protective gear. Furthermore, a new Tactical Medic Team has been integrated into SWAT operations, providing immediate medical assistance in hazardous situations, all supported by grant funding to enhance public safety in the face of increasing terrorism threats.

#### Planning, Training, and Operations

The ability to *Prepare Texas* to respond to threats and hazards requires detailed planning, training, and effective execution of operational strategies, which equips law enforcement officers with the skills required to perform their duties safely and effectively. PSO provided over \$39 million to support training initiatives for community resiliency, victim services, specialized law enforcement and prosecution, SORTs, and basic peace officer academies, contributing significantly to the preparedness and capability of these critical services.

**Preparedness Planning.** Because of its size and diversity, Texas employs a regional approach to preparedness planning efforts. The 24 Councils of Governments (COGs) conduct an annual Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process to gauge impacts of the most catastrophic threats and hazards within each region and establish capability targets to manage them. In addition, the regions identify capability gaps related to planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercises, and indicate their intended approaches to address those gaps while also maintaining their current capabilities. The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) includes funding for these regional efforts as well as for planners employed by local units of government across

the state. These planners are charged with maintaining a variety of hazard-specific and emergency operations plans and conducting training events and exercises to validate those plans leading

| TOTAL  |
|--------|
| 6,515  |
| 3,389  |
| 48,851 |
| 2,824  |
| 630    |
|        |

to increased statewide preparedness.

**Peace Officer Training.** By updating their knowledge of the latest tactics and methods, law enforcement officers are better able to maintain public safety and improve their ability to investigate crimes. Due to limited resources, most law enforcement agencies lack the ability to run their own training programs, relying instead on a regional law enforcement academy to fulfill basic and ongoing certification requirements. In FY23-24, PSO allocated over \$8.3 million to regional academies administered through local COGs. These academies deliver legislatively and Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE)-mandated training in a cost-effective way, alleviating the financial burdens of law enforcement training for local agencies.



#### 2,870

Individuals enrolled in basic peace officer courses

#### 34,440

Individuals passed intermediate and advanced TCOLE-certified courses

1,946,539 hours of law enforcement training provided to Texas' peace officers.

PSO also invested more than \$11 million towards specialized training for law enforcement, prosecution, and courts for cases involving violence against women. Examples of funded programs include:

Texas Municipal Police Association – Sexual Assault Family Violence Investigator Course (SAFVIC) trains peace officers and telecommunicators to effectively respond to and investigate crimes against women, aiming to

More than **2,250** Individuals Trained address the substantial impact of sexual and family violence in Texas. In 2023, there were nearly 17,000 sexual assault victims who reported their case to law enforcement in Texas<sup>1</sup>, with many more such cases remaining unreported. SAFVIC, along with the Texas Investigator and Prosecutor Support initiatives, equips law enforcement with trauma-informed and victim-centered training to improve responses to sexual assault and family violence. SAFVIC Systems also focuses on creating a streamlined, trauma-informed reporting system to better support victims.



The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) - At the Table Project enhances coordinated responses to family violence across Texas by engaging key stakeholders, such as judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, and other community leaders in specialized training and support, emphasizing trauma-informed civil legal remedies, lethality assessment protocols, and collaborative high-risk interventions. 'At the Table' also produces the annual Honoring Texas Victims report, which provides critical insights into family violence trends and informs policy

changes aimed at preventing family violence fatalities. In 2023, the Honoring Texas Victims report documented that 205 Texans were killed by intimate partners, including 179 women and 26 men. The data also showed that 52% of victims had taken steps to leave their abusive relationships. This detailed analysis informs targeted interventions to help reduce these tragic outcomes. Through this project, TCFV seeks to build a robust, sustainable framework for addressing family violence that prioritizes survivor-specific needs and effective community collaboration.

**303** Criminal Justice Professionals Trained

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 2023 Crime in Texas Annual Report. (2023) Texas Department of Public Safety.

#### Vicarious Trauma Among First Responders

First responders, such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, and fire services, often face both direct and indirect trauma and emotional stress as part of their daily work. To address these challenges, the PSO awarded \$3 million in FY23-24 to support the development of mental health programs within local law enforcement agencies. These programs provide crucial resources, including crisis services, peer support, professional therapy, counseling, and legal advocacy, aimed at promoting the mental well-being of first responders.

Program objectives include:

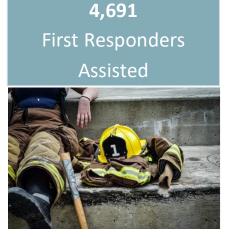
- Providing a confidential, specialized, evidence-based approach to treating and reducing stress for officers and first responders,
- Improving coping mechanisms and strategies,
- Increasing morale and productivity, and
- Reducing the stigma associated with seeking help by providing safe, effective, and confidential services.

#### Cybersecurity

In recent years, Texas and the nation have faced a sharp rise in cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure, state agencies, local governments, and private businesses. Cybersecurity remains a National Priority Area under the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), focusing on initiatives such as cybersecurity risk assessments, mitigating vulnerabilities, enhancing the cybersecurity of critical infrastructure, migrating online services to the ".gov" domain, and providing cybersecurity training and planning. In FY23-24, PSO awarded \$5.9 million to local governments to enhance their cybersecurity posture and address the following core capabilities:

- Assessing organizational cybersecurity risk,
- Creating or updating strategic cybersecurity plans,
- Developing approaches for identifying, authenticating, and authorizing system access,
- Purchasing hardware and software to reduce cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and
- Implementing awareness and training measures.

| 5,063 | Number of individuals participating in exercises                        |
|-------|---|
| 7,636 | Number of networks/systems protected                                    |
| 1,920 | Number of people trained  |
| 2,611 | Number of stakeholders participating in planning/coordination meetings. |



#### State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

In FY 2022 Congress appropriated funding for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Texas received its first SLCGP award totaling \$8,465,324 in December 2022 and immediately engaged the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) to assist in developing a <u>State of Texas Cybersecurity Plan</u>, which was completed in September 2023. PSO began soliciting applications in January 2024 and the first round of grants will be awarded in FY 2025.

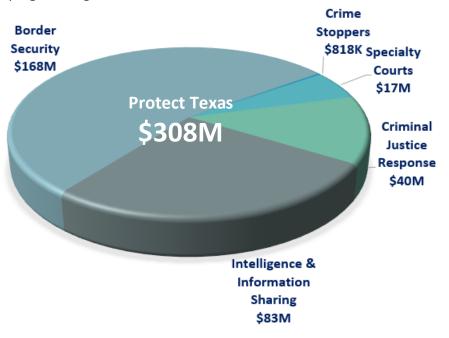


The State of Texas SLCGP Planning Committee has focused funding on the following five key efforts to strengthen cybersecurity across the State:

- Update and refine the Cybersecurity Plan.
- Fund cybersecurity protections for local government entities commensurate with risk.
- Fund cybersecurity training for local government entities commensurate with responsibility.
- Ensure projects align with the required elements and best practices listed in the plan.
- Ensure projects only fund one-time cybersecurity services to ensure that this program does not become an unfunded mandate on local government entities.

### **Protect Texas**

Rooted in the principles of freedom and independence, the Texas Constitution establishes a foundation dedicated to protecting its citizens. Aligned with these principles, PSO focuses its mission on strategically allocating financial resources to initiatives that *Protect Texas* and its citizens. This commitment is demonstrated through a comprehensive portfolio encompassing criminal justice and homeland security programs. In FY23-24, PSO provided over \$308 million in funding to bolster Texas' protection efforts, including border security, criminal justice responses, intelligence and information sharing initiatives, and Crime Stoppers programming.



#### **Border Security**

Texas and Mexico share a 1,254-mile international border, which includes 28 international bridges and border crossings. This extensive accessibility, coupled with proximity and the number of crossings, creates a favorable environment for transnational criminal organizations, particularly Mexican cartels. Border-related crime, such as drug smuggling, human trafficking, and violent offenses, continues to pose significant threats both along the border and extending inward through major highway corridors.

#### **Border Crime**

Any crime involving transnational criminal activity that undermines public safety or security, including:

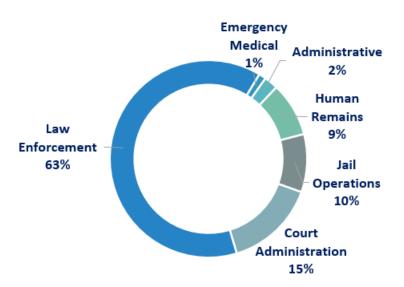
- Homicide
- Kidnapping or Person
   Smuggling
- Trafficking of Persons
- Sexual Offenses
- Assaultive Offenses
- Gambling
- Unlawfully Carrying Weapons
- Organized Crime
- Arson
- Criminal Mischief
- Property Damage
- Bribery
- Corruption
- Drug Crimes

Committed by a person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and is not lawfully present in the United States, or that is related to activities or crimes that occur in Mexico. **Operation Lone Star (OLS).** In 2021 Governor Abbott launched Operation Lone Star integrating the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) with the Texas National Guard and deploying air, ground, marine, and tactical border security assets to high threat areas to deny Mexican Cartels and other smugglers the ability to move drugs and people into Texas. This multi-agency effort has led to over 523,100 illegal immigrant apprehensions and more than 47,800 criminal arrests, with more than 41,300 felony charges<sup>2</sup>. In the fight against the fentanyl crisis, Texas law enforcement has seized over 551 million lethal doses of fentanyl—enough to kill every man,

woman, and child in the United States and Mexico combined.

**Operation Lone Star Investment Areas** 

In addition to the state led efforts, PSO provided \$129 million to cities and counties in FYs 2023 and 2024 to enhance interagency border security operations supporting OLS, including the facilitation of directed actions to deter and interdict criminal activity and detain offenders arrested for state crimes related to the border crisis. OLS activities include law enforcement, jail operations, court administration, emergency medical response and human remains processing.





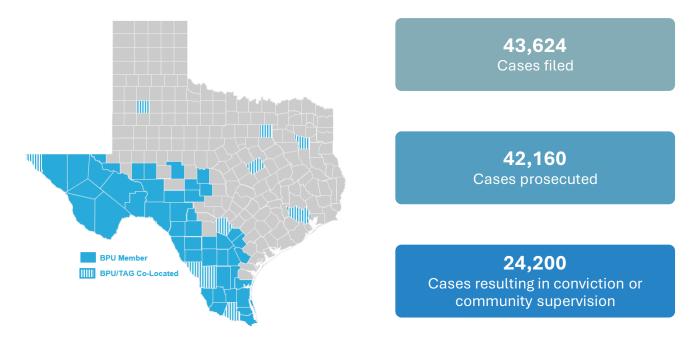
"As the largest border state in the nation, Texas is at the center of the historic border crisis. But thanks to our stiff resistance, we're working to keep America safe."

- ✓ Over 523,100 illegal immigrants apprehended
- ✓ Over 47,800 criminal arrests
- ✓ Over 41,300 felony charges

-Governor Greg Abbott

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Office of the Governor (2024, October 18). *Operation Lone Star Surges To Stop Illegal Entry of Large Groups* [Press Release]. https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/operation-lone-star-surges-to-stop-illegal-entry-of-large-groups

**Border Prosecution Unit.** The Border Prosecution Unit (BPU) Program delivers critical prosecution resources to District and County Attorneys along the Texas-Mexico border and in counties significantly impacted by border crime. In FY23-24, PSO distributed more than \$30.4 million across BPU member jurisdictions, funding salaries for prosecutors, paralegals, and investigators, as well as providing specialized training for unit members and law enforcement agencies.



**Enhanced Patrol.** PSO utilizes a combination of state and federal funding to foster enhanced cooperation and coordination among Customs and Border Protection (CBP), United States Border Patrol (USBP), DPS, and other local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. The Operation Stonegarden Program (OPSG) facilitates investments in joint initiatives to secure the United States' borders by uniting a cohesive team of 134 local law enforcement agencies from 43 lead counties and two tribes. To complement this federal program, PSO receives an annual \$5.1 million state appropriation from the Texas Legislature. Together, these efforts sustain interagency law enforcement operations and bolster local law enforcement patrols by enabling targeted actions to deter and intercept criminal activities.

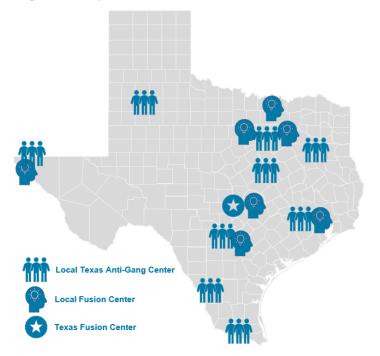


#### **Intelligence and Information Sharing**

Texas is committed to collecting, assessing, and sharing intelligence and information among public safety agencies across the state and nation. This effort enhances the state's capacity to proactively prevent, interdict, and disrupt criminal activities and terrorist threats. In FY23-24, PSO advanced this mission by investing over \$82 million in the network of Texas Anti-Gang (TAG) and Fusion Centers, which operate as collaborative multi-agency hubs dedicated to detecting, deterring, and dismantling criminal operations within Texas communities.

**Texas Anti-Gang Centers.** PSO supports nine TAG Centers strategically located in **Harris County**, **North Richland Hills, El Paso, San Antonio**, **Lubbock, McAllen, Tyler, Waco, and Laredo**. These regionally focused centers are dedicated to gang prevention, intervention, and suppression, while fostering a network aimed at disrupting local, statewide, and transnational criminal organizations.

| TAG Activities           | FY23-24 |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Number of Gangs Targeted | 222     |
| Gang Members Arrested    | 9,047   |
| Weapons Seized           | 6,349   |



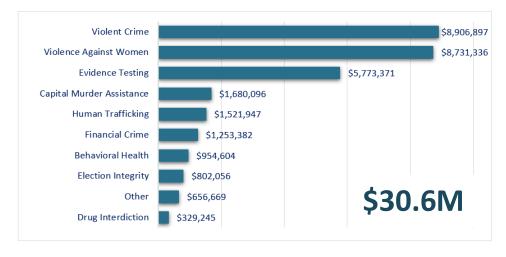
**Texas Fusion Centers.** Texas is home to eight recognized fusion centers that are strategically positioned within the National Network of Fusion Centers, providing vital intelligence and analytical support to local, state, and federal partners. These centers play a crucial role in disseminating and sharing essential information as part of a nationwide intelligence network. Texas fusion centers actively participate in the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative, known as <u>iWatchTexas</u>, which enables frontline public safety personnel, private sector members, and the public to submit reports of suspicious activity. These reports are evaluated by intelligence analysts and integrated into the broader intelligence framework.

| Fusion Center Activities                            | FY23-24 |
|---|---------|
| Number of Intelligence Products Created             | 111,376 |
| Number of Intelligence Products Distributed /Shared | 212,090 |
| Number of Agencies Actively Participating           | 7,585   |



#### **Criminal Justice Response**

A significant component of PSO's mission is enhancing the criminal justice system by addressing system gaps and fostering innovative solutions to prevalent challenges. Effective administration of justice depends on the coordinated efforts of law enforcement, the courts, and corrections, all of which are essential for maintaining law and order. In FY23-24, PSO allocated over \$30.6 million to support a diverse range of criminal justice



initiatives aimed at improving public safety throughout Texas communities. These projects include efforts to advance investigation the and prosecution of crimes, prepost-adjudication and diversion programs, and offender reentry initiatives designed to reduce recidivism.

**Investigation and Prosecution.** Criminal investigation encompasses a diverse range of activities and roles, including crime scene processing, police investigations, forensic evidence analysis, and other law enforcement efforts aimed at uncovering all facts and circumstances surrounding potential criminal offenses.

Texas benefits from annual funding provided by the federal Office on Violence Against Women to enhance the criminal justice response and court services for cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Over the past two years, more than \$8.7 million has been allocated to combat crimes against women, offering critical support to strengthen protections for at-risk women across the state.

Timely and accurate evidence processing and analysis are essential to ensuring fair outcomes in every criminal case. In FY23-24, PSO dedicated \$5.7 million to support evidence testing in criminal cases. Notably, more than \$1.6 million of this funding was allocated to assist cities and counties in testing evidence related to sexual assault and other sex offenses.

| 25,143 | Number of Cases Worked/Investigated |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 91,137 | Number of Evidence Pieces Processed |
| 10,746 | Number of Arrests                   |
| 12,988 | Number of Convictions               |

The following eight Texas counties also received support to offset costs incurred for the investigation and prosecution of a capital murder case: Caldwell, Cameron, Hockley, Matagorda, Trinity, Webb, Wichita, and Wise Counties. Funding in this category supports expert witness fees, trial exhibit costs, courtroom security, juror expenses, investigative services, court reporter fees, and other prosecution-related costs.

**Specialty Courts.** Specialty courts provide judicial supervision for specific nonviolent defendants and offenses and incorporate treatment services for participants as an alternative to incarceration. Complementary services coupled with incentive and sanction based programming aid in the effort to reduce recidivism and reintegrate offenders back into society.

#### **Specialty Courts**

Adult Drug Court – Integrates alcohol and drug treatment services using a non-adversarial approach.

Veterans Court – Rehabilitates veteran and active-duty service members who suffer from mental illness, brain injury, or substance abuse.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Persons (CSEP) Court –

Acknowledges and treats the underlying trauma and problems faced by those who have been exploited for commercial sex.

Family Drug Courts – Focuses on parents whose children are removed from the home due to substance-related abuse and neglect.

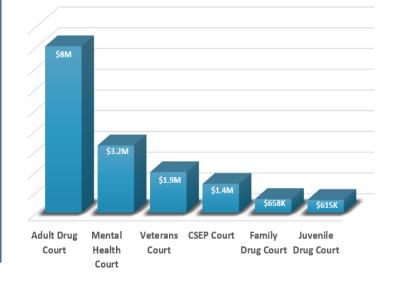
**Mental Health Courts** – Designed for mentally ill defendants or probationers.

Juvenile Drug Courts – Addresses substance abuse and delinquency issues of youth.

Public Safety Employees Courts – Rehabilitates first responders who suffer from mental illness, brain injury, or substance abuse. PSO receives an annual appropriation of funds from the General Revenue-Dedicated Specialty Court Account for the purpose of making grants to counties for specialty courts in accordance with Subtitle K, Title 2, Government Code.

Counties may apply to PSO for funding after registering their specialty court program with the Office of Court Administration and must comply with the programmatic best practices recommended by the Governor appointed Specialty Courts Advisory Council and approved by the Texas Judicial Council.

In FY23-24, PSO provided more than \$17 million to support specialty court programs that served 9,000 Texans. On average, 95% of individuals graduating from a specialty court are employed, seeking education, or otherwise going on to become productive members of society.



#### **Texas Crime Stoppers**

Texas Crime Stoppers serves as a vehicle for citizens to anonymously report criminal information to law enforcement agencies and receive a cash reward if the information results in the successful apprehension of a suspect. Tips submitted are for a wide range of offenses including homicide, sex crimes, trafficking, terroristic threats, theft, assaultive offenses, weapons, gang activity, and bullying. By submitting a tip, Texans can help eliminate potential criminal activity on school campuses and in their local communities.



Since its inception, Texas Crime Stoppers has grown from eight organizations to over 150 certified community and campus organizations across the state. These local organizations are run by volunteers, making it a costeffective tool in preventing and solving crime. These community-based partnerships include dedicated citizens, law enforcement, and the media, with a shared goal of reducing crime by arresting and convicting criminals and fugitives statewide. Campus programs bring young people together to create a safer learning environment, keeping the threat of violence, weapons, illegal drugs, and other dangerous activity off school campuses.

| 75,000  | Volunteer Hours Contributed Within Local Crime Stopper Organizations |
|---------|--|
| 125,000 | AnonymousTips Taken by Local Crime Stopper Organizations             |
| \$1.9M  | Paid Out in Rewards by Local Crime Stopper Organizations             |
| \$8.3M  | Value of Street Narcotics Seized                                     |
| 750     | Guns Recovered   |
| 300     | Weapons Seized on School Campuses                                    |

#### The Texas Crime Stoppers Community and Campus Program Outcomes

### Crime Stoppers Hotline: 1-800-252-TIPS

The Texas Crime Stoppers Council consists of five members appointed by the Governor to four-year terms. Its duties include certifying all Texas Crime Stopper organizations that comply with state statutory requirements, authorizing them to receive and expend court-generated fees, fostering the development of local Crime Stopper organizations to prevent and solve crime, advising and assisting organizations, and encouraging the formation

of new organizations both in communities and on campuses.

The members of the Texas Crime Stoppers Council also play a key role in the core teaching team for both annual conferences and the four basic course trainings held throughout the year. Their involvement is critical to the success of these educational events, where they contribute their expertise and insights, helping to shape the training curriculum and ensure that it meets the needs of law enforcement agencies and community partners alike. This collaboration enhances the quality of instruction and supports the ongoing development of Crime Stoppers programs across the state. **Texas Crime Stoppers Council** 



Back Row from Left to Right: Carlo Hernandez, Jarrod Robertson, Greg New, Cheryl Sinacola, Lauren Day (outgoing member), Richard Carter (Retired Judge and Crime Stoppers Advocate), and Perry Gilmore.

The Texas Crime Stoppers team within the Public Safety Office also oversees several specialized statewide programs, including the Stash House Rewards Program, Fallen Heroes, Texas Criminal Illegal Immigrants List, Tren de Aragua reward program, Texas Top 10 Most Wanted, and other unique incidents of statewide importance. The largest specialized statewide program is the Texas Top 10 Most Wanted, which offers rewards for the capture of select fugitives and wanted sex offenders across Texas.

- To date, Texas Crime Stoppers has received 3,597 tips that led to law enforcement apprehending 46 fugitives and 37 sex offenders listed with the Texas Top 10 Most Wanted program. As a result, Texas Crime Stoppers has paid over \$137,000 in rewards to cooperating individuals.
- In 2023 and 2024, the Texas Stash House Reward Program received 391 tips and offered \$36,400 in rewards. A tip received in August 2023 prompted law enforcement agencies to investigate a potential drug stash house. The investigation led to the seizure of 17.2 grams of methamphetamine, 4.5 pounds of marijuana, 977.5 grams of liquid pure THC products, 264 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, 26 prescription pills, 13



firearms, six 10-ounce pure silver bars, and \$9,990 in cash. One individual was arrested and charged with five felony offenses. In 2024, an anonymous tip prompted an investigation at a residence by multiple law enforcement agencies in which authorities discovered and apprehended nine (9) undocumented aliens (UDAs), who were subsequently taken into custody by U.S. Border Patrol agents for processing.

 In 2024, a \$10,000 Unique Reward was offered for information leading to the identification and arrest of the person or persons involved in the shooting that killed two individuals and injured fourteen others during a Juneteenth celebration at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock. A significant number of tips were received at both the local and state levels, contributing valuable information that led to the apprehension of multiple offenders.

#### New Texas Crime Stoppers Programs Launched in 2024

On June 5, 2024, Texas Crime Stoppers launched the <u>Texas' 10 Most Wanted Criminal Illegal Immigrants</u> <u>List.</u> Created in partnership with the Texas Department of Public Safety, this list is a new initiative to locate and arrest repeat offenders who have entered the country illegally and are wanted for violent crimes committed in Texas. Since the launch, Texas Crime Stoppers has received 41 tips that have led to law enforcement apprehending 4 offenders.

#### Since June 2024:

41 Tips Received

**4** Apprehensions

"We have seen record high levels of illegal immigration, including dangerous criminals and terrorists who are a threat to the public safety of our state and our nation. These illegal immigrants will now be spotlighted on our 10 Most Wanted Criminal Illegal Immigrants List. Texas is a law-and-order state, and with the help of our fellow Texans, we will ensure that the illegal immigrants on this list are taken off our streets and put behind bars to keep our communities safe."

-Governor Greg Abbott

On September 23, 2024, Texas Crime Stoppers launched a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification and arrest of known suspected members of the dangerous Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua (TdA) who have been or are involved in criminal activity and pose an increasing danger to the public safety of Texans. Since the launch, Texas Crime Stoppers has received 28 tips that have led to law enforcement apprehending 2 offenders.

Pictured Right: Governor Greg Abbott speaking at the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Southeast Texas Regional Headquarters on September 16, 2024, announcing Texas' comprehensive, statewide operation to aggressively target the dangerous Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua (TdA), designating TdA as a foreign terrorist organization, directing DPS to elevate them to a Tier 1 gang and to create a TdA Strike Team that will identify and arrest TdA gang members.



### **Safeguarding Texas Children**

Law enforcement, emergency managers, and criminal justice professionals are committed to enhancing public safety. Efforts focused on prevention, intervention, and restoration, particularly aimed at Texas' youngest

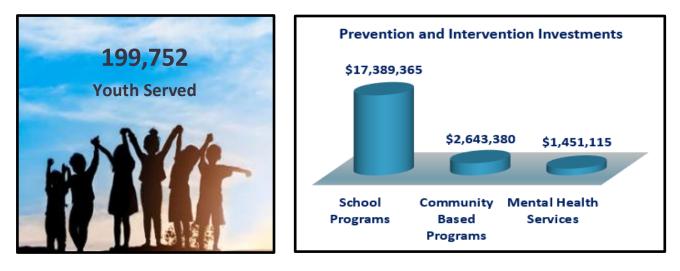


residents, are a strategic investment in future public safety. In the past two years, PSO has allocated over \$211 million toward *Safeguarding Texas Children* by funding school and community programs for youth, juvenile justice initiatives, and programs designed to heal and support children and youth who have suffered from physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, trafficking, or other forms of sexual exploitation.

#### **Youth Prevention and Intervention**

Youth prevention and intervention programs include:

- School-based educational initiatives and support services within traditional public schools that aim to keep youth engaged in school, prevent truancy, and offer alternative learning programs that facilitate the transition to work and self-sufficiency.
- Community-based programs that provide mentoring, counseling, substance abuse education, and other interventions designed to strengthen community ties and support family unity.
- Juvenile case managers assigned to assist in court cases involving juvenile offenders, including helping manage the juvenile docket and ensuring compliance with the court's orders.
- Mental health services for youth, which encompass mental health assessments, the creation of individualized treatment plans, and the development of discharge plans.



#### **Child Sex Trafficking**

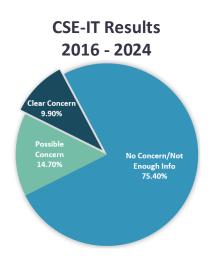
Governor Abbott's Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) was created by the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature to coordinate a holistic response to child sex trafficking in Texas. CSTT is a division within PSO with a mission of building sustainable capacity, enhancing expertise, promoting policies, and leveraging collaborations to:

- **Protect** children and youth from exploitation;
- <u>Recognize</u> sexual exploitation and improve identification of potential victims;
- <u>Recover</u> victims with protective and empowering collaborative responses;
- <u>Support healing</u> of survivors through a variety of traumainformed and responsive services;
- **Bring justice** for survivors, and;
- <u>Equip and educate</u> communities and professionals to respond effectively to child sex trafficking.



**Protect.** To address child sex trafficking comprehensively and protect Texas' children, strategies to hold exploiters accountable and ensure the provision of high-quality victim services must be paired with upstream prevention efforts. Key CSTT prevention strategies include encouraging age-appropriate, research-based prevention education; supporting interventions to promote protective factors and reduce vulnerability, including targeting the online exploitation of children; and emphasizing the importance of market disruption to deter potential buyers and decrease demand.

**Recognize.** CSTT works to improve awareness about the realities of child sex trafficking through proactive identification efforts. Research indicates that exploited youth are unlikely to disclose victimization and are often abused for significant periods of time before being recognized. In 2023, CSTT supported promotion of the *Can You See Me?* campaign in partnership with First Lady Cecilia Abbott, A21, and the Outdoor Advertising Association of Texas. The campaign raised awareness of human trafficking and encouraged reporting. In addition, CSTT continues to support implementation of the research-based Commercial Sexual Exploitation-



**Identification Tool (CSE-IT)**, which aids early identification of youth at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. Over the past two fiscal years, CSTT staff trained over 1,400 professionals in the CSE-IT. Since 2016, over 174,000 screenings have been completed with over 17,200 youth identified as "clear concern" for exploitation. Youth who score clear concern are eligible for specialized services including Care Coordination and Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocacy.

1,426 Professionals Trained to Administer the CSE-IT

17,269 Youth Identified as "Clear Concern" since 2016

**Recover.** CSTT leads the implementation of multi-disciplinary Care Coordination Teams (CCTs) to facilitate a child-centered, trauma-informed, and coordinated response to victims' needs. As of December 2024, 19 CCTs have launched or are in the final stages of launch preparation. Through FY24, 3,550 individuals have received Care Coordination services.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocacy programs are another component of the recovery care continuum for CSEY in Texas. CSEY Advocates are specially trained to provide crisis intervention and ongoing case management to survivors and those at high risk for exploitation through trust-based, supportive, long-term relationships. Since the launch of CSEY Advocacy programs in FY18, advocates funded by PSO have provided services to over 8,800 individuals. As of FY24, CSEY Advocacy was available in 161 counties across the state, an over 50% increase in counties served since FY22.

Since June 2018: 8,800 Received CSEY Advocacy 3,550 Received Care Coordination



CSTT continues to support the expansion of CSEY Advocacy programs to ensure all CSEY have access to these vital services.

### Care Coordination State Partner Advisory Council

In 2024, the Governor's Office launched the Care Coordination Statewide Partner Advisory Council (CCSPAC) to provide consultation and encourage statewide collaboration.

CCSPAC includes members from the following agencies:

- Office of the Governor, Child Sex Trafficking Team
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- CSEY Advocacy agencies
- Care Coordination agencies
- Other non-profits serving CSEY
- Other key state government stakeholders

**Support Healing.** PSO funds an array of trauma-informed services and interventions to meet the immediate and long-term needs of survivors, including CSEY advocacy, drop-in centers, and residential programs. To further

**4,864** Youth-Serving Professionals Trained equip these service providers, PSO funded Baylor University, the Texas Center for Child and Family Studies, and the Texas Network of Youth Services to provide training and support to serve CSEY through research-driven, evidenced-based modalities. A total of 4,864 child and youth-serving professionals, including clinicians, received training on various modalities and topics such as the stages of change model, motivational interviewing, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Trust-Based Relational Intervention, youth engagement and empowerment, and the CSE-IT.

**Bring Justice.** Holding traffickers, buyers, and others profiting from exploitation accountable is a critical strategy to combat child sex trafficking. Maintaining a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach to investigations allows law enforcement and prosecutors to pursue outcomes that hold criminals accountable while also meeting the needs of survivors. CSTT has supported these strategies through:

- Funding specialized investigators, prosecutors, and support positions in Collin County, El Paso County, Fort Bend County, Harris County, Montgomery County, Nueces County, and Webb County.
- Supporting training for and access to the Collective Liberty Human Trafficking Fusion Center to select investigators and prosecutors in Texas. The Fusion Center provides innovative analytical tools that streamline and enhance investigations and prosecutions as well as practical, in-depth training and technical assistance, including trauma-informed responses to victims.
- Engaging law enforcement and prosecutors in the development of care coordination protocols to support non-punitive, trauma-informed victim recovery.
- Training 117 law enforcement and criminal justice personnel on the CSE-IT, enabling them to better recognize trafficking indicators and to understand the trauma responses that cause survivors to bond with their exploiters.



#### **Bring Justice Strategy Highlights**

**El Paso County:** PSO funded the El Paso County Attorney's Office's Nuisance Abatement Team to identify properties linked to human trafficking. By offering property-specific solutions, including civil enforcement, the program seeks to prevent future trafficking. The program has led to property owners being held accountable and complying with best practices to prevent trafficking on their properties.

**44** Businesses Closed or Abated Including Illicit Spas and Bars

"Human trafficking has been a target for law enforcement and prosecutors across the state of Texas because it can be deadly for our most vulnerable: our children. Victims of child sexual abuse do have the hope of healing if they have support and justice. Our law enforcement, DA's Office, and Ellis County citizens continue to surround our children with these things, and I am proud to be a part of the healing process for our survivors."

> Ellis County District Attorney Ann Montgomery

Ellis County: Ellis County prosecuted its first human trafficking in 2023. after case implementing child sex trafficking care coordination protocols with law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, and service providers including the Children's Advocacy Center of Ellis County, and Traffick 911. Law enforcement and prosecutors investigated and prepared the case using victim-centered and trauma-informed practices, ultimately charging the perpetrator with Trafficking of Persons. On October 26, 2023, the jury delivered a guilty verdict and sentenced the trafficker to life in prison.

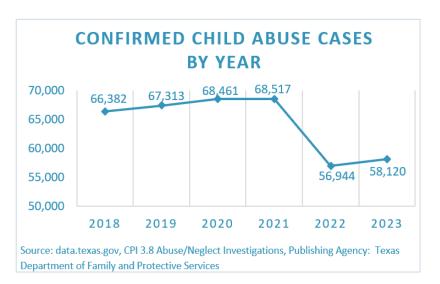
Jefferson County: Acting on a tip received from the National Human Trafficking Hotline, a trafficker was identified and charged with Continuous Trafficking of a 17-year-old female. In March 2023, a jury found the trafficker guilty and sentenced him to 38 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. CSEY Advocates supported this youth throughout the investigation and in court, and continued services post-conviction to support her healing.

**Educate and Equip Texas**. CSTT provides learning opportunities that educate and equip Texans to better prevent and identify child sex trafficking and exploitation, report tips and abuse, and utilize best practices to support survivors. These learning opportunities are provided via CSTT's Monthly Webinar Series, bi-monthly newsletters, and regular presentations at conferences and training events. Training topics have included familial trafficking; fentanyl and its effects on vulnerable children and youth; serving children and youth through Care Coordination and CSEY Advocacy; recognizing and supporting CSEY in school settings; innovative investigations and prosecutions; and evidence-based treatment modalities. Through FY24, CSTT facilitated 15 webinars featuring subject matter experts, published 8 newsletters, and presented at 53 conferences and training events, including the Conference on Crimes Against Children, the Texas Workforce Commission Foster Youth Conference, the DFPS Light the Way to End Human Trafficking Summit, and the Texas School Safety Conference.

#### **Crimes Against Children**

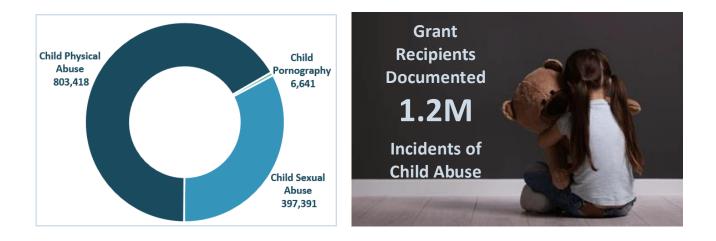
Each year, countless children across Texas endure abuse and neglect. In 2023, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services identified over 58,000 confirmed cases of child abuse. While this number remains alarming, there was a 9.89% decrease in child fatalities linked to abuse or neglect, dropping from 182 in 2022 to 164 in 2023.<sup>3</sup>

In 2023 and 2024, the PSO allocated \$140 million to initiatives dedicated to supporting children who are victims of crime.



Grant recipients documented over 1.2 million incidents of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and child pornography, for which affected children received critical services.

PSO funds initiatives that advocate for children in the child welfare system and create safe, supportive spaces for child abuse victims to receive assessments, assistance, and share their experiences, ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable. The funding also supports shelters that offer a secure environment for children requiring specialized care or a safe place to stay with their non-offending parent.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Texas Department of Family and Protective Service, FY2023 Child Maltreatment Fatalities Near Fatalities Annual Report, March 2024.

#### Partner Spotlight

PSO passed through more than \$123 million in victim services funding to the following two organizations over the last two years. These organizations distribute this funding through sub-awards to local programs across the state.



**Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs)** provide a safe, child-friendly environment where criminal justice, child welfare, and medical professionals can gather and share case information while remaining sensitive to the unique needs of each child. Services include multidisciplinary case reviews and coordination, forensic interviews, advocacy and support, traumafocused therapy, and medical evaluation.

### 201,844

**Children Served in CAC Programs** 



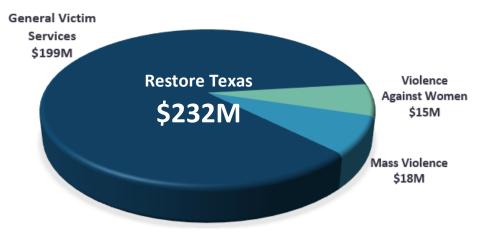
### 37,104

**Children Served in CASA Programs** 

CASA programs work in coordination and collaboration with local courts, Child Protective Services (CPS), law enforcement, schools, child advocacy centers, health providers, and others in the community to provide and assure a continuum of services to children who have been removed from their homes by CPS due to child abuse and neglect. Services by local CASA programs focus on the child victim's physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being.

### **Restore Texas**

PSO is dedicated to initiatives aimed at *Restoring Texas* crime victims to full physical, mental, and emotional well-being. These efforts are supported by coordinated local service systems that provide trauma-informed, evidence-based care. Communities must prioritize the well-being and safety of those affected by crime while



ensuring that offenders are held accountable for their actions.

In FY23-24, PSO committed over \$232 million to programs that offer direct services and support to crime victims, helping to accelerate their recovery and guide them through the criminal justice process.

#### **General Victim Services**

Each year, PSO invites organizations to apply for funding to deliver a range of essential services to survivors of violent crime. These services include crisis interventions like on-site support, emergency shelter, and transportation, as well as other urgent services such as medical care and forensic exams to gather evidence after a sexual assault. In addition, long-term services focusing on the safety and well-being of survivors include

professional counseling, support groups, and criminal justice advocacy to help survivors navigate and engage with the criminal justice system.



| Type of Crime         | Victims Served |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Elder Abuse           | 10,768         |
| Identify Theft/Fraud  | 14,294         |
| DUI/DWI Incidents     | 16,600         |
| Mass Violence         | 20,298         |
| Human Trafficking     | 27,489         |
| Survivors of Homicide | 30,855         |
| Burglary/Robbery      | 38,846         |
| Stalking              | 51,350         |
| Bullying              | 58,145         |
| Adult Sexual Assault  | 96,899         |
| Other                 | 130,260        |
| Assault               | 188,159        |
| Family Violence       | 572,307        |
| Child Abuse           | 1,207,450      |

Note: Some victims reported in multiple categories.

#### Mass Violence Response

Since 2017, Texas has faced seven incidents of mass violence. In the aftermath of each tragedy, the state has stepped up to support affected families and help rebuild both lives and communities.



On Saturday, May 6, 2023, a lone gunman opened fire upon unsuspecting visitors and employees at the crowded **Allen Premium Outlets**, leaving five adults and three children dead within the span of four short minutes. Seven others suffered varying degrees of injury, including three who were critically injured. Following this devastating event, the PSO allocated \$2.8 million to establish a longterm Family Resiliency Center (FRC). The FRC serves as a central hub for community services, providing psychological first aid, crisis counseling, and behavioral health support for survivors, first responders, and community members impacted by vicarious trauma.



A memorial for the victims of the Allen Premium Outlets shooting. (May 2023)

PSO remains dedicated to offering long-term support to each of these communities affected by mass casualty

| 17,421 | Santa Fe - Individual Contacts       |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| 11,917 | El Paso - Individual Contacts        |
| 929    | Midland-Odessa - Individual Contacts |
| 14,698 | Uvalde - Individual Contacts         |
| 197    | Allen - Individual Contacts          |

incidents. Collaborating with local officials, the PSO identifies and distributes eligible reimbursements for extraordinary costs related to law enforcement response, investigations, and prosecutions. Additionally, these efforts extend to funding the establishment of Family Resiliency Centers, schoolbased mental health services, and mental health programs for first responders dealing with traumatic stress. In 2023 – 2024 funded Family Resiliency Centers with individuals affected by these mass casualty incidents.

#### **Violence Against Women**

Violence against women encompasses various criminal acts, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 41% of women will experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, most often perpetrated by an intimate partner. The



consequences of such crimes are profound and often longlasting, leading to increased risks of psychological and behavioral health issues such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and posttraumatic stress disorder. The impact of this violence extends far beyond the victim or survivor, affecting their children, familv members, workplaces, and the broader community.

In FY23-24, PSO awarded \$15.4 million to support programs benefitting violence against women survivors. This includes programs providing core services to survivors as well as training and operational costs for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) allowing hospitals to achieve or maintain a SAFE-Ready Facility<sup>4</sup> designation.

Allowable costs for SAFE-Ready facilities includes:

- Basic Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Collection Training as defined in Sec. 323.0045 of the Texas Health and Safety Code;
- Initial and continuing education of Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners as defined in Sec. 323.001 (4-a) of the Texas Health and Safety Code;
- Equipment and supplies (e.g. exam table, colposcopes, swab boxes/dryers, refrigerators for temporary storage of evidence); and
- Salary and overtime (limited to Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners while attending training or the backfilling of Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners who are off-site attending training).



1,490 SANE Nurses Trained

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 323

#### Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force

The Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force (SASTF) is housed in the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office and seeks to establish a survivor-centered, trauma-informed, collaborative, and coordinated response to sexual violence experienced by adults and children in Texas. The SASTF was initially established for a period of four years. As a result of the passage of Senate Bill 1402 (88R), signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott on June 9, 2023, the SASTF is now **permanent** in the State of Texas.

Since February 2020, the SASTF has accomplished much of its original mandate, establishing itself as a central component of Texas' strategy to transform the state's response to sexual violence. From inception, the Task Force built a successful working model, grounded in a detailed project framework and guided by core values of respect, service to mission, and perseverance, which have served as its foundation for achieving actionable results for Texans.

Over the last biennium the SASTF engaged in the following activities:

- Initiated a Forensic Nursing Program Coaching Pilot Project to increase access to high-quality sexual assault forensic examinations in hospitals, free-standing emergency departments, and community-based programs;
- Continued to work closely with the Texas Department of Public Safety to ensure law enforcement agencies meet statutory guidelines for submitting sexual assault kits (SAKs) to crime laboratories for processing;
- Collaborated with the Office of the Attorney General to **remove** the requirement for law enforcement to authorize a sexual assault forensic medical exam for exams after August 31, 2023, and **streamline** the Crime Victims' Compensation process;
- Developed an eight-hour mandated sexual assault training for law enforcement officers;
- Developed a one-hour mandated sexual assault training for hospital emergency room administrative staff;
- Developed a First Responder's Guide for law enforcement officers, which includes best practices for initial
  interactions with adult sexual assault survivors, and a Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Guide for adult
  survivors, which was translated into six additional languages, including Spanish, to ensure it can be widely
  utilized with and by individuals who speak languages other than English; and
- Held over **110 meetings**, including quarterly meetings attended by SASTF members, and monthly meetings of specialized working groups focused on a variety of topics tied to mandated deliverables.

Looking forward, the SASTF has made **10 new policy recommendations** in its 2024 SASTF Biennial Report to the Texas Legislature focused on enhancing safety measures for survivors in their homes, when using public transportation, in the court system and in regard to their personal health.

**For More Information.** Visit the <u>SASTF webpage</u> for more information and to download a copy of the SASTF's Biennial Report to the legislature.

### **Funding Sources & Method of Finance**

#### **State Appropriated Opportunities**

- ALERRT Law Enforcement Training. Assists law enforcement agencies by offsetting agency-incurred travel costs for sending peace officers to Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT).
- **Body-Worn Cameras.** Supports municipal police departments and county sheriffs' offices in establishing or enhancing body-worn camera programs.
- **Border Prosecution Unit Program.** Provides funding to support prosecution resources and training as part of a collaborative initiative of district and county attorney offices within the Texas border region handling an increased number of cases resulting from border-related offenses.
- **Border Zone Fire Departments.** Provides funding to professional fire departments in the border region to assist in the acquisition of specialized equipment maintenance and medical supplies to support emergency services associated with the execution of security activities that deter crime in the border region.
- Bullet Resistant Shield Grant Program. Provides funding to law enforcement agencies to equip peace officers with bullet-resistant shields.
- **Child Sex Trafficking Programs.** Fills service gaps for sexually exploited children by promoting regional and statewide programs that exemplify standards of trauma-informed care.
- **County Essentials.** Supports counties with the high and unexpected costs for the investigation and prosecution of capital murder crimes and other significant events.
- Crime Stoppers Assistance Fund. Supports local community-based partnerships operating anonymous tip lines.
- **Criminal Justice Planning Fund No. 421.** Fills gaps throughout all areas of the criminal justice system and supports innovative concepts and best practices to achieve a safer Texas for all citizens.
- First Responder Mental Health. Provides funding for services and assistance directly to peace officers and first responders to address direct and indirect trauma that occurs in the course of their normal duties either as the result of the commission of crimes by other persons or in response to an emergency.
- Forensic Evidence Testing for District Attorneys. Provides funding to reimburse district attorneys for costs associated with the testing of forensic evidence.
- Internet Crimes Against Children. Supports investigation of internet crimes against children through task forces made up of multi-agency law enforcement personnel throughout urban Texas cities.
- Local Border Security Program. Provides funding for overtime and operating costs to sustain interagency law enforcement operations and support an increased law enforcement presence to detect, deter, and

disrupt drug, human, and other contraband trafficking created by the close proximity to the Texas/Mexico border.

- **Operation Lone Star.** Provides funding to enhance interagency border security operations supporting Operation Lone Star including funding to help deter and interdict criminal activity related to the border crisis.
- **Regional Law Enforcement Facility.** Provides funding for the design and construction of a regional law enforcement training facility at the University of North Texas at Dallas.
- **Rifle-Resistant Body Armor.** Provides funding for the purchase of rifle-resistant body armor for local law enforcement.
- **SAFE-Ready Facilities.** Provides funding to designated facilities for education, training, and maintenance of the facilities' SAFE-ready program pursuant to Texas Government Code 772.006.
- Sexual Assault Evidence Testing Grant Program. Supports temporary or long-term expansions of testing capacity in crime laboratories to reduce the backlog of sexual assault kits in Texas.
- Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force. Provides funding for programs that support the Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force in its mission to establish a survivor-centered, trauma-informed, collaborative and coordinated response to sexual violence experienced by adults and children in Texas.
- **Specialty Court Program.** Supports programs that focus on treatment for those with substance abuse or mental health issues or the specific needs of Veterans or sexually exploited persons.
- **State Nonprofit Security Grant Program.** Provides funding for target hardening and other physical security enhancements/activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack.
- **Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure Program.** Supports state and regional efforts to improve or sustain interoperable emergency radio infrastructure.
- **Texas Anti-Gang Grant Program.** Supports targeted, regional approaches to combat gang violence by coordinating prevention, intervention, and suppression activities.
- **Truancy Prevention and Intervention.** Supports school districts and local governments by providing case management and support to truant school children.

#### **Federal Opportunities**

- Antiterrorism Emergency Assistance Program. Supports programs designed to mitigate the effects of mass casualty and emergency situations occurring in Texas.
- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). Promotes public safety efforts, crime reduction, and system improvements.

- Emergency Operations Centers. Provides funding to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable emergency operation centers with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs.
- Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). Provides funding for target hardening and other physical security enhancements/activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack.
- **Operation Stonegarden (OPSG).** Supports enhanced cooperation and coordination among federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to secure the Texas/Mexico and international water borders.
- Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program (Coverdell). Reduces evidence processing backlogs and improves quality and timeliness in forensic laboratories.
- **Project Safe Neighborhoods.** Supports programs that foster safer neighborhoods through a sustained reduction in violent crime, including, but not limited to, addressing criminal gangs and the felonious possession and use of firearms.
- **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for Prisoners (RSAT).** Provides substance abuse treatment for incarcerated offenders.
- Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP). Supports rape crisis centers that provide core services to victims of sexual assault.
- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). Provides funding for local and statewide agencies to address high-priority preparedness gaps across all core capabilities where a nexus to terrorism exists.
- **STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (VAWA).** Supports victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking through staff training, prevention and awareness, data collection, legal assistance, and treatment for trauma.
- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). Provides funding for four high-threat, high-density Urban Areas identified by FEMA (Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington, Houston, and San Antonio). Grants support local agency efforts to build, sustain, and deliver the core capabilities essential to preventing, protecting against, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic incidents.
- Victims of Crime Act General Victim Assistance Program (VOCA). Devotes resources to provide direct services to victims of crime to help them recover and to navigate the justice system.
- Victim Services Supplemental from Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund. Devotes resources to provide direct services to victims of crime to help them recover and to navigate the justice system.

#### **Method of Finance**

| Program   | FY2023       | FY2024             |
|---|--------------|--------------------|
| State Appropriations <sup>5</sup>                         |              |                    |
| ALERRT Law Enforcement Training                           | \$3,000,000  | \$0                |
| Body-Worn Camera Program                                  | \$5,000,000  | \$10,000,000       |
| Border Prosecution Unit                                   | \$0          | \$28,000,000       |
| Border Zone Fire Departments                              | \$0          | \$3,000,000        |
| Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program                     | \$50,000,000 | \$0                |
| Child Sex Trafficking Team <sup>6</sup>                   | \$1,830,650  | \$3,837,650        |
| Commercially Sexually Exploited Persons Program           | \$1,750,000  | \$1,750,000        |
| County Essential Services Grants                          | \$1,053,300  | \$1,053,300        |
| Crime Stoppers Assistance Account No. 5012                | \$842,147    | \$842,147          |
| Criminal Justice Planning Account No. 421                 | \$20,000,000 | \$20,067,721       |
| Forensic Evidence Testing for District Attorneys          | \$1,000,000  | \$1,000,000        |
| Internet Crimes Against Children                          | \$800,000    | \$800,000          |
| Local Border Security                                     | \$5,100,000  | \$5,100,000        |
| Operation Lone Star                                       | \$50,000,000 | \$50,000,000       |
| Peace Officer Mental Health Program                       | \$0          | \$200,000          |
| Regional Law Enforcement Facility                         | \$0          | \$10,000,000       |
| Rifle-Resistant Body Armor                                | \$0          | \$10,000,000       |
| SAFE-Ready Facilities                                     | \$3,000,000  | \$3,000,000        |
| Sexual Assault Evidence Testing (Driver License) No. 5170 | \$1,100,000  | \$1,100,000        |
| Sexual Assault Survivors Task Force                       | \$750,000    | \$750 <i>,</i> 000 |
| Specialty Court Account No. 5184                          | \$2,226,000  | \$12,000,000       |
| Technology Infrastructure Account No. 51537               | \$13,827,787 | \$10,000,000       |
| State Nonprofit Security Grant Program                    | \$0          | \$1,000,000        |
| Texas Anti-Gang Programs                                  | \$7,900,000  | \$7,900,000        |
| Truancy Prevention and Diversion No. 5164                 | \$3,096,936  | \$4,000,000        |
| State Victims of Crime Supplemental Funds                 | \$0          | \$115,000,000      |

| Program   | FY2023        | FY2024        |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Federal Grants  |               |               |
| Antiterrorism Emergency Assistance Program                                | \$0           | \$7,821,753   |
| Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)              | \$12,503,443  | \$14,531,729  |
| Emergency Operations Centers  | \$2,000,000   | \$3,381,209   |
| Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)                                   | \$10,545,361  | \$14,423,898  |
| Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)  | \$39,875,000  | \$37,613,000  |
| Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act                 | \$1,801,945   | \$1,926,841   |
| Project Safe Neighborhoods  | \$1,067,363   | \$1,069,105   |
| Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)                              | \$3,812,476   | \$4,295,094   |
| Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)                                    | \$1,196,626   | \$1,762,163   |
| State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)                                    | \$18,210,451  | \$18,210,451  |
| Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)                                     | \$45,300,000  | \$46,177,500  |
| Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)   | \$89,893,186  | \$124,379,369 |
| Victim Services Supplemental from Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds | \$160,000,000 | \$0           |
| Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)   | \$9,987,238   | \$13,951,300  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Dollars reflect appropriated amounts unless otherwise noted.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 6}$  Includes \$2,000,000 in GR-Dedicated Sexual Assault Program Account No. 5010 in FY 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The FY22-23 appropriations bill authorized unexpended balances from the GR-Dedicated Emergency Radio Infrastructure Account No. 5153 to Technology Infrastructure programs. The amount noted for FY 2023 indicates the account balance as of September 1, 2022.