



## PSN TTA Engagement Profile EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN



The Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program is a nationwide initiative that brings together federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, community-based partners, and other stakeholders to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in a community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. PSN is customized to account for local violent crime problems and resources.

PSN is supported by a robust training and technical assistance (TTA) program, the Project Safe Neighborhoods Training and Technical Assistance (PSN TTA) program. The PSN TTA program assists PSN teams with planning, implementing, and assessing their violence-reduction strategies. PSN teams receive TTA in a variety of formats, including in-person and virtual trainings, assessments, subject matter expert (SME) consultations, peer exchanges, and webinars.

Reducing violent crimes involving firearms continue to be a focus for Milwaukee's law enforcement agencies. The Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) has identified two significant sources responsible for Milwaukee's increase in violent crimes involving a firearm: (1) organized violent groups and (2) individuals who consistently engage in firearm-related crimes. To address firearm violence in Milwaukee, the PSN effort pursues a strategy designed to (1) enhance community engagement; (2) assist in the focused prosecution of the most high-risk firearm offenders and groups; (3) increase place-based interventions, collective efficacy, and neighborhood revitalization; and (4) initiate firearm violence deterrence programs.

While the main PSN focus is on Milwaukee, the US Attorney's Office (USAO) understands that relationships with law enforcement are important throughout the district in combating violent crime, which can be transient. PSN TTA is the keystone for developing and maintaining strong partnerships throughout the entire district.

*"My office prioritizes the work of our PSN partners because we see it as an essential piece of the Department of Justice's strategy to drive down firearm violence in our district. We rely on TTA's expertise and training to our law enforcement partners because it ensures that all agencies are on the forefront of best practices in our collaborative effort to reduce violent crime."*

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Gregory J. Haanstad  
United States Attorney—Eastern District of Wisconsin



### INCREASED ACCESS TO TRAINING

One community in the Eastern District of Wisconsin experienced a mass violence event that received national attention. The police department recognized the need to support the community and first responders in processing the trauma that mass incidents of violence can lead to. Through the PSN Law Enforcement Coordinator and other PSN contacts, the police department was able to access federally funded resiliency and wellness training for first responders. Contacts also facilitated the creation of an after-action report that has been championed as a best practice document regarding a mass casualty incident. The chief of police in this department stated that “[t]he city is stronger today post-incident, and NTTAC [the National Training & Technical Assistance Center] and other BJA-funded programs played a significant role in that.”

Below are a few notable PSN TTA engagements the district has participated in:

### DETECTIVE FUNCTION ASSESSMENT

A large police department in the Eastern District of Wisconsin requested a detective function assessment through PSN TTA. The department feels their partnership with the USAO works as a force multiplier to increase public safety. The detective function assessment provided recommendations and feedback related to the criminal case management process and procedures after interviews with key stakeholders, observations of key meetings, and a review of active investigation case files. The department credits the assessment with increasing efficiencies that have allowed them to identify and hold accountable those who bring harm to the community. According to one member of the department, “[T]he PSN resources are invaluable for not just our organization, but for overall community safety, and the police department is proud of and grateful for this collaboration.”

### CRIME ANALYSIS CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

A local police department received TTA through PSN that included an extensive crime analysis assessment. The TTA team held meetings with stakeholders, observed internal processes, conducted employee interviews, and participated in ride-alongs. Crime analysis plays a role in combatting violent crime and in diving multiple aspects of daily departmental operations. After the assessment, the chief of police noted that his department, “is now better prepared to take on the challenges of the ever-changing crime in the city due to its partnership with Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). The technical evaluation of our crime analysis unit brought together all divisions to ensure everyone had a voice, an opportunity to provide feedback, and collectively work together to enhance our data capabilities along with our intelligence-led crime reduction strategies. Through the Training and Technical Assistance program (TTA), our department was able to identify where we are and develop a plan of where we want to be while encompassing our mission to provide service through a partnership with the community that builds trust, reduces crime, creates a safe environment, and enhances the quality of life in our neighborhoods.”



Visit the PSN TTA website at <https://psntta.org/> to learn more about available TTA opportunities.

