



# Targeted Assessments: Building Capacity Through Comprehensive Reviews

CNA offers comprehensive assessments for public safety agencies seeking to improve their operations through evidence-based practices. We work collaboratively with justice agencies to identify areas for review, such as analytic capabilities, policy and program implementation, community engagement, officer safety and wellness, violence reduction, technology, medical and behavioral health, and victim services. CNA has a robust cadre of experts who have assisted agencies with thorough assessments and practical recommendations that have led to sustainable outcomes.

## WHAT is an assessment?

An **assessment** is a systematic and comprehensive process in which our team collaborates with a justice agency to thoroughly evaluate a specific capacity or area within the organization. This process involves gathering and analyzing data through onsite visits, interviews, focus groups, and document reviews to gain a deep understanding of current practices. The goals of the assessment are to identify strengths and areas for improvement, as well as provide tailored, evidence-based recommendations that align with industry best practices. By doing so, we help agencies enhance their operational efficiency, effectiveness, and overall capacity.

## WHY should your agency request an assessment?

Assessments are designed to provide justice agencies with the insights and recommendations needed to excel in today's complex public safety landscape. CNA's assessments offer numerous benefits, including the following:



**Objective analysis.** We ensure that your agency receives an unbiased evaluation from experienced subject matter experts.



**Customized solutions.** Our recommendations are uniquely tailored to meet the specific needs of your agency, ensuring that they are both relevant and actionable.



**Capacity building.** Through our assessment process, we provide your agency with a roadmap to strengthen capabilities, leading to sustainable outcomes.



**Best practices.** Our experts offer industry best practice recommendations, ensuring that your agency can maintain high standards and implement the most effective strategies.



**Accountability and buy-in.** Our evaluations help demonstrate accountability to stakeholders and funders by showcasing opportunities for growth and improvements.

## WHO should request an assessment?

Assessments are applicable to a wide range of justice organizations and agencies, including local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; sheriff's offices; small, rural, and tribal agencies; prosecutors' offices; probation and parole offices; and correctional agencies.

Assessments are valuable for agencies seeking to enhance their operational efficiency, address specific challenges, or implement new strategies. Agencies

experiencing changes in leadership, undergoing significant organizational shifts, or facing community relations issues can also greatly benefit from an objective assessment.

In addition, departments aiming to stay ahead of industry trends, improve compliance with regulatory standards, or optimize their use of technology and resources can benefit from our assessments. Whether your agency is looking to refine existing practices or build new capacities, our tailored recommendations can help your agency achieve its goals and better serve its community.

## HOW can CNA use assessments to help your agency?

CNA offers a fully customizable menu of options at a range of prices to fit each organization's unique needs. Full-service assistance may include multiday onsite support to assess your department's analytic capacities and deliver robust, customized training and operations support to build those capacities. Lower-level assistance may include one-off virtual or in-person training or problem-solving sessions on a crime analytic topic of interest.

As part of our assessment, we create a variety of products and deliverables tailored to your agency's needs. We can provide internal and external reports; virtual dashboards for recommendations, implementation, and tracking; briefings for executives, decision-makers, and stakeholders; and community presentations.

### Example assessment topics include the following:

- Arrest data analysis
- Community policing and engagement strategies
- Correctional facility operations
- Crowd control and protest management
- Cybersecurity and digital infrastructure
- Data quality and structure analysis
- Detective function
- Emergency response preparedness
- Fire and Emergency Medical Services response optimization
- Focused deterrence
- Grants
- Homicide investigation and prosecution
- Interagency collaboration
- Internal affairs and compliance
- Nonfatal shooting analysis
- Organizational assessment
- Policy review
- Prosecution
- Public safety data quality
- Racial bias audit
- Recruitment and retention
- Staffing analysis
- Strategic messaging
- Survey analysis
- Technology
- Traffic safety and enforcement
- Traffic stops analysis
- Training program evaluation
- Use-of-force incident analysis
- Use-of-force policy and practice
- Victim services
- Violence reduction
- Youth violence



## About CNA

CNA is a not-for-profit analytical organization dedicated to the safety and security of the nation. With nearly 700 scientists, analysts, and professional staff across the world, CNA's mission is to provide data-driven, innovative solutions to our nation's toughest problems. It operates the Center for Naval Analyses—the Department of the Navy's federally funded research and development center (FFRDC)—as well as the Institute for Public Research. The Center for Naval Analyses provides objective analytics to inform the decision-making by military leaders and ultimately improve the lethality and effectiveness of the joint force. The Institute for Public Research leverages data analytics and innovative methods to support federal, state, and local government officials as they work to advance national and homeland security.

To learn more or request an assessment from CNA, please contact Vivian Elliott at [elliottv@cna.org](mailto:elliottv@cna.org).