

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



Views and News

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity, and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

January 2010

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ARRA Byrne/JAG funds and VOCA funds assist criminal justice agencies statewide

In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law to boost employment and spur economic activity. ACJC administers the Byrne/JAG ARRA award of more than \$25 million that will support drug, gang and violent crime task forces, prosecution, civil forfeitures, and forensic services statewide; the money will be distributed in two one-year cycles, which began in FY10.

For the second quarter of the fiscal year (Oct. — Dec. 2009), \$3.6 million in Recovery Act funds was sent out to Drug, Gang, and Violent Crime Control grantees, funding 152 full-time equivalent positions. Funded positions include law enforcement, information technology, administrative support personnel, and prosecutors. Recovery funds are used to support state, county, and local efforts to combat drugs, gangs, and violent crime. Funds support multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency drug task forces, their tandem prosecution efforts, and statewide civil forfeiture projects. Additionally, Recovery funds are supporting forensic laboratories and criminal justice records and information processing improvement.

Collaborative efforts serve to reduce drug trafficking, drug-related violent crime, and criminal street gang related activities throughout Arizona. Grantees coordinate efforts with other initiatives or programs to leverage limited resources and enhance effective crime suppression across jurisdiction. For more information on Arizona's recovery efforts, visit <http://az.gov/recovery>.

ACJC budget cuts

ACJC, like other state agencies, has experienced a series of budget cuts and sweeps that impact our program areas. All program areas have been hit: Victim Services, Drug, Gang and Violent Crime Control; Fill the Gap funding to prosecution and indigent defense; DUI Abatement and crime lab assistance. To date, the cuts total nearly \$19 million and there are plans to further sweep these funds. We continue to work with stakeholders on this issue. A list of cuts can be found on the [ACJC web site](#).

Cold case registry

Please note that SB1459, which went into effect last session, mandates law enforcement agencies to establish and maintain a cold case register. Further requirements of law enforcement officials include informing victims' families or legal representatives of the register and providing them with any new information or reviews of the cold case for up to three years. The cold case register is not public record and is exempt from public record requirements.

New SAC reports

ACJC's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) has published two new reports on homicide and gangs in Arizona.

In collaboration with local law enforcement officials and ASU's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, ACJC's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) researched homicide patterns in Arizona. Researchers collected data on homicides that occurred in 2004, which focused on victim/offender and neighborhood characteristics. Published in a report, "Homicide in Arizona, 2004," the results highlight options for tailoring violence intervention efforts.

The ACJC SAC surveyed Arizona law enforcement officers regarding gangs and gang activity in their jurisdictions and published the findings in "2008 Arizona Gang Threat Assessment." Gangs were reported to be active in 69 of the 99 jurisdictions that responded to the survey. Of the agencies that reported active gangs, 56 provided estimates of the number of gang members in their jurisdiction. These agencies reported a total of 25,376 active gang members across Arizona.

These and other SAC publications can be found on the ACJC web site, www.azcjc.gov.