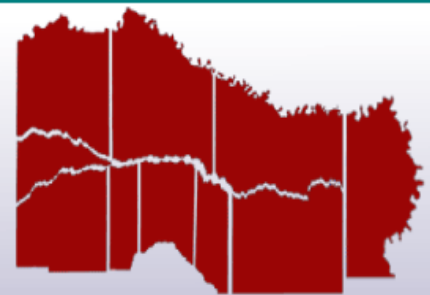


ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLAN For FY2021

A Strategic Plan for Meeting the
Criminal Justice Needs of the **ATCOG**
Region



ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
4808 ELIZABETH STREET | TEXARKANA, TX 75503

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.....REGIONAL PROFILE

4..... PLANNING TEAM

7.....EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

9.....REGIONAL PRIORITIES

11.....JUVENILE JUSTICE PRIORITIES

16.....VICTIM SERVICES PRIORITIES

22.....LAW ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES

26.....MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE PRIORITIES

30.....RESOURCES

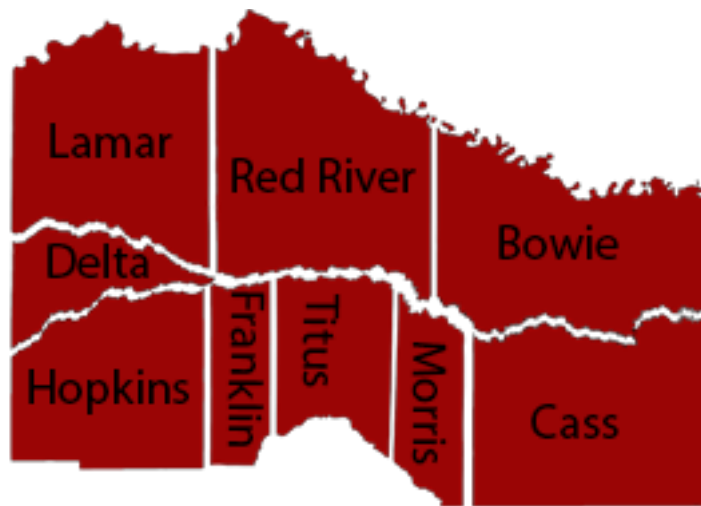
34.....REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

35.....FUTURE STEPS & IMPLEMENTATION

36.....CONTACT INFORMATION

Regional Profile

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) region is a ten county region consisting of Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus counties in Texas, and Miller County in Arkansas. Only the nine Texas counties will be included in the Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan since our criminal justice funding only covers services, projects, and agencies in Texas.

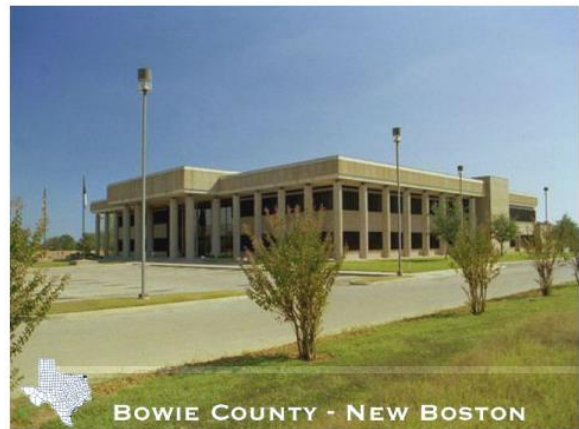


The ATCOG region covers approximately 5,924 square miles. Median annual household income for the region is \$46,068 (U.S. Census Bureau 2019 Estimate). Average unemployment rate is 3.96% (Bureau of Labor Statistics). Average poverty rate for the region is 17.74% (U.S. Census Bureau 2019 Estimate).

COUNTY PROFILES

Bowie County

Population: 94,324
Square miles: 923
Largest town: Texarkana
Ethnicity: White – 68.2%
African American – 25.4%
Hispanic – 7.8%



COUNTY PROFILES (CONTINUED)

Cass County

Population: 30,087
Square miles: 960
Largest town: Atlanta
Ethnicity: White – 78.1%
African American – 17.4%
Hispanic – 4.4%



Franklin County

Population: 10,679
Square miles: 295
Largest town: Mount Vernon
Ethnicity: White – 86.0%
African American – 3.9%
Hispanic – 14.2%



Delta County

Population: 5,215
Square miles: 278
Largest town: Cooper
Ethnicity: White – 87.7%
African American – 7.5%
Hispanic – 7.3%



Hopkins County

Population: 36,240
Square miles: 793
Largest town: Sulphur Springs
Ethnicity: White – 83.5%
African American – 7.0%
Hispanic – 16.7%



COUNTY PROFILES (CONTINUED)

Lamar County

Population: 49,532
Square miles: 933
Largest town: Paris
Ethnicity: White – 81.3%
African American – 12.4%
Hispanic – 7.7%



Red River County

Population: 12,275
Square miles: 1,057
Largest town: Clarksville
Ethnicity: White – 79.1%
African American – 16.9%
Hispanic – 7.3%



Morris County

Population: 12,424
Square miles: 259
Largest town: Daingerfield
Ethnicity: White – 69.3%
African American – 23.7%
Hispanic – 9.5%



Titus County

Population: 32,730
Square miles: 426
Largest town: Mount Pleasant
Ethnicity: White – 69.4%
African American – 9.2%
Hispanic – 42.8%



Planning Team

PLAN COORDINATOR: Patricia Haley / ATCOG Criminal Justice Coordinator

In developing this Regional Plan, members of the team were divided into several focus groups for the purpose of narrowing the scope of research and data that are incorporated into the Plan. Some members may serve in multiple capacities/categories.

JUVENILE SERVICES:

FY2020/21 PLANNING GROUP

Misty Moody	Bowie County Juvenile Probation Department
Melissa Simpson	Bowie County Juvenile Probation Department
Sherry Edwards	Red River County Juvenile Probation Department
Nielan Hensley	Dekalb ISD
Patricia Haley	Ark-Tex Council of Governments

OTHER PREVIOUS FY2019/20 PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS

Ronnie Green	Cooper ISD
Denicia Hohenberger	Cooper ISD
Melissa Simpson	Bowie County Juvenile Probation Department
Sherry Edwards	Red River County Juvenile Probation Department
Patricia Haley	Ark-Tex Council of Governments

VICTIM SERVICES:

FY2020/21 PLANNING GROUP

Pam Dennington	Domestic Violence Prevention
Misty Patterson	Domestic Violence Prevention
Susan Fisher	8 th Judicial District Attorney -VAC

PREVIOUS PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS FY2019/20

Ryan Shriver	Shelter Agencies For Families in East Texas
Vineta Byrd	Shelter Agencies For Families in East Texas
Pam Dennington	Domestic Violence Prevention
Jennifer Lacefield	Domestic Violence Prevention

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

FY2020/21 PLANNING GROUP

Kristy Whisenhunt	Texas A&M University-Texarkana Police Department
Jim Grisham	Maud Police Department
Wayne Isbell	Mt. Pleasant Police Department
Jeremy Massey	Reno Police Department
James Caldwell	Red River County Sheriff's Office
Ricky Jones	Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Michael Pace	Red River County Sheriff's Office
Scott Cass	Lamar County Sheriff's Office
Bob Hundley	Paris Police Department
Robert McGee	Queen City Police Department
Todd Aultman	Wake Village Police Department
Ronnie Humphrey	Mt. Pleasant Police Department

PREVIOUS GROUP MEMBERS FY2019/20

Tracey Climer	Daingerfield Police Department
Samantha Sellers	Red River County Sheriff's Office
Cody Townsend	Clarksville Police Department
Eric Lee	Linden Police Department
Renee Murphy	Linden Police Department
Tony McDuffie	Linden Kildare CISD Police Department
Chana Singleton	Delta County Sheriff's Office
Ricky Smith	Delta County Sheriff's Office
Michael Pace	Red River County Sheriff's Office
Scott Cass	Lamar County Sheriff's Office
Bob Hundley	Paris Police Department
Tony Dollarhide	Texarkana ISD
Charles McDuffie	Atlanta ISD
Keith Schutte	Hooks Police Department
Robert McGee	Queen City Police Department
Todd Aultman	Wake Village Police Department

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

FY2020/21 PLANNING GROUP

Pam Dennington	Domestic Violence Prevention
Misty Patterson	Domestic Violence Prevention
Susan Fisher	8 th Judicial District Attorney -VAC

PREVIOUS PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS FY2019/20

Ryan Shriver	Shelter Agencies For Families in East Texas
Vineta Byrd	Shelter Agencies For Families in East Texas
Pam Dennington	Domestic Violence Prevention
Jennifer Lacefield	Domestic Violence Prevention

Executive Summary

This Criminal Justice Strategic Plan includes the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) nine county region of Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus counties. As reported in the 2010 Census, the ATCOG region covers approximately 5,924 square miles, with a population of 281,947. The estimated total population for 2019 was 283,506.

Strategic Vision: The strategic vision of the ATCOG Criminal Justice Program is to promote a safe environment, reduce crime, and improve the quality of life in our nine-county region by providing and identifying the gaps in Victim Services, Juvenile Justice Services, Law Enforcement Services, and Mental Health Services.

Mission: The mission of the ATCOG Criminal Justice Program is to assist the communities in our nine-county region in providing the coordination of services and resources that promote public safety, as reflected by the priorities identified in our regional strategic plan, in support of the Governor's stated Criminal Justice Division mission and priorities.

Local Priorities:

1. Juvenile Justice Services:

- Resources for sex offender treatment, psychological/psycho-sexual evaluations, and other mental health and substance abuse services for at-risk youth, including psychiatric evaluations, counseling, and treatment.
- Programs to divert at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system, such as pre-prevention services and mentoring programs for children under age 10.
- School Resource Officers and Juvenile Case Managers to lead pre-preventative intervention services and classes such as awareness and prevention programs, peer support groups, and combat school violence, delinquency, and truancy.
- Programs/services to assist youth in their development of cognitive behavioral skills including positive decision making and thought processes, and also independent living skills for ages 16 and older.
- Resources for victims of child and youth sex trafficking.

2. Victim Services:

- 24-hour crisis intervention, legal advocacy, and counseling (staff counselor) to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence, and also provide shelter services and case management to the victims as necessary.
- Provide a safe child-friendly atmosphere for child abuse victims, while fostering collaborative working relationships with investigative agencies, thus reducing the trauma experienced by child victims and their non-offending family member when interviewed and provide follow up services.
- Legal Advocacy and/or assistance with protective order processing, as well as assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) and Texas Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE), in relation to violent crime victims.
- Short-term housing assistance for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as other types of victims.
- Educational programs, public awareness, school programs, and community involvement to increase awareness regarding child abuse, neglect, domestic violence, sexual assault, bullying, and dating violence.

3. **Law Enforcement Services:**
 - Required, mandated and operational training for law enforcement.
 - Advanced equipment and technology for law enforcement purposes.
 - Updated communications systems, allowing for agency and interagency communication and cooperation.
 - Resources to address the excessive crime and mental illness.

4. **Mental Health Services:**
 - Resources for mental health transport by law enforcement/agencies, and resources for training law enforcement in dealing with mental health patients and/or individuals with mental health issues.
 - Resources for outpatient and inpatient mental health services.
 - Resources for mentally ill individuals who are not an immediate threat.
 - Adequate funding available for low-income individuals in need of prescription and counseling programs.
 - Mental health and substance abuse treatment in underserved groups, including elderly persons, racial and ethnic minorities, and also those in rural areas.

Strategic Planning Process:

1. Providers of Victim Services, Juvenile Justice Services, Law Enforcement Services, and Mental Health Services are contacted and encouraged to attend the ATCOG Strategic Planning Meeting. At the meeting, all participants are given the opportunity to contribute their ideas and needs as they engage in focus groups related to Victim Services, Juvenile Justice Services, Law Enforcement Services, and Mental Health Services.

2. Individuals within each focus group will collectively discuss and develop a list of the top five (can be less than five if necessary) priorities of each funding category. These recommendations are then reviewed by the RCJAC for their approval prior to the scoring process, and included in the ATCOG Strategic Plan.

Strategy for Implementing the Plan:

1. Each Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) member completes the standard scoring instrument, to evaluate each grant application submitted within our region, based on the purpose and intentions of their project, the local priorities of the ATCOG Strategic Plan, and also the state priorities put forth by the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division (CJD), if/when available.

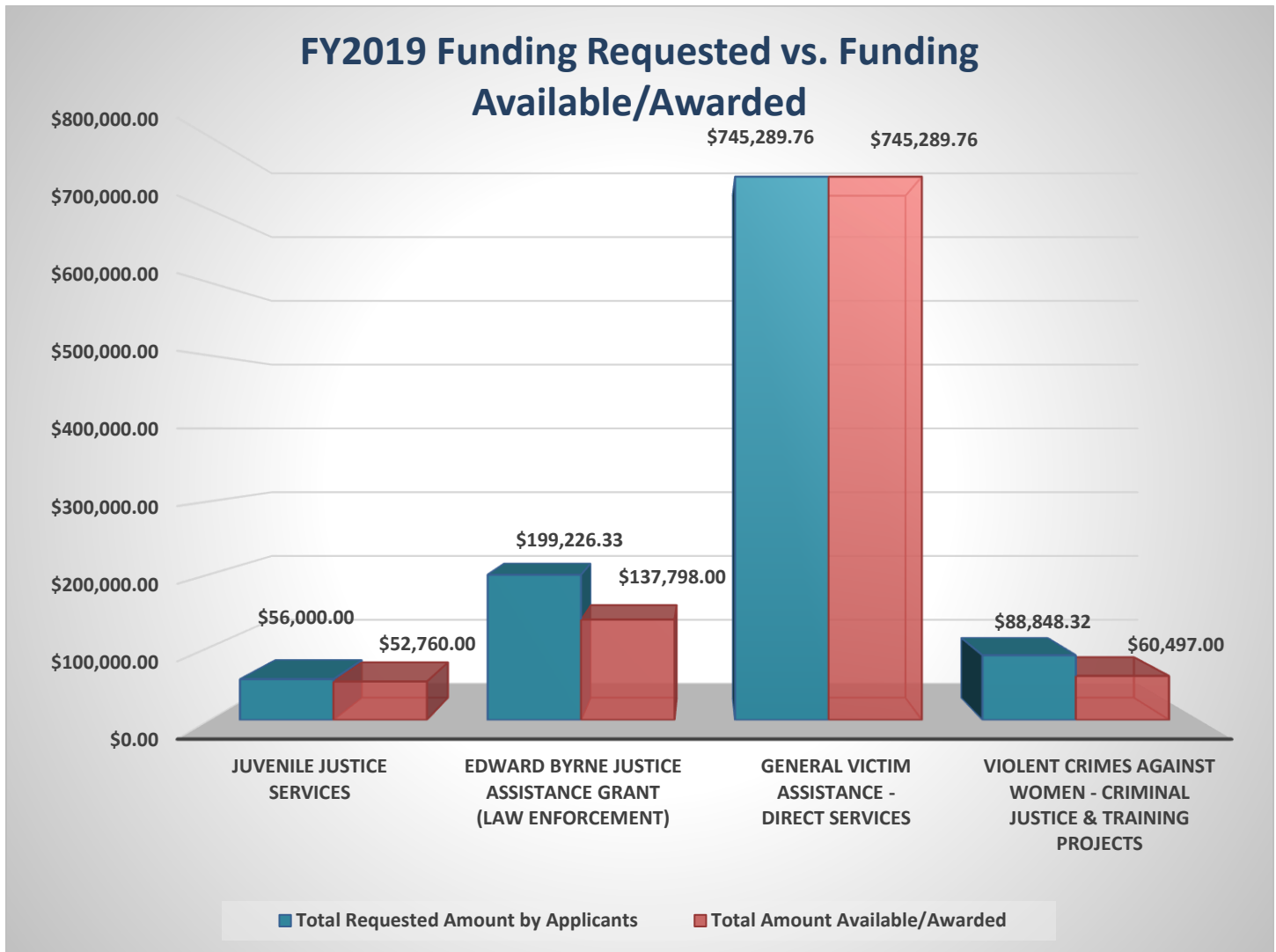
2. Each applicant within the ATCOG region is asked to make a five-minute presentation about their proposed project, to the RCJAC, which is followed by a question and answer session. This offers the opportunity for the RCJAC to assess the details and supporting data of the project that may or may not be clear in the application.

3. The application review scores are then calculated, ranked, and submitted to CJD, who makes the final funding decisions based on the local priorities and rankings, state priorities, eligibility requirements, and the allocation amount that is available to the ATCOG region.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES IN OUR REGION?

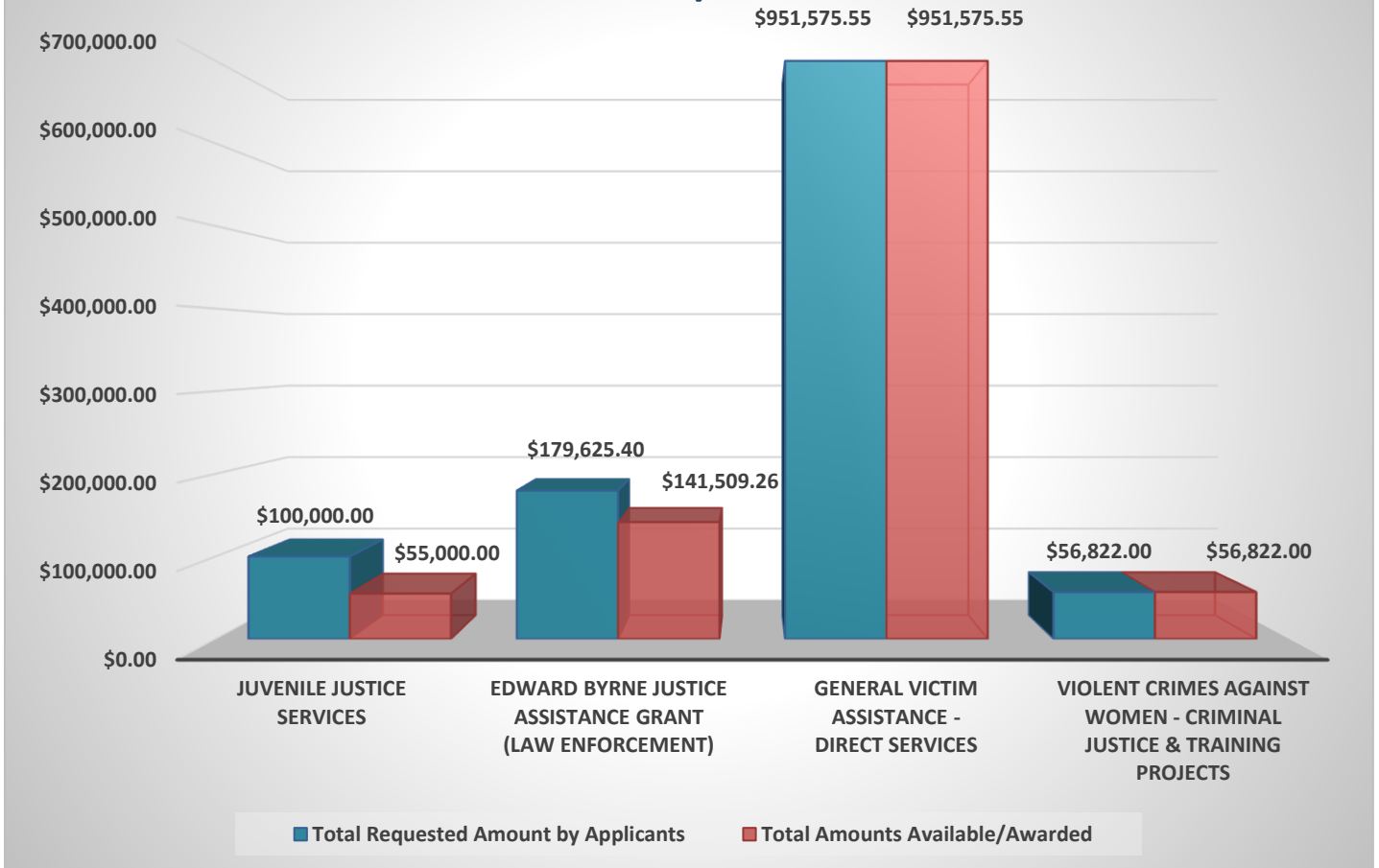
In each of the areas on the following pages, problems are identified and data is included that supports both the existence and severity of gaps as they are found in the ATCOG Region. Below the description and data are a discussion of the problems, the manner in which the problems are being addressed, and strategically how responses to these community problems could be improved.

Many of the problems identified are a direct result of the region having more needs than funds available. Included below, and continued on the following page, are the funding amounts requested and the funding amounts available/awarded for fiscal years 2019 and 2020.



* For FY2018/FY2019, the Regional Law Enforcement Training Grant was funded separately at \$154,267 (total amount is for 2-year grant).

FY2020 Funding Requested vs. Funding Available/Awarded



* For FY2020/FY2021, the Regional Law Enforcement Training Grant was funded separately at \$154,267 (total amount is for 2-year grant).

Juvenile Justice Priorities

Juvenile justice needs and priorities have been assessed in the ATCOG region to include:

- Resources for sex offender treatment, psychological/psycho-sexual evaluations, and other mental health and substance abuse services for at-risk youth, including psychiatric evaluations, counseling, and treatment.
- Programs to divert at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system, such as pre-prevention services and mentoring programs for children under age 10.
- School Resource Officers and Juvenile Case Managers to lead pre-preventative intervention services and classes such as awareness and prevention programs, peer support groups, and combat school violence, delinquency, and truancy.
- Programs/services to assist youth in their development of cognitive behavioral skills including positive decision making and thought processes, and also independent living skills for ages 16 and older.
- Resources for victims of child and youth sex trafficking.

By utilizing all available juvenile resources in the ATCOG region, the goal is to close these gaps in service as they:

- Provide sex offender treatment, mental health assessments, psychological and/or psychiatric evaluations, counseling services, and family support services. Also provide a licensed professional counselor for aftercare and re-entry, while utilizing evidence based practices in all services.
- Provide programs that will potentially divert juveniles with documented discipline problems from having contact with law enforcement/juvenile probation, as a result of those problems. Provide education and connections for youth to complete community service requirements ordered by the court system or school administrators. Provide early intervention projects such as mentoring programs that reduce incidents related to delinquent acts.
- Provide funding for School Resource Officers and Juvenile Case Managers to provide classes and other pre-preventative services/programs such as awareness and prevention programs, and also to patrol school campuses in order to be a deterrent to potentially violent intruders, as well as potentially violent students, non-custodial or irate parents, on-campus theft, bullying, etc.

- Provide programs and projects addressing lack of cognitive behavioral skills and ability to make good decisions for their future. Also provide programs for college and job readiness to address the life skills necessary to be successful, independent, productive members of society.
- Provide counseling/treatment and substance abuse counseling/treatment programs to juvenile victims of human trafficking and refer juvenile victims to a Children's Advocacy Center for trauma therapy.

Juvenile Justice Priority	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of resources for sex offender treatment, in addition to services for addressing mental health issues for at-risk youth, including evaluations, counseling, and treatment.	As reported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the year 2018 (most current report published), there was a total population of 31,266 juveniles (ages 10-17) in ATCOG's nine-county region. According to a report from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, there were a total of 379 referrals for 2018. Many of these referrals require services such as sex offender counseling/treatment, psychological/psychiatric evaluations, professional therapy and mental health counseling. There is also a need for anger management therapy/classes for juveniles who have been referred, as well as parent and family training/counseling. During the past year, juvenile probation officers, representing counties in the ATCOG region, have seen an increased number of juvenile referrals with sex offenses.
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
Provide sex offender treatment/counseling, mental health assessments, psychological and/or psychiatric evaluations, counseling services, and family support services. Also provide a licensed professional counselor for aftercare and re-entry, while utilizing evidence based practices in all services.	

Juvenile Justice Priority	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Lack of programs to divert at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system.	<p>If we are to divert at-risk youth from the juvenile justice system, there is a need for programs and pre-prevention services targeting children before they reach the age of juvenile court jurisdiction, i.e. ten years old. While these programs could provide an educational aspect, they would also give at-risk youth opportunities to make connections with those who could provide assistance with helping them avoid behaviors and associations, likely to result in their involvement in the juvenile justice system. One such program that is of great benefit to children, ages ten and under, is a mentoring program.</p> <p>Developing a "first offenders program" targeting those charged with Class C misdemeanors and truancy could be helpful for youth exhibiting at-risk behavior. This could provide an educational component as well as give at-risk youth a connection with those in position to make referrals for services. There is potential to develop such a program utilizing a collaboration of juvenile case managers, city and county prosecutors and Teen Courts.</p>

Potential Response to Problem

Provide mentoring programs that will have a positive impact on children and youth and that will potentially divert juveniles with documented discipline problems from having contact with law enforcement/juvenile probation, as a result of those problems. Provide education and connections for youth to complete community service requirements ordered by the court system or school administrators. Provide early intervention projects that reduce incidents related to delinquent acts.

Juvenile Justice Priority

Problem Identified

Data

Insufficient resources in the prevention of juvenile substance abuse and mental health issues in the school system, and also insufficient security measures to combat school violence, delinquency, and truancy.

There are numerous law enforcement calls for service to the schools in the ATCOG region. As reported by the law enforcement agencies in the region, most calls are for fighting and disrupting class. Having a School Resource Officer (SRO) or Juvenile Case Manager (JCM) on campuses will have an impact by decreasing the amount of fights and disturbances on campuses. A SRO or JCM is also beneficial in teaching awareness and prevention within the schools. School districts in the ATCOG region have also reported an increase in the number of students with more than ten absences during the school year, which increases truancy issues. Therefore, having a SRO or JCM present on various campuses, while working together with the administration and the parents, will lower the amount of truancy occurrences that the schools are experiencing, which is currently a very high number. An SRO is also very beneficial in assisting with dispute resolution between students, students and staff, parents and staff, and even between students and parents.

Potential Response to Problem

Provide funding for School Resource Officers to patrol school campuses in order to be a deterrent to potentially violent intruders, as well as potentially violent students, non-custodial or irate parents, on-campus theft, bullying, etc. A School Resource Officer or Juvenile Case Manager can also provide classes for students to attend, along with providing information related to the above mentioned issues. They have the opportunity to foster a positive relationship between youth and law enforcement, and also gather witness information for crimes that have already occurred.

Juvenile Justice Priority

Problem Identified

Data

Lack of cognitive behavioral skills, including decision making and thought

Youth entering the juvenile justice system have a demonstrated history of lacking cognitive behavioral skills and typically making bad decisions, especially when peer pressure is prevalent. For these juveniles ages

<p>process errors, and also lack of independent living skills for ages 16 and older.</p>	<p>16 and older, there is often an absence of independent living skills also. They typically lack the skills to apply for a job, manage their finances and further their education through vocational programs or traditional classes.</p>
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p>	
<p>Provide programs and projects addressing lack of cognitive behavioral skills and ability to make good decisions for their future. Also provide programs for college and job readiness to address the life skills necessary to be successful, productive members of society, and to also have the ability to live independently.</p>	

<p>*Juvenile Justice Priority*</p>	
<p><i>Problem Identified</i></p>	<p><i>Data</i></p>
<p>Lack of resources for juvenile victims of human trafficking</p>	<p>There has been an increase of human trafficking cases involving juvenile victims in the ATCOG region. Juvenile probation departments have seen an increase of victims based on referrals in at least four ATCOG counties. In 2019 there was a total of nine juvenile victims of human trafficking referred to county juvenile probation departments in the ATCOG region. There were possibly more juvenile victims in the ATCOG region who were not referred to the probation departments and, as a result, not included in the previously mentioned total, or the county juvenile probation department was not able to gather the reported number(s).</p>
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p>	
<p>Provide counseling/treatment and substance abuse counseling/treatment programs to juvenile victims of human trafficking and refer juvenile victims to a Children’s Advocacy Center for trauma therapy.</p>	

Victim Services Priorities

Victim Services needs and priorities have been assessed in the ATCOG region to include:

- 24-hour crisis intervention, legal advocacy, and counseling (staff counselor) to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence, and also provide shelter services and case management to the victims as necessary.
- Provide a safe child-friendly atmosphere for child abuse victims, while fostering collaborative working relationships with investigative agencies, thus reducing the trauma experienced by child victims and their non-offending family member when interviewed and provide follow up services.
- Legal Advocacy and/or assistance with protective order processing, as well as assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) and Texas Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE), in relation to violent crime victims.
- Short-term housing assistance for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as other types of victims.
- Educational programs, public awareness, school programs, and community involvement to increase awareness regarding child abuse, neglect, domestic violence, sexual assault, bullying, and dating violence.

By utilizing all available victim resources in the ATCOG region, the goal is to close these gaps in service as they:

- Provide necessary resources/funding for 24-hour shelter services and case management. Provide 24-hour crisis hotline services and onsite caseworkers for emergency crisis intervention. Provide trained advocates to access, evaluate, and provide services and case management at all levels of victim needs. Provide necessary resources/funding that will allow the hire of additional personnel to provide an adequate level of services for advocacy, crisis intervention, accompaniment, and other support services.
- Ensure adequate services are available to meet the steady demand for crisis intervention, advocacy, counseling, and support services to victims of child abuse and sexual assault. Also ensure availability of trained forensic interviewers and family advocates to provide a foundation of support and efficiency in the service delivery system of children's advocacy centers, clinics and hospitals.
- Work with District Attorney's and County Attorney's Offices to ensure all qualifying protective order applicants have access to the court system. Provide personnel that are adequately trained

on CVC and VINE to assist victims. Increase personnel to adequately handle larger legal assistance case loads and provide necessary personnel training. Provide trained personnel to make assessments for referral to other agencies. (Examples include but not limited to: CASA to Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence to CASA and/or CPS, etc.)

- Provide short term rental assistance. This will allow victims to obtain or remain in housing, leave shelters faster, and begin the healing process from the trauma incurred. Also provide short-term motel/hotel stay for fleeing victims.
- Provide essential training to advocates in order to promote interagency cooperation and the exchange of best practices. Ensure adequate services are available to provide educational and public awareness to prevent child abuse, neglect, and domestic violence. Ensure services are adequate to meet the needs of those affected by sexual assault, including counseling, advocacy, crisis intervention, accompaniment, job training and other support services.

Victim Services Priority	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Shortage of resources to provide shelter services, case management, 24-hour crisis intervention, legal advocacy, counseling to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence victims, along with victims of other violent crimes.</p>	<p>Shortage of resources to provide shelter etc.: Shelter Agencies for Families in East Texas, Inc. (SAFE-T) serves 8 counties in NE Texas, and Domestic Violence Prevention, Inc. (DVP) serves Bowie and Cass Counties. They are the only two shelters in the NE Texas/ATCOG region that provide shelter services. SAFE-T has been consistently over capacity for the last several months and has even had to turn away clients due to lack of space. A remodel is being done to the shelter to accommodate this increase in clients but has not been completed yet. DVP has had a large increase in clients as well, providing services for 658 victims in Bowie and Cass counties last year.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Provide necessary resources/funding for 24-hour shelter services and case management. Provide 24-hour crisis hotline services and onsite caseworkers for emergency crisis intervention. Provide trained advocates to access, evaluate, and provide services and case management at all levels of victim needs. Provide necessary resources/funding that will allow the hire of additional personnel to provide an adequate level of services for advocacy, legal services, crisis intervention, accompaniment, and other support services, such as travel.</p>	

Victim Services Priority	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Lack of adequate resources to provide a safe child-friendly atmosphere for child abuse victims, while fostering collaborative working relationships with investigative agencies.</p>	<p>Before Children’s Advocacy Centers came to exist, child abuse victims and their families were bounced from one agency to another – from the child welfare office, to the police department, to the hospital, to the prosecutor’s office – repeatedly telling their stories of abuse. The criminal justice system, a system primarily designed for adult perpetrators, not child victims, lacked coordination between police, child protective services, prosecution, mental health and medical agencies. Duplication of efforts, along with multiple unnecessary and traumatic interviews for the children, had become the norm in child abuse cases. Information was not routinely shared, efforts were rarely coordinated, and obtaining successful outcomes for these child victims was virtually impossible. Poor coordination between the investigating agencies resulted in weak cases which decreased the prosecution of perpetrators and children not only were often re-traumatized by the criminal justice process but also received very few services to help them heal from the trauma they suffered.</p>

	<p>Today, children’s advocacy centers (CACs) provide a safe, child-friendly environment where law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical and mental health professionals may share information and develop effective, coordinated strategies that are sensitive to the needs of each unique case and child. Local CACs provide an array of child-focused services including specialized forensic interviewing, medical/mental health assessments and treatment, multidisciplinary team case reviews, and comprehensive advocacy services.</p>
--	---

<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p>	
<p>Ensure adequate services are available to meet the steady demand for crisis intervention, advocacy, counseling, and support services to victims of child abuse and trauma. Also ensure availability of trained forensic interviewers and family advocates to provide a foundation of support and efficiency in the service delivery system of children’s advocacy centers.</p>	

<p>*Victim Services Priority*</p>	
<p><i>Problem Identified</i></p>	<p><i>Data</i></p>
<p>Lack of resources to provide adequate legal consultation, representation, and/or assistance with protective order paperwork as well as assistance with Crime Victims’ Compensation (CVC) and Texas Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE), in relation to violent crimes.</p>	<p>Shelters like SAFE-T and DVP, as well as District Attorney’s victims assistance coordinators, struggle with obtaining resources to fund legal advocates who will assist victims with legal advocacy and obtaining legal representation. Legal Aid is underfunded in the ATCOG region, thus resulting in limited services. Since shelter staff must prioritize their services to victims, services such as crime victim compensation (CVC) and Victim Information and Notification (VINE) may not receive the necessary attention. In our rural areas, VINE is usually not a priority as most abusers post bond within 24 hours. As a result, small police departments are unable to utilize this system. Due to police departments and sheriff’s offices also experiencing a heavy workload, they are unable to provide the level of assistance necessary with Crime Victim Compensation applications. As a result, the shelters are now providing assistance with this service. Victims assistance coordinators, shelter advocates/caseworkers are desperately needed to provide the assistance necessary for CVC and VINE, as well as with victim impact statements and coordination of services.</p>

Potential Response to Problem

District Attorney’s and County Attorney’s Offices, as well as SAFE-T and DVP, will work to ensure all qualifying protective order applicants have access to the court system. Provide personnel that are adequately trained on CVC and VINE to assist victims. Increase personnel to adequately handle larger legal assistance caseloads and provide necessary personnel training. Provide trained personnel to make assessments for referral to other agencies.

Victim Services Priority

Problem Identified

Data

Lack of short term housing assistance for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as for victims of other crimes. In addition, there are few housing assistance options locally and in rural areas for mental health victims.

According to Ryan Shriver, the Executive Director of Shelter Agencies For Families in East Texas (SAFE-T), “There are over 500 victims in the service area that are at risk for eviction or their utilities cut off. They may be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or other mental health issues, which makes it difficult for them to maintain steady employment.” Organizations and/or service centers such as SAFE-T receive calls on a daily basis from individuals needing housing assistance who live at or below the poverty level.

As previously mentioned, Domestic Violence Prevention, Inc. (DVP) provided services for 658 victims in Bowie and Cass counties last year. The majority of those 658 victims were at risk for homelessness due to violence, and lack of qualifying documentation to secure employment and housing.

SAFE-T and DVP representatives conclude that many of those victims will be at risk of returning to their abuser without the adequate housing assistance that provides funding for deposits and the first month’s rental payment.

Potential Response to Problem

Provide option of long-term or short-term rental assistance (deposits for housing, 12 months of rent, utility payment). This will allow victims to obtain or remain in housing, leave shelters faster, and begin the healing process from the trauma incurred. Also provide short-term motel/hotel stay for mental health victims who have become homeless, since homelessness can cause additional victimization. In addition, provide funding for victims to obtain personal documentation such as driver’s license, social security, birth certificate, etc.

Victim Services Priority

<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Lack of resources to provide educational programs, public awareness and community involvement necessary to increase awareness regarding child abuse, neglect, domestic violence, and sexual assault.</p>	<p><i>“The immediate, short-term economic impacts of child maltreatment are clear. They include the cost of healthcare services for acute injuries, the utilization of social and protective services to investigate and treat abused children, and the money spent on the legal and criminal justice systems involved. Perhaps the greatest economic impact of child maltreatment on society, however, is the unhealthy adults that are produced as a consequence”- Dr. Phaedra S. Corso</i></p> <p>Research shows that investing in healthy child development reduces the likelihood of a significant array of costly conditions, including chronic health problems, premature mortality, lowered educational achievement, lost productivity, mental illness, violent crime, substance abuse and addiction, and the perpetuation of abuse and neglect.</p>
<p><i>Potential Response to Problem</i></p>	
<p>Provide essential training to advocates in order to promote interagency cooperation and the exchange of best practices. Ensure adequate services are available to provide educational and public awareness to prevent child abuse, neglect, and domestic violence. Ensure services are adequate to meet the needs of those affected by sexual assault, including counseling, advocacy, crisis intervention, accompaniment, and other support services.</p>	

Law Enforcement Priorities

Law Enforcement needs and priorities have been assessed in the ATCOG region to include:

- Required, mandated and operational training for law enforcement.
- Advanced equipment and technology for law enforcement purposes.
- Updated communications systems, allowing for agency and interagency communication and cooperation.
- Resources to address the excessive crime and mental illness.

By utilizing all available law enforcement resources in the ATCOG region, the goal is to close these gaps in service as they:

- Strive for adequate funds and training available, which will allow the necessary focus on intermediate and specialized courses for law enforcement officers, along with basic peace officer training for potential officers, basic jailer training, and dispatcher/telecommunications training.
- Strive to provide modern law enforcement technology. Equipment for law enforcement agencies in Northeast Texas need funding/resources to meet the most current technology demands, to allow law enforcement to police our communities in a safe, effective, and efficient manner.
- Provide a comprehensive system and coordinating programs to allow an agency to communicate and cooperate with each other within the agency, as well as with others outside the agency. Provide systems with the ability to synchronize with each other. Ensure that each agency has a basic system that is in working condition and operating efficiently, in order to communicate and do their job effectively. Provide the personnel necessary to improve the system. Provide the equipment necessary to improve the system. Provide the necessary synchronized data collection systems.
- Provide funding and resources for: (1) Combating all local, state, and federal offenses (2) Training law enforcement officers and personnel (3) Creating multi-agency taskforces and units (4) Ensuring better communication between all areas of law enforcement from patrol, investigation, prosecution, incarceration, and rehabilitation.

Law Enforcement Priority	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Insufficient amount of law enforcement training due to an insufficient amount of training funds to support the need.</p>	<p>According to the most recent report, there were 894 individuals with active peace officer licenses, 494 active jailer licenses, 147 active temporary jailer licenses, 197 active telecommunications operator licenses, and 26 temporary telecommunications operator licenses in the ATCOG region. Those are individuals who need ongoing specialized/advanced training to further their knowledge, skills, and expertise. As a result of city/county budget restraints, many of the agencies in the ATCOG region would be unable to provide adequate funds for their officers to attend the necessary training. Aside from current licensees, there are a large number of individuals in the ATCOG region who are interested in pursuing basic peace officer training, basic jail operations training, and telecommunications training, and many of those individuals would not be able to enroll in training without funding assistance. Therefore, funding assistance for training is critical to both, the agencies sending current licensees to training, and also to potential licensees who are seeking to enroll.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>The effectiveness of crime reduction arrests and prosecution will be significantly impacted by the availability of well-trained Peace Officers. With adequate funds and training available, this will allow the necessary focus on intermediate and specialized courses for law enforcement officers, along with basic peace officer training for potential officers, basic jailer training, and dispatcher/telecommunications training.</p>	

Law Enforcement Priority	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Outdated and worn out equipment.</p>	<p>Northeast Texas law enforcement is faced with stagnate budgets and lower economic populations, which makes it difficult to support economic growth. Due to regional economic issues and growing crime rates, law enforcement in Northeast Texas is in need of replacing worn out and outdated equipment to enhance law enforcement operations, and to support law enforcement needs and crime reduction efforts. These law enforcement agencies need financial assistance to support equipment needs for: (1) Communications (2) Department Operations (3) Building Security (4) Transportation (5) Information Technology (6) Crime Detection (7) Officer Safety.</p>

Potential Response to Problem

Modern law enforcement is technology based. Therefore, equipment for law enforcement agencies in Northeast Texas need funding/resources to meet the most current technology demands, to allow law enforcement to police our communities in a safe, effective, and efficient manner.

Law Enforcement Priority

Problem Identified

Data

Antiquated and/or obsolete communication systems, resulting in the inability of agency and interagency communication and cooperation.

Many of the rural departments in the ATCOG region are currently relying on increasingly outdated information systems for both internal functions and external links with criminal justice agencies. Changing technology and interoperability requirements have made DPS communications systems obsolete. The most essential of these systems must be supplemented or replaced to be compatible with new technology using database management, browsers, internet, intranet, and extranet solutions for performing processes. The need for components that can eventually be part of a comprehensive records management program is critical to meeting mandates, legal requirements, and public information expectations. Application of newer technologies will increase efficiency internally as well as allow the agency to better serve the state's criminal justice efforts.

Potential Response to Problem

Provide a comprehensive system and coordinating programs to allow an agency to communicate and cooperate with each other within the agency, as well as with others outside the agency. Provide systems with the ability to synchronize with each other. Ensure that each agency has a basic system that is in working condition and operating efficiently, in order to communicate and do their job effectively. Provide the personnel necessary to improve the system. Provide the equipment necessary to improve the system. Provide the necessary synchronized data collection systems.

Law Enforcement Priority

Problem Identified

Data

Excessive crime rate and lack of resources to address the problem.

According to a study performed by the U.S. Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, *“a number of researchers have concluded that rural areas experiencing rapid growth will also experience a disproportionately large increase in crime. In 21 of 23 studies, crime grew even faster than the population in rural communities with rapid population growth. In fact, crime increased at three to four times*

	<i>the speed at which the population increased. At the same time, rural law enforcement officers often operate with lower budgets, less staff, and less equipment.”</i>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
To provide funding and resources for: (1) Combating all local, state, and federal offenses (2) Training law enforcement officers and personnel (3) Creating multi-agency taskforces and units (4) Ensuring better communication between all areas of law enforcement from patrol, investigation, prosecution, incarceration, and rehabilitation.	

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Priorities

Mental health and substance abuse needs and priorities have been assessed in the ATCOG region to include:

- Resources for mental health transport by law enforcement/agencies, and resources for training law enforcement in dealing with mental health patients and/or individuals with mental health issues.
- Resources for outpatient and inpatient mental health services.
- Resources for mentally ill individuals who are not an immediate threat.
- Adequate funding available for low-income individuals in need of prescription and counseling programs.
- Mental health and substance abuse treatment in underserved groups, including elderly persons, racial and ethnic minorities, and also those in rural areas.

By utilizing all available mental health and substance abuse resources in the ATCOG region, the goal is to close these gaps in service as they:

- Strive for training courses in addition to those such as Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which is a 40-hour curriculum, and allow agencies to make the attendance of Crisis Intervention Training a priority across the ATCOG region, as well as provide additional funding to support law enforcement and the costs necessary to transport mental health individuals in their care.
- Strive for adequate resources including the funding of outpatient services, as well as a state mental health hospital in the Northeast Texas ATCOG region.
- Provide cooperative response programs that include the collaborative resources of law enforcement and mental health counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists to provide the necessary services and treatment that is most beneficial and effective for the individuals.
- Strive for funding resources for local health centers to offer mental health services to those without health insurance, or those with a very high deductible and a limited budget.

- Seek resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment in underserved groups such as elderly persons, racial and ethnic minorities, and also those in rural areas.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Priority	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Shortage of resources for training law enforcement in dealing with mental health patients and/or individuals with mental health issues, and for transporting mental health individuals.</p>	<p>Experts have stated that mental health training for law enforcement officers is necessary and very helpful. Without the appropriate amount of mental health training for police, experts say, rash stigmatization and misinterpretation of the intentions of the mentally ill can cause vital errors and ultimately make the difference between life and death. Courses such as Crisis Intervention Training have been created to bridge that gap. However, not all law enforcement agencies are able to send their officers to the 40-hour course due to a shortage of training funds within their local agency and/or a shortage of staff to have on duty while other officers are attending the training. In addition, law enforcement/agencies in the ATCOG have difficulties transporting mental health individuals in their care to mental health facilities due to the limited manpower, long distances, overtime necessary, and limited space (possibly no beds available) in those facilities once they arrive.</p>
<i>Potential Response to Problem</i>	
<p>Provide training courses in addition to those such as Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which is a 40-hour curriculum, and allow agencies to make the attendance of Crisis Intervention Training a priority across the ATCOG region. In addition to providing CIT to local law enforcement, it is essential that the law enforcement, mental health, and advocacy agencies work together in order for the end result of crisis intervention to be successful. Also essential are 1) the resources to law enforcement agencies that are necessary to support the transport of the mental health individuals to mental health facilities and 2) additional space in those facilities and/or providing additional facilities/providers in the ATCOG region as mentioned in the next priority.</p>	

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Priority	
<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Lack of adequate resources for outpatient and inpatient mental health services.</p>	<p>The state of Texas provides funding for both outpatient mental health services, through a network of 37 community-based local mental health authorities (LMHAs) across the state, and inpatient services at 10 state-owned psychiatric hospitals. In regards to outpatient services, HB 2292, passed by the Texas</p>

	<p>legislature in 2003, limited eligibility for state-funded services. Since the implementation of HB 2292, LMHAs are required to act only as a provider of last resort. The state of Texas provides inpatient mental health services at 10 state hospitals. Each LMHA receives an equity allocation for inpatient services at one of the 10 state hospitals. DSHS allocates to each LMHA a prepaid account to pay for the treatment of uninsured patients in a state hospital. However, this “account” can only be used in the state hospital system. If the LMHA does not use the full amount of funding in its “account” it cannot carry this over to the next contract year. There are no mental health state hospitals in the ATCOG region, as Terrell State Hospital (Terrell, TX) and Rusk State Hospital (Rusk, TX) are the closest to our region.</p>
--	--

Potential Response to Problem

Provide adequate resources including the funding of outpatient services, as well as a state mental health hospital in the Northeast Texas ATCOG region. This would open up much needed space in Terrell and Rusk, which is where patients from the ATCOG region must go. This would also alleviate the added transportation expenses that are currently incurred when patients are transported there.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Priority

<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Shortage of resources for mentally ill individuals who are not an immediate threat.</p>	<p>There are a large number of mentally ill individuals who are not an immediate threat to others. However, they do not always receive the attention they require due to the shortage of available resources in our region. Many of these individuals are ending up in jail rather than receiving the treatment and counseling that they need. This creates a vicious cycle, especially with homeless individuals, as they are put back on the street.</p>

Potential Response to Problem

Provide cooperative response programs that include the collaborative resources of law enforcement and mental health counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists to provide the necessary services and treatment that is most beneficial and effective for the individuals.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Priority

<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
<p>Lack of adequate funding available for low-income individuals in need of</p>	<p>Mental health disorders are very prevalent, yet only a small amount of individuals who are diagnosed actually receive the necessary treatment due to high treatment costs and low income. For instance, cognitive-</p>

prescription and counseling programs.	behavioral therapy, which is very effective in treating anxiety disorders, is very expensive, with some rates of approximately \$100 per hour. Medication can help reduce the symptoms of some mental health disorders, but for those individuals without insurance, or those with a very high deductible and a limited budget, these prescriptions can be extremely expensive and impossible to afford.
---------------------------------------	--

Potential Response to Problem

Provide funding resources for local health centers to offer mental health services to those without health insurance, and/or those with a very high deductible and a limited budget.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Priority

<i>Problem Identified</i>	<i>Data</i>
Unmet need for mental health and substance abuse treatment in underserved groups, including elderly persons, racial and ethnic minorities, and also those in rural areas.	<p>An Institute of Medicine report concluded that <i>“the only way to achieve true quality (and equality) in the health care system is to integrate primary care with mental health care and substance abuse services. This is particularly important as the majority of people with poor mental health who do get treatment see only a primary care physician. As health care reform focuses on a central role for primary care in the delivery and coordination of health care services, especially for the chronically ill, it is timely to consider how mental health services could be better integrated into primary care, and how the implementation of health care reforms could optimally deliver this.”</i></p> <p>Likewise, it is essential that law enforcement and other mental health providers work with the individual in assessing what will be the most beneficial course of treatment based on the individual’s needs, age, financial resources, and also their location.</p>

Potential Response to Problem

Provide resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment in underserved groups such as elderly persons, racial and ethnic minorities, and also those in rural areas. This would make a substantial contribution toward expanding access to mental health services, improving the physical health of people with mental illness, and the mental health of people with chronic physical illnesses.

WHO IS DOING WHAT?

Included below are resources identified by the ATCOG Region Planning Team that are available to provide services that could potentially help in closing criminal justice gaps.

JUVENILE JUSTICE:

ATCOG – Purchase of Juvenile Justice Services (juvenile mental health)
Bowie County Juvenile Probation (and truancy program)
Boys & Girls Club of Texarkana
Cass County Juvenile Probation
Community Health Core
B.A.S.E. (Basic Awareness Safety Education)
Delta County Juvenile Probation
Franklin County Child Protective Services
Franklin County Juvenile Probation
HandsOn Texarkana, the Volunteer Center -Youth Volunteer Program
Hopkins County Boys and Girls Club
Hopkins County Juvenile Probation
Hopkins County Family Crisis Counselor
Lamar County Juvenile Probation
Morris County Juvenile Probation
Next Step Community Solutions
Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center (Franklin, Hopkins, Titus, Wood, Camp & others)
East Texas Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse (ETCADA)
Paris Pregnancy Crisis Center
Red River County Juvenile Probation
Region VIII Education Service Center
Safe-T (Titus, Franklin, Hopkins, Morris, Delta, Lamar, Red River counties)
Sulphur Springs Alternative Learning Center
The Children’s Center Child Advocacy Project
Titus County Juvenile Probation
211 Texas – Northeast Texas Region

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

ATCOG Regional Law Enforcement Training

LAW ENFORCEMENT (CONTINUED):

Atlanta ISD Police Dept.

Atlanta Police Dept.

Avery ISD Police Dept.

Awareness of Crime in Texarkana, Inc. (Crime Stoppers)

Bloomburg Police Dept.

Bogata Police Dept.

Bowie County Community Supervision and Corrections Department

Bowie County Constable Offices

Bowie County District Attorney's Office

Bowie County/Red River County Recovery Center

Bowie County Sheriff's Dept.

Cass County District/County Attorney's Office

Cass County Sheriff's Dept.

Chapel Hill NE ISD Police Dept.

Chism ISD Police Dept.

Clarksville Fire Dept.

Clarksville Police Dept.

Como-Pickton CISD

Como Police Dept.

Cumby Police Dept.

Daingerfield/Lone Star ISD Police Dept.

Daingerfield Police Dept.

Dekalb Police Dept.

Delta County District/County Attorney's Office

Delta County Sheriff's Dept.

Franklin County District/County Attorney's Office

Franklin County Sheriff's Dept.

Franklin County Water District's Lake Patrol

Hooks Police Dept.

Hopkins County Attorney's Office

Hopkins County Fire Dept.

Hopkins County District Attorney's Office

Hopkins County Sheriff's Dept.

Jefferson Police Dept.

Lamar County District/County Attorney's Office

Lamar County Crime Stoppers

Lamar County Sheriff's Dept.

LAW ENFORCEMENT (CONTINUED):

Liberty-Eylau ISD Police Dept.

Linden-Kildare CISD Police Dept.

Linden Police Dept.

Lone Star Police Dept.

Maud Police Dept.

Morris County District/County Attorney's Office

Morris County Sheriff's Dept.

Mt. Pleasant Fire Dept.

Mt. Pleasant ISD Police Dept.

Mt. Pleasant Police Dept.

Mt. Vernon Police Dept.

Naples Police Dept.

Nash Police Dept.

New Boston Police Dept.

Northeast Texas Area Crime Stoppers

North Lamar ISD Police Dept.

Paris ISD Police Dept.

Paris Police Dept.

Prairiland ISD Crime Stoppers

Queen City ISD Police Dept.

Queen City Police Dept.

Red River County District/County Attorney's Office

Red River County Sheriff's Dept

Redwater ISD Police Dept.

Reno Police Dept.

Rivercrest ISD Police Dept.

Sulphur Springs/Hopkins County Crime Stoppers

Sulphur Springs ISD Police Dept.

Sulphur Springs Police Dept.

Sulphur Springs Special Crimes Unit

Texarkana College - Police Dept.

Texarkana Independent School District – Police Dept.

Texarkana Police Dept.

Texas A&M University Texarkana – Police Dept.

Titus County District/County Attorney's Office

Titus County Sheriff's Dept.

Wake Village Police Dept.

LAW ENFORCEMENT (CONTINUED):

211 Texas – Northeast Texas Region

VICTIM SERVICES, MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

Adult Protective Services (HHSC)

Bowie County Community Supervision and Corrections Department

CASA for Kids

CASA of Northeast Texas (Bowie, Cass, Morris, and Camp counties)

Child Protective Services

Children's Advocacy Center-Paris (Lamar & Red River counties)

Crime Victims Committee (CVC of the State Bar of Texas)

Domestic Violence Prevention, Inc. (Bowie and Cass counties)

Genesis Primecare (Located in Bowie County)

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

New Hope – Homeless & Victims of Crime (Paris)

Next Step Community Solutions

Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center (Franklin, Hopkins, Titus, Wood, Camp & others)

Northeast Texas Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse (NETCADA)

Safe-T (Titus, Franklin, Camp, Hopkins, Morris, Wood, Delta, Lamar, Red River counties)

Texarkana Children's Advocacy Center (Bowie & Cass counties)

Texas VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday)

211 Texas – Northeast Texas Region

Victim Services Advocates

WHO CAN WORK WITH WHOM?

Juvenile justice service providers can be very effective in helping juveniles to make positive decisions and reach their full potential. This can be achieved by having law enforcement, school administration/staff, juvenile probation officers, Child Protective Services, Children's Advocacy Centers, licensed professional counselors, licensed chemical dependency counselors, and other community organizations working hand in hand and providing direction to the youth and families in the ATCOG region.

Victim assistance organizations, law enforcement agencies, and district attorneys/courts play a vital role in enhancing the local coordinated responses to victims. They are able to build partnerships to connect victims to the necessary service(s). These partnerships positively affect victims and also enhance the case management and follow-up assistance that is designed to promote victim recovery. If all agencies and providers are working together in the victim assistance process, then there is often a greater likelihood that victims will follow through and actively participate in the criminal justice process.

In providing public safety to individuals in the ATCOG region, it is essential that law enforcement agencies are able to communicate effectively with one another, as well as with district/county courts, and with community organizations to reach the common goal of safety and well-being.

Mental health and substance abuse treatment can be very successful with the established collaborative resources offered by law enforcement, mental health counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and advocacy agencies. In working together, they are able to provide the necessary services and treatment that is most beneficial and effective for the individuals.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Planning Team works in conjunction with other planning groups in the region to ensure a regular exchange of ideas. Individuals active in the planning process generally serve on many of these committees and share mutual concerns.

The ATCOG Planning Team strives to meet periodically to review the Plan and make necessary additions and deletions. At least one formal meeting of the entire group is held each fall, but agency and community representatives typically submit suggestions and changes via telephone and e-mail throughout the year to the Planning Coordinator.

Drafts and annual updates of the Regional Plan are circulated by e-mail with requests for comments, changes, etc. Wherever possible, e-mail is used to reduce the need for meetings, printing, postage, etc.

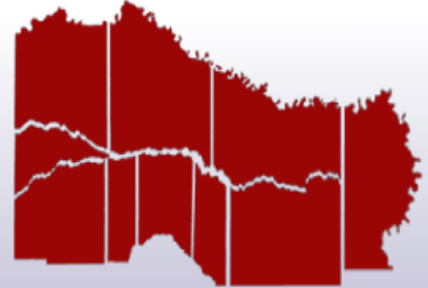
It is the intent of the Regional Planning Group to improve outcomes for families in the ATCOG region who are struggling with problems described in the Plan's focus areas. Efforts are being made by many agencies and organizations in the region to address problems with local funds as well as grant funds from multiple state and federal sources. To the extent that these funds are available, the Regional Planning Team will continue to encourage agencies to provide programming that addresses the outlined focus areas, along with problem/need identification, performance measure evaluation, and the revision of current goals to meet the identified needs.

The local priorities identified in the Regional Plan will also be utilized in the CJD grant scoring process. Focus groups of the previously mentioned categories are formed at the Regional Strategic Planning Meeting, and these groups develop a list of recommendations for the top five (can be less than five if necessary) priorities of each category. These recommendations will be reviewed by the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee for their approval prior to the scoring process. Based on the current requirements by CJD, the top five priorities within each category of the Plan (Victim Services, Juvenile Services, Law Enforcement) will be used in the grant application scoring process and also submitted to CJD.



ATCOG

Ark-Tex Council of Governments



**REGION PLANNING COORDINATOR & LIAISON
FROM ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Patricia Haley

903-255-3531

phaley@atcog.org

This Plan is available online at:

www.atcog.org