



**Report on the Response of the
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
to the Impact of the Aging of
Virginia's Population**

November 15, 2014

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Pursuant to legislation enacted by the Virginia General Assembly of Virginia, the *Department of Criminal Justice Services* submits this report of its progress in addressing the impact of the aging of Virginia's population.



Francine C. Ecker
Director

November 15, 2014

Submission Date

Executive Summary

As the criminal justice planning and funding agency for the Commonwealth, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is primarily involved in providing grants to localities related to the aging population rather than being a direct service provider. There are two primary areas of focus in which indirect services are provided to aging citizens of the Commonwealth: support provided to victim services programs and training provided to law enforcement personnel to better understand and respond to individuals with Alzheimer's disease. The agency recognizes the importance of, and is committed to, providing continued support to direct service providers across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Agency Description

DCJS is one of eleven agencies within the Public Safety and Homeland Security Secretariat. The agency's policy body, the Criminal Justice Services Board, which is appointed by the Governor, provides policy guidance and approval of grant awards and training standards.

The mission of DCJS is to provide leadership to improve the criminal justice system in Virginia's communities through effective training, partnerships, research, regulation, and support. DCJS is charged with planning and carrying out programs and initiatives to improve the functioning and effectiveness of the criminal justice system as a whole.

The Department:

- conducts research and evaluation on criminal justice issues;
- develops short and long-term criminal justice plans;
- distributes federal and state funding to localities, state agencies and nonprofit organizations in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, crime and delinquency prevention, juvenile justice, victims services, corrections and information systems;
- provides training, technical assistance and program development services to all segments of the criminal justice system;
- establishes and enforces minimum training standards for law enforcement, criminal justice and private security personnel; and licenses and regulates the private security industry in Virginia.

The agency's primary constituents are local and state criminal justice agencies and practitioners, private agencies, private security practitioners and businesses, and the public-at-large. Other constituents include local governments and state agencies, the federal government and advocacy groups/associations.

The Department is unique in state government because of its system wide perspective on criminal justice. While it directs programs and services to each component of the system, it has an overarching responsibility to view the system as a whole, to understand how changes in one part of the criminal justice system will affect other parts, and to work to assure that plans and programs are comprehensive.

The Department is located in the Washington Building at 1100 Bank Street in Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Data Requested

DCJS primarily is involved in providing grants to localities that relate to the aging population rather than being a direct service provider. The primary area in which indirect services are provided to the aging relates to support given to statewide victim services programs, and training provided to law enforcement personnel to better understand and respond to individuals with Alzheimer's disease. Information about agency programs is available on our website. The web site is WAI level A compliant and is considered senior-friendly.

Victims Services

The Victims Services Section develops, coordinates, and funds victim/witness programs, sexual assault crisis centers, and programs that combat violence against women, including the V-STOP grant program and the Virginia Domestic Violence Victim Fund. The section offers many services, training, and resources to victim services providers, law enforcement officials, allied professionals, prosecutors, and other local government officials. The agency has been involved in collaborative efforts with community based programs to address the needs of women and victims aged 50 and older by supporting a coordinated, crossed trained community response to domestic and sexual violence later in life. It is also the lead coordinating agency in the federally-funded, inter-agency partnership Grant to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protective Orders (GEAP), which targets underserved populations including older adults.

Services provided to elderly victims through grant funded programs are:

Victim/Witness Programs

In Fiscal Year 2014, grant funded Victim/Witness Programs provided direct services to **1,803** victims over the age of 65.

VSTOP

For Calendar Year 2013, V-STOP Victims Services programs served **612** persons over age 60.

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund

During Calendar Year 2013, **298** victims age 60 and over were served by programs funded by the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund.

Sexual Assault Grant Programs (SAGP)

Local agencies receiving Sexual Assault Grant Program grants provided services to **169** people over the age of 65 in Fiscal Year 2014.

Sexual Assault Services Programs (SASP)

Local agencies receiving Sexual Assault Services Program grants provided services to **38** people age 60 and over in Calendar Year 2013.

Grant to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protective Orders (GEAP)

DCJS is the lead coordinating agency in a partnership with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Virginia Department of Health, the Office of the Attorney General, the Virginia Poverty Law Center and the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. The project team is currently conducting needs assessments and focus groups in planning to develop, deliver and/or coordinate training for law enforcement officers and allied professionals to improve Virginia's response to victims of domestic and sexual violence from underserved populations – immigrant, African American and older adults.

Alzheimer's Disease Training to Law Enforcement Personnel

DCJS lost its funding for Alzheimer's in 2009. However, DCJS has brought the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) training on responding to Alzheimer's Disease to Virginia several times in the past two years, and is planning on bringing the train the trainer program to Virginia to sustain this effort.

The IACP training consists of 8-hour courses titled "Responding to Alzheimer's Disease: Techniques for Law Enforcement & First Responders." 194 individuals have been trained. IACP plans to sustain this training by offering two-day, train-the-trainer courses in six locations across the U.S. Virginia will be one of those sites and there will be no fee to attend.

Triad

The Department collaborated with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for many years in their sponsorship of Triad. Triad is a program that brings local law enforcement, seniors and service organizations together for crime prevention training and other programs that serve the special needs of the elderly, such as daily phone calls to check on the status of at-risk seniors, information about current scams that are targeting the elderly, and other specific needs.

The DCJS role was to award small grants to many localities to enable them to establish a Triad program in their community. There has been no funding or dedicated staff available for DCJS to support Triad in recent years. However, the agency's Public Safety Training section has continued to be represented on the Triad council, and we are exploring options for partnering with other agencies, including the OAG, the National White Collar Crime Center, and the National Crime Prevention Center to provide additional support for local Triad programming.

Other Training

DCJS provides crime prevention training in the areas of fraud and scams, internet security, identity theft, and other crimes against the elderly. Through a grant with the OAG, DCJS is partnering with the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police to offer crime prevention trainings and a conference to address a variety of crime prevention topics relevant to the older population and frequently victimized groups. Although our training programs focus on public safety issues, they touch on financial security as well.

Impact of the Aging Workforce on the Department

The average age at DCJS is 51 and the age range is from 27 to 88. Currently there are seven (7) employees or approximately 7% of the workforce that are at least 50 years of age with 30 or more years of service, and there are approximately three (3) additional employees who will meet this retirement eligibility in the next five years. Currently there are ten (10) or 10% of employees eligible for retirement with unreduced benefits. Over the next several years, the greatest area of retirement vulnerability is in the agency's Division of Administration.

The Department is committed to providing ongoing training to professionals and managers which diminishes the impact of retirements on the agency. Also, the trend for state employees to work several years beyond initial unreduced retirement eligibility is expected to continue

tempering the potential impact. Several community based programs, law enforcement agencies, and other state agencies have enough programmatic and administrative similarities to DCJS to provide qualified candidates to minimize the impact when highly experienced employees retire. Finally, in order to fill critical knowledge gaps or programmatic needs, the agency will continue using retired or wage employees on a limited basis as necessary to fulfill its mission.