



# PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

## *Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program*

*Training and Technical Assistance Provider  
Michigan State University  
School of Criminal Justice*



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### **It's official...Project Safe Neighborhoods Rated "Promising"**

In April 2016, CrimeSOLUTIONS.gov (<https://www.crimesolutions.gov/default.aspx>) officially recognized Project Safe Neighborhoods as a "Promising Practice" based on evidence garnered through the Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice PSN National Evaluation. CrimeSOLUTIONS.gov states, "Cities that received a higher dosage of PSN were significantly more likely to experience decreases in violent crime than cities that did not fully implement PSN." **The full and final report can be viewed [here](#).**

For further information on Project Safe Neighborhoods or any content in this Newsletter, contact:

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### **Blue Courage: Building Law Enforcement and Community Trust**

Blue Courage is a partnership between the Bureau of Justice Assistance, (BJA), International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST), National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), and BJA's National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC). Blue Courage offers training, podcasts, and links to resources such as the *Resource Guide for Enhancing Community Relationships and Protecting Privacy and Constitutional Rights* to assist in improving community/law enforcement relationships. Dr. Ryan Spohn, District of Nebraska PSN, attended the Blue Courage Research Partner Meeting in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Spohn offered, "The Meeting was an exciting opportunity to learn about a novel program with the potential to transform the careers and well-being of law enforcement officers as well as set the groundwork for an initial research protocol developed by research representatives collaborating with early-adoption sites." For additional details on Blue Courage visit: <http://bluecourage.com/>

### **Webinar on Cost-Benefit Analysis for Reducing Recidivism**

*Sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) National Training and Technical Assistance (NTTAC)*

The Thursday, May 19, 2:00—3:00 p.m. webinar is open to all criminal justice professionals interested in cost-benefit analysis. Michael Wilson, of Michael Wilson Consulting, created a cost-benefit analysis model to examine programs and policies designed to reduce recidivism and to help build local capacity. The model uses state and county-specific data from two counties in Pennsylvania. For additional information or questions about the webinar, contact James Lah at [nttac@bjatraining.org](mailto:nttac@bjatraining.org) or [1-855-252-8822](tel:1-855-252-8822). **To register for the webinar, click [here](#).**

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## Violence Reduction Assessment Tool

For additional information on the Violence Reduction Assessment Tool please visit: <http://www.psnmsu.com/vrat/>

The Violence Reduction Assessment Tool (VRAT) is a new planning resource for communities engaged in strategic efforts to reduce violent crime. Developed in collaboration with BJA, the VRAT assists communities with 1) assessing their local violent crime problem; 2) identifying evidence-based and promising strategies for reducing violent crime; 3) assessing their capacity to effectively implement a violence reduction strategy; and 4) linking

communities to resources to accomplish the first three goals.

The online instrument takes approximately 15-30 minutes to complete. Key dimensions include: *Governance and Project Management, Partnerships, Data and Analysis, and Feedback and Awareness*. Aggregated results for teams of four or more participants are provided along with suggestions useful for planning and setting a benchmark for assessing progress.

## Strategic Action Plan Template

The PSN SAP must be submitted to Ed Banks at [Edward.banks@usdoj.gov](mailto:Edward.banks@usdoj.gov) by Friday, June 3, 2016

MSU has developed a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) template for PSN grantees. The template is available to all Smart Suite programs but may require some modification to meet specific program needs.

[The Strategic Action Plan template can be found at: http://www.psnmsu.com/rpoc\\_resources/](http://www.psnmsu.com/rpoc_resources/)

## Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Fellows Academy

The third Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Fellows Academy is currently being planned for late summer or early fall 2016. The goal of the Academy is to support the effective integration of research into the Smart Suite programs and to enhance capacity for local crime prevention and reduction. The multi-day experience focuses on the importance of inclusion of science and data in BJA supported programs. A cadre of more than 20 subject matter experts will provide content for the Academy. If you are interested in an upcoming Academy, **more information is available [here](#)**.

## The Research Partner Orientation Course

The PSN FY15 sites attended the Research Partner Orientation Course (RPOC) on April 12-13, 2016 in Kansas City, Missouri. Omaha and Seattle presented examples of their Strategic Action Plans and sample task force reports. Dr. Andrew Fox and Major Joe McHale offered a session on Social Network Analysis, a key component of their Ceasefire efforts. Agent Shawn Hoben presented ATF's National Integrated Ballistic Information Network. MSU would like to thank the sites and presenters for contributing to another successful RPOC.

**Final Reminder: The Violent Gun and Gang Crime Reduction Program (PSN) FY2016 Solicitation is available through [this link](#) and closes on May 17, 2016.**