



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

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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Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Fellows Academy

A large group of more than 70 researchers and practitioners from six of the Smart Suite Programs, including PSN, and the three Crime Analysis Capacity Building Programs, were in attendance for the second Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Fellows Academy. The second Academy was held in Washington, DC at the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

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 provided content for the Academy.

The third Academy will be held in the Summer 2016. MSU is able to provide

If you are interested in an upcoming Academy please [visit: http://cj.msu.edu/smart-suite-research-practitioner-fellows-academy-registration/](http://cj.msu.edu/smart-suite-research-practitioner-fellows-academy-registration/)



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

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Fellows Academy Class #2 comment:

Thank you for organizing and coordinating the Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Fellows Academy in D.C. It was one of my best work/training experiences in a very long time! I learned so much and met new friends.

Research Partner Orientation Course for FY15 PSN Sites

The Research Partner Orientation Course (RPOC) will be offered on April 12-13, 2016 in Kansas City, MO. The one and a half day course will bring together a two-person team of one research partner and one practitioner representative from each of the 10 PSN sites. The RPOC will offer an array of information including researcher practitioner partnerships; the research partner model; and examples of evidence-based/informed practices such as Social Network

Analysis, National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, and the Drug Market Intervention.

MSU will be contacting the sites once final meeting approval is received from BJA. The course is required as prescribed in the FY2015 Solicitation.

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UPDATE: From November 2015 to February 2016, over 80 individuals from 25 PSN sites have completed the VRAT.

Violence Reduction Assessment Tool

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.

Step one involves an assessment of implementation capacity. 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

MSU has developed a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) template for the PSN sites. The template has been piloted by one PSN site. The site has found the template to be a useful tool in developing the required SAP for BJA. The site had submitted their SAP draft to BJA prior to attending the Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Fellows Academy (see page 1). Based on knowledge gained at the Academy, the PSN team decided to make adjustments and resubmit. The site's SAP was recently approved by BJA and the site now has the authori-

zation to proceed with PSN implementation. The SAP has been included as an attachment with the Newsletter for the PSN sites and is available for other Smart Suite Programs upon request. SAP's should be submitted to Ed Banks at Edward.banks@usdoj.gov

Following last week's Fellows Academy, our team members felt compelled to make revisions that not only focused our project but also incorporated evidence-based practices that aligned with our objectives.

Violent Gun and Gang Crime Reduction Program (PSN) Solicitation FY2016

The Violent Gun and Gang Crime Reduction Program (PSN) FY2016 Solicitation is available at: <https://www.bja.gov/Funding/PSN16.pdf>

The solicitation closes on May 17, 2016.