



Pennsylvania
**Commission on Crime
and Delinquency**

2026 - 2030

Strategic Framework



Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD)

Mission

To advance justice system collaboration, support victims, and promote safer schools and communities through planning, training, and financial assistance.

Vision

To be a state and national leader supporting programs and practices promoting justice for all Pennsylvanians.

Core Values

We shape our priorities around service, expand our understanding from experts, measure our effectiveness by the professionalism of practitioners, and, above all, believe that integrity will get us to our goals.

Implementation

To implement and monitor its five-year strategic plan, PCCD will continue to:

- Utilize a performance management process to track and ensure progress with the Strategic Framework's goals, objectives, and related initiatives.
- Identify, develop, and implement enhancements to key systems, with a focus on improving customer service, user experience, and accessibility of information and resources.
- Create spaces and opportunities for internal and external stakeholders to share their ideas and feedback regarding PCCD's progress in meeting its goals and fulfilling its statutory mandates.

About PCCD

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), established by state law in 1978,¹ is the Commonwealth's lead agency for justice planning and policy. PCCD brings together experts across criminal and juvenile justice, victim services, public safety, education, and related fields to identify issues, develop solutions, and assess their impact.

Key functions include:

- Building partnerships among federal, state, and local leaders
- Promoting interagency collaboration
- Shaping and coordinating justice policymaking
- Providing statewide crime data and analysis
- Supporting community-based prevention and reentry programs
- Advancing technology and information sharing in justice systems
- Administering state and federal grants to fund innovation and best practices

The [Commission](#) is comprised of 49 statutorily designated members, including law enforcement and public safety leaders, victims' services professionals, judges and court officials, nonprofit and community experts, as well as state and local elected officials. To better inform the Commission in its work, PCCD is comprised of [Advisory Committees and Boards](#), as well as the [School Safety and Security Committee](#).

You can learn more about the Commission's history and work, and see information about recent initiatives and upcoming meetings, on our [website](#).

¹ Act of Nov. 22, 1978, P.L. 1166, No. 274

Identifying Needs & Strategic Priorities

Current Landscape

Significant Agency Growth

PCCD's responsibilities are largely driven by legislative direction, both at the federal and state levels. Since its last Strategic Framework was adopted in December 2020, the agency's operational footprint and responsibilities have expanded tremendously. Organizational resources and practices - including staffing patterns - have been modified to try to keep pace. Stakeholders acknowledged the agency's success "rising to the occasion" and navigating these changing dynamics.

Evolving Responsibilities

Over the past five years, PCCD has continued to receive additional responsibilities and an expanded portfolio of initiatives:

- Significantly expanded youth-focused funding and initiatives, including school safety and mental health grants for nonpublic schools, [scholarships for at-risk youth](#), afterschool/mentoring programs (e.g., [Building Opportunity Through Out-of-School Time/BOOST Grants](#)), and more.
- Establishment of the [Violence Intervention and Prevention \(VIP\) Grants](#) program and a newly re-established [Office of Gun Violence Prevention](#).
- New/expanded training programs, including [school safety training](#) for all public K-12 school employees in the Commonwealth and school safety and security coordinators, as well as [basic training and continuing education](#) for county adult probation officers and parole agents.
- Addition of new funding streams like [Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program \(SCIP\)](#) as well as one-time federal ARPA-funded programs like Local Law Enforcement Support Grants and Gun Violence Investigation & Prosecution Grants.
- The creation and launch of a [statewide sexual assault kit tracking system](#), as well as the administration of a new [sexual assault counseling claim process](#).
- Establishing the [indigent defense grant program](#) and creating new standards for the delivery of indigent defense services throughout the state.

These increased responsibilities have often required PCCD to adjust quickly to new directives - while also maintaining efforts related to ongoing requirements for longstanding programs - in ways that have often challenged agency capacity and its existing structure.

Shifting Federal and State Policy and Funding Landscape

In recent months, the landscape of federal funding has rapidly shifted. Some federally supported programs, such as Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants, were already struggling to keep up with demand with unstable and declining funds. Other non-PCCD line-items or grant programs were abruptly concluded, leaving gaps in technical assistance. These dynamics have imposed additional pressures on State Administering Agencies (SAAs) like PCCD to respond and attempt to fill in the gaps to maintain service levels for core priorities.

Crime Trends²

While crime can vary significantly from place to place and year to year, Pennsylvania has seen notable long-term improvements in public safety. The overall crime rate in the Commonwealth is significantly lower in 2023 compared to two decades ago.³ Since 2014, violent crime has decreased 14%, reflecting progress in reducing serious offenses. However, the number of homicides increased by 44% during the same timeframe, underscoring the need for continued, targeted violence prevention efforts.⁴ Similarly, while the statewide property crime rate has dropped during this time period, there has been a sharp increase in recent years, largely driven by spikes in motor vehicle thefts, which have increased 163% since 2014.⁵

To support data-informed decision-making, PCCD will soon be launching a new *interactive crime trends dashboard* that allows users to explore statewide and county-level crime data. This tool will provide accessible data analytics to help practitioners, communities, policymakers, and the public better understand and respond to evolving public safety needs. Additional data dashboards, maps, research publications, and data resources are available on PCCD's [Statistical Analysis Center webpage](#).

Cross-Cutting Trends, Themes & Needs

While PCCD's work spans many diverse areas, several common themes that consistently rose to the surface during the 2026-2030 strategic planning process:

- Intersection of public safety challenges with broader social, political, and economic issues (e.g., poverty, housing, transportation, rising costs, technology, social isolation, etc.).
- Evolving crime trends, along with growing mental health, behavioral health, and substance use disorder-related needs impacting individuals, families, and communities, as well as the systems they engage.
- Reaffirming a need to engage diverse viewpoints within strategy development and implementation, including research and evaluation.
- Workforce challenges (recruitment, hiring, retention, etc.) affecting every single sector supported by PCCD, creating opportunities to modernize training and explore potential policy approaches to alleviate pressures.
- Funding shifts and the need to invest in what is essential and what works, prioritizing critical services over discretionary initiatives.
- Continued need for informed policy and practice reforms across multiple systems/settings.

² 2024 crime statistics collected and published through Pennsylvania's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program are still provisional; as such, 2023 data is referenced in this document. For more up to date data, please visit [Pennsylvania State Police's UCR Dashboard](#).

³ *Pennsylvania Crime Trends Over 10 Years (2014-2023)*, Dr. Rob Orth, PCCD Office of Research, Evaluation & Strategic Policy Development, March 12, 2025.

⁴ *Pennsylvania Crime Trends Over 10 Years (2014-2023)*.

⁵ *Pennsylvania Crime Trends Over 10 Years (2014-2023)*.

PCCD 2026-2030 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Agency Guiding Principles

For the next five years, the following principles shall guide PCCD in its operations:

- PCCD needs to remain flexible and responsive to changing funding, policy, and public safety trends while still meeting core, statutorily mandated expectations and maintaining its reputation as good stewards of taxpayer funding.
- Recognizing that resources are always a scarce commodity, PCCD should promote under-resourced issues or areas identified as priorities to receive first consideration for funding or assistance, if available.
- Quality customer service and communications between PCCD staff and all stakeholders should remain a top priority so that stakeholders continue to hold the agency in high regard.
- PCCD should continually conduct regular reviews of its policies, practices, and operations to improve interagency and external processes to make them as modern, efficient, and effective as possible.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal 1: Support PCCD's core statutory functions⁶ by advancing cross-system efforts to improve safety, justice, and healing.

This goal and its underlying objectives reflect PCCD's broad - and growing - mandates related to our role as Pennsylvania's justice planning and policymaking agency, State Administering Agency, and statewide training authority for key system partners. This goal reaffirms the strategic framework's intent to maintain the programs and operational resources needed to fulfill PCCD's statutory responsibilities amidst evolving trends and needs.

- 1.1.** Ensure victims of crime have access to financial help and trauma-informed services by sustaining the [Victims Compensation Assistance Program \(VCAP\)](#) and supporting high-quality programs through grant funding, training, technical assistance, and standards.
- 1.2.** Continue to support the development and expansion of accredited children's advocacy centers and multidisciplinary investigative teams to ensure comprehensive, trauma-informed responses to child sexual abuse and child abuse throughout the Commonwealth.
- 1.3.** Improve the safety and well-being of Pennsylvania's youth by helping schools meet basic safety standards and supporting programs that prevent youth violence and delinquency and address risk early on.
- 1.4.** Advance initiatives and standards that enhance the effectiveness of key justice system services, such as public defense and county probation and parole supervision

⁶ Defined as programs, initiatives, or services that are provided in response to a federal or state mandate, or are otherwise considered to be essential to fulfilling PCCD's statutory purpose and mission.

and improve how data is collected and used to monitor results and improve accountability.

- 1.5.** Advance reforms that strengthen the professional standards for sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and constables by modernizing training, clarifying statutory roles, and addressing recruitment and retention challenges across the system.
- 1.6.** Implement a range of public safety initiatives to bolster community safety and prevent targeted violence.

Goal 2: Where available, use flexible funding to support innovative, promising approaches to address persistent and emerging public safety needs.

While much of the agency's work is driven by statutory mandates, PCCD has always used resources at its disposal to also test and advance new, innovative ideas that respond to emerging or unmet needs. This goal and its related objectives acknowledge the continued need to address long-standing public safety challenges, like gun violence and mental/behavioral health needs, with an eye toward newer challenges on the horizon (e.g., artificial intelligence, etc.).

- 2.1.** Advance strategies that are likely to reduce violent crime and overall crime rates.
- 2.2.** Fill critical gaps and uphold PCCD's statutory mandates – such as victim services, law enforcement support, and system coordination – through targeted, flexible investments.
- 2.3.** Enhance PCCD's ability to anticipate and respond effectively to emerging public safety issues - such as artificial intelligence (AI) and other advances in public safety technology, crisis response, and new justice system reforms - through proactive planning and flexible resource deployment.
- 2.4.** Support gun violence intervention and prevention strategies that combine community-based and law enforcement-led approaches, improve clearance rates, and promote healing and recovery for individuals and communities.
- 2.5.** Advance reforms in juvenile justice and expand youth-focused strategies that support the needs, safety, and positive development of young people.
- 2.6.** Promote innovation in law enforcement recruitment, retention, and accreditation by investing in training, technology, equipment, regionalization, and other strategies to strengthen public safety.

Goal 3: Strengthen Pennsylvania's public safety data infrastructure and expand PCCD's research and analytic capacity to improve decision-making, transparency, and accountability.

This goal and its underlying objectives reaffirm PCCD's role as Pennsylvania's Statistical Analysis Center and focus on addressing gaps in Pennsylvania's crime data reporting infrastructure and improving quality and availability of data related to PCCD administered programs.

- 3.1** Expand PCCD's research and analysis capacity and create an agency-wide research agenda with input from the Commission and advisory committees to inform policy decisions and support data-informed improvements across Pennsylvania's public safety system.

- 3.2** Help improve the quality, completeness, and timeliness of Pennsylvania's crime data through continued investments and policy reforms to increase NIBRS compliance among law enforcement agencies, in collaboration with key partners.
- 3.3** Publish user-friendly data dashboards to increase transparency and public confidence.
- 3.4** Strengthen how PCCD tracks, measures, and communicates the outcomes of funded programs by standardizing performance measures, improving monitoring tools, and promoting accountability and transparency.
- 3.5** Link and coordinate data across systems - such as justice, health, and education - to better understand public safety trends, including root causes and unmet needs across Pennsylvania communities.

Goal 4: Promote proven practices across PCCD programs through focused investments and cross-system coordination and convenings.

This goal recognizes that PCCD's resources are limited, and that public safety challenges are interconnected and often require collaborative approaches to understand and address effectively. Objectives in this area align with PCCD's statutory responsibilities and emphasize the importance of expanding use of evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies statewide.

- 4.1.** Where possible, direct resources to programs with demonstrated impact and effectiveness, especially those advancing collaborative approaches.
- 4.2.** Strengthen statewide and local planning efforts by promoting cross-system partnerships, coordinated strategies, and a shared understanding of emerging and persistent public safety trends.
- 4.3.** Promote universal, sustained participation by all 67 counties in PCCD-endorsed collaborative structures - including, but not limited to [Criminal Justice Advisory Boards \(CJABs\)](#), [Reentry Coalitions](#), and [Youth Justice Advisory Boards \(YJABs\)](#) - as a foundation for effective planning and resource coordination.
- 4.4.** Create forums that bring together state, local, and community perspectives to identify shared priorities, foster innovation, and advance common goals.