

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE NEED

Background: Pennsylvania (“PA”) continues to experience a significant and growing need for coordinated crisis intervention and behavioral health services. Over the past decade, the Commonwealth has seen sustained increases in mental health crises, substance use disorders (SUDs), suicide attempts and fatalities, and firearm-related incidents, all of which place substantial strain on existing crisis response systems and community resources. The need for enhanced crisis intervention services is particularly acute for individuals experiencing behavioral health emergencies who may pose a risk to themselves or others and require immediate, trauma-informed, and community-based intervention. PA, like much of the U.S., has seen growing rates of behavioral health diagnoses since the COVID-19 pandemic. According to NAMI Keystone PA, in 2025 more than 2.3 million adults in PA had a mental health condition with nearly 600,000 having serious mental health illness (SMI).¹

Increasing demand on crisis response systems. The launch of 988 in 2022 has increased the visibility and use of crisis services. The number of 988 calls routed to PA monthly has doubled, growing from 6,715 in July 2022 to 13,395 in April 2026, demonstrating a growing need for lifeline and crisis services that has exceeded the state’s capacity, with a portion of PA’s crisis calls continuing to be routed outside the state.² Communities also face limited workforce capacity within behavioral health and justice systems, uneven access to mobile crisis services, long wait times for treatment, and gaps in system coordination. These challenges are particularly protracted within rural and other underserved areas.

Behavioral health and the criminal justice system. The intersections of mental illness, SUDs, disabilities, and other co-occurring issues within justice system are well-documented,

¹ [Mental Health in Pennsylvania](#). NAMI Keystone PA.

² “988 Lifeline State-based Monthly Reports,” 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, accessed May 14, 2026, <https://988lifeline.org/professionals/our-network/state-based-monthly-reports/>.

and this holds true in PA. In 2025, the PA Department of Corrections found that 57.1% of the state incarcerated population had been diagnosed with an SUD and 38.4% required some form of mental health treatment.³ In 2024, 124,876 individuals were admitted into county jails and 156,017 individuals were under county supervision.^{4,5} It is estimated that these individuals faced similar rates of behavioral health concerns, suggesting between 107,000 and 160,000 justice-involved Pennsylvanians could have SUDs or mental health needs. Research also shows links between behavioral health and crime victimization, suggesting individuals with SMI and other behavioral health concerns are more likely to experience violence.⁶

Firearm-related incidents. In recent years, PA's investment in public safety has played a key role in reducing violent crime across the Commonwealth, including gun violence. Between 2023 and 2024, homicides dropped by 23% statewide - outpacing a national decline (15%).⁷ While this recent progress is welcomed, a rise in firearm-related suicide continues to impact individuals and communities alike. Suicide remains the leading cause of gun-related deaths in PA, comprising 55% of all gun-related deaths in PA,⁸ and the number of firearm-related suicides increased 16% between 2020 to 2023 (922 to 1,073). These statistics - coupled with the significant demand PA has seen for SCIP funding dedicated toward community-based

³ *2025 Inmate Statistics*. Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/cor/documents/about-us/statistics/budget-documents/annual-statistics/2025-pa-doc-statistics.pdf>

⁴ *2024 County Statistics and General Information*. Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/cor/about-us/offices-and-bureaus/office-of-county-inspections-and-services/inspections-and-statistics>

⁵ *Pennsylvania County Adult Probation and Parole 2024 Caseload Statistics Report*. Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/pccd/documents/aboutus/capap/county_caseload_stats_2024.pdf

⁶ Jeanne Y. Choe, Linda A. Teplin, and Karen M. Abram, Perpetration of Violence, Violent Victimization, and Severe Mental Illness: Balancing Public Health Concerns, *Psychiatric Services* February 2008 Volume 59 Number 2.

⁷ *Gun Violence in Pennsylvania*. Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/pccd/documents/criminaljustice/gunviolence/2025/one%20year%20recap%20ogvp.pdf>

⁸ Pennsylvania Violent Death Reporting System.

firearm suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies - underscore a need for continued support of comprehensive, trauma-informed, and collaborative strategies.

Domestic violence and firearm safety. Along with the troubling increase in firearm-related suicides, PA also saw 106 victims lose their lives to domestic violence (DV) homicides in 2024.⁹ Firearms have been used in the majority of DV homicides every year in PA over the last decade, and were involved in 66% of DV homicides in 2024. Following the enactment of Act 79 of 2018, PA became one of 29 states that require the surrender of firearms and other weapons by individuals subject to final protection orders or convicted of DV offenses. Research examining data from PA State Police's Protection from Abuse Database (PFAD) suggests that while the number of protection orders with weapons cautions and relinquishment orders have increased, there are significant variations in implementation across counties, suggesting a need for more standardized community- and court-based protocols.¹⁰

Opportunities through Byrne SCIP: The Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) provides an opportunity to strengthen PA's statewide public safety and crisis response continuum by expanding evidence-based interventions, improving coordination among public safety and behavioral health systems, enhancing crisis response training, and increasing access to community-based supports for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. These investments are critical to reducing violence and suicide, improving public safety outcomes, and ensuring individuals receive timely and appropriate care.

Applicant Agency Mission & History: Since 1978, PCCD has supported justice system improvements, victim services and compensation, and other initiatives responsive to the needs of practitioners, communities, and the Commonwealth. PCCD also serves as PA's State

⁹ 2024 Domestic Violence Fatality Report. Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

<https://www.pcadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Fatality-Report-FINAL.pdf>

¹⁰ [Analysis of Weapons Relinquishment in Protection-From-Abuse Orders in Pennsylvania 2019-2023](#), PCCD.

Administering Agency (SAA) and has extensive experience successfully administering a wide range of programs, funding streams, and initiatives aligned with its mission and strategic priorities. This includes supporting efforts to improve outcomes for individuals with behavioral health needs interacting with the justice system as well as supporting investments in community-led efforts to prevent and reduce gun violence. PCCD's governance structure consists of an overarching Commission, three training boards, the School Safety and Security Committee, and seven Advisory Committees.¹¹ The Commission and its related Advisory Committees are comprised of subject matter experts, practitioners, and community members who are well attuned to the public safety-related problems facing the Commonwealth. PCCD funding is guided by its Strategic Framework, developed every five years to set goals, objectives, and guiding principles for PCCD's collective efforts.¹²

Nexus to FY22-23 and FY24 SCIP Funding: In its applications to BJA for FY22-23 and FY24 SCIP funds, PCCD articulated two overarching goals that would shape planning discussions and decisions: 1) advance crisis intervention programs that target the risk factors likely to lead to gun violence and 2) implement projects that support emerging issues and priorities adopted within its SCIP Funding Framework. PCCD coordinated FY22-23 and FY24 SCIP funding through its Commission (i.e., the then BJA-required Crisis Intervention Advisory Board [CIAB]), and utilized an advisory workgroup consisting of Advisory Committee Chairs, designees, and other stakeholders to shape PA's SCIP Funding Plans. PCCD's federally approved FY22-23 SCIP Funding Plan highlighted three priority areas as well as underlying objectives and deliverables: (1) Improve crisis intervention services and supports across behavioral health, civil legal, and other settings, with a focus on reaching

¹¹ [PCCD Advisory Committees and Boards](#), PCCD.

¹² [2026-2030 Strategic Framework](#), PCCD, adopted December 2025.

people and communities experiencing gun violence; (2) Improve coordination of services and responses to gun violence victimization; and (3) Address the intersections of domestic violence and intimate partner violence with gun violence. Since approval of the FY22-23 SCIP Funding Plan in August 2023, PCCD released competitive funding solicitations for local municipalities and three statewide initiatives focused on crisis response planning, support for gun violence victims and survivors, and implementation of Act 79 firearm relinquishment requirements. To date, BJA has approved 23 FY22-23 SCIP subawards totaling \$5.48 million.

PCCD's federally approved FY24 SCIP Funding Plan highlighted three priority areas as well as underlying objectives and deliverables: (1) Equip PA communities with training and resources to respond holistically to behavioral health crises; (2) Reduce firearm suicides in PA; and (3) Advance local strategies to reduce the number of intimate partners homicides and empower survivors across PA. Following approval of the FY24 SCIP Plan in April 2025, PCCD released additional funding opportunities supporting local municipalities and statewide projects focused on crisis intervention training and technical assistance, Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping facilitation, and firearm suicide prevention efforts. To date, BJA has approved 18 FY24 SCIP subawards totaling \$3.84 million.

FY25 SCIP Funding Priorities & Objectives: PCCD will utilize FY25 SCIP funds to complement ongoing work funded by FY22-23 and FY24 SCIP as well as other federal and state sources. FY25 SCIP funds will also be prioritized to address emerging areas of need and resource gaps identified through a FY25 SCIP planning process. These efforts will advance evidence-based programs, improve access to care for people with behavioral health needs interacting with the justice system, and reduce firearm-related suicides and domestic violence.

With FY22-23 SCIP funds, PCCD supported a statewide assessment of the crisis system with an emphasis on the intersection of the behavioral health and criminal justice

systems. The Commission, several Advisory Committees, and other advisory bodies also have recently developed strategic plans that reflect the specific needs and strategic priorities for aspects of the agency’s work. PCCD will utilize the assessment finding and recently completed plans, as well as available data and key stakeholder feedback, to help inform the FY25 SCIP Funding Plan and Budget. PCCD staff – in consultation with key stakeholders – will develop a comprehensive Funding Plan and Budget articulating FY25 SCIP priorities and objectives. While no longer required by BJA, PCCD will present the final FY25 SCIP Funding Plan and Budget to the Commission for approval, consistent with the agency’s process for developing and vetting other federal funding plans, like Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG).

Subgrant Award Process and Timeline: PCCD will implement projects that support emerging issues and priorities adopted within its SCIP Funding Plan (to be finalized in June 2026), consistent with Byrne SCIP funding criteria and BJA guidelines.

In accordance with PCCD’s application management policy, each recommended award will be reviewed by PCCD staff and subject matter experts, presented for action at relevant Advisory Committee meetings, and presented to the Commission during publicly accessible quarterly meetings.¹³ In alignment with FY25 SCIP requirements, upon approval by the Commission, recommended subawards will be submitted to BJA for final approval.

| Date | Activity |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 2026 | <u>PCCD FY25 SCIP Funding Plan & Budget Developed.</u> Staff and key stakeholders meeting to develop and finalize recommended SCIP Funding Plan. |
| Jun. 2026 | <u>Commission Approval of SCIP Funding Plan.</u> Commission approves SCIP Funding Plan in mid-June. |
| Jul. 2026 | <u>BJA Approval of SCIP Funding Plan.</u> After Commission approval, PCCD submits SCIP Funding Plan to BJA for approval. |

¹³ PCCD Commission and Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and are governed by 65 Pa. C.S. § Chapter 7 (relating to Open Meetings).

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| Aug. 2026 - Dec. 2026 | <u>Funding Announcements Developed and Released.</u> After Commission and BJA approval, PCCD will release various funding announcements in Egrants. |
| | <u>Funding Announcements Question Periods Close.</u> All questions must be submitted to PCCD by this date for consideration. |
| | <u>Funding Announcements Question / Response Postings.</u> All questions posed to PCCD and their responses posted on website. |
| | <u>Funding Announcements Close.</u> Application Deadline date (TBD). Funding Announcements close in Egrants. |
| | <u>Administrative Rejection.</u> Notice sent to applicants for any applications administratively rejected. |
| Jan. 2027 | <u>Scoring Process.</u> Applications are reviewed and considered based on alignment with <i>SCIP Funding Priorities and Objectives</i> , geographic distribution agency past performance. |
| Feb. 2027 | <u>Advisory Committees.</u> Recommended applications are vetted by committees during quarterly meetings. |
| Mar. 2027 | <u>Commission Meeting and BJA Approval.</u> Present recommended applications to the Commission for consideration. After Commission action, recommended subawards are forwarded to BJA for approval. |
| Apr. 2027 | <u>Subaward Projects Notified of Award</u> (<i>subject to BJA approval</i>) |

B. PROJECT DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION

FY25 SCIP funding will help augment recent investments made by the Commission to address the intersections of crisis response, behavioral health, and gun violence in the Commonwealth. PCCD is committed to leveraging state and federal funding to maximize SCIP funds, strengthen and expand crisis intervention and behavioral health services, reduce gun violence, and support initiatives that address community needs. All SCIP applications that are received and recommended by reviewers will go through the standard review and action process via PCCD’s Advisory Committees and, ultimately, the Commission.

As discussed, guidance for awarding funds will be supported by PCCD’s FY25 SCIP Funding Plan, which will build upon existing FY22-23 and FY24 SCIP Funding Plans as well as priorities from other relevant strategic plans. To aid in development of this SCIP Funding Plan, PCCD will engage with key stakeholders to ensure alignment with strategic priorities as well as representatives from PCCD’s senior leadership team and other staff to help implement

these activities. PCCD will ensure that appropriate representation from key stakeholder groups is embedded within each stage of the funding process.

PCCD will use FY25 SCIP funds to support priorities and objectives identified and listed within its SCIP Funding Plan, to be finalized in June 2026. The adopted FY25 SCIP Funding Plan will provide a common understanding of how SCIP funds intersect with and complement other funding sources administered by the Commission; identify emerging trends in expanding crisis intervention and behavioral health services, and preventing violence and suicide, with a specific focus on firearm-related incidents; crosswalk existing strategic priorities, programs, and initiatives already supported by PCCD and partner agencies aligned with SCIP goals and objectives, including any known gaps or areas of need; identify specific funding goals, priorities, and objectives to shape the development of SCIP funding announcements; provide a basis for measuring success (e.g., data collection, performance measurement, research and evaluation); and create a framework and provide context to inform decision-making. As referenced earlier, consistent with the FY25 SCIP requirements, all Commission-approved subawards will be reviewed by BJA for final approval.

C. CAPABILITIES & COMPETENCIES

PCCD serves as the SAA for the Commonwealth of PA. As the Commonwealth's justice planning and policymaking agency, PCCD relies on a collaborative structure that brings together diverse stakeholders, including judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, probation and corrections officers, victim service providers, educators, treatment providers, legislators, youth, and community members. One of the agency's core responsibilities is the administration of federal and state funding programs. PCCD currently administers approximately \$780 million in active state and federal grant projects. PCCD has

robust grants management policies and procedures in place to track subrecipient expenditures, monitor program performance, and promote fiscal accountability. Given the agency's nexus to these other federal and state programs and direct involvement with other state agencies administering federal and state programs, PCCD is well-positioned to fill gaps or fund needs as they are identified at the state and local level.

To ensure full compliance with grant management requirements of SCIP, PCCD will utilize its administrative set-aside to support Program and Fiscal staff. PCCD's *SCIP Manager* is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the initiative, including coordinating with project partners and subgrantees. PCCD also utilizes the *SCIP Specialist and Fiscal staff* to monitor and provide ongoing technical assistance support to subgrantees. This personnel structure has allowed PCCD to successfully implement and meet the scope of required grant-related activities for FY22-23 and FY24 SCIP funding and will continue supports for FY25 SCIP-funded initiatives. The SCIP Manager and Specialist are both housed in PCCD's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) within the unit of Criminal Justice Improvements (CJI). Assigned Fiscal Staff from the agency's Office of Financial Management and Administration (OFMA) will work closely with Program Staff in OJP-CJI to ensure compliance with federal grant management requirements.

D. PLAN FOR COLLECTING THE DATA REQUIRED

PCCD has carefully reviewed the performance measures prescribed by BJA as part of the FY25 SCIP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). BJA's SCIP performance measures will be incorporated within each programmatic response selected for funding as part of PCCD's Egrants System and reported on by PCCD through BJA's Performance Management Tool (PMT). In addition, PCCD's Program staff assist in developing additional impact measures based on national research measures already required in various purpose/program

areas, which sub-recipients may need to incorporate into their program designs in order to receive SCIP formula funding. PCCD prioritizes the collection of data that allows for an analysis of project outcomes related to stated objectives and reviews the performance measures of each project to ensure appropriate measures are selected and applied. Funded agencies are required to submit performance data on a quarterly basis via PCCD's Egrants System.

In addition, the SCIP Manager will also ensure data from participating sites is collected in accordance with BJA's performance measurement requirements and work closely with research/evaluation partners to facilitate site-specific and project-wide performance measurement, data analysis, and evaluation efforts.