

Maryland's Comprehensive State Crime Prevention Plan 2025 - 2027

Executive Order 01.01.2024.05 E

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

December 31, 2025

Message from the Executive Director

As Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, I am pleased to present Maryland's Comprehensive State Crime Prevention Plan 2025–2027.



The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) advances the Moore-Miller Administration's public safety priorities by coordinating policy, funding, and data-driven strategies across State, local, and federal partners. This Plan outlines the Office's strategic focus for the next three years and its alignment of prevention, enforcement, and system-level reforms to improve safety, accountability, and equity statewide.

A key component of this work is strengthening coordination between the criminal justice and behavioral health systems. Through investment in the Centers of Excellence, GOCPP supports statewide training and strategic planning to improve responses to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. These efforts include Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping to identify service gaps and improve diversion and treatment pathways. To date, ten Maryland jurisdictions have completed SIM Mapping, with others in progress. This work is guided by a Statewide Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Task Force jointly convened by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland and the Lieutenant Governor.

GOCPP also supports coordinated enforcement strategies targeting serious and violent crime. Through programs such as the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) and the Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) program, the Office strengthens multi-jurisdictional investigations and prosecutions involving firearms, drug trafficking, and organized crime. In Baltimore City and other high-impact jurisdictions, these efforts have contributed to measurable reductions in violent crime and homicides.

Together, these efforts advance the Governor's goal of safer communities statewide. This Plan provides further detail on GOCPP's coordinated approach to reducing violence, supporting victims, strengthening justice system effectiveness, and improving public safety outcomes across Maryland.

Sincerely,

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

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Introduction

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.2024.05 E, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (Office) must submit a three-year Comprehensive State Crime Prevention Plan, with annual updates in the following two years, to the Governor by December 1 of each year.

Pursuant to its charge, *Maryland's Comprehensive State Crime Prevention Plan 2025 - 2027* identifies key priorities that correspond to the Governor's Public Safety Agenda to highlight areas of emphasis for 2025 through 2027; and provides information on current efforts to support and enhance priority areas in coordination with State, local, and federal partners.

Background

In 2024, the Office initiated development of its prior three-year strategic framework to identify priority areas for funding, policy development, and operational coordination across Maryland's public safety system. As part of that effort, the Office received technical assistance from the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) and convened listening sessions across the State to gather stakeholder input focused on advancing public safety and improving outcomes for youth, victims, and communities. While these efforts informed the Office's long-term direction, the results were not available in time to be fully integrated into the prior plan cycle.

Also in 2024, the Moore-Miller Administration released the Governor's Public Safety Agenda, which established a clear, comprehensive framework for statewide public safety priorities. To ensure alignment with this agenda and to avoid confusion created by issuing a one-year update to a plan that no longer fully reflected the Administration's direction, the Office elected to develop a refreshed three-year Comprehensive State Crime Prevention Plan.

Accordingly, *Maryland's Comprehensive State Crime Prevention Plan 2025 – 2027* establishes the Office's strategic focus for the current planning period and aligns its programs, investments, and coordination efforts with the Governor's Public Safety Agenda. This Plan outlines priority areas for action and collaboration across State, local, and federal partners, with emphasis on the following focus areas:

- Firearm Violence Prevention and Enforcement
- Pretrial System Improvements
- Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Integration
- Parole Reform and Modernization
- Reentry Services and Community Reintegration

- Quantifiable Safety Indicator Scorecard
- Expungement and Shielding

Consistent with the Office's statutory charge, this Plan builds upon prior submissions and provides an updated strategic framework for 2025 through 2027. It highlights the Office's role in supporting and enhancing public safety and public policy, and advancing evidence-based strategies that promote safer, more equitable communities across Maryland.

Comprehensive State Crime Prevention Plan 2025 - 2027

Outlined below are the specific measures to ensure key priorities and existing initiatives continuously impact Maryland for a safer and more equitable State.

Firearm Violence Prevention and Enforcement

Seventy-five percent of homicides in Maryland are committed with a firearm. The ever-increasing availability of illegal firearms and firearm modification devices presents a grave danger to Maryland communities, especially historically under-resourced communities.

A central objective of the **Moore-Miller Administration** is to reduce recidivism and deter violent crime through coordinated prevention and enforcement strategies, informed by data and supported by the **Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention**.

To address the identified problem statement, the Office will lead Maryland's coordinated strategy to reduce firearm-related homicides and shootings through enforcement, prevention, and data-driven investment. In coordination with State and local partnering agencies and building on the success of current programs and initiatives, the Office will continue to integrate law enforcement, community-based, and public health approaches to address gun violence at its roots.

Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention

In October 2024, Chapter 707 of 2024 (Senate Bill 475) established the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention in the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to create safer communities by addressing the firearm violence epidemic. The Center is intended to serve as a hub to connect with agencies, local health departments, law enforcement, community members, advocates, medical professionals, and others to assess the current landscape of gun violence prevention programs and campaigns, facilitate collaboration and coordination, and identify and fill policy, implementation, and funding gaps.

Given the importance of data-driven decisions, the Center created a data collection tool in preparation for completing an inventory of State agency programs aligned with MDH's four-part framework: (1) primary prevention; (2) intervention and response; (3) community healing and restoration; and (4) reentry support and empowerment-related programming.

To build on these efforts, the Center will address the following **over the next three years**:

- Launch the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention.
- Establish an interactive firearm violence dashboard with data from multiple sources to offer insights and trends on firearm-related fatalities and injuries.
- Create an inventory of State agency programs aligned with MDH's four-part framework.
- Create a preliminary State plan for a public health approach to reducing firearm violence.
- Fund community organizations to implement priority programs in priority zip codes based on data.
- Conduct community engagement events to gather insights and recommendations regarding firearm prevention and intervention.
- Improve the accuracy and timeliness of gun violence data to inform policy and investments.

While the Center is housed within MDH, the Office supports these efforts through cross-agency planning, data sharing, and the alignment of grant-funded prevention and intervention initiatives with the State's firearm-violence reduction strategy.

Violence Intervention and Prevention Program

Established under Chapter 148 of 2018, the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIPP) Fund and the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Advisory Council (Council) were created to support evidence-based, public-health-driven strategies to reduce gun violence. In consultation with the Council, the Office administers the Fund to advance community and hospital-based initiatives that address the root causes of violence, including trauma, behavioral-health needs, poverty, and exposure to violence, while providing wraparound services to survivors, high-risk individuals, and impacted communities.

Originally focused on hospital-based programs, VIPP expanded to include community, school, and government-led initiatives. The program now supports local organizations, hospitals, and community coalitions that deliver mediation, case management, cognitive behavioral therapy, and employment and mental health services designed to interrupt cycles of retaliatory violence before they escalate.

While the Office continues advancing VIPP's mission by expanding investments in community-led and hospital-based initiatives, it will also assist MDH in achieving complementary goals, strengthening community capacity, improving data-driven coordination,

and reducing firearm-related harm statewide. **Over the next three years**, the Office will increase investments in proven and promising practices that focus on:

- Community-led gun violence intervention and prevention efforts that address the underlying causes of gun violence, including behavioral health and poverty.
- Community- and hospital-led efforts that address the immediate harms of gun violence by providing wraparound support to survivors and communities affected by gun violence and reducing retaliatory violence.
- Improving the accuracy and timeliness of gun violence data to inform policy and investments.

Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network

While VIPP focuses on prevention and community-based strategies, the **Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN)** provides the enforcement and intelligence framework that supports those efforts. Because VIPP funds cannot be used for suppression activities, MCIN serves as the coordinated mechanism connecting federal, State, and local partners to identify, disrupt, and dismantle criminal organizations involved in violent crime, narcotics trafficking, firearms offenses, and human trafficking.

Moving forward, MCIN will continue to standardize investigative practices statewide, enhance analytical support through improved data integration and training, and deepen collaboration among law enforcement partners. These efforts will strengthen the State's capacity to identify and target violent criminal networks driving firearm violence, enabling more focused enforcement in high-impact areas and achieving measurable reductions in shootings and gun-related crime.

The Office will also focus on the following efforts **over the next three years**:

- Continue investing in law enforcement collaboration and information-sharing to support focused, intelligence-led prevention and enforcement.
- Improving the accuracy and timeliness of gun violence data to inform policy and investments.

MCIN also serves as the connective infrastructure linking enforcement, research, and prevention efforts across the State. Through collaboration with the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC), the Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center (MCRIC), federal task forces, and local Overdose Drug Awareness Coordinators (ODACs), MCIN enhances investigative value by integrating intelligence, analytics, and research into a unified operational picture. This coordination ensures that insights generated through data and research are

translated into actionable strategies that complement prevention, intervention, and enforcement initiatives funded and supported by the Office.

Project Safe Neighborhoods Maryland

Similar and complementary to MCIN, Project Safe Neighborhoods Maryland (PSNM) is a federally funded, locally driven violent-crime reduction initiative that aligns with the Office's mission to advance data-driven, evidence-based public safety strategies. PSNM supports jurisdictions most affected by violence by focusing on group and gang activity, repeat violent offenders, gun trafficking, and illegal firearm possession, while strengthening collaboration among federal, State, and local law enforcement, prosecutors, and community organizations.

Administered by the Office in coordination with the **U.S. Attorney's Office - Baltimore**, PSNM leverages joint prosecution strategies and intelligence sharing to enhance enforcement and deterrence. PSNM is built on four core principles:

- **Community Engagement and Partnerships** foster trust through collaboration among law enforcement, community leaders, and residents.
- **Prevention and Intervention** combines enforcement with evidence-based programs that support at-risk individuals through community, reentry, and youth initiatives;
- **Focused and Strategic Enforcement** uses data to identify high-crime areas and target the most violent offenders for coordinated prosecution; and
- **Accountability** tracks performance and outcomes through measurable reductions in violence and community engagement.

Over the next three years, the Office will continue to support Project Safe Neighborhoods Maryland (PSNM) as a component of the State's firearm-violence reduction strategy. The Office will strengthen coordination between PSNM, MCIN, and SAUSA partners to ensure focused deterrence efforts remain aligned with statewide priorities and responsive to emerging firearm-violence trends. The Office will also encourage PSNM recipients to prioritize violent groups and individuals with a demonstrated propensity for firearm offenses, while deepening community engagement and prevention components.

Special Assistant United States Attorney Program

The Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) program cross-designates State and local prosecutors to serve within the U.S. Attorney's Offices in Baltimore and Greenbelt, granting them federal authority to prosecute firearms, gang, and major drug-trafficking cases. These prosecutors retain their State affiliation but operate as part of a unified, multi-jurisdictional team that brings federal resources to bear on the most serious and complex crimes.

In 2024, the SAUSA program transitioned from the Office of the Attorney General to the Office of the State Prosecutor (OSP), placing the initiative under an independent agency with statewide jurisdiction and long-standing partnerships with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland. This transition strengthened coordination, accountability, and oversight of joint federal–State prosecutions targeting Maryland's most violent offenders.

In State fiscal 2026, the Office invested \$1.9 million across the OSP, Baltimore City, and Prince George's County SAUSA programs to sustain and expand these partnerships. The combined effort supports 14 positions embedded within the U.S. Attorney's Offices, nine prosecutors, one data analyst, three legal support staff, and one program administrator alongside locally assigned prosecutors and staff in Baltimore City and Prince George's County. Together, these teams collaborate daily with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and local law enforcement to support investigations into homicides and nonfatal shootings.

Over the next three years, the Office will continue to support the SAUSA program as a key enforcement tool for reducing firearm violence and disrupting violent criminal organizations. The Office will maintain strong coordination between SAUSA prosecutors, MCIN partners, and PSNM recipients to ensure cases involving firearms, gangs, and serious violent offenses are prioritized for federal prosecution when appropriate. The Office will also monitor program performance, support data-informed case selection, and ensure SAUSA investments remain aligned with statewide firearm-violence reduction priorities and the Governor's Public Safety Agenda.

PROTECT Program

The PROTECT (Public Resources Organizing to End Crime Together) Program is a community-based crime-prevention initiative designed to strengthen coordination among law enforcement, local governments, community organizations, and residents. The program currently operates in nine high-crime micro-zones where coordinators work daily to build relationships, address local concerns, and connect families with critical resources. By embedding Coordinators directly within communities, PROTECT fosters trust, improves access to services, and supports public safety strategies that are preventive, data-driven, and responsive to community needs. In these micro-zones, Coordinators support firearm violence reduction by strengthening information flow between communities and law enforcement, identifying localized risk factors for shootings, and helping align prevention and intervention resources in areas experiencing elevated gun violence.

In addition to firearm violence prevention and community safety, Coordinators will continue to expand their role in support of broader community resilience and statewide initiatives. For example, this past year, Allegany, Frederick, and Washington County Coordinators mobilized,

playing a key role in flood-relief efforts in Allegany County. They worked with local agencies, volunteers, and residents to restore damaged neighborhoods and reclaim public spaces for safe community use.

Over the next three years, and in alignment with the Governor's public safety priorities, the Office will continue to support community engagement and place-based prevention efforts through the Protect program. Coordinators will receive ongoing training in Risk Terrain Modeling (RTM) from Rutgers University and apply RTM principles to identify environmental and situational risk factors associated with firearm violence. Coordinators will also engage residents and local stakeholders to gather insights and recommendations on firearm prevention and intervention strategies, ensuring that public-safety efforts remain grounded in lived experience and community context.

Gun Violence Reduction Grant & Cease Fire Council

The Responsible Gun Safety Act of 2000 established the Cease Fire Council# to coordinate statewide strategies to reduce firearm violence and vote on final decisions to support jurisdictions most impacted by gun violence. The Council brings together law enforcement, prosecutors, State agencies, and citizens to align efforts to disrupt illegal firearm activity, support targeted enforcement against violent offenders, and enhance data and intelligence sharing.

Over the next three years, in alignment with the Governor's public safety priorities, the Office will strengthen the Council through training, strategic planning, and improved coordination with statewide partners. This includes educating Council members on emerging trends, legal responsibilities, and evidence-based strategies, as well as enhancing collaboration with agencies such as MDH's Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention and the University of Maryland's Violence Reduction Center. These efforts will modernize the Council, improve decision-making, and ensure State resources and investments from the Office are directed toward strategies that produce measurable reductions in gun violence.

Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

As the State Administering Agency (SAA), the Office manages the **Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG)** to strengthen Maryland's criminal justice system through coordinated, evidence-based investment. BJAG serves as a flexible federal resource that complements State funding by addressing unmet needs, supporting innovative practices, and expanding the reach of statewide public safety priorities.

Through strategic alignment with the Governor's Public Safety Plan, BJAG funding supports efforts to the Governor's vision of reducing firearm violence, expanding behavioral health and justice integration, modernizing pretrial and data systems, promoting fair and effective justice reforms, and improving reentry outcomes through workforce and community reintegration

programs. For example, BJAG funding supports the Cambridge Police Department's Safety Through Technology, Education, and Partnerships (S.T.E.P.) program, a place-based initiative designed to reduce violent crime and prevent youth involvement in firearm-related activity. The S.T.E.P. program combines advanced technology, including surveillance cameras and automated license plate reader (ALPR) systems, alongside data-driven policing and targeted interventions in high-risk areas. By focusing on at-risk youth and violent-crime hot spots in partnership with local stakeholders, the program strengthens investigative capacity, disrupts criminal activity, and builds community trust.

Over the next three years, in alignment with the Governor's public safety priorities, the Office will use BJAG funding to strengthen coordination infrastructure, expand regional crime analysis capacity, and improve how performance and outcomes are tracked and communicated. Priority efforts include supporting regional collaboration to reduce firearm violence and other serious crime, developing shared performance metrics across State-funded programs, and expanding technical assistance for jurisdictions with limited grant-writing or data capacity. Federal funding through the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (BSCIP) will also aid Maryland's efforts to reduce firearm violence and strengthen behavioral health crisis response. For more information on this program, please refer to the [Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Integration](#) section.

Maryland Department of State Police's Gun Violence Reduction Strategy

The Maryland Department of State Police's (MDSP's) gun violence reduction strategy relies on law enforcement focused on areas known for high rates of gun violence, intelligence gathered through the **Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC)**,# and data received by and disseminated through the **Maryland Gun Center**. Other efforts include:

- The **Highway Gun Crime Response Unit** and the **Car Rally Task Force** leverage cutting-edge criminal intelligence and crime-reduction technologies to identify, track, and apprehend individuals involved in illegal firearm activities.
- The **Firearms Enforcement Unit** works with the **Licensing Division** to enforce the gun licensing laws related to prohibited criminal offenses or other disqualifiers.

Over the next three years, the Maryland State Police, with support from the Office, will focus on reducing gun violence through intelligence-based policing and targeted enforcement. These efforts will prioritize prevention by addressing illegal firearm activity, consistently enforcing firearm laws, and collaborating closely with public health and community partners. By strengthening partnerships and improving the accuracy and timeliness of gun violence data, the MDSP will inform policy and investment decisions while supporting fair, effective, and data-driven public safety strategies across the State of Maryland.

Summary Firearm Violence Prevention and Enforcement Plan (2025-2027)

As the State's coordinating office for public safety strategy and investment, the Office will advance the Governor's Public Safety Plan by ensuring collaboration across the programs described above and in partnership with State, local, federal, and community stakeholders. **Over the next three years**, the Office will continue investing in law enforcement collaboration and information-sharing to support focused, intelligence-led prevention and enforcement; expanding community- and hospital-based gun-violence intervention efforts that address underlying drivers of violence, including behavioral health needs and poverty; and improving the accuracy and timeliness of gun-violence data to inform policy and investment decisions.

Pretrial System Improvements

Maryland's pretrial system lacks consistent standards, coordinated processes, and evidence-based practices, resulting in disparities across jurisdictions and inconsistent outcomes for individuals awaiting trial. Variations in supervision levels, local rules, and oversight of electronic monitoring undermine the ability to ensure public safety and reduce unnecessary pretrial detention. These inconsistencies undermine public safety, contribute to unnecessary pretrial detention, and erode confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of Maryland's justice system.

The Moore-Miller Administration is committed to a coordinated, data-driven justice system that ensures equitable treatment for all Marylanders while reducing unnecessary pretrial detention. This commitment also focuses on the need to establish clear and consistent standards, processes, and practices throughout the State for individuals awaiting trial.

Justice Reinvestment Act

Under the Moore-Miller Administration, the Office oversees the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA), a data-driven strategy designed to improve public safety, reduce corrections spending, and reinvest savings into evidence-based practices that reduce crime and recidivism. Since its inception in 2016, Maryland has successfully reduced the State's prison population and corrections expenditures. The Office partners with appropriate State units to expand data-sharing between criminal justice and behavioral health entities, track treatment outcomes, and build the infrastructure necessary for Maryland agencies to collect, analyze, and report data that promote and measure reentry success.

The Office also formed a partnership with the Maryland Judiciary to address gaps in Maryland's pretrial system. Collectively, the Office and the Maryland Judiciary have established six workgroups to address gaps and make recommendations to improve Maryland's pretrial system. Specifically, the workgroups will address the following:

- Standardization of pretrial terms and levels of supervision;
- Legislation and local rules;
- Detainers and information sharing;
- Private home detention and electronic monitoring;
- Risk assessments and validation; and
- Data collection and analysis.

Over the next three years, and consistent with Maryland's justice reinvestment principles, the Office will work with the Maryland Judiciary to achieve the following:

- Establish consistent terminology and standardized levels of supervision across Maryland's pretrial system.
- Review and propose necessary legislative changes that allow amendments to local pretrial rules.
- Improve the process for handling detainers and enhance the efficient and secure sharing of information between Maryland's jurisdictions.
- Evaluate the use of private home detention and electronic monitoring to ensure public safety.
- Ensure equitability and consistency of risk assessment tools and align validation processes with best practices.
- Establish a robust system for collecting, analyzing and reporting pretrial data to inform decision-making.

Through these initiatives, the Office will strengthen Maryland's pretrial framework by promoting fairness, transparency, and accountability. By standardizing procedures, improving information sharing, and expanding the use of evidence-based practices, the State will enhance both public safety and individual outcomes. These efforts, guided by the Office and in partnership with the Maryland Judiciary, advance the Governor's goal of building a coordinated, data-driven justice system that ensures equitable treatment for all Marylanders while reducing unnecessary pretrial detention. Because JRA touches all major intercepts of the criminal justice system, please refer to the [Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Integration](#) and the [Reentry Services and Community Reintegration](#) sections for additional information on JRA-related efforts.

Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Integration

People with behavioral health conditions—including mental illness, substance use disorders, and developmental or intellectual disabilities—are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system and experience frequent, repeated contact with public safety and health systems. In Maryland, most justice-involved individuals have an identified behavioral health need. State and local agencies are working to reduce unnecessary justice involvement, expand access to treatment, and improve responses when system contact occurs.

Integrating behavioral health and public safety is central to Maryland's approach to improving community wellness and safety. Persistent gaps remain in crisis response, diversion capacity, and access to treatment, requiring coordinated, cross-system solutions that ensure individuals in crisis receive care rather than incarceration. In support of these efforts, Chapters 703 and 704 of 2024 (House Bill 576 / Senate Bill 453) established assisted outpatient treatment programs in all 24 Maryland counties by July 1, 2026.

Centers of Excellence

Collectively known as the Centers of Excellence within the Office,[#] the Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence and the Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence provide coordination and technical assistance to increase treatment for and reduce criminal legal system involvement of people with behavioral health conditions.

A core function of the Centers is facilitating Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) mappings, which identify service gaps and resources across the continuum from community contact through incarceration and reentry. These convenings support local and State strategic planning by highlighting opportunities to intervene earlier and redirect individuals to treatment. **Over the next three years**, the Office will work towards completing SIM mappings in every jurisdiction.

In partnership with the University of Maryland School of Social Work, the Centers also conducted a statewide CIT Landscape Analysis and developed a best-practice CIT training model to strengthen and standardize crisis intervention practices. These efforts support consistent implementation while allowing jurisdictions flexibility to respond to local needs.

To further advance this work, the Office will focus on the following over the next three years:

- **Establish or expand crisis response teams** in every Maryland county to ensure skilled, timely, and compassionate care for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. The structure—whether law enforcement-led, clinician-led, or a dual-response model—and the size of these teams will vary based on local needs and available resources.

Maryland Statewide Steering Committee on Behavioral Health and the Justice System

The **Statewide Steering Committee on Behavioral Health and the Justice System**, jointly convened by the **Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland** and the **Lieutenant Governor**, guides Maryland's coordination of behavioral health and criminal justice policy. The Committee oversees the alignment of policy and funding decisions across State agencies, promotes best practices for diversion and crisis response, and ensures that individuals with behavioral health needs are connected to care rather than incarceration. The Office serves as a key partner in this effort, providing data, program oversight, and grant implementation to support unified, evidence-based strategies statewide.

Performance Incentive Grant Fund & Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program

Through the Performance Incentive Grant Fund (PIGF), the Office supports local programs that expand access to behavioral health treatment, diversion, and case management for justice-involved individuals. PIGF investments help jurisdictions strengthen crisis response systems, improve coordination between correctional and community providers, and reduce recidivism.

The Office also administers the federally funded Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program, which supports evidence-based substance use disorder treatment in jails, prisons, and community settings. RSAT programs provide clinical services, medication-assisted treatment, counseling, and aftercare planning to ensure continuity of care during reentry.

In support of the Governor's public safety priorities, **over the next three years**, the Office will utilize PIGF and RSAT to strengthen treatment capacity, improve system coordination, reduce recidivism, and ensure that behavioral health needs are met with care rather than continued justice involvement.

Opioid Use Disorder Examinations and Treatment

Section 9-603 of the Correctional Services Article required local correctional facilities and the Baltimore Pretrial Complex to implement programs for opioid use disorder screening, evaluation, and treatment by January 1, 2023. To guide implementation and provide financial support to each jurisdiction, the Office partnered with Health Management Associates, Inc. (HMA) to deliver technical assistance aimed at expanding access to behavioral health treatment in local detention centers. HMA facilitated virtual learning sessions, individual on-site coaching, an in-person learning collaborative, and provided financial stipends to participating facilities.

To build on these efforts, the Office seeks to:

- Address challenges identified in a statewide landscape analysis, including inconsistent service delivery across jurisdictions, behavioral health workforce shortages, and the need for coordinated reentry planning;
- Collaborate with the Maryland Office of Overdose Response, the Behavioral Health Administration, and other partner agencies to secure grant funding for continued program development.

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program

Through the federally funded Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP), the Office supports Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), a police-led deflection model that connects individuals with behavioral health needs to services in lieu of arrest when appropriate. Evaluation results demonstrate significant reductions in overdose deaths in participating jurisdictions.

In 2025, the Office partnered with the LEAD National Support Bureau to strengthen site-level implementation, internal referral processes, and local partnerships. **Over the next three years, and contingent upon the availability of federal funding**, the Office will focus on sustaining effective LEAD implementation, strengthening program accountability, and improving readiness for future expansion. Priority efforts include refining client-level data collection to better capture demographics, service engagement, and outcomes; continuing technical assistance to participating jurisdictions to improve referral practices and interagency coordination; and using evaluation findings to inform a statewide deflection framework.

Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program

Authorized under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) of 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117-159, 136 Stat. 1313, 1339), the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (BSCIP) provides Maryland with federal formula funding to reduce firearm violence and strengthen behavioral health crisis response. As the State Administering Agency, the Office allocates BSCIP funds to support State and local efforts to address behavioral health–driven firearm risk, including the use of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) and complementary crisis-intervention strategies.

Through its initial BSCIP investments, the Office established three Regional and Local ERPO Liaison Sites to improve coordination among law enforcement, courts, behavioral health professionals, and local governments in identifying and responding to individuals at risk of harming themselves or others. In federal fiscal year 2025, the Office released a second round of funding through the ERPO Liaison Site Support Program to sustain these sites and strengthen training, coordination, and data collection.

The Office also launched the Building Engagement Around Crisis, Outreach, and Navigation (BEACON) initiative to broaden BSCIP implementation beyond ERPOs by supporting behavioral health, court-based, hospital-based, and youth-centered interventions that emphasize early identification, coordinated care, and community engagement.

Over the next three years, and contingent upon the availability of federal funding, the Office will focus on sustaining effective BSCIP-supported activities, strengthening implementation quality, and improving readiness for future expansion. Priority efforts include enhancing ERPO coordination and training, refining data collection to better measure outcomes, continuing technical assistance to participating jurisdictions, and using performance information to inform future funding and policy decisions. The Office will also continue to engage and support the Maryland Byrne Advisory Board to ensure funding recommendations remain data-driven, equitable, and aligned with statewide public safety and behavioral health priorities.

Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access

Chapters 290 and 291 of 2023 (House Bill 1148/Senate Bill 582) established the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access# within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to develop recommendations on behavioral health treatment and harm reduction strategies for justice-involved individuals. In its role as a Commission member, the Office works with MDH and partnering agencies to strengthen a complete and reliable continuum of substance use disorder treatment, including medication-assisted treatment and counseling, from jails and prisons to local communities. The Office also collaborates with MDH to monitor jurisdictional progress toward establishing assisted outpatient treatment programs by the July 1, 2026, statutory deadline.

The Office's participation on the Commission will focus on advancing implementation, accountability, and cross-system alignment. This includes supporting Commission workgroups, translating recommendations into actionable strategies, and promoting coordination among behavioral health, public safety, diversion, and reentry initiatives. **Over the next three years** the Office will assist MDH and partner agencies in monitoring progress, identifying implementation challenges, and ensuring that recommendations are informed by public safety and justice system expertise.

Summary Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Integration Plan (2025-2027)

Over the next three years, the Office will advance the Governor's Public Safety Plan by strengthening cross-agency coordination, supporting evidence-based crisis response and diversion strategies, expanding access to treatment across the justice continuum, and using data to guide policy, funding, and accountability. Through sustained collaboration with State and local partners, the Office will help ensure that behavioral health needs are addressed through care

rather than incarceration, reduce recidivism, and improve safety and well-being for individuals, families, and communities across Maryland.

Parole Reform and Modernization

Despite recent reforms in Maryland aimed at reducing the State’s incarcerated population, decades of policies imposing long sentences and an overburdened and understaffed prison and parole system result in low parole grant rates and an aging prison population. Further, incarceration imposes especially high costs for elderly and medically vulnerable individuals, who pose minimal public safety risk.

To support Maryland’s efforts, Governor Moore enacted Chapter 103 of 2025 (House Bill 1123) into law, modernizing eligibility criteria and facilitating the safe release of eligible individuals while maintaining public safety. The legislation modernizes the Maryland Parole Commission's evaluation of eligibility for geriatric parole by establishing a clearer, more consistent review process and enhancing transparency in decision-making. It also directs that savings generated through the geriatric parole process be reinvested to support risk assessments, timely parole hearings, and prerelease and reentry case management services for individuals released on parole. It also authorizes the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board to recommend that a portion of the annual savings from the implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council be distributed to the Maryland Parole Commission to hire psychologists to perform risk assessments of candidates for geriatric parole under the bill. Improving parole outcomes is a critical component of Maryland’s broader justice reform efforts, enabling the State to safely reduce incarceration, reinvest limited resources, and improve long-term public safety outcomes. To further enhance data transparency, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is building a Parole Data Dashboard that will provide statistics on all individuals being paroled, including demographics, primary offense, hearing outcomes, and parole revocations.

Interagency Parole and Probation Reform Workgroup

In August 2024, the Office convened an **interagency workgroup** to develop reasonable and reliable criteria for safely reducing the State prison population and streamlining parole decision-making. The workgroup, which comprises the Office, DPSCS’s Division of Parole and Probation, and the Maryland Parole Commission, collectively analyzes data, identifies operational barriers, and formulates recommendations to improve case management and timely release decisions. Based on data provided by DPSCS, to include presentations on the parole process and obstacles to faster and broader parole grants, the workgroup will address the following **over the next three years**:

- Identify existing and potential funding sources to support increased Maryland Parole Commission staffing, improving the Commission's ability to process parole applications and safely release eligible individuals when appropriate.
- Continue to work with DPSCS and the Maryland Parole Commission to hire psychologists to perform risk assessments of candidates for geriatric parole in a timely manner.

Over the next three years, the Office will support a more efficient, transparent, and data-driven parole system that balances accountability with rehabilitation. By strengthening interagency coordination, expanding operational capacity, and modernizing parole processes, Maryland advances the Governor's goal of safely reducing incarceration while improving outcomes for individuals, families, and communities statewide.

In partnership with DPSCS, the Office will advance a public-facing dashboard to ensure compliance and the effective use of JRA resources, track medical and geriatric parole releases, and promote the goal of safely reducing incarceration.

Reentry Services and Community Reintegration

Although Maryland has made substantial investments in reentry, the availability and quality of programs and services vary widely across the State. Maryland prisons remain understaffed, and many counties lack the capacity to provide holistic wraparound support to individuals returning home from incarceration and expand access to services that support long-term stability.

Supporting successful reentry remains central to the Governor's vision of reducing recidivism and improving public safety outcomes. Under the Moore-Miller Administration, the Office, in partnership with DPSCS and the Department of Labor (MDL), leads a coordinated statewide effort to strengthen Maryland's reentry framework. In this role, the Office coordinates policy alignment, grant funding, and cross-agency collaboration to strengthen reentry outcomes statewide.

DPSCS's **Reentry and Transition Services Unit**¹ coordinates programs and services that prepare incarcerated individuals for successful reintegration into the community. These efforts include:

- Reentry specialists who help incarcerated individuals obtain vital documents, create release plans, and conduct routine aftercare calls.
- Access to life skills, job readiness, financial literacy, and mediation training.

¹ Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. *Reentry Services*. <https://dpscs.maryland.gov/rehabservs/reentry/reentryunit.shtml>

- Partnerships with local detention centers whereby DPSCS transfers incarcerated individuals nearing release to the detention center in their home community.

MDL's **Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL)**² oversees correctional secondary education in State prisons to improve employment readiness and expand post-release opportunities.

These efforts operate within Maryland's broader **JRA Initiative**,³ which seeks to safely reduce the sentenced prison population and reinvest correctional savings into evidence-based strategies that reduce recidivism. Through **JRA** and the **Performance Incentive Grant Fund (PIGF)**, the Office supports local jurisdictions in expanding housing, workforce development, behavioral health treatment, and reentry efforts.

The JRA Oversight Board oversees implementation of JRA initiatives, makes policy recommendations to improve services both inside correctional facilities and in the community, and advises the Office on JRA and PIGF funding decisions. In addition, the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission (staffed by the Office), the Correctional Education Council (staffed by DPSCS and MDL), and the Reentry Task Force (staffed by DPSCS) collectively assess reentry programming and outcomes across the State.

Over the next three years, the Office, DPSCS, and MDL will build on these coordinated efforts to establish reentry hubs across Maryland counties that provide centralized, wraparound support for individuals returning home from incarceration. By facilitating referrals to housing, workforce services, and behavioral health treatment, these hubs will strengthen continuity of care, reduce recidivism, and advance the Governor's goal of safer, more stable communities statewide.

Quantifiable Safety Indicator Scorecard

Maryland's criminal justice and public safety data are collected by dozens of State and local agencies, yet these data often remain siloed and difficult to access. Policymakers, grantmakers, and community stakeholders need reliable, timely, and transparent information to guide decisions, assess program impact, and ensure accountability.

The Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center (MCRIC), established through a partnership between the Office and the University of Maryland, brings together academic experts, practitioners, and policymakers to advance evidence-based public safety strategies. Under the guidance of the Maryland Statistical Analysis Center (MSAC), the Office and MCRIC

² Maryland Department of Labor. *Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning*. <https://labor.maryland.gov/employment/>

³ Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. *Justice Reinvestment*. <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/councils-commissions-and-workgroups/justice-reinvestment/>

are developing a Quantifiable Safety Indicator Scorecard to measure and monitor key aspects of Maryland's public safety landscape.

The Scorecard will assess quantifiable indicators across multiple domains, including crime rates, law enforcement activity, disparities within the criminal justice system, behavioral health, and socio-economic conditions that influence safety outcomes. The Scorecard will serve as a statewide framework for evaluating progress, identifying emerging trends, and promoting equitable investment in communities with the greatest need.

Over the next three years, the Office will continue to coordinate with MCRIC to ensure the Scorecard provides the following:

- A detailed, data-driven view of public safety.
- A public-facing platform that will foster transparency, allowing Maryland residents up-to-date information on crime and safety in their communities.
- Equitable distribution of resources, ensuring Maryland communities with the highest needs receive adequate State support.

Through this initiative, the Office will turn complex public safety data into actionable insight, helping policymakers, partners, and residents track progress and direct resources where they are needed most.

Expungement/Shielding

Criminal records make it difficult for people to access public services, secure housing, find employment, and reunite their families. These challenges increase the risk of recidivism and reduce public safety.

In April 2025, Governor Moore signed *The Expungement Reform Act* into law to expand expungement eligibility and open paths to work, wages, and wealth for Marylanders - including returning citizens who have served their time and fulfilled their rehabilitation requirements.⁴ Governor Moore championed the legislation to alleviate the lasting impacts of criminal records on rehabilitated Marylanders, including barriers to employment, housing, education, and licensing prospects. The bill also expanded Governor Moore's Executive Clemency Order⁵ which pardoned 175,000 Maryland convictions related to the possession of cannabis, including convictions for misdemeanor possession of cannabis and certain convictions for misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. The order represents the largest pardon for misdemeanor

⁴ The Office of Governor Wes Moore. (2025). *Governor Moore Signs Legislation to Promote Public Safety and Criminal Justice*.
<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-signs-legislation-to-promote-public-safety-and-criminal-justice.aspx>

⁵ The Office of Governor Wes Moore. (2024). *Governor Moore's Cannabis Pardon Executive Order*.
<https://governor.maryland.gov/priorities/Pages/cannabis-pardon-order.aspx>

cannabis possession charges for any state in the country, and the inclusion of paraphernalia makes Maryland the first State to take such action.

To further these efforts, the Office will work with the Maryland Judiciary and DPSCS to achieve the following goals **over the next three years**:

- Advance additional reforms to:
 - Clarify that probation violations do not make an individual ineligible for expungement in every case,
 - Remove from public view on Maryland Judiciary Case Search all convictions that were pardoned as part of the Cannabis Pardon Order,
 - Remove from public view on Maryland Judiciary Case Search information related to charges that were marked “stet” and not reopened within three years, and
 - Add certain misdemeanors and non-violent felonies to the expungement statute.
- Monitor DPSCS’s technology update to ensure it allows for partial expungement.

While the Maryland Judiciary and DPSCS are responsible for implementation, the Office supports these efforts through coordination, monitoring, and alignment with the Governor’s broader public safety priorities.

Additional Considerations

While this Plan focuses on the Governor’s strategic priorities, it is important to recognize additional areas that remain integral to Maryland’s overall public safety framework. Efforts within Victim Services and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention continue to complement and reinforce the core strategies described throughout this Plan. These initiatives provide critical support to victims and families impacted by crime, ensure trauma-informed and equitable approaches to justice, and advance prevention and rehabilitation efforts for youth at risk of system involvement.

Conclusion

The Office strategically manages and deploys a substantial statewide grants portfolio to advance a safer and more equitable Maryland. Through targeted investments, the Office strengthens coordinated investigative capabilities for law enforcement, supports the responsible adoption of emerging technologies, and integrates public health principles into public safety strategies to improve crisis response, reduce recidivism, and expand access to diversion and treatment for individuals with behavioral health needs.

Interagency cooperation, information sharing, and accountability are essential to the success of this Plan and remain central to the development and implementation of innovative public safety strategies. The Office is committed to allocating resources in a manner that maximizes efficiency, effectiveness, and measurable impact. Through continued collaboration with community organizations and local, State, and federal partners, the Office will support evidence-based solutions that align with the Governor's Public Safety Agenda and strengthen safety, trust, and opportunity in communities across Maryland.