Wisconsin Department of Justice
2019-2021 Biennial Report

Pursuant to Wis. Stats. §15.04(1)(d), this report provides department performance and operational information from the 2019-2021 biennium, and projects department goals and objectives as developed for the program budget.

I. Organization

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) is led by the attorney general, a constitutional officer who is elected by partisan ballot to a four-year term. Public safety is the core of DOJ’s mission. DOJ fulfills its mission and statutory duties through the work of five divisions and four offices. The main duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Providing legal advice and representation for the State of Wisconsin,
- Investigating crimes that are statewide in nature or importance,
- Providing technical assistance and training to law enforcement officers and prosecutors,
- Assisting victims of crime in exercising their rights and accessing services,
- Providing forensic analysis of evidence for prosecutors and defense upon request, and
- Promoting safe school environments.

For more information: www.doj.state.wi.us

A. Division of Criminal Investigation

The Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is charged with investigating crimes of statewide nature or importance. DCI employs sworn law enforcement officers possessing statewide jurisdiction and charged with the responsibility of enforcing the laws of Wisconsin. DCI Special Agents and criminal analysts work closely with local, county, tribal, state, and federal law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute crimes involving homicide, arson, financial crimes, illegal gaming, multi-jurisdictional crimes, drug trafficking, internet crimes against children,
human trafficking, sexual assault, cybercrimes, homeland security, public integrity, and government corruption. DCI also provides focused management of officer involved death investigations, bringing extensive experience and added confidence to investigations involving use of force by law enforcement that results in death. DCI provides expertise, specialized training, and additional equipment and investigative resources to local, state, and federal law enforcement partners during major events or investigations in Wisconsin. Finally, DCI’s administrative personnel help the Division be responsive to the citizens of Wisconsin as well as DOJ’s criminal justice partners. DCI is organized into four bureaus.

The **Field Operations Bureaus** are organized into two regions, Eastern and Western, consistent with the geographical areas of the Eastern and Western United States District Courts. These bureaus are responsible for the majority of investigative resources deployed throughout the state by DCI. DCI has regional field offices in the cities of Madison, Milwaukee, Appleton, Eau Claire, and Wausau. Additionally, supervisors and staff work in partnership with other law enforcement agencies at the North Central High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) office in Milwaukee, and the Lake Winnebago Area Multi-Agency Enforcement Group (LWAM) in the Fox Valley region. The Field Operations Bureau also oversees the state’s high profile drug programs, initiatives, and specialized investigative task forces such as the Drug Endangered Children program (DEC), the Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement and Response Team, and the Native American Drug Gang Initiative (NADGI).

The **Special Operations Bureau** includes the Child Abduction Response Team (CART), Wisconsin’s AMBER Alert program, Silver Alert, Green Alert, the Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Missing and Exploited Children and Adults, Wisconsin Crime Alert Network, and gaming enforcement. Special agents assigned to the cyber and financial crimes unit, the technical services unit, and the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force are assigned to this bureau. This bureau is also responsible for activities and programs of the Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center (WSIC). WSIC serves as the Governor’s designated primary intelligence fusion center for the state. WSIC criminal intelligence analysts provide analysis and specialized investigative and tactical intelligence support to enhance the efforts of DCI and other law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin. Analysts provide investigative support by identifying suspects, developing investigative leads, examining patterns of criminal activity, gathering, and examining records, and defining the roles of participants in criminal organizations to support prosecutions.

The bureau is also responsible for other justice programs including the DCI Public Records Unit, division training, and other support services. The Public Records Unit is a collaborative team operating in conjunction with the department’s Office
of Open Government (OOG) charged with responding to public requests for records. The bureau’s justice program staff plan and coordinate DCI’s many conferences, workshops, and schools held for law enforcement organizations throughout the state. In addition, they carry out fundamental day to day operations including processing financials, managing all DCI records, creating metrics and reports, and providing assistance for special projects including high profile case support.

The Human Trafficking Bureau was created in 2017 to house multiple focus areas dedicated to investigating online exploitation and to provide digital forensic capabilities for law enforcement in Wisconsin. Within the bureau is the Human Trafficking focus area which investigates cases involving sexual exploitation, labor trafficking, and provides training to law enforcement and the public. The Human Trafficking focus area recently received a grant to form a statewide task force that combines law enforcement with victim advocate groups to combat human trafficking using a victim-centered approach, which has been named the Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force. This bureau also houses Wisconsin’s ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) Task Force, formed in 1999. The ICAC task force includes a partnership with a growing list of local law enforcement agencies. DCI ICAC personnel provide investigative and prosecutorial assistance statewide, as well as training to law enforcement, prosecutors, and the public. Investigative work and criminal justice collaboration related to the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Program is also assigned to this bureau. The Digital Forensic Unit (DFU) provides assistance to department investigators and local law enforcement agencies by analyzing electronic media and devices using complex forensic and analytical software systems to identify and present evidence of crimes. The DFU also participates in the ICAC Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) program, through which wounded, injured, or ill veterans are hired to enhance or improve forensic examination capacity the Task Force. The ICAC Task Force houses an ICAC Victim Services unit to provide support and services to victims and families in Wisconsin, the first of its specialized kind in the nation. This bureau utilizes an electronic storage detection K-9 and handler that assist agencies in locating hidden electronic media used to store illegal images or other evidence of criminal activity.
The **State Fire Marshal** oversees special agents who conduct investigations of fires and explosions for origin and cause. As Deputy State Fire Marshals, the special agents use the scientific method to conduct investigations of fires and explosions and classify these events as accidental, natural, incendiary, or undetermined. Deputy State Fire Marshals work with law enforcement agencies and fire departments throughout the State of Wisconsin as well as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Additionally, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has one ignitable liquid detection canine, trained to alert in areas of fires that may contain potential accelerants. The K-9 and handler, certified by ATF, are used by agents and local law enforcement officers during their investigations. This section provides training opportunities to both fire service and law enforcement in the area of fire investigation.

*For more information: [https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dci/division-criminal-investigation-dci](https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dci/division-criminal-investigation-dci)*

**B. Division of Law Enforcement Services**

The Division of Law Enforcement Services (DLES) provides technical and programmatic assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies, manages the state repository for fingerprint identification and criminal history record information, and operates a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week computerized telecommunications system linking law enforcement agencies statewide. DLES administers law enforcement training standards, conducts, and creates specialized training for law enforcement, manages criminal information reporting systems, administers grant funds that support training, juvenile justice, and adult criminal justice initiatives, and collects, shares, and analyzes criminal justice data. DLES is organized into four bureaus.

The **Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis** (BJIA) was created in 2014 to support effective policy development and data-driven decision making through criminal justice research, analysis, and program evaluation. BJIA evaluates grant funded programs, manages the Wisconsin Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, and works to expand the availability of criminal justice data.

The **Crime Information Bureau** (CIB) is responsible for managing statewide programs that are critical to the daily operations of law enforcement throughout the state. The Transaction Information for the Management of Enforcement (TIME) System is the law enforcement message switch and network that provides law enforcement with current information on warrants, driver licenses and vehicle registration, criminal histories, sex offender and corrections status, missing persons, and more. CIB provides public access to Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) and manages the Wisconsin Online Record Check System
(WORCS). CIB also issues Wisconsin concealed carry permits and manages Wisconsin’s Handgun Hotline, which all registered firearms dealers are required to use for background checks when any person requests to purchase a handgun in Wisconsin.

The **Training and Standards Bureau** is responsible for statewide coordination of specialized training for law enforcement and administers the programs of the Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB). The Certification and Curriculum program section of the bureau assists LESB in establishing and maintaining professional standards for Wisconsin law enforcement as well as jail and secure detention officers. Bureau staff maintain law enforcement training and certification records and administer mandatory reimbursement for training expenses. Bureau staff also coordinate statewide training opportunities provided by DOJ.

The **Bureau of Justice Programs (BJP)** administers state and federal grants supporting state and local criminal justice organizations to improve services and public safety for the citizens of Wisconsin. That includes administering, coordinating, and evaluating the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program, which provides grants to counties to deliver alternatives to jail and prison for non-violent offenders with assessed drug and alcohol problems. BJP administers the TAD program in coordination with the Department of Corrections, Department of Health Services, and with the participation of the Director of State Courts. BJP personnel also staff the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and the Governor’s Juvenile Justice Commission (GJJC). CJCC assists the Governor in directing, collaborating, and coordinating the services of state and local government agencies and non-governmental entities in the criminal justice system to increase efficiencies, effectiveness, and public safety. The council is required to conduct research and evaluation activities and recommend criminal justice system-wide level improvements and reforms to the Governor and Legislature. GJJC serves as the state advisory group under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and the juvenile crime enforcement coalition to administer the federal Juvenile Accountability Block Grant. The commission promotes juvenile justice system improvements by administering grants and encouraging counties and local service providers to adopt evidence-based practices to address juvenile delinquency.

*For more information:* [https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/division-law-enforcement-services-dles](https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/division-law-enforcement-services-dles)
C. Division of Legal Services

The Division of Legal Services (DLS) provides legal representation and advice to the governor, legislature, other state offices, and state agencies. It represents the state in all felony appeals and prosecutes certain criminal and civil matters. The division consists of six units organized by substantive areas of law to maximize the advantages of specialization. Each unit is managed by a director and is comprised of assistant attorneys general, paralegals, investigators, and secretarial staff.

The Civil Litigation Unit handles a wide variety of matters, such as civil rights, property rights, torts, administrative law, and employment law on behalf of the state, its agencies, the University of Wisconsin System, and individual state employees and agents. Examples of matters handled by this unit include:

- Cases challenging searches, seizures, and uses of force by state law enforcement;
- Cases challenging conditions of confinement in state correctional and health service institutions;
- Cases involving First Amendment rights, such as freedom of speech and religion;
- Malpractice actions brought against state and university medical professionals;
- Tort actions brought against state and university employees and agents (i.e., automobile accidents, slip and fall accidents, defamation, and property damage);
- Legal advice and litigation services with respect to state contracts and claims in state and federal court; and
- Cases challenging takings or compensation in eminent domain matters.

The Criminal Appeals Unit represents the state in all felony appeals before the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, Wisconsin Supreme Court, 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, and United States Supreme Court. The unit also represents the state with respect to appeals arising from selected misdemeanor, traffic, and juvenile cases. The unit also advises the Governor on extradition matters. The unit works closely with the state’s local prosecutors, providing training, support, and legal advice. The unit has authority to initiate criminal prosecutions for violations of certain statutes including securities, tax, insurance, environmental, banking, and the Wisconsin Organized Crime Control Act.
The **Criminal Litigation Unit** prosecutes criminal violations and provides training and advice to prosecutors and law enforcement. At the request of district attorneys, members of this unit assist with investigations and prosecutions throughout Wisconsin in homicide, public corruption, election fraud, multi-jurisdictional criminal cases, and other cases where the district attorney needs assistance or is unable to act due to a conflict. The unit provides training, support, and legal advice to local prosecutors and assists with specialized support in the areas of traffic safety and sexual assault. The unit also handles petitions for discharge by sexually violent persons as defined by Chapter 980 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The **Medicaid Fraud Control and Elder Abuse Unit** investigates and prosecutes crimes committed against vulnerable adults in nursing homes and other facilities, as well as fraud perpetrated by service providers against the Wisconsin Medicaid program. In conjunction with law enforcement, other state regulatory agencies such as the Department of Health Services, the Department of Revenue, and the Department of Professional Services, the unit investigates, prosecutes, and enforces laws involving:

- Medicaid provider fraud;
- Deceptive, off-label and other illegal marketing of pharmaceutical products;
- Abuse, neglect, and misappropriation involving residents or patients residing in facilities that received Medicaid funds;
- Abuse and neglect of residents in board and care facilities that do not receive Medicaid funding, such as Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRFs) and adult family homes;
- The Medicaid program itself, including but not limited to, fraud, violations of the Fair Claims Act, and issues relating to the health, safety, and welfare of Medicaid recipients.

The **Public Protection Unit** enforces the laws that protect Wisconsin’s consumers and natural resources. The Consumer Protection and Antitrust Section of the unit enforces antitrust and state consumer protection laws, which prohibit unfair and deceptive business practices in a wide variety of areas, including advertising, charitable solicitations, consumer credit matters, debt collection, mortgage-related complaints, sales practices, telecommunications, telemarketing, landlord/tenant, and fair housing matters. The Environmental Protection Section enforces state laws including those relating to air pollution, water pollution, hazardous substance spills, public nuisance, land use, and public trust in navigable waters. Many of the cases prosecuted are referred by other state agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the
Department of Financial Institutions. Public Protection Unit staff also work with other states, federal agencies (i.e., Federal Trade Commission), and participate in multi-state investigations and enforcement actions.

The **Special Litigation and Appeals Unit** provides legal advice to the State and its agencies and handles litigation in a wide variety of substantive areas, frequently on issues relating to constitutional law and governmental authority. The complex and sometimes high-profile cases that the unit handles frequently involve challenges to the validity of state statutes and administrative rules. The unit’s three primary responsibilities include representing the state in significant or complex litigation of unique importance to the state, representing the state in civil appeals, and drafting Attorney General Opinions.

*For more information:* [https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dls/division-legal-services-dls](https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dls/division-legal-services-dls)

D. Division of Forensic Sciences

The Division of Forensic Sciences (DFS) was established as an independent division in 2019, though the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory (WSCL) was originally established in 1947. DFS employs forensic scientists, technicians, evidence specialists, and crime scene response professionals and offers scientific testing and impartial forensic analysis of evidence for every community in Wisconsin. DFS crime laboratories—located in Madison, Milwaukee, and Wausau—are the only full-service forensic science laboratories in Wisconsin. The DNA Databank stores DNA profiles on all convicted offenders and DNA profiles of certain persons arrested for violent felonies after a judicial finding of probable cause. The state system is connected to the national system to help identify suspects when unknown DNA is found at a crime scene. All three laboratories staff an on-call Crime Scene Response Unit to assist law enforcement at major crime scenes by processing the crime scene and maintaining evidence integrity. Crime scene response staff receive special training to aid in the recognition, documentation, recovery, and preservation of physical evidence. DFS is also responsible for the disposal of weapons and ammunition seized or surrendered to law enforcement pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 968.20 (3)(a). Descriptions of scientific disciplines in DFS include:

- **Drug Identification:** Chemical and instrumental analysis and identification of suspected controlled substances, narcotics, pharmaceuticals, and other ingredients.
- **Toxicology:** Identification and quantification of drugs and alcohols found in body fluids and tissues.
• Trace Chemistry: Examination of trace evidence such as paints, soil, plastics, glass, safe insulation, arson accelerants, fireworks, explosives, and synthetic fiber comparison and identification.

• Firearms/Toolmarks: Examination of firearms, ammunition, toolmarks, suspect tools, serial number restoration, and distance determination tests. The National Integrated Ballistic Information Network computer system compares recovered weapons and cartridges to other weapons cases in the Midwest.

• Latent Print and Footwear - Automated Fingerprint Identification System: Development and examination of latent or visible fingerprints, palm prints or footprints, tire tread and footwear impressions, and maintenance of the computerized fingerprint repository.

• Forensic Imaging: Specialized forensic photography and video imaging services using specialized lighting techniques, hi-resolution imaging equipment, and computer applications to record and recover information.

• DNA Analysis: Examination of evidence for the presence of biological material, develops DNA profile utilizing scientific techniques, and analyzes and interprets the data.

For more information: https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dfs/division-forensic-sciences

E. Division of Management Services

The Division of Management Services (DMS) is responsible for providing a wide range of operational support to the department. DMS develops and monitors the department’s budget; manages personnel recruitment and payroll/benefits; performs accounting and fiscal control; oversees the department’s facilities; maintains data security; provides information technology service; and advances diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) strategies. DMS is comprised of three bureaus.

The Bureau of Budget and Finance (BBF) develops and monitors the department’s statutory and operating budgets. The bureau also processes and records financial transactions and provides support services for grant management, fleet, purchasing, printing, forms and records, and facilities.

The Bureau of Human Resources (DHR) manages personnel processes including recruitment and selection, classification analysis, compensation, performance appraisal, payroll and benefits administration, affirmative action, labor relations, the Employee Assistance Program, and safety programs. BHR plays a key role in the success of DEIA initiatives.
The **Bureau of Computing Services** (BCS) manages the department’s information technology infrastructure and assets. The Bureau also develops, supports, and maintains applications for the department’s programs.

*For more information: [https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dms/division-management-services](https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dms/division-management-services)*

F. **Office of the Attorney General**

The Office of the Attorney General oversees the DOJ and fulfills duties as provided by chapter 165 of the Wisconsin Statutes and the Wisconsin Constitution.

G. **Office of Crime Victim Services**

The Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS) provides direct assistance to victims of crime, administers state and federal funding for programs that assist victims of crime, directly helps victims understand and exercise their crime victim rights, and works with allied professionals to enhance services for victims through training and public policy initiatives.

Victims of violent crime and family or household members of deceased victims may have significant out-of-pocket expenses through no fault of their own. The **Crime Victim Compensation Fund** administered by the OCVS helps pay for unreimbursed eligible expenses that result from the crime, which may include costs of medical and mental health services, lost wages and benefits, and burial expenses for eligible victims and their families who have no other source of payment for out-of-pocket expenses.

OCVS staffs a **Victim Resource Center** to assist with questions about the rights afforded to victims and witnesses of crime as they move through the criminal justice process, and what to do if a victim or witness believes a right has been violated. Victims may also choose to be notified of the progress of cases involving their perpetrators that are moving through the appeals process. Assistance is available through a toll-free number or email. Victim Resource Center staff also provide Victim Witness assistance on criminal cases prosecuted by the Department of Justice and early, on-scene crime response services.
OCVS manages the **Safe at Home** program. Safe at Home is a statewide address confidentiality program that provides victims of actual or threatened domestic abuse, child abuse, sexual abuse, stalking, and trafficking, or those who fear for their physical safety, with a legal substitute address to be used for both public and private purposes.

OCVS also offers technical assistance and reimbursements to county **Victim/Witness Assistance programs**. The program provides training, continuing education, and technical assistance to victim services professionals as well as funding for county victim witness programs in district attorneys’ offices in Wisconsin. The program sets standards and offers guidance to ensure victims and witnesses understand the criminal justice process and receive appropriate support and information.

OCVS manages and administers a number of federal grant programs and state funding streams, such as Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS), State Child Advocacy Center Grants, and the Children’s Justice Act. **Victim Services Grants** are available to community-based organizations, law enforcement units, health care providers, and other qualifying organizations that provide victim services. OCVS works to develop public policy changes and coordinates initiatives related to victim services including the Attorney General’s Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Wisconsin’s Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI), Wisconsin Crime Victims Council, the Taskforce on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), the Clergy and Faith Leader Abuse Initiative, and provides operational support to the Wisconsin Crime Victims Rights Board.

OCVS regularly provides training and technical assistance to criminal justice partners and victim services providers, and offers ongoing training programs for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) and child forensic interviewers.

*For more information:* [https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ocvs](https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ocvs)

### H. Office of Open Government

The Office of Open Government (OOG) is responsible for interpretation and application of Wisconsin’s open meetings law and public records law. OOG manages DOJ’s public records request process and strives for effective and efficient
responses to such requests. OOG provides training and expert legal guidance on the open meetings law and public records law for DOJ staff and by request for the governor, legislators, other state agencies, district attorneys, local government, law enforcement, and members of the public. OOG also responds to citizen inquiries regarding open government issues and provides open meetings law and public record law compliance guides and other open government resources to the public.

For more information: https://www.doj.state.wi.us/office-open-government/office-open-government

I. Office of School Safety

The Office of School Safety (OSS) promotes safe school environments across the state. The office works closely with numerous stakeholders, including educators, law enforcement, and mental health specialists to achieve this goal.

OSS is responsible for administering School Safety Initiative grants and creating model practices for school safety, in conjunction with the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association, and the Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools Center. Since its creation in 2017 Wisconsin Act 143, the office has continued its efforts to reimburse schools with $100,000,000 in grant funding, deliver quality school safety-related training, and continue evaluation of the Wisconsin School Threat Assessment Protocol.

OSS offers training in threat assessment, adolescent mental health, and other school security-related topics. In addition, the office maintains a wide variety of safety documentation and data including the following: blueprints of school buildings, school safety plans, violence drill documentation, safety trainings, and safety assessments by law enforcement. Schools are required to update this documentation annually - OSS staff track compliance and assist schools in completing these requirements.

OSS has developed and administers the “Speak Up, Speak Out” (SUSO) School Safety Resource Center. SUSO provides a statewide threat reporting system, threat assessment consultation, critical incident response and general school safety guidance around the state. The office has begun implementation of a statewide threat reporting system and regionally based critical incident response teams. Before this system, there was no other statewide resource with the same capacity to serve schools during a critical incident. The office has also worked with other divisions in the department to provide schools with access to state and federal intelligence information, emergency communications infrastructure, and investigative resources.

For more information: https://www.doj.state.wi.us/office-school-safety/office-school-safety
II. Accomplishments

The following are DOJ accomplishments during the 2019-2021 biennium that merit special recognition.

A. Creation of Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

In July of 2020, DOJ announced the creation of a Task Force on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, with the group holding its first official meeting in December of 2020. This Task Force, charged with fighting the abduction, homicide, violence, and trafficking of Indigenous women in Wisconsin, is a partnership between the State of Wisconsin and its twelve tribal nations.

The Task Force is focused on examining the factors that contribute to missing and murdered Indigenous women and the response from social service organizations; understanding the roles that federal, state, and tribal jurisdictions play; and improving and implementing robust data collection and reporting methods, among other things.

As of the date of this report, the Task Force has met five times and recently announced an intent to award a contract to a research team to prepare Task Force recommendations as well as an implementation plan. In addition, the Task Force’s four subcommittees (Legal, Data, Systems, and Family Impact) meet regularly.

B. Creation of a Peer Support Advisory Committee

In January 2021, DOJ announced the creation of a Peer Support Advisory Committee. Consisting of chiefs, sheriffs, psychologists, policy staff and other law enforcement officers across Wisconsin, the Advisory Committee will provide the attorney general with recommendations from the law enforcement community regarding the wellness and training needs for law enforcement in Wisconsin. This Advisory Committee understands that by the very nature of their unique work, law enforcement officers regularly encounter difficult and traumatic situations. The committee is responsible for producing a manual that will define the framework for developing and supporting regional peer support networks throughout the State of Wisconsin.

C. Creation of the “Speak Up, Speak Out (SUSO)” Program and Finalization of School Safety Grant Program

In September 2020, DOJ announced the creation of the “SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT (SUSO)” Resource Center – a comprehensive, one-stop place to turn with important
school safety questions or concerns. It offers a 24/7 threat reporting system, threat assessment consultation, critical incident response, and general school safety guidance. Students, parents, school staff, or community members can submit a school safety concern or threat via the SUSO website, mobile phone application, or toll-free number. During its first year of operation, SUSO received more than 1,000 contacts.

In addition, in August 2021, OSS announced that it had closed out the School Safety Grant program. In March 2018, the 2017 Wisconsin Act 143 was signed into law, which created OSS and provided $100 million in grant funding for school safety initiatives. This grant funding was utilized for safety enhancements (including new security systems, security cameras, and secure entrances), threat assessment training, and mental health training. A 2019 review of the program by the Legislative Audit Bureau found that DOJ had “appropriately administered” the grants.

D. Progress of the Wisconsin Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

The Wisconsin Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (WiSAKI) is a statewide effort to address the accumulation of unsubmitted sexual assault kits (SAKs) in the possession of local law enforcement agencies and hospitals. Initiated by the Attorney General’s Sexual Assault Response Team (AG SART) and led by DOJ, WiSAKI is a collaborative effort among law enforcement, victim advocates, sexual assault nurse examiners, prosecutors, health care systems, and the Division of Forensic Sciences.

As of April 7, 2021, 1,087 kits with foreign DNA identified have been added to a national database of DNA profiles, out of 4,475 tested sexual assault kits. In tandem with local jurisdictions, DOJ completed a case review of every case where a foreign DNA profile was found (1,712 sexual assault kits) in 2020. 53 sexual assault kits have hit to 18 other states’ DNA databases.

In addition, DOJ has procured STACS Track-Kit to create and launch a sexual assault kit tracking system that will be fully implemented in early 2022. The system will offer the ability to monitor the amount of time that a kit spends at different points in the kit processing system (hospitals, law enforcement agencies, and the crime laboratory). Victims of sexual assault will also be able to access information directly and confidentially about their sexual assault kit, from the time it is collected until its disposal.

As of October 2021, there have been six convictions and sentences as a result of the SAKI initiative.
E. Opioid Recoveries

In October 2020, DOJ announced that Mallinckrodt, the largest generic opioid manufacturer in the United States, would be paying $1.6 billion of cash into a trust that will go towards abating the opioid crisis, including valid claims related to its role in the opioid crisis raised by non-governmental claimants. The Mallinckrodt matter is part of an ongoing bankruptcy proceeding.

In July 2021, DOJ announced a historic $26 billion proposed agreement with Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen – the nation’s three major pharmaceutical distributors – and Johnson & Johnson, which manufactured and marketed opioids. The proposed agreement would resolve investigations and litigation over the companies’ roles in creating and fueling the opioid epidemic. Depending on the number of states and local governments that are part of the agreement, Wisconsin stands to receive an estimated $400 million. In August 2021, DOJ announced that Wisconsin intends to join this agreement.

In July 2021, DOJ also announced a proposed resolution of Wisconsin’s claims against Purdue Pharma and members of the Sackler family that will make public tens of millions of documents related to their role in the opioid crisis and require a payment of more than $4.3 billion for prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts in communities across the country. The resolution is part of the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy proceeding and Wisconsin’s share would be approximately 1.76% of all the funds available to states for distribution from the bankruptcy proceeding, estimated to exceed $65 million.

III. 2021-2023 Executive budget program goals and objectives

DOJ will work to achieve the following goals in the coming biennium. These goals are outlined in 2021 Wisconsin Act 58, the 2021-2023 Executive Budget.

A. Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Program Expansion

An additional $2.5 million in funding will be provided through the TAD grant program. DOJ will prioritize the establishment of TAD programs in counties that currently do not have TAD programs and continue to support the expansion of existing programs.
B. County Victim Witness Reimbursement

An additional $1,548,000 GPR over the biennium was made available to reimburse counties for services provided to victims and witnesses of crime. This new GPR appropriation will supplement surcharge revenues that currently fund these services. Although victim witness programs are eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 90% of their costs pursuant to state statute, a lack of funding has seen the actual percentage of reimbursed costs drop to approximately 40% in recent years.

C. Crime Laboratory Instrumentation

DOJ will utilize an additional $455,000 in expenditure authority for revenues from the DNA and Crime Lab and Drug Law Enforcement surcharges to purchase updated instrumentation used to identify synthetic drugs and drug analogs that are toxic at very low levels, including fentanyl.

D. Law Enforcement Training Grants

DOJ will utilize an additional $2,000,000 GPR annually to reimburse law enforcement agencies for the costs associated with statutorily required certification (law enforcement, jail, and juvenile detention officers), and recertification (law enforcement officers only) trainings, as well as specialized trainings.

E. Community Oriented Police Housing Grants

DOJ will develop and administer a new $1,000,000 grant program for community-oriented police houses. Cities with a population of 30,000 or more are eligible for these grants. DOJ will be required to utilize a number of criteria for awarding these grants, including integrating the house into the fabric of the community and neighborhood; ensuring the house is used for building relationships between law enforcement and the community; and connecting residents of the neighborhood to community supports, among other things.