

## Community Prosecution

### Topic Description:

Community prosecution (CP) involves a long-term, proactive partnership among the prosecutor's office, law enforcement, the community and public and private organizations, whereby the authority of the prosecutor's office is used to solve problems, improve public safety and enhance the quality of life of community members. Under this emerging philosophy, prosecutors are viewed not just as officers of the court who come on scene once a crime has occurred, but rather as members of the community who have the power to stop crime from occurring. This community-oriented prosecution has become not just a new program, but a new strategy for prosecutors. Community prosecutors use tools such as nuisance abatement, drug-free and prostitute-free zones, restorative justice, community courts, gun reduction programs, truancy abatement, and graffiti cleanup to improve neighborhood safety.

BJA supports the National Center for Community Prosecution (NCCP) through its partnership with the National District Attorneys Association's American Prosecutors Research Institute and the Center for Court Innovation, conducting workshops and trainings, making site visits, and providing peer-to-peer mentoring. These efforts support implementation of new CP sites and sustain and expand current CP efforts. BJA and its partners develop publications and newsletters that highlight best-practices and creative solutions for implementing and sustaining community prosecution across the nation.

### Recommended Tactics/Strategies for Addressing the Issue:

States should give consideration to jurisdictions interested in implementing or enhancing their community prosecution program. The National Center for Community Prosecution provides training and technical assistance to prosecutors and court personnel of all experience levels with valuable information on existing community prosecution programs, creative legal strategies, strategic planning, evaluation techniques and identification of resources to support new efforts. BJA recommends states and local jurisdictions to participate in such trainings and learn about how their office can incorporate community prosecution model.

### Available Resources:

[National Center for Community Prosecution](#)

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