

NCJTC Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The world today looks much different than it did in 1993 when we received our first national training grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Over the past 25 years, we have witnessed many changes in criminal justice training needs as society and technology have evolved.

Child sex offenders have gained unprecedented levels of access to children and to one another through advances in technology. Conducting investigations routinely involves securing information from mobile devices, internet service providers, and social media sites. Postal inspectors once primarily investigated Child pornography because it was traded or purchased through the mail. We now have encryption, virtual private networks, peer-to-peer file sharing sites, and the Dark Web as fertile ground for the explosion of activity we have witnessed. School shootings, the opioid epidemic, and child sex trafficking are some of the greatest challenges and national priorities faced by criminal justice professionals as we move into the second decade of the 21st century.

The National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) of Fox Valley Technical College provides criminal justice professionals with the training, technical assistance, and resources to meet these challenges, as we continuously update our training programs and expand our cadre of subject matter experts who serve as our content providers and trainers.

In the Beginning

"NCJTC began with one grant a quarter century ago, and since that time has established itself as an unparalleled national leader in criminal justice training. With twenty-three unique grants from every Department of Justice agency responsible for awarding criminal justice training and technical assistance grants, we are one of the largest and most respected national training organizations in the country," states Brad Russ, Director of NCJTC.

From the beginning, NCJTC realized that the best way to address complex and ever changing challenges was to move toward community-based solutions. NCJTC developed the nation's first national child abuse and exploitation multidisciplinary team training programs in the 1990's, leading to the adoption of that model across the country. These teams support the efforts of America's Child Advocacy Centers, designed to coordinate these complex and all too prevalent cases, while providing a neutral and non-threatening environment to conduct forensic interviews of children and provide services to families.

Shelly Smith, executive director of Kids Center in Bend, Oregon, views NCJTC as vital collateral to her organization's mission of providing child abuse evaluations, family support services, and forensic interviewing. "The commercial sexual exploitation of children is rampant, and it necessitates a multidisciplinary team to protect the most vulnerable in our communities," she says. "The NCJTC training empowered us with the tools to start our own community response plan. Our team wouldn't be where it is at today without this offering."

NCJTC continues to build on that model with community or team-based training solutions for child sex trafficking, school safety, tribal community planning, and the many threats to public safety, including substance abuse, child and family violence, and many more.



NCJTC Director Brad Russ, brings more than 30 years of law enforcement experience to NCJTC and is dedicated to providing professional, high-quality training to the criminal justice community.

His rich history in child protection as one of the nation's first ten Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Commanders and as the Board President for the National Children's Alliance has provided him with a unique front line and national view of child protection and public safety issues. His strong leadership has helped NCJTC reach this momentous anniversary with continued growth for decades to come.

Russ and his staff are committed to equipping criminal justice professionals with the right training, tools, and resources to affect lasting and meaningful change in their communities.

Influencing Decision Makers

One of the greatest challenges for federally funded initiatives is ensuring that Congress, the Administration, and the Department of Justice understand the very real needs in the field that we see and hear about from the people we serve. One example is NCJTC's involvement in the passage of the Ashlynn Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country legislation in 2018.

Immediately following the abduction and death of eleven-year-old Ashlynn Mike near Shiprock Peak, the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children partnered with the Navajo Nation to support the full development of a comprehensive AMBER Alert plan. This plan included agreements between New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, with all of the states committing their assistance to the Navajo Nation in issuing and managing AMBER Alerts.

During this process, NCJTC met with legislatures to provide feedback and share insights into the expansion the AMBER Alert system. Late Senator John McCain, Arizona, and Senator Tom Udall, New Mexico, introduced the AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2017. The act called for expanding the AMBER Alert child abduction warning system on Native American reservations by clarifying that Indian tribes were eligible for Department of Justice grants, typically only available to states.



Jim Walters, Program Administrator for the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program stated, "The tragedy of Ashlynn's case highlights the need for comprehensive child abduction recovery plans on tribal lands. No community is immune from predators who would take a child and commit such a terrible crime. Our tribal, state, local, and federal partners must work together to ensure that Native American children enjoy the same protections, resources, and efforts as cities and counties around the country."

NCJTC is currently assessing and supporting the implementation of AMBER Alert response plans for Native American communities across America.

Working with Tribal Communities

While the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and AMBER Alert Programs are high-profile programs, equally important are the tribal programs, which have become nationally recognized initiatives. Prior to the official launch of NCJTC in 1993, work had already begun with tribal communities in the Midwest. The first Multi-Jurisdictional Law Enforcement Conference in 1988 aimed to increase collaboration, build relationships between law enforcement professionals across different jurisdictions, and address the biggest public safety challenges in tribal communities.

Through this work, we have both a broad understanding of the unique issues tribes face, as well as extensive experience with stakeholders in tribal communities. We have a documented ability to utilize our competencies to strengthen criminal justice response and promote collaboration. We have the distinct honor of working with more than 8,000 tribal members representing over 200 tribes nationwide.



NCJTC continues to develop new ways to work with tribal communities. In 2008, NCJTC began work with the Community Oriented Policing Strategies (COPS) Office, offering training and technical assistance in the areas of community policing, substance abuse, and trauma-informed response. Tribal Oriented Policing Strategies (TOPS), the core curriculum for tribal community policing, helps participants explore strategies to enhance collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the community to reduce crime through community policing principles.

That same year and only two years after its creation, NCJTC began work on another tribal initiative, Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). SORNA provides a comprehensive set of minimum standards for sex offender registration and notification in

the United States and is administered through the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). In 2012, NCJTC secured its first grant for the Tribal Justice Systems Planning program, working directly with grantees to develop tribal justice systems in their communities.

Supporting Victims

Supporting victims in the aftermath of a crime was a new training area for NCJTC until 2009, when we held our first Wisconsin Serving Victims of Crime Conference. This long-standing annual conference brings together non-profit or community-based organizations, law enforcement, victim service providers, and other criminal justice professionals to learn about innovative victim assistance programs and resources for serving victims of crime using a multidisciplinary approach.

Two years later, NCJTC received its first Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) grant award, providing OVC grantees with resources and training to increase the ability of tribal communities to deliver comprehensive and culturally appropriate crime victim services. NCJTC partners with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, the Child Welfare Academy of the University of Alaska Anchorage, and the Tribal Judicial Institute of the University of North Dakota, School of Law on this important initiative.

In 2017, NCJTC expanded its victim services offerings with the grant from the Office for Violence Against Women (OVW), whose mission is to develop the national capacity to reduce violence against women and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Looking Ahead

NCJTC is committed to working with every sector of the criminal justice community. We work with organizations and individuals to customize our training and technical solutions to meet your unique needs. Our goal is to continually listen to those in the field, to ensure the services we provide are both relevant and effective to support your goals.

We will continue to evaluate outcomes and apply research-driven solutions provided by practitioners actively working in the fields that reflect the make-up of our audiences. We are committed to using the latest technologies, including a variety of e-Learning platforms to ensure that you can receive training in a format that works within your busy schedule.

We also pride ourselves on prioritizing training for rural and underserved areas, because we know that many of the challenges you face have no jurisdictional or economic boundaries. We are committed to challenging ourselves to provide the highest level of customer service and professional, high-quality training.

We encourage you to visit our website or contact our staff to discuss how we can serve you. We thank you for putting your trust in us for the past 25 years and look forward to working with you.

Did you know?



We've received over \$231 million in federal funding since 1993 to facilitate training and technical assistance



We manage 23 grants, covering every U.S. Department of Justice agency



We leverage the expertise of more than 150 subject matter experts to bring you relevant, innovative training



We've served over 166,650 training participants since 2003- that's more than 11,000 per year



We've served over 60,000 participants in 250 webinars and 208,000 hours of e-learning since 2011