



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

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## Legislative Report

Violent Crime Coordinating Council 2025 Annual Report

February 1, 2026

# Table of contents

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|                                                   |   |
|---------------------------------------------------|---|
| Background                                        | 3 |
| VCCC activities in 2025 Statewide coordinator     | 3 |
| 2025 meetings                                     | 4 |
| VCET funding                                      | 4 |
| VCET audits                                       | 5 |
| BCA criminal gang investigative data system audit | 6 |
| VCCC activities in 2026                           | 6 |
| Appendix A: 2025 VCCC members                     | 7 |
| Appendix B: 2025 VCET contacts                    | 9 |

# 2025 annual report

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This annual report details the activities of the Violent Crime Coordinating Council (VCCC), summarizes external reviews of multi-jurisdictional entities and reports on audits of criminal gang investigative data. It covers the period of Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2025.

## Background

VCCC's primary duty is to develop a strategy to reduce the harm caused to the public by gang and drug crimes in Minnesota. The council helps guide investigations and prosecutions of gang and drug crimes, especially violent crimes associated with gang activity. The council also provides direction and oversight to multi-jurisdictional Violent Crime Enforcement Teams (VCET) located throughout the state.

Established in 2010, VCCC works closely with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) and is responsible for:

- Developing a policy and procedure manual to guide gang and drug investigations (Guidelines Manual).
- Recommending an individual to serve as statewide gang and drug coordinator (statewide coordinator).
- Developing VCET grant eligibility criteria and an application review process.
- Recommending termination of funding for VCETs that fail to operate effectively.
- Developing an information sharing process to improve investigations and prosecutions of gang and drug offenses.
- Developing impartial policies that prohibit use of personal characteristics as the basis for law enforcement, prosecution or forfeiture actions.
- Adopting objective criteria and identifying characteristics to determine whether individuals are or may be members of gangs involved in criminal activity.

DPS' Office of Justice Programs (OJP) employs a grant manager to administer law enforcement grant funding. OJP also employs the statewide coordinator to provide training and technical assistance for VCETs. These positions also provide administrative support for the VCCC.

## VCCC activities in 2025

### Statewide coordinator

The statewide coordinator worked primarily in the field, attending VCET advisory board meetings, providing technical assistance to VCET commanders and administering training. He organized the 2025 annual training workshop for VCET commanders at Camp Ripley and coordinated a training on ethical leadership for VCET commanders and team leaders in St. Cloud.

The statewide coordinator serves on the board of the Minnesota State Association of Narcotics Investigators (MSANI) and regularly attends meetings of the North Central High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). He is also DPS' representative on the state Mandatory Minimum Sentences Task Force.

## 2025 meetings

In 2025, the VCCC transitioned from six bi-monthly meetings to four quarterly meetings held in February, May, August and November. The annual joint meeting between the VCCC and VCET advisory board chairs was modified to an every-other-year schedule.

At the February meeting, Renville County Sheriff Scott Hable, previously serving as vice chair, was elected chair of the VCCC. Shakopee Police Chief Jeff Tate was elected vice chair. A complete membership list is included in Appendix A.

VCCC membership is established by statute and includes representatives from DPS, Minnesota Department of Corrections, Office of the Minnesota Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney's Office. Membership also includes representatives from state councils serving Minnesota communities of color and Indigenous communities, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, Minnesota Sheriffs' Association and Minnesota County Attorneys Association. Statutory membership further includes representatives from the state's four largest law enforcement agencies: Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Ramsey County and St. Paul.

Non-voting ex officio members who regularly participated in meetings included representatives from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), HIDTA and the Minnesota National Guard Counter Drug Program.

Each VCCC meeting included updates from the statewide coordinator, grant manager and partner agencies regarding enforcement trends, operational issues, training initiatives and statewide coordination efforts.

At the February meeting, Alliant Consulting presented an overview of the 2024 VCET Operational Review, including audit findings and recommendations for operational and process improvements.

At the August meeting, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) Special Agent in Charge presented on the Violent Crime Reduction Unit (VCRU), which was established through state legislative funding in 2022 to coordinate and disrupt violent crime activity in the metropolitan area. The unit includes 17 special agents and investigators from 12 partner agencies, along with intelligence analysts, victim and witness coordinators, forensic scientists, and a firearm-detection K-9 team. The VCRU reports its activities and outcomes separately through an annual legislative report.

The VCCC did not recommend any revisions to the Guidelines Manual or the 9-Point Gang Criteria during 2025.

## VCET funding

OJP administered 21 multi-jurisdictional VCET grants statewide during the 2024-2025 grant period. VCET grantees, commanders and advisory board chairs are listed in Appendix B.

Throughout the grant cycle, grantees submitted quarterly reports detailing arrests, seizures, operational activities, program income and expenditures. Grantees also submitted quarterly financial status reports for reimbursement of approved expenses. OJP oversight activities included an initial risk assessment, two monitoring visits, a financial reconciliation of quarterly expenditures and a closeout performance evaluation for each grant.

All VCET grantees are required to attend the annual VCET Commanders Training at Camp Ripley to review grant requirements, operational procedures and emerging enforcement issues. The 2025 training included presentations from:

- Minnesota National Guard Counter Drug Program
- HIDTA Threat Assessment
- Ramey County Attorney's Office, Officer Involved Shootings
- U.S. Attorney's Office, Criminal Division
- Minnesota State Association of Narcotics Investigators
- Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC)
- BCA Operational Planning
- Minnesota Attorney General's Legal Update
- BCA Force Investigation Unit

In 2025, OJP also administered a competitive application process that resulted in the award of 22 multi-jurisdictional VCET grants for the 2026-2027 grant period using state and federal Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds.

As part of the application process, the VCCC approved revised eligibility criteria recognizing Tribal law enforcement agencies as qualifying partners within the multi-county requirement for greater Minnesota task forces.

A new VCET grant awarded to the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office established the Lakes Area Drug Investigative Division (LADID), a partnership that includes the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police and the cities of Baxter and Brainerd.

An increase in grant administration costs reduced the amount of funding available for direct VCET grants. To offset these reductions, OJP allocated additional federal JAG funding to support the 2026-2027 grant awards. Despite the supplemental funding, all continuing VCET grants experienced a modest decrease in overall funding levels.

## VCET audits

In 2025, the statewide coordinator, in partnership with VCET commanders, conducted comprehensive peer review site visits at all VCET locations statewide. Each commander was required to participate in the review of another VCET, and participants consistently reported that the peer review process provided valuable operational insights and best practices applicable to their own task forces.

During the reviews, approximately 130 confidential informant (CI) and investigative case files were examined. Reviewers identified a small number of CI files that were missing required documentation, including photographs, driver's license information and records of investigator contact with confidential informants.

Review teams also examined approximately 100 asset seizure files involving cash and firearms. Reviewers noted that all VCETs maintained effective systems for documenting property seizures, tracking forfeiture cases and distributing forfeiture proceeds to the state, county attorneys and participating law enforcement agencies.

Following the reviews, the statewide coordinator conducted follow-up spot checks with all VCETs identified as having incomplete documentation and verified that corrective actions had been completed. All current grantees were subsequently determined eligible to participate in the competitive 2026-2027 grant process.

## BCA criminal gang investigative data system audit

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) conducts periodic, random audits of data maintained within the Minnesota Gang Pointer File to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and data accuracy. Subject records are reviewed to determine whether individuals have qualifying gross misdemeanor or felony convictions within the required three-year review period.

The most recent audit was conducted between September 2024 and September 2025 and included data submitted by:

- Cass County Sheriff's Office
- Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office
- Koochiching County Sheriff's Department
- Metro Gang Strike Force (subjects transferred to BCA Investigations)
- Willmar Police Department

As part of the audit, the BCA reviewed 27 criminal history records that fell within the required three-year audit period. Of those records, seven subjects did not have additional qualifying criminal convictions and were subsequently removed from the Minnesota Gang Pointer File in accordance with statutory requirements.

As of Sept. 2, 2025, the Gang Pointer File contained 20 active subjects.

## VCCC activities in 2026

The VCCC will continue meeting on a quarterly basis in 2026, including a joint meeting in February with VCET advisory board chairs and commanders. Newer VCETs, including Aitkin, Itasca and Mille Lacs (AIM), LADID and West Hennepin VCET, will be invited to present updates on their operations, partnerships and regional enforcement initiatives.

OJP will continue administering VCET grants, coordinating training opportunities, and providing technical assistance to support effective task force operations statewide. Planned activities for 2026 include a spring VCET commanders' meeting, a contracted procedural review of VCET operations and a December leadership training for VCET commanders and team leaders.

The BCA will continue management and oversight of the Gang Pointer File to support statewide criminal intelligence sharing, compliance with statutory requirements and coordination among local, state, Tribal and federal law enforcement partners.

## Appendix A: 2025 VCCC members

| NAME                                     | AGENCY                                   | STATUTORY REPRESENTATION                                              |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mike Martin, undersheriff (chair)        | Ramsey County Sheriff's Office           | Ramsey County Sheriff's Office                                        |
| Scott Hable, sheriff (vice chair)        | Renville County Sheriff's Office         | Minnesota Sheriff's Association (greater Minnesota)                   |
| Drew Evans, superintendent               | Bureau of Criminal Apprehension          | Minnesota Department of Public Safety                                 |
| Allen Slaughter, assistant U.S. attorney | District of Minnesota                    | United States Attorney's Office                                       |
| David Voigt, assistant attorney general  | Office of the Minnesota Attorney General | Office of the Minnesota Attorney General                              |
| Jeff Stiff, deputy chief                 | St. Paul Police Department               | St. Paul Police Department                                            |
| Emily Olson, commander                   | Minneapolis Police Department            | Minneapolis Police Department                                         |
| Jeff Tate, chief                         | Shakopee Police Department               | Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (metro)                        |
| Dan Starry, sheriff                      | Washington County Sheriff's Office       | Minnesota Sheriff's Association (metro)                               |
| Rick Palaia, major                       | Hennepin County Sheriff's Office         | Hennepin County Sheriff's Office                                      |
| Matt Grochow, chief                      | St. Peter Police Department              | Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (greater Minnesota)            |
| John Melvin, director                    | Office of Special Investigations         | Minnesota Department of Corrections                                   |
| Hao Nguyen, assistant county attorney    | Ramsey County Attorney's Office          | Minnesota County Attorneys Association (metro prosecutor)             |
| Shane Baker, county attorney             | Kandiyohi County Attorney's Office       | Minnesota County Attorneys Association (greater Minnesota prosecutor) |
| David Hester, chief                      | Lower Sioux Indian Community             | Tribal police representative                                          |
| Sonia Reyes, executive director          | Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs      | Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs                                   |

| NAME                                             | AGENCY                                         | STATUTORY REPRESENTATION                    |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Sia Her, executive director                      | Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans           | Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans        |
| Linda Sloan, executive director                  | Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage    | Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage |
| Derrick Naumann, deputy chief                    | Mille Lacs Tribal Police                       | Minnesota Indian Affairs Council            |
| John Gross, assistant attorney general           | Office of the Attorney General                 | Legal counsel                               |
| Lukas Wright, major                              | Minnesota National Guard, Counter Drug Program | Ex-officio member                           |
| Rafael Mattei, assistant special agent in charge | Drug Enforcement Administration                | Ex-officio member                           |
| Kent Bailey, deputy director (Minnesota)         | High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area           | Ex-officio member                           |



## Appendix B: 2025 VCET contacts

| NAME                                     | AGENCY                                   | STATUTORY REPRESENTATION                                              |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mike Martin, undersheriff (chair)        | Ramsey County Sheriff's Office           | Ramsey County Sheriff's Office                                        |
| Scott Hable, sheriff (vice chair)        | Renville County Sheriff's Office         | Minnesota Sheriff's Association (greater Minnesota)                   |
| Drew Evans, superintendent               | Bureau of Criminal Apprehension          | Minnesota Department of Public Safety                                 |
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| David Voigt, assistant attorney general  | Office of the Minnesota Attorney General | Office of the Minnesota Attorney General                              |
| Jeff Stiff, deputy chief                 | St. Paul Police Department               | St. Paul Police Department                                            |
| Emily Olson, commander                   | Minneapolis Police Department            | Minneapolis Police Department                                         |
| Jeff Tate, chief                         | Shakopee Police Department               | Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (metro)                        |
| Dan Starry, sheriff                      | Washington County Sheriff's Office       | Minnesota Sheriff's Association (metro)                               |
| Rick Palaia, major                       | Hennepin County Sheriff's Office         | Hennepin County Sheriff's Office                                      |
| Matt Grochow, chief                      | St. Peter Police Department              | Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (greater Minnesota)            |
| John Melvin, director                    | Office of Special Investigations         | Minnesota Department of Corrections                                   |
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