

## **Board of State and Community Corrections Organized Retail Theft Grant Programs (Prevention & Vertical Prosecution)**

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The Budget Act of 2022 (Senate Bill 154) established the **Organized Retail Theft (ORT) Prevention Grant Program**. Funding for the ORT Prevention Grant Program was designated as a competitive grant for city police departments, county sheriffs' departments, and probation departments to support local law enforcement in preventing and responding to organized retail theft, motor vehicle or motor vehicle accessory theft, or cargo theft. The ORT Prevention Grant provided \$242.3 million over three years.

The **Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Grant Program** was established in Assembly Bill 178 (2022). Funding for the ORT Vertical Prosecution Grant Program was awarded through a competitive grant process for district attorneys to address increased levels of retail theft property crimes by using a vertical prosecution model. The ORT Vertical Prosecution Grant provided \$25 million over three years.

Initiated by the Governor and strongly supported by the Legislature in 2022, both grants are crucial components of the state's commitment to enhancing public safety and addressing the escalating issue of organized retail theft.

The BSCC received 114 proposals for the ORT Prevention grant – the total amount of funding requested was \$379 million. This response reflects the significant need in the field for resources to address Organized Retail Theft.

## ORT Prevention Grant (October 1, 2023 - June 1, 2027)

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### ▪ \$242,500,000 awarded to 38 local law enforcement agencies:

- Anaheim PD
- Bakersfield PD
- Beverly Hills PD
- Brea PD
- Campbell PD
- Chula Vista PD
- Citrus Heights PD
- Coalinga PD
- Costa Mesa PD
- Daly City PD
- Delano PD
- Fremont PD
- Fresno PD
- Garden Grove PD
- Hemet PD
- Irvine PD
- City of Jurupa Valley
- LA County SO
- LAPD
- Modesto PD
- National City PD
- Newark PD
- Orange County SO
- Palm Springs PD
- Palo Alto PD
- Roseville PD
- Sacramento County SO
- Salinas PD
- San Fernando PD
- San Francisco PD
- San Jose PD
- San Mateo County SO
- San Ramon PD
- Santa Clara County SO
- Santa Monica PD
- Santa Rosa PD
- Vacaville PD
- Ventura County SO

### ▪ Survey on Progress to Date

On January 2, 2024, the Board of State and Community (BSCC) Corrections sent a survey to all ORT and ORT Vertical Prosecution grantees. The survey asked grantees to identify their planned activities, share highlights related to the progress in implementing their project, and describe any challenges encountered. Key takeaways:

- The majority of grantees have initiated the procurement process for purchasing and installing surveillance, investigative, and/or tracking equipment and technology; some purchases have been completed.
- The majority of grantees plan on conducting ORT operations (e.g., blitz, task force, bait cars, etc.). Some have already implemented such operations resulting in over 900 arrests.
- All the grantees who plan on entering into agreements, contracts, or memoranda of understanding (MOU) with retailers and/or other partner organizations have established communication with some of their planned partners, with some grantees starting the contracting/MOU process.
- Their challenges have primarily been related to delays in implementation as a result of local policy and procedures, such as the procurement process or obtaining approval from city council/board approval for accepting the grant funds.

▪ **Summary of Grantee Plans:**

- ✓ 98% will purchase and install surveillance, investigative and/or tracking equipment and technology
  - 4 building Real Time Information Centers to benefit entire region
- ✓ 75% will conduct ORT special operations (e.g., task forces, stings, etc.)
  - 40 operations conducted
  - 900 arrests made
- ✓ 68% will hire new staff including police officers and detectives

**ORT Vertical Prosecution Grant (October 1, 2023 - June 1, 2027)**

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▪ **\$24,868,293 awarded to 13 district attorneys:**

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|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| • Alameda   | • Sacramento    | • Stanislaus |
| • Humboldt  | • San Francisco | • Ventura    |
| • Orange    | • Santa Barbara | • Yolo       |
| • Placer    | • Santa Clara   |              |
| • Riverside | • Sonoma        |              |

▪ **Summary of Grantee Plans:**

- ✓ 100% will establish vertical prosecution (VP) model or new ORT VP unit
  - 10 have already established an ORT VP unit/staff
  - 35 new cases filed
- ✓ 67% will hire new staff including deputy district attorneys and support