

SAUSA Project

Proposal for Statewide Implementation

November, 2014

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Expected Results

The U.S. Attorney's Office estimates the number of prosecutions from a properly designed SAUSA Project in northern and eastern Idaho would be similar to those produced by the Treasure Valley's SAUSA. The preliminary estimates indicate that 24 to 30 offenders would be prosecuted annually in each location. The Treasure Valley SAUSA averages 32 defendants prosecuted per year.

Savings to the State of Idaho

It costs an estimated \$20,382 to keep one inmate in an Idaho Correctional institution for one year. The SAUSA prosecutes criminals under federal – rather than state – law and thus they are incarcerated in federal – rather than the state prison system. Doing so has saved Idaho taxpayers an average of \$1.37 million per year in incarceration costs since 2007. As of today, the SAUSA Project is projected to save Idaho taxpayers over \$20.5 million. The annual projected savings, per conviction as a result of a Statewide SAUSA is as follows.

Region	Sentences/year	Annual Savings
Northern Idaho	24	\$ 489,168
Eastern Idaho	24	\$ 489,168
Treasure Valley	32	\$ 652,224
Total	80	\$1,630,560

Individuals that are convicted under the program however, are not given sentences of just one year. There is a cumulative effect of savings over time as individuals have been given sentences ranging from 3 months to a high of 264 months. Under the Treasure Valley SAUSA, the cumulative savings based on the length of sentences is depicted in the following chart.

Cumulative Savings to the State of Idaho by State Fiscal Year

Treasure Valley SAUSA Project

State FY	Months Sentenced	No. of Years	Cumulative Savings to State
2007-8	86	7.2	\$146,071
2008-9	384	32.0	\$652,224
2009-10	773	64.4	\$1,312,941
2010-11	953	79.4	\$1,618,671
2011-12	981	81.7	\$1,665,379
2012-13	1,112	92.6	\$1,888,732
2013-14	1,354	112.8	\$2,299,769
2014-15	1,506	125.5	\$2,557,941
2015-16	1,314	109.5	\$2,231,829
2016-35	4,565	380.4	\$7,7532,653
Total All	13,028	1,086	\$22,127,209

The savings were calculated on an annual cost per inmate of \$20,382 as reported by the Idaho Department of Corrections, Annual Report of 2007.

- Of those sentenced, 30% were for Meth. distribution and 60% involved firearms.
- It was originally estimated the TV SAUSA would have 16 prosecutions per year. The Project has averaged 32 prosecutions per year since 2008.

Supporting Organizations

Association of Idaho Cities
 Canyon County Prosecutor's Office
 Idaho Association of Counties
 Idaho Criminal Justice Commission
 Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association
 Treasure Valley Partnership

Testimonials

Chris Allgood – Chief of Police, City of Caldwell

“Having the SAUSA Project has allowed us to prosecute entire organized gangs rather than one or two members at a time. As a result we have seen the gang crime in Caldwell diminish significantly and the safety and quality of life for our residents continue to improve.” – August 2013

Chris Atwood - Special Assistant United States Attorney

“By focusing our prosecution efforts on the worst of the worst, we are able to remove gang members, drug dealers, and dangerous criminals from the community. These offenders are sent out of Idaho to a federal facility. This results in a cost savings to the state of Idaho and a positive impact within the community.” – August 2013

Tom Dale – Mayor of Nampa

“The City of Nampa is a much safer community today than because of the SAUSA Project. In 2006 there were over 200 drive-by shootings in Nampa. Last year we had three.” - July, 2013

John Evans – Mayor of Garden City

“When comparing the list of SAUSA indictments to police department records in Garden City, 40% of those indicted were frequent flyers in our community and in the last couple of years we have seen double digit decreases in major crimes.” - June, 2009

Bill Larsen – Director, Treasure Valley Partnership

“This Project has been successful beyond what was envisioned. The members of the TVP understand the value of the project and voted to increase member dues to pay for the project during extremely hard economic times.” – August 2013

Christian Nafzger – Former SAUSA Employee

“I am surprised to the extent of how the Twin Falls area gang issues are tied into our issues in the Treasure Valley. In addition, the gangs in Ontario and Nyssa, Oregon as well as those in the Magic Valley and Twin Falls are all interactive. Guns and drugs are moving back and forth among all the gangs in our geographical area.” - June 2009

Garret Nancolas – Mayor of Caldwell

“The benefits of this project are way beyond anything they will ever be able to quantify.” - October, 2010

“Violent gang crime has been dramatically reduced. Just in Caldwell alone the number of drive-by shootings dropped from 73 in 2006 to 2 in 2009.” -December, 2009

Joshua Olmo – Federal Bureau of Investigation, Coeur d'Alene

“I believe the North Idaho Violent Crime Task Force (NIVCTF) in Coeur d'Alene would benefit tremendously from the presence of a SAUSA in our area. The NIVCTF, consists of members of the FBI, Idaho State Police, Kootenai County Sheriff's Department, Coeur d'Alene Police Department, Post Falls Police Department, and Bonner County Sheriff's Department.”

Eastern Idaho SAUSA Program

City and County officials in Southeastern Idaho have committed to enter into an agreement to fund a SAUSA operating in their region of the State per this proposal beginning in July of 2015. To date, 13 city/county jurisdictions have committed to participate in funding this SAUSA program in their region of the State. These jurisdictions have appointed a Chair for their coalition and agreed on a name for their group. The Southeastern Idaho SAUSA Partnership is in the process of finalizing an MOU and agreeing on prosecutorial priorities for this region of the State.

The city/county jurisdictions that have agreed to join the Southeastern SAUSA Partnership and indicated their city/county was in favor of funding the SAUSA Program under this proposal are.

City of Aberdeen
City of American Falls
Bannock County
Bingham County
City of Blackfoot
Bonneville County
City of Burley
Cassia County
City of Chubbuck
City of Idaho Falls
City of Pocatello
City of Rexburg
City of Shelley
Madison County

Northern Idaho SAUSA Program

On July 30, individuals representing five different Northern Idaho city/county jurisdictions met with U.S. Attorney for Idaho, Wendy Olson and representatives of the Treasure Valley Partnership for the purpose of learning about the SAUSA Program. In addition, representatives from several other Northern Idaho jurisdictions, that were not able to attend this meeting, indicated their support for pursuing the development of a coalition for the purpose of bringing a SAUSA Program to Northern Idaho. Those present at this initial meeting represented jurisdictions from Bonner County to Clearwater County.

Those present at this meeting indicated their commitment to developing a coalition in Northern Idaho for the purpose of creating a SAUSA operating out of their region of the State. They appointed a temporary Chair for the group and will begin recruiting other jurisdictions into their coalition.