



## SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2021.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

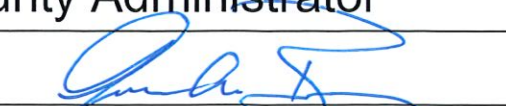
### PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Hanover County  
Program Title: Hanover County Sheriff's Office SHIELD  
Program Category: Criminal Justice & Public Safety

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: John Budesky  
Title: County Administrator  
Signature: 

# **Hanover County Sheriff's Office SHIELD**

## **Executive Summary (One Page)**

The Hanover Sheriff's Office recognizes that events around the state, nation and even the world, can impact our community. Our long tradition of working with the community paved the way for the development of one of the *most innovative* homeland security and counter terrorism initiatives today, SHIELD.

SHIELD was developed in partnership with police agencies from around the world to counter terrorism and increasing crime trends. As a member of the Global SHIELD Network, the Hanover Sheriff's Office partnered with NYPD and helped develop a design to expand this model by incorporating a community policing strategy that provides a platform for any citizen to partner with the Sheriff's Office and receive not only the latest terrorism information from around the world, but local and regional crime trends as well.

Working with law enforcement partners from around the world, SHIELD agencies share valuable information with each other designed for our community partners. It increases opportunities to strengthen and increase these partnerships and seamlessly share potential crime or suspicious information as well as increase awareness of crime trends, the current condition of homeland security and terrorism abroad. Partners receive access to crime prevention resources, significant event "real time" alerts/reports, Sheriff's Office newsletters, a crime reporting phone app, a community resource guide, quarterly meetings and training in areas such as Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE).

## **The Problem or Need for the Program**

Historically, law enforcement agencies across the nation have become well versed at sharing with and educating the community on traditional crime prevention best practices, such as burglary and larceny prevention as well as personal safety issues. As the threat of terrorism, active shooters and homegrown violent extremism (HVE) continues to grow, the techniques used to deliver terror attacks rapidly change. As a result, law enforcement must have a "real time" program designed to include the community in terrorism education and prevention as it is happening. HCSO SHIELD accomplishes this goal by partnering with major cities across the world to network open source information and intelligence in a way to share with our community partners.

Ultimately, our communities need a reliable source of information sharing that not only informs them of potential danger, crime and terrorism, but also rapidly provides those best practices to keep them safe from harm and encourage suspicious activity reporting. SHIELD intentionally builds formal community partnerships and streamlines the mass media information overload by informing the community of items of concern locally, regionally and from around the world that is vetted, reliable and trustworthy. It also provides resources to the community and select representatives such as elected officials, faith leaders, critical infrastructure and private security professionals to reduce the probability of becoming victims of a crime.



## **Description of the Program**

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) recognizes that events around this region, state, nation and even the world can impact our community. The objective of this initiative was to develop a program in partnership with metropolitan police agencies from around the world to increase terrorism awareness and prevention methods, reduce crime and incorporate a community policing strategy that provides a formal platform for any citizen to partner with the Sheriff's Office. The results being enhancing the level of citizen participation in and the understanding of Sheriff's Office efforts to reduce crime and keep our community safe.

The HCSO SHIELD program was launched in 2016 and was part of building out the National SHIELD Network, which rapidly became the Global SHIELD Network. The time frame for the roll out of the Sheriff's Office program was within the first year of development; however, each year leading to 2020 saw significant new developments and growth. In 2016, the foundation for the SHIELD initiative in Hanover County was implemented and built on streamlining already established partnerships. During 2017, the SHIELD phone app was developed and used to increase sharing of information. In 2018, the Sheriff's Office hosted the first international Global SHIELD Conference. In 2019, we traveled throughout Virginia helping state and county law enforcement agencies develop SHIELD programs, and in 2020 we hosted worldwide Global SHIELD updates, assigned an investigator to work with developing and supporting the state police SHIELD program and wrote the by-laws for the Global SHIELD Network.

Our partners for this program consist of local community partners as well as law enforcement and private sector personnel from around the world. It is estimated HCSO SHIELD connects with approximately 70,000 of our Hanover citizens as well as law enforcement and thousands of additional private sector groups!

SHIELD is designed to increase opportunities for the community to share potential crime or suspicious activity information with the Sheriff's Office, increase their awareness of crime trends that cross jurisdictional boundaries and the current condition of homeland security and terrorism abroad. Open source SHIELD alerts are provided as close to real time as possible of a significant local, state, national or international event to prompt suspicious activity reporting and provide those best practices to keep you safe. It also provides information and resources designed to reduce your probability of becoming a victim of a crime. Working with law enforcement agencies from around the world serves as a force multiplier and adds to the available resources we can share with our partners. Communication is provided to partners through periodic "real time" alerts/reports, a monthly newsletter, a crime reporting phone app and quarterly meetings. Sheriff's Office personnel also provide the latest training in reporting suspicious activity and active shooter response best practices.

The Sheriff's Office has many private sector, government (local and state) partners that are part of this effort. One such partner is the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). DCJS is the state certification body for all law enforcement in Virginia. DCJS asked the Sheriff's Office to teach this program to law enforcement agencies around the state. In addition, Virginia agencies who attended the HCSO SHIELD



presentation received in-service credits towards their law enforcement certifications. As a result, the SHIELD initiative was taught to agencies throughout Virginia to include the Virginia State Police and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Sheriff's Office is now helping the Virginia State Police to assist them in developing and operating their SHIELD program. One representative of DCJS commented that this effort is a major contributor to the ever-expanding community policing "tool box" needed in our country today.

The Sheriff's Office has presented on our SHIELD program at the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police annual conference as well conferences in Maryland, Florida and an ASIS Conference in Texas, which hosted 20,000 private security professionals. The Sheriff's Office was also proud to host and organize the first International Global SHIELD conference in 2018. The conference featured crime prevention and counter terrorism leaders from around the world as we looked at various case studies from some of the most recent significant crime and terror events. These conferences always include our private sector partners as well which greatly contribute to their education and awareness and serves to strengthen partnerships. The design we created has now become the standard model of operation for these annual conferences.

The SHIELD initiative has been very well received by members in both the public and private sectors. Its success is found in the sharing of information and resources that has caught the attention of our communities and garnered new partners. Each SHIELD alert, resources or newsletter the Sheriff's Office distributes goes to thousands of private sector partners and government leaders, as well as formal community

partnership programs and all SHIELD members. Being able to share “real time” information on incidents occurring around the world designed to keep you aware and safe, creates an avenue of communication and partnership that is very unique for state, county and local agencies.

Developing the HCSO SHIELD counterterrorism and crime prevention initiative has also put the Hanover Sheriff’s Office on an international information sharing and partnership platform. Recently, our model has been shared with multiple metropolitan police agencies to assist them in developing a SHIELD initiative. International law enforcement agencies have also reached out to the Hanover Sheriff’s Office in their efforts to develop a similar model. In addition, as a result of these efforts, multiple dignitaries from overseas to include royalty, have visited the Hanover Sheriff’s Office where together, we have examined counterterrorism and crime prevention efforts from around the world.

Across the country there are also ongoing discussions pertaining to trust, transparency and accountability within the law enforcement community. As events transpire on the national stage, it’s important to note that each situation is unique and every challenge new. Our most positive endeavors will always be the ones where as a community, working together, we can achieve those goals which serve the needs of our citizens. The Sheriff’s Office strongly adheres to that belief and our philosophy that strong partnerships create safe communities.

HCSO SHIELD strengthens current partnerships and builds new ones. It actively creates a platform for every citizen to be included in their Sheriff's Office and a community approach to crime prevention and awareness. In the past, formal partnerships were built on models of involvement with a business, faith community or specific group. SHIELD is designed for every individual to partner and provide or receive critical information to keep them safe, reduce the probability of becoming a victim of a crime, be involved in shared training, deployment and resource initiatives, and be a member of an open and transparent portal for sharing of critical information.

### **Financing and Staffing**

One of the most common questions received when presenting to agencies on the HCSO SHIELD program is: "How much does this cost"? It's a great question as with the resources made available and the intelligence and community information gap being filled, a cost would commonly be expected. The answer is SHIELD reorganizes the way you do business by creating a force multiplier with other law enforcement agencies and private sector partners willing to share intelligence and resources and streamlining/enhancing the community policing partnership model ascribed to law enforcement agencies today.

The development, management and maintenance of the HCSO SHIELD program was developed at no cost other than the manpower of a supervisor and an investigator completing staggered tasks as one of their normal duties during a typical business day.



## Results

Through SHIELD, the Sheriff's Office was able to develop partnerships with metropolitan police agencies from around the world to increase terrorism awareness and crime prevention methods, reduce crime, and incorporate a community policing strategy that provides a formal platform for any citizen to partner with the Sheriff's Office. The results being enhancing the level of citizen participation in and the understanding of Sheriff's Office efforts to reduce crime and keep our community safe.

Result examples are:

- Developed a formal information sharing platform that connects with approximately 70,000 Hanover Citizens and includes our Neighborhood Watch, Worship Watch and Business Watch programs.
- Creation of a phone app to enhance reporting of suspicious activity
- A formal connection with law enforcement partners around the world through the creation of a global SHIELD Network
- Routine product development of terrorism and crime trend resources as well as real time major incident alerts and crime prevention resources.
- Development of a secure website for information sharing via email and text.
- Created a process to instruct other law enforcement agencies on developing a SHIELD program and adding to the resources of the Global Network.
- Hosted the first International Global SHIELD Conference, which included both law enforcement and community partners and supported the continuation of conferences abroad.

- Developed the by-laws of the Global SHIELD Network to promote inclusion of community partners and the development of new partners.
- A consistent and annual reduction of crime. The current crime rate in Hanover County is 798.3 per 100,000, which is the lowest crime rate recorded since 1975.

As mentioned, across the country there are ongoing discussions pertaining to trust, transparency and accountability within the law enforcement community. Every citizen of this country has the right to feel safe and secure in their own home and as they walk the streets of their community. We cannot waiver from this commitment.

The success of every law enforcement agency has always been and always will be through community partnerships: people working together, with a common vision, ready to serve their communities. This is the fundamental concept of how SHIELD works as it strengthens existing partnerships and builds new community relationships not only through the sharing of information, but by creating an environment of inclusion for all who desire to partner. These relationships foster trust and transparency and provide tangible resources to reduce crime and keep communities safe across the world.

Today, Hanover County has the lowest crime rate since 1975 and a complaint ratio of less than 0.0003%, which is less than 5 based on a recent analysis of more than 1.5 million citizen contacts! Hanover Sheriff's Office SHIELD formalizes a culture of community policing and packages this concept in such a way that this program has become a model for policing agencies around the world.

## **Brief Overview for Press Releases, Brochures, Etc. (2-3 Paragraphs)**

The Hanover Sheriff's Office SHIELD initiative formalizes a culture of community partnerships and packages this concept in such a way that law enforcement agencies around the world have been influenced through these best practices. SHIELD is designed with an understanding that strong partnerships create safe communities and serves as a link for private and public sector partners to work closely together.

SHIELD was developed in partnership with police agencies from around the world to counter terrorism and increasing crime trends. As a member of the Global SHIELD Network, the Hanover Sheriff's Office partnered with NYPD and helped develop a design that provides a platform for any citizen to partner with the Sheriff's Office and receive not only the latest terrorism information from around the world, but local and regional crime trends as well.

These partnerships increase opportunities to share potential crime or suspicious information as well as increase awareness of crime trends, the current condition of homeland security and terrorism abroad. Partners receive access to crime prevention resources, significant event "real time" alerts/reports, Sheriff's Office newsletters, a crime reporting phone app, a community resource guide, quarterly meetings and training in areas such as Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE).