

**ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT VERTICAL PROSECUTION GRANT PROGRAM**  
**Project Summaries (in alphabetical order)**

**Alameda County District Attorney's Office - \$2,050,000**

Organized Retail Theft cases are time intensive, complex, include multiple defendants and carry a heavy investigative burden. The vertical prosecution resources provide critical support to combat ORT. The intent of the project is to address the low rates of case resolution and create more opportunity for evidenced based division and restorative justice.

**Humboldt County District Attorney's Office - \$2,050,000**

The Humboldt County DA's Office will establish an Organized Retail Theft Prosecution Team (HCDA ORTPT). This vertical prosecution team will consist of a Deputy District Attorney, District Attorney Investigator, and an Administrative Analyst. The mission of the HCDA ORTPT will be to reduce organized retail theft, conduct thorough investigations on organized retail theft offenders, and to compile data related to theft offenses. The HCDA ORTPT will employ various diversion strategies to reduce organized retail theft and help reduce repeat offenders. The primary focus of HCDA ORTPT members will be curtailing organized retail theft.

**Orange County District Attorney's Office - \$2,050,000**

The Orange County DA's Office project will stop and deter organized retail theft (ORT) in Southern California. The project will establish a vertical prosecution ORT team of one prosecutor and one investigator to provide a higher level of vertical prosecution. The team will conduct retailer outreach and coordinate with law enforcement. The DA Residential Burglary Vertical Prosecution Unit will provide backup and assist with outreach efforts. Funds will provide technology to track patterns and link analysis across multiple devices and suspects. Since ORT suspects work in groups of multiple people with each person having access to multiple devices, the technology is key to stopping ORT.

**Placer County District Attorney's Office - \$2,047,011**

The Placer Regional Organized Retail Theft Team will be comprised of representatives from the Roseville Police, Rocklin Police, and the Placer County DA's Office. Each agency will provide staff and resources necessary to complete thorough retail theft investigations in support of the vertical prosecution model implemented by the Placer County DA's Office. This team will work to enhance collaboration between law enforcement and retailers through information sharing, use of data to evaluate effectiveness, and targeted enforcement efforts while using Collaborative Courts to address the increasing levels of retail theft property crime occurring in Placer County.

**Riverside County District Attorney's Office - \$2,050,000**

The Riverside County District Attorney's office proposes a program designed to effectively combat the scourge of ORT. We will seek to develop collaborative and productive partnerships with local, state, and federal law enforcement, as well as industry stakeholders. Leveraging these new and existing relationships, we will employ state-of-the-art investigative techniques designed to identify and eliminate ORT at the root. In court, our prosecutors will employ a just and balanced approach, offering diversion alternatives to suitable low-level offenders. For ORT instigators and fencing operators, we will fight for sentences that appropriately deter and punish.

**Sacramento County District Attorney's Office - \$2,050,000**

The Sacramento County District Attorney's Office will create a vertical prosecution unit consisting of a Deputy DA and one Investigator that will investigate and prosecute Organized Retail Theft. The unit will handle all eligible ORT cases in Sacramento County. This unit will work with local law enforcement agencies, California Highway Patrol and the Office of the Attorney General, to create a regional task force to work collaboratively to address the problem. The task force will work with local businesses to develop new methods to combat ORT, and seek to identify, arrest, and prosecute higher level offenders who recruit others to participate in ORT.

**San Francisco County District Attorney's Office - \$2,050,000**

The San Francisco District Attorney's Office (SFDA) proposes a vertical prosecution program for the investigation, charging and prosecution of retail theft by repeat and group offenders in its primary shopping district- Union Square and the mid-Market area of San Francisco. SFDA will have one fully dedicated prosecutor and one investigator assigned to prosecute repeat and group offenders in San Francisco who prey on retail businesses in the city. The goals are to hold offenders appropriately accountable for their conduct, to reduce incidences of retail theft, and to increase public confidence in the safety of in-person shopping in the target area.

**Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office - \$800,000**

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's proposed Organized Retail Theft Unit represents a comprehensive approach to combatting ORT in Santa Barbara County. By dedicating specialized personnel to investigate and prosecute ORT cases, prioritizing prevention efforts through community outreach, and implementing a robust vertical prosecution strategy, the ORT Unit aims to reduce retail theft, increase successful prosecutions, and protect the interests of victims and the community. Through diligent oversight and proactive measures to expedite case resolution, Santa Barbara County District Attorney is committed to ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the ORT Unit's operations.

**Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office - \$2,050,000**

To address organized retail theft (ORT) effectively, knowledge is power. The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office will use the grant to become the county's intelligence center for ORT, the nexus for all related investigations within the county. The vertical prosecutor would be responsible for prosecuting all filed ORT cases and assisting all investigations as well as collecting and disseminating ORT intelligence. The vertical district attorney investigator would spearhead or assist ongoing ORT investigations. Most importantly, the office would obtain a platform to accurately collect and analyze ORT data to determine connections and trends.

**Sonoma County District Attorney's Office - \$2,050,000**

The Sonoma County District Attorney's Office proposes to establish the Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Unit (ORT-VPU), a specialized unit that draws on the DA's Office's extensive experience implementing the True Vertical Prosecution Model. The DA's Office will dedicate one full-time Deputy DA and one full-time DA Investigator to investigate and prosecute all organized retail theft crimes that fall under Sonoma County's jurisdiction, in collaboration with local law enforcement and retailers' association partners. The ORT-VPU will expand data management infrastructure to enable the tracking, assessment, and improvement of the proposed program.

**Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office - \$1,560,802**

The Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office will partner with Modesto Police Department, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office, other law enforcement partners, retailers, and community stakeholders in Stanislaus County to implement the Stanislaus County Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Program. BSCC grant funds will be used for one full-time Deputy District Attorney to vertically prosecute organized retail theft cases, one full-time Criminal Investigator to work with local law enforcement, retailers, witnesses, and victims to investigate cases for the prosecution, and one half-time Crime Analyst to assist with data collection and reporting.

**Ventura County District Attorney's Office - \$2,047,631**

The Ventura County DA's Office will establish an Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Unit that will include one senior Deputy District Attorney and a District Attorney Investigator to vertically prosecute ORT crimes. The Deputy District Attorney will employ a vertical prosecution model including fielding pre-filing investigation issues, filing all ORT cases, and handling all court appearances and trials. The District Attorney Investigator will collect all relevant evidence and contact witnesses to strengthen trial presentations. The goals are to curtail ORT enterprises by 2027, consistently obtain successful outcomes, and create a successful algorithm for future success beyond the grant's end date.

**Yolo County District Attorney's Office - \$2,012,849**

The Yolo County District Attorney's Office will fund a Deputy District Attorney, a District Attorney Investigator, and 50% of a Crime & Intelligence Analyst. The newly formed unit will be the primary contact for retail crime, collaborating with retailers and local agencies, and receiving reports through a retail theft prosecution portal, where retailers will be able to submit reports. This will allow for case-specific outcomes and legal strategies focused on reducing long-term rates of Organized Retail Theft in Yolo County.