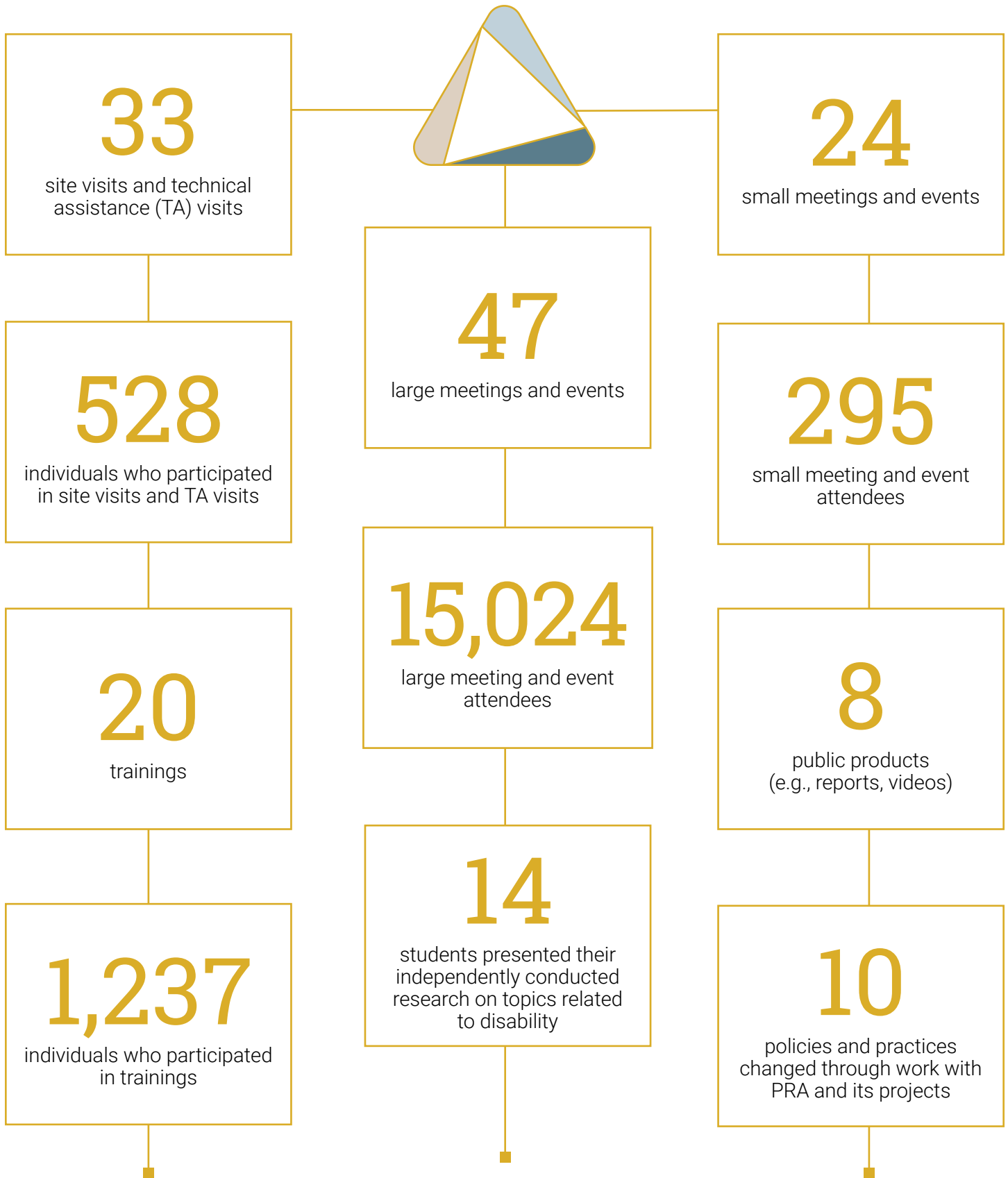


# 2021 QUARTER 3 IMPACT REPORT



# 2021 QUARTER 3 HIGHLIGHTS



## **The Academic Training to Inform Police Responses Hosts Panel Discussion on Crisis Response for Rural Communities**

On September 16, 2021, 614 people attended a Bureau of Justice Assistance's Academic Training to Inform Police Responses Initiative webinar on crisis response. This webinar featured two programs that have adapted crisis response models in rural communities. Panelists presented innovative approaches in crisis response and discussed the challenges of ensuring the needs of individuals in crisis who live in rural communities are met. The Academic Training project team highlighted key resources to support rural communities developing and implementing crisis response in their jurisdiction. The [slides](#) and [recording](#) from the presentation are available for on-demand viewing.



## **SOAR TA Center Hosts Virtual Leadership Academy, Graduates New SOAR Practitioners**

In August 2021, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) TA Center facilitated a virtual [SOAR Leadership Academy](#). Fifteen participants representing 12 states (CA, CT, FL, IL, KS, MA, MD, NH, NJ, NM, OR, and TX) attended the Leadership Academy. The new Local Leads will assist with implementing their state's SOAR Action Plan and guide the SOAR initiatives in their communities. In addition to welcoming new SOAR Local Leads, the SOAR TA Center celebrated 430 completions of the SOAR Online Courses in Quarter 3. The [SOAR Online Courses](#) train case workers to assist individuals in applying for SSI/SSDI.



## **New Article on Improving Black Mental Health Published in *Psychiatric Services***

In September, PRA Senior Project Associate Crystal Brandow, PhD, and Margaret Swarbrick, PhD, published "[Improving Black Mental Health: A Collective Call to Action](#)" in *Psychiatric Services*. The article examines how a Wellness First approach could be structurally used to promote healing and prevent trauma in Black communities. Racism, trauma, and limited culturally relevant services detrimentally affect Black mental health and prevent access to timely, high-quality treatment. These negative experiences, exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19, contribute to the increased prevalence of mental health conditions in Black communities. Dr. Brandow and co-author Dr. Swarbrick call for a Wellness First approach to dismantle the status quo and mobilize collective action to create equitable opportunities that promote healing and prevent further trauma.