

ADDRESSES: Bureau of Justice Assistance, 810 Seventh Street, NW, Washington, DC 20531.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For program guidance and technical assistance, please log on to the Office of Justice Programs Home Page at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov> and select "Funding Opportunities" and then "SCAAP," or call the Office of Justice Programs Grants Management System Hotline at 1-888-549-9901. For general information about on-line application procedures for solicitations, please call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center 1-800-421-6770.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

This action is authorized under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, Sections 201-03, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 3721-23 (1994).

Background

SCAAP provides Federal assistance to states and units of local government for costs incurred for the imprisonment of undocumented criminal aliens who are convicted of felony or misdemeanor offenses. Potential applicants no longer may submit hard copy application forms and diskettes. For FY2000, state and local governments apply for payment via a paperless, electronic, end-to-end distributive, Internet-based web-site. BJA anticipates providing over 390 payments of varying amounts from a FY2000 funding total of \$585,000,000.

Potential applicants with questions should call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770 or the Office of Justice Programs Grants Management System Hotline at 1-888-549-9901. For access to program guidance and the on-line application, connect to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov> and select "Funding Opportunities" and then "SCAAP."

Nancy E. Gist,

Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

National Institute of Corrections

Solicitation for a Cooperative Agreement—Critical Issues in Managing Women Offenders

AGENCY: National Institute of corrections, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Solicitation for a cooperative agreement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Justice (DOJ), National Institute of Corrections (NIC), announces the availability of funds in FY 2000 for a cooperative agreement to develop a 24-36 hour curriculum on Critical Issues in Managing Women Offenders. The cooperative agreement represents the first part of a two-phased project to develop and deliver the curriculum in the next 15 months. NIC will award this project in two parts: in the current year (FY 2000), NIC will award a cooperative agreement for a six month project to develop the curriculum. Based on satisfactory performance in the development phase, in FY 2001 NIC will award a supplement to deliver the curriculum as a regional training program at two different locations. \$50,000 is available for part one of the project, and \$50,000 will be available in FY 2001 for training program delivery under a regional partnership format. Regional partnerships are funded in part by participating agencies. The funding for FY 2001 is contingent on congressional approval of the federal budget at the beginning of the fiscal year.

A cooperative agreement is a form of assistance relationship where the National Institute of Corrections is substantially involved during the performance of the award. An award is made to an organization that will, in concert with the Institute, provide a clearer articulation of gender-responsive strategies which are grounded in current theory and research, drawn from different relevant disciplines and agencies, and applied to the realities of correctional practice in prisons, jails, and community corrections. No funds are transferred to state or local governments.

Background

Women offenders and related gender issues are gaining increased focus from policy makers in corrections for numerous reasons. During the last decade, the women offender population has nearly tripled in every sector of corrections. Changes in mandatory sentencing for drug offenders on the federal and state levels are resulting in larger numbers of women serving longer periods of time in correctional facilities. A variety of critical issues such as cross-gender supervision, appropriate relationships between staff and offenders, management of population growth, parity in programming, and appropriate interventions are increasing in numbers and visibility within the criminal justice community and with the public, many due to residual court action.

NIC has a five year history of designing and delivering a seminar on Critical Issues in Managing Women Offenders. The first seminar occurred in July, 1994; a group of highly motivated and experienced practitioners convened to consider the issues facing them in promoting more effective correctional practice with women offenders. Over time, through four seminars, the program has solidified its focus on policy makers and top managers as the primary audience. Its purpose is to provide a solid grounding in policy and practice issues which face criminal justice agencies in addressing the unique circumstances and needs of women offenders from a system-wide perspective. Participants include agency administrators and deputy directors from jails, community corrections and prisons; judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and other court personnel. Participants attend as individuals and not as agency teams.

The goals of the seminar (as defined for the April, 1999, session) were to:

- Better understand and articulate the emerging and critical issues to consider in shaping policy for women offenders;
- Be able to identify the benefits of applying a systems perspective in planning for women offenders;
- Have increased knowledge of the information and resource (research, expertise, and practical strategies) available to address women offender issues and how to access them;
- Articulate a vision for improving criminal justice policy and practice regarding women offenders in their jurisdiction and develop three action steps for moving toward that vision.

Based on the success of this program, NIC seeks to expand its capacity to deliver the seminar through a multi-state regional format. The audience will remain individuals from across the system who are policy makers.

NIC assumes that the successful applicant will review the materials developed for the prior 5 seminars including the agendas, participant manuals and handouts, and records of meeting, and will work closely with the Project Manager in designing the curriculum.

Purpose

The National Institute of Corrections is seeking an applicant organization or team which offers curriculum design expertise, overall knowledge of women offenders and corrections, experience with training of policy level participants, expertise in competency-based curriculum including writing, editing, formation, assembling and

packaging; and knowledge of adult learning theory and training.

The purpose of the cooperative agreement is:

(1) To fully develop and refine one (1) 24–36 hour training curriculum package on Critical Issues in Managing Women Offenders. The curriculum will have the following elements:

a. *Instructors Guide with Lesson Plans*. This must include performance objectives that specify the knowledge or skills/competencies that will be obtained by the participants. They must be detailed to the degree that other trainers with some experience in the topic can use them to deliver training.

b. *Computer Generated View Graphs* created in Corel Presentations of key points that will be emphasized by the trainers. The lesson plans must include a small representation of the full size view graph and indicate where and when they are used. As appropriate, some of the view graphs may be designed as handouts to participants. Other multi-media or visual aids (such as news print, videos, etc.) used to support the delivery of lesson modules must be coordinated and indicate when and where to be used.

c. *Participant Manual and Materials* that correlate with each module, topic by topic, as appropriate to deliver the training. These materials may include overviews, published articles (if copyrighted must obtain copyright release), check lists, key points outlines, examples of instruments, reports and other materials used by participants to perform their work.

d. *Evaluation Questions and Strategies* (if appropriate) that will be used pre or post delivery for the curriculum. These should directly relate to the objectives in each module.

e. *Resource Materials*, such as video and audio tapes, books, journals and other information to support the objectives of the curriculum.

(2) To deliver the curriculum in two regional seminars in the spring and summer, 2001, under a supplemental cooperative agreement.

Work to be Performed by the Service Provider: The following represents the kinds of work activity required by the project and the expectations of the relationship between NIC, the Program Manager and the service provider.

- Consult with the NIC Program Monitor on an agreed time line to assure progress and understanding of the scope of work.

- Conduct a review of the Critical Issues in Managing Women Offenders agendas, participant materials, and records of meeting.

- Thoroughly review any other existing training materials developed by NIC, OJP, or other agencies for relevant parts that could be re-written for application to this project.

- Conduct necessary planning with content experts (selections with input from Program Manager) to generate the framework, concepts, modules, content, strategies and performance objectives. (All of the above is subject to final approval by the Program Manager.)

- Assign and coordinate writing, development and revisions of the modules and content areas for the curriculum including multi-media materials.

- Develop, edit, revise, format and package the curriculum, lesson plans, and other course materials.

- Submit preliminary draft for review by the Program Manager per the submitted time line. Make revisions and submit second draft if requested.

- Prepare all materials using WordPerfect 7.0 or higher word processing software and Corel Presentations (visuals) and submit final copies of all materials on 3.5" computer disks (or zip drive disks) and in "camera ready" hard copy format (4 paper copies).

Application Requirements

Applicants must prepare a proposal that describes their plan to provide the project outcomes. The plan must include goals and objectives, methodology, deliverables, management plan, an overall project budget for the full two years, and a budget and budget narrative for the first 6 month phase. Applicants must identify their key project staff and the relevant expertise of each, and address the manner in which they would perform all tasks in collaboration with the NIC Project Manager. Proposals are limited to twenty-five double-spaced pages in length, not including resumes, other addenda, and SF-424 forms. Please note that the Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance, submitted with the proposal must contain the cover sheet, budget, budget narrative, assurances, and management plan for the FY 2000 funded portion only, for a maximum of \$50,000.

Authority: Public Law 93-415.

Funds Available

Project funds are limited to a maximum total of \$100,000 for both direct and indirect costs for two years. A grant award of \$50,000 will be made in FY 2000, and a supplemental award of \$50,000 will be made in FY 2001. (Contingent on FY 2001 congressional budget approval) NIC is committed to

funding the full fifteen month project and project activity must be completed within 15 months of the date of the award. Funds may only be used for activities that are linked to the desired outcomes of the project.

All products from this funding effort will be in public domain and available to interested agencies through the National Institute of Corrections.

Deadline for Receipt of Applications

Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 17, 2000. They should be addressed to: National Institute of Corrections, 320 First Street, NW., Room 5007, Washington, DC 20534, Attention: Administrative Officer. Hand delivered applications can be brought to 500 First Street, NW, Washington, DC 20534. The Front desk will call Bobbi Tinsley at (202) 307-3106, extension 0 for pickup.

Addresses and Further Information

Requests for the application kit, which consists of a copy of this announcement and copies of the required forms, should be directed to Judy Evens, Cooperative Agreement Control Office, National Institute of Corrections, 320 First Street, NW, Room 5007, Washington, DC 20534 or by calling (800) 995-6423, extension 159 or (202) 307-3106, extension 159. She can also be contacted by E-mail via jevans@bop.gov. All technical and/or programmatic questions concerning this announcement should be directed to Andie Moss at the above address or by calling (800) 995-6423 or (202) 307-3106, extension 140, or by E-mail via amoss@bop.gov. Application forms may also be obtained through the NIC website: <http://www.nicic.org>. (Click on "What's New" and then, "Cooperative Agreements.")

Eligible Applicants

An eligible applicants is any state or general unit of local government, public or private agency, educational institution, organization, team, or individual with the requisite skills to successfully meet the outcome objectives of the project.

Review Considerations

Applications received under this announcement will be subjected to an NIC three to five member Peer Review Process.

Number of Awards: One (1).

NIC Application Number: 00P17. This number should appear as a reference line in the cover letter and also in box 11 of Standard Form 424.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is: 16.602.

Dated: June 2, 2000.

Morris L. Thigpen,

Director, National Institute of Corrections.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment and Training Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision/extension for collection of the ETA 227 Report, Overpayment Detection and Recovery Activities. A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee's section below on or before August 8, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Employment and Training Administration, Office of Workforce Security, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room S4231, Washington, DC 20010, Attention: Bob Whiting. Telephone number: 202-219-5340, ext. 182 (this is not a toll-free number). Fax: 202-219-8506. E-mail: rwhiting@doleta.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 303(a)(1) of the Social Security Act requires a State's Unemployment Insurance (UI) law to include provisions for:

"Such methods of administration * * * as are found by the Secretary of Labor to be

reasonably calculated to insure full payment of unemployment compensation when due * * *

Section 303(a)(5) of the Social Security Act further requires a State's UI law to include provisions for:

"Expenditure of all money withdrawn from an unemployment fund of such State, in the payment of unemployment compensation * * *

Section 3304(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 provides that:

"all money withdrawn from the unemployment fund of the State shall be used solely in the payment of unemployment compensation * * *

The Secretary of Labor has interpreted the above sections of Federal law in Section 7511, Part V, ES Manual to further require a State's UI law to include provisions for such methods of administration as are, within reason, calculated (1) to detect benefits paid through error by the State Employment Security Agency (SESA) or through willful misrepresentation or error by the claimant or others, (2) to deter claimants from obtaining benefits through willful misrepresentation, and (3) to recover benefits overpaid. The ETA 227 is used to determine whether SESAs meet these requirements of the Secretary of Labor's interpretation of the Federal laws.

The ETA-227 contains data on the number and amounts of fraud and nonfraud overpayments established, the methods by which overpayments were detected, the amounts and methods by which overpayments were collected, the amounts of overpayments waived and written off, the accounts receivable for overpayments outstanding, and data on criminal/civil actions. These data are gathered by 53 SESAs and reported to the Department of Labor following the end of each calendar quarter. The overall effectiveness of SESAs' UI integrity efforts can be determined by examining and analyzing the data. These data are also used by SESAs as a management tool for effective UI program administration.

II. Review Focus

The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submissions of responses. III. Current Actions: The UI program pays approximately \$20 billion in benefits annually. Although the overpayment rate is relatively low (less than one percent), high amounts of money are involved, and it is in the national interest to maintain the program's integrity. Therefore, we are proposing to extend the authorization to continue collecting data to measure the effectiveness of benefit payment controls in the SESAs. Several modifications have been made to the report format to improve the effectiveness of the collection vehicle, including additions and deletions of data cells:

Additions

- Overpayments established involving multi-claimant fraud schemes.
- Totals for controllable and uncontrollable under Section B, "Overpayments Established—Methods of Detection".
- Overpayments detected through the "new hire" system.
- Overpayments detected by "special projects" (new methodologies).
- Overpayments Recovered—Total.
- Overpayments recovered by offset of state income tax refunds.
- Overpayments recovered by other states.
- Penalty and interest collected for Federal programs.
- Overpayments collected for other states.

Deletions

- All columns in the section titled "Reconciliation of Overpayment Activities" that pertain to the number of cases. (Only dollar amounts will be reported in the future.)
- The following under-utilized lines in the section titled "Detection Activities": verification of low earnings; verification of return to work; quality control.
- The following lines also in the "Detection" section because states cannot exercise control over their incidence, and gathering data is of less value than that of other activities which have been added: employer protest of charges; tips and leads; other noncontrollable activities.