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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes

Overview: With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals for basic or applied research and development projects that will: (1) increase the body of knowledge to guide and inform forensic science policy and practice, or (2) result in the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods that have the potential for forensic application. The intent of this program is to direct the findings of basic scientific research, research and development in broader scientific fields applicable to forensic science, and ongoing forensic science research toward the development of highly discriminating, accurate, reliable, cost-effective, and rapid methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence for criminal justice purposes. The forensic science operational needs discussed at NIJ's FY 2015 Forensic Science Technology Working Group (TWG) meeting may be found on NIJ.gov, and are intended to assist you in your proposal development.

Eligibility: NIJ welcomes applications that involve two or more entities; however, one eligible entity must be the applicant and the other(s) must be proposed as subrecipient(s). The applicant must be the entity with primary responsibility for conducting and leading the research. If successful, the applicant will be responsible for monitoring and appropriately managing any subrecipients or, as applicable, for administering any procurement subcontracts that would receive federal program funds from the applicant under the award.

Research on "Sentinel Events" and Criminal Justice System Errors

Overview: NIJ is interested in stimulating research in a new area of study in criminal justice research – an exploration of the use of sentinel event reviews to improve justice systems overall. Mistakes, or negative outcomes, in the criminal justice system are rarely caused by one single act or actor. Often, mistakes signal multiple weaknesses in the criminal justice system or process. Thus, corrections to such errors need to go beyond traditional remedies that focus on removing the "bad apple" responsible for the event to those that address the underlying system level problems that contributed to the event. Sentinel event review processes have been used in other fields, notably aviation and medicine, and NIJ would like to explore whether similar reviews would be feasible in the criminal justice field.

Collecting Digital Evidence From Large-Scale Computer Systems and Networks

Overview: With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals for funding to conduct research and technology development leading to the introduction into practice of new and innovative means to speed the processing of large-scale computer systems and computer networks for digital evidence in a forensically sound manner that preserves the probative value of the evidence that the computer system or network may contain.



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Developing a Method to Value Law Enforcement Data

Overview: With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals to conduct research to improve the understanding of the comparative value of data relevant to the law enforcement business process. The proposed research should develop quantifiable measures that reflect the importance of the different kinds of data, offset by the cost to collect, process, analyze, distribute, and retain that data, to include the data security costs. For purposes of this solicitation, the law enforcement business process is defined as the related, structured actions carried out by law enforcement agencies to accomplish their mission.

Research on Law Enforcement use of Common Operational Picture (COP) Technologies

Overview: With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals to conduct research to identify and characterize the common operational picture (COP) technologies being used by law enforcement agencies for emergency response and law enforcement operations and what is known about their efficacy

Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Overview: The Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (GRF-STEM) provides awards to accredited academic institutions to support graduate research leading to doctoral degrees in areas that are relevant to ensuring public safety, preventing and controlling crime, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States. Applicant academic institutions sponsoring doctoral students are eligible to apply only if the doctoral dissertation research has direct implications for providing science-, technology-, engineering-, or mathematics-based solutions for issues that affect public safety, crime, and the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States. Academic institutions are encouraged to apply to support doctoral students in the Life Sciences, Chemistry, Physics, Geosciences, Materials Research, Engineering, Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering, and the Mathematical Sciences. Applications to support doctoral students from academic disciplines outside of the fields of the Life Sciences, Chemistry, Physics, Geosciences, Materials Research, Engineering, Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering, and the Mathematical Sciences will not be considered under this solicitation. Academic institutions with doctoral students whose research is in the area of social and behavioral sciences should instead consider submitting a proposal under the “NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship Program in the Social and Behavioral Sciences” solicitation. Awards are anticipated to be made to successful applicant institutions in the form of a grant to cover a fellowship for the sponsored doctoral student. Each fellowship potentially provides up to three years of support usable over a five-year period. For each year of support, NIJ provides the degree-granting institution a stipend of \$35,000 usable toward the student’s salary and related costs, and up to \$15,000 to cover the student’s tuition and fees, research expenses, and related costs. (See B. Federal Award Information). If the doctoral student’s dissertation is not completed and delivered to NIJ within the five-year period, the academic institution will be required to return the full award amount to NIJ. Final award decisions will be made by the Director of the National Institute of Justice.

Research on the Efficacy of Different Contraband Interdiction Modalities Used in Correctional Facilities

Overview: With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals to conduct research to identify the different interdiction modalities currently used by criminal justice agencies to keep contraband out of correctional facilities and what is known about their efficacy. An interdiction modality is considered to include both (1) the policies and practices that agencies use to prevent contraband



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from being brought into a facility as well as (2) those used to detect and remove contraband that may be in the facility. It also includes the statutes and regulations that govern how these modalities are applied.

Research into the Use of Suicide Prevention and Intervention Strategies by Law Enforcement Agencies

Overview: With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals for innovative, rigorous research to identify and characterize the suicide prevention and intervention strategies currently being used by law enforcement agencies in the United States and, potentially, elsewhere. NIJ is particularly interested in understanding the rationale for the adoption of a particular strategy and what evidence may exist regarding its efficacy.

Research and Evaluation on the Investigation and Adjudication of Campus Sexual Assault

Overview: The White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault was established by the President in January 2014. The Task Force developed a series of recommendations based on prior work in the field and numerous listening sessions with key stakeholders. The full report, *Not Alone: The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault* can be found at www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/report_0.pdf. Additional information on the Federal Government's efforts in this area can be found at www.notalone.gov. Applicants are encouraged to review information in the *Not Alone* report to inform the development of their proposal.

NIJ, in coordination with the Office on Violence Against Women, is interested in identifying promising practices related to the investigation and adjudication of sexual assaults on college campuses. NIJ's prior work in the area of campus sexual assault has primarily focused on measuring the frequency of incidents of sexual assault and identifying potential risk and protective factors associated with sexual assault risk.¹

Postdoctoral Fellowship on Violence Against Women: Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, Teen Dating Violence, and Stalking

Overview: NIJ seeks applications to support the scholarship of up to three promising postdoctoral researchers to conduct original data collection and/or secondary data analyses on violence against women (intimate partner violence, sexual violence, teen dating violence, stalking) under the supervision of a mentor.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products

The goals of the Violence Against Women program of research are to improve knowledge and understanding of teen dating violence, intimate partner violence, stalking, and sexual assault issues. NIJ strives to provide objective and independent knowledge and validated tools to reduce violence against women and girls, and promote justice for victims. The objectives of this solicitation are to support the development of promising new scholars in violence against women research and to fund high-quality research projects in the areas of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, stalking, and/or teen dating violence. Postdoctoral fellows funded under this solicitation are expected to publish one or more peer-reviewed scientific journal articles, but may include law review journals, academic press books or book chapters. The Violence Against Women Postdoctoral Fellow is expected to meet all reporting and archiving data requirements in addition to presenting final results on-site at NIJ. In addition to required data sets, a draft and final summary overview of research results, interim and final progress and financial reports,⁶ NIJ expects scholarly products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of



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one or more published, peer-reviewed, scientific 6 See “Federal Award Administration Information” (“General Information About Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements”) section of this solicitation, below, for additional information. 6 NIJ-2015-4030 journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products.

Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women: Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence

Overview: The goals of the Violence Against Women program of research are to improve knowledge and understanding of teen dating violence, intimate partner violence, stalking, and sexual assault issues through science. NIJ strives to provide objective and independent knowledge and validated tools to reduce violence against women and girls, and promote justice for victims.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products

The goals of the Violence Against Women program of research are to improve knowledge and understanding of teen dating violence, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault issues. NIJ strives to provide objective and independent knowledge and validated tools to reduce violence against women and girls, and promote justice for victims. The objectives of this solicitation are to fund high-quality research projects in the areas of specialized law enforcement and prosecutorial response to sexual assault and intimate partner violence; and child custody in which intimate partner violence is present. In addition to required data sets, a draft and final summary overview of research results, interim and final progress and financial reports,⁶ NIJ expects scholarly products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of one or more published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products.

Research and Evaluation on the Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of Elderly Individuals

Overview: NIJ is seeking applications for research and evaluation related to the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elderly individuals. As the elderly population grows, crimes against this population are expected to increase. NIJ is particularly interested in funding research to: (1) determine an estimate of the financial costs associated with elder abuse; (2) develop a taxonomy of case outcomes that can be used to define success from multiple perspectives; and (3) examine theoretical perspectives on elder abuse that move the field toward a better understanding of why perpetrators abuse, neglect, and/or exploit elderly individuals.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly

Products The goals of the Elder Mistreatment program of research are to improve knowledge and understanding of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation through science. NIJ strives to provide objective and independent knowledge and validated tools to reduce violence against elderly individuals, and promote healing and justice for victims. The objectives of this solicitation are to fund high quality research projects in the areas of elder mistreatment. In addition to required data sets, a draft and final summary overview of research results, interim and final progress and financial reports,² NIJ expects scholarly products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of one or more published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products.



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Program-Specific Information

This solicitation seeks applications for funding to support basic or applied research and development forensic science projects. For the purposes of this solicitation, the following definitions apply:

- Forensic—Of, relating to, or used in legal proceedings or argumentation.¹
- Science—The observation, identification, description, experimental investigations, and theoretical explanation of natural phenomena.
- Basic research—A systematic study directed toward fuller knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and of observable facts without specific applications towards processes or products in mind. Basic research may include activities with broad applications in mind. (For the purposes of this solicitation, basic research must include activities with broad application to forensic sciences related to the criminal justice system.)
- Applied research—A systematic study to gain knowledge or understanding necessary to determine the means by which a recognized and specific need may be met.⁴ (For the purposes of this solicitation, the specific need(s) being met must relate to the improvement of forensic science services for criminal justice purposes.)
- Development—The systematic application of knowledge or understanding, directed toward the production of useful materials, devices, and systems or methods, including design, development, and improvement of prototypes and new processes to meet specific requirements.⁵ (For the purposes of this solicitation, the development of forensic technologies and methods should assist in answering questions posed in criminal investigations or increase crime laboratory capacity to meet the demand for forensic science services.)

Research and Evaluation on Children Exposed to Violence

Overview: NIJ is seeking multidisciplinary research and evaluation proposals related to childhood exposure to violence. This solicitation defines “Children Exposed to Violence (CEV)” as including children that are direct victims and/or bystanders or observers of various forms of



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violence in the home, school, or community, including but not limited to peer victimization, bullying, harassment, child maltreatment, domestic violence, and community violence. This solicitation may be used to address other types of violence to which children are exposed, with the exception of media violence (e.g., television and movie violence, music advocating aggression, and violent video games). In particular, NIJ seeks applications that address justice system responses to children identified as being exposed to violence; polyvictimization and multisystem involvement; and resilience and help-seeking.

Social Science Research on Implementation, Dissemination, and Translation FY 2015

Overview: This solicitation seeks proposals for funding for projects to study how criminal justice practitioners use research in their decision-making processes and how they implement evidence-based programs or practices.

Program-Specific Information

In recent years, NIJ has sought to understand how research informs practice in the criminal justice field. One of NIJ's goals is to advance criminal justice through science; consequently, researchers must be able to translate scientific findings into policy and practice. NIJ intends to continue its work studying the processes of knowledge acquisition, implementation, and dissemination. NIJ proposes two distinct research activities under this solicitation. Applicants may apply to one or both sections of the solicitation; however, proposal titles should clearly identify the section of the solicitation for which the proposal is being submitted.

Secondary Analysis of the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) Data: General Population

Overview: The purpose of this National Institute of Justice (NIJ) solicitation is to encourage and support research using the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) data available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data1 (NACJD) to help inform policies and programs aimed at preventing violence, as well as addressing the specific information needs of state and national governmental and nongovernmental organizations. The survey was designed to track trends in intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence (SV), and stalking. NIJ seeks to support the scholarship of promising researchers to conduct secondary data analyses of these existing data.

Overview of NISVS

NISVS is an ongoing, nationally representative random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey that collects information about experiences of IPV, SV, and stalking among non-institutionalized English and/or Spanish-speaking women and men aged 18 or older in the United States (US). NISVS is conducted in the 50 states and the District of Columbia and employs a list-assisted, dual-frame, stratified, two-phase design, with continuous data collection.

Because NISVS was designed from the public health perspective and because it has multiple behaviorally specific questions on a wide range of IPV, SV, and stalking outcomes, it provides more accurate and frequent information at the state and national levels than has been true in the past. In fact, NISVS currently provides more data than currently are available at any level regarding the prevalence and incidence of IPV, SV, and stalking victimization.

All interviews are conducted over the telephone, using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) software. The use of CATI reduces respondent burden, reduces coding errors, and increases efficiency and data quality. Questions are asked about all forms of IPV victimization



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(including physical aggression); all forms of SV victimization by any perpetrator [including unwanted sexual situations, abusive sexual contact, and forced/nonconsensual sex (completed and attempted)]; and stalking victimization by any perpetrator. NISVS gathers information regarding experiences that occurred across respondents' lifespan and in the 12 months preceding the survey.

An improved measure of the impact of violence also is included in NISVS. For example, questions are included regarding the level of fear, perceived risk of harm, the respondent's wellbeing, injuries, and services used (police, shelter, medical care). Information also is gathered with respect to frequency, time frame, relationship to perpetrator(s), patterns of abuse, impact of abuse, and service use. The primary objectives of NISVS are to describe:

- The prevalence and characteristics of IPV, SV, and stalking.
- Who is most likely to experience these forms of violence.
- The patterns and impact of the violence experienced by specific perpetrators.
- The health consequences of these forms of violence.

Research on Bias Crime Victimization

Overview: NIJ is seeking applications for research to examine bias crime (a.k.a. hate crime) victimization. Bias crime is associated with more negative outcomes for victims and communities than otherwise analogous crimes. NIJ is particularly interested in funding research to: (1) develop and test screening and/or assessment tools to identify bias crime victims; (2) conduct localized victimization surveys using new and innovative sampling strategies to understand hate crime among immigrant and other understudied communities; and (3) explore the use of nontraditional data sources to track bias crime victimization.

Research and Evaluation on Justice Systems

Overview: NIJ is seeking applications for funding for social and behavioral science research on, and evaluation related to, justice systems topics including policing, courts, institutional and community corrections that bear directly and substantially upon federal, State, local, or tribal criminal and juvenile justice policy and practice. Application titles should clearly indicate the justice systems focus area selected.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products

The goals of the Research and Evaluation on Justice Systems solicitation are to improve the knowledge and understanding of criminal justice-related issues and to enhance the function and purposes of criminal justice systems through rigorous social and behavioral science. NIJ promotes the effective, efficient, fair and equitable treatment of offenders and victims through research, development, and evaluation. The objectives of this solicitation are to fund highquality research projects, and to facilitate advances in basic scientific knowledge and methods. In addition to required data sets, a draft and final summary overview of research results, interim and final progress and financial reports,

NIJ expects scholarly products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of one or more published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products.



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Fiscal Year 2015 Research and Evaluation Examining Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women: Domestic Violence, Homicide, Intimate Partner Violence, Sex Trafficking, Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Teen Dating Violence

Overview: With this solicitation, NIJ seeks applications for funding of research and evaluation related to violence against AI and AN women in the areas of domestic violence, homicide, intimate partner violence, sex trafficking, sexual violence, stalking, and teen dating violence.

Research and Evaluation on White-Collar Crime and Public Corruption

Overview: NIJ is seeking applications for funding for research and evaluation that inform efforts to detect, investigate, prosecute, and otherwise combat and prevent white-collar crime and public corruption. NIJ is interested in building on the body of scientific knowledge, as well as providing evidence-based information with practical utility for practitioners and policymakers.

NIJ is interested in receiving proposals for rigorous studies with the potential to significantly advance knowledge and improve efforts to prevent or combat white-collar crime. NIJ aims to improve our understanding of white-collar crime and criminals, the causes and consequences of white-collar crime, and effective methods of prevention and intervention. NIJ seeks proposals for research and evaluation projects within the broad-range of activities that can be characterized as white-collar crime (with a few exceptions noted under “What Will Not Be Funded” on page 7).

NIJ is particularly interested in proposals for research related to public corruption. In the past, NIJ has supported research into corporate financial crime, savings and loan fraud, healthcare fraud, environmental crime, protection of intellectual property rights, telemarketing fraud, cybercrime, and class bias in the punishment of white collar offenders.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products

The goals of the Research and Evaluation on White Collar-Crime and Public Corruption solicitation are to enhance scientific knowledge and to inform practice and policy related to preventing or combating white-collar crime and public corruption. The objectives of this solicitation are to fund research and evaluation projects that employ high-quality, rigorous social science methods to substantially advance knowledge in this topic area and produce results with practical implications for preventing or combating white-collar crime and public corruption. In addition to required data sets, a draft and final summary overview of research results, interim and final progress and financial reports, NIJ expects scholarly products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of one or more published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, or similar scientific products.

Research and Evaluation on Firearms Violence Reduction

Overview: This solicitation aims to strengthen our knowledge base and improve public safety by supporting projects with a high potential for accurately measuring the effects of efforts to reduce firearms violence. Such firearms violence reduction efforts may take any of a variety of forms, including but not limited to, those that emphasize law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, public health, or public policy.



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Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products

The goals of the Research and Evaluation on Firearms Violence Reduction solicitation are to improve knowledge about the effectiveness of efforts to reduce firearms violence, and to inform practice and policy related to reducing firearms violence. The objectives of this solicitation are to fund research and evaluation projects that employ high-quality, rigorous social science methods and produce results with practical implications for improving efforts to reduce firearms violence. In addition to required data sets, a draft and final summary overview of research results, interim and final progress and financial reports, NIJ expects scholarly products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of one or more published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products.

Using DNA Technology to Identify the Missing

The goal of the “Using DNA Technology to Identify the Missing” solicitation is threefold:

1. Assist eligible entities in performing DNA analysis on unidentified human remains and/or reference samples to support the efforts of States and units of local government to identify missing persons.
2. Enter the resulting DNA profiles into the FBI’s National DNA Index System using the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) version 7.0.
3. Enter any relevant case information related to unidentified remains into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), as deemed appropriate by the submitting agency (if a case is not entered, a justification will be required).

NIJ FY15 Evaluation of the Office on Violence Against Women’s Sexual Assault Justice Initiative

Overview: NIJ seeks proposals to evaluate the Office on Violence Against Women’s (OVW) Sexual Assault Justice Initiative. The OVW Sexual Assault Justice Initiative will fund up to eight sites to implement performance measures intended to gauge prosecution efforts in cases of sexual assault. The performance measures are intended to improve prosecutorial practices by targeting accountability-related outputs and outcomes rather than determining success by conviction rates.

Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence to Exonerate the Innocent

Overview: NIJ seeks proposals for funding to assist in defraying the costs associated with postconviction DNA testing in cases of violent felony offenses (as defined by State law) in which actual innocence might be demonstrated. Funds may be used to identify and review such postconviction cases and to locate and analyze associated biological evidence.

Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

The goal of this program is to fund projects that assist States and units of local government with postconviction DNA testing in cases of violent felony offenses where actual innocence might be demonstrated. This supports the DOJ mission “...to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.”



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While successful exonerations to correct injustice are notable program outcomes, the careful review, consideration and closing of cases subjected to postconviction DNA testing that do not ultimately demonstrate innocence also work to advance the public's interest that justice has been fairly applied. Program objectives with respect to target number of cases to be reviewed and other concrete goals must be outlined in the proposal.

Funded projects are expected to implement some aspect of each of the following activities, except for case identification, which is not mandatory:

1. Identify potential postconviction DNA testing cases. A maximum of 15% of the proposed budget may be dedicated to case identification activities.
2. Review appropriate postconviction cases to identify those in which DNA testing could prove the actual innocence of a person convicted of a violent felony offense as defined by State law.
3. Locate biological evidence associated with such postconviction cases.
4. Perform DNA analysis of appropriate biological evidence.

FY 2015 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program

Overview: The goal of NIJ's FY 2015 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program is to assist eligible States and units of local government to process, record, screen, and analyze forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples, and to increase the capacity of public forensic DNA and DNA database laboratories to process more DNA samples, thereby helping to reduce the number of forensic DNA and DNA database samples awaiting analysis. Under this program, in general, eligible applicants are given the opportunity, based on their individual needs, to determine what portion of their anticipated funding should be used for capacity building purposes and what portion should be used for analysis of forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples.

NIJ FY15 Research and Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons

Overview: With this solicitation, NIJ is seeking to build upon its research and evaluation efforts to better understand, prevent, and respond to trafficking in persons in the United States.

Applications that focus on all forms of trafficking in persons (e.g., sex trafficking or labor trafficking) are welcomed. Applicants should propose research projects with clear implications for the criminal justice system in the United States.

This year, NIJ is particularly interested in research responding to the following priority areas:

1. Fostering partnerships between researchers and trafficking survivors.
2. Evaluation of the Enhanced Collaborative Model Human Trafficking Task Forces.
3. Perception of human trafficking victimization in courts (judges, jurors, prosecutors).
4. The extent to which existing crime reporting and data systems capture the human trafficking victimization that occurs in a particular jurisdiction.
5. Trafficking and sex offender registries. Strong applications that address human trafficking in the United States in a criminal justice context that fall outside these priority areas will also be considered.

NIJ FY15 Data Resources Program: Funding for Analysis of Existing Data

Overview: The purpose of the National Institute of Justice grants program is to encourage and support research, development, and evaluation to improve criminal justice policy and practice in the United States. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) have entered into a partnership to request applications under this Data Resources Program (DRP) solicitation for



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original research using existing data available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) and other public sources.

Program-Specific Information

NIJ, BJS, and OJJDP have entered into a partnership to request applications under this Data Resources Program (DRP) solicitation for original research using existing data available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) and other public sources. NIJ will manage and fund awards resulting from this solicitation. NACJD houses quantitative and qualitative data from research funded by these three agencies. The data are made available online at no cost as downloadable, machine-readable files. Copies of documentation, such as user guides and codebooks, are also available at no charge.

NACJD is maintained by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan and is supported by NIJ, BJS, and OJJDP. NIJ, BJS, and OJJDP sponsor data sets covering a wide range of juvenile and criminal justice topics. Most of these data sets are available at NACJD, although some data may also be available from other agency websites. DRP is primarily intended to support secondary analysis to inform juvenile and criminal justice policy and practice in the United States. Therefore, other publicly available secondary data may also be proposed for use in research funded under this solicitation, especially if they enhance or add to NACJD by replicating or extending original findings or testing new hypotheses.

This joint solicitation for DRP will give highest priority to research that addresses compelling crime and criminal justice questions involving juvenile and adult populations, and that uses NIJ, BJS, or OJJDP data at NACJD.

NIJ FY15 Comprehensive School Safety Initiative

Overview: The Comprehensive School Safety Initiative (CSSI) funds rigorous research to produce practical knowledge that can improve the safety of schools and students. The initiative is carried out through partnerships between researchers, educators and other stakeholders, including law enforcement, behavioral and mental health professionals, courts, and other justice system professionals. Projects funded under the CSSI are designed to produce knowledge that can be applied to schools and school districts across the nation for years to come. This solicitation includes four funding categories with different expectations and requirements to accomplish the purposes of the CSSI.

NIJ FY15 Research and Evaluation on Victims of Crime

Overview: The National Institute of Justice has a longstanding history of collaborating with and supporting the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) on research, evaluation, and programmatic projects. Over the years, the shared priorities of OVC and NIJ have resulted in a number of collective projects, workshops, and research. In 2013, OVC began Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services which called for the development of research to build a body of evidence-based knowledge on victims and victimization.

With this solicitation, NIJ is collaborating with OVC to build on three areas of research that are of interest to both agencies. These topics include: 1. Studying the Victim-Offender Overlap. 2. Understanding the Violent Victimization Experiences of Young Men of Color. 3. Research on the



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Broader Impacts of School Shootings. Applicants should submit proposals that address one of the three topics.

NIJ FY15 Evaluation of the Office for Victims of Crime Supporting Male Survivors of Violence Demonstration

Overview: With this solicitation, NIJ is seeking applications for an evaluation of the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) Supporting Male Survivors of Violence Demonstration Initiative. The demonstration, undertaken with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), seeks to improve the responses to male survivors of violence, particularly boys and young men of color, and their families and to dedicate technical assistance to support these efforts.

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BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

FY 2015 Graduate Research Fellowship Program for Criminal Justice Statistics

*****Historically Black Colleges and Universities are encouraged to consider applying.*****

Overview: The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is seeking applications under its Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) Program. This program provides awards to accredited universities for doctoral research that uses criminal justice data or statistical series and focuses on crime, violence, and other criminal justice-related topics. BJS invests in doctoral education by supporting universities that sponsor students who demonstrate the potential to complete doctoral degree programs successfully in disciplines relevant to the mission of BJS, and who are in the final stages of graduate study. The ultimate goal of this solicitation is to increase the pool of researchers using criminal justice statistical data generated by BJS, thereby contributing solutions that better prevent and control crime and help ensure the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States. Applicant institutions sponsoring doctoral students are eligible to apply only if the doctoral research dissertation has direct implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States. BJS encourages institutions to consider doctoral students from social and behavioral sciences, mathematics, or statistics academic disciplines for their applications. Applicant institutions are strongly encouraged to sponsor minority and female student candidates. Awards are anticipated to be made to successful applicant institutions in the form of a cooperative agreement to cover a fellowship for the sponsored doctoral student. Each fellowship potentially provides up to 3 years of support, usable over a 5-year period. For each year of support, BJS provides the degree-granting institution a stipend of \$35,000, usable toward the student's salary and related costs, and up to \$15,000 to cover the student's tuition and fees, research expenses, and related costs (see B. Federal Award Information). If the doctoral student's dissertation is not completed and delivered to BJS within the 5-year period, the academic institution will be required to return the full award amount to BJS. Final award decisions will be made by the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

National Prisoner Statistics Program (NPS) and National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP), 2015–2019

Overview: The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) seeks a data collection and analysis agent for the National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS) and the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP) for the data years 2015 through 2019. This marks the first time the two programs will be competed together.

The NPS and NCRP are BJS's flagship data collections measuring the size and composition of state and federal prison populations on an annual basis. The two collections complement each other by obtaining aggregate and detailed individual-level information on prisoners, which is used to describe and compare the prison population over time. The NPS collects aggregate counts of the male and female custody and jurisdictional prison populations as of December 31 each year. State departments of corrections (DOCs) and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) use their administrative records to tally their prison populations by jurisdiction, types of prison admissions and releases during the past year, race/Hispanic origin, and capacity of the facilities that hold prisoners in their custody. NPS also provides annual information on the number of confirmed cases of HIV/AIDS and current testing policies for these conditions. NPS has been collected annually since 1926, and these data are used in BJS's Prisoners series and Corrections Populations in the United States series bulletins.



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Through the NCRP, BJS collects individual (or offender) level data on prisoners entering or leaving the custody of state prison systems and post-custody community supervision programs (PCCS; formerly known as “parole”). The NCRP data, collected annually since 1983, are derived from state prison and PCCS administrative records and currently consist of five separate files for each year: prison admissions, census of state prisoners on December 31, prison releases, entry to PCCS programs, and exits from PCCS programs. A major improvement in NCRP data in the past 5 years has been to link the prison and PCCS records into “terms” for the majority of states submitting data. A term is defined as the period from admission to release. BJS uses these data to study a wide variety of special topics in corrections—recidivism of state prisoners (by linking the NCRP data to criminal history records), prisoner reentry, aging of the prison population, trends in state PCCS, outcomes of PCCS supervision, and other issues. Additionally, BJS uses these data to support its ongoing efforts to study changes in the racial and offense composition of national corrections populations, to study movements and transitions between stages of the corrections process, and to compare differences among states’ correctional populations.

Survey of Inmates in Local Jails (SILJ): Design and Testing

Overview: The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is seeking applications for funding to conduct research on the instrument and sampling design and to create and pilot test an instrument and sampling method for the next iteration of the Survey of Inmates in Local Jails (SILJ). BJS anticipates making one award for a 24-month period between October 2015 and October 2017. A separate solicitation for the national implementation of the SILJ will be announced after this project is completed.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, Expected Scholarly Products

During this 24-month project, BJS intends to conduct research and develop the next iteration of the Survey of Inmates in Local Jails (SILJ), anticipated to be administered starting in 2018. Major objectives for this solicitation are to expand the scope of the SILJ, improve both the quality of the data it collects and the ability to analyze the data for trends, and compare the data to other populations using other data sources. Applicants should address how they would achieve the following three goals, thereby enabling the SILJ to meet its research and design objectives.

Deaths in Custody Reporting Program and Annual Survey of Jails, 2016–2020

Overview: This solicitation covers research and data-collection activities for the Deaths in Custody Reporting Program (DCRP) and the Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ), two of the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ (BJS) annual data collections on the U.S. correctional system. This award will cover project activities spanning 5 data collection years, 2016–2020, and 5 fiscal years. Work will begin October 1, 2015, and end September 30, 2020. This marks the first time the two programs will be competed together. The ASJ and DCRP are BJS’s flagship data collections measuring the size and composition of local jail populations each year. The two collections complement each other by obtaining administrative data to describe and compare the jail population over time. The ASJ, a sample survey, is conducted in years between the Census of Jail Facilities and is used to estimate the number and characteristics of jail inmates. The DCRP data collection has two components. From local jails, BJS collects individual-level data on inmates who died in jails and the circumstances of their deaths, as well as jail-level population data. The population component of the DCRP is used to produce jail population data and calculate jail mortality rates. From state prisons, BJS collects individual-level data on decedents only. Prison population data is culled from existing BJS prison databases.



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Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products

The main goals for the project are to—

- Implement a cost-effective and efficient system for collecting and analyzing DCRP and ASJ data in a timely manner using methods that minimize respondent burden while maximizing data quality using (primarily) a web-based collection system that allows respondents to report death-related information on an ongoing, real-time basis.
- Maintain the high participation rates by state departments of corrections (DOCs) and local jail administrators that have characterized the DCRP and ASJ. BJS has obtained 100% participation by state DOCs and about 99% participation by local jails in the DCRP collection.
- Provide accurate, timely, and relevant statistics both on mortality in correctional settings and on jail inmates and facilities at the national and state levels.
- Enhance and expand BJS's collection of correctional mortality and jail-related statistics. As described below in the Scope of Work section, the project period runs from October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2020. Because DCRP and ASJ data are collected on a calendar year basis, the project's collection and analysis activities will collect at least 5 years of mortality data (2016 through the first half of 2020).

Annual Surveys of Probation and Parole, 2015–2018

Overview: The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) seeks an applicant to conduct the collection, analysis, and dissemination activities for the Annual Surveys of Probation and Parole (ASPP) for the collection years 2015 through 2018. The ASPP are two separate data collections, independently referred to as the Annual Probation Survey and Annual Parole Survey. Since 1980, the ASPP have collected aggregate data on the number of persons supervised on probation or parole (i.e., post-custody community supervision), together referred to as the community supervision population. The ASPP obtain aggregated data from administrative records maintained by state probation and/or parole agencies; local agencies (municipal, county, or court); and the federal system. The ASPP are core BJS data collections and are the only national data collections that describe the size, change, movements, outcomes, and characteristics of the community supervision populations at the national, federal, and state levels. Together with data from the National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) Program, which collects counts of persons incarcerated in federal and state prisons, and data from the Annual Survey of Jails, which collects counts of persons held in local jails, ASPP data are used to estimate the total number of persons supervised by the adult correctional systems in the United States. Collectively, these data collections are also critical for tracking the level and change in the correctional populations over time and enhancing the understanding of the flow of offenders through and eventually out of the criminal justice system. Because of the needs for and uses of the ASPP data, it is imperative that these data are reliable, of high quality, and are representative of the entire targeted population. Therefore, through this award, BJS intends to enhance these aspects of the ASPP.

Annual Survey of Jails in Indian Country, 2016–2019

Overview: This award will provide funding through a cooperative agreement to administer annually the Survey of Jails in Indian Country (SJIC) data collection and analysis activities for four iterations of the survey: 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. The SJIC is used to describe changes in the inmate population of jails in Indian country and how these facilities are staffed and operated. Intermittently, via addenda, the SJIC also is used to collect data on the programs and services



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these facilities provide, such as those related to inmate health care, medical assessments, mental health screening procedures, counseling programs, and education programs.

The SJIC collects information from all known operating confinement facilities, detention centers, and other correctional facilities (80 as of 2014) operated by tribal authorities or the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The SJIC collects information pertaining to jail inmate population counts, movements, and characteristics on the last weekday in the month of June each year. Data are collected on the number of adults and juveniles held, gender of inmates, conviction status, seriousness of inmates' offenses, number of admissions and releases during the month of June, number of inmate deaths, average daily population, peak population during the month of June, rated capacity of facility, crowding issues, and jail staffing and training. Intermittently BJS also collects data, via an addendum to the core survey, on the physical conditions and operations of Indian country facilities. The addendum requests information on inmate medical services, mental health services, suicide prevention procedures, substance dependency programs, domestic violence counseling, sex offender treatment, educational programs, and inmate work assignments.

FY 2015 National Criminal History Improvement Technical Assistance Program

Overview: The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is publishing this notice to announce the continuation of the Technical Assistance Program to support activities under the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) in fiscal year 2015. BJS is authorized to issue this solicitation under 42 U.S.C. 3731, et seq. The NCHIP program was initiated in 1995 and has encompassed evolving efforts to support state activities for the establishment of records systems and the collection and use of criminal history and related records. The NARIP program was implemented in 2009 resulting from the passage of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Pub. L. 110-180). Program-Specific Information Through this solicitation, BJS is seeking a national technical assistance service provider to support the goals and objectives of its National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) and NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP). Direct technical assistance is provided to states, territories, and tribal jurisdictions to ensure that records systems are developed and managed to conform to FBI standards, ensure jurisdictions are using the most appropriate technologies, and adhere to the highest standards of practice with respect to privacy and confidentiality. An additional component of this program includes the routine collection and evaluation of performance measures to ensure that progress is being made in improving state and national records holdings and information sharing and exchanges. The NCHIP TA program has been supported by BJS since 1995.

To date, all states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories have received funds under the NCHIP program. Beginning in FY 2011, federally recognized tribes have also been eligible to apply for funds under NCHIP. Detailed information about the history of the NCHIP program and its accomplishments is available at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=47>. NCHIP has provided support to states in the following areas:

- improving disposition reporting and support for courts
- facilitating participation in the Interstate Identification Index (III)
- improving record automation and fingerprint data
- increasing participation in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System
- improving identification and access to domestic violence records/protection orders
- creating, updating, and enhancing sex offender registries.



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Issues and needs to be addressed

Despite the tremendous progress made toward criminal record improvements, several significant shortcomings remain, including the following:

- According to available state and FBI data, many arrest records available through III— excluding those for the 18 states participating in the National Fingerprint File (NFF)—are missing case outcome information in the FBI's Criminal History File. Missing case disposition information also continues to be a problem for many state record systems. It remains vitally important for the courts and prosecutors to improve and increase their submissions of records to criminal records systems. The involvement of these officials is key to helping ensure the timely and accurate transmittal of disposition information, including non-prosecution outcomes, to criminal record repositories.
- Many states and territories are not submitting all available qualifying records to the NICS Index, including relevant mental health data.
- Some states and territories are not submitting all qualifying records to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Protection Order File, and the FBI reports continued problems with the appropriate flagging of protection orders regarding the prohibition for firearm purchases.

FY 2015 State Justice Statistics Program for Statistical Analysis Centers Technical Assistance Program

Overview: Through this solicitation, BJS is seeking a national technical assistance service provider to support the goals and objectives of its SJS-SAC program. The award recipient will provide direct technical assistance and training to SACs to enhance their statistical, research, and organizational capabilities. The award recipient may either provide the technical assistance or collaborate with an outside expert with relevant experience to perform portions of the work.

To date, all states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories with SACs that have been established by state legislation or executive order have received funds under the SJS-SAC program. Detailed information about the history of the SJS-SAC program and its accomplishments is available at www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=48. The SJS-SAC program has provided support to SACs in the following areas:

- collecting, analyzing, and publishing criminal justice data
- analyzing data in support of public policy, especially on the themes identified in the SJS-SAC program announcements
- providing data on program themes for compiling and producing a national report
- maintaining contact with BJS to ensure that information is developed and shared efficiently with BJS, other states, and various users
- informing BJS of the state's needs in regard to statistical data
- providing information and electronic data to the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data or other designated recipients pursuant to BJS's request
- establishing and maintaining contacts with state criminal justice agencies, the courts, victims' organizations, and local governments and their criminal justice agencies
- helping criminal justice agencies define their needs for specific statistical and other information for planning, implementing, and evaluating criminal justice programs.



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In FY 2014, the SJS-SAC program was refocused to target core capacity-building projects, including (a) carrying out research using incident-based crime data that are compatible with the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), (b) measuring criminal justice system performance, and (c) initiating projects that demonstrably increase access to important statistical data in the state. SACs were also able to support special emphasis projects of particular interest to BJS, such as (a) using administrative criminal justice data for research, (b) conducting targeted analyses of the state's criminal history records, or (c) carrying out a statewide crime victimization survey.

Survey of State Attorney General Offices

Overview: The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) seeks applications for the design and implementation of survey instruments for its new Survey of State Attorney General Offices (SSAGO) program. This is the first BJS effort to systematically assess and describe the organization, structure, responsibilities, and activities of state attorney general (AG) offices. In addition, the surveys will ask about various criminal and civil enforcement activities conducted by the offices, such as investigations, prosecutions, and criminal proceedings, as well as participation in task forces and policy development. BJS expects the award recipient to develop three surveys of all state AG offices on topics of interest to BJS, such as the criminal prosecution and civil handling of cybercrime and human trafficking. The award recipient will develop three surveys for assessing activities in state AG offices and will field the first two surveys. For each survey, the successful applicant will (1) develop a survey instrument on the topics of interest, (2) pretest the instrument, (3) administer the first two surveys, and (4) provide the resulting research database and all accompanying documentation to BJS. In addition, near the end of the project period, the successful applicant will produce a report that assesses the relevance, validity, and utility of the data collected compared to the cost of collecting it. The report should present recommendations to BJS regarding the future content of the SSAGO program and the frequency of its data collections.

Census of Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies

Overview: The Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA), enacted July 29, 2010, requires the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to establish and implement a tribal data collection system (P.L. 111- 211, 124 Stat. 2258, § 251(b)). Coverage of Indian country crime and criminal justice statistics is an important priority for BJS and the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). BJS maintains more than 40 different data series, some of which provide information on crime and the criminal justice response in Indian country. BJS intends to expand its portfolio on Indian country to provide more useful and current information on crime and criminal justice response in tribal justice systems.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products

This solicitation seeks a team to design and field the 2016 Census of Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies (CTLEA-16). This work will include the following tasks and deliverables.

Attend a kick-off meeting in the first month of the project period. In the first month of the project period, the successful applicant will meet with BJS to review all phases of the work and to finalize a detailed time-task plan. This new time-task plan will build on the one included in the application taking into consideration (1) any changes that may have occurred in the time period between the writing of the application and the award of the cooperative agreement and (2) any proposed revisions to the work that may have developed since the writing of the solicitation. Within 2 weeks of the kick-off meeting, the successful applicant will deliver a completed timetask plan to BJS reflecting all the decisions made at the kick-off meeting.



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Develop a universe list of all tribal law enforcement agencies, VPSOs in Alaska, and law enforcement agencies operated by the BIA. The 2014 CSLLEA will be completed near the beginning of the project. The successful applicant will be provided with a list of tribal agencies identified by this effort. The successful applicant will review, validate, and update this list as well as develop a contact list for all Alaskan VPSOs and BIA agencies. The initial universe list will be provided to BJS early in the project period. It is likely that this list will be modified over the project period as new information is obtained. The successful applicant will maintain a current universe list noting in the file why entries for some entities were removed, added, or modified from the original list. At the end of the project period, BJS will be provided with the final universe list with these notations.

Design three forms of the CTLEA-16 with core and customized items for tribal law enforcement agencies, Alaskan VPSOs, and BIA agencies. With input from BJS and tribal justice experts and tribal law enforcement professionals, the successful applicant will be expected to develop a detailed understanding of the issues surrounding tribal law enforcement and the associated statistical information needs. Applicants should describe in detail how this knowledge will be developed for the range of agencies that will be targeted by the survey and how the survey items will be crafted and appraised. Along with the draft survey instruments, the successful applicant will prepare a report justifying the need, value, and use of each area of information that is proposed to be collect by the survey. Working with BJS, the successful applicant will field-test the draft instruments and revise the instruments based on information gleaned from the field-tests. The field-tests must be consistent with OMB guidelines. Normally, instruments are field-tested with no more than a sample of nine potential respondents. If the applicant believes that this sample is too small to assess the viability of the instruments, the applicant should consider working with BJS to obtain approval from OMB to enlarge the field-test; the application should express and explain the applicant's initial thinking on this matter. At the end of this phase of the project, the successful applicant will provide the final versions of the three survey instruments to BJS for final review.

Work with BJS to prepare the OMB package to obtain approval to conduct the survey. BJS is required to submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve the fielding on this survey. OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs reviews agency information collection requests for approval or disapproval. Among other items, the package submitted to OMB presents the reasons for collecting the data, their relevance to various constituencies, the survey design and sampling strategies, the methods proposed to obtain a high response rate, and (if needed) the design of a nonresponse bias study with resulting weighting or imputation procedures. The successful applicant will be responsible for preparing the OMB package, with input from BJS. In planning the project's timeline, the applicants should assume that once the package is delivered to OMB, OMB will require 5 months to review and approve the package.

Field the CTLEA-16 and provide BJS with an analytic data file with complete documentation. Applications should detail their plans for fielding the three survey instruments. These plans should include a time frame for the collection and methods that will be used to obtain high response rates. To this latter point, data collections requesting information from respondents on tribal lands face special problems; applications should therefore describe what special actions will be taken and customized methods that will be used to obtain high response rates from these respondents. Under the assumption that at the close of data collection some agencies will have not responded to the survey at all (unit nonresponse) and others will have completed only a portion of



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the survey items (item nonresponse), the applications should outline how applicants propose to produce a data file that will support the production of national statistics from the available data (i.e., overcome the problems imposed by nonresponse). Applications should outline the procedures to be used to develop statistical methods to handle both item and unit imputation. After adjusting for nonresponse, the successful applicant will submit the resulting data file to BJS with complete documentation that, as a package, meets the criteria established to submit these data to the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan.

Provide BJS a draft report summarizing the major findings from this data collection. BJS will publish at least one report based on the data collected by this effort. The successful applicant will prepare the first draft of this report, writing it in BJS style. The outline for this report will be provided to BJS for review and comment before the draft is written. Applications should assume that this will be a 20-page report that includes a detailed methods section along with standard error tables for each data presentation. The report should be delivered to BJS at least 2 months before the end of the project period so that time and resources will be available to incorporate BJS's review of the draft.

Prepare a longitudinal data file linking tribal law enforcement agencies' responses to the various BJS data collections. The responses to the CTLEA-16 will be the most recent information collected by BJS on tribal law enforcement agencies. As noted earlier, the various editions of the CSLLEA and the 2002 CTJA each collected information on tribal agencies, most of which will be found on the CTLEA-16 universe list. The successful applicant will produce a master list of all agencies on the CTLEA-16 universe list along with any other agencies that reported to the earlier surveys. Then for each agency on this list, the successful applicant will extract each agency's responses to the CTLEA-16 and earlier surveys and copy them onto a single database that will support longitudinal analyses of these agencies. This file will be delivered to BJS with complete documentation that, as a package, meets the criteria established to submit data to the NACJD. In addition, the successful applicant will prepare a spreadsheet with the following design: (1) a row for every tribal agency found on any of the databases used, (2) a column for each database incorporated into the longitudinal file, and (3) cells indicating if the row's tribal law enforcement agency had data in that column's dataset.

Prepare and deliver standard management reports and a final summary overview of the work conducted under the award. Throughout the project period, the successful applicant will prepare and deliver the standard interim and final progress reports and financial reports. 1 Near the end of the project, the successful applicant will prepare and deliver an overall summary of the work and results of the project funded by BJS under this solicitation. Among other things, the summary overview should address the purpose of the project, project design and methods, data analysis, project findings, implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States, and recommendations for future work in this area. The draft summary overview (no longer than 10 double-spaced pages) is to be submitted 90 days prior to the end of the project period for BJS review and comment.

2015 Visiting Fellows: Criminal Justice Statistics Programs

Overview: The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is publishing this notice to announce that it is seeking applications for funding for one or more BJS Visiting Fellows to work in its Criminal Justice Statistics Program. The purpose of this program is to address substantive, methodological, and analytic issues to enhance or inform BJS statistical programs; support the scholarly use of



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BJS data collections; and expand the body of policy-relevant research that uses these data to further knowledge about and understanding of the operation of the criminal justice system. Under section 302 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, BJS is authorized to “make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with, public agencies, institutions of higher education, private organizations, or private individuals” for purposes of collecting and analyzing criminal justice statistics or programs.

Program-Specific Information

BJS’s Visiting Fellows Program (www.bjs.gov/content/fellows.cfm) aims to facilitate collaboration between academic scholars and government researchers in survey methodology, statistics, economics, and social sciences. BJS Visiting Fellows have the unique opportunity to address substantive, methodological, and analytic issues relevant to BJS programs and to further knowledge about and understanding of the operation of the criminal justice system. Fellows may conduct research at BJS or at their home site, use BJS data and facilities, and interact with BJS staff.

Fellowship applicants should have a recognized research record or considerable expertise in their area of proposed research. Applicants must submit a detailed research proposal, which will be evaluated on the applicability of the research to BJS programs, the value of the proposed research to science, and the quality of the applicant's research record. Qualified women and members of minority groups are encouraged to apply.

BJS Visiting Fellows conduct projects that aim to enhance understanding of the operation of the criminal justice system and contribute to the improvement of BJS’s statistical programs. The BJS Visiting Fellows Program offers researchers, survey methodologists, and statisticians an opportunity to conduct statistical research in a particular area of mutual interest to them and BJS, examine innovative approaches to the analysis and dissemination of BJS data, and interact with BJS staff to gain first-hand knowledge of developments in BJS statistical programs. Projects completed or underway by BJS Visiting Fellows have involved—

- the impact of including repeat victimizations in national statistics on criminal victimization
- a framework for organizing and streamlining the National Crime Victimization Survey’s (NCVS) criminal incident instrument
- measuring the victim-offender overlap
- post-prison mortality and recidivism. BJS-2015-4232 5 Applicants should present proposals that use involve data from BJS statistical programs. Information about BJS statistical collections is available on the BJS website at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm>. BJS data are archived at the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) (<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NACJD/index.jsp>). Applicants may propose to use data from other federal statistical agencies if the data can be used to improve the understanding of criminal justice system operations and contribute to improving specific BJS statistical programs.

Each year in the solicitation for Visiting Fellows, BJS identifies priority project areas for applicants to consider addressing in preparing their proposals. These areas are not meant to be exclusive, and applicants may propose topics that fall outside of the identified areas.