

Background

In the early 1990s, the Bureau of Justice Statistics funded a project entitled the *World Factbook of Criminal Justice Systems*. When the *Factbook* was first compiled, it consisted of articles on 42 countries, each written to a common template by someone fluent in the language of, and having detailed knowledge of, that country. These profiles are available on the BJS website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/wfcj.htm>. This project was undertaken to improve the availability and comparability of descriptions of the criminal justice systems in various countries. Such descriptions are necessary to enable the appropriate collection and accurate analysis of crime and justice data from these countries, as well as to inform researchers and officials who plan to work with such countries with regard to their criminal justice operations.

Scope of Work

The objectives of the proposed project are to expand the *World Factbook* template for maximum utility, update the pre-existing profile of the criminal justice system in Costa Rica accordingly, and to create criminal justice system profiles for four additional Latin American countries based on the revised template. Applicants should familiarize themselves with the current template which appears at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/ascii/wfbcjint.txt and should carefully read the entire introduction as well as one or two of the profiles.

Phase One of the project will consist of collaborating with BJS and other interested parties in order to revise the template, so that resulting profiles will include all the information that a researcher or visitor would reasonably need to know to accurately analyze and understand crime and justice data. The grantee will then update the profile of Costa Rica according to the revised template. Upon completion of this task to BJS' satisfaction, the grantee will proceed to Phase Two.

Phase Two will consist of preparing new criminal justice system profiles for four Latin American countries (other than Costa Rica).

Preparation of the country profiles will require significant contact with persons at all stages of the criminal justice system within each country. It is strongly suggested, but not required, that the applicant collaborate with a local criminal justice researcher in each profiled country. The grantee is encouraged to propose which four Latin American countries will be profiled;

however BJS will make the final selection by considering the following factors: (1) Representation of the diversity of criminal justice systems in Latin America (Central America, Mexico, South America), (2) recent systemic changes that have policy relevance and merit documentation, (3) availability of reliable contacts and statistical data, and (4) importance as a source of transnational crime.

Statistical material for each country will be the latest available official data from the country. Sources and contacts made for each country will be carefully documented. The profiles should include descriptions of how statistics are collected and maintained in each country and how the public can access them. The profiles should incorporate important information from and/or reference similar country profiles, such as those provided by the CIA and the Library of Congress, and any country-specific sources of crime or criminal justice data.

Products

The grantee will deliver to BJS Web-ready electronic versions of the template and all five country profiles on diskette in text file format. These files will be posted on the BJS Website and may be used for subsequent publications.

Application and Award Process

An original and three (3) copies of a full proposal must be submitted with a Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance, Budget Detail Worksheet, OJP Forms 4000/3, and 4061/6. These forms can be obtained online www.ojp.usdoj.gov/forms.htm. In addition, fund recipients are required to comply with regulations designed to protect human subjects and ensure confidentiality of data. In accordance with 28 CFR Part 22, a Privacy Certificate must be submitted to BJS. Furthermore a Screening Sheet for Protection of Human Subjects must be completed prior to the award being issued. Questions regarding Protection of Human Subjects and/or privacy certificate requirements can be directed to the Human Subject Projection Officer (HPSO) at (202) 616-3282 [This is not a toll-free number].

Proposals must include both narrative description and a detailed budget. The narrative shall describe activities as discussed in the previous section. The budget shall contain detailed costs of personnel, travel, equipment, supplies and other expenses. The grant award will be in the form of a cooperative agreement. It is anticipated that the entire project can be completed for less than \$30,000.

Timing

This award will be made for a period of 12 months. The first phase will be concluded and evaluated within two months. The second phase will commence upon the successful completion of the first phase and will be completed within 12 months of the award date.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be reasonably proficient in the Spanish language. If applicants contemplate preparing each profile themselves, they need to have demonstrated fluency in speaking, reading, and writing both Spanish and English. Applicants should have a background in criminal justice. Knowledge of Latin American organizations and governmental structures, including political events which might influence the criminal justice system, and contacts with individuals in these countries will be extremely beneficial. Familiarity with Latin America through travel, residence, and/or study is highly desirable.

BJS will evaluate proposals based on (1) the credentials of the applicant (how experienced the applicant is in work related to criminal justice in Latin America), (2) the merit of the proposal (how the applicant intends to satisfy the needs described in this announcement), and (3) the competitiveness of the proposed budget.

Jan M. Chaiken,

Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bureau of Justice Assistance

[OJP (BJA)—1278]

Announcement of the Availability of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program for FY2000

AGENCY: Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Justice.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation.

SUMMARY: Announcement of the availability of the Bureau of Justice Assistance State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funding for FY2000.

DATES: Applications for payments may be made through a new Internet-based system beginning Thursday, June 1, 2000 and continuing until Monday, July 17, 2000.

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