

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) 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 submission of responses.

Overview of this information collection:

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* Extension of a currently approve information collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* Application for Naturalization.

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection:* Form N-400. Adjudications Division, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:* Primary: Individuals or Households. This information collection allows the Service to determine whether lawful permanent residents are eligible to become naturalized citizens of the United States.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* 1,806,394 respondents at 4 hours and 20 minutes (4.33) per response.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* 7,821,686 annual burden hours.

If you have additional comments, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions, or additional information, please contact Mr. Richard A. Sloan, 202-616-7600, director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of Justice, Room 5307, 425 I Street, NW., Washington, DC 20536.

If additional information is required contact: Mr. Robert B. Briggs, Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Information Management and Security Staff, Justice Management Division, Suite 850, Washington Center, 1001 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: July 2, 1997.

Robert B. Briggs,

Department Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Justice Programs

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

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

ACTION: Notice of information collection under review.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Justice Assistance is seeking comments on a proposed application form relating to applicant information collection under the Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Act of 1996.

DATES: Comments are due by September 8, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Chief, Public Safety Officers' Benefits Office, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 733 Indiana Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20531.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert B. Briggs, Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Information Management and Security Staff, Justice Management Division, Suite 850, Washington Center, 1001 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed application form is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for 60 days from the date listed at the top of this page in the **Federal Register**. Request written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed application form. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed application form is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) 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;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) 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 submission of responses.

If you have additional comments, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed application form or additional information, please contact Jeff Allison, (202) 616-3661, Public Safety Officers' Benefits Office, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 633 Indiana Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20531.

Overview of This Information Collection

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* Initial collection of information.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* Application for Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance.

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection:* Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:* Primary: Children and spouses of Federal civilian law enforcement officers who were killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty and are seeking financial assistance for the purpose of higher education. Other: None. This program is administered under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 3796 et seq. to provide financial assistance in the form of awards to the children and spouses of Federal civilian law enforcement officers whose deaths or permanent and total disabilities in the line of duty resulted in the payment of benefits under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program. The Application Form will be completed by each eligible applicant and will provide information regarding educational experience, educational goals, and estimated cost of educational plan for verification and award processing.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* 50 responses annually at 2 hours per respondent.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* (100) annual burden hours.

If additional information is required contact: Mr. Robert B. Briggs, Clearance Officer, Department of Justice, Information Management and Security Staff, Justice Management Division, Suite 850, Washington Center, 1001 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: July 2, 1997.

Robert B. Briggs,

Department Clearance Officer, Department of Justice.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Justice Programs

[OJP(BJS)-1132]

RIN 1121-ZA78

Solicitation for Award of Cooperative Agreement

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

ACTION: Solicitation for Award of Cooperative Agreement.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public solicitation for a 12 to 18 month project to develop model definitions and data collection protocols for statistical data describing levels of domestic violence. Although a majority of States and the Federal Government collect statistics related to domestic violence offenses, there is a great variation in how each agency, State, or program (1) defines the offenses, and (2) collects the data. Statutory language across States varies with references to family violence, domestic violence, intimate violence, etc. Criteria for inclusion or exclusion (as determined by the victim/offender relationship) are widely divergent. Some include child victims as well as adults. Others are more restrictive. Types of relationships and various living situations are handled differently across jurisdictions. This plethora of definitions and data collection standards may serve local purposes, but create barriers for comparability and the extent to which data can be aggregated across jurisdictions or data sources. The present proposed project addresses these issues and creates a framework to maximize comparability, evaluation, and understanding of the prevalence and incidence of "domestic violence."

DATES: Proposals must be postmarked on or before September 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Proposal should be mailed to: Applications Coordinator, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Room 303, 633 Indiana Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20531.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol G. Kaplan, Chief, Criminal History Improvement Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Room 303, 633 Indiana Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20531, (202) 307-0759.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Bureau of Justice Statistics, the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice, is authorized to "recommend national standards for justice statistics and for insuring the reliability and validity of justice statistics." See the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 3732(8). BJS provided and continues to provide (1) assistance to States in upgrading the quality of criminal history record systems, and (2) coordination among States and between the States, BJS, and other Federal agencies, particularly with respect to data quality and exchange.

Objective

The major purpose of this project is to develop model definitions and data collection protocols for statistical data describing levels of domestic/family/sexual violence.

Type of Assistance

Assistance will be made available under a cooperative agreement.

Statutory Authority

The cooperative agreement to be awarded pursuant to this solicitation will be funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics consistent with its authorization under 42 U.S.C. 3732 (8) and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 Title IV Section 40292 (the Violence Against Women Act).

Eligibility Requirements

Both profit-making and nonprofit-making organizations may apply for funds. Consistent with OJP fiscal requirements, no fees may be charged against the project by profit-making organizations (this includes cost of facilities capital).

Scope of Work

The objective of the proposed project is to develop model definitions and data collection protocols for statistical data describing levels of domestic/family/sexual violence. Specifically, the recipient of funds will:

1. Establish and convene two working groups: (1) A small (6-10 persons) Task Force to draft definitions, and (2) a more comprehensive Advisory Group (20-25 persons) to provide input to, review, and endorse the Task Force products. The Advisory Group will meet at least 3 times and the Task Force will be convened at least 5 times during the course of the project.

Representatives of all interested groups (statistical, data systems,

domestic violence victims, etc.) will be included on the Advisory Group. Researchers or persons with statistical experience and/or expertise will be included on the Task Force. BJS will provide key input to the selection of membership on both groups. Staff work (including both administrative support for meetings, payment, and substantive drafting tasks) for both groups will be provided by the recipient organization.

2. Develop and support BJS publication of model definitions and data collection protocols. Under this task, the recipient organization will have responsibility for:

- (A) Convening the Task Force and Advisory Group;

- (B) Preparing and circulating materials to facilitate discussion.

Materials for circulation at meetings should include, but are not limited to: (1) A state of the art report based on the findings in the NIJ/BJS/IRSA report "Domestic and Sexual Violence Data Collection: A Report to Congress under the Violence Against Women Act" (July 1996) and an analysis of other relevant definitions used outside the criminal justice system, and (2) an analysis of the technical, policy, and statistical issues related to the establishment of domestic/sexual violence definitions;

- (C) Working with the Task Force to draft materials for approval by the Advisory Group;

- (D) Preparing, or assisting in the preparation of, draft model definitions and data collection standards for publication by BJS in the **Federal Register**; and

- (E) Preparing an accompanying document discussing the proposed definitions in terms of the policy, technical, and feasibility issues described above.

3. Facilitating interaction among BJS, the members of the Task Force and the Advisory Group by:

- (A) Establishing a centralized mechanism for exchange of information regarding domestic/sexual violence related grants from the Office of Justice Programs (and/or other Federal agencies) in which the tasks involve developing or revising data collection systems or forms; and

- (B) Creating and supporting a limited access conference capability (LISTSERV) for the duration of the project.

4. Assisting BJS in activities connected with the publication of the draft model definitions and standards in the **Federal Register**. (Publication would be handled by BJS). If deemed necessary, this may include convening and staffing a meeting to describe and discuss the proposed definitions.