

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.

5. Collating and reviewing comments and drafting the revised definitions and standards for final approval by BJS and the Advisory Group and subsequent publication in the **Federal Register**. Publication in the **Federal Register** will be handled by BJS.

Award Procedures

Proposals should describe in appropriate detail the efforts to be undertaken in furtherance of each of the activities described in the Scope of Work. Information should focus on the activities to be undertaken and the staffing levels and qualifications for each task. Descriptions of experience relevant to the project also should be included.

Applications will be competitively reviewed by a BJS-selected panel which will make recommendations to the Director of BJS. Final authority to enter into a cooperative agreement is reserved for the Director who may, at his discretion, determine that none of the applications shall be funded.

Applications will be evaluated on the overall extent to which they respond to the goals of the project, demonstrate an understanding and ability to perform the specific activities to be conducted and appear to be fiscally feasible and efficient. In addition, applicants will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

(A) Knowledge of, and experience working in, the statistical and data systems environment at the Federal and State levels;

(B) Knowledge of the special concerns raised by groups that focus on domestic violence reduction and victim support;

(C) Knowledge, experience, and expertise in the technical, policy, and feasibility issues relating to statistical data collection and the specific problems associated with collection of data on domestic violence;

(D) Credibility among the statistical, systems, and domestic violence communities based on prior activity and current affiliations;

(E) Demonstrated ability and experience in bringing together divergent groups to facilitate agreement on complex and high visibility issues;

(F) Demonstrated track record in producing written reports accessible to an audience of State policy makers;

(G) Demonstrated experience in convening and managing meetings involving multiple attendants from different organizations; and

(H) Reasonableness of estimated costs for the total project and for individual cost categories.

Application and Awards Process

An original and two (2) copies of a full proposal must be submitted on SF-424 (Revision 1988), Application for Federal Assistance, as the cover sheet. Proposals must be accompanied by a budget detail worksheet; OJP Form 4061/6, Certifications Regarding Lobbying, Debarment, Suspension and other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace; and OJP Form 7120-1 (Rev. 1-93), Accounting Systems Financial Capability Questionnaire (to be submitted by applicants who have not previously received Federal funds from the Office of Justice Programs). If appropriate, applicants must complete and submit Standard Form LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities. All applicants must sign Certified Assurances that they are in compliance with Federal laws and regulations which prohibit discrimination in any program or activity that received Federal funds. To obtain appropriate forms or for further information regarding submission of proposals, contact Getha Hilario, BJS Management Assistant, at (202) 633-3031.

Proposals must include both narrative descriptions and a detailed budget. The narrative shall describe activities as discussed in the previous section. The budget shall contain detailed costs of personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, and other expenses. Contractual services or equipment must be procured through competition or the application must contain a sole source justification for procurements in excess of \$100,000.

Project duration is estimated at between 12 and 18 months. Costs are estimated not to exceed \$500,000.

Dated: July 2, 1997.

Jan M. Chaiken,

Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. ICR-97-37]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Mechanical Power Presses (29 CFR 1910.217(e)(1)(i) and 29 CFR 1910.217(e)(1)(ii))—Inspection Certifications

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce

paperwork and respondent burden conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood assessed. Currently, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the information collection requirements contained in 29 CFR 1910.217(e)(1)(i) and 29 CFR 1910.217(e)(1)(ii). The Agency is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have a practical utility;

- Evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumption used;

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

- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before September 8, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments are to be submitted to the Docket Office, Docket No. ICR-97-37, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-2625, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: (202) 219-7894. Written comments limited to 10 pages or less in length may also be transmitted by facsimile to (202) 219-5046.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Belinda Cannon, Directorate of Safety Standards Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-3605, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone: (202)