Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance



The <u>U.S. Department of Justice</u>, <u>Office of Justice Programs'</u> <u>Bureau of Justice Assistance</u> is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for the maintenance and operation of the U.S. Department of Justice Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (www.nsopr.gov). This program furthers the Department's mission by continuing the single-access capability to search for sex offender information nationwide as identified in the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

Maintenance and Operation of the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website FY 2007 Competitive Grant Announcement

Eligibility

Applicants are limited to national, regional, or local; nonprofit; or for-profit organizations and have demonstrated significant experience in providing web site management, web services, service-oriented architecture, and distributed information sharing systems.

(See "Eligibility," page 1)

Deadline

All applications are due by 8:00 p.m. e.t. on January 18, 2007. (See "Deadline: Applications," page 1)

Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact: Christopher Traver, BJA Senior Policy Advisor, at 202–307–2963 or christopher.traver@usdoi.gov.

This application must be submitted through Grants.gov. For technical assistance with submitting the application, call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 1–800–518–4726.

Grants.Gov number assigned to announcement: BJA-2007-1516

CONTENTS

Overview of the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website Program	
Deadline: Registration	1
Deadline: Applications	1
Eligibility	1
Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website Program-Specific Information	2
Performance Measures	3
How To Apply	3
What An Application Must Include:	4
Standard Form 424 Program Narrative Budget and Budget Narrative Other Attachments	
Selection Criteria	4
Review Process	5
Additional Requirements	5

Maintenance and Operation of the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website CFDA #16.580

Overview of the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website

The Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) uses the Internet to search for and display public sex offender data from U.S. state and territory registries. With a single query from any web-capable computer, NSOPW searches public state and territory sex offender registries to deliver matches. This program is authorized by the Science, the Departments of State, Justice and Commerce, FY 2006 Appropriations Act, Pub. L. 109-108.

Deadline: Registration

Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, if you are a first-time registrant, it could take up to several weeks to have your registration validated and confirmed and to receive your user password. It is highly recommended you start the registration process as early as possible to prevent delays in submitting your application package to our agency by the deadline specified. There are three steps that you must complete before you are able to register: 1) register with Central Contractor Registry (CCR), 2) register yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), and 3) be authorized as an AOR in your organization. For more information, go to www.grants.gov. Note: Your CCR registration must be renewed once a year. Failure to renew your CCR registration will prohibit submission of a grant application through Grants.gov.

Deadline: Applications

The due date for applying for funding under this announcement is 8:00 p.m. e.t. on January 18, 2007.

Eligibility

Any organization that is national, regional, or local; nonprofit; or for-profit and has demonstrated significant experience in web site management, operation of distributed information systems; web services (including, but not limited to, .net, Java, and Cold Fusion, etc.); service-oriented architecture; and implementation of new technologies such as multiple/specialized search design, mapping, e-mail notification, and web site security functions are eligible to apply. For-profit organizations must agree to waive any profit or fees for services. In addition, the applicant must be well-versed in all elements of the U.S. Department of Justice's Global Justice Extensible Markup Language (GJXML) and have an established and effective record of interaction and cooperation with state agencies both on policy and technology issues.

Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website-Specific Information

Recent tragic events have shown that while much has been accomplished to register sex offenders in the communities in which they live, sex offenders can and do leave their "registered" areas. Real-time access to public registry information nationwide is essential for citizens to help identify sex offenders beyond their own streets or neighborhoods.

The U.S. Department of Justice, through the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), has designed an effective and affordable technology strategy—searching already existing public state and territory sex offender registries—to meet this immediate need and to deliver this critical information to America's communities. This strategy was designed in close cooperation with the state and territory sex offender registries.

Mirroring industry standards, the technology for the <u>Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW)</u> uses web services and the U.S. Department of Justice's <u>Global Justice XML</u> common computer language to establish a link between already built and maintained public state and territory sex offender registries. The link then allows data from different hardware and software systems to be recognized and shown through the national search site.

After 63 weeks of operation, there have been over 611 million hits on the system, and the system averages approximately 1.8 million hits per day. In addition, there are over 1,000 links to the NSOPW from other Internet sites.

Requirements and Deliverables

During the 12-month project period, the grantee will be required to conduct the following at a minimum:

- Support all development, hosting, maintenance, and operation of the NSOPW, including
 hosting a back-up site at a separate location. The grantee must comply with all U.S.
 Department of Justice security requirements.
- Ensure the web site is in full compliance with provisions of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (<u>Pub. L. 109-248</u>) and any subsequent legislation impacting its implementation.
- Assist state partners with ongoing development and upgrades of web services used to share data through the web site.
- Have a mechanism in place to provide limited, essential funding to state, territory, and tribal
 agencies for hardware and software upgrades for participation in this initiative. Up to 10% of
 the grant award will support this function and applicants should establish the proposed
 budget accordingly
- Make changes to the web site within 4 hours of a request—without additional costs—as part
 of the maintenance portion of the project.
- Provide statistics to BJA on the use of the web site on a monthly basis and have the capability to provide specific information within x-hours' notice.

- Provide continuous monitoring of all connections to the web site and make contact with the connection site(s) to remedy any malfunctions within a 24-hour period.
- Answer questions sent to the "Webmaster" for this web site within 24 hours. The responses shall be based on the ability to recreate the situation as described in the correspondence.
- Establish and maintain a communication system between state registry managers that provides the ability to send e-mail, a discussion area, chat capabilities, and transfer of files, all within a secure environment.

Amount and Length of Award

Up to \$1 million is available via a cooperative agreement to support the maintenance and operation of the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website for a 12-month project period.

Performance Measures

To assist in fulfilling the Department's responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), P.L. 103-62, applicants who receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measures the results of their work. Performance measures for this solicitation are as follows:

Program Objectives	Performance Measures	Data Grantee Provides
Provide a single access point for a user to search state hosted sex offender public registries through the use of the U.S. Department of Justice's Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW).	 Number of inquiries made against the NSOPW. Number of states, territories, and tribes participating. 	 During the current reporting period, the number of inquiries against the NSOPW. During the current reporting period, the total number of states, territories, and tribes participating.

How To Apply

DOJ is participating in the e-Government initiative, one of 25 initiatives included in the President's Management Agenda. Part of this initiative—Grants.gov—is a "one-stop storefront" that provides a unified process for all customers of federal grants to find funding opportunities and apply for funding.

Grants.gov Instructions: Complete instructions can be found at www.grants.gov. If you experience difficulties at any point during this process, please call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at **1–800–518–4726**.

CFDA Number: The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this solicitation is 16.580, titled "Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Discretionary Grants Program" and the funding opportunity number is BJA-2007-1516.

A DUNS number is required: The Office of Management and Budget requires that all businesses and nonprofit applicants for federal funds include a DUNS (Data Universal Numeric

System) number in their application for a new award or renewal of an award. Applications without a DUNS number are incomplete. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, simple, one-time activity. Obtain one by calling 1–866–705–5711 or by applying online at www.dunandbradstreet.com. Individuals are exempt from this requirement.

What an Application Must Include

Standard Form 424

Program Narrative (Attachment 1)

The program narrative must respond to the solicitation and the Selection Criteria in the order given. Submissions that do not adhere to the format will be deemed ineligible. The program narrative must be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point font (Times New Roman is preferred) with 1-inch margins, and must not exceed 20 pages. Please number pages "1 of 20," "2 of 20," etc.

Budget and Budget Narrative (Attachment 2)

Applicants must provide a budget that is allowable and reasonable. Applicants must submit a budget worksheet and budget narrative in one file. A fillable budget detail worksheet form is available on OJP's web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/Forms/budget_fillable.pdf.

Project Timeline, Position Descriptions, and Other Materials (Attachment 3)

Attach a *Project Timeline* with each project goal, related objective, activity, expected completion date, and responsible person or organization; *Position Descriptions* for key positions; and other supporting materials.

Selection Criteria

1. Statement of the Problem (15 points)

Describe the models used by the states and territories to operate their sex offender public registries; their unique challenges and complexities; how they are managed; and how NSOPW can address the issue of sex offender management currently as well as in the future, as the provisions of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 are implemented.

2. Project Design and Implementation (15 points)

Detail what the agency proposes to do and how, including a timeline (as Attachment 3) that describes each project goal, objective, activity, expected completion date, and responsible person or organization. This section must describe efforts with the states (individual connections) as well as national administrative and operational/enterprise-level efforts, including monitoring efforts to ensure continuity of operations and connection maintenance requirements. All "Requirements and Deliverables" must be addressed in this section.

3. Capabilities/Competencies (50 points)

Describe in detail the management structure and organizational capability for program implementation. Describe the agency's competencies and experience in working with state agencies, particularly sex offender registries, and experience in supporting national and complex information sharing efforts. Identify the staffing—including skills and experience of

each position—and management structure to support the project work. Position descriptions or resumes may be included as Attachment 3.

4. Budget (10 points)

Provide a proposed budget that is allowable and reasonable, includes the ability to provide essential support to the states and demonstrates an overall cost-effective approach to sustaining and improving NSOPW.

5. Impact/Outcomes and Evaluation (10 points)

Describe qualitative and quantitative measures that will indicate progress toward completing the assigned tasks. Identify who will be responsible for performance measurement (see Performance Measures), and how evaluations will be used, including developing and submitting to BJA statistics on NSOPW usage. Explain how the overall success of the program will be determined, including the impact of efforts on the program's effectiveness.

Review Process

All applications will be peer reviewed. The BJA Director will then make award recommendations to OJP's Assistant Attorney General, who will make final determinations.

Additional Requirements

- Civil Rights compliance.
- Confidentiality and Human Subjects Protections regulations.
- Anti-Lobbying Act.
- Financial and Government Audit requirements.
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.
- DOJ Information Technology Standards.
- Single Point of Contact Review.
- Non-Supplanting of State or Local Funds.
- Criminal Penalty for False Statements.
- Compliance with Office of the Comptroller *Financial Guide*.
- Suspension or Termination of Funding.

We strongly encourage you to review the information pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting your application. Additional information for each can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/otherrequirements.htm.