



BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

Rural Law Enforcement Internet Access, Technical Assistance, and Training Program

Internet Services Program

The National Center for Rural Law Enforcement (NCRLE) provides Internet access free of charge to rural law enforcement agencies across the nation. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) funds the program through the Rural Law Enforcement Technical Assistance Enhancement Project. Established with 12 test sites in 1996, the NCRLE program expanded to more than 1,000 agencies by April 2000 through continuation funding from the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program administered by BJA.

The program offers free Internet access, for criminal justice purposes only, to rural police departments in cities serving populations of 25,000 or fewer and sheriffs' offices in counties serving populations of 50,000 or fewer.

The percentages of police departments and sheriffs' offices online by April 2000 are indicated in the following tables.

Police Departments Online as of April 2000	
City Population	%
<2,500	42
2,500 to <10,000	41
10,000 to 25,000	15
>25,000	2

Sheriffs' Offices Online as of April 2000	
County Population	%
<10,000	29
10,000 to <25,000	48
25,000 to 50,000	22
>50,000	1

Technical Support

In addition, requesting agencies will receive instructions on how to use software and unlimited technical phone support via a toll-free number provided at the time a request for Internet service is received. NCRLE currently has four rollover technical assistance lines and, during 1999, responded to 1,593 technical support requests from law enforcement agencies.

Agency Site Visits

In 1999, NCRLE conducted 62 site visits in 12 states to provide technical assistance to agencies that were online or waiting to go online.

NCRLE Site Visits, 1999			
Alabama	4	Mississippi	1
Arkansas	12	Nevada	1
California	3	Oklahoma	17
Georgia	2	Oregon	2
Illinois	5	Texas	10
Maryland	3	Virginia	2

Free Internet Software

Upon approval, NCRLE will mail any needed PC-compatible connection or Internet software to requesting agencies. Available software includes the following:

- Internet Explorer.
- Netscape.
- Outlook Express.
- Pegasus Mail.
- File transfer program.
- File compression program.
- Trumpet Winsock (Windows 3.x only).

E-mail Account

Each rural law enforcement agency may request an e-mail account when its Internet service account is activated. The chief or sheriff can request additional e-mail accounts from NCRLE for department members.

Web Site Option

Each rural law enforcement agency will have the option of creating and placing a Web site on the NCRLE server to be viewed by anyone with Internet access. Agencies have used this service to provide information on crime prevention, most wanted fugitives, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) programs, community contacts, missing children, and community awareness, as well as tips and suggestions. The content of each Web site is left to the individual agency.

Hardware and Software Requirements

The minimum hardware and software requirements for receiving Internet access are listed below:

- A 486/50-megahertz computer (or faster).
- At least 20 megabytes of available hard drive space.
- Internal or external Hayes-compatible modem (14.4 bps or faster).
- A 3.5-inch floppy drive.
- Super VGA video card.
- Windows 3.x, 95, 98, 2000, or NT.
- Access to one outside, designated phone line (can be shared with a fax line).

All qualifying rural law enforcement agencies must submit a signed Internet access form to receive this service. Access to the Internet is accomplished via a toll-free number that connects to the NCRLE server at no cost to the using agency.

For Further Information

For additional information on free Internet access, contact:

National Center for Rural Law Enforcement, a Division of the University of Arkansas System

7723 Asher Avenue, Suite B
Little Rock, AR 72204-7503

501-570-8000 or 1-800-635-6310

Technical Support: 1-888-411-1713

Fax: 501-570-0100

World Wide Web: www.ncrle.net

For additional information about BJA grants and programs, contact:

Bureau of Justice Assistance

810 Seventh Street NW.

Washington, DC 20531

202-514-6278

World Wide Web: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA

Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 6000

Rockville, MD 20849-6000

1-800-688-4252

World Wide Web: www.ncjrs.org

Clearinghouse staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. eastern time. Ask to be placed on the BJA mailing list.

U.S. Department of Justice Response Center

1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480

Response Center staff are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time.

About the Bureau of Justice Assistance

BJA, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, supports innovative programs that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system by assisting state and local governments in combating violent crime and drug abuse. Established by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, BJA accomplishes its mission by providing funding, evaluation, training, technical assistance, and information support to state and community criminal justice programs, thus effectively forming partnerships with state and local jurisdictions.

About the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement

Established in 1995 to meet the educational and training needs of rural law enforcement officials throughout the United States, NCRLE has earned nationwide recognition for its role in rural law enforcement and a reputation for excellence in the criminal justice field. It is one of four centers within the Criminal Justice Institute, a division of the University of Arkansas System. NCRLE provides management education and training, Internet access, an information clearinghouse for grants and programs, and access to research and technical assistance.

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