

Addendum to the NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) for Tribal Applicants

The National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (NIAA), Pub. L. 110-180, was signed into law on January 8, 2008. Enacted in the wake of the April 2007 shooting tragedy at Virginia Tech, the NIAA seeks to address the gap in information available to NICS about prohibiting mental health adjudications and commitments and other prohibiting factors. The NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) implements the provisions of the NIAA and furthers the Department of Justice's mission by improving the records used by NICS by providing assistance to eligible states and tribes to improve the completeness, automation, and transmittal of records to state and federal systems. The records covered include automated information needed by the NICS to identify prohibiting mental health adjudications and commitments, felony convictions, felony indictments, fugitives from justice, drug arrests and convictions, domestic violence protection orders, and misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence.

Tribes may apply directly for funding, or may submit applications as part of a multi-state consortium, multi-tribe consortium, or other entity. Tribes are encouraged to collaborate on proposed activities with their state National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) agency or state court administrator when developing an application for NARIP funds. Tribes interested in collaborating with eligible states should contact their appropriate state NCHIP administering agency to discuss proposed projects. The contact list for the state NCHIP administering agencies is available on the BJS website - <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=471#Contacts>.

Indian Country Eligibility Requirements for NARIP Grant Funding

The following requirements must be fulfilled in order for a tribe to be considered for NARIP funding:

1. The applicant must be a Federally recognized tribe;
2. The applicant must have an authorized tribal law enforcement agency;
3. The applicant must have an authorized tribal court system (includes consortiums);
4. The applicant must have an FBI verified and validated Originating Agency Identifier (ORI) (Note: an ORI is not required if a tribe elects to submit records to the state for subsequent submission to NICS); and
5. The applicant must demonstrate its current ability to transmit records to the FBI, either through its own systems, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or the state.

This is a competitive funding opportunity, and eligible applications will be evaluated, scored, and rated on the requirements outlined in the solicitation by a peer review panel. Applications should specifically address the program goals outlined on pages 6 and 7 of the solicitation. The solicitation provides detailed instructions on how to apply for this solicitation and information about the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) review process. The FY2011 NARIP solicitation is posted to the BJS website – http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/narip11_sol.pdf.

Funding information

There is no final appropriation at this time. As a point of reference, please note that previous funding levels were \$10 million in FY 2009 and \$20 million in FY 2010 to support the entire NARIP program.

Required Application Materials

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Program Narrative
3. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative
4. Tribal Authorizing Resolution

Please refer to page 21 of the solicitation for a complete checklist of required documents and information. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application contains all of the required elements.

Questions about NARIP eligibility requirements and the application process may be directed to Devon Adams or Allina Lee at 202-307-0765 or via email to askbjs@usdoj.gov. Please include "NARIP/TRIBAL" in the subject line. Additional funding and grant application resources can be found on the OJP website - <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/funding.htm>.

Information about the National Criminal Background Check System (NICS)

The NICS Index contains information provided by local, state, tribal, and federal agencies of persons prohibited from receiving firearms under federal law. The NICS Index contains prohibiting information not found in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) or the Interstate Identification Index (III). Local, state, tribal and federal agencies are provided with two modes to add, modify, supplement, or cancel NICS Index entries. The first mode is an electronic connection between the NICS and the contributing agency using the NCIC-Front End. An agency may use this interface to electronically submit, modify, supplement, cancel, or display a denied person's disqualifying information in the NICS Index. The second mode is batch data transfer on CD, diskette, or by secure e-mail. The NICS Index entries, modifications, supplements, and cancellations are to be processed by the contributing agency since the contributing agency is responsible for the accuracy and validity of the NICS Index information. It is imperative to update the NICS Index as necessary to minimize erroneous denials. The contributing agency is responsible for responding to appeals, assessments, and audits of the submitted records. Any documentation justifying a valid entry into the NICS Index must be available to the originating agencies.

Additional information can be found on the NICS website - www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/nics.htm. Questions can also be directed to NICS staff via phone or email to:

- ✓ 1-877-324-NICS - NICS Customer Service line
- ✓ 1-877-NICS-TTY - Telecommunications Device for the Deaf
- ✓ a_nics@leo.gov

Questions about NCIC access may be directed to the FBI, Garnet Tucker, Management and Program Analyst, 304-625-3543. Additional information may also be found on the FBI website - <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ncic>.