



# BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

*Nancy E. Gist, Director*

## Regional Information Sharing Systems Program

The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program supports Federal, State, and local law enforcement efforts to combat criminal activity that extends across jurisdictional boundaries. Six regional RISS intelligence centers currently provide a broad range of intelligence exchange and related investigative support services to member law enforcement agencies nationwide. The RISS centers focus primarily on violent crime, gang activity, organized crime, and narcotics trafficking.

### Background

The RISS Program is the only multijurisdictional criminal intelligence system operated by and for State and local law enforcement agencies. The operation of a regional information sharing center was first supported by U.S. Department of Justice grant funding in 1974. The concept grew as more law enforcement agencies expressed a need to extend the range of intelligence across jurisdictional boundaries.

The RISS Program now serves nearly 5,000 Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Canadian provinces. The number of member agencies participating in each of the 6 RISS regions ranges from more than 350 to more than 1,150. Local (municipal and county) law enforcement agencies comprise approximately 74 percent of the total membership. More than 300 State agencies and more than 600 Federal agencies and offices also participate. The Drug Enforcement Administration; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Internal Revenue Service; the Secret Service; the Customs Service; and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are among the Federal agencies taking part in the RISS Program.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice, administers the RISS Program. The RISS centers operate under the Funding and Administration Guidelines of the RISS Program and the Criminal Intelligence Systems Operating Policies (28 CFR Part 23). Each of the six centers has developed operating policies and procedures that comply with the Federal guidelines and regulations. The Institute for Intergovernmental Research, a Florida-based not-for-profit research and management consulting organization specializing in law enforcement, juvenile justice, and criminal justice issues, provides training, research, and analysis activities related to the management performance and information-sharing systems of the RISS program.

### Key Program Elements

**Goal.** The overall goal of the RISS Program is to enhance the ability of State and local criminal justice agencies to identify, target, and remove criminal conspiracies and activities spanning jurisdictional boundaries.

**Project Composition.** Each of the six regional RISS centers is overseen by an executive board or board of directors that is representative of its member agencies. The board develops membership criteria according to Federal guidelines and regulations; each center comprises Federal, State, and local criminal justice and regulatory agencies located within the project's multi-State service area. Membership application procedures vary from center to center, but each RISS center requires a formal application review and board approval. Some centers require a membership fee.

**Services Provided.** The RISS Program provides an information-sharing, analysis, and communications

network to support investigative and prosecutorial efforts of member agencies addressing multijurisdictional offenses and conspiracies. Each regional RISS center provides services by electronic access via the RISS-secure intranet (riss.net), electronic mail (e-mail), telephone, fax, or in person; training sessions are held at a variety of locations within a center's service area. RISS centers are staffed by intelligence and analytical personnel, field representatives, and technical systems personnel. The following services are available at all regional RISS centers:

- ❑ **Information sharing.** Controlled input and dissemination, rapid retrieval, and systematic updating of criminal justice information.
- ❑ **Data analysis.** Telephone toll analysis, financial analysis, information sharing, and data analysis services about project-sponsored investigations and activities.

The following optional services are made available through the regional RISS centers according to the areas of emphasis and service priorities established at each center:

- ❑ **Investigative support.** Financial assistance for conducting multijurisdictional investigations.
- ❑ **Specialized equipment.** A pool of specialized investigative equipment available for loan.
- ❑ **Technical assistance.** Consultation, advice, and information provided by project personnel concerning use of specialized equipment, investigative procedures, accounting of funds provided by the project to support investigations, and information analysis.
- ❑ **Training.** Specialized training to upgrade the investigative skills of member agency personnel. Training assistance may include financial support to send personnel to training courses, seminars, and conferences.

Information technology implemented by RISS makes it easy and quick for State and local law enforcement member agencies to obtain information and share investigative leads to achieve positive results in combating multijurisdictional criminal activity nationwide. A RISS-secure intranet, using Internet technology, provides authorized member agencies with electronic access to the RISS intelligence database pointer systems, the RISS National Gang Database, the RISS Investigative Leads Bulletin Board, and secure electronic mail for communication with RISS centers. Security measures implemented for the RISS intranet include authentication and encryption methods for all message transactions to and from RISS sites.

Program services are provided to member agencies at no charge. Only member agencies are eligible to receive these services.

## Program Accomplishments

From 1986 to 1996, the regional RISS intelligence centers helped make more than 65,000 arrests by providing information, analytical services, equipment loans, and confidential funds to member agencies. Approximately \$10 billion in narcotics seizures and \$15 million in civil Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) seizures are attributed to regional RISS intelligence centers. Each year, approximately 20,000 law enforcement personnel are trained in regional RISS intelligence center-sponsored sessions on a variety of current issues relating to the criminal justice field.

## RISS Resource Publication

RISS Program publications may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse (see "For Further Information").

## For Further Information

For information about a specific regional RISS project, contact the project directly. The six regional projects are:

### Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC)

1610 East Sunshine, Suite 100  
Springfield, MO 65804  
Tel: 1-800-846-6242

Geographic region includes the States of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, plus the bordering Canadian provinces.

### Middle Atlantic–Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLN)

140 Terry Drive, Suite 100  
Newtown, PA 18940  
Tel: 1-800-345-1322

Geographic region includes the States of Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, plus the District of Columbia and the bordering Canadian provinces.

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**New England State Police Information Network (NESPIN)**

124 Grove Street, Suite 305  
Franklin, MA 02038  
Tel: 1-800-343-5682

Geographic region includes the States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, plus the bordering Canadian provinces.

**Regional Organized Crime Information Center (ROCIC)**

545 Marriott Drive, Suite 850  
Nashville, TN 37214  
Tel: 1-800-238-7985

Geographic region includes the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, plus Puerto Rico.

**Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN)**

2828 North Central Avenue, Suite 1000  
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1027  
Tel: 1-800-821-0640

Geographic region includes the States of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, plus the bordering Canadian provinces.

**Western States Information Network (WSIN)**

P.O. Box 903198  
Sacramento, CA 95813-1980  
Tel: 1-800-824-7868

Geographic region includes the States of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington, plus Guam and the bordering Canadian provinces.

For additional information about the RISS Program, contact:

**Bureau of Justice Assistance**

Discretionary Grants Program Division  
810 Seventh Street NW.  
Washington, DC 20531  
Tel: 202-514-5943  
World Wide Web: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

**Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse**

P.O. Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
Tel: 1-800-688-4252  
Fax: 301-519-5212  
E-mail: [look@ncjrs.org](mailto:look@ncjrs.org)

**Institute for Intergovernmental Research**

P.O. Box 12729  
Tallahassee, FL 32317  
Tel: 1-800-446-0912 or 850-385-0600  
World Wide Web: <http://www.iir.com>

**U.S. Department of Justice Response Center**

1110 Vermont Avenue, 10th Floor  
Washington, DC 20530  
Tel: 1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480

FS000037  
July 1998

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Justice Programs  
*Bureau of Justice Assistance*

*Washington, DC 20531*

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