

CORRECTIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT FAMILY SUPPORT Solicitation for the Implementation of the Corrections Field Test

Letter from the Director

Dear Colleague:

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is making available a new funding opportunity under the Corrections and Law Enforcement Family Support (CLEFS) program. The Law Enforcement Family Support program (since expanded to corrections) was established by Congress in 1994 under Title XXI of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. The Attorney General was authorized to conduct a variety of activities under this legislation in order to ameliorate the harmful effects of stress experienced by law enforcement officers and their families including research, program development, technical assistance and information dissemination.

During the past five years of the CLEFS program, NIJ has funded projects which have contributed to the state-of-practice in the area of law enforcement and correctional officer stress. NIJ now intends to contribute to this knowledge by developing a multi-site field test for corrections. NIJ defines a field test as a well-controlled, real-world test of one or more hypotheses which involves one or more sites and is based on and justified by a well-developed body of research and/or practice knowledge. Field tests include both formative and outcome-focused evaluations. This definition necessitates a partnership between NIJ, participating field test sites, and an evaluator.

NIJ invites you to submit a proposal to serve as a CLEFS field test site. The field test must include a comprehensive wellness component, in-service training and education for officers, training for supervisors and family orientation. State corrections agencies which employ at least 100 corrections officers are eligible to apply. Three awards of up to \$150,000 each will be made for the first eighteen months of implementation.

The recipients selected will be expected to implement the field test design as specified in the solicitation and will be required to participate in an external evaluation. Technical assistance will be provided on an on-going basis by staff from the National Institute of Justice and Abt Associates, Inc.

Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on January 29, 2001, with proper attachments (see Application Forms at <http://www.ncjrs.org/fedgrant.html#nij> or call the Department of Justice Response Center at 800-851-3420). Please fax a short letter notifying NIJ of your intent to apply for the Corrections and Law Enforcement Family Support Law Enforcement Field Test cooperative agreement. The non-binding letter should be faxed to the attention of Rebecca Childress, CLEFS Program Manager, at (202) 307-6256 or e-mailed to childrer@ojp.usdoj.gov no later than January 4, 2001. Applicants with additional questions are directed to Ms. Childress at 202-307-0200 or at the e-mail address listed above.

Sincerely,

Julie E. Samuels, Acting Director
National Institute of Justice