

Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative Solicitation for a Research Partner for the District of New Mexico

Letter from the Director

September 18, 2000

Dear Colleague:

The Department of Justice¹ has selected the Eastern District of Missouri, the Eastern District of Michigan, the Northern District of Georgia, the Western District of New York, and the District of New Mexico as SACSI (Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative) sites. The purpose of this letter is to invite you to apply for a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to serve as the research partner for the District of New Mexico SACSI site. We have committed \$230,000 for a two-year effort scheduled to begin as close to November 1, 2000 as possible. Proposals must be received at NIJ by October 9, 2000. If you have already applied to be the research partner in Albuquerque under a solicitation which closed on August 18, 2000 please contact Erin Dalton at (202-514-5752; e-mail daltona@ojp.usdoj.gov).

The goal of SACSI is to reduce firearms-related crime by using relevant data and information to develop interventions (and prosecution strategies) aimed at both reducing current crime and deterring future crime. The jurisdictions selected to be SACSI sites contain strong local public safety partnerships and expressed interest in developing dynamic partnerships with researchers to better understand local crime problems.

They are committed to designing interventions that will target precisely-defined problems (including interventions that may not have been considered previously), and are engaging the community and faith-based organizations to reduce targeted crime.

A key component of SACSI is a research partner. This research partner will be an active participant throughout the entire local SACSI project: (1) identifying, collecting, and analyzing data to identify and precisely define crime problem(s); (2) assisting in the development of intervention strategies that address the identified problems; (3) designing tools that measure the on-going impact and effectiveness of selected interventions; and, (4) documenting and providing feedback to the SACSI process. The ideal research partner will have experience with the complexities of working with government officials and criminal justice practitioners in a collaborative, problem-solving relationship to achieve increased public safety.

A more detailed briefing paper describing SACSI is attached. Also described therein is the projected role of the research partner, requisite qualifications of research partner, and details on how to apply. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact Erin Dalton, on my staff (202-514-5752; e-mail daltona@ojp.usdoj.gov).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Julie E. Samuels
Acting Director

⁴ Department of Justice partners include the Criminal Division, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, the Office of the Associate Attorney General, the Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services, the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Office of Justice Programs.