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**NIJ**

Solicitation

**Research on Prison Sexual Violence**

**Notice:**

You *must* submit your application using the Office of Justice Programs' automated Grants Management System. Paper applications will not be accepted. We suggest you begin the process as soon as possible. To start the process, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm>.

**Deadline:**

**January 27, 2004**

SL 000642

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**Office of Justice Programs**  
810 Seventh Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20531

**John Ashcroft**  
*Attorney General*

**Deborah J. Daniels**  
*Assistant Attorney General*

**Sarah V. Hart**  
*Director, National Institute of Justice*

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**Office of Justice Programs**  
**National Institute of Justice**  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij>

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# Research on Prison Sexual Violence

## I. Introduction

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice and a component of the Office of Justice Programs. The Institute provides objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to enhance the administration of justice and public safety. The Institute solicits proposals to inform its search for the knowledge and tools to guide policy and practice.

NIJ is seeking proposals for quantitative research on prison sexual violence in response to the goals of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003. The Act's goals include—

- Developing and implementing national standards to detect and prevent sexual violence in prisons.
- Increasing the availability of data and information to aid in improving the management and administration of correctional facilities.
- Increasing the accountability of prisons.

Successful applicants must demonstrate how the proposed research will advance knowledge, practice, and policy in addressing this topic.

**Due date:** The due date is listed on the cover of this announcement and on the NIJ Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>. Extensions to the deadline are generally not granted.

**Page limit:** The program narrative section of your proposal must not exceed 30 double-spaced pages in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Tables, charts, figures, appendixes, and government forms do not count toward the 30-page limit.

**Reasons for rejection:** NIJ may reject applications that are incomplete, do not respond to the scope of the solicitation, do not comply with format requirements, or are submitted after the deadline. No additions to the original submission are allowed.

**How to submit proposals to NIJ:** Complete details about how to apply for funding are in "NIJ Guidelines for Submitting Applications," available on the NIJ Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.

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## II. Proposal Topics

As a result of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, a number of large-scale research efforts have begun, including development by the Bureau of Justice Statistics of a national study to measure the incidence and prevalence of prison sexual violence. Currently underway with NIJ support is a major qualitative research study of prison culture as it relates specifically to sexual violence. The themes and topics presented below are meant as a guide for applicants; they by no means exhaust the possible research areas:

- A. Identification and evaluation of prevention programs:** This theme relates to research on and evaluation of programs designed to prevent sexual assault in adult jails and prisons or juvenile correctional facilities. It also relates to identifying and assessing existing policies or practices to prevent sexual assault. NIJ will consider research on sexually assaultive inmates and their characteristics, institutional responses to sexual violence, as well as quantitative evaluations—both process and outcome—on a single program or a cross-site analysis of a number of programs that inform corrections policy and practice.
  
- B. Research on the impact of victimization and its treatment:** This theme relates to research and evaluation on the medical and psychological effects, both during incarceration and after release, of prison sexual victimization, treatment programs for victims of prison sexual assault, and evaluations of their effectiveness. Of particular interest are cross-jurisdictional studies that compare issues that arise when implementing and operating programs.
  
- C. Research on risk assessment and management of vulnerable populations:** Existing research on prison culture suggests that some inmates are at greater risk to be sexually victimized by other inmates. Inmates believed to be more vulnerable include juveniles, females, and those who are physically weaker, who are serving their first sentences, or who have a mental illness or other cognitive deficits. Correctional administrators at adult and juvenile institutions could benefit from a screening or risk assessment instrument that helps identify inmates who are most likely to succumb to sexual predators. The development and validation of such an instrument would inform policies and practices designed to manage risks and limit the exposure of vulnerable inmates to sexual predators.
  
- D. Research on HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases and sexual violence:** HIV/AIDS and other diseases (including hepatitis B and C, gonorrhea, and syphilis) are more prevalent in correctional populations than in the general population. Research is needed to understand (1) the extent to which sexual assault affects the prevalence of disease in the correctional population and (2) the effectiveness of efforts to prevent or control disease in correctional facilities.

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### III. General Requirements and Guidance

This section describes the main requirements for submitting your proposal. Complete instructions are in “NIJ Guidelines for Submitting Applications,” available on the NIJ Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.

- A. Submit applications online:** Paper applications are not accepted. Applications must be submitted through the Office of Justice Programs’ online Grants Management System. NIJ suggests you begin the process early, especially if this is the first time you have used the system. To begin, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm>.
  
- B. Relevance of the project for policy and practice:** Higher-quality proposals clearly explain the practical implications of the project. They connect technical expertise with policy and practice. To ensure that the project has strong relevance for policy and practice, some researchers and technologists collaborate with practitioners and policymakers. You may include letters showing support from practitioners, but they carry less weight than clear evidence that you understand why policymakers and practitioners would benefit from your work and how they would use it. While a partnership may affect State or local activities, it should also have broader implications for others across the country.
  
- C. Equal opportunity for all applicants:** It is OJP policy that faith-based and community organizations that statutorily qualify as eligible applicants under OJP programs are invited and encouraged to apply for awards. Faith-based and community organizations will be considered for an award on the same basis as any other eligible applicants and, if they receive awards, will be treated on an equal basis with non faith-based and community organization grantees in the administration of such awards. No eligible applicant or grantee will be discriminated against on the basis of its religious character or affiliation, religious name, or the religious composition of its board of directors or persons working in the organization.
  
- D. Cofunding is not required:** You are not required to combine NIJ funds with other funds (for example, you do not need matching funds), but if you intend to use multiple funding sources to support your proposed effort, the budget you submit must show the other funds.
  
- E. Number of grants to be awarded:** NIJ’s grant award process is highly competitive. The number of awards to be made depends on the availability of funds and the number and quality of applications received.
  
- F. When awards will be made:** The review and approval process takes about 6 months. Therefore, you should not propose to begin work until at least 6 months after the deadline on the cover of this solicitation. Also, you should not expect to receive notification of a decision

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for at least 6 months after that date. Lists of awards are updated regularly on NIJ's Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.

- G. Financial audits are required:** If your organization spends \$500,000 or more of Federal funds during the fiscal year, you may be asked to submit an organization-wide financial and compliance audit report before any award is made. The audit must be performed in accordance with the U.S. General Accounting Office Government Accounting Standards and must conform to Chapter 19 of the Office of Justice Programs' *Financial Guide* (available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/FinGuide>). You may include the costs of complying with these audits in the proposed budget submitted as part of your application. Detailed information regarding the independent audit is available in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133 (available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars>).
- H. An environmental assessment may be required:** All award recipients must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To ensure NEPA compliance, NIJ may require some award recipients to submit additional information.
- I. A DUNS number is required:** The Office of Management and Budget requires that all businesses and nonprofit applicants for Federal funds include a DUNS (Data Universal Numeric System) number in their application for a new award or renewal of an award. Applications without a DUNS number are incomplete. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving Federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information. NIJ will use the DUNS number throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, one-time activity. Obtain one by calling 1-866-705-5711 or by applying online at <http://www.dunandbradstreet.com>. Individuals are exempt from this requirement.
- J. Funds cannot be used to lobby:** Under the Anti-Lobbying Act (18 U.S.C. § 1913), grantees generally may not use funds to support the enactment, repeal, or modification of any law, regulation, or policy at any level of government. For the complete rules and regulations, see "NIJ Guidelines for Submitting Applications" at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm> and OJP's *Financial Guide* at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/FinGuide>.
- K. What will *not* be funded:** Typically, NIJ *does not* fund the following:
1. Provision of training or direct service.
  2. Qualitative research on sexual activity or sexual violence in prison.
  3. Studies that duplicate the tasks and duties assigned to the Bureau of Justice Statistics under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003.

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**L. Call for assistance:**

1. For technical guidance about using the Grants Management System, call the hotline at 1-888-549-9901.
2. For questions about this solicitation, the research being solicited, or other NIJ funding opportunities, contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770.

**M. Cost of proposed work:** NIJ anticipates making 2 or 3 awards for projects of up to 36 months and not to exceed \$400,000 each in total costs, including indirect costs. If you propose a project that exceeds the amount of money available for this solicitation, we recommend that you divide the project into phases, stages, or tasks so that NIJ can consider making an award for a specific portion of the work. NIJ cannot guarantee that subsequent phases, stages, or tasks will be funded. Such additional funding depends on NIJ's resources and your satisfactory completion of each phase, stage, or task. Note: Deliverables (e.g., a final report) will be required at the end of each phase, stage, or task.

## **IV. Selection Criteria**

NIJ is firmly committed to the competitive process in awarding grants. All proposals are subjected to an independent peer-review panel evaluation. External peer-review panelists consider both technical and programmatic merits. Panelists are selected based on their expertise in subject areas pertinent to the proposals.

Peer-review panelists evaluate each proposal and give their assessments to NIJ. NIJ staff then recommend to the NIJ Director which proposals are most worthy of an award. The Director makes final award decisions.

Successful applicants must demonstrate the following:

**A. Understanding of the problem and its importance.**

**B. Quality and technical merit.**

1. Awareness of the state of current research or technology.
2. Soundness of methodology and analytic and technical approach.
3. Feasibility of proposed project and awareness of pitfalls.
4. Innovation and creativity (when appropriate).

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**C. Impact of the proposed project.**

1. Potential for significant advances in scientific or technical understanding of the problem.
2. Potential for significant advances in the field.
3. Relevance for improving the policy and practice of criminal justice and related agencies and improving public safety, security, and quality of life.
4. Affordability and cost effectiveness of proposed end products, when applicable (e.g., purchase price and maintenance costs for a new technology or cost of training to use the technology).
5. Perceived potential for commercialization and/or implementation of a new technology (when applicable).

**D. Capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of applicants.**

1. Qualifications and experience of proposed staff.
2. Demonstrated ability of proposed staff and organization to manage the effort.
3. Adequacy of the plan to manage the project, including how various tasks are subdivided and resources are used.
4. Successful past performance on NIJ grants and contracts (when applicable).

**E. Budget.**

1. Total cost of the project relative to the perceived benefit.
2. Appropriateness of the budget relative to the level of effort.
3. Use of existing resources to conserve costs.

**F. Dissemination strategy.**

1. Well-defined plan for the grant recipient to disseminate results to appropriate audiences, including researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.
2. Suggestions for print and electronic products NIJ might develop for practitioners and policymakers.



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## V. Requirements for Successful Applicants

If your proposal is funded, you will be required to submit several reports and other materials as follows:

- A. Final report:** The final report should be a comprehensive overview of the project and should include a detailed description of the project design, data, and methods; a full presentation of scientific findings; and a thorough discussion of the implications of the project findings for criminal justice practice and policy. It must contain an abstract of no more than 400 words and an executive summary of no more than 2,500 words.

A draft of the final report, abstract, and executive summary must be submitted 90 days before the end date of the grant. The draft report will be peer reviewed upon submission. The reviews will be forwarded to the principal investigator with suggestions for revisions. The principal investigator must then submit the revised final report, abstract, and executive summary by the end date of the grant. The abstract, executive summary, and final report must be submitted in both paper and electronic formats.

For evaluation studies, the report should include a section on measuring program performance. This section should outline the measures used to evaluate program effectiveness, modifications made to those measures as a result of the evaluation, and recommendations regarding these and other potential performance measures for similar programs. (This information will be particularly valuable to NIJ and other Federal program agencies in implementing performance measures for federally funded criminal justice programs.)

- B. Interim reports:** Grantees must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, and a final progress report. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent. Post-award reporting requirements are described in “NIJ Guidelines for Submitting Applications,” available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.
- C. Documents that protect the confidentiality of information and human subjects:** Federal regulations require applicants for NIJ funding to outline specific procedures for protecting private information about individuals as part of the Privacy Certificate submitted with the application package. For complete details, see “NIJ Guidelines for Submitting Applications,” available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.
- D. Electronic data:** Some grant recipients will be required to submit electronic data and supporting documentation, such as a codebook or dictionary, capable of being re-analyzed and used by other researchers. The materials must be submitted by the end date of the grant.

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Grant applicants should ensure that the proposed timeline and budget accommodate these requirements.

- E. Performance guidelines:** NIJ collects data to comply with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), Public Law 103-62. Generally, these data are contained in a grantee's final report (discussed in Section V of this solicitation), but NIJ may request additional information to facilitate future planning and to ensure accurate reporting to Congress and others on the measurable results of grants. For complete details, see "NIJ Guidelines for Submitting Applications," available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.

### **Tips for Submitting Your Application**

1. Begin the application process early—especially if you have never used the online Grants Management System before. NIJ will not accept applications received after the closing date and time listed on the cover. To start the process, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm>.
2. Be sure your application package includes:
  - Abstract of no more than 400 words.
  - Complete budget, including detailed worksheet and narrative.
  - Program narrative.
3. Review "NIJ Guidelines for Submitting Applications" for complete instructions, available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.
4. Although your proposal may budget for the purchase of equipment if the equipment is necessary to conduct the project, NIJ will not fund applications that are primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies.
5. Call for help:
  - For technical guidance about the Grants Management System, call the hotline at 1-888-549-9901.
  - For questions about this solicitation, the research being solicited, or other NIJ

View or print a copy of this document from the NIJ Web site (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>) or request one by calling NCJRS at 1-800-851-3420 or e-mailing [askncjrs@ncjrs.org](mailto:askncjrs@ncjrs.org).

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NIJ provides objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to enhance the administration of justice and public safety.

NIJ is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.