

ANALYSIS

Department of State Police Firearm Background Checks

Analyst: John Terpening

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, in an amount up to \$400,000, for funding to improve accuracy, utility, and accessibility of records for fingerprint criminal history background checks.

Analysis: The Bureau of Justice Statistics provides funding to assist states and tribes with improving the accuracy, utility, and accessibility of records to state and federal systems that are used by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and the use of those records for fingerprint-based criminal background checks.

The NICS records include criminal history, felony convictions, warrants, protective orders, convictions for misdemeanors involving domestic violence or stalking, drug arrests and convictions, mental health adjudications, and other information used in part to prohibit individuals from possessing firearms for reasons of domestic violence or mental health under federal law.

If awarded, the Department would utilize most of the grant funds to purchase fifteen Livescan devices and scanners for various agencies around the state to capture fingerprints electronically for better records collection. The estimated cost of a Livescan machine is about \$25,000, not including \$3,375 in annual maintenance and equipment. The remaining funds would be used for the continued improvement of disposition records and reporting to NICS on persons prohibited from possessing firearms for reasons related to mental health.

There is anticipated to be forty project awards for a two-year period with no maximum award amount. The grant application deadline is May 31. This is a competitive grant but does not have a state match requirement.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.

Oregon State Police Fox

Request: The Oregon State Police (OSP) is requesting authorization to apply for a grant of up to \$400,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice for funding to reduce violent crimes and address gun violence.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: OSP requests authorization to apply for a competitive grant through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics for the fiscal year 2023, National Criminal History Improvement Program. The purpose of these grant funds is to support state and tribal governments in their efforts to make criminal history records more complete, accurate, and accessible across state and tribal governments. This funding is intended to assist states and tribes with finding ways to make more name- and fingerprint-based criminal history background checks available to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

If awarded, grant funds will be used by OSP to purchase 15 Livescan devices and scanners for various agencies around the state to capture fingerprints electronically and ensure a digital image is transmitted to OSP. This will provide faster and more accurate fingerprint collection across the state. OSP will also use funds to improve reporting on judicial dispositions and prohibitions on the possession of firearms for individuals with mental health disorders.

The grant application is due May 31, 2023, and has no match requirement. This grant is expected to be awarded in October of 2023.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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May 16, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon State Police (OSP) is requesting approval to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), for the Fiscal Year 2023 National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) Competitive Federal Grant in an amount up to \$400,000.

This grant opportunity provides funding to assist eligible State governments and Federally recognized Native American tribal governments to further the DOJ's mission to reduce violent crime and address gun violence by improving the accuracy, utility, and interstate accessibility of criminal-history and related records in support of national record systems and their use for name- and fingerprint-based criminal history background checks.

BJS expects to make up to forty project awards with no max amount awarded for a twenty- four month period of performance, to begin on October 1, 2023. This grant application deadline is May 31, 2023.

The grant does not require a match.

Agency Action

As a FY 2023 NCHIP Grant recipient, the funding will assist states and tribes with finding ways to make more records available to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), including records in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), criminal history record information available through the Interstate Identification Index (III), and records in the NICS Indices. Therefore, through the funded activities, BJS expects that records will include improved quality, completeness, and timeliness in availability in the systems.

If awarded, OSP will utilize these resources to continue the improvement of reporting of dispositions, and reporting to the NICS of persons who are prohibited from possessing firearms for reasons related to mental health. OSP would use the funds to purchase fifteen Livescan devices and scanners for various agencies around the state to capture fingerprints electronically and ensure a digital image is also transmitted electronically to OSP. This will provide faster and more accurate fingerprint collection across the state.

Action Requested

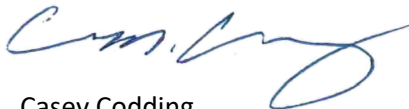
Approve OSP's request to apply for the Fiscal Year 2023 National Criminal History Improvement Program Competitive Grant (NCHIP) through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics in an amount up to \$400,000.

Legislation Affected

None.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Casey Codding', is written over a horizontal line.

Casey Codding
Superintendent
Oregon State Police

cc: Constantin Severe, Governor's Office
 Lisa Fox, Dept. of Administrative Services - Chief Financial Office
 John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office
 Josh Brooks, OSP Deputy Superintendent
 Jenny Cribbs, OSP Financial & Business Services Administrator