

ANALYSIS

Department of State Police Computerized Criminal History

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 \$1,200,000, for funding to improve the computerized criminal history records for state and federal systems.

Analysis: The Bureau of Justice Statistics provides funding to assist states and tribes with improving the completeness, automation, and transmittal of records to state and federal systems that are used by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). 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 these funds for seven limited duration positions that would focus on conducting records analysis, reconciliation with the state repository and the originating agency record, for transfer to the NICS. There is anticipated to be twenty-two project awards for a two-year period. The grant application deadline is June 14. 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 \$1.2 million from the U.S. Department of Justice for supporting more complete, accurate and timely transmittal of records.

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 Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Act Record Improvement Program. The purpose of the grant is to support more complete, accurate, and timely transmittal of applicable records to NICS. Specifically, the grant is intended to improve the overall reporting of persons prohibited from possessing firearms because of a history of domestic violence or mental health disorders. These records include criminal history, felony convictions, warrants, protective orders, convictions for misdemeanors involving domestic violence and stalking, drug arrests and convictions, mental health adjudications, and other information that may disqualify an individual from possessing or receiving a firearm under federal law.

If awarded, grant funds will be used by OSP to support seven positions (one Supervisor 1, five Administrative Specialists, and one Operations and Policy Analyst 3) to collect, analyze, and manage these records and reporting.

The grant application is due June 14, 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 Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) Competitive Federal Grant in the amount up to \$1.2 million.

This grant provides funding to assist eligible states and federally recognized Indian tribal governments with improving the completeness, automation, and transmittal of records to state and federal systems used by the NICS; and to improve the overall reporting of persons prohibited from possessing firearms for reasons related to domestic violence and mental health to the NICS. These records include criminal history, felony convictions, warrants, protective orders, convictions for misdemeanors involving domestic violence and stalking, drug arrests and convictions, mental health adjudications, and other information that may disqualify an individual from possessing or receiving a firearm under federal law.

BJS expects to make up to twenty-two project awards with no max amount awarded for a twenty-four month period of performance, to begin October 1, 2023. The grant application deadline is June 14, 2023.

The grant does not require matching funds.

Agency Action

As a FY 2023 NARIP Grant recipient, the funding will assist states and tribes with finding ways to make more records available to the 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 more records (including improved quality, completeness, and timeliness) will become available in these systems.

If awarded, OSP will continue agency priority of using funds to ensure records are readily available electronically for firearm transfer background checks and in support of all facets of public safety nationwide; and ensure Oregon repository data is exchanged with and made available to state and federal partners through NARIP Grant projects. The grant will provide continued and new funding for positions and equipment within OSP for records management and reconciliation.

These positions include an Operations and Policy Analyst 3, for evaluating agency policy and operations pertaining to repository records for the state. The position will recommend operational and system design improvements to support data exchange for the NARIP and NIAA requirements. Additional positions include one Supervisor 1, and five Administrative Specialists. These positions will be focused on conducting records analysis, record reconciliation between the state repository, and the originating agencies for the applicable NIAA record categories. They will also assist in determining the most cost-effective means of reconciling the records for their availability or transfer to NICS.

Action Requested

Approve OSP's request to apply for the FY 2023 National Instant Criminal Background Check System Act Record Improvement Program Competitive Grant through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Legislation Affected

None.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



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