FY 2010 Recovery Act – Needs Assessment and Developmental Activities for the National Internet Crimes Against Children Data System (NIDS)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Last updated: 6-25-2010 by Katherine.darke.schmitt@usdoj.gov

1. Where can I find the full text of the application instructions for the solicitation?

    The instructions are provided in the solicitation, which is posted at
    ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2010/ARRA%20NIDS.pdf.

2. When are applications due?

    Applications should be submitted via Grants.gov at www.grants.gov not later than July 15, 2010. Note that using Grants.gov requires a preregistration process which must be completed several days prior to the solicitation closing date, July 15, 2010.

3. Are there additional resources besides the solicitation which could help me prepare an application?

    Yes, see page 15 of the solicitation document for instructions about having resource materials sent overnight to your law enforcement agency for your review.

4. How much funding is available for an award under this solicitation?

    On June 25, 2010, the amount available for this award was raised from $905,000 to $921,102. The solicitation, which is posted at http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2010/ARRA%20NIDS.pdf was updated tor reflect this change.

5. What do I attach under "Attachments" in Grants.gov? What do I attach under "Other Attachments" in Grants.gov?

    Applicants may upload whatever attachments they choose under "Attachments" and every other attachment under "Other Attachments." It does not matter in the application review process where the attachments were uploaded as long as they are included with the application.

6. Is there anyone at OJJDP I may contact for additional information about the solicitation requirements?

    If you have questions about the solicitation requirements, contact Katherine Darke Schmitt at 202-616-7373 or katherine.darke.schmitt@usdoj.gov.

7. Who is eligible to submit an application under this solicitation?

    Any one of the 61 OJJDP-funded ICAC Task Force agencies in the United States may submit an application. Because this program has both research and software development components, it is anticipated that ICAC agencies proposing to serve as the lead grantee will need to include partners with these areas of expertise in their applications. Applicants may also propose to subcontract with public and private organizations under the terms of the OJP Financial Guide.

    If you are not an ICAC Task Force but wish to form a partnership with an ICAC Task Force in order to submit an application under this program, you may find contact information for the ICAC Task Force agencies at: www.icactraining.org/TF_Contacts.htm.

8. On page 5, it states 'It is expected that all project materials, including any software or computer applications, must be developed exclusively with these federal funds." A strict interpretation of this clause prohibits any type of 'in-kind' contribution to this project. For example, the needs assessment is clearly project material - is this a requirement that I would not be able to work on this unless the grant was paying my salary. How far does this go? Does it include use of State Police computers or office space?

    We would anticipate that the successful applicant, should it propose any in-kind support for the project, would be required as a condition of the award to agree that any work supported with such in-kind support will be deemed to be work performed under the award with federal award funds.

    Any proposed in-kind contributions ("match"), although not required, should be identified clearly in the proposed budget.

    Some of the types of costs mentioned in your question may be includable as indirect costs chargeable to the award.

9. Since the kinds of software and tools that might need to be developed may not be evident until after some part of the needs assessment activities funded under this proposal are completed, is it acceptable to include a strategy for identifying what software/tools are needed, rather than a description of what tools will be created with these funds?

    Yes, that is an appropriate strategy for handling the software/tool development activities associated with this program.

10. How does the Department intend to decide what materials may be published and what may not?

    The Department will work with the grantee and subgrantees or partners involved in the research aspects of this program to identify what, if any, materials may be published on a case-by-case basis. Some information/material may never be allowed for publication; other products, such as the literature review, might be reviewed and approved by the Department for publication.

11. Will all the project funds have to flow through the ICAC Task Force agency to the partners/subgrantees/subcontractors? Or may partners receive funds directly from OJJDP?

    All funds will be awarded to the ICAC Task Force agency that is the primary grantee for this project. The ICAC Task Force agency will then disburse funds to project partners (with approval from DOJ) through subgrants and subcontracts.

12. May these funds be used for any other activities besides those described in the solicitation?

No, only expenditures for activities and deliverables described in the solicitation are permissible uses for these funds.

13. On page 9, the solicitation says: "Consistent with federal law and regulations, DOJ will retain ownership rights to all deliverables under the award, including the assessment, reports, software or tools, and any raw data collected in the process of completing any product. No data or other products produced will be used, published, or made public in any way that is not expressly approved by DOJ in advance, consistent with individual data agreements executed with the DOJ credentialed law enforcement agencies." What are the federal laws and regulations we are talking about? This clause also needs clarification, in light of the fact our partners will be academic institutions and they need special permission to participate in projects where there is a prohibition to publish.

Pertinent federal laws and regulations include the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5), the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-401), 28 C.F.R. Parts 66 and 70, 48 C.F.R. Part 27, and 28 U.S.C. 530C

14. Would an organization that successfully completes for this grant to do the NIDS Needs Assessment be eligible to submit a proposal under a future solicitation to build the NIDS?

The grantee that conducted the needs assessment would be eligible to apply for a future grant (or contract) to build the NIDS. To the extent that the grantee was privy to information that might give it an advantage over other applicants, that information would be shared with all other interested and qualified applicants.

15. How should the sections of the application be ordered?

The Program Narrative will include the following sections:
_____ Statement of the Problem
_____ Project Design and Implementation
 _____ Performance Measures Requirements including Impact/Outcomes and Evaluation and Plan for Collecting Data for Performance Measures
 _____ Capabilities/Competencies

Those sections are all part of the 30 page limit for the Program Narrative. There would be no penalty for changing the order of those components within the narrative if the applicant chooses to put them in a different order.

The other attachments:
    Project Timeline
    Résumés
    Position Descriptions
    Letters of Support/MOUs

will be submitted as be one or more attachments, and can be uploaded individually in any order or combined in a single attachment.

16. Is the expectation that the successful applicant will pay costs associated with the focus group attendance? If so, which costs?

    Applicants should budget for costs associated with travel, hotel, and per diem for focus group participants. It is up to the applicant to determine whether or not to include a consulting fee for focus group members.