

## **FY 2013 NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) – Summary of Activities**

Commonly used acronyms:

**AFIS** - Automated Fingerprint Identification System

**CCH** - Computerized Criminal History

**IAFIS** - Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System

**III** - Interstate Identification Index

**NCIC** - National Crime Information Center

**NICS** – National Instant Criminal Background Check System

**NIEM** – National Information Exchange Model

**NFF** - National Fingerprint File

**XML** - Extensible Markup Language

**Alabama** (\$800,000) The Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC) will use funds to: 1) improve the state's CCH to provide local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, and other criminal justice agencies with accurate and up-to-date information directly related to NICS checks; 2) develop a system that will provide an automated mechanism for Probate Courts to forward orders involving the involuntary commitment of persons for inpatient mental health treatment to ACJIC, and produce and conduct necessary education and training involving involuntary commitments for Alabama's probate court, local law enforcement and mental health officials; and 3) build web services using Global Standards to connect to Municipal Court case management systems in order to receive dispositions that qualify for crimes of domestic violence and integrate the data into a domestic violence dashboard to be used by local courts.

**Arizona** (\$657,313) The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) will use funds to complete tasks to address recommendations outlined in the Arizona NICS Records Improvement Plan, which was completed in March 2013 and includes over 30 recommendations to address deficiencies in the submittal of Arizona records to the NICS: 1) ACJC will work collaboratively with the NICS Task Force to conduct an analysis of and identify action steps for the Arizona Disposition Reporting System (ADRS) segmented functional requirements and document lessons learned for implementation of XML system exchange capabilities; 2) ACJC will continue activities to support the Arizona NICS Record Improvement Plan (a deliverable from the 2011 NARIP award) to encourage ongoing collaboration of record improvement efforts between the Arizona NICS Task Force stakeholders; and 3) ACJC will contract vendor services to implement a NIEM-based data exchange to forward NICS qualifying records from the Administrative Office of the Courts case management system to the NICS for criminal justice records that do not meet record match criteria in the ADRS.

**Florida** (\$1,500,000) The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) will use funds to complete tasks associated with the following objectives: 1) augment staff for the Florida Firearm Purchase Program (FPP) to handle significant increases in incoming calls, including entry of

dealer information into the state's online Firearms Eligibility System (FES) for firearms transactions and entry of purchaser demographic information for the record checks; 2) hire staff to research missing felony dispositions, process disposition records received from Clerks of Court that require manual intervention, and assist the FDLE FPP in researching felony arrests without a disposition; 3) employ staff to enter historical data into the state's Mental Competency (MECOM) database, work with Clerks of Court to conduct research and analysis of records to improve the processing and maintenance of these records, complete evaluation of civil mental health data to establish a baseline for the state by county, and create and conduct training for local Clerks of Court; 4) contract with a vendor to perform a thorough data profile and analysis of the state's Computerized Criminal History (CCH) data to pinpoint anomalies or outliers that exist in the data in order to develop a more accurate set of standardized records, reduce the error queue, and provide for faster access to criminal history information for firearm purchase determinations and decisions on sensitive licensing and employment; 5) complete programmatic efforts to streamline the process that the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services follows when conducting background checks for current or potential armed security guards to determine when individuals are no longer eligible to possess concealed weapons permits and/or security guard licenses; and 6) continue efforts to modernize Florida's criminal history repository to provide access to more complete information to make determinations whether a gun purchaser is prohibited from purchasing a firearm by making enhancements such as adding a probation termination data field, accurately documenting the charges added while a subject is still in jail custody; and standardizing data that include felony, domestic violence, and other disqualifying information to make it discernible from other records.

**Idaho** (\$231,181) Through a strategic information sharing initiative and use of grant opportunities, the Idaho State Police (ISP), Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) continues to move towards its information sharing goals. In Idaho, a concealed weapon permit can be used as a NICS alternative to purchase a weapon. State sheriffs can issue the permit after a fingerprint based criminal history check and a NICS check have been performed. However, the sheriffs who issue these permits are not always notified when the permit holder is later arrested for a crime that is listed as a prohibitory crime. The ISP will use funds to this address this issue and provide immediate notification of a prohibitory arrest to the sheriff, by using funds to develop a rap-back program within the current message switch system. The new state rap-back program will be interfaced with the FBI rap-back program. When a person applies for a concealed weapons permit and prints are submitted to the BCI for a criminal history background check, the prints will be retained in the state and FBI automated fingerprint identification systems. If a new arrest matches those prints, a message will be sent to the sheriff via a new web based notification system that the permit holder has been arrested. The sheriff can then research to see if the arrest is prohibitory. If so, the sheriff can revoke the concealed carry permit immediately. Currently, if the arresting agency does not notice the arrestee has a concealed weapon permit or does not notify the issuing sheriff of the arrest, the issuing sheriff may not know of the arrest for up to 5 years, when the permit is eligible for renewal.

**Illinois** (\$1,500,000) The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) will subcontract funds to the Illinois State Police (ISP) to continue efforts to automate the process of submitting disqualifying records of prohibited persons to the NICS Index. Previous investments by ISP with assistance from the NARIP FY 2010 and FY 2012 projects have established a technology architecture that allows for a modular and flexible development effort. As a result, usable functionality can be delivered on a periodic basis throughout the development effort. This program will be building on the currently funded business process design and development approach that utilizes web services to allow multiple software components to communicate among themselves and with legacy systems. The use of this approach and industry standard products has ISP well positioned to continue the current efforts and successfully implement the program outlined. Funds will be used to support implementation of a program that consists of two strategic initiatives: the development and implementation of a comprehensive case management system and real-time reporting of all denied persons to NICS. The ISP has made great strides in developing the capability to transmit disqualifying mental health information to NICS, and this project will allow for the capacity to capture information from the courts and other data sources and report all prohibited persons to NICS on a large scale, and on a timely basis.

**Indiana** (\$831,000) The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute will transfer funds to the Indiana State Police to: 1) begin the submission of all Indiana disqualifiers to NICS to ensure the completeness and accuracy of all new information submitted to the state and national databases; 2) send suspense file data (e.g. dispositions not matched to an arrest) to NICS so it is available to law enforcement and others using data to perform background checks for criminal justice and non-criminal justice purposes; and 3) enhance firearm permit background checks to eliminate manual searches during application processing. Funds will also be used to partially cover the staff responsible for coordination and administration of this grant.

**Louisiana** (\$1,128,631) The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) will use funds to improve the data quality of criminal history records and the reporting of mental health records to NICS by: 1) Increasing the number of courts reporting felony convictions and mental health records to NICS; 2) Providing a standardized charge code file for use statewide by district attorneys; and, 3) Establishing a NICS Record Improvement Task Force to work with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) to begin reporting legacy mental health information to NICS. In addition, LCLE will use some funds to support of a Criminal Justice Policy Planner to assist in coordinating the activities of the NICS Record Improvement Task Force.

**Maryland** (\$159,627) The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) will sub-award funds to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to develop an automated data reporting system to transmit mental health information on persons prohibited from possessing firearms to the NICS. Specifically, these funds will be used to build a DHMH-maintained database that collects information on persons prohibited from

possessing firearms for mental health reasons and connects to a statewide hub that is maintained by DPSCS. This database will streamline the process for reporting mental health information to the DPSCS hub. Staff hours will be devoted to developing an electronic form, which will be used by all state mental institutions and private hospitals to report data to the DHMH database in real time. The DPSCS hub will transmit this data to NICS. When individuals successfully petition the court to have their ability to purchase firearms restored, the DHMH database will transmit that information to the DPSCS hub, and those names will be removed from the NICS index. Funds will also be used to purchase hardware and secure software to ensure that the DHMH database has sufficient capacity to store information reported to the DPSCS hub. The DHMH database will have a data analysis function that can be used to query the system and generate reports to monitor compliance with the reporting of disqualifying mental health data.

**Missouri** (\$1,119,490) The Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) will work with the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) and the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS) to implement improved criminal history record capture procedures in Missouri courts, prosecutors' offices, and law enforcement agencies. OSCA will use funds to upgrade the court's Justice Information System to initiate and dispose of criminal and probate court case information. MOPS will use funds to install the Karpel Case Management System in the remaining 16 prosecutors' offices throughout the state. MSHP will expand the state's AFIS and purchase and install livescan fingerprint devices to ensure that accurate and complete criminal history information is electronically transmitted to the FBI for inclusion in the national databases.

**Nebraska** (\$396,000) The Nebraska State Patrol will use funds to reprogram the criminal history repository software to take advantage of the latest application development technologies and establish the foundation for a new Patrol Criminal History (PCH) system. The Nebraska State Patrol will hire two contractors to start the architecture development to compare and synchronize data between PCH and AFIS data to increase the number of complete records available to the FBI. Funds will also be used to convert data received from the courts to a format compatible with the NICS Index to improve the accuracy and completeness of reporting misdemeanor convictions of domestic violence to the FBI.

**Nevada** (\$123,461) The Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS) will use funds to support its efforts to re-architect the Nevada Criminal Justice Information System (NCJIS) environment, which includes the CCH, with a technology environment that leverages industry standards and products within a technology framework that is modular and incrementally upgradeable in order to respond and adapt to state and national operational and public safety needs. DPS will retain contractual services to conduct a needs assessment to address the following areas: detail additional DPS effort required to replace the state Domestic Violence Protection Order Registry System; provide critical details that will assist DPS in defining the software and hardware requirements with respect to NCJIS Modernization for replacement of the CCH, Message Switch, Hot Files, and Domestic Violence Protection Order Registry; and, assist DPS staff with a review of Requests for Proposals for replacement of core components of the NCJIS environment.

This project is critical to supporting the state's efforts as a NICS Point-of-Contact state to ensure uninterrupted access to the CCH, Hot Files, Domestic Violence Protection Order Registry, NCIC, III, and the NICS Index to obtain criminal history record and other relevant information on potential firearms purchasers to determine if the purchasers would be prohibited by state or federal law from possessing firearms.

**Oregon** (\$640,000) The Oregon State Police (OSP) will use funds to continue the work of the state's NICS Record Improvement Reconciliation Team to research, review, and update records that have either not been reported to NICS or are missing details critical to the decision-making process for firearms transfer qualification reviews and to assess improvements that can be made to further enhance automated record exchanges with contributing agencies. The goal of the team is to ensure that records for prohibited individuals are available to NICS expediently either through III or the NICS Index. Funds will continue to support mental health adjudication and relief granted reporting activities, as well as continued work on locating and posting of missing or incomplete court records within the NIAA categories of Felony Arrests, Unlawful Drug Use and Potential Misdemeanor Crimes of Domestic Violence. Specifically, funds will support six Office Specialist positions, one Support Services Supervisor position that serves as project manager and provides supervision and resource support to the team, and one Information Systems Specialist Information Technology position. The team has set a target of updating 3,500 records per month for older records that have been incomplete or not reported. To date, the team has successfully researched, collected, and submitted all known qualifying Oregon mental health prohibited person records to the NICS Index and established the ongoing reporting process and quality assurance maintenance functions to sustain the project for future reporting.

**Texas** (\$188,733) The Texas Office of Court Administration (OCA) will use funds to increase the number of prohibiting protective order records made available to the NICS by conducting a systemic review and analysis of the protective order reporting process in Texas, from the filing of an application for a protective order or request for a magistrate's order of emergency protection to entry into Texas Crime Information Center, through case studies in rural, suburban, and urban jurisdictions. Staff members funded through this award will develop and administer pre-interview surveys, then travel to local jurisdictions to interview participants involved in the protective order process. A webinar training on improving protective order reporting will be offered to each jurisdiction. In addition, a task force will be created to focus on strategic planning for the improvement of the quality and availability of prohibiting protective order records used by NICS.

**Utah** (\$400,000) Utah State government, in conjunction with units of Utah local government and State and local courts, are working together to establish and upgrade information and identification technologies for firearms eligibility determinations. Utah is a NICS Point-of-Contact (POC) state for the pre-sale of firearms background checks. The Department of Public Safety/Bureau of Criminal Identification (DPS/BCI) is responsible for performing the checks. Funds will be used to rewrite the gun background check system in application languages

supported by the Department of Information Technology Services, and to replace the call-in background check request system with an online application for FFL dealers. The rewrite will reduce data entry errors and enhance audit and reporting capabilities, as well as allow Utah to conduct more efficient and comprehensive firearm-related background checks.

**West Virginia** (\$600,000) The West Virginia Supreme Court will use NARIP funds to improve the completeness, automation, and transmittal of records in the area of mental health prohibitors and to support the state's efforts to improve the reporting of criminal dispositions. NARIP funds will be used to contract with twelve Mental Health Record Specialists that will be stationed in the Circuit Courts' offices to review up to twenty years of mental health records on file and assess the availability of records on site. The Mental Health Record Specialists will cumulatively review at least 20,000 case files and will enter all disqualifying mental health records identified into the Central State Mental Health Registry for inclusion in NICS.