

Addendum to the National Criminal History Information Program (NCHIP) for Tribal Applicants

The NCHIP program was initiated in 1995 and has encompassed evolving efforts to support state activities for the establishment of records systems and the collection and use of criminal history and related records. Since 1995, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has awarded NCHIP funds to states and territories to support the following areas: record improvement and support for courts; participation in the Interstate Identification Index and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; automation of records and fingerprint data; sex offender registries; and domestic violence records and protection orders.

The Tribal Law and Order Act, enacted in 2010, extends eligibility to tribes to apply for NCHIP funding. Tribes may apply directly for funding, or may submit applications as part of a multi-state consortium, multi-tribe consortium, or other entity. Tribes are encouraged to collaborate on proposed activities with their state NCHIP agency when developing an application for NCHIP funds. Tribes should contact the appropriate state NCHIP administering agency. The contact list for the state NCHIP administering agencies is available on the BJS website -<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=471#Contacts>.

Indian Country Eligibility Requirements for NCHIP Grant Funding

The following requirements must be fulfilled in order for a tribe to be considered for NCHIP funding:

1. The applicant must be a Federally recognized tribe;
2. The applicant must have an authorized tribal law enforcement agency;
3. The applicant must have an authorized tribal court system (includes consortiums);
4. The applicant must have an FBI verified and validated Originating Agency Identifier (ORI) (Note: an ORI is not required if a tribe elects to submit records to the state for subsequent submission to NCIC); and
5. The applicant must demonstrate its current ability to transmit records to the FBI, either through its own systems, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or the state.

This is a competitive funding opportunity, and eligible applications will be evaluated, scored, and rated on the requirements outlined in the solicitation by a peer review panel. The solicitation provides detailed instructions on how to apply for this solicitation and information about the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) review process. The FY2011 NCHIP solicitation is posted to the BJS website – http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/nchip11_sol.pdf.

Required Application Materials

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Program Narrative
3. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative
4. Tribal Authorizing Resolution

Please refer to page 23 of the solicitation for a complete checklist of required documents and information. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application contains all of the required elements.

Indian Country Priority Areas for FY2011 NCHIP Grant Funding

The NCHIP program priority themes are outlined in the solicitation. Given the need to improve the accessibility of records in NCIC, tribes may wish to propose activities related to the following objectives:

1. Development and/or implementation of information technology systems or databases to capture and transmit tribal issued domestic violence and stalking records via the state or directly to the FBI's NCIC Protection Order File;

2. Automation and transmission of existing qualifying domestic violence and stalking records in a format compatible with the FBI's NCIC Protection Order File;
3. Development and/or implementation of information technology systems or databases to assist tribes in identifying, capturing, and transmitting felony and misdemeanor convictions of domestic violence or stalking.

Questions about NCHIP eligibility requirements and the application process may be directed to Devon Adams or Allina Boutilier at 202-307-0765 or via email to askbjs@usdoj.gov. Please include "NCHIP/TRIBAL" in the subject line. Additional funding and grant application resources can be found on the OJP website -<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/funding.htm>.

Information about the National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

NCIC was launched in 1967 and is an automated database operated by the FBI that houses law enforcement investigative records on wanted and missing persons and stolen property. The first tribal ORI was issued in 1985. By the end of 2009, NCIC contained more than 15 million active records in 19 files. NCIC averages over 8 million transactions per day. It's been called the lifeline of law enforcement—an electronic clearinghouse of crime data that can be tapped into by virtually every criminal justice agency nationwide, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

NCIC operates under a shared management concept between the FBI and federal, state, local, and tribal criminal justice users under provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972. There are two facets to the shared management concept—policy and functional. The policy facet provides a means for user input on NCIC policy through the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board. The functional facet provides a means for agencies to access NCIC. The FBI provides a telecommunication line to a single point of contact in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Canada, as well as federal criminal justice agencies. Those jurisdictions, in turn, operate their own computer systems, providing access to nearly all local criminal justice agencies and authorized non-criminal justice agencies nationwide. The entry, modification, and removal of records are the responsibility of the agency that entered them. The CJIS Division serves as the custodian of NCIC records.

The NCIC database includes 19 files: 7 property files and 12 person files. NCIC Hot File records are available to criminal justice agencies nationwide and includes the **Protection Order File (POF)**—Records on individuals against whom protection orders have been issued. Once an Order for Protection is entered into NCIC, criminal justice agencies throughout the country have access to information about that Order, greatly increasing the ability of law enforcement agencies nationwide to properly respond to allegations of violations. A Protection Order record that is entered into NCIC must be supported by a protection order.

Tribal law enforcement agencies, courts, or justice agencies in Indian country must have NCIC access to enter Orders of Protection into the NCIC POF or to effectively use any of the other databases housed by the FBI under the NCIC databases (e.g. UCR, NIBRS, N-Dex , NICS). **The primary technical requirements for access to NCIC are a valid ORI and access to the NCIC 2000 Operating Manual.**

Questions about NCIC access may be directed to the FBI, Garnet Tucker, Management and Program Analyst, 304-625-3543. Additional information may also be found on the FBI website - <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ncic>.