

**National Pretrial Reporting Program (NPRP) 2020**

**FY 2020 Competitive Grant Solicitation Teleconference**

**April 15, 2020, 2:00 PM EST**

**TRANSCRIPT**

SUZANNE STRONG: Hi, everybody. This is Suzanne from BJS. We will get started shortly. I just wanted to make sure that you could all hear me.

MAN: Yes, we can.

SUZANNE STRONG: Great, thank you. I'll be back shortly.

SUZANNE STRONG: It's 2:00 now, and I'm just gonna give, uh, another minute because it looks like we have a number of people already on the line. Thanks for your patience. I'll be right back. Probably start in about 2 minutes.

SUZANNE STRONG: I don't want to let it go too late, so good afternoon and thank you for joining the call to discuss the National Pretrial Reporting Program solicitation, or NPRP. We will ask that you do not identify yourself or your research organization as we look at the questions asked today to be anonymous. We are also recording this call and will make it available on our website at a later date. I think today, we'll start with introductions, the description of the project, and then the purpose of today's call. In terms of introductions, my name is Suzanne Strong. I'm a statistician in BJS's Prosecution and Adjudication Statistics Unit. I will be serving as the project manager for the NPRP.

KEVIN SCOTT: And I am Kevin Scott. I'm the acting unit chief for Prosecution and Adjudication Statistics at the Bureau of Justice Statistics. As Suzanne noted, this discussion will be recorded, and a transcription will be made available on BJS.gov.

SUZANNE STRONG: So I wanted to give a bit of background on the solicitation for NPRP. So this solicitation seeks to expand BJS's Court Data Collection to address what happens while defendants have a pending disposition. The collection is designed to focus on what happens between case filing and case disposition, especially in terms of pre-trial release, detention, and misconduct. BJS previously collected these data under the name of NPRP—the National Pretrial Reporting Program—from 1988 to 1994, and then under the name of State Court Processing Statistics from 1994 to 2006, with a final collection in 2009. BJS renamed the project to NPRP, and this solicitation more accurately reflects the purpose of the collection, which is to collect pre-trial data. As of today, we do not know how many people have had pre-trials. We do not know under what financial or non-financial conditions defendants are released. We do not know the effects of changes in pre-trial practices, such as jail schedules or pre-trial risk assessments and how those have impacted the pre-trial landscape. There are three primary goals of the NPRP in this solicitation. The first is to collect a small pre-test of up to 10 counties, specifically focused on examining pre-trial release before and after some change in pre-trial practices, such as the introduction of a pre-trial risk-assessment tool for a change in pre-trial law. The second is to collect pre-

trial release data, pre-trial detention data, and misconduct data in the 75 largest urban counties. And the last goal of NPRP is to try to expand the data collection through a strategic sample of 50 more counties, to be descriptive of the largest 200 counties in the United States.

KEVIN SCOTT: The National Pretrial Reporting Program, which we originally called the State Court Processing Statistics, has not been fielded since 2009. We figured there might be some questions about the solicitation and what agencies we expect would be included in the process of obtaining all of the data necessary to describe pre-trial release, detention, and misconduct. On this call, we ask that you do not identify yourself or your organization. This call is being recorded, and we'll provide the transcript on the BJS website. We would like to open the line to your questions, and I'm going to change my audio feed.

SUZANNE STRONG: Are there any questions?

SUZANNE STRONG: Don't be shy. I don't know if anybody has any questions, but just go ahead and speak up.

WOMAN: To which degree do you see the (indistinct distorted) done by the Urban Institute last year?

SUZANNE STRONG: Well, that's a good question. So that's correct. The Urban Institute did conduct a feasibility study of the National Pretrial Reporting Program, which we published and made available in the solicitation. So...I think that that work, the feasibility work, informs the solicitation in that we expect that there won't be a single source of pre-trial information in counties, that you'll have—that the people conducting this data collection will have to go to multiple agencies. So I would recommend that applicants read that report and try and use it to understand what the challenges are to collecting pre-trial data, misconduct data, criminal-history data, but be aware that the recommendations made in that report may or may not stand in this particular data collection. For example, this data collection intends to collect data from 75 counties and then to supplement that with an additional 50-county sample. That is not the plan that was recommended in that report. So it's very informative, but there will be differences between the feasibility study and this particular project. I hope that answers your question.

WOMAN: That's helpful, thank you.

SUZANNE STRONG: Perfect.

SUZANNE STRONG: Any other questions? I think what we'll do is stay on the line until about 2:15 unless you have any more questions. And I still will take it as a compliment that maybe BJS wrote a really great solicitation where we won't leave anything unturned for you all. But we'll stay on the line until 2:15 in case there are more questions.

SUZANNE STRONG: OK, well, thank you for calling in today. If there are ever any other questions, you can email AskBJS.