DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Statistics; Hate Crime Statistics Improvement Program

[OJP (BJS)–1144]

RIN 1121–ZA90

AGENCY: Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Justice.

ACTION: Solicitation for award of cooperative agreement.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to announce a public solicitation for services related to improving the accuracy and geographic coverage of hate crime statistics, developing trend data with regard to hate crime statistics and identifying ''best practices'' regarding the collection of hate crime statistics.

DATES: Proposals must be postmarked on or before December 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Proposals should be mailed to: Application Coordinator, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 810 7th Street, NW, Suite 2400, Washington, DC 20531, (202) 616–3500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles R. Kindermann, Ph.D., Senior Statistician, Bureau of Justice Statistics, (202) 616–3489.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Crimes motivated by bias are devastating because of their impact on the victims and the polarizing effect that such crimes have on a community. Although many people believe that the hate crime problem is increasing, the statistical evidence for an increase is very weak. More specifically, the available statistical evidence understates the incidence of hate crime and does not provide valid indications of trends. Obtaining accurate information on the incidence of hate crime is crucial to understanding the full scope of the problem and effectively deploying resources to combat it.

Currently, hate crime statistics are compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, which itself relies on voluntarily reported data. Little more than half the nation's 16,000 UCR-participating law enforcement agencies report hate crime data, and a majority of those that do participate in the FBI's hate crime reporting program indicate that each year their jurisdiction experienced no hate crimes at all.

There are four points at which failures in reporting can occur: victims reporting to their local law enforcement agencies, law enforcement officers recording the fact that the reported incident is a hate or bias crime, official determination that the reported crime was indeed bias-motivated, and transmitting the information from local law enforcement agencies to the FBI's UCR program. These factors complicate the Attorney General's efforts to publish a meaningful annual report on hate crimes under the Hate Crime Statistics Act (HCSA). While the HCSA does not specify any particular method of data collection, the Attorney General delegated the duty of collecting hate crime statistics to the Director of the FBI who, in turn, assigned this responsibility to the FBI's UCR program. The FBI assembles the information provided by state and local agencies and annually publishes a national hate crime statistics report which is available from the FBI in printed form on its website (http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/hatecm.htm).

The FBI is gradually phasing in a replacement for the summary UCR program which is called the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Every incident reported in the NIBRS program allows for an indicator of whether or not it is a hate crime, so widespread implementation of NIBRS by law enforcement agencies is currently viewed as an important mechanism for enhancing hate crime reporting.

Consistent with its role as the statistical arm of the Justice Department and its longstanding interest in hate crime statistics, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is adding hate crime questions to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) to provide a national estimate of the overall extent of hate crimes. In addition, BJS has developed this solicitation to learn more about the impediments to local jurisdictions' participation in the collection of hate crime statistics and transmission of the statistics to the FBI for compilation at the national level. The work to be carried out under this solicitation will be closely coordinated with the FBI.

Objectives

The purpose of this award is to develop and/or recommend methodologies and procedures that will improve the quality and accuracy of hate crime statistics, to improve the geographic coverage of hate crime statistics, and to recommend procedures that will result in reliable trend data. Profiles of jurisdictions that currently collect accurate hate crime statistics will be developed that will result in ''best practices'' models.

Type of Assistance

It is anticipated that assistance, in the form of one cooperative agreement of up to $100,000, will be awarded for a one-year period of study.

Statutory Authority

The cooperative agreement to be awarded pursuant to this solicitation will be funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics consistent with its mandate as set forth in 42 U.S.C. 3732.

Eligibility Requirements

Consistent with fiscal requirements of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, both profit-making and nonprofit organizations may apply for funds. However, no fees may be charged against the project by profit-making organizations.

Scope of Work

The object of this solicitation is to obtain a cost-effective research study that will assist the federal government in identifying activities to be undertaken in the future towards the goal of improving the accuracy and reporting of hate crime statistics, producing accurate trend data on hate crime, and developing ''best practices'' models.

The applicant must specify a detailed timetable for each task involved in the project. The successful applicant's timetable will be reviewed by the BJS grant monitor; after agreement on a final timetable, all work must be completed as scheduled.

The successful applicant must convene an advisory group comprised of representatives from a cross section of the community (to include a representative of victim advocates, victims, law enforcement agencies, government, business, education, legislators). This group will meet periodically throughout the course of the project to review progress, give advice, make recommendations for follow-up and implementation of research recommendations, and to review the final report. Both BJS and the FBI will provide key input to the selection of membership on the group. Staff work (including both administrative support for meetings, payment, and substantive drafting tasks) for the group will be provided by the recipient organization.

In addition, the applicant must choose from the following tasks and propose activities to accomplish the tasks (not all listed tasks need be included in the application):

1. Through the evaluation of current hate crimes training programs, recommend how they might be utilized

or modified to improve the accuracy, reliability, and geographic coverage of hate crime statistics.

2. Evaluate the effectiveness of existing training curricula or materials that help law enforcement officers recognize and report hate or bias-motivated crimes, and produce a synthesized model incorporating the best features of them based on evaluations and other criteria stated in the proposal.

3. Improve national estimates of the incidence, type, and trends of hate crimes, based on the UCR program as a model (data to be aggregated from law enforcement jurisdictions).

4. Evaluate the impact of incident-based crime reporting systems (that include a check box or similar item for identifying each incident as bias-motivated or not) on the quality of hate crime statistics.

5. Assess the status of hate crime reporting in a stratified sample of law enforcement agencies throughout the country (the strata could include the following: degree of urbanization, geographic region, size of agency, and hate crime reporting history). From this assessment:

—Discuss and recommend steps to be taken by law enforcement agencies to produce quality hate crime statistics.
—Identify effective ''screening'' and ''verification'' procedures for first identifying and then confirming the bias motivation.
—Determine factors associated with disparities in hate crime statistics reporting.
—Identify impediments to hate crime reporting at both the agency and the individual officer levels.

6. Convene a focus group made up of representatives of groups vulnerable to hate crimes, relevant advocacy groups, and hate crime victims who did not report the crime to police, to ascertain methods of improving hate crime reporting.

7. Examine the relationship between the characteristics of jurisdictions and agencies (population size, regional location, UCR crime rate, racial/ethnic mix, age distribution, median income, presence or absence of community policing, etc.) and the level of reporting of hate crime statistics.

8. Assess the circumstances that led law enforcement agencies to develop effective hate crimes programs, such as whether there was a significant event, or other factors, that resulted in jurisdictions collecting accurate hate crime statistics; or in what ways was the adoption of such hate crime statistics collection methods related to instituting proactive efforts by the police to prevent hate crime?

The recipient must produce a final report for submission to the Bureau of Justice Statistics which details the study, and suggests methods of improving the accuracy and geographic coverage of hate crime statistics, producing accurate trend data on hate crime, and developing ''best practices'' models.

Suggested References

Bishop, Eric and Jeff Slowikowski. ''Hate Crime.'' Fact Sheet 29. Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice. August, 1995.

Bureau of Justice Assistance. ''A Policymaker's Guide to Hate Crimes.'' Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice. 1996.

Community Relations Service. ''Hate Crime: The Violence of Intolerance.'' Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice. 1997.

Federal Bureau of Investigation. ''Hate Crime Data Collection Guidelines.'' Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice. 1996.

Federal Bureau of Investigation. ''Training Guide for Hate Crime Data Collection.'' Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice. 1997.

Federal Bureau of Investigation. ''Hate Crime Statistics, 1995.'' Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice. 1996.

''Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990,'' Pub. L. 100–275 (104 Stat. 140). 1990.

Jacobs, James B. and Barry Eisler. ''The Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990''; Criminal Law Bulletin. Warren Gorham and Lamont. Boston, Massachusetts. 1993, p. 99–123.

Klanwatch, a Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center. ''The Dynamics of Youth, Hate and Violence.'' Klanwatch Intelligence Report. Montgomery, Alabama. October, 1995.

Levin, Jack and Jack McDevitt. ''Hate Crimes: The Rising Tide of Bigotry and Bloodshed.'' New York. Plenum Press. 1993.

Lieberman, Michael. ''Federal Action to Confront Hate Crimes: Preventing Violence and Improving Police Response.'' New Challenges: The Civil Rights Record of the Clinton Administration Mid-Term. Washington, D.C.: Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights. 1995. p. 217–229.

McLaughlin, Karen A. and Kelly J. Brilliant. ''Healing the Hate: A National Bias Crime Prevention Curriculum for Middle Schools.'' Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice. 1997.

NGLTF Policy Institute. ''Anti-Gay and Lesbian Violence in 1994: National Trends, Analysis, and Incident Summaries.'' Washington, D.C. 1991.

Nolan, J. & Y. Akiyama. ''Assessing the Factors That Affect Law Enforcement Participation In Hate Crime Reporting.'' Washington, D.C.: Federal Bureau of Investigation. 1997.

Office for Victims of Crime. ''National Bias Crimes Training for Law Enforcement and Victim Assistance Professionals: A Guide for Training Instructors.'' Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice. 1995.

Award Procedures

Proposals should describe in detail the procedures to be undertaken in furtherance of each of the activities described under Scope of Work. State by number (as listed above) which tasks are being included in the proposal and provide a brief (several paragraphs) introductory justification as to why these tasks were chosen in furtherance of the goals. Information on staffing levels and qualifications should be included for each task, and descriptions of experience relevant to the project should be included. Resumes of the proposed project director and key staff should be enclosed with the proposal.

Applications will be reviewed competitively by a panel comprised of members selected by BJS. The panel will make recommendations to the Director of BJS. Final authority to enter into a cooperative agreement is reserved for the Director of BJS or his designee.

Applications will be evaluated on the overall extent to which selected tasks, and the work performed on them, meet the objectives of the solicitation; respond to the priorities and technical complexities of the issue of hate crime reporting; specify work activities likely to produce useful results; conform to standards of high quality data analysis; and are fiscally feasible and efficient. Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of:

—Knowledge of issues related to hate crime data collection.
—Knowledge of issues related to the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) and the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).
—Experience in organizing meetings of Federal, state, or local professionals related to criminal justice issues.
—Research expertise and experience in data gathering and report writing.
—Availability of qualified professional and support staff and suitable equipment for project activities.
—Demonstrated fiscal, management and organizational capability and experience suitable for providing

sound data within budget and time constraints.

—Reasonableness of estimated costs for the total project and for individual cost categories.

Application and Awards Process

An original and two (2) copies of a full proposal must be submitted with SF 424 (Rev. 1988), ''Application for Federal Assistance,'' as the cover sheet. Proposals must be accompanied by a Budget Detail Worksheet (replaced the SF 424A, Budget Information); OJP Form 4000/3 (Rev. 1–93), Program Narrative and Assurances' OJP Form 4061/6, Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; and OJP Form 7120–1 (Rev. 1–93), Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire (to be submitted by applicants who have not recently received Federal funds from the Office of Justice Programs and are not state or local units of government). If appropriate, applicants must complete and submit Standard Form LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities. All applicants must sign Certified Assurances that they are in compliance with the Federal laws and regulations which prohibit discrimination in any program or activity the receives Federal funds. To obtain appropriate forms, contact Getha Hilario, BJS Management Assistant, at (202) 616–3500.

The application should cover a one-year period with information provided for completion of the entire project. Proposals must include a program narrative, detailed budget, and budget narrative. The program narrative shall describe activities as stated in the scope of work and address the evaluation criteria. The detailed budget must provide costs including salaries of staff involved in the project and portion of those salaries to be paid from the award; fringe benefits paid to each staff person; travel costs, and supplies required to complete the project. The budget narrative closely follows the content of the detailed budget. The narrative should relate the items budgeted to the project activities and should provide a justification and explanation for the budgeted items. Refer to the aforementioned timetable when developing the program narrative and budget information.

This award will not be used to procure equipment for the conduct of the study.

Dated: November 13, 1997.

Jan M. Chaiken,

Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

[FR Doc. 97–30271 Filed 11–17–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Agency Information Collection Activities: New Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Request OMB approval; The Second National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children (NISMART 2).

The Office of Management and Budget approval is being sought for the information collection listed below. This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** on July 29, 1997 at 62 FR 40545, allowing for a 60-day public comment period. No comments were received by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comments. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until December 18, 1997. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.

Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Ms. Victoria Wassmer, 202–395–5871, Department of Justice Desk Officer, Room 10202, Washington, DC 20503. Additionally, comments may be submitted to OMB via facsimile to 202–395–7285. Comments may also be submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ), Justice Management Division, Information Management and Security Staff, Attention: Department Clearance Officer, Suite 850, 1001 G Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20530. Comments may also be submitted to DOJ via facsimile to 202–514–1534.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information should address one or more of the following four points.

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technical collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

Overview of this information collection:

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* New Collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* The Second National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaways and Thrownaway Children (NISMART 2).

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection:* None; Applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection: Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:* Primary: Individuals or households, Other: State, local, tribal governments; Not for profit.

Abstract: Pursuant to the Missing Children's Assistance Act, Title IV, section 404(b)(3) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act 1974, as amended 42 U.S.C. 5773(b)(3), OJJDP is required to conduct periodic studies of the incidence of missing children. The purpose of these studies is to develop reliable and valid statistics on the incidence of children who are missing, abducted, runaways, or thrownaway in the course of a given year, as well as the number of these children who are recovered.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* 75,000 respondents at 2.5 minutes per response; 22,000 respondents at 20 minutes per response; 9500 respondents at 10 minutes per response; 2500 respondents at 45 minutes per response; 50 respondents at 16 hours per response.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* 14,716 burden hours.

If additional information is required contact: Mr. Robert Briggs, Clearance Officer, United States Department of