

- Developing MIS or MIS enhancements that incorporate the above objectives.
- Coordinating the automated data collection and case tracking systems of child welfare and other relevant agencies, courts, or court components (e.g., domestic violence courts).
- Providing courts with timely reports regarding the progress that is being made to improve compliance with ASFA requirements and the processing of child abuse and neglect cases.

Performance Measures

To ensure compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act, Pub. L. 103-62, this solicitation notifies applicants that OJP's performance under this solicitation will be measured by the following performance measure: The number of MIS systems enhanced or developed to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being, for abused and neglected children. Award recipients will be required to collect and report data in support of this measure. Specifically, award recipients will provide the following data on court improvement: (1) The number of new national performance measures tracked, (2) the number of new national functional data standards automated, (3) the number of new data elements collected, (4) the number of new reports generated, and (5) the number of court improvement strategies implemented.

Assistance in obtaining this information will facilitate future program planning and will allow OJP to provide Congress with measurable results of federally funded programs.

Program Strategy

OJJDP will select up to six courts to receive funding through cooperative agreements for a 24-month demonstration period.

Project Phases

Establishing the SANCA MIS project requires a multiphase, collaborative process with national partners and technical advisors. The project will be conducted in three phases.

- Phase I: Planning and Design, approximately 12 months.
- Phase II: Pilot Implementation, approximately 6 months.
- Phase III: Full Implementation and Sustainability, approximately 6 months.

Phase I will involve hiring and/or contracting program and technical staff as needed; engaging a local collaborative to develop the project; surveying and analyzing user needs in the court and existing system capabilities and capacity; collaborating with national

partners, technical advisors, and other selected pilot sites to identify and develop the core performance measures and functional standards; tailoring and customizing the national measures and standards to match the needs of the pilot jurisdiction; developing the implementation plan and design specifications; and developing software.

Phase II will involve implementing, entering data for, and testing the design in a pilot stage, followed by retooling and generating initial reports.

Phase III will involve implementing the system for all users, establishing regular maintenance procedures, generating reports at full scale, and identifying and establishing the ongoing court improvements implemented in response to the reports.

All phases will be established in the cooperative agreement as benchmarks, and funding will be directly related to those benchmarks. Applicants are asked to estimate their budget needs for each phase. Funding for subsequent phases will be contingent on the completion of the benchmarks for the previous phase.

Project Design

The SANCA MIS project will establish a set of pilot sites with both a high capacity for collaboration and court improvement and a need for support in building information systems. These sites will develop and enhance MIS and case-tracking systems for proceedings conducted by, or under the supervision of, abuse and neglect courts. The development and enhancement of these systems should substantially increase courts' ability to track cases, identify and eliminate existing backlogs, process abuse and neglect cases in a timely manner, and move children into safe and stable families. Measures for tracking court performance, particularly in regard to the provisions and requirements of ASFA, are a required component of MIS development and enhancement.

The development and enhancement of MISs will be coordinated with work currently in progress at the national level. Selected pilot sites will be required to partner with the national team to (1) incorporate the national performance measures established through CIP by NCSC, NCJFCJ, and ABA, and (2) incorporate the national functional standards developed by NCSC. Data elements for both the measures and the functional standards will be identified by national technical advisors and partners with input from and in consultation with the SANCA MIS pilot site. The project design requires that the national team and the pilot sites work together to develop, test,

and implement the national performance measures and functional standards tailored to each pilot court. The SANCA MIS project will pilot the implementation of these tailored measures and standards to demonstrate their effectiveness. These pilot efforts will inform future court developments and help to transfer the capabilities of MIS tracking and measurement to other courts on a broad scale. Applicants must be aware that these national measures and functional standards are preliminary and will be finalized after the grant is awarded; therefore, the challenge to successful applicants will be to develop a plan for planning that is flexible enough to incorporate this developmental national work in Phase I. Successful applicants will contribute to this national development, receive technical support and guidance during the pilot, and test the work.

Copies of the draft performance measures established by CIP and information on the functional standards can be obtained from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse (JJC) and NCSC (both are listed in the Contacts section of this solicitation). Examples of the draft performance measures include the following:

- The percentage of children who are the subject of additional allegations of maltreatment while under court jurisdiction.
- The percentage of children who are the subject of additional allegations of maltreatment within 12 months after court jurisdiction has ended.
- The percentage of children who are placed in permanent homes and court jurisdiction is ended within 6, 16, 18, and 24 months from removal.
- The percentage of cases in which both parents receive written service of process within the required time standards or where notice of hearing has been waived by parties.
- The percentage of cases that are adjudicated within 30, 60, and 90 days after the filing of the dependency petition.

The functional standards for managing juvenile cases are intended to help court managers, analysts, designers, and software developers identify the functions of new or enhanced systems during the system definition stage of MIS development. Although the standards identify which tasks the system should perform, the system designer determines how those functions should be accomplished. Courts nationwide can use these standards to develop in-house systems and solicitations for vendor-supplied systems. Each court should customize the standards with appropriate