

Authority: Public Law 93-415.

Funds Available: The award will be limited to a maximum of \$100,000 (direct and indirect costs). Participant travel will be arranged for and paid by NIC. All other costs must be outlined in the proposal's budget. Funds may only be used for the activities that are linked to the desired outcome of the project. No funds are transferred to state or local governments. Based upon satisfactory performance of the awardee and the availability of funding in future years, a supplemental award could be made available for continued program delivery.

This project will be a collaborative venture with the NIC Prisons Division.

Antideficiency Act

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to obligate the parties to any expenditure or obligation of funds in excess or in advance of appropriation in accordance with the Antideficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. 1341

Eligibility of Applicants: An eligible applicant is any state or general unit of local government, private agency, educational institution, organization, individuals or team with expertise in the requested areas.

Review Considerations: Applications received under this announcement will be subjected to a 3 to 5 member Peer Review Process.

Number of Awards: One (1).

NIC Application Number: 03P22. This number should appear as a reference line in the cover letter and also in box 11 of Standard Form 424 and on the outside of the envelope in which the application is sent.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number is: 16.601, Title: Training and Staff Development.

Executive Order 12362: This program is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Morris L. Thigpen,

Director, National Institute of Correction.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

National Institute of Corrections

Solicitation for a Cooperative Agreement—"Operational Practices for Women Offenders"

AGENCY: National Institute of Corrections, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Solicitation for a Cooperative Agreement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Justice (DOJ), National Institute of Corrections (NIC), announces the availability of funds in FY 2003 for a cooperative agreement to fund the project "Operational Practices for Women Offenders." NIC will award a two year cooperative agreement to review the current training program, develop a curriculum, prepare an accompanying participant and trainer manual and attend the May 2003 program for insight into the current components. In addition, the award recipient will be responsible for the final (NIC approved) curriculum, training of faculty for the program and the delivery of the program in FY 2004, with the participant and trainer manuals in place. A total of \$120,00 is reserved for the project during fiscal years 2003 and 2004. The 2003 allocation is \$20,000 and the 2004 allocation is \$100,000.

A cooperative agreement is a form of assistance relationship where the National Institute of Corrections is substantially involved during the performance of the award. The recipient of the award will be selected through the competitive solicitation process.

DATES: Applications must be received by 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on March 27, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Mailed applications must be sent to: Director, National Institute of Corrections, 320 First Street, NW., Room 5007, Washington, DC 20534. Applicants are encouraged to use Federal Express, UPS, or similar service to ensure delivery by the due date as mail at NIC is still being delayed due to recent events.

Hands delivered applicants should be brought to 500 First Street, NW., Washington, DC 20534. At the front desk, call (202) 307-3106, extension 0 for pickup. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of this announcement and the required application forms can be downloaded from the NIC web page at www.nicic.org (Click on "cooperative agreements.") Hard copies of the announcement can be obtained by calling Rita Rippetoe at 1-800-995-6423 extension 44222 or e-mail rippetoe@bop.gov.

All technical or programmatic questions concerning this announcement should be directed to Evelyn Bush, Correctional Program Specialist, National Institute of Corrections. She can be reached by calling 1-800-995-6423 extension 40376 or by e-mail at elbush@bop.gov. Supplemental information regarding the program can be received by mail or e-

mail. Please contact Sharon Floyd at 1-800-995-6423 ext 44072.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The National Institute of Corrections, Prisons Division, began its work defining critical issues that impact women offenders in 1996. Based on surveys, workshops and state-driven inquiries for assistance and information, NIC began addressing gender-specific needs and services.

The program goal is to provide assistance to state departments of correction around the specific issues and concerns dealing with women offenders.

The "Operational Practices for Women Offenders" program was developed with the practitioner in mind, to help correctional managers increase their understanding of women offenders and enhance their skills for effectively working with them.

The role of the correctional institution has changed a great deal over the past 200 years. The almshouses and dungeons of the early days gave way to custodial institutions and then to reformatories. Today, correctional facilities are making new strides in providing improved conditions, diversity and quality in programming, and availability of educational, vocational, treatment and medical services.

Both theorists and popular viewpoint have played a role in the structure of corrections for the women offender. The current trend is to dispel traditional stereotypes and myths surrounding the woman offender, to develop a realistic picture of the variety of women in the penal system today, and to address the individual and group needs of these women.

As a number of women entering the Criminal Justice system grew, (at a faster rate than men) practitioners felt the impact based on the growing number of operational issues. These included concerns about searches, contraband, privacy, etc. NIC became involved in responding to these requests for assistance to "do it the right way and the appropriate way."

Differences in women's pathways into the criminal justice system and women's behavior while in custody have important implications for the practices in women's prisons. There is significant evidence that the response of women to incarceration, treatment, and rehabilitation differs from that of men.

Gender responsiveness has been defined by Bloom and Covington as "creating an environment that reflects an understanding of the reality of women's lives and addresses the issues