

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention**

[OJP (OJJDP)-1218]

RIN 1121-ZB52

**Evaluation of the U.S. Department of
Labor's Education and Training for
Youthful Offenders Initiative**

AGENCY: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, Justice.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), pursuant to Section 243(a)(1) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended (Public Law 93-415), is issuing a solicitation for applications for a cooperative agreement from public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, and individuals to conduct process evaluations and impact evaluation feasibility assessments of two programs administered by the Department of Labor (Category II grants under the Youth Offender Demonstration Projects notice issued on September 2, 1998), which are intended to enhance school-to-work education and training in juvenile correctional facilities and improve transition into the community.

DATES: Applications under this program must be received no later than 5 p.m. EDT on June 21, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The Application Package is available through OJJDP's Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 800-638-8736 and can also be obtained online at the OJJDP Web site at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org.

For further information regarding the Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Labor's Education and Training for Youthful Offenders Initiative, contact: Dean Hoffman, Program Manager, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 800 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20531; phone: 202-353-9256; e-mail: hoffmand@ojp.usdoj.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Purpose**

The evaluation will document the activities undertaken by two States selected to receive Department of Labor grants under its Education and Training for Youthful Offenders Initiative, which is intended to enhance school-to-work education and training in juvenile correctional facilities and improve transition into the community. The

evaluation also will assess the feasibility of conducting impact evaluations at both sites. The award will be made in the form of a cooperative agreement.

Background

This Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) solicitation supports an evaluation of two Education and Training for Youthful Offenders Initiative (Youth Offenders Initiative) grantees to be funded by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The ETA's solicitation for these programs was published in the **Federal Register** on September 2, 1998 at 63 F.R. 46805-809. The solicitation also can be found on ETA's Web site at www.doleta.gov. The ETA solicitation describes grants to be awarded in three categories: (I) Model Community Projects; (II) Education and Training for Youthful Offenders Initiatives; and (III) Community-Wide Coordination Projects. *This OJJDP solicitation supports the evaluation of the two grants to be awarded under category II.*

The two Youth Offenders Initiative grantees will provide comprehensive school-to-work education and training within juvenile correctional facilities and followup and job placement services as youth return to the community (i.e., case management and aftercare). It is intended that the comprehensive services developed under these grants will serve as models for other juvenile correctional facilities across the country. Applicants are encouraged to read the ETA solicitation for more detailed programmatic requirements.

The ETA solicitation states that, as a condition for award, applicants must agree to participate in the evaluation sponsored by OJJDP and comply with certain data collection requirements.

Goals

Phase I has three goals:

- Design and conduct a process evaluation of the two Education and Training for Youthful Offenders Initiative programs to determine the extent to which educational, job training, and aftercare services were enhanced after the facility became an ETA program site.
- Assess the feasibility of an impact evaluation at both sites and design an impact evaluation where feasibility is established.

Phase II has a single goal:

- Conduct an impact evaluation to measure the effects of the program on job-related skills, employment, earnings, academic performance, and recidivism.

Objectives

The objectives for Phase I of this evaluation are as follows:

- Document each facility's existing (i.e., pre-ETA involvement) educational, job training, and employment programs and transitional (e.g., aftercare) services.
- Document enhancements made to existing services after the facility became an ETA program site.
- Describe the number and characteristics of the youth served and the type and amount of services delivered.
- Document how the State agency and/or local government assisted in planning, implementing, and managing the program.
- Document the facility's coordination with Federal, State, and local programs operating in the broader community and juvenile justice system with a focus on youth employment. Explore how the nature of this coordination may have changed after the facility became an ETA program site.
- Document the leveraging of other sources of funding, such as Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) formula grant funds and Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants (JAIBG) funds, and steps taken to assure the activities are sustained as the program is developed and implemented.
- Assess the extent to which each program has been implemented in accordance with the requirements of the ETA program solicitation.
- Identify and evaluate available data sources.
- Determine whether an impact evaluation is feasible at each site. Factors to consider include the number of youth served and the correctional environment in which the program is implemented.
- Design a rigorous impact evaluation where the feasibility of such is established.

The objectives for Phase II of this evaluation are as follows:

- Continue process evaluation activities.
- Conduct a rigorous impact evaluation to measure the effects of the program. As stated above, these programs should result in increased job-related skills, higher success in postrelease employment, increased postrelease earnings, improved academic performance, and reduced recidivism.

Evaluation Strategy

This evaluation will be conducted in two phases over a period of 36 months. Phase I (12 months), which will be funded under this solicitation, entails

designing and conducting a process evaluation at each site and determining the feasibility of conducting an impact evaluation at each site. The results of the feasibility assessments will determine to what extent, if at all, the project continues into Phase II (24 months). If the project does continue, Phase II will entail conducting an impact evaluation at one or both sites. OJJDP will make the final determination on whether the project continues into Phase II.

When addressing the issue of feasibility assessments, applicants must demonstrate an understanding of the potential difficulties involved in conducting an impact evaluation of an initiative such as this one (e.g., obtaining a sufficient sample size, isolating the effects of the program).

Products

The products for Phase I of the evaluation are:

1. A finalized process evaluation design and approach to conducting the feasibility assessments, to be submitted to OJJDP for approval within 2 months of the grant award. This will be a modified version of the detailed process evaluation design and approach to conducting the feasibility assessment that must be included in the application.

2. An interim report detailing the status of the process evaluation and summarizing data collected to date on each site, to be submitted 7 months after the project begins.

3. A report discussing the results of the impact evaluation feasibility assessments, due 10 months after the project begins. This report should include proposed impact evaluation designs where feasibility is established.

4. A Phase I final report at the end of the first phase. A summary version of this report suitable for publishing as an OJJDP Bulletin must be prepared.

The products for Phase II of the evaluation are:

1. An interim report summarizing the progress of the impact evaluation and additional findings of the process evaluation, to be submitted 6 months after Phase II begins.

2. A final report summarizing the results of the process and impact evaluation(s), to be submitted at the end of Phase II. A summary version of this report suitable for publishing as an OJJDP Bulletin must be prepared.

Eligibility Requirements

OJJDP invites applications from public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, and individuals. Private, for-profit

organizations must agree to waive any profit or fee to be eligible. Joint applications from two or more eligible applicants are welcome; however, one applicant must be clearly indicated as the primary applicant (for correspondence, award, and management purposes) and the others indicated as coapplicants.

Selection Criteria

Problem(s) To Be Addressed (15 points)

Applicants should demonstrate their knowledge of educational and vocational programming in juvenile correctional facilities, aftercare programs, and school-to-work efforts. Applicants should discuss their experience with evaluating similar programs. Applicants should demonstrate an understanding of and solutions to the challenges that will be encountered in conducting the process and impact evaluations.

Goals and Objectives (15 points)

Applicants must establish clearly defined, measurable, and attainable goals and objectives for the proposed evaluation and feasibility assessment.

Project Design (40 points)

Applicants must present a clear preliminary research design for conducting the process evaluation and assessing the feasibility of an impact evaluation at each site. The design may need to be revised once information is obtained about the specific approaches to be implemented by the selected State and juvenile correctional facilities. The research design should also include a workplan. All components of the research design should be sound, feasible, and capable of achieving the identified objectives. Issues to be addressed should be clearly defined.

Management and Organizational Capability (20 points)

Applicants should discuss how they will coordinate and manage this evaluation to achieve the objectives. Applicants' management structure and staffing must be adequate and appropriate for the successful implementation of the project. Applicants must clearly identify responsible individuals, their time commitment, and major tasks. Staff résumés should be attached as part of the appendixes. Applicants must demonstrate the organization's ability to conduct the project successfully. Description of prior experience in evaluating State and local programs should be provided.

Budget (10 points)

Applicants must provide a proposed budget that is complete, detailed, reasonable, allowable, and cost effective in relation to the activities to be undertaken.

Format

Applicants are required to limit their proposals to a total of 25 pages (excluding the budget narrative). The page limit does not include the application forms, assurances, or appendixes. The appendixes must include the following: résumés of the project manager and other key staff and consultants and the timeline for the project's major milestones with dates for submission included.

Award Period

The project period will be 36 months, funded in one 12-month budget period (Phase I) and one 24-month budget period (Phase II). Funding for Phase II depends upon feasibility of conducting the impact evaluation(s), grantee performance, availability of funds, and other criteria established at the time of award.

Award Amount

Up to \$250,000 is available for the award of a cooperative agreement for the initial 12-month budget period (Phase I).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number

For this program, the CFDA number, which is required on Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance, is 16.542. This form is included in OJJDP's Application Kit, which can be obtained by calling the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 800-638-8736 or sending an e-mail request to puborder@ncjrs.org. The Application Kit is also available online at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org.

Coordination of Federal Efforts

To encourage better coordination among Federal agencies in addressing State and local needs, the U.S. Department of Justice is requesting applicants to provide information on the following: (1) Active Federal grant award(s) supporting this or related efforts, including awards from the U.S. Department of Justice; (2) any pending application(s) for Federal funds for this or related efforts; and (3) plans for coordinating any funds described in items (1) or (2) with the funding sought by this application. For each Federal award, applicants must include the program or project title, the Federal grantor agency, the amount of the

award, and a brief description of its purpose.

"Related efforts" is defined for these purposes as one of the following:

1. Efforts for the same purpose (i.e., the proposed award would supplement, expand, complement, or continue activities funded with other Federal grants).

2. Another phase or component of the same program or project (e.g., to implement a planning effort funded by other Federal funds or to provide a substance abuse treatment or education component within a criminal justice project).

3. Services of some kind (e.g., technical assistance, research, or

evaluation) to the program or project described in the application.

Delivery Instructions

All application packages should be mailed or delivered to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, c/o Juvenile Justice Resource Center, 2277 Research Boulevard, Mail Stop 2K, Rockville, MD 20850; 301-519-5535. Note: In the lower left-hand corner of the envelope, you must clearly write "Evaluation of the Youth Offenders Initiative."

Due Date

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the original and five

copies of the application package are received by 5 p.m. EDT on June 21, 1999.

Contact

For further information, call Dean Hoffman, Program Manager, Research and Program Development Division, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 202-353-9256, or send an e-mail inquiry to hoffmand@ojp.usdoj.gov.

Shay Bilchik,

Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

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