(5) If a benefit provider offers a number of services, only some of which are exempt from verification as a result of this Order, the benefit provider may conduct verification of the non-exempt programs or services as specified in the applicable portions of the ''Interim Guidance on Verification of Citizenship, Qualified Alien Status and Eligibility Under Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996,'' 62 FR 61,344 (1997) or may be required to conduct verification as specified by any subsequent or superseding regulations.

(6) To the extent that it can be accomplished without undue administrative hardship, benefit providers should make every effort to provide information to all prospective benefit seekers about which benefits they qualify for and which benefits involve citizenship or immigration verification requirements.

Specification

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Attorney General by law, including Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, I hereby specify that:

1. I do not construe the Act to preclude aliens from receiving police, fire, ambulance, transportation (including paratransit), sanitation, and other regular, widely available services and, for that reason, I am not making specifications of such programs, services, or assistance. It is not the purpose of this Order, however, to define more specifically the scope of the public benefits that Congress intended to deny certain aliens either altogether or absent my specification, and nothing herein should be so construed.

2. The government-funded programs, services, or assistance specified in this Order are those that: deliver in-kind (non-cash) services at the community level, including through public or private non-profit agencies or organizations; do not condition the provision, amount, or cost of the assistance on the individual recipient's income or resources, as discussed in paragraph 3, below; and serve purposes of the type described in paragraph 4, below, for the protection of life or safety. Specified programs must satisfy all three prongs of this test.

3. The community-based programs, services, or assistance specified in paragraphs 2 and 4 of this Order are limited to those that provide in-kind (non-cash) benefits and are open to individuals needing or desiring to participate without regard to income or resources. Programs, services, or assistance delivered at the community level, even if they serve purposes of the type described in paragraph 4 below, are not within this specification if they condition on the individual recipient's income or resources:

(a) the provision of assistance;

(b) the amount of assistance provided; or

(c) the cost of the assistance provided on the individual recipient's income or resources.

4. Included within the specified programs, services, or assistance determined to be necessary for the protection of life or safety are:

(a) Crisis counseling and intervention programs; services and assistance relating to child protection, adult protective services, violence and abuse prevention, victims of domestic violence or other criminal activity; or treatment of mental illness or substance abuse;

(b) Short-term shelter or housing assistance for the homeless, for victims of domestic violence, or for runaway, abused, or abandoned children;

(c) Programs, services, or assistance to help individuals during periods of heat, cold, or other adverse weather conditions;

(d) Soup kitchens, community food banks, senior nutrition programs such as meals on wheels, and other such community nutritional services for persons requiring special assistance;

(e) Medical and public health services (including treatment and prevention of diseases and injuries) and mental health, disability, or substance abuse assistance necessary to protect life or safety;

(f) Activities designed to protect the life or safety of workers, children and youths, or community residents; and

(g) Any other programs, services, or assistance necessary for the protection of life or safety.

Dated: January 5, 2001.

Janet Reno,

Attorney General.

[FR Doc. 01–1158 Filed 1–12–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–19–P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration and Naturalization Service

[INS No. 2093–00]

Establishing an Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act Task Force

AGENCY: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.

ACTION: Notice establishing a Task Force.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and Public Law 106–215, the Attorney General is establishing an Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act Task Force. This notice advises Federal, State, and local agencies, and private sector representatives that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (Service) is soliciting members from interested groups, associations, or individuals who may wish to serve on the Task Force.

Purpose of Task Force

The Task Force will evaluate and make recommendations on:

(1) How the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretaries of State, Treasury, and Commerce can efficiently and effectively implement an integrated entry and exit data system;

(2) How the United States can improve the flow of traffic at airports, seaports, and land border ports-of-entry through—

(a) Enhancing systems for data collection and data sharing, including the integrated entry and exit data system, by better use of technology, resources, and personnel;

(b) Increasing cooperation between the public and private sectors;

(c) Increasing cooperation among Federal agencies and among Federal and State agencies; and

(d) Modifying information technology systems while taking into account the different data systems, infrastructure, and processing procedures at airports, seaports, and land border ports-of-entry; and

(3) The cost of implementing each of the Task Force's recommendations.

Further, no later than December 31, 2002 and no later than December 31 of each subsequent year the Task Force is in existence, the Attorney General shall submit a report to Congress containing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Task Force.

Composition of Task Force

The Task Force shall be composed of 17 members, including the Attorney General, private sector representatives of affected industries and groups, and representatives from Federal, State, and local agencies, who have an interest in: immigration and naturalization; travel and tourism; transportation; trade; law enforcement; national security; or the environment. Participation on the Task Force will not be remunerated, however, travel and associated expenses may be reimbursed or borne by the Government.

Qualification of Task Force members

Groups, associations, or individuals who wish to be considered for inclusion on this Task Force should have a background that reflects a good working knowledge of entry and exit procedures and business practices. Ideally, this knowledge should include all of the environments where inspections take place (*i.e.,* airports, northern and southern land borders ports, and seaports).

Additionally, it would be helpful for interested groups, associations, or individuals to understand modern data collection and matching processes in an automated environment and how the requirements of Public Law 106–215 can be best met given the business practices of ports-of-entry, and the competing goals of enforcing the Immigration and Nationality Act and facilitating the movement of travelers. For more information concerning the Task Force, see Public Law 106–215 on the Service's website at http://www.ins.usdoj.gov.

In considering what groups, associations, or individuals should serve on the Task Force, the Service will make every effort to balance both geographical interests to ensure the unique characteristics of each type of port-of-entry are considered and the needs of various industries that depend on the efficient operation of ports-of-entry.

Federal Advisory Committee Act

The Task Force will function solely as an advisory body in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Its charter will be filed in accordance with the provisions of that FACA.

Solicitation of Public Opinion Regarding Task Force Membership

The Department of Justice is seeking input from groups, associations or individuals to determine the optimal Task Force composition. Please send suggestions and a brief background or justification to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Office of Inspections, 425 I Street, NW, Room 4064, Washington, DC 20536, Attn: Jennifer Sava. Please include a daytime phone number where a point of contact can be reached as well as an e-mail address, if available. Please submit information by February 16, 2001.

Once a group, association, or individual has been selected to serve on the Task Force, the Service will notify the point of contact and will provide further instruction.

Who Can Be Contacted If There Are Questions Concerning This Task Force?

For questions concerning this Task Force, please contact Jennifer Sava, Office of Inspections, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I Street, NW, Room 4064, Washington, DC 20536; telephone (202) 514–3019.

Dated: January 3, 2001.

Mary Ann Wyrsch,

Acting Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

[FR Doc. 01–1202 Filed 1–12–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–10–M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

National Institute of Corrections

Solicitation for a Cooperative Agreement—Policy-Driven Responses to Parole Violations

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 01 for a cooperative agreement to assist up to six paroling authorities through the ''Policy-Driven Responses to Parole Violations'' project. State releasing authorities have the legal responsibility for paroled, conditional released and some mandatory released offenders. Often times the actions taken by releasing authorities in their response to violations leads to revocation proceeding, which contributes to prison crowding. It is intended that through this solicitation paroling authorities will have an opportunity to develop policy guided responses in confronting violations. This is not an announcement for applicants to receive technical assistance. The purpose of this announcement is to select an awardee who will, in conjunction with the National Institute of Corrections, select the six paroling authorities, and plan and coordinate the work.

Background

The response to violations by offenders who are serving the remaining portion of their sentence in the community and under the control of a releasing authority has become a major correctional issue. Over all, commitment rates to prison for new offenses has leveled off or are declining, while at the same time prison populations continue to increase. Much of this increase has been the results of parole and probations violators coming to prison as the results of having their supervision period revoke by either a judge or a parole board. There appears to be a high reliance on incarceration or re-incarceration by decision makers in responding to the behaviors of the offender. There have been a variety of studies which seem to indicate that the appropriateness in responding to violations committed by the offender have a greater likelihood of success if the response is directly related the risk/need of that offender and incarceration in many instances may be the least effective response. Although, a complete analysis has not been done, the idea of equity, fairness and consistency in the revocation process should be explored to determine how and why and under what conditions certain decisions are made.

Project Objectives

This project will provide technical assistance to up to six paroling authorities that are committed to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the way they respond to offenders who violate rules and/or conditions of parole, this includes both discretionary and mandatory release supervision. The project may also include enhancing policies governing rescission practices. (the cancellation of a presumptive release date) The intent of this project is to take into consideration the following:

1. The thorough analysis of current practice to determine the quantity and quality of data required/available for decision making information and the level of commitment of decision makers to use it.

2. Insure key decision makers are aware/knowledgeable of research evidence based on criminogenic need.

3. Provide key decision makers with information regarding program level/options for sanctioning/intervening in violation behavior based on assessed risk and responding to criminogenic need.

4. Forge/initiate working relationship with other criminal justice practitioners involved in the revocation process to attain common policy.

5. Articulate written policy on violation and revocation practices that the Board will consistently enforce/carry out with the assistance of other key community justice practitioners.

6. Implement data gathering regarding policy decisions.

Scope of Work

The response to violations involves the exercise of discretion by individuals from several organizations, and seldom