

BJA – NIC – NIJ
Second Chance Act Demonstration Field Experiment (DFE)
Fostering Desistance through Effective Supervision
FY 2012 Competitive Grant Announcement
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Updated: 1/20/2012

1. Where can I find information on the deadline for this solicitation?

Deadline information can be found on the front page of the solicitation, under the area titled “Deadline”.

2. How do I apply for this funding opportunity?

All applications must be submitted through the Grants.gov. For technical assistance with submitting the application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800–518–4726 or via e-mail to support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Support Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

For assistance with any other requirement of this solicitation, contact the BJA Justice Information Center at 1–877–927–5657, via e-mail to JIC@telesishq.com, or by [live web chat](#). The BJA Justice Information Center hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

3. What is a DUNS number and how do I get one?

The Office of Management and Budget requires that all businesses and nonprofit applicants for federal funds include a DUNS (Data Universal Numeric System) number in their application for a new award or renewal of an award. Applications without a DUNS number are incomplete. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, simple, one-time activity. Obtain one by calling 1–866–705–5711 or by applying online at fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do. Individuals are exempt from this requirement.

4. Who is eligible to apply for this grant program?

Information on eligibility for applying for this program can be found on the front page of the solicitation and also within the solicitation under the section titled “Eligibility.” For questions regarding your eligibility, please contact BJA at 1–877–927–5657 or e-mail JIC@telesishq.com.

5. Are territories eligible to apply?

Yes, territories are eligible to apply.

6. Is funding available for tribal organizations?

Yes. For details on eligible agencies, please see FAQ #4, above. Tribal organizations are encouraged to apply.

7. Will my application’s peer review score alone determine if my application is funded?

No. Peer reviewers’ ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only. In addition to peer review ratings, considerations may include, but are not limited to, underserved populations, strategic priorities, past performance, site visit assessments, and available funding.

8. Is there a minimum/maximum funding amount that I can apply for?

Minimum/maximum funding amounts can be found within the program-specific information section in the BJA solicitation. Please see page 15.

9. Is there a budget format or sample that is available?

Applicants must provide a budget that is allowable and reasonable (Selection Criteria 5). Applicants must submit a budget detail worksheet and budget narrative. A budget detail worksheet form is available on OJP’s web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms/budget_detail.pdf. When using this form, you must

also include a budget narrative, in MS Word or PDF format, as a separate attachment. Both the budget detail worksheet and narrative explanation of costs can be provided in a single document using this acceptable MS Word Budget template, available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/funding/Budget_Worskheet_Narrative_Template.doc. Applicants may submit the budget and budget narrative in a different format (i.e., Excel spreadsheet), but it must contain all categories listed within the budget detail worksheet

10. Can I submit a paper version via U.S. mail instead of an electronic application through the Grants.gov?

No. All applications must be submitted electronically. Paper submissions will not be accepted.

11. How does the review and awarding process work? How will I be able to track the status of my application?

Generally, competitive grants go through a comprehensive review process. The review and award process may take several weeks from the time the application is submitted to BJA through Grants.gov. During that time, you may be asked additional questions about your application for clarification purposes.

To prevent compromising the integrity of the competitive review process, BJA will not be able to discuss details regarding the status of your application until all awards have been made to grant recipients. It is anticipated that awards will be made no later than September 30, 2012 with a listing of those awards posted on BJA's web site (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/) shortly thereafter.

12. How will I be notified if my agency is selected to receive an award?

Both the point of contact and the authorizing official listed on the grant application will receive an e-mail award notification. The e-mail notification will provide further information on procedures for receiving funds.

13. Will I be notified if my agency does not receive an award?

Yes. It is estimated that your agency will receive a letter from BJA during October /November 2012, after all awards have been made to grant recipients.

SCA DFE-specific questions

Where can I obtain additional information about NIC's Integrated Case Management and Supervision framework?

Please visit: nicic.gov/Downloads/PDF/Library/024393.pdf

Where can I obtain additional information about NIC's Thinking for a Change curriculum?

Please visit: nicic.gov/t4c

How should parole officers be selected to participate in this project?

The jurisdiction's corrections administrators should select the target area(s) and parole/community supervision office(s) to participate in this DFE. Then the corrections administrators should allow parole officers, from the selected offices, to volunteer to be randomized into one of the two study groups (PO1 and PO2). Randomization will be conducted by the on-site evaluation team member.

Will every parole who participates in the study receive the SCA DFE model training?

No. Parole officers randomly selected to be in Group PO2 will not receive the SCA DFE training.

How can I get more information about the randomization process for parole officers and for the parolees?

During the initial start-up training, the selected DFE sites will receive information about how randomization could occur on-site. There will also be site visits by NIC and the evaluation team to implement the randomization process at each site.

How many parolees will my site need to participate in this project?

Each DFE site must be able to assign a total of 500 parolees to the DFE during the 30 month study implementation period.

How long is the study period?

36 months. Six months for the "planning/pilot" period and 30 months for the implementation period.

Who should I contact if I have questions about this project?

For questions about this DFE model, or for assistance with any other requirement of this solicitation, please contact the BJA Justice Information Center at 1-877-927-5657, via e-mail to JIC@telesishq.com, or by [live web chat](#). The BJA Justice Information Center hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

When will the SCA DFE webinars be conducted?

The SCA DFE webinars will be conducted in early January 2012. Please continue to check the SCA DFE website for information on the exact dates and times - <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/scadfe.htm>

SCA DFE- Questions from the Webinar

Q: How many awards were made last year?

A: None.

Q: How many applications were received last year?

A: None

Q: How does the study design control for system changes that will occur as a result of implementing the study, i.e., the growth in services likely to occur?

A: The general approach is to ensure that only those parolees in group RE 1 are assigned to supervision officers who receive the training on Effective Core Correctional Practices and Integrated Case Management and Supervision. However, as the question implies, it is possible that the project will result in overall improvements in relations with community-based service providers that could affect parolees in the other two groups. The evaluation team will seek to document these changes over time. A site visit at the beginning of the study will document current working relationships. Changes over time will be measured as part of the study.

Q: Please provide e-mail link where webinar content can be accessed again please.

A: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/scadfe.htm>

Q: Should a jurisdiction plan on random assignment for all 3 subsets RE1, RE2, RE3, from the entire eligible population within the designated site? Example - 500 eligible parolees released into demonstration site, equal random distribution between all 3 subsets would be around 166 apiece?

A: Yes, for planning purposes, jurisdictions should assume that the 500 sample members in each site or group of offices (a site could consist of several offices) will be evenly distributed across the three groups.

Q: Can you please go through the requirements of the grantee when it relates to random assignment of parole officers, participating offenders.

A: The evaluation team will work with each grantee to develop a mutually-agreeable plan for conducting random assignment. The evaluation team (including the locally-based evaluation coordinator) will be responsible for conducting random assignment, but local staff may play some role in the study intake process as well. This will be tailored to each participating jurisdiction.

Q: If awarded a grant, will it be a 12 month (one year award)? If so, the budget submitted will be a one year budget. If a one year award, can we submit no-cost extensions for year 2 on-ward to expend grant funds?

A: Yes, it will be a 12-month award. This will be a grant for up to three years but BJA will provide funding on one year increments. If there are unused funds, sites can carry them forward on a no cost extension basis.

Q: Want to confirm again....the solicitation requires a 25% match to the project amount, the match can be either Cash or In-kind. page 16. If we submit an application we will be following the letter of the solicitation unless the BJA issues an update.

A: A match is NOT required. BJA is requesting at least an "in-kind" match if it does not produce any hardship for the applicant.

Q: Random assignment post-release will be difficult as we assign agents to release offenders prior to release. We have institutional parole agents who develop release plans and coordinate community services with the supervising agent at the point of release (in prison). Can we or should we plan on institutional parole agents be trained as well as the random field agents?

A: The evaluation team will work with each grantee to develop the plan for conducting random assignment and implementing the study. In some cases, it may make sense to involve institutional staff. We will be flexible in our approach.

Q: Can the MET and/or T4C groups that are delivered in the community be delivered by our employees?

A: For this project, the service providers should be delivering the MET and T4C. Please explain in your application how you use service providers, either clinical staff or others, to provide MET and T4C.

Q: Will the grant pay for nominal things of value to the offender, such as clothing allowances, bus cards, housing deposits, etc.?

A: Not directly. The grant can support services provided by community organizations that are working with the offenders as part of the service. It can not provide incentives to be in the intervention.

Q: Is there a minimum number of probation officers that need to participate from each Experiment site?

A: The number of supervision officers will depend on caseload sizes in the jurisdiction. There will need to be enough officers to supervise the 500 offenders who will enter the study over 24 – 30 months.

Q: Can someone not currently supervised for a sex offense (but has a sex offense conviction in his history) be a part of the Experiment?

A: As long as they are considered moderate or high risk by your instrument then they can be in the study.

Q: When the community providers are delivering the MET and T4C services, does it have to be the same provider delivering both?

A: No. But the offender must receive MET before T4C.

Q: Will the grant cover programming fees for offenders?

A: The grant will cover funding for community service providers to provide services to offenders.

Q: If an offender is part of the Experiment, but is then closed due to revocation and then opened again within the project timeline, can they be once again considered for the experiment?

A: Once an offender goes through the random assignment process, they will remain in the study for the duration of the follow-up period. If their case is closed and then reopened, they would continue to be treated in accordance with their original assignment. The researchers as part of the study will be responsible for monitoring offenders, regardless of their supervision status.

Q: Based on your experience, what is the expected percentage of eligible releasees who will sign the informed consent form?

A: Generally less than 1 percent of the parolees will refuse to participate in the study based on experience at both GMU and MDRC.

Q: What is the definition of severe mental illness and how is this determined?

A: This will be determined within each jurisdiction.

Q: Can it be submitted by a state prison as a state entity or is it required to be submitted at the state level

A: Eligible: Applicants are limited to states, units of local government, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior).

Q: Who would be eligible for applying for this grant? Would it have to be a state or could it be a facility that has a reentry effort in place (that is being touted as a model for the state)

A: Eligible: Applicants are limited to states, units of local government, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior). Please also see page 12 of the solicitation for additional information about eligibility.

Q: Is the expected 500 offenders over three years, or for the first year?

A: Grantees will be expected to enroll the 500 study participants during a period of 18-24 months.

Q: Does the budget include these incentives?

A: BJA funds will not be used as incentives for offenders.

Q: What incentives are you envisioning for the grant? Does the budget include these incentives? What are the parameters of the incentives? Could it be gift cards?

A: The evaluation team will be responsible for providing incentives to the participants. BJA funds will not be used to provide incentives to participants.

Q: What is the data that is going to be collected?

A: Four types of data will be collected: 1) administrative data from criminal justice agencies (covering outcomes like arrests, convictions, and parole violations); 2) surveys of study participants, which will be conducted by the research team; and 3) Data to inform program fidelity and model implementation including participation and attendance in MET/T4C sessions by parolees; and, 4) access to parole officers, treatment providers, and others to gather qualitative information. We will ask for the grantees cooperation in providing access to all data.

Q: Can the Service Providers be internal or do they have to be external?

A: For this project, service providers can be internal or external but they need to be clinically oriented.

Q: How will this grant build the capacity of grantees to reduce recidivism among offenders?

A: It will help grantees learn new techniques, and which ones works for moderate and high-risk offenders. It will also test the viability of the desistance, core correctional practices, T4C, and MET. T4C has not been experimentally tested and this will provide a test of the approach.

Q: What type of PO and service provider capacity will be needed to participate in this experiment?

A: The POs and service providers will need to want to learn and use motivational and cognitive techniques. The training will provide the experience to do this.

Q: Who is responsible for financially supporting the Site coordinator?

A: The site coordinator position will be funded through this BJA grant.

Q: Does the evaluation team plan to use local resources (e.g., local graduate students) to assist with the data collection process?

A: Possibly. The evaluation team will identify appropriate researchers. In most cases, graduate students would not necessarily be appropriate but we will hire local staff.

Q: Must the risk instrument you will be using be the same one you are currently using, or can you be planning a new instrument?

A: The risk instrument should be whatever the jurisdiction will be using during the study period. There is no need to make special plans to facilitate the study.

Q: Adult by the 18 year old definition, or adult by a state's definition

A: By the state's definition but at least 18 years old.

Q: Can you plan on implementing a new risk instrument before this project starts; and, can locally-developed instruments count, or should they be larger scale instruments.

A: The risk instrument should be whatever the jurisdiction will be using during the study period. There is no need to make special plans to facilitate the study.

Q: How many staff members will participate in training? Will it be every parole agent and supervisor of selected parolees to be trained?

A: As many as you deem necessary, who are selected for group PO1.

Q: How many days are anticipated for each of the three Washington DC meetings? Where is the peer to peer meeting to be held?

A: At this time, the location of the trainings has not been finalized. But please budget for 2 days of training in Washington, DC, for each of the 3 meetings; and 2 days for a peer-to-peer meeting in Aurora, CO (the NIC training facility).

Q: Does it have to be the same parolees for the entire period of time? What accommodation is made if we have to switch out a parolee mid-way in the stud?

A: Once a parolee goes through random assignment, they will remain in the study group to which they were randomly assigned for the duration of the study follow-up period, even if they leave supervision. There will be no need to "switch" out parolees during the study period for purposes of the DFE. If a parolee must switch supervision officers mid-way, offenders should be switched to officers who are appropriate for their research group assignment. For example, a parolee in RE1 should be supervised by an officer trained in Effective Core Correctional Practices and Integrated Case Management and Supervision. Similarly, an offender in RE3 should not be supervised by a parole officer assigned to supervise RE1 participants.

Q: The app says the case loads must be gender specific, we are hearing perhaps we can "mix" the case loads??

A: It is desirable and necessary to test interventions on both genders since we know that there are differential responses. It would be desirable to have sufficient samples of men and women in the study. Sites should work with BJA to assess the appropriateness of their study population.

Q: Are we hearing that the project coordinator is chosen by you?

A: BJA and NIC will work with each site to select a Project Coordinator. The BJA funds will pay for the site coordinator position.

Q: Can you elaborate on the 2 year recruitment issue? Does that mean we have to over time enter parolee in the study?

A: Yes, grantees will have 18-24 months to bring parolees into the study. Thus, each new individual who enters supervision during that period could potentially enroll in the study if they meet the criteria and agree to participate.

Q: The application says there is a 25% cash match or in kind services. We are hearing there is no cash match by the presenter. The application also indicates parolees need to be under supervision for 9 month, the presenter indicated 12 months???

A: A match in NOT required. BJA is requesting at least an "in-kind" match if it does not produce any hardship for the applicant. It is desirable for the parolee to be under supervision for at least 9 months, but 12 months is more desirable.

Q: Is there a target number of parole officers to be recruited for this DFE?

A: The number of supervision officers will depend on caseload sizes in the jurisdiction. There will need to be enough officers to supervise the 500 offenders over 30 months who are in the study.

Q: Clarification: we can have both men and women in the target population?

A: It is desirable and necessary to test interventions on both genders since we know that there are differential responses. It would be desirable to have sufficient samples of men and women in the study. Sites should work with BJA to assess the appropriateness of their study population.

Q: Can you verify that the Research Coordinator position is outside of the awardees budget?

A: the Research Coordinator will not be funded through the BJA grant. But the Project Coordinator position will be paid for with BJA funds.

Q: Is there a requirement on how many clients have to be served by each grantee?

A: 500 high or moderate risk offenders need to be eligible.

Q: I'm not sure if I understand correctly - can service providers be the grantee?

A: Eligible: Applicants are limited to states, units of local government, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior). Please also see page 12 of the solicitation for additional information about eligibility.

Q: Will there be a transcript of this webinar, including questions, provided?

A: A copy of the webinar is available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/scadfe.htm>

Q: Where do I find the Solicitation?

A: Please check the following link: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/12SecondChanceDFEsol.pdf>

Q: Can you reiterate exactly who is the "key team"?

A: Please see page 9 of the solicitation.

Q: I entered late. Are the slides going to be available for download?

A: Yes, on this website you can find the webinar presentation: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/scadfe.htm

Q: Will the study participants be receiving an incentive to participate in the interviews?

A: The evaluation will provide incentives for study protocols. BJA funds can not be used for this purpose.

Q: Can you please explain again RE 1 and RE 2?

A: Please see page 31 of the solicitation.

Q: Do applicant sites identify agency/consultants/experts to collaborate with in writing the proposal, plan for, and implement this project (if selected), or may such entities identify appropriate site applicants? In other words, who is the Grantee?

A: Assistance to implement this DFE will be provided by BJA, NIC, NIJ, and the Evaluation team.

Q: Doesn't the solicitation stipulate that all parolee participants be one gender only (not combination of men & women)?

A: It is desirable and necessary to test interventions on both genders since we know that there are differential responses. It would be desirable to have sufficient samples of men and women in the study. Sites should work with BJA to assess the appropriateness of their study population.

Q: May the applicant jurisdiction identify their Research Coordinator or Team staff in their proposal?

A: The Research Coordinator will be selected by the Evaluation team. This position should not be included in your application.

Q: Can you talk about incentives? The solicitation mentioned that they would not be funded by grant, has this changed?

A: BJA will not be providing incentives to the participants. The Evaluation team may provide incentives to the participants for completing certain phases of the study.

Q: No budget for Research Coordinator, but application should budget for Project Coordinator, correct?
A: That is correct.

Q: Does the clock for 12 months start at random assignment?
A: Yes

Q: If we have multiple sites do we budget for multiple project coordinators or is one sufficient?
A: This will depend on the proximity of the sites to one another and if your reentry initiative is consistent across each site.

Q: Can we expect a member of the of the evaluation team to be on site for the first year of the grant.
A: The Research Coordinator is considered a member of the evaluation team and will on-site for the duration of the project.

Q: If we have a person in mind for the Project Coordinator position are we able to put them in that position?
A: Not at this time. BJA and NIC will work with each site to recruit and identify someone with the appropriate qualifications to serve as Project Coordinator.

Q: Would an offender that comes to probation from jail count as incarceration?
A: This would depend on the amount of time someone spent in jail and if the jail has a reentry initiative. Please review page 25 of the solicitation and demonstrate and describe the information requested.

Q: Regarding training costs for travel, what should we budget for?
A: The first training is scheduled to be on-site. The location of subsequent trainings has not been finalized. But please budget for 2 days of training in Washington, DC, for each of the 3 meetings; and 2 days for a peer-to-peer meeting in Aurora, CO (the NIC training facility).

Q: Earlier in the presentation as part of a Re-entry program it was mentioned that agencies should have a continuum of services from prison to the community. Do the prison services need to be included in the application?
A: Yes, please see section 1 of the selection criteria – on page 25 of the solicitation.

Q: Parole is the only community supervision type that has been mentioned. We are a re-entry collaborative that encompasses parole and probation. Would Probation be covered under this as well?
A: It could, if there is a reentry initiative and the offenders will be under community supervision for at least 12 months. Please provide information about your jurisdiction when you respond to section one of the selection criteria.

Q: Can a parolee who is chosen for the "control" group still receive the normal services (case management, employment training, substance abuse education, etc.) and NOT receive the T4C and MET?
A: Group RE 3 (the "business as usual" or "control" group) can receive whatever services are normally available in the jurisdiction, but should not receive the MET/T4C intervention that will be offered as part of the DFE.

Q: Will this slide show be available after the webinar ends? If so, where can we find it?
A: Yes, on this website you can find the webinar presentation: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/scadfe.htm

Q: Please describe the services a parolee who is chosen for the third group can receive.
A: This will be "business as usual" services. For example, the services they were getting before the DFE began.

Q: The RFA defines reentry as beginning at sentencing. If a group cannot begin the program at sentencing, but only during in-custody programming, are they still able to apply?

A: The DFE is designed for individuals who are released from custody. Thus, while a jurisdiction's overall reentry strategy may begin at sentencing, the DFE portion of the reentry initiative will begin upon release and therefore enrollment in the DFE will typically occur after release.

Q: Please confirm that the on-site training is at NIC academy not the grantee site?

A: The first training is scheduled to be on-site. The location of subsequent trainings has not been finalized. But please budget for 2 days of training in Washington, DC, for each of the 3 meetings; and 2 days for a peer-to-peer meeting in Aurora, CO (the NIC training facility).

Q: the solicitation also precludes very high risk? Is that correct?

A: Yes, that is correct.

Q: In order to make sure there is office space available the onsite coordinator will be visiting each site how often?

A: There will need to be space for a Project Coordinator and a Research Coordinator at the site where the DFE will be located. They will be located on-site for the duration of the project. This office space can be considered "in-kind" on your budget.

Q: What determines a new release (within 30 to 120 days)?

A: A new release is generally considered to be someone who has been released within a reasonable period of time but generally less than 120 days.

Q: Can more than one CBO be sought to assist in providing ancillary services

A: Yes

Q: Do you anticipate sub-contracts being made between community service providers that aren't provided by the fiscal agent?

A: Yes, for the services that are considered appropriate and project-related.

Q: Are Counties eligible to apply?

A: A County could be eligible if it meets the following eligibility requirements - applicants are limited to states, units of local government, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior). Please also see page 12 of the solicitation for additional information about eligibility.

Q: When will site grantee selections be announced

A: The sites selected to participate in the DFE, will be announced no later than September 30, 2012.

Q: Will a smaller number of female offenders then 500 over the time of the project be considered?

A: The total number of offenders per site must be at least 500. Since it is desirable and necessary to test interventions on both genders there should be sufficient samples of men and women in the study. Sites should work with BJA to assess the appropriateness of their study population. It is anticipated that female offenders will be 10 to 15 percent of the sample which is their general proportion in the parolee population.

Q: Can a Parole Officer serve as the Coordinator if they do not have a caseload?

A: BJA and NIC will work with each site to recruit and identify someone with the appropriate qualifications to serve as Project Coordinator. This could be a Parole Officer that does not supervise any offenders.

Q: In a Parole Office of 20 Agents and 1500 parolees, how many agents would you suggest be trained?

A: The DFE does not require a specific caseload size per agent. It is probably desirable to train three to five officers in Effective Core Correctional Practices/Integrated Case Management. The sites should assume that approximately 1/3 (about 166) of the 500 parolees who enter the study over 18-24 months will need to be supervised by a parole officer trained in Effective Core Correctional Practices and Integrated Case Management and Supervision.

Q: Who do you see as the key staff who would be required to attend the meetings in DC?

A: Please see page 9 of the solicitation.

Q: Should the training provided by NIC to supervising officers be included in the budget portion of the application or is that automatically included in addition to other costs? If it should be included in the budget, how do you know how much to budget?

A: On-site training will be offered at no cost to the grantee. But space may be needed to hold the training, which could be considered an "in kind" cost. But please budget for 2 days of training in Washington, DC, for each of the 3 meetings; and 2 days for a peer-to-peer meeting in Aurora, CO (the NIC training facility).

Q: Why aren't the PO's receiving motivational enhancement therapy training?

A: The design calls for the service providers to deliver the clinical interventions of motivational enhancement training and T4C. POs will learn some of the motivational techniques as part of the Core Correctional Practices training. Additionally the training on Integrated Case Management and Supervision will provide the POs with strategies of working with service providers and using motivational communication techniques in supervision interactions with offenders.

Q: How much money is available for this project in Year 1?

A: For allowable, project related costs sites can receive up to one million dollars for the 1st year of the project. If there are unused funds, sites can carry them forward on a no cost extension basis.

Q: Will a list of interested applicants be posted anywhere?

A: Only the names of the applicants that are awarded funding for this DFE will be posted.

Q: Will more than one agency be awarded grants?

A: Up to four agencies will be awarded funding under this solicitation.

Q: Can the local member of the research team be an agency employee and if so, will that be considered in-kind?

A: The research coordinator will be selected by the evaluation team and is included in the evaluation team's budget.

Q: Are you saying that NIC will go to the grantee to provide the free training? In other words, we do not need to budget for travel to training sites? What about travel for any grant-focused conferences or meetings sponsored by or required by the grantors?

A: On-site training will be offered at no cost to the grantee. But space may be needed to hold the training, which could be considered an "in kind" cost. But please budget for 2 days of training in Washington, DC, for each of the 3 meetings; and 2 days for a peer-to-peer meeting in Aurora, CO (the NIC training facility).

Q: Our agency is considering partnering with an existing re-entry program to expand services into another county. As long as the existing program is the lead agency are you open to collaborations?

A: Eligible agencies are allowed to partner with service providers in their community.

Q: If a potential site has had the MET & T4C training, can there be a fast forward to the other areas of need training in order to begin the project sooner?

A: The MET and T4C components of the training are intended for the community service providers. It is important that all the sites receive the same MET and T4C training that will be administered for this project.

Q: Is any connection/contact made with the offenders (at the facility level), prior to their release to probation to see if they want to enter the study? Or is that even a recommendation for a potential site.

A: The evaluation team will be flexible in its approach to incorporating the DFE into local practices. In some cases, this may involve identifying offenders prior to their release from the facility and perhaps beginning the supervision at this point.

Q: What happens to a data form a Probation & Parole office where the parolee may have transferred to another district that is not a test site?

A: Once an offender goes through the random assignment process, they will remain in the study for the duration of the follow-up period. If a transfer becomes necessary, the case would continue to be treated in accordance with the parolee's original research assignment for the purposes of the evaluation (this is called an "intent to treat" approach). Administrative data on contacts with the criminal justice system, including arrests, convictions, and re-incarceration will be collected at the state level for all DFE study participants, regardless of whether they are still being supervised by agents in the DFE study offices.

Q: On page 13 of the grant announcement it indicates 9 months post-release as the target population. In the slide show it states offenders must be on supervision for 12 months. Please clarify.

A: It is desirable for the parolee to be under supervision for at least 9 months, but 12 months is more desirable.

Q: What is the grantor's definition of "seriously mentally ill" and "sex offender" as described in the grant application?

A: The jurisdiction's current definitions will be used to define these two populations.

Q: Will pre-release centers (prisons) need to provide data?

A: Yes, the evaluation team will collect administrative data from all corrections facilities and other criminal justice agencies.

Q: Is it acceptable to have multiple community service providers as partners?

A: Yes

Q: If we have multiple re-entry programs with different caseload sizes, can we include both groups of officers in the Experiment?

A: Applicants should describe their reentry programs in their proposals. BJA will assess each applicant's appropriateness for the DFE. Caseload sizes are up to each jurisdiction. The DFE does not require specific caseload sizes.

Q: T4C and MET training will be held only in Colorado?

A: On-site training will be offered at no cost to the grantee, which will include T4C and MET. But please also budget for 2 days of training in Washington, DC, for each of the 3 meetings; and 2 days for a peer-to-peer meeting in Aurora, CO (the NIC training facility).

Q: Is it okay that many offenders already may have participated in T4C while incarcerated?

A: Yes. The study will test the curriculum designed for MET/T4C in the community. We will collect data on prior prison programs to understand how this affects outcomes.

Q: A similar solicitation was issued in mid-2011. Were any awards given?

A: This solicitation is a revised version of the solicitation issued in mid-2011. No awards were granted.

Q: After you get a pool of parole officers who volunteer to join the study who and how will the final selection be made?

A: The evaluation team will work with each grantee to develop a mutually agreeable plan for conducting random assignment. The evaluation team will be responsible for conducting random assignment of parole officers and parolees, but local staff will play a role in the planning process. Specific procedures will be tailored to each jurisdiction.

Q: In the Summary of the DFE, there is mention that "reentry should begin at the sentencing phase and continue post-release". Can you explain further?

A: The DFE is designed for individuals who are released from custody from prison or jail (as a sentence). Thus, while a jurisdiction's overall reentry strategy may begin at sentencing, the DFE portion of the reentry initiative will begin upon release and therefore enrollment in the DFE will typically occur after release.

Q: Will your evaluators present to agency institutional review boards for consent to conduct research on human subjects?

A: The evaluation will be presented to all IRB's as required. This may include the agency IRB as well as MDRC, GMU, NIJ, and the NIH Office of Research Protections.

Q: Can the PO's deliver the T4C model to the offenders?

A: For this project, qualified staff in the service provider agencies (or if a correctional agency has clinical staff) are scheduled to deliver MET and T4C to participating offenders.

Q: I'd like to get an idea of our overall audience, types of agencies and the number of participants?

A: There were 245 attendees for the SCA DFE webinar.

Q: If your Parole office is presently involved with a NIDA CJDATS grant would that disqualify them for consideration

A: This will not have any impact at all in the decision. The question is whether the parole office has the capacity to be involved in more than one study at a time. The BJA peer review process will assess each applicant's appropriateness for the DFE based on the material provided in the applications.

Q: Our Youth Services agency is very interested in this initiative. Until the webcast today, it appeared that juvenile justice agencies were eligible. Is the solicitation only eligible to jurisdictions serving ADULT offenders?

A: Yes, this project is focused on adult offenders or for populations that are 18 years or older.

Q: We are a Probation Department that has a lot of Judicial Releases. That would qualify us or not?

A: The DFE is designed for offenders being released from prison or jail or offenders released from prison on community supervision. The model will focus on offenders assessed as moderate to high risk for recidivism. If you have judicial releases that spend time incarcerated before supervision then you will be eligible. This should be explained in the proposal.

Q: Is this study only for one year?

A: The start-up and study period is scheduled to be 36 months, with another 12 months for follow-up by the Evaluation team. Sites will be expected to operate the DFE interventions for 36 months.

Q: Please describe what the responsibilities are of the grantees regarding Human Subjects and IRB certification etc.

A: The grantees are not responsible for IRB submissions. The evaluation team will present the study to the required IRB's. Grantees will work with the researchers to ensure the protection of human subjects and that all precautions are taken to ensure that the study is ethical.

Q: I didn't quite fully understand the answer regarding eligible participants. Did you say that participants must be state agencies?

A: Eligible: Applicants are limited to states, units of local government, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior). Please also see page 12 of the solicitation for additional information about eligibility.

Q: If only three or four jurisdictions are being used, please explain how this will enable a balanced outcome, since it will not reflect a sizable population.

A: The study is designed as a field experiment to test a specific intervention. The goal is to compare the outcomes of individuals who receive the DFE services with those who receive usual supervision services. BJA, NIJ, and the evaluation team have determined the necessary sample size (500) to have sufficient statistical power to determine whether the DEF interventions had any positive (or negative) impact on offender outcomes. The DFE is not designed to be representative of any set number of jurisdictions but rather to test the intervention on high and moderate risk offenders.

Q: Are local units of government eligible?

A: Eligible: Applicants are limited to states, units of local government, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior). Please also see page 12 of the solicitation for additional information about eligibility.

Q: Are there specific requirements for the risk assessment tool used.

A: The risk instrument should be whatever the jurisdiction will be using during the study period. There is no need to make special plans to facilitate the study.

Q: We are viewing from the point of view of a county jail. I have reviewed the material and I cannot find where our role could fit into this project. If there is an angle I missed or didn't think about would you let me know.

A: A County Jail that meets the eligibility requirements, has a reentry initiative in place, and releases offenders into community supervision for 9 to 12 months, could be a viable site for this DFE. Please be sure to review page 25 of the solicitation and demonstrate and describe the information requested. Also a county jail that houses community offenders could be eligible.

Q: Are the grantees only to include services provided by the Parole agency, or are coalitions that include community agencies in concert with the state agency also eligible to be considered a grantee.

A: Please be sure to review page 25 of the solicitation and demonstrate and describe the information requested. Eligible: Applicants are limited to states, units of local government, territories, and federally recognized Indian tribes (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior). Please also see page 12 of the solicitation for additional information about eligibility.

Q: What is considered moderate to high risk offender?

A: This will be determined within each jurisdiction based on the local risk assessment tool. Please explain your tool in the proposal.

Q: Are violent offenders eligible

A: Violent offenders, who are assessed as moderate or high risk, are eligible.