

BJA Announces Solicitation for New Smart Pretrial Demonstration Initiative

On April 9, 2014, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) announced they are seeking applications for the [Smart Pretrial Demonstration Initiative](#) (SPDI) grant as part of their “smart suite.” The SPDI grant program seeks to build upon analysis-driven, evidence-based pretrial justice by encouraging local and tribal jurisdictions to effectively implement risk assessment and appropriate supervision and/or diversion strategies targeting pretrial outcomes within their jurisdiction.

The Smart Pretrial Demonstration Initiative is an opportunity for local jurisdictions to improve the front-end of their criminal justice systems. Over the past several years BJA has supported the efforts of the Pretrial Justice Working Group to help implement changes to the current bail system in America. With wide support from a broad array of organizations, including the Conference of Chief Justices, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Association of Counties, and many more, recipients of the SPDI grant will have resources at their disposal to make change.

Because improvements to the pretrial system involve all local leaders, an important component of SPDI focuses on bringing together all key stakeholders, including Chief Judges, Chief Public Defenders and/or Leadership from the Private Defense Bar, Elected Prosecutors, Jail Administrators or County Sheriffs, City Police Chiefs or other lead Law Enforcement Entities, Directors of Pretrial Services, Community Corrections/Chief Probation Officers, and Elected County Officials or County Executives.

Under this solicitation, BJA will make up to three awards that cover both Phase 1 and 2 at up to \$100,000 per year, for a total budget of \$200,000. Applicants should prepare 2-year budgets to accommodate policy team travel and the funding of a part-time site coordinator. Awards will contain special conditions that will require submission and approval of plans for release of budget conditions for Phase 2. For Phase 3, BJA anticipates awarding a supplemental award for up to \$100,000 based on successful site performance.

BJA will invest significant resources in dedicated pretrial justice technical assistance, training, and research providers who will work directly with the three sites. Sites will not be required to fund these activities out of their local grant.

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on May 27, 2014.

Leading up to the application deadline, BJA and the Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI), in partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo), will provide a short informational video to assist locations in understanding the key elements of the project and the application process. Two Q&A sessions will also be provided to answer any questions about the application process and the project.

**Informational video available April 22
Q&A sessions: April 29, 2-3 p.m. EDT & May 6, 2-3 p.m. EDT**

Visit pretrial.org regularly or [sign up to receive emails from PJI](#) for more information about the informational video and Q&A sessions. [Click here to view the entire solicitation.](#)