

SMART FY 2010 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE DRU SJODIN
NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER PUBLIC WEBSITE SOLICITATION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website and how does it operate?

The Department of Justice established the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) in 2006, and made the first grant award for maintenance and operation of this website in 2007. The Institute For Intergovernmental Research (IIR) received the initial award and currently operates NSOPW. The SMART Office is competing the award for NSOPW again in 2010 for a project period of 12 months, with the possibility of continuation funding for an additional 24 months. The project period will begin October 1, 2010.

All systems, applications and features described in the funding announcement are operational and were developed with Federal funds awarded to IIR. As a result, the Federal government maintains all rights to these systems.

NSOPW allows users to perform a national search of public sex offender registry systems. NSOPW operates as a search engine that queries state, territory and Indian tribe public sex offender registries. Bandwidth is an average of 4.75 MBPS with a max burst of 10.45 MBPS. There are approximately 200 customer service requests to “webmaster” annually.

Currently 50 states, the District of Columbia, two territories and six tribes participate in NSOPW. As jurisdictions implement requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, the number of participants is expected to increase. There are 253 jurisdictions that are required to implement SORNA. In 2009, the grantee for NSOPW provided 1,300 technical assistance sessions. A technical assistance session can include information provided telephonically, via email, at a training session, or onsite with a particular jurisdiction.

If an award is made to a new organization for maintenance and operation of NSOPW, what will occur with the existing system?

The existing system will be transferred to the FY2010 award recipient. The SMART Office has planned for a transition period of no less than six months.

What is the Exchange Portal?

The Exchange Portal is a secure Sharepoint site that provides a common environment for SORNA jurisdictions to share information. This site has the following features and capabilities: automated alerts, discussion boards, sharing documents and files, calendar of

important events, announcements, library of historical statutes, offender relocation tasks, and individual sites for each jurisdiction permitted access to the site.

What are the mandatory requirements in terms of eligibility?

Eligibility is limited to nonprofit and for-profit organizations, including tribal nonprofit and for-profit organizations, that have demonstrated significant experience in providing website development, hosting and management; web services; service-oriented architecture, and distributed information sharing systems. As part of the program narrative, applicants must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the models used by states, territories and tribes to operate their public sex offender websites/registries. In particular, applicants must discuss existing challenges and/or complexities unique to these website/registries. Applications will be reviewed in terms of their responsiveness to these items.

Does status as a for-profit entity affect the funding decision?

Type of organization does not impact funding decisions provided that the organization meets the eligibility criteria established in the funding announcement. As stated previously, nonprofit and for-profit entities are eligible to apply under this funding opportunity. Applications are submitted to peer review and are reviewed in terms of responsiveness to the solicitation and project goals and objectives. For-profit entities are required to waive any profits and fees for services under this grant project.

What is the status of federal legislation involving SORNA that would impact operation of NSOPW?

There has been no federal legislation amending SORNA since its enactment in 2006. However, this does not preclude possible future legislative changes. In addition to Congress, the SMART Office can require changes to NSOPW for a variety of reasons, including assisting jurisdictions with SORNA implementation.

What is the Tribe and Territory Sex Offender Registry System (TTSORS)?

TTSORS is a web-based system that functions as the administrative registry system and the public sex offender registry website system for a tribe or territory required to implement an electronic sex offender registry system pursuant to SORNA. Tribes utilizing TTSORS are listed on NSOPW. You may link to a participating tribe's public sex offender registry via the link on NSOPW.

What are examples of allowable costs?

Allowable costs can include expenses such as personnel, equipment, rent, utilities, etc. Since the program has been operating since 2006, costs associated with hardware refresh are anticipated. As this is not an exhaustive list of allowable costs, interested organizations should consult the [Office of Justice Programs Financial Guide](#) to learn

more about allowable costs. Applicants must submit a budget up to \$975,000 that describes and justifies all expenses. Costs must be directly related to proposed project activities.

What involvement will the SMART Office have in this project during the life of the grant?

The SMART Office will make a grant award in the form of a cooperative agreement. A cooperative agreement is a funding mechanism utilized by the Federal government when it anticipates substantial Federal involvement in a project in terms of program direction and scope. Since NSOPW and the Exchange Portal are new endeavors and involve information systems development, the SMART Office recognizes the importance of collaboration with the recipient of the grant award. The primary goal of the grant is to maintain and operate the systems and applications listed in the solicitation; however, the SMART Office recognizes that the field of information sharing and information technology is constantly changing and advancing. Accordingly, the SMART Office expects the grantee to advise on enhancements to NSOPW in terms of usability and updating of systems.