

SEARCH Resolution 00-30

Of the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics

July 30, 2000

Funding for the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) Under the Crime Identification Technology Act (CITA)

WHEREAS, Public Law 105-251, the Crime Identification Technology Act of 1998 (CITA), provides that the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), relying principally on the expertise of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), will make a grant to each state to upgrade criminal history record systems for law enforcement, courts, the National Instant Background Check System (NICS) and other criminal justice and non-criminal justice purposes, to improve identification systems, to promote the integration of national, state and local criminal justice information systems and to capture information for statistical and researches purposes to improve the administration of criminal justice;

WHEREAS, CITA requires each state seeking a grant to submit a plan for using CITA funds for upgrading criminal history record information and information systems and for promoting integration;

WHEREAS, the Commerce, Justice, State appropriation for FY 01, adopted by the House of Representatives, calls for the states to submit plans to OJP describing how the states intend to establish or upgrade integrated, statewide approaches to information and identification technologies and systems (Integrated Systems Plans);

WHEREAS, submitting a National Criminal History Improvement Plan (NCHIP Plan), in addition to an Integrated Systems Plan, would help to assure that the states continue to give priority to improving criminal history records and record systems;

WHEREAS, requiring states to submit an Integrated Systems Plan and a separate NCHIP Plan is consistent with CITA, in that most of the authorized grant activities under CITA are for the purpose of improving criminal history records and record systems; and

WHEREAS, an approach requiring the submission of separate Integrated Systems Plans and NCHIP Plans will help to assure a continued key role for BJS which has unique expertise and experience in operating a criminal history improvement program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, that: "Inasmuch as one of the principal purposes of the Crime Identification Technology Act (CITA) is to upgrade criminal history records and record systems, the Congress is urged to include in appropriations for CITA priority funding for National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) activities to be administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics."