

SEARCH Resolution 94-16

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

February 11, 1994

Grant Program Authorized by the Brady Hand Gun Violence Prevention Act

WHEREAS, the state criminal justice agencies need federal assistance to participate in an effective and timely way in the National Instant Criminal Background System established by the Brady Hand Gun Violence Prevention Act (Brady Act);

WHEREAS, state criminal justice systems are in need of federal assistance to improve disposition reporting and otherwise improve the quality of criminal history records;

WHEREAS, the Brady Act establishes a federal grant program to be administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics to make a grant to each state to be used for the establishment or improvement of computerized criminal history record systems and to improve a state's participation in the National Instant Background Check System;

WHEREAS, the Brady Act's legislative history states that: "The grant program is intended to be a flexible vehicle to permit the Justice Department through the Bureau of Justice Statistics to target funds as needed to establish a reliable instant check system. The legislation requires that a grant be made to each state during the life of the program, but does not require a grant to each state in each year." * * * We intend that courts can and should receive grant money to improve disposition reporting; ***

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Justice Statistics has legal authority to provide grants to and enter into contracts with not-for-profit organizations for purposes authorized by law and the Brady Act does not change this. Thus, Brady grants can be awarded to not-for-profits when this serves the purposes of the Brady Grant program, and not-for-profit organizations can provide technical assistance, training and can demonstrate and disseminate strategies for participating in the Instant Check System and can provide other support services that will be critical for the success of the National Instant Check System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, that: "The Attorney General and the Bureau of Justice Statistics are urged to implement the Brady Act grant program so that the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics makes grants or enters into cooperative agreements or contracts with all components of the criminal justice system including central state repositories of criminal history records, courts, as well as with not-for-profit organizations for the purposes authorized by the Brady Act, including the automating of state criminal history record systems, participation in III, improving arrest and disposition reporting, flagging felonies, demonstration projects, replication of successful strategies, dissemination of information with respect to such strategies, training, technical assistance and other support services."