

SEARCH Resolution 98-22

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

February 5, 1998

Enhanced Federal Justice Assistance for Criminal Justice Information and Identification Purposes

WHEREAS, it is recognized that there is a growing need for increased federal justice assistance funding for state and local criminal justice agencies for information and identification technologies and systems to upgrade criminal history and criminal justice record systems, including systems operated by law enforcement and courts; to improve criminal justice identification; to promote compatibility and integration of local, state or national systems for criminal justice purposes; for firearms eligibility determinations; for identification of sexual offenders; for identification of domestic violence offenders; for background checks for authorized non-criminal justice purposes; and to capture information for statistical and research purposes to improve the administration of criminal justice;

WHEREAS, the National Criminal History Improvement Program, funded by the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act and administered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, has had extraordinary success in improving criminal history record information systems but will expire at the end of FY 98;

WHEREAS, the Byrne block and discretionary program administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance has also had extraordinary success in improving criminal history record information systems;

WHEREAS, Federal Bureau of Investigation initiatives and, in particular, the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System and National Crime Information Center 2000, require commensurate upgrades and enhancements at the state level if the states are to be able to effectively participate in these programs and if the programs are to operate effectively;

WHEREAS, providing federal justice assistance to the courts to improve judicial record systems and disposition reporting should be addressed; and

WHEREAS, federal leadership and financial assistance is needed to permit state and local criminal justice agencies to implement state-of-the-art information and identification technologies and systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, that: "The Congress of the United States is urged to provide new funding in FY 1999 through 2003 in the form of grants to each state for use by state and local criminal justice agencies (including courts

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and law enforcement) and grants to not-for-profit criminal justice support organizations at the rate of 250 million dollars per fiscal year which grant shall be made by the Attorney General through the Bureau of Justice Statistics, to establish, develop or upgrade an integrated approach to criminal justice information and identification programs and other technology-based programs including the following:

- State, centralized, automated criminal history record information systems, including arrest and disposition reporting.
- Automated fingerprint identification systems that are compatible with NIST standards and interoperate with the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- Finger imaging, live scan and other automated systems to digitize fingerprints and to communicate prints in a manner that is compatible with NIST standards and interoperate with systems operated by the states and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- Systems to facilitate full participation in the Interstate Identification Index.
- Programs and systems to facilitate full participation in the Interstate Identification Index National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact.
- Systems to facilitate full participation in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System for firearms eligibility determinations.
- Integrated criminal justice information systems to manage and communicate criminal justice information among law enforcement, courts, prosecution and corrections and the development of state standards to support these activities.
- Non-criminal history record information systems relevant to firearms eligibility determinations for availability and accessibility to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.
- Court-based criminal justice information systems to promote reporting of dispositions to central state repositories and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to promote the compatibility with, and integration of, court systems with other criminal justice information systems.
- Ballistics identification programs that are compatible and integrated with the ballistics programs of the Federal Bureau Investigation.
- Information, identification, automation and communications programs for forensic purposes.
- DNA programs for forensic and identification purposes.
- Sexual offender identification and registration systems.

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- Domestic violence offender identification and information systems.
- Programs for fingerprint-supported background checks for non-criminal justice purposes including youth service employees and volunteers, private security officers and other individuals in positions of trust, if authorized by federal or state law and administered by a government agency.
- Criminal justice information systems with a capacity to provide statistical and research products including incident-based reporting systems which are compliant with the National Incident-Based Reporting System, state incident-based reporting systems and uniform crime reports.
- Online and other state-of-the-art communications technologies and programs.”