



# *Competitive Grant Announcement*



## Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Fiscal Year 2002

Submission Deadline: July 12, 2002

Bureau of Justice Assistance  
Office of Justice Programs  
U.S. Department of Justice



## About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a component of the Office of Justice Programs, has been identified to develop and administer the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. BJA supports innovative programs that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. Its mission is to provide leadership and a wide range of assistance for local criminal justice strategies to make America's communities safer. BJA will work with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Office of Diversion Control, to ensure the appropriate development and implementation of program resources. DEA's Office of Diversion Control is responsible for preventing the diversion to illegal purposes of legally manufactured controlled substances and regulated chemicals that have legitimate medical, scientific, and industrial uses.

## Background

In Fiscal Year 2002, Congress appropriated \$2 million to the U.S. Department of Justice to support the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Prescription monitoring programs are designed to help prevent and detect the diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical controlled substances, particularly at the retail level where no other automated information collection system exists. States that have implemented prescription monitoring programs have the capability of collecting and analyzing prescription data much more efficiently than states without such programs, where the collection of prescription information requires the manual review of pharmacy files, a very time-consuming and invasive process.

The increased efficiency of prescription monitoring programs allows the early detection of abuse trends and possible sources of diversion. One indication of the effectiveness of prescription monitoring programs is the prevalence of abuse in states with monitoring programs compared with the prevalence in states without monitoring programs. Studies have found that the five states with the lowest number of OxyContin® prescriptions per

capita have long-standing prescription monitoring programs and report no significant diversion problems associated with the drug. Conversely, the five states with the highest number of OxyContin® prescriptions per capita do not have prescription monitoring programs and have reported severe abuse problems.

## Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

The purpose of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program is to enhance the capacity of regulatory and law enforcement agencies to collect and analyze controlled substance prescription data. The program focuses on providing help for states that want to establish a prescription drug monitoring program. However, resources also will be available to states with existing programs. Program objectives include (1) building a data collection and analysis system at the state level, (2) improving existing program capabilities through the use of enhanced technology, (3) developing real-time information technology solutions for reporting purposes, and (4) assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the programs funded under this initiative.

## Who Is Eligible?

Applications are solicited by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs. State governments meeting the eligibility criteria described below may apply for grants in one of the following two categories:

### Grants for Starting New Programs

State governments eligible to apply under this component are those governments in states with legislation or regulations, either pending or in place, that (1) enable the development of a prescription drug monitoring program and (2) authorize or designate a state agency to implement and administer the program. State governments that have not taken any action but want to apply must introduce legislation or regulations for a prescription monitoring program before the July 12 submission deadline and provide documentation of doing so with their application.

### Grants for Enhancing Existing Programs

State governments seeking to improve an existing prescription drug monitoring program through the use of enhanced technology or the development of a real-time information system may apply for an enhancement award. According to DEA's Office of Diversion Control, 15 states have programs in place and are eligible to apply: California, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, and Washington.

## Amount and Length of Awards

Up to seven grants will be awarded to support new programs. These awards will be up to

\$180,000 each and will have a project period of 24 months. Up to two grants will be awarded to support enhanced programs. These awards will be up to \$220,000 each and will have a project period of 24 months. Under both options, BJA will determine the number of awards based on the submissions received.

## Administrative Requirements

The Application Kit and instructions are available from BJA's web site at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/html/apply1.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/html/apply1.htm). Copies also are available from the BJA Clearinghouse at 1-800-688-4252 or the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770.

To be considered for funding, applicants must:

- ◆ Submit an original and seven copies of their application package.
- ◆ Submit a narrative section that is no longer than 15 pages. This section should address each element of the Selection Criteria list on page 4, in the sequence shown, and it should meet the requirements listed in the Performance Measures section on page 5. Attachments to the 15 pages are not allowed, with the exception of attachments documenting the state's drug monitoring legislation or regulations.
- ◆ Include a budget that reflects the estimated cost of the activities described in the application. Identify each activity as either a new activity or an expansion of current activities.
- ◆ Ensure that all applicable forms in the BJA Application Kit are signed and dated.

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- ◆ Submit the application narrative on 8½ by 11-inch paper, double spaced on one side, in a standard 12-point font.
- ◆ Ensure that the submission includes written authorization from the appropriate state official approving participation in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Only one application per state will be considered.
- ◆ Include a copy of your state’s legislation or regulations that (1) enable the development of a prescription monitoring program and (2) authorize or designate a state agency to implement and administer the program. Or, provide documentation that your state introduced legislation or regulations for a prescription drug monitoring program before the July 12 submission deadline.

### Review Process

BJA will work with DEA to establish review teams for each component. These teams will review and score applications and make award recommendations to the Director of BJA, who will make recommendations to the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs. Recommendations will be made on the basis of panel review results as well as other considerations.

### Selection Criteria: Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

#### **Problem Definition** (15 points)

Identify the problem(s) your proposal addresses. Problem statements should discuss the types of offenses and offenders the monitoring program will address. Supporting information that describes the

impact on the state of controlled substance abuse and diversion should be included, as should a summary of how this information is currently collected and analyzed.

#### **Strategy Overview** (15 points)

Summarize your state’s strategy for reducing the diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical controlled substances, particularly at the retail level. Describe current law enforcement activities and government and industry partnerships addressing this problem. Identify the state agency designated to enforce legislation enacted in this area, and describe the resources available to that agency to implement the activities funded by this grant.

#### **Implementation Plan** (30 points)

Describe what you propose to achieve and how it will be accomplished. (Refer to the Performance Measures section on page 5.) Identify each activity as either new or an expansion of current activities. Include your goals and objectives, along with a timeline of critical tasks required to successfully implement your plans.

#### **Collaboration and Partnerships** (20 points)

Describe your strategy to collaborate with other public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions. Who will be your partners? What roles will they play? Which partnerships will be new? Discuss how you plan to engage the community in the initiative’s implementation.

#### **Program Effectiveness** (10 points)

How will you know if the program works? Explain what will be measured, who will do it, and how the information will be used. Describe the data that is currently collected by your state and what data will be collected following the implementation or enhancement of the program. Attach the data collection instrument(s) your state currently uses as

an appendix to the application. If your state does not collect information, state this in your application.

### **Program Costs and Cost Benefits** (10 points)

Describe the costs and cost benefits of your initiative. Identify how your state's management of the program would yield cost savings. Outline a strategy for sustaining the program following the expiration of the federal grant period.

**Note:** Applicants for enhancement grants must dedicate an additional \$20,000 of their budget to hosting a 2½ day cluster training for persons who represent projects participating in both program categories. As host, you will be responsible for securing speakers and meeting rooms, providing travel and lodging for up to two (nonfederal) persons from each project site, and working closely with DEA and BJA to develop the cluster training's agenda.

## **Performance Measures**

Grant recipients are required to measure their program's performance. Applicants for grants to start new programs are required to select at least two outcome measures and one process measure from the New Programs chart on page 6. States applying for grants to enhance existing programs must select two outcome measures and two process measures from the Enhanced Programs chart on page 7. In addition to incorporating this information into your narrative, you must address the following: (1) the type of information you will collect, (2) who will collect the information, and (3) how the information will be reported. If you are selected for an award, you will be required to provide interim data in your semiannual progress reports. You will also be required to submit the final results as part of your final progress report.

## **Technical Assistance**

As part of its oversight role, DEA's Office of Diversion Control maintains contact with states working to implement or enhance prescription drug monitoring programs. To provide technical assistance, DEA will link interested grant recipients to agencies in other states that have experience in administering prescription drug monitoring programs.

## **Evaluation**

BJA and DEA will enlist the support of the National Institute of Justice to ensure that the individual projects are collecting practical, measurable, and descriptive information that can be provided to interested agencies and organizations.

## **Deadline and Submission**

An original application with signatures and seven copies must be date stamped by the delivery service no later than **July 12, 2002**.

Applicants are advised **NOT** to send their applications via the U.S. mail due to delays caused by the screening of U.S. mail addressed to the Justice Department. Applications date stamped after the deadline will **NOT** be considered. BJA will not grant extensions of the deadline or accept faxed submissions.

Applications should be delivered to:  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
ATTENTION: BJA Control Desk  
5640 Nicholson Lane, Suite 300  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301-231-7537

## Competitive Grant Announcement

New Programs	
Objective	Performance Measure
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Identify, apprehend, and prosecute individuals (doctor shoppers, indiscriminate prescribers and dispensers, prescription forgers) engaged in the diversion of pharmaceutical controlled substances.</p>	<p>Number of individuals identified, apprehended, and prosecuted for the diversion of pharmaceutical controlled substances before and after implementation/enhancement of the program.</p> <p>Number of dosage units of pharmaceutical controlled substances diverted by individuals who have been identified, apprehended, and prosecuted. (This indicates that the focus has been placed on high-level diverters rather than low-level individuals.)</p>
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Identify and eradicate outmoded or inappropriate prescribing practices.</p>	<p>Number of educational programs provided to practitioners and pharmacists.</p> <p>Number of practitioners and pharmacists receiving updated training in current prescribing standards.</p>
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Reduce adverse effects of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse.</p>	<p>Number of ER/ME reports of adverse events before and after implementation/enhancement of the program.</p> <p>Number of addicted individuals, including self-prescribing practitioners, referred into treatment before and after implementation/enhancement of the program.</p> <p>Money saved by reducing medicaid fraud.</p>
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Reduce the quantity of pharmaceutical controlled substances obtained by individuals engaged in "doctor shopping."</p>	<p>Number of individuals identified as receiving an excessive number of prescriptions from multiple prescribers and the difference in the amount of controlled substances obtained via prescription by the subject before and after such identification.</p>
<p><b>Process:</b> Increase the efficiency of investigational efforts.</p>	<p>Number of investigations completed per investigator per year before and after implementation/enhancement of the program.</p> <p>Average number of work hours/days spent per complaint received before and after implementation/enhancement of the program.</p>
<p><b>Process:</b> Increase coordination among regulatory/law enforcement agencies across state lines.</p>	<p>Number of reports disseminated to out-of-state regulatory agencies regarding filled prescriptions written by practitioners from the other state, particularly in regard to mail order or Internet pharmacies.</p>
<p><b>Process:</b> Increase cooperative effort between state/local agencies and federal agencies (DEA).</p>	<p>Number of joint investigations conducted by state/local agencies and DEA.</p>

## Competitive Grant Announcement

Enhanced Programs	
Objective	Performance Measure
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Identify, apprehend, and prosecute individuals (doctor shoppers, indiscriminate prescribers and dispensers, prescription forgers) engaged in the diversion of pharmaceutical controlled substances.</p>	<p>Number of individuals identified, apprehended, and prosecuted for the diversion of pharmaceutical controlled substances before and after implementation/enhancement of the program.</p> <p>Number of dosage units of pharmaceutical controlled substances diverted by individuals who have been identified, apprehended, and prosecuted. (This indicates that the focus has been placed on high-level diverters rather than low-level individuals.)</p>
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Reduce adverse effects of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse.</p>	<p>Number of ER/ME reports of adverse events before and after implementation/enhancement of the program.</p> <p>Number of addicted individuals, including self-prescribing practitioners, referred into treatment before and after implementation/enhancement of the program.</p> <p>Money saved by reducing medicaid fraud.</p>
<p><b>Process:</b> Increase the efficiency of investigational efforts.</p>	<p>Number of investigations completed per investigator per year before and after implementation/enhancement of the program.</p> <p>Average number of work hours/days spent per complaint received before and after implementation/enhancement of the program.</p>
<p><b>Process:</b> Increase the efficiency of data collection.</p>	<p>Average number of days between the date a prescription is filled and the date the data is available in the system before and after enhancement.</p>
<p><b>Process:</b> Increase stakeholder satisfaction in the prescription monitoring program.</p>	<p>Number of practitioners/pharmacists requesting reports pertaining to suspected "doctor shopping" activity.</p> <p>Number of days required to provide reports pertaining to suspect activity for requestor (practitioner, pharmacist, regulatory or law enforcement agency).</p>

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### For More Information

The staff of the Department of Justice Response Center are available at 1-800-421-6770 to answer questions about this solicitation. Applicants will receive a postcard acknowledging BJA's receipt of their application 4 to 6 weeks following

the submission deadline. For general information about BJA programs, training, and technical assistance, contact the BJA Clearinghouse at 1-800-688-4252 or access the BJA home page at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA).

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Office of Justice Programs  
*Bureau of Justice Assistance*

*Washington, DC 20531*

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