



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections

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March 7, 2017

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE H- 178  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-chair;

## **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) is providing notice of its intent to apply for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The application is described below.

### Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System

Announcement Date: January 5, 2017  
Application Due Date: March 23, 2017  
Grants.gov number: NIJ-2017-11481

## **Overview**

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has announced the availability of grants to research the impact of acute and/or chronic stress on corrections officers and their families. Applicants are asked to propose a mixed-methods approach to characterize the impact of frequent exposure to stress and traumatic events, and evaluate the utility of physiological and behavioral interventions on corrections staff.

## **Details**

The Department is developing a proposal that expands the depth and research of its current mindfulness-based emotional intelligence interventions for staff. We propose enhancing research through the additional tracking of physiological stress markers including salivary cortisol, heart rate, quality of sleep, expanded pre and posttest measures, and the use of Human Resources tracking on absenteeism. We are exploring the possibility of pre and post-intervention functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) brain scans for a subset of participants. Results of the research will further contribute to the national and state conversation on improving the safety and health of corrections staff.

## **Eligibility**

Applicants can include state and local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes that perform law enforcement functions, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, and certain qualified individuals.

## **Goals, Objectives, Deliverables and Expected Scholarly Products**

The goal of the grant making we wish to apply for is to advance NIJ's efforts to better ensure the safety, health and wellness of corrections staff through research on acute and/or chronic stress impacts, interventions and this aligns with the Governor's vision as expressed in *Executive Order 17-01 State Agency Employee Wellness*. This grant emphasizes the creation of scholarly products in such forms as published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles.

## **Awards**

NIJ anticipates up to \$4.5 million available to fund multiple awards across the eligible categories. In addition to research on the effects and migration of stress on corrections staff, NIJ is also seeking research proposals on the effects and mitigation of children with criminal justice involved parents and children exposed to violence.

## **Match Requirements**

There is no required match for this grant.

## **Action Required**

The Department will provide status updates on the grant application to the Legislative Fiscal Office and the Department of Administrative Services Chief Financial Office. If approved, the Department will return to the Joint Committee on Way and Means or Emergency Board for formal approval and necessary Federal Funds expenditure limitation to expend the award.

Thank you for your consideration.



Colette S. Peters  
Director

C: Heidi Moawad, Governor's Office  
Steve Robbins, Chief Financial Officer, DOC