DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

[OJP (OJJDP) No. 1039]

RIN 1121-ZA06

Notice of the Fiscal Year 1995 Competitive Discretionary Grant Programs for Title IV Missing and Exploited Children's Program and Application Kit

AGENCY: Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, DOJ.

ACTION: Notice of the Fiscal Year 1995 Competitive Discretionary Grant Programs for Title IV Missing and Exploited Children's Program and announcement of the availability of the OJJDP Application Kit for discretionary assistance awards under Title IV, the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771–5780).

SUMMARY: The Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), pursuant to the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771–5780, Title IV of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq., is required through grants or contracts, to: establish and operate a 24-hour toll-free telephone line; establish and operate a national resource center and clearinghouse; periodically conduct national incidence studies on missing children; and provide information on the use of record information to identify and locate missing children. In addition, the Administrator is authorized to support research, demonstration, or service programs to educate parents, provide information, aid communities, increase knowledge, collect data, address the needs of missing children and their families, and establish or operate statewide clearinghouses to assist in locating and recovering missing

There were no comments received in response to OJJDP's proposed Title IV competitive programs for Fiscal Year 1995. Therefore, the proposed programs, as set forth in the **Federal Register** of October 12, 1994 and announced in this Notice, will be included in OJJDP's final Title IV program plan. The OJJDP Application Kit for the three programs that follow, containing a copy of application form 424, standard and special conditions, the OJJDP Peer Review Guidelines, OJJDP's Competition and Peer Review Procedures, and General Application

and Administrative Requirements, can be obtained by calling the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, toll-free, 24 hours a day, at (800) 638–8736.

The program announcements contain specific instructions on competitive program requirements, including eligibility requirements and selection criteria. All applications will be evaluated and rated by a peer review panel according to the announced selection criteria. Peer review will be conducted in accordance with the OJJDP Competition and Peer Review Policy, 28 CFR part 34, subpart B.

DATES: Applications under each of the three programs must be received by 5 p.m. e.s.t., February 21, 1995. Applications received after the deadline date will not be considered.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be received by mail or hand-delivered to: Ron Laney, Director, Missing and Exploited Children's Program, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 633 Indiana Avenue, NW., 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20531. Hand-delivered applications will be received between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: See Application Kit and Requests for Proposals that follow.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must be public agencies or nonprofit private organizations or combinations thereof to be eligible for funding under the Missing Children's Assistance Act. No proposals, concept papers, or other application materials not relevant to this announcement should be submitted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Laney, Director, Missing and Exploited Children's Program, at the above address. Telephone (202) 514–7774.

This is not a toll-free telephone number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Grant Program: National Resource Center and Clearinghouse

Purpose

The purpose of this solicitation is to continue the maintenance and management of activities, program development and fiscal support necessary to sustain those services required of a national resource center and clearinghouse under Title IV, the Missing Children's Assistance Act.

The award will be made for a project period of three years. One cooperative agreement will be awarded with an initial budget period of 12 months. Up to \$3,050,000 will be allocated for the initial 12 month award. Subsequent funding support will be determined by

the performance of the grantee and program development needs as determined by OJJDP.

Background

OJJDP awarded a discretionary grant to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in April of 1984. Title IV of the JJDP Act was subsequently enacted by Congress on October 12, 1984. The original award was to establish a national resource center and clearinghouse designed: to provide technical assistance to State and local governments, individuals, parents, and other agencies in locating and recovering missing children; to coordinate programs that focus on reuniting missing children with their lawful custodians; to develop, publish, and disseminate instructive materials about programs, techniques and services responsive to missing children issues; and to provide technical assistance and training to law enforcement agencies, State and local government agencies, individuals, and other agencies addressing missing children issues relative to prevention, investigation, reunification, and treatment in missing and exploited children cases.

Since the establishment of the Missing and Exploited Children's Program in 1984, OJJDP has funded a comprehensive program of research. Major studies have been completed that define and document the complex issues of cases of missing children. The National Incidence Studies for Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children in America (NISMART), published in 1990, was the first national study to provide reliable data about the numbers and types of missing child cases and to clarify the types of cases and situations that make up the "missing children" population. Since then, other research projects have been completed that provide critical information about the dynamics of missing child cases, the psychological impact of abduction on children and families, and what happens after a missing child returns home.

It has become clear that there is not a single "missing child" problem. Children are abducted by strangers and acquaintances as well as by parents or other family members. The research has shown that family abduction is a far greater problem than previously realized, and that the effects on children can be disastrous and long-lasting. Recovering children abducted by family members can be extremely difficult and costly. Many children who run away return home quickly, but a significant number run many times and live on the streets, constantly exposed to danger