

- audiences, to include female adult and juvenile offenders, violent offenders and those at risk for violence, offenders from racial/ethnic minority groups, and offenders who are *chronically* mentally ill.
- Provide technical assistance regarding the development and implementation of populations specific, e.g. gender-specific and racial/ethnic specific, treatment guidelines for dually diagnosed offenders regardless of offense and length and type of sanctioning, e.g. ranging from individuals in pre-trial status to those with long prison terms. Provide information and analyses relevant to the inclusion of these populations in approaches to the provision of "managed care."
 - Identify the most appropriate audiences suitable for technical assistance, including the judicial system, and match these audiences to the most effective and efficient means of technical assistance, including knowledge application and marketing strategies. Describe how the relative effectiveness of various forms of such technical assistance, knowledge application, and marketing will be assessed.
 - Describe how the 3 systems in question will be addressed through the center and how the project will build incrementally on the legal status (based on court dispositions) of offender populations.
 - Create networks and examine and evaluate different modes of structure and organization of these networks of policy makers, researchers, mental health, substance abuse and corrections providers and administrators, consumers, family members, advocacy organizations, and public/private organizations to assist in accomplishing the systems change goals of this project as well as participating in technical assistance and knowledge application activities.
 - Identify and assist key organizations to meet shared goals related to the interventions, sanctioning, treatment, and management/supervision of offenders, e.g. issues of family access and family participation to offenders with mental illness of concern to the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.
 - Provide technical assistance to relevant systems officials regarding the availability of services for offenders dually diagnosed with substance abuse and mental illness in the community and in jails and prisons. Strategize with relevant officials on how to stabilize and maintain the chronic dually diagnosed offender in community settings, especially when minor offenses have been committed. Explore more diversion and sanctioning options for the non-violent dually diagnosed offender.
 - Increase the awareness and use of a range or continuum of interventions, including sanctions, assuring appropriate matching of services to the specifics of the population. Increase the use of screening and assessment processes to identify and help place the dually diagnosed within the corrections system. Provide technical assistance in developing common (across jurisdictions, States, counties) screening and assessment instruments. Provide technical assistance to improve the classification system for dually diagnosed offenders. Assist in identifying and developing more effective and reliable instruments that allow for non-detention options while awaiting adjudication. Increase the ability of the offender to fulfill obligations related to legal violations.
 - Identify the need for new research, evaluation, and data-base building and assess and identify voids and gaps in knowledge and subsequently recommend research, evaluation and data-base building needed to expand the knowledge base on how to treat and manage the full spectrum of dually diagnosed offenders in all components of the criminal justice system, including community corrections, jails, and prisons.

Evaluation of Project

The awardee is required to evaluate the center established through this project to assure consistency with stated goals, objectives, strategic plans, and timeframes as well as to determine the outcome and impact of this project on improved sanctioning practices, treatment for dually diagnosed substance abuse and mental illness, and management of the dually diagnosed offender.

Reasons for Selecting Policy Research, Inc. as Recipient of this Cooperative Agreement Award

Policy Research, Inc. is the non-profit arm of Policy Research Associates (PRA), research firm committed to the application of rigorous social science research methods to policy issues at the Federal, State, and local levels. The delivery of technical assistance and the application of new research to pressing service and organizational issues have been major foci of PRA activities since its inception.

PRA has been recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in research and its applications in the areas of mental health and substance abuse services in the criminal justice system, violence and mental disorders and mental health services for persons who are homeless. Its national leadership in bringing together other researchers, service providers, administrators, advocates, and key political leaders in these areas to focus on issues of extreme national importance is well documented.

This unique capacity and long-term commitment to the issues that are at the core of the project and this capacity exists in no other single organization: private or public, research firm or university. Because PRA does so much cutting-edge policy analysis, it understands the practicalities of interpreting and applying research to foster program development and systemic change, an essential ingredient for this project to succeed. PRA drafted the report required by Congress in Public Law 102-321, section 703 requiring "a report concerning the most effective methods for providing mental health services to individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice system. . . and the obstacles to providing such services." PRA drafted this report and conducted a series of meetings that brought together key constituent groups for their input. PRA has supported a range of technical assistance activities in assisting the National Institute of Corrections Jail Division's evaluation of its jail mental health technical assistance center, preparing a brochure on the current research summarizing data on mental disorder and violence and conducting a workshop to develop model contracts between jails and mental health service providers.

Evaluation Criteria

NIC routinely uses four categories of criteria in reviewing applications for financial assistance. They are programmatic, organizational, project management, and financial/administrative. A description of the general elements that compose these criteria categories follows:

Programmatic—Indication of a clear understanding of the problem to be addressed, the key issues underlying the problem area, and the relevance of the proposed project, well defined project objectives, and resources necessary to meet the objectives; potential for NIC's using the results of the project in other undertakings or programs.

Organizational—Background, experience and expertise of the