

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Part A. Justification:

1. Necessity of Information Collection.

On September 13, 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-322). Title I of the "crime bill," the Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Act of 1994 (the Act), authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to states, units of local government, Indian tribal governments, other public and private entities, and multi-jurisdictional or regional consortia thereof to increase police presence, to expand and improve cooperative efforts between law enforcement agencies and members of the community, to address crime and disorder problems, and to otherwise enhance public safety.

This project seeks to increase awareness and knowledge of police-led diversion programs nationally. Specifically, a nationally representative survey of law enforcement agencies will document the prevalence of police-led diversion programs and delineate their goals, policies, and implementation practices.

2. Needs and Uses

The information gathered from the survey will provide law enforcement agencies nationwide a better understanding of what diversion programs are and of their current policies and practices. The survey aims to advance knowledge in the law enforcement field about police-led diversion programs, increase the potential for the establishment of successful new programs, and therefore enhance community partnership and practice. The project dissemination plan and issuance of a national compendium of existing programs organized by state and region will contribute to bring law enforcement agencies and communities into a dialogue about what kinds of existing approaches might work in different local settings. This project will assist agencies in starting new diversion programs and thereby expand the number of programs nationally.

3. Efforts to Minimize Burden

Although the final sampling frame has not yet been determined, one survey will be sent to each selected law enforcement agency. We have tried to keep the questionnaire short and minimize burden in terms of time spent. They will only have to complete one survey.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication

There is no duplicative effort. The survey does not duplicate a current information collection instrument.

5. Methods to Minimize Burden on Small Business

There is no significant impact on small business.

6. Consequences of Less Frequent Collection

We only have to distribute the survey once.

7. Special Circumstances Influencing Collection

There are no special circumstances that would influence the collection of information.

8. Reasons for Inconsistencies with 5 CFR 1320.6

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

No government funds will be used as payment or for gifts to respondents.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality

No assurance of confidentiality has been made to respondents.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

There are no questions of a sensitive nature. No information commonly considered as private is included in the proposed requested information.

12. Estimate of Hour Burden

Based on our proposed sampling plan, we will draw a sub-sample of law enforcement agencies across the country and form a full sample of approximately 3,600 agencies. They survey will take approximately 45 minutes-1 hour for the respondent to complete. The respondent will have to complete each survey only once

13. Estimate of Cost Burden

This collection will not generate any costs other than those associated with the applicants' time. Therefore, the estimated burden cost is 0.

14. Estimated Annualized Cost to Federal Government

15. Reason for Change in Burden

No changes, proposed new collection.

16. Publication

We will combine and analyze all data that we receive from this survey. No identifying information from the agency will be used. We will only report data in the aggregate. This project seeks to promote and disseminate awareness of police-led diversion practices through an in-depth report to the COPS office; a practitioner oriented current practices brief; the aforementioned working “compendium” of existing programs nationwide; and a peer-reviewed journal article. All products will be made accessible to law enforcement agencies and collaborating organizations nationwide.

17. Request not to Display OMB Control Number

The COPS Office will display the OMB approval number and expiration date on the upper right hand corner of the collection instrument.

18. Exceptions to Certification Statement

The COPS Office does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.