

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING:

A 2010–2012 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND STATUS REPORT

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BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

*Justice Information Sharing: A 2010–2012 Strategic Action Plan**Updated November 2012***Table of Contents**

Introduction.....	1
National Information Sharing Initiatives	2
1. Combating Gang Violence	4
2. Improving Correctional Agency Information Sharing	6
3. Tracing Crime Guns	8
4. Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative.....	10
5. Improving Warrant and Disposition Management	13
6. Combating Prescription Drug Abuse.....	15
7. Tribal Information Sharing.....	17
8. Expanding Fusion Center Connectivity.....	19
9. Reducing Electronic Crime.....	21
10. Regional Information Sharing Systems Program and Tools	23
11. Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Protections.....	25
12. Improving the Juvenile Justice System.....	28
13. Exchanging Information Across Boundaries.....	30
14. Training and Technical Assistance.....	32
15. Development and Outreach	34

Introduction

“Building communities of trust” while reducing crime and improving the administration of justice remains a primary goal of the justice community. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs’ Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has been working with partners to support implementation of national policy, practices, and technology solutions to improve information sharing capacity, while emphasizing the importance of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberty protections. A key dynamic in these efforts is the longstanding partnership between BJA and DOJ’s Global Justice Information Sharing (Global) Initiative, represented through the Global Advisory Committee (GAC).¹ Since 1998, the GAC has been *the* voice to the U.S. Attorney General on key justice-related information sharing issues, such as privacy and civil liberties protections, intelligence sharing, and the criticality of standards-based implementation. Global operates under the guidance and leadership of BJA, and as such, all parties benefit: BJA receives invaluable state, local, and tribal recommendations on priority information sharing issues, and the Global practitioners are provided with information about promising practices and solutions.

As communities face challenges resulting from crime, economic hardship, and budget constraints, it is essential for BJA to identify and support national information sharing initiatives. Effective and efficient information sharing leverages limited resources and has had a significant positive impact on improving the quality of life, economy, and safety in our communities. For example, the improved sharing of intelligence information among federal, state, local, and tribal communities is enabling designated fusion centers to be more effective in preventing and resolving crimes as well as protecting the community against possible terrorist threats.

The 15 topic areas listed in this paper were originally identified and confirmed by justice practitioners at the 2009 National Forum on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.² Each initiative described in this document requires a multidisciplinary response, stakeholder ownership, collaborative program implementation, and strategic budgeting to address operational, technical, and policy needs. BJA is aware that it is extremely important for these initiatives to demonstrate measureable success, show a strong return on investment, and enable justice officials to maximize limited resources. Problem definition, coalition building, program design, training, and technical assistance are critical to ensuring that program processes are successful and can be replicated.

¹ Additional information about Global and its products and resources is available at www.it.ojp.gov/global. The Global Initiative succeeds through its Global Advisory Committee (GAC), a volunteer group representing over 30 prominent agencies and associations across the justice community at all levels of government, advising on nonproprietary information sharing solutions and best practices designed “for practitioners, by practitioners.” GAC members provide recommendations to the U.S. Attorney General in an open, transparent, and collaborative manner to improve justice and public safety business processes and capabilities through recommendations for efficient, effective, and timely information.

² Sponsored by the National Criminal Justice Association, the IJIS Institute, and BJA, the 2009 National Forum on Criminal Justice and Public Safety is the only national conference that brings together justice and public safety practitioners with leaders from federal, state, local, and tribal governments and the private sector in a neutral venue to share real-life solutions that are working across the country. The forum was attended by the lead criminal justice officials from each state and territory and was held August 9–11, 2009, in Bellevue, Washington.

BJA has a demonstrated ability to define priorities clearly and engage key stakeholders effectively to achieve positive program outcomes. As such, the initiatives presented in this document require joint participation by representatives of key user communities, such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), the National Sheriffs' Association, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA), the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), and other organizations that make up the GAC. These practitioners provide priceless insight for developing targeted, sustainable solutions nationwide. Stakeholder collaboration must be augmented by the contributions of applicable subject-matter experts (SMEs) at state, local, and tribal levels for each of the proposed initiatives. Field-level practitioner expertise is essential to providing input regarding policy constraints, process modification, and data requirements for information sharing. Implementation plans for the 15 priority initiatives below address resources needed for implementation over a planning horizon of 3 years (2010–2012), as funding for only a single year would not be adequate to achieve the desired results.

National Information Sharing Initiatives

The following national information sharing initiatives are designed to address critical issues with high operational impact on—and substantial benefits to—the justice community. These initiatives were developed to:

- *Reflect the priorities of the U.S. Attorney General and stakeholder communities.*
- *Improve information sharing processes to enhance decision making.*
- *Enable research and evaluation to identify promising practices that provide a strong return on investment.*

The national information sharing initiatives are presented based on priority. The following factors were used to prioritize each initiative: (a) the issue poses a significant threat to public safety, (b) BJA has the ability to positively affect the issue in a short period of time, and (c) the issue has already received an investment of resources. There are 15 national information sharing initiatives. The first 10 initiatives represent issues that pose a significant threat to public safety; the remaining initiatives represent the other key factors identified as a result of the prioritizing process. These initiatives are as follows:

1. Combatting Gang Violence
2. Improving Correctional Agency Information Sharing
3. Tracing Crime Guns
4. Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative
5. Improving Warrant and Disposition Management
6. Combating Prescription Drug Abuse
7. Tribal Information Sharing

8. Expanding Fusion Center Connectivity
9. Reducing Electronic Crime
10. Regional Information Sharing Systems Program and Tools
11. Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Protections
12. Improving the Juvenile Justice System
13. Exchanging Information Across Boundaries
14. Training and Technical Assistance
15. Development and Outreach

June 2012 Update of This Document

In June 2012, the Justice Information Sharing team added a “Status Summary” section to each of the 15 initiatives to capture progress. The information contained in each “Status Summary” section provides a representative sample of activities and/or accomplishments but is not intended to document the totality of activities performed or accomplishments achieved.

The 15 initiatives in this Strategic Plan do not represent every program in the Justice Information Sharing (JIS) team portfolio, but because the JIS team promotes the use of technical standards, accomplishments are often replicated across initiatives through the implementation of reusable and scalable solutions.

1. Combating Gang Violence

Background:

Depending on location, approximately 25 to 50 percent of homicides are gang-related. Members of gangs between the ages of 15 and 19 are 60 times more likely to be killed than non-gang members in this age range. As a result, this subset of criminal activity is a logical target for reducing crime. As gangs proliferate around the nation and become more adept in engaging in illicit activities, law enforcement officials need to enhance their efforts to share information to combat gang-related criminal activities.

Issue:

Currently, there are several automated gang-tracking systems. However, law enforcement cannot fully share information that may be captured in these gang-tracking systems, because the systems were built using proprietary technology that inhibits sharing the information between systems. In addition, there are solutions that are currently being underutilized (e.g., the Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization File [VGTOF]).³ These solutions should be fully utilized to ensure the best operational benefit for user agencies and to sustain the investments already made in these areas. Further, there is also a need to create a technology bridge by which open, nonproprietary standards, such as the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) and the Global Reference Architecture (GRA), can be used to access gang-tracking systems and enable an information sharing capability. The goal of this important effort is to allow participating agencies to log in to their gang-tracking system, make a query, and have that query automatically search other partnering federated gang-tracking systems for responses. This decentralized “federated search model” leverages information sharing efficiencies, enables single sign-on by users, and helps ensure that data quality and privacy concerns are addressed. For more information, contact David Lewis at (202) 616-7829 or david.p.lewis@usdoj.gov.

Action Steps:

- Address barriers to contributing to the VGTOF.
- Provide guidance and support documentation for creating gang task forces.
- Conduct an assessment of key gang-related initiatives and resources to determine whether any additional development is needed to share gang-related information among relevant user groups.
- Provide funding for demonstration sites to implement standards-based information exchange methods, such as NIEM Information Exchange Package Documents (IEPDs) and GRA services.

³ The Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization File (VGTOF) was implemented in October 1995 as a component of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) National Crime Information Center (NCIC). It acts as a pointer system, identifying known members of violent gangs and terrorist organizations and facilitating the exchange of information.

Status Summary:

The following is a summary of the Justice Information Sharing Team's accomplishments and current work related to combating gang violence. BJA's project partner is the IJIS Institute.

- Developed a standard and reusable technical artifact (LEXS-conformant NIEM IEPD) to support gang information sharing between and across law enforcement and justice systems at all jurisdictional levels, enhance the gathering of criminal intelligence about gangs, and allow law enforcement to better monitor gang members and gang organizations.
- Performed an assessment of the existing gang information sharing landscape ([RISSGang™](#), [SRA GangNet®](#), MassGangs, [TXGang](#), VGTOF, the [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation](#), and the [Montana Department of Corrections](#)) to identify the most utilized data elements and relationships.
- Created a *Concept of Operations for Gang Intelligence Information Sharing*, which addresses the needs of the law enforcement community and the criminal justice field and which is not duplicative of the existing landscape.
- Identified gang information sharing pilot sites to assist in creating the framework for a federated search and enacting a proof-of-concept pilot utilizing gang intelligence. The selected pilot sites include the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center, and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.
- Initiated development of the *Gang Service Specification Package (SSP)* to be delivered in August 2012.
- Began implementation activities in the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center pilot site (scheduled for completion in July 2012).
- Established a relationship with the National Gang Intelligence Center to serve as an entryway into a federated gang information search portal, as well as a potential future data source for this initiative.

2. Improving Correctional Agency Information Sharing

Background:

According to the DOJ's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), there are more than 2 million incarcerated adults in jails and prisons across the nation. Approximately 97 percent of these offenders will be released back into the community, where they pose an array of public safety challenges. Within 3 years of returning to the community, more than two-thirds of offenders are rearrested, almost half are reconvicted of new crimes, and a majority are reincarcerated.

Issue:

In order to address the public safety challenges posed by returning offenders, criminal justice policymakers and practitioners in many jurisdictions are working to enhance offender reentry by building cross-system partnerships and improving their offender information sharing capabilities. These efforts help ensure that community corrections staff, community-based service providers, law enforcement officers, and others have access to accurate, complete, and timely offender information. Such information supports proactive, informed decisionmaking regarding offender management and promotes offender success in the community. For more information, contact Tom Talbot at (202) 514-9482 or thomas.talbot@usdoj.gov.

Action Steps:

- Conduct an assessment of reentry programs across the nation to gauge interest, willingness, and capacity to serve as corrections information sharing pilot sites (completed).
- Select corrections information sharing pilot sites (completed).
- Provide technical assistance to the pilot sites to support development and implementation of policies, practices, and technology solutions related to enhancing offender reentry. The assistance provided includes the creation of automated processes, such as reusable services and service-oriented architecture (SOA) concepts outlined in the GRA, to enable criminal justice organizations to share data more efficiently with relevant social service organizations (ongoing).
- Evaluate and measure outcomes of the pilot sites to determine feasibility of national implementation of policies, practices, and technology solutions (ongoing).⁴

⁴ Limited funding has been identified for initial pilot site implementation.

Status Summary:

BJA, in collaboration with technical assistance partners from the American Probation and Parole Association, the Association of State Correctional Administrators, the IJIS Institute, and SEARCH, continues to provide assistance to three pilot sites—Maryland, Rhode Island, and Hampden County (Massachusetts)—to support efforts to develop and implement policies, practices, and technology solutions that improve the timeliness, quality, and comprehensiveness of offender data that is shared among key reentry stakeholders, while upholding the privacy rights of offenders. The following are key accomplishments and outcomes:

- In each of the pilot sites, the technical assistance team has developed NIEM-conformant technical specifications that enable information sharing among reentry stakeholders.⁵
 - In Maryland, the products developed enable information exchanges between the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration.
 - In Rhode Island, the products developed enable information exchanges between the Rhode Island Department of Corrections and the Department of Children, Youth and Families.
 - In Hampden County, Massachusetts, the products developed enable information exchanges between the county jail and the hundreds of community-based service providers who work with offenders after release.
- The technical assistance team is working with Hampden County, Massachusetts, to finalize plans for implementing the SSPs and IEPDs and is administering a pre-/post-implementation survey to community-based service providers to assess the impact and outcomes of the new information exchanges.
- BJA is sponsoring technical assistance for each of the pilot sites to assist them in developing and implementing appropriate corrections information sharing privacy policies to ensure the appropriate use of information.

⁵ The National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) provides a commonly understood way to connect data across agencies at all jurisdictional levels and disciplines. NIEM is an end-user driven, federally supported, and government-wide initiative that connects communities that share a common need to exchange information. Information about the model and initiative can be found at www.niem.gov.

3. Tracing Crime Guns

Background:

On August 24, 2009, BJA and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) held a meeting with several northeastern state police agencies and the special agents in charge of the regional ATF offices. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of the eTrace Program⁶ within the New Jersey Fusion Center, known as the Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC). This implementation effort was sponsored by the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) and the New Jersey ATF Office.

Issue:

In many states, gun-trail tracing remains difficult because of the inability to share gun information between more than the local law enforcement agency and ATF. A desired solution is for a local law enforcement agency not only to query ATF's eTrace system but also to share query results with other participating state and local law enforcement agencies, thereby enhancing analysis of weapon history and associated crimes. It is expected that one of the primary partners in this project is a state's fusion center, due to its information sharing role. As an example, the New Jersey Attorney General issued a directive that all police departments send firearm information to the ROIC. This allows ATF to communicate the results of gun trace queries through a centralized source and allows the fusion center to access and distribute gun-trace information to its state and local partners. Similar coordination efforts within other states are in their infancy; however, the opportunity for development of this function across state and regional boundaries is easily apparent.

The state of New Jersey also implemented a technical solution to make the submission easier. The NJSP developed a program that *automatically populates* the eTrace fields from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Crime Information Center (NCIC) submission. Within a 6-month period, compliance rates were increased from 9 percent to more than 85 percent, and more than 15 indictments occurred as a result. Five states in the same region, as well as ATF, would like to replicate the New Jersey approach. Leveraging these sites will improve state gun-tracing efforts and establish collaborative relationships across state lines. For more information, contact David Lewis at (202) 616-7829 or david.p.lewis@usdoj.gov.

⁶ The eTrace program allows the secure exchange of crime gun incident-based data. Recovered firearms are traced by law enforcement agencies to (a) link a suspect to a firearm in a criminal investigation; (b) identify potential firearms traffickers, whether licensed or unlicensed sellers; and (c) detect in-state, interstate, and international patterns in the sources and kinds of gun crimes.

Action Steps:

- Identify statutory issues and concerns exemplified in New Jersey and the similarities that may exist in other jurisdictions.
- Support the role of fusion centers nationally as the primary facilitator for sharing information related to gun trafficking/tracing and quantify the benefit of consolidating all eTrace submissions through a state's fusion center on behalf of all cities and towns in that state.
- Recommend that each fusion center identify a staff member to serve as eTrace liaison and establish access to a firearms analyst to assist with investigations and eTrace requests.
- Provide resources to support multistate demonstration sites of gun trafficking/tracing programs that leverage the lessons and successes of the New Jersey model.
- Create an education and awareness program about eTrace for law enforcement personnel.
- Develop a common technical solution to send NCIC submissions to eTrace.

Status Summary:

- The ATF reports that pilot work efforts along the Eastern I-95 corridor have, within just two years, resulted in 482 cases being opened in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey.
- A promising practices document is being developed to recommend steps that fusion centers can take to include analysts and/or crime information regarding crime gun trace data into their information/intelligence processes.
- The four pilot sites and 10 other non-ATF-partnered fusion centers have been surveyed to assess the levels of cooperation with ATF and the impact on crime gun tracing. The outcomes of this survey will be used to develop a summary report for the field.
- A smartphone application, developed and launched in January 2012, of the ATF's *Police Officer's Guide to Recovered Firearms* document has been downloaded more than 20,000 times.
- This initiative is coordinating with the IACP Firearms Committee to ensure that the work is informed by guidance from the field.

4. Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative

Background:

The Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI) is an outgrowth of a number of separate but related activities that respond directly to the mandate to establish a “unified process for reporting, tracking, and accessing [SARs]” as called for in the *National Strategy for Information Sharing* (NSIS) (October 2007). BJA works with the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE) and a number of federal, local, state, and tribal partners to develop the NSI program.

The NSI strategy is to develop, evaluate, and implement common processes and policies for gathering, documenting, processing, analyzing, and sharing information about terrorism-related suspicious activities. The long-term goal is for federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement organizations to participate in the NSI, allowing them to share information about suspicious activity that is potentially terrorism-related.

On December 17, 2009, DOJ was named the Executive Agent to establish and operate the Program Management Office (PMO) for the NSI. The PMO is responsible for nationwide implementation of the SAR process by coordinating existing resources and managing additional support. In March 2010, DOJ established a PMO within BJA to support nationwide implementation of the SAR process.

An NSI web site has been established and is hosted at a DOJ-managed site, www.ncirc.gov. To support the operational mission, the NSI Federated Search facilitates information sharing using NIEM. NIEM enables information sharing, focusing on information exchanged among organizations as part of their current or intended business practices. The NIEM exchange development methodology results in a common semantic understanding among participating organizations and data formatted in a semantically consistent manner. NIEM will standardize content (actual data exchange standards), provide tools, and manage processes. By utilizing NIEM, the NSI has made it possible for agencies to search and share terrorism-related SARs across a federated environment.

There are two ways in which NSI participants can make their SARs available to the NSI Federated Search: by installing an NSI Shared Space Server or by creating an eGuardian account. NSI participants can access the NSI Federated Search through the Regional Information Sharing Systems® Secure Intranet (RISSNET™) or the FBI’s Law Enforcement Online (LEO). In the future, participants will be able to access the search through Homeland Security Information Network-Law Enforcement (HSIN LE).

Issue:

The NSI has developed a comprehensive program that includes community and law enforcement outreach, standardized processes, training, a privacy framework, and enabling technology, all of which

are essential for successful implementation of the NSI. Through strong leadership and outreach, the NSI PMO has continued working with key partners at the federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels of government, as well as advocacy groups, not only to develop and update the policies and processes of the NSI but also to help ensure that Americans' privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties are protected throughout implementation and institutionalization of these processes. These efforts will be ongoing in support of the NSI. For more information, contact David Sobczyk at (202) 353-8590 or david.sobczyk@usdoj.gov.

Action Steps:

- Develop and implement training related to the ongoing needs of the user community and a rollout plan for the remaining fusion centers and other stakeholders nationwide, and ensure support from defined governance structures. This includes targeted training for frontline officers, analysts, executives, and hometown partners, with each training event focusing on the respective level of responsibilities and duties of various law enforcement professionals and those partners with similar missions.
- Continue to support the role and scope of the PMO, including staffing, governance, policy, operations, and funding needs.
- Continue to improve the aspects of the user interface and search functions.

Status Summary:

The following accomplishments and activities are related to *current NSI efforts* to develop and deploy training programs and technical assistance activities designed to equip key stakeholder groups with the skills and competencies necessary to respond appropriately to suspicious activities that may have a nexus to terrorism or other criminal activities.

Training efforts are targeted to various audiences (frontline officers, analysts, executives, and hometown partners) and focus on the responsibilities and duties of various law enforcement professionals and those partners with similar missions.

- *NSI Analyst Technical Assistance*—The NSI has developed a federated search tool technical assistance process for fusion center analysts. This process provides analysts with the capability to quickly and effectively search for relevant information within the NSI Federated Search.
- *Executive Briefing*—The SAR Executive Briefings focus on executive leadership, policy development, privacy and civil liberties protections, agency training, and community outreach.
- *SAR Analytic Role Training*—In 2011, the NSI delivered over 25 analyst training sessions nationwide. Through this effort, there have been 2,000 analysts trained to date.

- *Analyst Training*—The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) delivered three trainings in 2011. These sessions were well attended by personnel from nine DHS components, with a total of 83 people trained.
- *Frontline Officer Training*—The SAR Line Officer Training focuses on the critical role frontline officers have in the effective implementation of the SAR process by identifying and documenting suspicious activity. The NSI PMO increased the number of line officers trained to approximately 250,000 in 2011.
- *Hometown Security Partners Training*—This effort provides SAR awareness training for partners with similar missions to those of law enforcement constituencies (or “hometown security partners”), such as public safety and those charged with protecting the nation’s critical infrastructure, who are important to the SAR effort.

The following are noteworthy accomplishments and enhancements made by the NSI:

- *Integration Efforts*—eGuardian provides participating partners—state, local, and tribal law enforcement—with access to an unclassified reporting system in which SARs can be inputted and shared directly with the FBI and, after initial approval, will be accessible to specially vetted representatives of other federal and state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners. Sharing these reports will eliminate the jurisdictional and bureaucratic impediments that otherwise delay communication of this important information that is necessary to enhance our national security posture.
- *Single Line Search*—Similar to a “Google” search, the NSI Federated Search enables users to enter search parameters in an unstructured entry called the Single Line Search. This capability provides broader search parameters than previously available, which will help analysts find information they need in a more efficient manner.
- *Subscription Service*—NSI Federated Search users can now create and save queries, also known as a subscription service, by utilizing the NSI user console. These queries can be saved to run on a recurring basis, identify other users searching the same criteria, and identify when a new SAR is submitted that contains the information saved in the data query.

5. Improving Warrant and Disposition Management

Background:

Warrant and disposition processes affect all aspects of the justice enterprise, including law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and corrections. The issuance, maintenance, service, and clearance of warrants of all types (traffic, bench, arrest, and extradition) are integral to the criminal justice system. Improper warrant service actions cause a host of problems in the justice system: unsafe release of violent offenders, trial court delays due to lack of custody status information, and false arrests of citizens due to misinformation and/or outdated warrant status. In addition, there is great diversity across the nation in how the courts interface with their state criminal history repository to report required criminal data to the FBI. Underreporting of felonies, misdemeanors, domestic violence orders, and arrest warrants is common. Many arrests are never properly disposed of in the criminal history repository because the charging history cannot be properly linked back to the correct arrest and person.

Issue:

There is a need to implement open architecture standards for warrant and disposition management in order to improve court disposition reporting. This has the potential to increase the capability for cross-boundary information sharing of this critical data. While the FBI's NCIC provides a platform for the sharing of warrant service information across law enforcement agencies and jurisdictions, most warrants are held locally. Thus, there is a critical need to enable agencies to share warrant and disposition information across jurisdictions on a real-time basis. BJA will be partnering with BJS and the FBI to coordinate resources to address these needs. For more information, contact Christopher Traver at (202) 307-2963 or christopher.traver@usdoj.gov.

Action Steps:

- Continue partnership activities with BJS, the FBI, and other appropriate stakeholders to identify opportunities for collaboration for improving the warrant and disposition process nationwide.
- Identify solutions to barriers to improving warrant management (this user group should be supported by the NIEM program and include an assessment of existing IEPDs).
- Identify the collaborative options available to align with the GRA solution.
- Identify a state-by-state assessment of the reporting problems and develop a toolkit of standard solutions to reporting problems.

Status Summary:

- BJA, in partnership with BJS, the FBI, and NCSC (which is assisting in the administration of this key initiative), has identified eight states to participate in this program as pilot sites. These states are Alabama, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. Two additional pilot sites will be identified.
- This project will result in the creation of a customizable toolkit for states to use to improve the reporting of criminal dispositions and arrest warrants from the courts to the state criminal history repositories. The current state of reporting in the pilot sites will be documented, and the project team will assist the sites in the development and implementation of detailed action plans.
- With guidance from BJA, BJS, the FBI, NCSC, and policymakers and practitioners from the participating states, the project coordinators have defined relevant business events, activity triggers, and use cases that will enable efficient exchange of information between participating program partners. An early version of the online project toolkit has been successfully launched. This unique, one-of-a-kind Internet application provides immediate assistance to states interested in replicating innovative practices. The site will minimize the delay in providing a much-needed resource and support to the field. The web address for the site is <http://www.wdmtoolkit.org>.
- The outcomes from and lessons learned in this project will assist the remaining 40 states in improving their reporting performance and place critical information at the fingertips of law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, corrections officials, and other criminal justice practitioners.

6. Combating Prescription Drug Abuse

Background:

Prescription drug abuse is a growing challenge for the justice community. Although efforts have been employed in certain states and a multistate information exchange program is being tested, there is no single data sharing process that thoroughly addresses prescription drug abuse. It is important to share information across state lines to detect patterns and trends in abuse strategies employed by perpetrators that would not otherwise be obvious.

Issue:

Currently, the capability to exchange information on prescription drug abuse across state lines is not readily available even when states have the technical and legal ability to exchange this type of information. If the growing problem of prescription drug abuse and its associated criminal activities is to be addressed comprehensively, a national capacity to exchange critical information under strict privacy and security rules must be developed. This would enable states to perform substance abuse intervention and appropriate law enforcement investigations when warranted. For more information, contact Christopher Traver at (202) 307-2963 or christopher.traver@usdoj.gov.

Action Steps:

- Identify critical information sharing needs and explore NIEM-conformant data exchange solutions.
- Support interstate pilot implementation of exchanging prescription drug abuse information in select jurisdictions to assess the results and determine the feasibility of national implementation.

Status Summary:

The following are noteworthy accomplishments and enhancements related to combating prescription drug abuse:

- Faced with the prospect of multiple interstate data sharing solutions, or hubs, being adopted by states, BJA led efforts to develop the Prescription Monitoring Information Exchange (PMIX) Architecture. A direct extension of the exchange specifications that had already been developed through the PMIX working group, the PMIX Architecture added the concept of hub-to-hub exchanges, enforced end-to-end security, and provided a unifying framework to ensure nationwide interoperability across prescription monitoring programs (PMP) systems, while preserving state choice as to the systems they adopt and implement.

- The PMIX Architecture was formally endorsed by the Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring Programs (ASPMP) in June 2012, and BJA is actively working with the current solution providers to adopt the architecture. BJA has collaborated with the IJIS Institute to implement a Project Springboard initiative for PMIX, which will provide testing, validation, and certification services to PMIX implementers.
- More than 10 states currently have the capability of sharing data across state boundaries, involving three different PMIX “hubs.” All of these exchanges were made possible because of the foundational work of the BJA/IJIS Institute PMIX working group in defining the business exchange requirements and technical specifications for sharing PMP data and the development of the reference hub implementation known as RxCheck.
- IJIS, working with the Brandeis University PMP Center of Excellence (COE), has provided technical assistance to numerous states on how to implement interstate sharing capabilities. Working closely with ASPMP, the COE, and IJIS, BJA has provided directed, hands-on assistance to state PMPs and their partners to ensure coordination with Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program grantees, as well as other recipients of federal assistance, to maximize the impact of government investments in PMP programs.
- The issues around sharing controlled substance prescription data has also furthered the dialogue on the broader challenges that prevent information sharing between the criminal justice and health and human services communities. Issues such as continuity of patient care for offenders moving in and out of the correctional system and access to behavioral health services upon reentry into society are critical to improving criminal justice outcomes, and there are many such needs for information sharing as individual needs touch both systems. BJA will continue to partner with groups—including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), HHS’s Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, HHS’s Administration for Children & Families, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and others—to address these challenges systematically and holistically.

7. Tribal Information Sharing

Background:

National information sharing strategies have become complex in their approach to sharing intelligence and operational justice information. While many tribal entities do not possess the technology and workforce of some of their larger counterparts, it is important to examine ways to support information sharing initiatives for these entities.

Issue:

Currently, many tribal entities do not possess the resources and technological capabilities that are available to the urban and state entities being tasked to share information and intelligence in support of the NSIS. Identifying simpler strategies and techniques that can be realistically implemented by tribal entities will strengthen the ability of the nation to prevent crime and monitor suspicious activity. For more information, contact Christopher Traver at (202) 307-2963 or christopher.traver@usdoj.gov.

Action Steps:

- Identify specific tribal information sharing needs in order to advance tribal information sharing capabilities.
- Identify and evaluate successful practices for information sharing at tribal levels, which could be shared and replicated with other tribal entities.
- Develop a technical assistance strategy for providing appropriate support to tribal entities to enhance tribal information sharing capabilities.
- Assess the value of best practices for improving the sharing of information at tribal levels, and leverage appropriate capabilities to support tribal entities throughout the nation.

Status Summary:

- BJA has partnered with the Criminal Justice Institute at the University of Arkansas to create the Tribal Justice Information Sharing System (TJISS), a compilation of resources, training, and tools to assist tribal governments in establishing and maintaining information sharing and reporting capabilities.
- The TJISS tool hosts a resource library (with model policies and examples to help operational management), an online tutorial about tribal crime data reporting, and a technology assessment tool. All resources are accessible through the project web site at www.tjiss.net.
- One of the key focal points of the project was improving crime reporting by tribes—specifically via the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program and the

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which involves data collection, assessment, and reporting components. This need was addressed by the development and online hosting of a tutorial about tribal crime data reporting.

- A self-assessment tool was developed and made available on the TJISS web site to assess the technological capabilities and readiness for automated information sharing.
- A needs assessment survey was implemented to provide better information on a national basis regarding the unique requirements of tribal data sharing and reporting, which will help support national policy efforts to coordinate federal policy and resources dedicated to tribal assistance.

8. Expanding Fusion Center Connectivity

Background:

Fusion centers are the state and regional aggregation points for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of criminal justice information. Today fusion centers provide a variety of law enforcement and intelligence organizations with critical information regarding crimes, threats, and incidents relevant to the safety of U.S. communities. Expanding fusion center connectivity will enable communities to employ technology that supports the Smart Policing Initiative.⁷

Issue:

The increased functionality of fusion centers nationally has a direct relationship with the Smart Policing Initiative and all-hazards prevention strategies. As fusion center capabilities continue to evolve, the challenge of finding responsive application and technology solutions continues to grow. Fusion centers are becoming innovation centers for new and better ways to detect, prevent, and respond to a variety of public safety issues. For more information, contact David Lewis at (202) 616-7829 or david.p.lewis@usdoj.gov.

Action Steps:

- Support the fusion center partnership effort with both federal and state local law enforcement agencies.
- Support the governance structure formulated as part of the National Fusion Center Program Management Office (PMO) and the NSI PMO and related implementation activities.
- Develop outreach materials for public and private sector partners and community organizations to increase fusion center functionality.
- Support best practices that enable fusion center information connections, including the use of existing standards such as NIEM and GRA.
- Develop products that meet the needs of fusion centers, as well as guidelines and standards in the field.

Status Summary:

The following are key accomplishments and activities related to expanding fusion center connectivity and capability:

- *Program Implementation*—Using information sharing standards such as NIEM, GRA, and the Global Federated Identity and Privilege Management (GFIPM), the

⁷ Additional information regarding the Smart Policing Initiative can be found at <http://www.smartpolicinginitiative.com/>.

NSI Program has been implemented in most fusion centers, with the remaining center in the process of becoming connected. This connectivity allows fusion centers to easily and seamlessly share information regarding suspicious activity with a potential nexus to terrorism, not only with each other, but with the FBI and DHS as well.

- *Training and Outreach*—In FY 2012, five training programs were developed and implemented by the NSI PMO for hometown security partners across the nation. These partners include corrections, fire service/EMS, 9-1-1 call-takers, emergency management, and private sector security. In addition, guidance related to SAR has been provided to community leaders nationwide via NSI’s Building Communities of Trust program. BJA expects that these training programs and outreach activities will increase the number and types of SARs that are reported to fusion centers across the nation.

9. Reducing Electronic Crime

Background:

One of the nation's highest vulnerabilities is the increase in electronic crime, which has also been identified as cyber or high-tech crime. This is also the fastest-growing security threat to organizations and individual citizens alike and can include many different types of offenses—from the illegal access of one computer to the collapse of entire networks through the work of sophisticated cyber criminals. Rapidly changing technology has not only influenced the growth of the Internet but also the way it is being used to commit crimes and even how the criminal element accesses the Internet.

Issue:

With this rapid change in technology and the sophistication of a new generation of criminals, it has been difficult for public safety agencies to keep pace. The purpose of this initiative is to identify current electronic crime trends, the types of training classes needed, and the resources that can be provided to these agencies from investigatory, prosecutorial, and forensic aspects. Without these elements, public safety will continue to be at a disadvantage when dealing with these types of crimes and violators. It is imperative to provide the skills, support, and resources to address these crimes in an attempt to reduce the vulnerabilities and increase the community awareness regarding how not to be a victim. For more information, contact David Lewis at (202) 616-7829 or david.p.lewis@usdoj.gov.

Action Steps:

- Evaluate and update relevant training classes to ensure that they address identified crime trends.
- Evaluate current training courses or develop new offerings based on identified gaps and related efforts by BJA in areas such as intellectual property, Web 2.0, and virtual world gaming.
- Provide educational materials to public safety agencies and local communities identifying the issues and how these types of crimes can be prevented.
- Identify resources, tools, and applications available to public safety agencies specifically designed to assist in the enforcement, investigation, and prosecution of these types of crimes.

Status Summary:

The National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) continues to support BJA in its mission by providing state-of-the-art training and technical assistance (TTA) to state, local, and tribal jurisdictions on electronic and white collar crime threats. The following are noteworthy, recent accomplishments:

- NW3C, in partnership with BJA, currently offers 26 core courses related to electronic and white collar crime. Between February 24, 2011, and May 31, 2012, NW3C convened 345 classes across the nation using these 26 core courses and trained 6,806 students representing 3,803 law enforcement, prosecutorial, and other criminal justice agencies.
- BJA supports technical assistance that is delivered remotely (via telephone and e-mail), in person, and through web-based outlets. These services play an essential role in electronic and white collar crime case investigations and prosecution. The known and completed criminal cases that were supported by technical assistance provided by NW3C between February 24, 2011, and May 31, 2012, included approximately 571 months of criminal sentences, \$9,721,536 in criminal restitution ordered, \$10,000 in criminal fines, \$19,500 in civil fines, and \$37,430,000 in civil restitution. In addition, in collaboration with BJA, NW3C's research staff provided technical assistance to approximately 7,100 general research initiatives, 260 legal court research projects, and 270 legislative statutes.
- In collaboration with the FBI and BJA, NW3C operates the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) (www.ic3.gov). Between February 24, 2011, and May 31, 2012, 375,226 complaints were submitted to IC3 by U.S. citizens across the nation regarding online crimes.

10. Regional Information Sharing Systems Program and Tools

Background:

The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) is a nationwide program consisting of six regional centers and a technology support center. The RISS Program systems and tools empower federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement personnel with access to intelligence databases and other disparate systems used to combat illegal drug trafficking, organized criminal activities, criminal gangs, violent crime, human trafficking, identity theft, and terrorist activity. The RISS Centers provide investigative support services to more than 8,700 enforcement agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, Australia, Canada, England, and New Zealand.

Beyond the RISSIntel™, RISSGang, and various RISSNET-accessible databases, the RISS Program provides additional resources, including the RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe™).

RISSafe stores and maintains data on planned law enforcement events, with the goal of identifying and alerting affected officers of potential conflicts. Investigative efforts, such as undercover operations, often create the potential for conflict between agencies or officers that are unknowingly working in close proximity to each other. In other cases, agencies or officers may be coordinating an event focusing on the same subject at the same time. In either case, agencies or officers may interfere with each other's cases, causing investigative efforts to be disrupted or, worse, officers to be unintentionally hurt or killed. RISSafe enables users to submit event information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and receive immediate feedback regarding possible conflicts.

Issue:

RISSafe is a service provided through the RISS Program⁸ and is available to all law enforcement agencies regardless of RISS membership. There is no cost to use RISSafe, and it is accessible via RISSNET or by contacting staff assigned to a RISSafe Watch Center. Currently, there are 18 RISSafe Watch Centers. More than 300,000 operations have been entered into RISSafe, resulting in more than 100,000 identified conflicts. In addition to RISSafe, the RISS Officer Safety web site is dedicated to providing law enforcement and criminal justice users with timely officer safety information and a secure

⁸ For more than 30 years, RISS has been at the forefront of developing the necessary tools and providing critical services to law enforcement and other criminal justice and public safety agencies. RISS consists of six regional centers that support information sharing through the RISS Network, providing a single point of access to many RISS services: RISSIntel to share securely criminal intelligence information, RISSafe to manage potential field operation conflicts, RISSGang to address gang-related crime information and intelligence, and RISS ATIX™ to provide law enforcement, public safety, and critical infrastructure personnel with access to homeland security, disaster, and terrorist threat information, as well as secure communication capabilities. Additionally, RISS provides analytical support, investigative support and research, equipment loans, confidential funds, training and publications, and field staff support and technical assistance. To learn more about RISS, visit www.riss.net.

means to exchange and share officer safety-related information among agencies. For more information, contact David Lewis at (202) 616-7829 or david.p.lewis@usdoj.gov.

Action Steps:

- Support the coordination of law enforcement field activities through funding of the RISS Program (ongoing).
- Promote participation in the program at field agencies nationwide (ongoing).

Status Summary:

The following is an overview of recent and current RISS activities and accomplishments:

- RISSafe expansion continues with implementation in Watch Centers across the nation.
- RISSNET, as one of four sensitive but unclassified/controlled unclassified information (SBU/CUI) networks/systems participating in the SBU/CUI Interoperability Initiative under the auspices of the White House and PM-ISE, has made significant strides in supporting single sign-on with expanded access to a wide range of SBU/CUI environments for local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies.
- The RISS Centers now provide investigative support services to more than 8,700 enforcement agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, Australia, Canada, England, and New Zealand—and the list keeps growing.
- The RISS Program supports 37,000 analytical products annually and assists in thousands of arrests, millions of dollars in seizures, and prosecution of hundreds of complex multiagency cases nationwide.
- The RISS Program coordinates activities with numerous other national programs. Two key examples are the U.S. Attorney General’s Law Enforcement Officer Safety Initiative and BJA’s VALOR—Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability—Program.

11. Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Protections

Background:

Fundamental to the successful sharing of information across entities, agencies, and jurisdictions is the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. The *National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan*⁹ and the NSIS emphasize the due diligence that federal, state, local, and tribal information sharing partners must undertake to protect these rights. In addition, the ISE Privacy Guidelines¹⁰ were developed to provide the framework for enabling information sharing within the ISE while protecting privacy and other legal rights. The ISE Privacy Guidelines maintain and build upon existing privacy protections, while continuing to enhance the sharing of terrorism-related information between agencies at all levels of government.

BJA and its information sharing partners have developed a valuable cadre of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties resources. These resources assist agencies by informing executives and decisionmakers of privacy risks associated with their information systems and by providing guidance through the development and evaluation of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties policies. In addition to privacy protections, information quality continues to be a priority among BJA and its partners. Together, BJA and the Global Initiative have developed a new series of resources that provide guidance on establishing agency-wide privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties programs within the justice system.

Issue:

It is important to develop policies and training to ensure the protection of privacy and civil liberties. Key stakeholders (including the American Civil Liberties Union, PM-ISE, DOJ, DHS, MCCA, IACP, and many others) have partnered to accomplish a great deal in this arena. Continued support in this program area can build on these successes and ensure greater adoption. To successfully develop and implement BJA information sharing initiatives, privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties policies and resources are critically needed. Regardless of the potential success of information sharing initiatives, if proper safeguards for privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties are not established and diligently followed, the initiative will not succeed. For more information, contact David Lewis at (202) 616-7829 or david.p.lewis@usdoj.gov or Tom Talbot at (202) 514-9482 or thomas.talbot@usdoj.gov.

Action Steps:

- Champion diligent and thorough privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protection efforts in all information sharing initiatives (ongoing).

⁹ Additional information regarding the *National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan* can be found at www.it.ojp.gov/default.aspx?area=nationalInitiatives&page=1181.

¹⁰ Additional information regarding the ISE Privacy Guidelines can be found at <http://ise.gov/sites/default/files/PrivacyGuidelines20061204.pdf>.

- Incorporate new information sharing initiatives into existing guidance (including templates and checklists) regarding privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protections and information quality (ongoing).
- Support the implementation of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protection policies and procedures (ongoing).
- Develop and enhance TTA services and resources regarding privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protections and information quality efforts (ongoing).
- Ensure that user communities adopt appropriate privacy policies for their agencies using model policies (ongoing). (This effort is being coordinated with the current National Governors Association Privacy Policy Academy.)

Status Summary:

BJA, in collaboration with the Global Privacy and Information Quality Working Group (GPIQWG),¹¹ continues to assist state, local, and tribal justice entities in ensuring that personal information is appropriately collected, used, and disseminated through the adoption of privacy policies. The following are key deliverables and accomplishments related to protecting privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties:

- *Development of Global Privacy Resources Booklet*—The purpose of this key resource is to guide agencies through the privacy policy development and implementation process. It leverages and reflects the experiences and efforts of policymakers and practitioners across the nation to develop and implement comprehensive privacy policies.
- *Privacy Considerations in the Context of BJA's 28 CFR Part 23 Program*—BJA is partnering with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research[®] (IIR) to support the 28 CFR Part 23 Program. This program outlines privacy guidelines for law enforcement agencies that operate federally funded, multijurisdictional criminal intelligence systems. Understanding and conforming to these guidelines are critical to advancing information sharing across disciplines and jurisdictions. During FY2011, IIR trained more than 6,000 law enforcement professionals on 28 CFR Part 23.
- *Privacy Technical Assistance Initiatives*—BJA is supporting the provision of technical assistance to jurisdictions across the nation related to privacy. These include:
 - *CONNECT South Dakota (CSD)*—The National Governors Association is coordinating privacy technical assistance to the statewide CSD program that will result in the creation of a statewide privacy policy that is relevant and applicable at the local level.

¹¹ Additional information regarding the GPIQWG can be found at www.it.ojp.gov/default.aspx?area=globalJustice&page=1151.

- Indiana Data Exchange (IDEx)—This initiative is assisting IDEx administrators in the development of a privacy policy for the statewide system.
- Corrections Information Sharing—The Association of State Correctional Administrators is leading an effort to develop a privacy policy template that will serve as a resource for BJA’s current Corrections Information Sharing Pilot Sites, as well as other jurisdictions working to uphold the privacy rights of offenders in the reentry process.
- *Development of An Introduction to Familial DNA Searching: Issues for Consideration*—This resource was developed by GPIQWG to provide a practical, user-friendly overview of the science of familial DNA searching and its use in criminal investigations. It offers guidance to policymakers and practitioners on implementing familial search protocols while carefully balancing the interests of law enforcement and public safety with the privacy rights, interests, and concerns of affected persons.

12. Improving the Juvenile Justice System

Background:

Serious crimes committed by juveniles continue to negatively affect our communities. A recently conducted study using NIBRS data collected from 17 states indicates that (a) 62 percent of victims of nonfatal violent juvenile crimes were juveniles, (b) 48 percent of these victims were acquainted with their perpetrators, (c) 95 percent of victims of juvenile sex assault were under age 18, (d) 17 percent of all juvenile crimes involved multiple perpetrators, and (e) 15 percent of juvenile crimes involved juveniles and adults acting together. Policymakers, legislators, and criminal justice professionals must continue to seek solutions to address the wide array of issues presented by this growing problem.

Issue:

Historically, juvenile justice and child welfare agencies responsible for assisting young people and their families have been isolated from each other and unable to share information or develop holistic perspectives of their clients' interactions with multiple systems. To help address this challenge, the Children, Youth, and Family Services (CYFS) domain of NIEM is leading an innovative and highly collaborative initiative to develop standards to support information exchanges between the various entities and systems that play a role in the lives of at-risk youth and their families. Representatives from federal, state, and local agencies are actively involved in the CYFS Domain Governance Committee. For more information, contact Christopher Traver at (202) 307-2963 or christopher.traver@usdoj.gov.

Action Steps:

- Continue collaborative partnership activities with representatives from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and other appropriate stakeholders related to the CYFS domain (ongoing).
- Support collaboration with the NIEM Program Management Office to address any necessary requirements to exchange information using the NIEM data model, including construction of the CYFS domain (ongoing).
- Identify the collaborative options available to align efforts in sharing juvenile justice information with the GRA solution.
- Provide support of standards-based information sharing initiatives in select jurisdictions and assess the value and lessons learned in preparation for national implementation projects.

Status Summary:

- BJA has partnered with OJJDP to create the CYFS domain to leverage the experiences of state, local, and tribal practitioners across the country, including the very promising work of the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice.
- With support from BJA’s Cross-Boundary Information Exchange Program (described in more detail in Section 13 of this Strategic Action Plan), the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice is leading an innovative and highly collaborative statewide initiative to implement information exchanges between the various entities and systems in Colorado that play a role in the lives of at-risk and delinquent youth and their families. In most cases, these entities and systems have not previously communicated or shared information consistently or effectively. The effort involved education, judiciary, human services, public health, and public safety agencies.
- Supported by BJA, Colorado developed a comprehensive privacy policy addressing the information sharing needs of the involved agencies while upholding the rights of at-risk and delinquent youth and their families. This privacy policy, as well as other outcomes and lessons related to this effort, will provide guidance, proven strategies, and successful practices to assist other jurisdictions as they connect the often disparate systems and agencies that share responsibility for providing services to youth and their families.

13. Exchanging Information Across Boundaries

Background:

Information exchange must be carefully and fully enabled across multiple dimensions: *cross-disciplinary* (from law enforcement to prosecutor and courts), *cross-jurisdictional* (federal, state, county, and tribal), and *cross-functional* (social services, education, and transportation organizations with justice-related responsibilities).

Issue:

In order to achieve cross-boundary information exchange, it is essential to develop standards and processes that minimize the cost and maximize the opportunities for building these information exchanges. Further, any proposed solution must respect privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties concerns. Sustaining an investment in DOJ's GAC and programs such as NIEM, as well as continuing relationships with information sharing partners and programs such as the FBI's Law Enforcement National Data Exchange (N-DEx) program and the RISS Program, accomplishes these goals and establishes a platform for reaching consensus on information exchanges and methods. For more information, contact Christopher Traver at (202) 307-2963 or christopher.traver@usdoj.gov.

Action Steps:

- Support activities of DOJ's Global Initiative that advance promising information sharing practices and support policymakers and implementers in efforts to build needed capacity in the field (ongoing).
- Explore development of an Interstate Compact for information sharing (ongoing).
- Develop scalable identity management solutions at the state level, such as the GFIPM architecture, to support information sharing across state boundaries (ongoing).
- Identify lessons learned and emerging in the Cross-Boundary Information Exchange Pilot Projects and support efforts to replicate policies, practices, and technology solutions across the nation (ongoing).

Status Summary:

BJA continues to support nationwide deployment and enhancement efforts of the N-DEx program by funding IACP's outreach and communication efforts and by providing TTA through the IJIS Institute in its promotion of private industry adoption. BJA is additionally supporting efforts in approximately 20 jurisdictions to implement innovative cross-boundary, multidimensional information sharing exchanges. These exchanges leverage the work of BJA's partnership with the Global Initiative. The outcomes and results of the work of these jurisdictions will be used by BJA to support and inform

future work efforts. The following are examples of the specific objectives of BJA’s cross-boundary information sharing initiatives:

- *Hawaii*: Develop a federated search capability to query a statewide criminal history repository and the state judiciary’s case management system in Hawaii. This capability will allow users from different criminal justice agencies in the state to “sign on” once and be granted access to multiple data systems. This will significantly reduce the amount of time that is spent searching disparate databases for criminal justice case information.
- *South Dakota*: Create a secure web-based master search engine that connects disparate federal, state, local, and interstate systems to identify people, addresses, vehicles, and relationships among people not previously identifiable in South Dakota. The new CONNECT South Dakota system will link data from records management systems, computer-aided dispatch systems, and criminal history databases via a single access point for law enforcement regardless of jurisdiction. This will significantly reduce the amount of time law enforcement officers spend searching for criminal justice case information and will expand the amount of case information that is available in real time to officers across the state.
- *Maryland*: Implement a foundation for an extensible, standards-based set of “intelligent” information exchanges for statewide use within and across the criminal justice, public safety, homeland security, and transportation domains in support of core law enforcement activities (e.g., ticketing, queries, and alerts) in Maryland. As is the case in South Dakota, this important work will significantly reduce the amount of time law enforcement officers spend searching for criminal justice case information and will expand the amount of case information that is available in real time to officers across the state.
- *California*: Replace legacy court systems in the state of California to provide complete, accurate, and timely information to federal, state, and local justice agencies with a single integrated system. This integrated system will eliminate the need to search multiple state court systems and will enhance the effectiveness of a myriad of criminal justice system actors, including law enforcement officers, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and probation officers, among others.
- *Iowa*: Enable law enforcement agencies in Iowa to exchange incident information in real time. This initiative will help equip law enforcement officers across the state with more complete, up-to-date information about criminal cases, thereby enhancing their ability to conduct investigations and promote public safety.

14. Training and Technical Assistance

Background:

Advancing the capacity for solving and preventing crime is supported through the effective execution of information exchange. Training for practitioners in the field enables the promulgation of coordinated policy solutions to sharing information in the most cost-effective, normative, and interoperable methods. In addition, programs that benefit information sharing nationally are often developed and piloted through training programs supported at the federal level, which ensures that resources are available for national priorities, such as the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

While some practitioners are technologically adept or have the benefit of local resources to implement information sharing programs, many agencies rely on the funding, human capital, and technical expertise of partners to plan and launch an information exchange program. In addition, there are emerging policy standards and technology solutions that must be further developed through integrating feedback from practical application in the field. Technical assistance provides the opportunity to launch projects at all levels of expertise while involving planning, development, and field personnel to provide valuable insight into the design, development, and use of information sharing solutions. For more information, contact Christopher Traver at (202) 307-2963 or christopher.traver@usdoj.gov.

Issue:

TTA programs must be developed and maintained to enhance the capabilities of the field in sharing information while constantly advancing the standards and best practices in information exchange. Technology, privacy, and governance are areas of particular importance in TTA, and the programs below are a sample of the BJA efforts used to enhance relevant capabilities in the field, improving information sharing on a national scale:

- Fusion Center Technical Assistance Program
- 28 CFR Part 23 Training
- Technical Privacy Implementation Technical Assistance
- Justice Information Sharing (JIS) TTA
- NIEM TTA

Action Steps:

- Identify and allocate funding for TTA programs to support the issues that most affect increasing information sharing capacity in the field while upholding a commitment to the preservation of privacy rights, information quality, and coordinated national best practices.

- Select partner organizations most capable of providing training, technical assistance, and implementation support to meet the needs of the field and facilitate establishing relationships with state and local agencies to improve information sharing capacity nationwide.

Status Summary:

- Under the JIS Team’s Justice Training and Technical Assistance Committee (JTTAC), active justice information sharing TTA partners share on a regular basis best practices and resources, which has led to the development and institution of:
 - Shared and consistent readiness assessment criteria.
 - Common standards protocols.
 - New delivery and outreach partnerships.
 - Consensus-driven reporting recommendations.
- The four most active JIS service providers conducted 461 technical assistance activities since 2010. The technical assistance programs included the development of national information sharing guidelines, recommendations, model policies, technical standards, and implementation artifacts. These four agencies provided onsite technical assistance to more than 100 agencies directly.
- The four most active JIS TTA providers delivered 1,455 training events since 2010, with each averaging 25–30 students. These same four JIS TTA providers disseminated 746,729 documents and supported web sites that drew in more than 57 million visitors since 2010.

15. Development and Outreach

Background:

National information exchange capacity stems from the coordinated development and adoption of common practices and minimum standards in technology, policy, and governance. Support for coordination among SMEs to develop and maintain such common practices is as important as the outreach function to deliver these information sharing solutions to the field. For more information, contact Christopher Traver at (202) 307-2963 or christopher.traver@usdoj.gov.

Issue:

In order to enhance the development of common information sharing policies, practices, and technologies in the field, there must be support given to develop solutions that enhance the sharing capacity while retaining a focus on field implementation. The programs below are a sample of those that enable the coordinated advancement of sharing capacity nationwide:

- NIEM
- Federated Identity Management
- Public Safety Data Exchange

As best practices in sharing information are developed, input from the field is critical to development of solutions that meet the needs of practitioners. Through national-level organizations such as those below, representatives of the various justice communities ensure that information sharing solutions are relevant and effective and that, where relevant, they are adopted nationally among the justice information sharing user community:

- GAC Member Organizations
- State Information Sharing Coordination
- Justice Information Sharing Practitioners Network
- BJA State Administering Agencies

Action Steps:

- Support coordinated development of policies, technologies, and practices that most effectively address priority program areas and advance information sharing capacity in the field.
- Promote the adoption of effective information sharing solutions through funding for outreach functions toward communities in the justice domain.

Status Summary:

The following are noteworthy activities and accomplishments related to development and outreach:

- The Global Outreach Working Group and Global Standards Council worked in cooperation with BJA to launch the new Global Information Sharing Toolkit (GIST), an online reference tool and applications that help users successfully navigate through the hundreds of Global artifacts to find a customized set of information sharing solutions that meet their customized jurisdictional needs.¹²
- Adoption of NIEM has far surpassed its early days as the foundational justice model (known as the Global Justice XML Data Model, or GJXDM), which is now just one of 14 model domains. All 50 states, 18 federal agencies, and international adoption continue to substantiate the value and power of the world’s most recognized XML data model.
- The GFIPM program has resulted in an arsenal of tools, resources, and pilot implementations focused on helping government implement scalable technical solutions that enable responsible information sharing with integrated protections of individual privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. This work makes it possible for agencies to share information, while protecting the integrity of local privacy and security policies, thus encouraging agencies to share vital information that had not been previously shared due to privacy concerns. Institution of GFIPM will dramatically reduce the cost (of money and time) of providing access and data to other agencies by simply providing a protected gateway to existing, once “siloeed,” systems.
- SMEs in both government and private industry worked together to create updated and expanded Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) Functional Specifications, which help guide smarter system investments that incorporate and leverage new technology. Agencies will be able to better and less expensively define and communicate their system needs. Additionally, privacy industry service providers can begin improving their product offering features, functionality, and ease of interoperability.
- The Justice Information Sharing Practitioners Network continues to offer practitioners a place to collaborate with peers who are faced with similar challenges and opportunities. The program supports regular, widely attended seminars and webinars that offer a wide range of topics, from new crime-fighting technology to changing trends in criminal activity.

¹² Additional information regarding GIST can be found at www.it.ojp.gov/gist.