

Funding Initiative through NIJ for the
*Review and Revalidation of the Bureau of Prisons Needs
Assessment System, Fiscal Year 2022*

October 21, 2021 | 1:00 PM EDT

The webinar will begin shortly

Funding Initiative through NIJ for the *Review and Revalidation of the Bureau of Prisons Needs Assessment System, Fiscal Year 2022*

Statement of Work Post Date: October 1, 2021

Statement of Work Close Date: December 30, 2021, 11:59 PM eastern time

Today's Presenter:

Marie Garcia, Senior Social Science Analyst, Office of the Director, National Institute of Justice

Webinar Overview

- Overview of NIJ
- First Step Act Overview
- Title I Requirements
- PATTERN and SPARC-13
- Submission Critical Elements
- Important Considerations



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National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Who we are

- NIJ is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice

NIJ's mission

- Improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science



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National Institute of Justice (NIJ) - Overview

- Sits within the Office of Justice Programs
- NIJ has two research offices
 - Office of Research, Evaluation, and Technology
 - Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences
- NIJ hosts [CrimeSolutions.ojp.gov](https://www.crimesolutions.ojp.gov), a repository of evaluation evidence



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First Step Act

- **FSA**
 - Passed into law in December 2018
- **Overarching goal of Title I**
 - Reduce recidivism among the federal prison population
- **Core statutory obligations**
 - Constitution of an Independent Review Committee
 - **Development of a risk and needs assessment system for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)**



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Review and Validation Mandates

Title I requirements

“... on an annual basis, review, validate, and release publicly on the Department of Justice website the **risk and needs assessment system**, which review shall include —

- (A) any subsequent changes to the risk and needs assessment system made after the date of enactment of [the FSA];
- (B) the recommendations developed under paragraph (2) [of 18 U.S.C. 3631], using the research conducted under paragraph (3);



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Review and Validation Mandates

Title I requirements (cont'd)

- (C) an evaluation to ensure that the **risk and needs assessment system** bases the assessment of each prisoner's risk of recidivism on indicators of progress and of regression that are dynamic and that can reasonably be expected to change while in prison;
- (D) statistical validation of any tools that the **risk and needs assessment system** uses; and
- (E) an evaluation of the rates of recidivism among similarly classified prisoners to identify any unwarranted disparities, including disparities among similarly classified prisoners of different demographic groups, in such rates ...”



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First Step Act Risk Assessment Tool

Prisoner Assessment Tool Targeting Estimated Risk and Needs (PATTERN)

- 15 factors (dynamic and static)
- Created using data from sample of ~225,000 individuals released from BOP custody
- Used in concert with BOP's classification assessment, BRAVO (Bureau Risk Assessment Verification and Observation)
- Revised risk assessment tool released in January 2020



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Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Needs Assessment System

- Needs assessed at intake; reassessment occurs at least semi-annually
- **Standardized Prisoner Assessment for Reduction in Criminality (SPARC-13)**
 - Assesses the following 13 needs:

Anger/Hostility	Medical
Antisocial Peers	Mental Health
Cognitions	Recreation/Leisure/Fitness
Education	Substance Abuse
Dyslexia	Trauma
Family/Parenting	Work
Finance/Poverty	



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Current Funding Initiative

Goal

- Support a team of consultants to review and validate SPARC-13 annually for up to 3 years

Expectations

- Collaborate and meet regularly with NIJ and BOP
- Work in parallel with the PATTERN team to meet the Title I mandate
- Successfully pass DOJ background investigation
- Submit quarterly reports detailing progress
- Assist in the preparation of an annual report to Congress



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Submission Critical Elements

Critical elements

- Narrative
- Curriculum vitae or resume
 - Consultant and support staff, as needed
- List of additional support staff, as needed
- List of any previous and current NIJ awards to the consultant
- Research and evaluation independence and integrity statement



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Submission Evaluation Criteria

External experts reviewers will evaluate each submission on

- Statement of the Problem and Research Questions (10%)
- Project Design and Implementation (60%)
- Potential Impact (5%)
- Capabilities and Competencies (25%)



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Important Considerations

- *Support for this funding initiative will be made in the form of a contract. This is not a solicitation.
- *Only qualified individuals can submit responses to this funding initiative.
- *Submissions from entities other than individuals will not be considered.
- *A submission may include only 1 individual labeled as a consultant. A submission on behalf of a team of consultants will not be responsive.



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Important Considerations (cont'd)

- *Submissions may include support staff as needed, for example, a research assistant.
- *Consultants will be unable to publish or otherwise disseminate any information generated from this initiative.
- *The budget for each consultant will be determined *after* selection.



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Submission Information:

Response deadline:

- Thursday December 30, 2021, 11:59 p.m. eastern time

Email responses to: FSAnneedsassessment@bixal.com



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For more information

For questions about the consultant statement of work, *Review and Revalidation of the Bureau of Prisons Needs Assessment System, Fiscal Year 2022*, contact:

FSAnneedsassessment@bixal.com

While questions may be submitted at any time, staff will review submissions Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern time.

Recommended Resources

NIJ First Step Act webpage

<https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/nijs-role-under-first-step-act>

Bureau of Prisons Needs Assessment and Programs webpage

<https://www.bop.gov/inmates/fsa/programs.jsp>

First Step Act reports

<https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/nijs-role-under-first-step-act#reports>

Learn about NIJ Funding

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the NIJ website. The logo on the left includes the text "DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE" and "NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS". The main header reads "NIJ National Institute of Justice" with the tagline "STRENGTHEN SCIENCE. ADVANCE JUSTICE." To the right, there is a search bar and a "Subscribe" button circled in red. A yellow callout box with a red arrow points to the "Subscribe" button, containing the text "Sign up for email updates when funding opportunities post". Below the header, the "Funding & Awards" menu is expanded, showing options like "Current Funding", "Forthcoming Funding", "Expired Funding", "Awards: Listing of Funded projects", "Guidance for Applicants and grantees", "Fellowship & Student Programs", "Travel Scholarships", and "NIJ Challenge Program". A yellow callout box with a red arrow points to the "Funding & Awards" menu, containing the text "Go to nij.ojp.gov, select Funding & Awards". A light blue callout box with a red arrow points to the "Forthcoming Funding" option, containing the text "Find forthcoming, current, and expired funding opportunities". Two other light blue callout boxes with red arrows point to "Past Awards" and "Review guidance, FAQs" respectively.

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