

National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)

Fact Sheet

Program summary

The National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) is an umbrella program designed to assist States in meeting evolving Federal and State requirements concerning criminal history and related records such as protective orders and sexual offender registry records. The goal of the NCHIP program is to ensure that accurate records are available for use in law enforcement, including sex offender registry requirements, and to permit States to identify ineligible firearm purchasers, persons ineligible to hold positions involving children, the elderly, or the disabled, and persons subject to protective orders or wanted, arrested, or convicted of stalking and/or domestic violence.

Under the program, direct funding and technical assistance is provided to improve the quality, timeliness and immediate accessibility of criminal history and related records. Funds and technical assistance are also provided to support the interface between States and the national record systems, including the FBI operated National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) established pursuant to the permanent provision of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, the National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR), and the National Protective Order File which facilitates compliance with Federal full faith and credit requirements. Funds are also awarded for collection of data on presale firearm background checks.

NCHIP-2001 is funded under the Crime Identification Technology Act ([CITA](#)).

The NCHIP Program was initiated in 1995 and, to date, includes the following components:

NCHIP Core Program: The NCHIP core program was initiated in FY 1995 and awards have been made annually in Fiscal Years 1995 through 2000. Additional awards are planned in 2001.

Under the core NCHIP program, funds are awarded to assist States and eligible territories in automating and upgrading the completeness and accuracy of criminal history records. Criminal history records are records supported by fingerprint identification which show an arrest and any subsequent dispositions, such as a conviction or acquittal. Funds may also be used to support participation in the FBI's Interstate Identification Index which facilitates the interstate exchange of criminal history records for law enforcement and related purposes, such as presale firearm checks. Since its inception, the program has expanded to include allowable funding to cover costs associated with collection and flagging of records of persons convicted of stalking and domestic violence, including persons subject to, and/or convicted of, violations of protective orders. In FY 1998, the NCHIP program placed particular emphasis on ensuring that States participate in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) which consistent with the Brady Act became operational in November 1998. Special emphasis was placed in FY 1999 on developing and enhancing sex offender registries that feed into the FBI's National Sex Offender Registry System to ensure compliance with requirements set forth in State and Federal legislation.

Awards under the NCHIP program are made only to the single agency designated by the Governor to administer the funds in the jurisdiction. As of the end of Fiscal Year 2000, an award had been made to every State under this program. Over \$314 Million has been awarded in direct grants to States during Fiscal Years 1995 through 2000. The appropriation for FY 2001 is \$44 Million.