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INFORMATION SYSTEMS,
TECHNOLOGY, AND SUPPORT

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The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority's mission is to improve the administration of criminal justice in Illinois. One major activity in the pursuit of this mission is the development, implementation, administration, and support of criminal justice information technology systems for law enforcement and emergency services agencies in Illinois.

The Authority's Information Systems Unit (ISU) is charged with designing, developing, and operating advanced technology that can be used to help Illinois public safety agencies collect and share information. Affordable information systems were created by the unit to strengthen communication between agencies and help these agencies coordinate their efforts to reduce crime.

ICJIA website

ICJIA's website, www.icjia.state.il.us, is a frequent destination of criminal justice professionals, educators, and members of the public. In addition to providing easy access to the latest criminal justice information, the site opens the door to the Authority's three major areas of operation: research, information systems, and federal and state grants. The number of unique visitors to the Authority's website in through June 2014 was 413,285 with an average of 34,440 users per month. In addition, downloaded publications totaled 3,063,239, and 3,066 users had subscribed to ICJIA's CJ Dispatch. CJ Dispatch automatically notifies registered users via e-mail to the latest ICJIA grant opportunities, research, and other news.

Clandestine Lab Reporting Information System

ICJIA created and manages reporting into the Clandestine Lab Reporting Information System (CLARIS), a database that helps eliminate gaps in the drug information network that records the growing methamphetamine problem in the United States. CLARIS is a web-based data collection system for reporting and analysis of methamphetamine lab seizure data used mainly by law enforcement agencies in Illinois. With CLARIS, remote users access the program and centralized database at the Authority using a web browser.

CLARIS is used by the Illinois Meth Response Teams and other drug enforcement groups who perform methamphetamine lab seizures. Data collected is submitted to Illinois State Police for analysis. Agencies also use CLARIS to file the required EPIC report, and to perform local monthly and annual statistical tabulations.

In F2014, 198 monthly data reports and 780 lab seizures were entered into CLARIS. This data is useful in determining, among other criteria, the types, numbers, and locations of laboratories seized, manufacturing trends, precursor and chemical sources, the number of children and law enforcement officers affected, and investigative leads. The data also helps agencies to justify and allocate current and future resources.

The Authority created CLARIS with a \$50,000 grant from the Bureau of Justice Statistics Office of Justice Programs. When combined with Illinois State Police and federal El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) data, this comprehensive information-sharing network helps stem the proliferation and sale of methamphetamine by more accurately pinpointing the sources of its production.

Enhanced Grants Management System

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency originally created the web-based system, Egrants, with \$4.5 million in federal funding to meet the needs of the state of Pennsylvania. The Authority received that product and source code at no charge. The system was tailored to fit the Authority's fund planning and grant administration needs. The system eliminates redundancies, ensures enforcement of business rules, and generates more accurate grant reports. eGMIS development is under way that would allow users outside the agency to submit grant concepts, applications, reports, and other grant-related information online, streamline internal review processes, and further enhance accuracy.

InfoNet data collection

InfoNet is a web-based data collection and reporting system used by victim service providers in Illinois. These providers use InfoNet to enter and report on services provided to victims of domestic and sexual violence, and to produce standardized program and funding reports. The system also serves as a grants reporting system for funding organizations and a statewide repository for victim service data. InfoNet facilitates continuous strategic planning at the state and local levels for the improvement of victim services and more efficient and effective resource allocation.

InfoNet is operated and managed by the Authority, while system use and requirements are collaboratively governed with the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Illinois Department of Human Services, and Child Advocacy Centers of Illinois.

ICJIA staff provides training and technical assistance to InfoNet users throughout the state. In 2014, Authority staff provided InfoNet service to 71 domestic violence programs, 33 sexual assault centers and eight child advocacy centers. In addition, staff responded to 1,013 requests for technical assistance and 42 requests for InfoNet data.