

Priority: Safety
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: Sheriff
Program Contact: Larry Aab

Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

A grant has been submitted to the BJA under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) for \$350,000 to install and implement a radio frequency identification system (RFID) in 3 of the 5 housing floors in MCDC. This program request for \$350,000 will provide the required grant match. The grant request is limited to that amount made available through the Or. Dept. of Justice, the pass through agency for the State of Oregon. The RFID project will provide tamper and water proof bracelets on inmates, and a belt clip device equipped with an emergency button and tilt meter to in-jail staff. These devices will emit and record every 2-10 seconds a radio identifier that is unique to the person wearing the device. RFID is a new and innovative technology to create a safer facility for both inmate supervision and staff safety.

Program Description

MCSO is committed to providing safe, cost effective offender management through implementing innovative technology that will enhance traditional supervisory techniques of inmate supervision. The protection of both staff and inmates from assaultive behavior is a high priority in any corrections institution. An RFID tracking system is a new technology to industry that will greatly increase the supervision and safety in our facilities.

While our documented sexual assaults are very low, according to the National Institute of Corrections, sexual predators in prisons and jails rely on a code of silence and incidents of sexual assault are widely believed to be under reported (Facing Prison Rape, 2004). Victims are intimidated into remaining silent and coerced into participating in activities by threats of further violence. Lack of evidence can also be a hindrance during investigations of alleged incidents and makes prosecution difficult. If offenders are routinely not punished for assaults because of lack of evidence, victims may be reluctant to report assaults. This feeds the vicious cycle of intimidation, coercion, and violence in the jails.

The presence of RFID surveillance equipment should inhibit offenders from committing sexual assault and other behavior crimes because they will know they are being recorded and documented. Proactive, intervening steps may be facilitated when the observation of suspicious activities of offenders is observed before assaultive or other behavior crimes can occur. When necessary, stronger prosecution cases will be forwarded to the District Attorney's Office which will result in an increased probability of conviction.

Program Justification

This program offer addresses the Safety priority of holding offenders responsible for their actions and apply appropriate consequences. Protecting inmates from the predatory sexual advances of other is a high priority and addresses the stream of offender populations most often associated with incarceration in a high risk jail environment.

This Program Offer also addresses the Safety priority of identifying and engaging relevant communities in defining public safety needs and developing crime prevention and protection programs. The population of a jail is a high risk community with many public safety needs. This program offer provides a means to identify and intervene in illegal behavior protecting the victim before it occurs.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY05-06)	Current Year Purchased (FY06-07)	Current Year Estimate (FY06-07)	Next Year Offer (FY07-08)
Output	Number of prosecutions where RFID is used as evidence	0	0	0	0
Outcome	No. of interventions of improper or illegal behavior through RFID notifications	0	0	0	0

Performance Measure - Description

This is a new program with little comparative data reported in the industry. It is important to note that the first year of this program will be largely devoted to acquisition, installation, and implementation of the system. Performance measure data will most likely become relevant in FY 2009.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Acceptance of the PREA Grant obligates the County to a \$350,000 non-federal revenue match. It cannot supplant existing revenues.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2007	2007	2008	2008
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$350,000	\$350,000
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$350,000	\$350,000
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$350,000	\$350,000
Program Total:	\$0		\$700,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350,000
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350,000

Explanation of Revenues

\$350,000 awarded from grant revenue from the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Protecting Inmates and Safeguarding Communities Program.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: