



Guidance for Submitting Phase I Letters of Interest Due February 1, 2011

The Bureau of Justice Assistance invites states, localities, and tribal authorities to submit letters of interest to be considered for a Phase I award of technical assistance (TA) under the [Justice Reinvestment Initiative \(JRI\)](#). TA awards will assist jurisdictions in assessing the primary cost and population drivers associated with their criminal justice systems. This information will be used to develop policy recommendations aimed at helping jurisdictions implement more cost-effective measures to yield savings and reinvest in strategies to increase public safety.

All letters of interest will be reviewed by the JRI Steering Committee in accordance with the criteria below. Based upon that review, BJA will invite a subset of applicants to submit a full proposal. Letters of interest should be addressed to the Urban Institute, the JRI National Oversight, Coordination, and Assessment entity, to the attention of:

Justice Reinvestment Initiative
Attention: S. Rebecca Neusteter
Justice Policy Center
Urban Institute
2100 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Letters are due on February 1, 2011 and should be no longer than 4 pages. There will be another round of requests for letters of interest from localities and tribal authorities in spring 2011. However, this will be the only request for letters of interest from states.

The following sections describe the content of the letters for local/tribal applicants and state applicants. The individual who would spearhead the initiative (e.g., legislator, attorney general, corrections head, local commissioner, sheriff, etc.) should submit the letter.

Local/Tribal Applicants:

Letters from local/tribal applicants should include information regarding the following:

- Description of the strengths and challenges associated with the jurisdiction's criminal justice system written in the form of a problem statement. Include any key statistics and/or specific information related to the local criminal justice population, such as:
 - Annual and monthly jail admissions and releases
 - Average daily jail population
 - Average length of jail stay
 - Composition of jail population (e.g., breakdown by conviction offense, age, race, gender, etc.)
- Description of the jurisdiction's interest in participating in JRI and what the jurisdiction hopes to accomplish.
- Discussion of any work related to justice reinvestment (either at the state or local level) in which the jurisdiction has engaged.

- Description of an agency/collaborative group that will be dedicated to lead the justice reinvestment effort, including the commitment of any in-kind resources.
- Specify a point of contact for data-related questions.
- Commitment of key leadership, evidenced by signatures from the relevant individuals.
- Indication of whether the jurisdiction has worked with any of the following organizations (if so, please list the relevant initiative(s) or project(s)):
 - The Center for Effective Public Policy
 - The Council of State Governments Justice Center
 - The Crime and Justice Institute of Community Resources for Justice
 - The Pew Center on the States
 - The Urban Institute Justice Policy Center
 - The Vera Institute of Justice
- NOTE: This information is requested for the purpose of assigning a TA provider should the applicant receive an award; preference will not be given to applicants based solely upon their prior experience working with these organizations.

State Applicants:

Letters from state applicants should include information regarding the following:

- Description of the strengths and challenges associated with the jurisdiction's criminal justice system written in the form of a problem statement.
- Description of the jurisdiction's interest in participating in JRI and what the jurisdiction hopes to accomplish.
- Discussion of any work related to justice reinvestment (either at the state or local level) in which the jurisdiction has engaged.
- Commitment to provide the necessary data from all agencies to the TA provider.
- Description of the agency/commission that will be dedicated to lead the justice reinvestment effort, including the commitment of any in-kind resources or state funding.
- Commitment of bipartisan, interbranch leadership, as evidenced by signatures from the relevant individuals.
- Indication of whether the jurisdiction has worked with any of the following organizations (if so, please list the relevant initiative(s) or project(s)):
 - The Center for Effective Public Policy
 - The Council of State Governments Justice Center
 - The Crime and Justice Institute of Community Resources for Justice
 - The Pew Center on the States
 - The Urban Institute Justice Policy Center
 - The Vera Institute of Justice
- NOTE: This information is requested for the purpose of assigning a TA provider should the applicant receive an award; preference will not be given to applicants based solely upon their prior experience working with these organizations.

Please direct any comments or questions to:

S. Rebecca Neusteter, JRI Project Director

Urban Institute Justice Policy Center

2100 M Street, NW

Washington, DC 20037

(202) 261-5668 (t) / (202) 659-8985 (f)

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