



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY &
PRETRIAL SERVICES AGENCY
RESEARCH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

EXPEDITED REVIEW RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT

DATE: August 11, 2005

I. RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Principal Researcher: Kathleen Mantila, Program Analyst, Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) project lead under the supervision of Calvin Johnson, Director, ORE.

Title: Faith-Based Reentry Initiative Program Evaluation

Institution: CSOSA, ORE, Washington, DC

Type of Data: Quantitative data collected through interviews, focus groups, and surveys.

Subjects: ORE will gather information from the multiple perspectives of all stakeholders, including community supervision officers in the Transitional Intervention for Parole Supervision units, program managers at CSOSA, advisory council members, cluster coordinators, program coordinators at the faith organizations and mentors. Each of these groups will be invited to participate in surveys, focus groups, and interviews as part of their membership in the partnership between CSOSA and the faith community.

All information collected for this project will be reported in such a way as to protect the anonymity of the respondents.

Description: The purposes of this research are to identify any obstacles, barriers or unexpected opportunities that impact the Initiative's implementation and recommend program adjustments and corrective actions. Specifically, the research will examine (1) whether the CSOSA and faith community partnership operates effectively as a collaborative; (2) whether the partnership has conducted activities it set out to accomplish;

and, (3) if the partnership has effectively implemented its activities, and whether those activities resulted in expected outcomes for offenders.

To determine whether outcomes are achieved, the project will query re-arrest, violations, drug use, and employment data from SMART and apply regression analysis while controlling for differences in gender, age, marital status, age at first arrest, prior arrests, prior convictions, and drug treatment history. All data queried from SMART will be analyzed at the aggregate level only. No analysis will be conducted regarding individual offenders.

This study pertains only to CSOSA.

II. QUALIFICATION FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW

This is a request aggregate-level data which poses no risk to individual offenders and does not require Agency resources in excess of those already allocated toward ORE staffing.

III. RECOMMENDATION

The RRC recommendation for this study:

Support **Support with Conditions** **Do Not Support**

The RRC recommends support of this request as described in the researcher's proposal with the following conditions:

- Any surveys administered to entities outside of the Agency must be limited in accordance with OMB guidelines.

III. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Regulatory:

The proposed research shows no evidence of non-compliance with Agency policies pertaining to research.

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Benefits to Agency:

The proposed research is consistent with Agency priorities and/or interests as follows:

- The expected outcomes are related directly to CSOSA's performance outcomes outlined in the Annual Performance Budget Estimate for the 2006 fiscal year. Specifically, the evaluation will examine four intermediate outcomes for the 272 offenders who participated in the faith-based reentry initiative (i.e., re-arrests, violations, drug use, and job retention). The evaluation also will determine the recidivism outcomes for offenders on the same long-term performance outcome as outlined in the budget estimate.
- The research project will help identify what the partnership does best and provide a basis for making corrections to any identified weak areas of operations.
- The research will enhance accountability for Agency resources; generate knowledge about effective program designs; and enable planning and management advances that result better-designed and more effective programs.

Related Issues or Concerns:

- None

I ACCEPT the RRC recommendation

I DO NOT ACCEPT the RRC recommendation

Paul A. Quander, Jr. 8/25/06

Paul A. Quander, Jr., Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency

Comments:

05-07

1. Name(s) and current Agency and Agency component of the employee(s) conducting the research

This research will be led by Kathleen Mantila, program analyst, Office of Research and Evaluation, Community Justice Programs, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency. Ms. Mantila can be reached at Kathleen.mantila@csosa.gov or 220-5785.

2. Title of the study

Faith-Based Reentry Initiative Program Evaluation

3. Purpose of the project

The purposes of this research project are to identify any obstacles, barriers or unexpected opportunities that impact the Initiative's implementation, and recommend program adjustments and corrective actions. Specifically, the research will (1) examine whether the CSOSA and faith community partnership operates effectively as a collaborative; (2) whether the partnership has conducted activities it set out to accomplish; and, (3) if the partnership has effectively implemented its activities, whether those activities resulted in expected outcomes for offenders.

The expected outcomes for offenders to be measured by the evaluation are directly related to those performance outcomes outlined in the Annual Performance Budget Estimate for the 2006 fiscal year. The evaluation will examine four intermediate outcomes for the 272 offenders who participated in the faith-based reentry initiative: (1) re-arrests, (2) violations, (3) drug use, and (4) job retention. The evaluation will also determine the outcomes for offenders on the same long-term performance outcome as outlined in the budget estimate: recidivism. Specifically, the evaluation will determine the extent to which offenders involved in the program are convicted of a new offense.

4. Location of the project

The data analysis will be conducted at 633 Indiana Avenue NW. Some interviews will take place in CSOSA field offices and at faith organizations located throughout the city.

5. Methods to be employed

The Office of Research and Evaluation will incorporate both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, including interviews, surveys, focus groups, and document reviews to evaluate the Initiative's implementation progress and outcome achievements.

To determine whether outcomes are achieved, the project will query re-arrest, violations, drug use, and employment data from SMART and apply regression analysis while controlling for differences in gender, age, marital status, age at first arrest, prior arrests, prior convictions, and drug treatment history. All data queried from SMART will be analyzed at the aggregate level only. No analysis will be conducted regarding individual offenders.

After collecting the information, we will describe, analyze, and interpret it and make judgments about the meanings of our findings in the context of CSOSA's mission of increased public safety, reduced recidivism and the effective administration of justice.

6. Anticipated results

The research project will provide results that identify what the partnership does best and we expect our results to provide a basis for making corrections to any identified weak areas of operations. Ultimately, we anticipate results that support knowledge generation for program planning and implementation of future partnerships with faith and other organizations.

7. Duration of the study

The study will occur during each fiscal year that the Faith-Based Reentry Initiative program is funded.

8. Sample size required and/or time frame for sample collection

The Office of Research and Evaluation will gather information from the multiple perspectives of all stakeholders, including community supervision officers in the Transitional Intervention for Parole Supervision units, program managers at CSOSA, advisory council members, cluster coordinators, program coordinators at the faith organizations and mentors. Each of these respective groups will be invited to participate in surveys, focus groups, and interviews as part of their membership in the partnership between CSOSA and the faith community.

All information collected for this project will be reported in such a way as to protect the anonymity of the respondents.

9. Number of Agency staff needed to support the study and description of the support needs

Three Agency staff will be needed to support this study: the lead evaluator (Kathleen Mantila), a research intern (Heather Fogg), and a statistician (Jenny Mlinarcik). Ms. Mantila will be charged with designing data collection strategies, including focus group and interview protocols and survey designs, analyzing data, and writing reports. The research intern will assist in these efforts and the statistician will develop a SAS macro in order to query data from SMART for determining program impact on offenders.

10. Specific resources required from the Agency

Resources required from the Agency include office space, computer hardware and software, copying and fax machines, and basic office supplies.

11. Description of any anticipated effects of the research project on Agency programs and operations

We anticipate improved accountability for Agency resources; knowledge generation that creates new understanding about program designs that work and do not work; and, planning and management advances that result in well-designed, feasible, and effective programs. Ultimately, we expect the research project to help CSOSA enhance program initiatives and begin program development planning that complement and facilitate supervision and partnerships with community organizations.

12. List of deliverables to the Agency

In addition to providing (1) a summary copy for the FY Congressional Budget Justification (Performance Budget Sections); we will provide (2) quarterly evaluation updates, which are one to five page analytical reports focusing on specific aspects of the Initiative's implementation progress and outcome achievements; and, we will provide a (3) comprehensive final report of our findings.