

Data Sharing Grant Application

76. Please provide a copy of the agency's grant submission for its data sharing initiative that was noted during agency personnel testimony in the July 27, 2021 Subcommittee meeting. Additionally, please provide an explanation of the agency's plans for addressing the issue if it is not awarded the grant.
- Please see the attachment labeled, "Question 76- JRI Data Sharing Grant Narrative."** If this grant is not awarded, PPP still considers data sharing a priority and we may make a future budget request to support this initiative.

Description of the Issue

Collaboration and coordination efforts with local and state law enforcement agencies are critical best practices for reducing violent crime among offenders in the community and is essential to creating an effective justice system. The South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (SCDPPPS) is charged with the community supervision of criminal offenders placed on probation by the court and paroled by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. Offenders are supervised through a series of community sanctions that help ensure they adhere to specific conditions of supervision. At the end of March 2021, the Department provided supervision to an average daily population of 62,998 jurisdictional offenders. Legal jurisdiction includes offenders on active supervision, in federal custody, institutionalized, being supervised out of state, or have absconded. At the end of March 2021, there were 22,613 offenders ~~were~~ under direct, active supervision by the Department. While SCDPPPS have a successful closure rate higher than national averages – 84% probation and 86% parole – those 16% and 14% respectively violate supervision. They will be sent to prison for violating probation or returned to prison for parole violations. Sharing information is paramount to successful operations with other law enforcement agencies.

One impediment within South Carolina's justice system has been the method by which information is transferred or shared. There is not one coordinated system for sharing data with justice partners that does not involve entering or reentering information from paper copies. The South Carolina Legislature has appropriated funding for some forms of justice information to be automated but that project is expected to extend for years. SCDPPPS is mandated by law to share certain data and information with fellow state law enforcement agency the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) because of the integrated missions. SCDC is the state-level

prison for felons, operating 21 institutions statewide. SCDPPPS receives data on parole eligible inmates from SCDC which is used to schedule parole hearings and inmate release dates. Both agencies have worked to improve the technology and enhance the user-friendliness of the operating system known as the Parole Information Center or PIC. While notable goals have been accomplished, there still exists opportunities for advancement. For example, SCDC uses an assessment tool to determine inmate classification levels and referral needs upon entry to prison. There is no method to have SCDC's initial assessment results transferred to SCDPPPS when an inmate is released to supervision. Moreover, SCDPPPS administers the COMPAS (Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions) actuarial risk/needs assessment tool on probationers to determine the likelihood an offender will reoffend; and the degree in which certain criminogenic factors linked to criminal behavior are present. Those factors include criminal history, family issues, substance abuse, education and employment. In addition, SCDPPPS administers the COMPAS Re-entry tool on parole eligible inmates and inmates in mandatory release programs to determine risk of reoffending as well as referral needs upon release. Unfortunately, SCDC has no way to receive those assessment scores if a probationer or parolee is incarcerated.

As South Carolina's criminal data clearinghouse, SLED manages information in multiple databases, including the SC Sex Offender Registry, SC Information Exchange (SCIEEx), National Crime Information Center (NCIC), National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), Computerized Criminal History (CCH), Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), as well as court-ordered expungements, violent gang affiliations, and driving records. Information from SLED is accessible to SCDPPPS but it often requires retyping data into the Department's offender management system (OMS), presenting the risk of human error and

misinformation. Currently, a Probation and Parole Agent has to access rap sheet information by other secure applications, and print the documents – which is extremely time consuming. The Agent will then use the printed information when initially interviewing a new offender, and again while later assessing the offender with our risk/needs assessment tool. These steps could be streamlined with rap sheet data that is directly accessible in the OMS. SCDPPPS’ field support staff currently are assigned to prepare new offender files with the criminal histories that are used by the Agents for interviewing and for the COMPAS assessment. With this process eliminated, valuable resources such as support staff hours could be better used on other duties.

SCDPPPS also is combatting the challenge of ensuring the accuracy of information within OMS. Establishing protocols for ensuring data integrity is an industry best practice and one of SCDPPPS’ strategic objectives. To improve the efficacy of criminal justice data, developing data-sharing strategies that assist in addressing deficiencies in data accuracy and integrity that impede the Department’s mission-critical objective will allow the Department to build a technological infrastructure for process improvement.

To achieve the goal for this project of using the five-step Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) process to address persistent or emerging crime and public safety problems, or to remove impediments of sharing quality data among justice involved stakeholders in South Carolina, SCDPPPS will take the following steps to and achieve three objectives:

1. Engage state level law enforcement agencies;
2. Develop and build data-sharing interfaces that assist in breaking down information-sharing silos;
3. Increase data integrity of offender accounts in the SCDPPPS offender management system.

Program Design and Implementation

Engaging Stakeholders. The JRI approach to addressing jurisdictional impediments calls first for identifying and engaging stakeholders. The three agencies involved in the proposed project are all cabinet level agencies and have enjoyed a long and productive working relationship. SCDPPPS, SLED and SCDC will work with the technical assistance provider and move through the JRI steps to gather and analyze data, problem solve, develop and implement innovative strategies to further advancements in information sharing, evaluate project success and develop protocols for continuous process improvement. Staff from each agency who are responsible for information technology, data reporting, data security, and information management will be involved in this process

Data sharing interfaces. The SCDPPPS determined improvements to its technological functions were necessary to provide the required interface and systems updates to accomplish the goals set forth in this project. In addition, minor updates to the SCDPPPS' existing infrastructure to support data collection will be required. SCDPPPS will automate management of data reports to support project performance measures.

SLED data-sharing interface. The SCDPPPS proposal intends to expand upon the sharing of law enforcement data within the state, by enabling bidirectional query and response between SLED and SCDPPP. SLED's servers are the primary repository for Computerized Criminal History (CCH) data for the state of South Carolina. Inquiries against the CCH database is managed primarily by the Law Enforcement Message Switch (LEMS), which in turn is also hosted by SLED. In addition, LEMS enables communications between agencies within South Carolina to both the FBI and counterparts of SLED in other states. The net effect of this is to enable a single law enforcement network to allow inquiry into databases hosted by federal or

state governments by multiple agencies. SCDPPPS, in turn, hosts a suite of applications collectively in the OMS which supports the ability to manage offenders under supervision, victims of those offenders, finances, risk assessments, supervision plans, and other day to day requirements of such a population. Among data needed for OMS includes CCH data. SCDPPPS proposes to enable direct data sharing between LEMS – and thus, this larger network – and the existing OMS application. The immediate benefit to SCDPPPS is to import results of LEMS inquiries directly into OMS. While looking at a specific offender under supervision, an SCDPPPS Agent would be able to run an inquiry and get nearly immediate results on that offender’s current CCH data, driving history, warrant status, possible intelligence results on violent gang and terrorist information. The primary benefit is to officer safety and situational awareness, as this information is made available on demand. The interface will allow for Agents to access and upload a new rap sheet at each encounter with the offender from OMS. The Agent would relevant information on each offender while in the field. There would be no need to print this information and the OMS could delete the data after a determined number of days – which would further improve data security. Additional benefits include improving entry of data related to supervision, improved timeliness and quality of risk and need assessments, and the ability to improve quality control procedures of law enforcement information in both OMS and CCH due to the ease of cross referencing these data sources.

This interface also will have the benefit of allowing other local, state, and national law enforcement agencies to inquire against the SCDPPPS database and receive results related to current supervision status of an offender. Any law enforcement agency which makes use of this network would be able to run an inquiry against an individual’s status in order to determine if they are currently being supervised by SCDPPPS and retrieve contact information for who is

supervising that offender, travel permits, ignition interlock requirements, and any other pertinent information related to officer safety in near real time.

SCDC data sharing interface. SCDC will make IT enhancements to its operating systems that will create a limited network interface to allow staff to access risk assessment data from SCDPPPS. The interface will provide information for each offender remanded to SCDC from supervision in the community, including a list of revocation codes, category of revocation, COMPAS risk/needs assessment results, STATIC 99-R sex offender assessment scores, active risk level, offender referrals made based on assessment as well as those successfully completed. For offenders previously released from prison, SCDC also will receive results from the COMPAS Re-entry assessment tool. SCDC will ensure that all internal systems enhancements will meet NCIC and CJIS security protocols.

SCDC uses an assessment tool to classify an inmate by risk level when they are first imprisoned. This interface with SCDC will allow SCDPPPS access to assessment scores and risk levels of inmates leaving prison. The proposed interface project will expand on SCDPPPS' strategic objective of reducing the number of inmates leaving incarceration without completed or updated risk/needs assessments and provide vital comparative data relevant to making appropriate and beneficial referrals.

Increasing data integrity of offender accounts. SCDPPPS will create a data quality control section. A program coordinator and five program assistants will be hired to staff this section. The program coordinator will manage the OMS data quality control section and will supervise staff assigned those duties. Under limited supervision of the Continuous Improvement Program Manager, the program coordinator will be responsible for developing section policies

and procedures for reviewing offender accounts, training staff, researching restitution, fines and fees on offender accounts and creating strategies to improve data integrity.

Five program assistants will provide data cleaning of the existing offender accounts in the OMS. Under direct supervision of the program coordinator, they will use rap sheets and sentencing information to quality check and make corrections as needed on all active offender accounts as of October 1, 2021. There will be five program assistants for the first and second years of the funding period to accommodate the volume of offender accounts. Four program assistants will be retained during the third year of the funding period as fewer accounts will be under review.

SCDPPPS will acquire the services of a law enforcement expert to develop and deliver comprehensive training on reading and interpreting rap sheets. This training will be delivered to all staff responsible for creating offender accounts during the intake process to ensure accuracy of information in OMS. In addition, a cohort of SCDPPPS staff and volunteer trainers will receive training for trainers (T4T) to ensure sustainment of this process. The costs covered include three days to prepare the online course, two days to deliver the T4T course, and associated course materials.

Capabilities and Competencies

The South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (SCDPPPS) is a state-level community corrections agency and the third-largest law enforcement department in the state. SCDPPPS made the shift toward becoming an evidence-based organization in response to the Omnibus Crime Reduction and Sentencing Reform Act of 2010 and in an effort to ensure supervision strategies and offender program services are consistent with empirically proven practices to reduce risk and recidivism. SCDPPPS continues to embrace the use of science and

data to drive decisions through the integration and use of evidence-based practices in all aspects of its operations. To improve the fidelity of programs and processes, the Department developed an evaluation plan as a quality assurance mechanism to monitor the measures and outcomes of new programs and supervision strategies relative to the Omnibus Crime Reduction and Sentencing Reform Act of 2010. This evaluation plan has been instituted as a comprehensive framework to ensure the Department meets measurable goals and objectives while holding the Department accountable to the Sentencing Reform Oversight Committee of the South Carolina Legislature. SCDPPPS' managers embraces use of data to drive decisions. SCDPPPS continues to implement innovative strategies to reduce recidivism.

The following SCDPPPS staff will serve as the key personnel responsible for the development, implementation, and quality assurance of the proposed project:

Rebecca Raybon is the Director for Continuous Improvement. She will serve as the project director. Rebeca is a 25-year SCDPPPS veteran, starting as a Probation and Parole Agent. Ms. Raybon currently develops continuous improvement plans for the Department and identifies critical processes, control points and preventive measures. In addition, she was instrumental in the developing the Department's protocols for creating standard operating procedure and accomplishing strategic objectives. Ms. Raybon supervise the program coordinator, serve as liaison to stakeholders and the technical assistance provider, as well as assist in developing MOUs, policies and procedures, and will be responsible for all program reporting.

William Speaks is the Director of Application at SCDPPPS. He has over 15 years of experience with developing software components, management tools and document business and workflow processes. Mr. Speaks will coordinate all interface processes for SCDPPPS with

counterparts at SLED and SCDC, including developing the statement of work for the solicitation process and overseeing the timeline for interface development, testing and execution.

The grants manager for this project will be the SCDPPPS Administrator for Grants Management Arnise Moultrie. A 26-year veteran with the SCDPPPS, Ms. Moultrie serves as the administrator for all agency grants which include the identification of external funding sources, application preparation and revisions, and other duties related to grants management and compliance to ensure all documentation is accurate based on federal and state regulations. Since 2004, Ms. Moultrie has managed grants, cooperative agreements, and technical assistance awarded to SCDPPPS by the agencies within the U. S. Department of Justice, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the U. S. Department of Labor. Ms. Moultrie will ensure all reporting requirements are met and the funds are utilized as intended.

The original correctional system in South Carolina was established in 1866 when the South Carolina Legislature passed an act that created the first state-level prison for felons that were housed in county facilities. In 1960, the Governor of South Carolina decided to end the abuses of the correctional system and therefore created a new state agency. The agency was named the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Today, the Department of Corrections is still a state agency, reporting directly to the Governor. The Department of Corrections currently has about 4,500 employees, just over 15,000 inmates and operates 21 institutions. To manage the successful integration for interfaces at SCDC, Trevis Shealy, Director of Research and Information Management will be the project's subrecipient liaison. Mr. Shealy is Chief Information Officer for SCDC, managing all aspects of information technology including

applications development, research and statistics, networking and telecommunications, and help desk and user support services.

SLED's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) division serves as the central criminal justice information repository for the state—collecting, processing, storing, and disseminating crime data and criminal identification and record information—assisting with crime prevention and the administration of criminal justice by providing accurate and timely information to local, state, and federal justice involved entities, civil government agencies, policymakers, legislators, academia and the public as authorized by state law and regulation. SLED's subrecipient liaison will be CJIS Technology Manager Michelle Moore. With more than 20 years of information and data security experience, Ms. Moore will be responsible to managing compliance with protocols and ensuring the seamless interface with SLED.

Plan for Collecting the Data

SLED interface data collection. SCDPPPS will develop a needs survey to assist with selecting the message keys to access through the interface. It is anticipated the use of the message key assigned to SCDPPPS will greatly increase after the release of the OMS update. SCDPPPS will generate data usage reports out of OMS to determine which message keys are most used by staff to track staff preferences. In addition, a follow up surveys will be disseminated to assess satisfaction and for continuous improvement.

SCDC interface data collection. SCDPPS will use OMS to track the amount of data accessed by SCDC staff. A similar survey will be distributed to assess satisfaction and process improvement.

Data integrity improvement. SCDPPPS will measure the effectiveness of the criminal history training by running error reports out of OMS. In addition, project will assign staff to use

the new quality control methods to review quarterly samples of new offender case files for accuracy. All data collected will be included in annual updates to stakeholders and in the project's required reports.