

Program Abstract

The Northeast South Dakota Rural Information Exchange Model (RIEM) is a grassroots initiative through a coalition of fifteen rural area law enforcement agencies seeking an affordable information sharing solution to combat crime and drugs. This proposal is for \$1,568,993 and is being submitted under the recently released Recovery Act - Assistance to Rural Law Enforcement to Combat Crime and Drugs - Category IV: Facilitating Rural Justice Information Sharing. Internationally renowned policing experts will serve as consultants over the course of the project.

Historically, rural agencies have learned to create economies of scale by joining forces and sharing resources. These cooperative joint efforts not only maximize available resources and provide essential services to those who otherwise would go without, but also build relationships that can be relied upon in times of daily and emergency need. RIEM will facilitate the convergence, collaboration, and communication between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in five counties of northeast South Dakota. The goals are to maximize job creation, enhance the efficient and effective sharing of criminal justice information, prevent crime and combat drugs, thus providing a direct economic benefit to individual communities and the region as a whole. RIEM will serve as a model for other rural American law enforcement jurisdictions to emulate.

This innovative project will provide a Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM) standards-based, affordable, scalable, multi-jurisdictional automated field reporting records management system (AFR-RMS), CAD and CAD mapping. It will link to an already existing regional information sharing network using GJXDM standards. RIEM will demonstrate a cost-effective, fully-GJXDM-compliant, secure AFR-RMS, relying on open-architecture database and hardware systems, shared by a number of agencies, and build a GJXDM compliant link allowing agencies previously unavailable access to an existing regional information sharing system. Performance measures will be established before and after implementation to measure the impact of the new technology.

Key deliverables of RIEM are: 1) four new jobs to an area heavily affected by economic hard times, 2) significant and essential technology upgrades, 3) increased volume of justice information to rural agencies, and 4) the reduction of crime and drugs.

Coordination plans include: 1) the creation of an effective management and support structure, 2) the acquisition and installation of computer equipment essential to the project, 3) comprehensive training for all users, and 4) evaluation through surveys and the analysis of data captured during the project.

Watertown, S.D. is a prime candidate for funding under this grant, since it is a "Rural Area" not located within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) as defined by the Office of Budget Management. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 55,567 people residing within Codington, Day, Grant, Hamlin and Roberts Counties, the region served by RIEM.