

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE****Office of Justice Programs****[OJP(BJA)-1156]****RIN 1121-ZA93****Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act Program**

**AGENCY:** Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

**ACTION:** Fiscal Year 1998 Request for Proposals (RFP).

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is soliciting grant applications from State governments interested in participating in the national voluntary motor vehicle theft prevention program, Watch Your Car, as authorized under the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act of 1994 (MVTPA).

**DATES:** All applications must be returned with a postmark, or dated receipt by a private carrier no later than March 31, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** All proposals must be mailed or sent to: Bureau of Justice Assistance; Attention: Watch Your Car Program Office; Bureau of Justice Assistance; 810 Seventh Street NW, Room 4239, Washington, DC. 20531.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Bureau of Justice Assistance will soon mail program guides and application kits to each State. The State's automobile theft prevention authority, where one exists, is designated as the recipient. For those States without an authority, the State agency that administers the Byrne Formula Grant Program will be the recipient. However, any State agency involved in preventing motor vehicle theft may apply. Only one award will be made per State. Copies of the fact sheet describing the Program are available by calling the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770. The metropolitan Washington, DC., area number is 202-307-1480. Interested parties with Internet browsers and installed Adobe Acrobat software may download and print a copy of this announcement by accessing BJA's National Auto Theft Prevention Program home page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/html/wyc.htm>. Adobe Acrobat software, an on-line fact sheet on the Watch Your Car Program, samples of the decals, the recipient of the program guide and application kit for each State, and other graphical images and statistics pertaining to auto theft are also available at this site.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Authority**

Section 220001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-322, 108 Stat. 2074, codified at 42 U.S.C. 14171, contains the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act (MVTPA). The MVTPA requires the Attorney General to establish a national voluntary motor vehicle theft prevention program. A proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** on October 24, 1995. The final rule was subsequently published on August 6, 1996, and awards were made to the States of Arizona and New Mexico. An FY 1997 RFP was published in the **Federal Register** on April 14, 1997 and on September 30, 1997, grant awards were made to the States of Florida, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York and Tennessee. The purpose of this announcement is to notify States, that have heretofore received no funding, of the availability of grant funds appropriated under the authority of Public Law 105-119, Making Appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998.

**Grant Offering**

BJA will be offering implementation grants for States that have no statewide motor vehicle theft prevention decal program in place and for States with existing programs that wish to make the transition to the Watch Your Car Program. Implementation grants will be awarded up to \$150,000. BJA encourages innovative approaches to implementing comprehensive, unique anti-car-theft initiatives and will evaluate applications on the size and scope of the proposed project and how it can work in concert with other theft prevention measures. Other factors for consideration include the amount of public and private resources leveraged in the proposal.

**Eligibility for Watch Your Car Funding**

A State may apply on behalf of itself and/or its respective counties and municipalities. The application shall be submitted by the chief executive of the applicant State agency and in accordance with established BJA application guidelines. Any State that received funding under the Watch Your Car Program during fiscal years 1996 or 1997 is ineligible for funding during fiscal year 1998.

**Background**

The purpose of the Watch Your Car Program is to focus the attention of law enforcement on vehicles that are not routinely operated during the early

morning hours or near international land borders or ports. The program enables proactive investigation of auto theft before a stolen vehicle report is filed.

Under this program, a motor vehicle owner must sign a consent form and obtain decals authorizing law enforcement officers to stop the motor vehicle if it is being driven under certain specified conditions, and take reasonable steps to determine whether the vehicle is being operated with the owner's consent. There are two conditions. Under the first condition, the owner may consent to have the car stopped if it is operated between the hours of 1 AM and 5 AM. Under the second condition, the owner may consent to have the car stopped if it crosses or is about to cross a United States land border or if it enters a port.

States elect to participate in the program solely at their option.

BJA is aware of similar types of theft prevention programs already in existence. The most common program is Combat Auto Theft (CAT), which is used on a statewide basis and by individual local jurisdictions in California, Louisiana, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania. Illinois has the Beat Auto Theft (BAT) Program and Texas originated the Help End Auto Theft (HEAT) Program.

Programs such as CAT, BAT and HEAT function on a statewide basis to insure a level of uniformity among participating municipalities and counties. These programs have worked successfully in their States of origin since police throughout the State could easily recognize their own decal. But if a thief drove a stolen vehicle across state lines, the police in the adjoining jurisdiction may not recognize the decal or if they did recognize it, lacked the authorization to stop the vehicle and check the identity of the driver. The dissimilarity of statewide programs has been further complicated by the proliferation of local anti-car theft programs in States with no statewide program. Numerous municipalities and counties have adopted a variety of programs utilizing differing emblems, icons, and symbols.

The main advantage of the national Watch Your Car Program is its use of a decal that will eventually become a recognizable icon by police nationwide. It features the capability of intra/interstate enforcement through the checking of vehicles with differing county and/or out-of-state license plates.

BJA's specifications call for the manufacture of tamper-resistant decals made from retro reflective sheeting to

make them easily discernible at night. The windshield decal(s) are to be applied on the outside of the glass directly above the inside rear-view mirror. The rear window decal is affixed on the exterior face along the lower left side.

The MVTPA Program compels a thief to remove tamper-resistant decals while alongside the vehicle, acting suspiciously and drawing attention to himself/herself. These impediments, in addition to other theft prevention devices such as steering wheel locks, increase the number of hurdles a thief must overcome and raises the level of theft deterrence.

The MVTPA requires, as a condition of participation, that each State agree to take reasonable steps to ensure that law enforcement officials throughout its jurisdiction are familiar with the program, and with the conditions under which motor vehicles may be stopped.

This program is a Federal program that operates separately from any existing State or local motor vehicle theft prevention program. It is not intended to preempt existing State or local laws or programs.

### Application Requirements

#### Problem Statement

States wishing to apply shall provide an assessment of the auto theft problem in their jurisdiction and what efforts have been undertaken to address it. Applicants should contrast the severity of their auto theft problem to other States and discern the patterns and trends of auto theft. States should also identify what steps have been taken to decrease auto theft. For instance, does the State have an automobile theft prevention authority and what types of initiatives does it support to combat auto theft.

#### Goals and Objectives

The applicant must provide goals, objectives, and methods of implementation for the project that are consistent with the program announcement. Objectives should be clear, measurable, attainable, and focused on the methods used to conduct the project. Favorable consideration will be given to those applicants who merge their auto theft enforcement efforts and their prevention initiatives into a coherent strategy and establish goals and objectives based upon the anticipated collective outcome of both approaches.

#### Project Strategy or Design

The project strategy or design should describe the Watch Your Car program

the State wishes to implement including its size and scope; outreach efforts to educate the public; statewide training programs to inform municipal, county and state law enforcement officers of the program; a description of the database if the State wishes to maintain a centralized computer registry; the production and dissemination of universal consent forms authorizing traffic stops by any local, State, or Federal law enforcement officer pursuant to the stipulated program condition(s); and efforts to be undertaken to enlist both public and private organizations such as auto dealers, auto insurance companies, and other major retail businesses willing to host registration programs and encourage employee participation.

#### Implementation Plan

Applicant should provide an implementation plan for the program outlined above. It should include a schedule to include milestones for significant tasks in a chart form.

#### Additional Resource Commitments

Applicants are encouraged to leverage other resources—State, local, or private—in support of this project.

#### Project Management Structure

The applicant should describe how the project will be structured, organized, and managed. It should identify and describe the qualifications and experience of the project director and project staff, how they will be selected, and their roles and responsibilities.

#### Organizational Capability

The applicant should describe the organizational experience, both programmatic and financial, that qualifies it to manage the project.

#### Program Evaluation

The program evaluation should indicate how the applicant will assess the success of project implementation and the extent to which the strategy achieved the project's goals and objectives.

**Richard Ward,**

*Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance.*

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## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (98-017)]

### NASA Advisory Council, Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Advisory Committee, Aviation Safety Reporting System Subcommittee (ASRS); Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a NASA Advisory Council, Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology Advisory Committee, Aviation Safety Reporting System Subcommittee meeting.

**DATES:** Wednesday, March 11, 1998, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Helicopter Association International, 1635 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2818.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Linda Connell, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035, 650/604-6654.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. Agenda topics for the meeting are as follows:

- Update and Progress of Recommendations from November 1997 Meeting.
- Resolution of Outstanding Issues and Items from November 1997 Meeting.
- Report on Status of NASA Aviation Safety Program Progress in ASRS/Aviation Performance Measuring System.
- Report on status of ASRS and Aviation Safety Partnership Programs.

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitors register.

Dated: February 9, 1998.

**Matthew M. Crouch,**

*Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

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