



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

Garth L. Wheeler
Director

1100 Bank Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-4000
TDD (804) 386-8732

December 15, 2010

The Honorable Marla Graff Decker, Secretary of Public Safety
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable Charles J. Colgan, Chairman, Senate Finance
General Assembly Building, Room 626
Capitol Square
Richmond, Virginia 21219

The Honorable Lacey E. Putney, Chairman, House Appropriations
General Assembly Building, Room 947
Capitol Square
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Secretary Decker, Chairman Colgan and Chairman Putney:

As directed by Item 384 H.2 of the 2010 Appropriations Act, the Department of Criminal Justice Services is providing to you the report on the implementation of the Internet Crimes Against Children grant program established pursuant to SB620 (2010). Please feel free to contact me or Fran Ecker, Director, Division of Programs and Services (786-3967 or Fran.Ecker@dcjs.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,


Garth L. Wheeler

Attachment

Document Title

Report on Implementation of Internet Crimes Against Children Grant Program

Author

Department of Criminal Justice Services

Enabling Authority

Item 384 H.2. of Appropriations Act (Regular Session, 2010)

Executive Summary

The Department of Criminal Justice Services was directed by the Appropriations Act to report to the Secretary of Public Safety and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees on the implementation of the Internet Crimes Against Children grant program.

Final Report Regarding the Implementation of the Internet Crimes Against Children Grant Fund Program (2010)

Introduction

In 2010, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation creating the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Fund (SB620). This fund consists of a fee deposited in the state treasury upon each felony or misdemeanor conviction. Pursuant to the legislation, the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is to use 27.7777% of the funds collected to “support grants and training and equipment for local law-enforcement agencies’ use in investigating and prosecuting Internet crimes against children.” Appropriations language (Item 384 H.2) directs DCJS to report on the implementation of the grant program, by January 1, 2011, to the Secretary of Public Safety and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees.

There are currently 61 regional ICAC Task Force agencies across the country which are funded by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The ICAC Task Force Program was created to help state and local law enforcement agencies enhance their investigative response to individuals who use the internet, online communication systems, or other computer technology to sexually exploit children. In Virginia, there are two ICAC Task Forces: the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (SOVA-ICAC) and Northern Virginia-Washington, DC Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (NOVA-DC ICAC). Both Task Forces provide forensic and investigative technical assistance to law enforcement and prosecutorial officials, as well as community education information to parents, educators, prosecutors, law enforcement and others concerned with child victimization.

ICAC Task Force Programs are engaged in investigations, forensic examinations and prosecutions related to internet crimes against children. By helping state and local agencies develop effective and sustainable responses to online child victimization and child pornography, OJJDP and the ICAC program have built capacity at the local level to address ICAC related offenses.

DCJS Implementation of Grant Program

DCJS convened a small group of internal and external subject matter experts (“the Panel”) to discuss areas of priority for the funds. Forensic examiners and investigators specific to the area of Internet Crimes Against Children were identified as the areas of greatest need. Therefore, the group decided to invite local law enforcement offices to expand their capacity in this area by using grant funds for salary and benefits for new positions.

DCJS issued a grant solicitation with grants due November 19, 2010; five grant applications were received. These applications were reviewed by the Panel on Monday, November 29, 2010. Their recommendations were presented for review and consideration by the Law Enforcement Subcommittee and the Criminal Justice Services Board. The Criminal Justice Services Board awarded these five grants totaling \$480,889 at its meeting on December 9, 2010. DCJS will use the experience of this first group of grantees in preparing its solicitation of additional applications for funding in FY2011.

The grant funding period will begin on January 1, 2011. As directed by the Appropriations Act, the Department is in the process of developing reporting forms for these grantees to use and will use the data gathered to inform additional projects that may be funded under this program.