
State Courts and NCHIP Supplemental Funding Awards



Introduction

In 2023, 26 state courts received funding from the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in the Department of Justice to improve the accuracy, utility, and interstate accessibility of criminal history and related records through the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP). NCHIP supplemental funding was made available to implement provisions of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 (BSCA). The program's goal is to reduce violent crime and address gun violence by improving state record-sharing systems in support of national record systems and their use for name- and fingerprint-based criminal history record background checks. The BSCA expressed Congress's intent to make the new funding available to state criminal records repositories and state court systems. The Act appropriated \$200 million (\$40 million per year for five years) for implementation.

The first round of awards under the NCHIP Supplemental Program was announced in May 2023. BJS awarded 30 grants totaling \$74,640,848. A description of all of the awards and other information is available on the [BJS website](#). Since Congress appropriated funding through FY 2026, at least three more annual rounds of funding will be available.

BJS's initial funding solicitation for grant applications defined eligible state court system applicants as: "The state central administrative office or similar entity designated by statute or regulation to administer federal grant funds on behalf of the jurisdiction's court system."

The grant is designed to be flexible to meet the needs of individual jurisdictions and the legislative goals. Courts received funding for a wide range of expenditures, including purchases of computer hardware, LiveScan equipment, staff for designing and managing technical upgrades, training, and other duties, retaining consultants, providing subgrants to local courts, and several other purposes. Congress and BJS have specifically invited state court systems to apply for this grant to improve juvenile delinquency and mental health records sharing with NICS. In anticipation of the next round of NCHIP Supplemental funding in FY 24, a sampling of successful state court applications is presented here.

This document was developed under grant number SJI-20-P-020 from the State Justice Institute. The points of view expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the State Justice Institute.

Arizona

\$3,865,826

to replace the juvenile probation case management system

Illinois

\$5,792,877

to ensure better firearm background checks and overall public safety

Arizona

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for the Arizona Supreme Court secured **\$3,865,826** in NCHIP Supplemental funding. Arizona will use these funds to enhance public safety and improve the integration of criminal history and related records by replacing the outdated juvenile probation case management system. The new system will efficiently collect and provide access to all statewide juvenile cases that would prohibit individuals from purchasing firearms, contributing to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). This will empower NICS staff to request and automatically receive crucial juvenile delinquency information for their investigations.

Illinois

The Administrative Office of Illinois Courts was awarded **\$5,792,877**. The Illinois Supreme Court, in collaboration with the Illinois State Police, will use these funds to take steps to address systemic issues in criminal history data and disposition reporting to the National Instant Background Check System (NICS). They are focusing on several key areas that are related to NICS reporting:

- Dispositions made available to the FBI's Interstate Identification Index by the Illinois State Police, with assistance from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
- NICS indices and mental health record availability, which are provided by the Illinois State Police Firearm Services Bureau to the FBI
- Protection Order File and Wanted Persons File, both submitted by the Illinois State Police

These efforts aim to improve the accuracy and completeness of criminal history and mental health records in Illinois, ensuring better firearm background checks and overall public safety.

Indiana

\$2,678,166

for a new e-filing system and fingerprint machines

Michigan

\$10 M

to implement a unified system for collecting and sharing juvenile probation or detention information

Indiana

The Indiana judiciary was awarded **\$2,678,166**. The Indiana Supreme Court requested funds to replace the current interface between the prosecutor and court case management systems and to support purchasing LiveScan fingerprint machines for law enforcement agencies. The first project includes introducing a new e-filing system for use by all prosecutors and court clerks across the state. The system will help ensure that all relevant data is shared with the criminal history repository at the Indiana State Police. The second project will replace failing fingerprint machines at local county jails.

Michigan

The Michigan judiciary was awarded **\$10,000,000**. Before applying, Michigan identified significant gaps in collecting and sharing juvenile justice data, hindering efforts to reform the system. There is no unified system for collecting or sharing juvenile probation or detention information, leading to various methods and paper files across the state's 57 circuit courts. With the awarded funds, Michigan's State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) will use a Bureau of Justice Statistics grant to implement a data management system. This system will be distributed to all trial courts in the state, creating a consistent infrastructure for collecting juvenile probation information and facilitating the identification of relevant records for firearm background checks. A juvenile justice stakeholder group of various professionals will guide the grant's implementation. The system will collect demographics, court case details, risk assessments, program information, and probation case-level data. SCAO will solicit proposals for the system through a Request for Proposal process and provide staffing and support, including a Project Manager, Application Programming Interface (API) developer, and a Juvenile Justice liaison to coordinate the project.

Missouri

\$2,182,600

to enhance the court case management system, conduct background checks and analyze other current systems

Texas

\$713,730

to train state court and clerk staff on adult CJIS and NICS reporting

West Virginia

\$977,733

to purchase network servers and multipurpose switches

Missouri

Missouri's Office of State Courts Administration (OSCA) was awarded **\$2,182,600**. They are using these funds to enhance the statewide court case management system (Show-Me Courts), conduct NICS background checks, and conduct an analysis of the statewide system responsible for tracking juvenile justice information. The enhancements to Show-Me Courts would implement case management tools for associate and circuit-level criminal case processing — particularly those tied to civil, family court, juvenile, and probate cases. In addition, OSCA will hire a contractor to conduct timely and accurate NICS background checks requested for juvenile and mental health cases. Lastly, funds will be used for contractual work to analyze the current juvenile justice data-sharing system and make recommendations as to how and where it can be improved.

Texas

The Texas Office of Court Administration was awarded **\$713,730**. They are using these funds to provide training for state court and clerk staff on adult CJIS and NICS reporting. The training will take place both onsite and in remote settings and will include the development of resource materials, educational webinars, and relevant webpages to assist staff with disposition reporting into CJIS and NICS.

West Virginia

The West Virginia judiciary was awarded **\$977,733**. West Virginia will use these funds to purchase two network servers and four multipurpose switches. The servers and switches will support the availability of data that is directly accessible and made available to the national record systems. West Virginia will also use these funds to hire a specialist and scanners to convert paper mental health and juvenile justice files to electronic records. Additionally, the specialist will help West Virginia respond to NICS inquiries.

While these are only 7 of the 30 total recipients (10 awards were made to court systems or collaborations that included funding for courts), these states are good examples of diverse and creative court uses of NCHIP Supplemental funding. NCSC will notify state courts when BJS issues the FY 2024 solicitation. To see a complete list of awardees and grant descriptions, click [HERE](#).



ncsc.org