

Sponsor/Title: Department of Justice (DOJ) - Risk Assessment: Conducting Prison Security Audits

External Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/362685>

Funding Opportunity Number: 26PR10

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1)

[Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing](#)

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-06-22

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-07-20

Purpose: Over the past several decades, prison systems have experienced rapid population growth alongside increasing scrutiny of security practices. In response, agencies have invested heavily in perimeter barriers, locking systems, video technology, drone detection, communication tools, and alert systems. These advancements have contributed to more efficient and effective operations, enhancing safety for staff, individuals in confinement, and the broader community. They also offer cost-effective solutions that are easier to maintain and support more efficient use of staff resources, representing significant improvements over earlier facility designs.

As important as these advancements are, they alone cannot ensure a safe, secure, and humane environment. Technology and physical design are only components of a comprehensive security strategy. Even the most innovative systems cannot replace the need for well-trained staff and strong security practices rooted in clear, standardized, and consistently implemented policies, procedures, regulations, and rules. Moreover, without a well-planned and ongoing monitoring program, even effective security practices cannot be sustained over time.

NIC Funding Priorities / Focus Areas: The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) supports public safety by providing specialized corrections training, information services, and technical assistance to federal, state, local, and tribal justice agencies. The outcomes of NIC's activities contribute significantly to the achievement of the following correctional goals and priorities:

- **Effectively managed prisons, jails, and community corrections programs and facilities.** NIC provides services related to effective planning, management, and operational practice leading to safe and secure prisons, jails, and community services.
- **Enhanced organizational and professional performance in corrections.** NIC provides education and training in management, leadership, and corrections operations based on that enhance organizational and professional performance.
- **Community, staff, and offender safety.** NIC promotes correctional practices and procedures that maximize the safety of the community, staff, and offenders; holds detainees, inmates, and parolees/probationers accountable; and seeks to reduce recidivism.
- **Improved correctional practices through the exploration of trends and public policy issues.** NIC promotes the exploration of critical issues and the shaping of public policies that strengthen and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of corrections.
- **Enhanced services through improved organizational and staff effectiveness.** NIC provides opportunities for organizational and professional growth that enhance the field of corrections.

Program Goals: The goals of these security audit programs are to build and strengthen the capacity of state and federal corrections agencies to conduct effective risk assessments of the safety and security of their prison facilities. Through the coordinated management of this award,

NIC will deliver critical learning to the field and support the creation of safe, secure, and humane environments for staff, individuals in custody, and the broader community.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/9nvx3PgDCy54TWWd9> by the internal deadline:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- All ND Collaborators:
 - For each ND Collaborator listed, include name, department or unit, and specific role for this project in three sentences (maximum).
- Project Summary: Three (3) pages (maximum) addressing the following Selection Criteria outlined in the Application Review Information on page 29 in the NOFO.
 - Programmatic Review
 - Organizational Review

Questions: Contact Notre Dame Research Limited Submissions at limited@nd.edu.

Unless otherwise noted, all internal applications are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Internal applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.