

## **PROGRAM NARRATIVE**

### **a. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The number of sex offenders in Alabama continues to rise each year making sex offender registration and notification a vital concern. There are approximately 769,402 registered sex offenders in the United States<sup>1</sup> and 16,917 sex offenders contained within the sex offender database in the State of Alabama<sup>2</sup>. Alabama has 37 confirmed absconded sex offenders and an additional 489 sex offenders who are noncompliant with an unknown status<sup>3</sup>. The increasing numbers, coupled with those that have unknown whereabouts and the likelihood of recidivism, place the residents of Alabama, especially those that are children, at risk. In 2011, Alabama took a major step to reduce these dangers by becoming substantially compliant with the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. On June 9, 2011, the Governor of Alabama signed the Alabama Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification Act (ASORCNA), Act No. 2011-640, making Alabama substantially compliant with SORNA. The Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) recognized Alabama for its exceptional efforts in working to implement SORNA and becoming substantially compliant in a letter to the Governor dated July 14, 2011. (See attached letter dated July 14, 2011). Since that time Alabama has remained substantially compliant with SORNA.

Some of the changes Alabama implemented under ASORCNA include:

- Increasing the amount of sex offenders by including more sex offenses;

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<sup>1</sup> Source: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, December 6, 2013. (Includes the District of Columbia and Territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas, VI)

<sup>2</sup> Source: Alabama Department of Public Safety, April 7, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Alabama Department of Public Safety, April 7, 2014.

- Increasing the collection of DNA due to including more sex offenses;
- Requiring sex offenders to register in jurisdictions where they reside, work, and attend school;
- Requiring more extensive registration information;
- Requiring more frequent and in person registration and verification;
- Requiring sex offender information to be shared electronically;
- Increasing the registration time of certain juvenile and youthful offender sex offenders; and
- Requiring law enforcement to make determinations as to whether sex offenders have absconded.

These changes in the law place a greater burden on prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and other criminal justice agencies that prosecute, register, monitoring, and track sex offenders in Alabama.

In an effort to improve and maintain Alabama's compliance with SORNA, and in turn safeguard the citizens of Alabama, this project is submitted through the SMART Office Support for Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program. The Office of Prosecution Services (OPS) will serve as the lead agency and administer the grant. OPS will contract with the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (ADFS) and together, both agencies will implement the program. With funding from this grant OPS proposes to train victims' service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and other criminal justice agencies that prosecute, register, monitor, and track sex offenders in Alabama. In addition to training, OPS proposes to make a sex offender resource prosecutor available to victims' service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and other criminal justice agencies that

prosecute, register, monitor, and track sex offenders at all times. Lastly, OPS proposes to enhance the infrastructure of local law enforcement agencies by expanding the accessibility where sex offenders are required to register and provide DNA by providing them with access to the DNA Tracker secure database, barcode printers, and fingerprint scanners, all which are necessary tools to ensure compliance with SORNA.

### **Challenges Alabama Faces In Complying With SORNA**

SORNA strives to strengthen the nationwide network of sex offender registration and notification programs in the United States. This worthy goal places challenges on the State of Alabama to maintain compliance with SORNA. In Alabama these implementations put a greater strain and encumbrance on prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and other criminal justice agencies that prosecute, register, monitor, and track sex offenders.

Alabama is faced with two (2) critical challenges in maintaining compliance with SORNA (1) training victims' service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and other criminal justice agencies that prosecute, register, monitor and track sex offenders in Alabama, and (2) providing local law enforcement and probation and parole who register and collect DNA from sex offenders access to a centralized and secure DNA database that allows them – *in real time* – to determine if a DNA sample has previously been collected from the sex offender and/or if the sex offender requires DNA collection.

Alabama is respectfully requesting Federal assistance to assist with the challenges in maintaining compliance with SORNA due to the economic status of the State. In 2011 Alabama's Governor announced plans to balance the State's budget to cover a \$275 million

shortfall.<sup>4</sup> In March of 2012 the Governor again declared proration which had another devastating effect on budgets around the State. Although funding remained level in 2013 and 2014, it is anticipated that funding will be cut again in 2015.

The lack of funding from the State causes prosecutors to be underpaid resulting in a very high turnover of prosecutors in their first five years of prosecution. In fact, 50 percent of prosecutors leave the District Attorneys' Office in the first five years for other, more profitable legal endeavors. To exacerbate the problem, there is a revolving door of young prosecutors who work with sex offender registration and notification cases. The result of this revolving door is that the most inexperienced prosecutors are handling the most serious cases facing our community. This same revolving door also occurs in law enforcement, in that the officers are often reassigned to other responsibilities leaving new officers to be trained on ALSORNA.

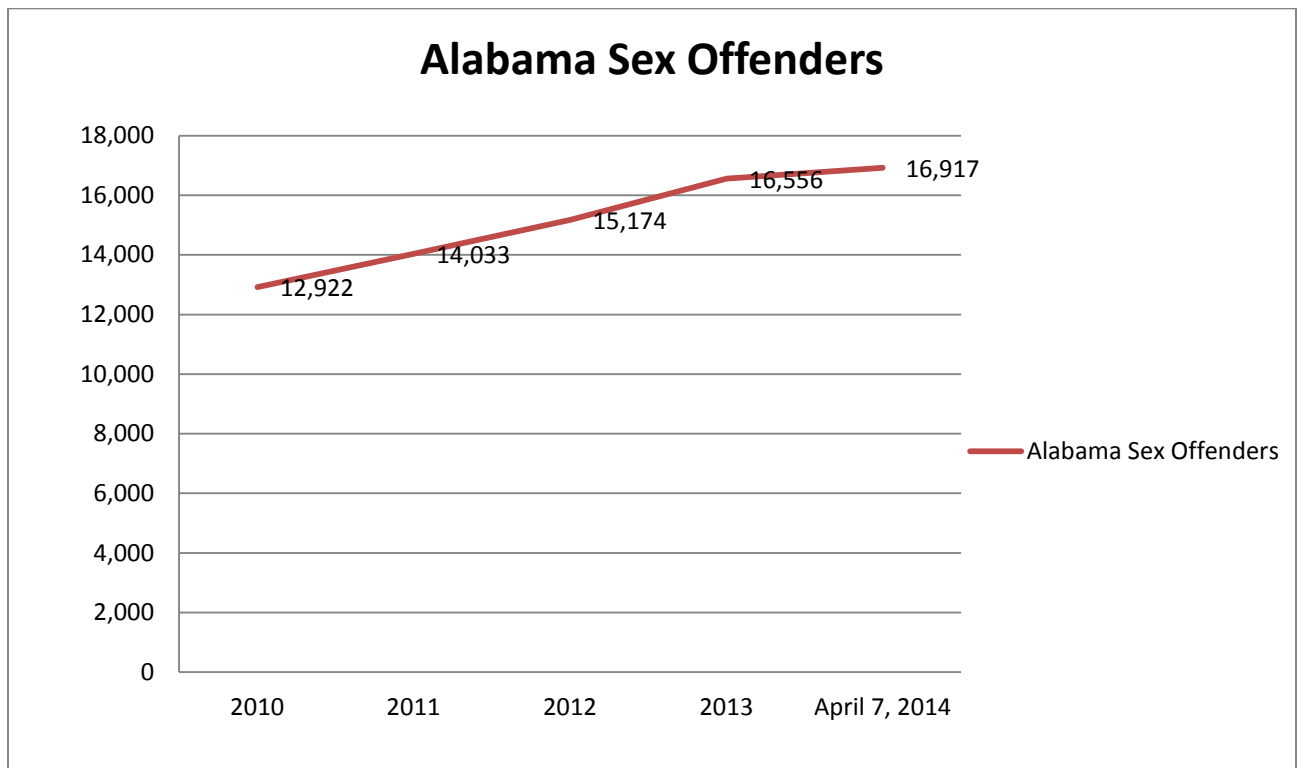
The Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (ADFS) is another state agency that has had to absorb significant reductions in their State General Fund Budget. In the last five (5) years ADFS has been forced to cease decedent transport, close three (3) of its crime laboratory facilities, consolidate drug chemistry services into regional operations, consolidate toxicology into one site, and has lost over 15% of their skilled forensic science workforce. The impact of these budget reductions on the criminal justice system has been significant, as cases are routinely continued awaiting forensic lab reports, precluding perpetrators from being identified and prosecuted in a timely manner due to the rising forensic science backlogs.

The decrease in funds also impacts state and local law enforcement agencies and victims' service providers due to the trickledown effect. Trainings and guidance will not be readily available by personnel in their respective areas to aide in enforcing ASORCNA and providing

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<sup>4</sup> Hightower, E. *Alabama budget cuts target state workers, tourism*. World Socialist Web Site, <http://www.wsws.org/articles/2011/mar2011/alab-m09.shtml>

prevention programs. As a result, Alabama faces challenges in training victims' service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole officers, and other members of the criminal justice community who prosecute, register, monitor, and track sex offenders who have committed ASORCNA violations. Well-trained prosecutors and law enforcement officers are critical for combating the growing number of sex offenders in the community. Since 2010 the sex offender database in Alabama has grown by 3,995 sex offenders. This number is continuing to grow with additional influx on a daily basis from either releases through the Department of Corrections or relocation to Alabama from other states. The chart below illustrates the growth of Alabama's Sex Offender Database since 2010.<sup>5</sup>



**Growth in the Alabama Sex Offender Database**

<sup>5</sup> Source: Alabama Department of Public Safety, April 7, 2014.

In addition to the growth in the sex offender population, the changes in sex offender registration and notification requirements due to Alabama becoming substantially compliant with SORNA make training a vital necessity. Lack of proper training will result in non-compliance, a lack of information sharing between agencies, and an increased number in the amount of non-compliant sex offenders. Lack of proper training will also leave victims' service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and other members of the criminal justice community, who prosecute, register, manage, and track sex offenders to interpret ASORCNA without guidance.

Lack of resources is another problem that Alabama faces in complying with SORNA. SORNA requires that all sex offenders submit a DNA sample for the purposes of analysis and entry into the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), the national repository of DNA profiles collected from offenders and unsolved cases from throughout the United States. This requirement has caused an increase in the number of offenders that are required to submit a DNA sample. The National Guidelines for Sex Offender Registration and Notification state that "this requirement is satisfied by including information in the central registry database that confirms the collection of such a sample from the sex offender for purposes of analysis and entry of the DNA profile into CODIS or inclusion of the sex offender's DNA profile in CODIS<sup>6</sup>." The ADFS created such a central registry called DNA Tracker; however, due to lack of resources, access is not available in every county wherein sex offenders are required to register. This has resulted in unnecessary duplication in the collection of DNA samples from sex offenders, which wastes the limited number of DNA collection kits available. Additionally, since ASORCNA requires sex offenders to register in the city and county where they are residing, there is an urgent need for

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<sup>6</sup>The National Guidelines for Sex Offender Registration and Notification. Section VI, Required Registration Information, page 33.

the Sheriff's Departments, Municipal Police Departments, and Probation and Parole throughout Alabama to have access to the centralized DNA Tracker database so they can ascertain if a DNA sample is warranted for a registering sex offender and/or if one has already been collected and entered into CODIS. Currently all County Sheriff's Offices and Probation and Parole Offices do not have access to DNA Tracker, and to date a limited number of Municipal Police Departments throughout Alabama have access to DNA Tracker. This important utility will benefit those agencies greatly in their efforts to register sex offenders and comply fully with all the provisions of ASORCNA.

### **Steps Taken To Assess, Analyze, and Address Current Sex Offender Registration and Notification Systems**

OPS has taken several steps to assess, analyze, and address the current sex offender registration and notification systems. Since becoming substantially compliant with SORNA, OPS has continued to meet with prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and other criminal justice agencies that prosecute, register, monitor, and track sex offenders in Alabama. The meetings have been informative and crucial to assess, analyze, and address Alabama's current sex offender registration and notification system. The most frequent reoccurring concerns expressed by prosecutors and law enforcement focused on training and DNA collection issues. In addition to the meetings held within the State, OPS has maintained communication with the SMART Office.

To address implementation and maintain compliance OPS has answered over 600 questions from prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and other criminal justice agencies that prosecute, register, monitor, and track sex offenders throughout the state. OPS has

also reviewed, and is continuing to review, all proposed legislation relating to sex offenses and sex offender registration and notification to ensure that all proposed legislation is in compliance with SORNA. In addition to the work done by OPS, the Alabama Department of Public Safety has created unified forms for law enforcement, probation and parole, and other criminal justice agencies that register and monitor sex offenders throughout the state.

An additional strategy of OPS to maintain compliance is to apply for funding through this grant program to assist the State in remaining substantially compliant with SORNA. The majority of the program costs are one-time expenditures which will continue to be utilized after the funding period has ended. It is imperative that OPS receive funding to implement this program.

### **How the Challenges Will Be Addressed**

To address the challenges Alabama faces in complying with SORNA, OPS intends to hire a seasoned Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor. The Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor will act as a liaison to each of the 42 District Attorneys' Offices in the state of Alabama, the Alabama Department of Public Safety, state and local law enforcement, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the U.S. Marshals, and victims' service providers. The Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor will conduct training sessions locally and on a statewide basis. The Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor will be on call and available 24 hours per day to assist victims' service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and other criminal justice agencies throughout the state to answer questions, assist in compliance checks and search warrants, conduct legal research, and assist in the courtroom. Continued implementation and compliance with ASORCNA will result in an increase in the number of arrests and prosecutions of



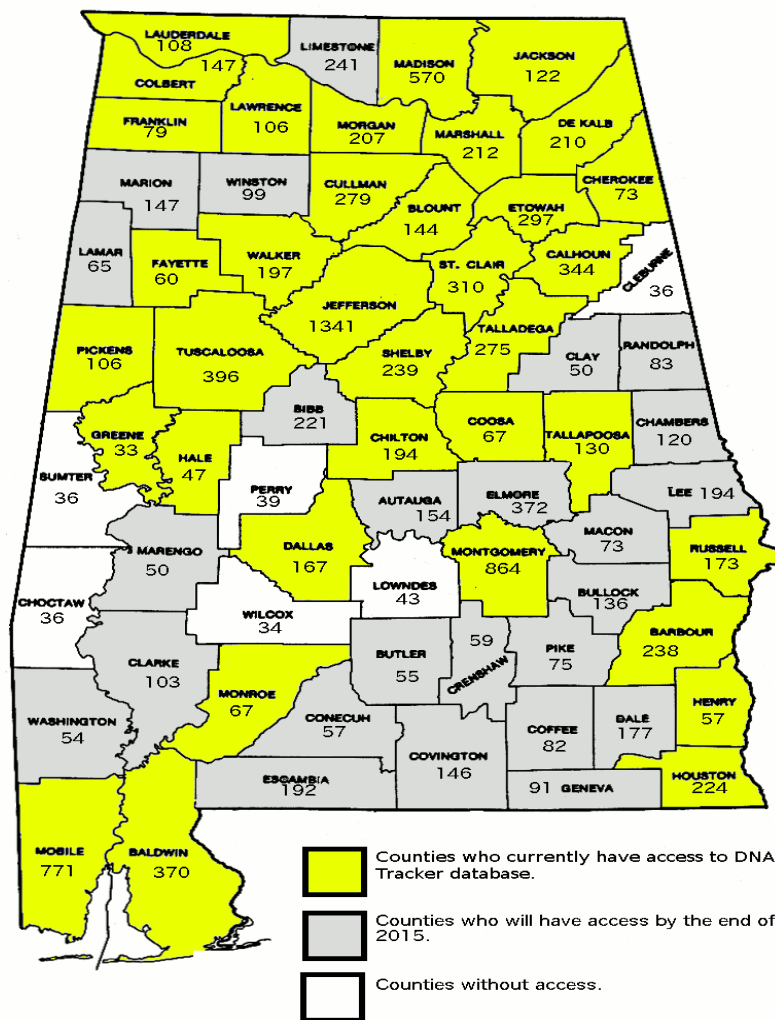
noncompliant sex offenders and a decrease in the number of noncompliant and absconded sex offenders. This will place an increased caseload on local prosecutors, each of whom are handling an average yearly caseload of 2,455 cases. Therefore, an additional component of the Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor is to travel the state providing prosecution and procedural support.

To assist in information sharing, other duties of the Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor include to maintain, and make available, a list of prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and another other criminal justice agencies in each county, municipality, and Indian tribe who register and monitor sex offenders and to advertise and conduct meetings with law enforcement to better assist them in their investigations, registration, and implementation.

As a result of this funded project OPS will make training available to all state and local prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and any other criminal justice agencies that prosecute, register, monitor, or track sex offenders. This training will provide those agencies valuable resources to enable them to implement the requirements of ASORCNA and maintain substantial compliance.

To ensure the collection of DNA, OPS will contract and enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (ADFS). ADFS houses and maintains the Alabama DNA Databank. The Alabama DNA Databank maintains a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) database consisting of the information that accompanies each biological specimen submitted to the DNA Databank. This information is stored in a program known as Tracker. This program maintains three primary types of information: (1) personal identifying information for the individual, (2) information regarding the collection of each submitted specimen, and (3) information about the arrest offense or

conviction offense that qualifies the individual's specimen to be legally accepted and maintained by the Alabama DNA Databank. The Tracker database does not house any generic marker information. By the end of 2015, 61 of the 67 counties in Alabama will have access to the DNA Tracker program. It is imperative that the remaining six (6) counties are equipped with this program. The following map illustrates the number of known registered sex offenders living in each county in Alabama, the counties that have access to the DNA Tracker Program, the counties that will have access to the DNA Tracker Program by the end of 2015, and the six (6) remaining counties that will need the DNA Tracker Program.



To ensure the proper collection of a DNA sample from registering sex offenders, ADFS will install, and train on, the DNA Tracker program – to include a barcode printer and fingerprint scanner in the remaining six (6) counties in the State. Once installed the Agency will be able to query the centralized database and determine if DNA collection is required. If so, a unique barcode and electronic fingerprint record will be collected and electronically attached to the DNA sample entry while simultaneously notifying the Alabama DNA Databank that a new offender's sample is enroute and has been collected. The installation of this customized DNA Tracking software will greatly expand the accessibility for local agencies where sex offenders are required to register, ensure that a sex offender's DNA has been collected, and eliminate duplicate samples from being collected. Additionally, ADFS will train and provide a minimum of twelve (12) local law enforcement (municipal) agencies and six (6) probation and parole offices with access to the DNA Tracker secure database website. This will benefit the municipal police departments and probation and parole offices greatly as they will now be able to query a centralized DNA database and ascertain if a sample for a registering sex offender has already been collected by another Agency.

The systems that will be developed by this grant project will serve all state, county, and municipal agencies in Alabama by providing them with the information needed to manage the sex offenders in their respective counties. The scope of this project is statewide and will benefit all citizens within the entire state. Implementation of this project cannot be successful without the support of the Department of Justice.

**b. PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**Project Goals and Objectives**

**Goal 1**

To develop and implement training for victims' service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and any other criminal justice agencies responsible for SORNA implementation by developing and enhancing jurisdiction-wide SORNA programs while providing the support for coordinated interagency efforts to substantially implement SORNA.

**Objectives**

- To develop training for victims' service providers on community education and prevention programs related to sex offender registration, notification and management.
- To train victims' service providers on community education and prevention programs related to sex offender registration, notification and management.
- To develop training for prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and other criminal justice agencies responsible for implementing SORNA to assist in registration, investigation, and prosecution. (Training will include enhancing address verification tactics and collaborating with other jurisdictions on absconder investigations.)
- To train prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and any other criminal justice agencies that prosecute, register, monitor, or track sex offenders.

- To conduct bi-annual meetings to update prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and any other criminal justice agencies that prosecute, register, monitor, or track sex offenders on issues relating to sex offender registration and notification.
- To create, maintain, and make available a list of prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and probation and parole in each county, municipality, and Indian tribe to assist in coordinating interagency efforts to implement SORNA.
- To assist in research, answering questions, and prosecution of cases throughout the state relating to sex offender registration and notification.
- To maintain a relationship and provide outreach to the Indian tribes through information sharing. (See attached memorandum dated June 16, 2011)
- To review future proposed legislation to ensure that Alabama remains SORNA compliant.

## **Goal 2**

To enhance the infrastructure to assist implementation of SORNA through the submission of DNA.

## **Objectives**

- To install the DNA Tracker program together with bar code printers and fingerprint scanners in the remaining six (6) counties across the State.
- To install the DNA Tracker Program in an additional twelve (12) municipal police departments throughout the State.

- To install the DNA Tracker Program in an additional six (6) probation and parole offices throughout the State.
- To train prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and any other criminal justice agencies that register, monitor, or prosecute sex offenders on the use of the DNA Tracker Program

The goal of OPS is to develop and implement training for victims’ service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and any other criminal justice agencies responsible for SORNA implementation, provide support for coordinated interagency efforts, and enhance the infrastructure by installing the DNA Tracker program in counties across the State. These goals will work together to ensure Alabama’s substantial compliance with SORNA.

**Performance Measures**

In addition to the performance measures required by the SMART FY 2014 Support for Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program, OPS will use the following performance measures. (OPS and ADFS will maintain or gather all of the data required by the performance measures for this grant.)

<b><u>Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Performance Measures</u></b>	<b><u>Data to be Provided by OPS and ADFS</u></b>
To develop a training and train victims’ service providers.	The amount of victims’ service providers trained.	Number of trainings conducted.  Total number of victims’ service providers trained.
To develop a training and train law enforcement, prosecutors, and other criminal justice agencies responsible for ASORNA implementation.	The amount of trained law enforcement, prosecutors, and other criminal justice agencies trained.	Number of trainings conducted.  Total number of law enforcement, prosecutors and

	The amount of unknown and absconded sex offenders located.	other criminal justice agencies trained.  Total number of unknown and absconded sex offenders located.
To create, maintain, and make available a list of investigators and law enforcement officers in each county, municipality, and Indian tribe.	The amount of contacts included on the distribution list.	Number of investigators and law enforcement included on the distribution list.
To assist in research, answering questions, and prosecution of cases throughout the State.	Answer questions and conduct research for prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and other criminal justice agencies.	Number of technical assists provided.
To install DNA Tracker, bar code printers and fingerprint scanners in the 6 remaining counties across the State.	Completion of the installation and beta testing.	Name and number of counties where DNA Tracker, bar code printers and fingerprint scanners are installed.
To install DNA Tracker in an additional 12 Municipal Police Departments throughout the State.	Completion of the installation and beta testing.	Name and number of Municipal Police Departments where DNA Tracker is installed.
To install DNA Tracker in an additional 6 Probation and Parole Offices throughout the State.	Completion of the installation and beta testing.	Name and number of Probation and Parole Offices where DNA Tracker is installed.

Developing and implementing training for victims' service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and any other criminal justice agencies responsible for SORNA implementation is of utmost importance because different components of compliance with SORNA fall under various agencies. The Alabama Department of Corrections is responsible for notifying and transmitting information to various agencies when an incarcerated sex offender is released. Municipal and county law enforcement agencies are responsible for registering sex offenders and transmitting all registration information to the Alabama Department of Public Safety. The Alabama Department of Public Safety maintains the Sex

Offender Registry and the Sex Offender Public Database. The Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center serves as the information repository for the State of Alabama and therefore is the official entity responsible for reporting to the National Sex Offender Registry. Training and coordination among these agencies is essential for Alabama to maintain substantial compliance with SORNA. OPS is uniquely situated to enable seamless communication and coordination between these agencies.

Training is also important due to the changes implemented under SORNA to strengthen the sex offender registration and notification laws in Alabama. These implementations, as a result of more stringent requirements, place more responsibilities on law enforcement, prosecutors, and other criminal justice agencies that register, monitor, and track sex offenders therefore greatly increasing the need for thorough training. Due to the continuing turnover of personnel in those agencies who prosecute or who register, monitor, and track sex offenders also necessitates the need for consistent and regular training. Well-trained law enforcement officers and prosecutors are crucial for implementing ASORCNA.

In addition to training law enforcement, prosecutors, and other criminal justice agencies that register, monitor, and track sex offenders, it is also important to train victims' service providers and provide community education and prevention programs. Community education is critical in the effective management of sex offenders, however it is often overlooked. Victims' service providers and members of the community need to understand the current laws and measures in place to manage convicted sex offenders, and their limitations, because without this critical knowledge, it puts the community, especially children at even greater risk.

The Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor will meet the training objective by first developing training for victims' service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, and other



criminal justice agencies responsible for implementing ASORCNA. The Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor will then conduct at least eight (8) trainings statewide. These trainings will bring all of the agencies together that are responsible for registering, monitoring, tracking, and prosecuting sex offenders. In addition to the trainings, local meetings will be conducted for victims' services providers. Local meetings will also be conducted to update prosecutors and law enforcement on issues relating to sex offender registration and notification. The purpose of these meetings will be to train these agencies on ASORCNA and form working relationships between the agencies that will further coordinate interagency efforts to maintain compliance with SORNA. Once armed with knowledge of what ASORCNA requires law enforcement will be in a better position to more efficiently and effectively register, manage, and track sex offenders in their respective counties.

The Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor will also train law enforcement on enhancing address verification tactics and collaborating with other jurisdictions and agencies on absconder investigations. This training will provide law enforcement with the tools to reduce the amount of unknown and absconded sex offenders. Once the whereabouts of unknown or absconded sex offenders are located by local law enforcement the Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor will be another tool for prosecutors throughout the state. The Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor is critical because few crimes receive the degree of public attention and scrutiny that is directed toward sex offenses, particularly with respect to the prosecution and ultimate disposition of such cases. As these offenders are arrested, additional demands will be placed upon local prosecutorial agencies. OPS is a state agency serving all 42 elected District Attorneys. The primary duty of the OPS is to provide training for the elected District Attorneys, prosecutors, and support staff. However, in addition to providing training, the Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor

will assist in the backlog of cases resulting from ASORCNA non-compliance and will maintain a brief bank containing pleadings relating to sex offender registration and notification. Through this project OPS will increase the level of readiness and proficiency for the effective prosecution of sex offenders.

In addition to training and assisting the criminal justice agencies responsible for registering, monitoring, tracking, and prosecuting sex offenders, the Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor will support coordinated interagency efforts by serving as a liaison between federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors. The Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor will further those efforts by creating, maintaining, and making available a list of investigators and law enforcement officers in each county, municipality, and Indian tribe.

Through the efforts of this grant, OPS will successfully develop and implement training for victims' service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, and other criminal justice agencies responsible for SORNA implementation by developing and enhancing jurisdiction-wide SORNA programs while providing support for coordinated interagency efforts to substantially implement SORNA. The program's effectiveness will continue to be realized by sustaining more efficient prosecutions, by reducing the amount of unknown and absconded sex offenders, and more effective oversight of sex offenders on a state and local level as well as keeping the community informed.

With the support of Federal funding, access to Alabama's DNA Tracker will be implemented at each site by the ADFS. Peripheral hardware and software training will be installed by personnel of the Alabama DNA Databank, and held in conjunction with the training conducted by the Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor of the OPS. Further training on the proper collection of a DNA sample utilizing the custom Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences

DNA collection kit will also be provided by ADFS to each Agency with access to Tracker. At the completion of training, unique logins for each Agency will be administered by the ADFS to the local law enforcement Agency, thereby facilitating their real time access to DNA Tracker.

c. **CAPABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES**

**Management Structure and Staffing Of the Project**

This grant will be managed by OPS. OPS has been in existence for over 35 years, is well respected by law enforcement, and has solid financial status. OPS was originally established to assist prosecuting attorneys throughout the state in their efforts against criminal activity. Since its establishment in 1975, the duties of OPS have greatly expanded to include, but not limited to, training law enforcement and other members of the criminal justice community. OPS has managed numerous grants and awards and has been successfully audited by the Alabama Examiner of Public Accounts. OPS will ensure that the grant money is appropriated according to the rules of the grant award.

The Executive Director of OPS, [REDACTED], will supervise the execution of this grant. The Grant Administrator will ensure grant guidelines are followed and all reports timely filed. The Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor will execute this grant. OPS will work very closely with [REDACTED], Chief of Forensic Biology and DNA, at ADFS, in planning, implementing, and managing this grant project. Key personnel resumes can be found in the attachments.

OPS is the most appropriate agency to implement this project since OPS drafted ASORCNA. As a result of the research conducted prior to drafting the new legislation, OPS has

the best understanding of the current law and the changes that were adopted by the legislature with the passage of ASORCNA. Finally, OPS has an extensive background training prosecutors and law enforcement and has done so for over 30 years.

OPS will contract with the ADFS to execute this grant. [REDACTED] will supervise the installation of equipment and training on the DNA Tracker Program. ADFS is a well established Crime Laboratory system with a greater than 75 year history of service to the citizens of the State of Alabama. ADFS is the only forensic science system present within the State of Alabama and is charged with the responsibility of analyzing biological evidence recovered by all local and state law enforcement agencies statewide. The scientific analysis of Forensic DNA cases is carried out in four (4) Regional Casework DNA Laboratories, situated across the State. ADFS laboratories are accredited by ASCLD/LAB and undergo external audits at least every two (2) years, in accordance with the FBI Director's Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories. Since ADFS is the only agency tasked with the responsibility of analyzing DNA evidence in criminal cases statewide, ADFS is an essential element in continuing compliance with SORNA.

Both OPS and ADFS have the financial controls in place to appropriately manage federal funds.

## **Roles and Responsibilities of Key Organizational and Functional Components and**

### **Personnel**

The program staff is composed of one (1) Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor and one (1) Grant Administrator. [REDACTED], the Chief of Forensic Biology and DNA at ADFS, will assist the program staff in the execution of this project.

### **Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor**

OPS will hire a Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor to carry out the goals of this grant. The prosecutor will be highly experienced in prosecuting sex offender registration and notification cases and will assist in trial applications, presentations, and be available to assist law enforcement with legal issues involving sex offender registration and notification. This prosecutor will have extensive experience in the courtroom as well as training law enforcement. The prosecutor will have at least five (5) years of experience in the prosecution of felony cases.

### **Grant Administrator**

OPS will hire a Grant Administrator to manage this project. The Grant Administrator will have grant management experience and will be responsible for the overall administration of the program. The Grant Administrator will oversee all grant functions and will ensure that the program activity is conducted in accordance with the approved grant application guidelines, as well as providing assistance with project analysis. Duties will also include purchasing, grant financial accounting, submission of grant forms, inventory, quarterly reports, budget request, budget maintenance, and maintaining the database. Furthermore, the Grant Administrator will provide resources for training presentations and compile statistics.

### **Chief of Forensic Biology and DNA**

██████████ is currently the Assistant Director and Chief of Forensic Biology and DNA for the State of Alabama's Department of Forensic Sciences. His daily duties include directing the Forensic Biology and DNA efforts in the four (4) Regional Casework DNA Laboratories located throughout Alabama, as well as the statewide DNA Databank Laboratory.

Additionally, he is currently one of the seven members on the FBI's Executive Board for DNA Analysis Methods. [REDACTED] will oversee the installation of the DNA Tracker program, barcode printers, and fingerprint scanners.

**Experience and Capability of the Applicant/Implementing and Managing Previous Projects**

OPS has a history of successfully writing, managing, and administering grants throughout economic community development including grants for traffic safety, juvenile justice, methamphetamine training, and domestic violence training. OPS has also been awarded numerous grants as a sub-grantee and has had tremendous success in implementing and managing previous projects of similar design and magnitude. The Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program is one example of a success story of collaboration between prosecutors and law enforcement.

The Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program began in April of 2006. The goals of the program were to hire a prosecutor with in-depth knowledge and skill in the field of impaired driving to be a resource to prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and other traffic safety professionals. Since the program's inception, the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor has developed training courses to address the needs of those on the front lines in the battle against impaired driving. These courses have tackled cutting edge issues and are often free to those in the traffic safety arena. Some of the previous courses offered have included a DUI/Traffic Safety Conference, DUI Boot Camp, Contact to Courtroom, Take Back our Courtrooms, DUI Legal Updates, and Sobriety Check Points.

In addition to trainings, the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor regularly responds to technical assistance requests from the traffic safety community. This prosecutor answers

thousands of technical questions and trains an average of over 500 prosecutors, law enforcement officers, judges, and advocates annually. To further assist prosecutors and law enforcement, the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor introduced a website, [alabamaduiprossecution.com](http://alabamaduiprossecution.com). This is the latest addition to the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program generating greater program outreach and utilization.

The Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor also handles recusal cases when the District Attorney has a conflict and assists in cases where his expertise is requested. Since the program began, the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor has handled over 30 cases. The Traffic Safety Resource Program has been, and continues to be, a tremendous success.

**d. PLAN FOR COLLECTING THE DATA REQUIRED**

OPS will monitor and record all of the following performance measures as required by this grant program. In addition, OPS has the ability to research and document the effect that this grant will have on the State.

The performance of this project will be measured by tracking the objectives set forth in the goal of this project. The Sex Offender Resource Prosecutor plans to hold a minimum of eight (8) trainings and train a minimum of 600 victims' service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and any other criminal justice agencies who prosecute, register, monitor, or track sex offenders. Each training, speaking engagement, and workshop conducted will be documented in an Excel spreadsheet. Information retained will include the type of group addressed, the subject of the presentation, the number of prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and members of any other criminal justice agencies present who prosecute, register, monitor, or track sex offenders. Documentation will further include any

issues regarding sex offender registration and notification during the question and answer sessions and copies of evaluations to determine the effectiveness of measurables. Furthermore, at the conclusion of the extensive trainings a questionnaire will be distributed to each attendee. The questionnaire will be used to measure the grants impact on prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and any other agencies in attendance that prosecute, register, monitor, or track sex offenders under ASORCNA. The number of unknown and absconded sex offenders, the number of sex offenders in Alabama, and all other relevant numbers regarding sex offenders will be obtained from the Alabama Department of Public Safety Sex Offender Unit.

The data collected for this project will also include maintaining records of correspondence and technical assistance requested by state and local prosecutors, law enforcement, probation and parole, and the Indian tribes. The program goal is to field a minimum of 100 requests for technical assistance. Finally, the project will be further assessed by creating and making available a distribution of the list of investigators and law enforcement officers in each county, municipality, and Indian country, the amount of assistance provided by assisting in research, answering questions, and prosecution of cases throughout the state relating to sex offender registration and notification.

ADFS plans to install the DNA Tracker program in the final six (6) counties across the State and install the DNA Tracker Program in an additional twelve (12) municipal Police Departments and Probation and Parole Offices throughout the State. DFS will maintain the data collected for this project by maintaining a list of every county where DNA Tracker, barcode printers, and finger print scanners are installed, every municipality where the DNA Tracker program is installed, and every Probation and Parole Office where the DNA Tracker program is installed.



## **Plans for Sustainability**

A substantial amount of the program funded by this grant includes one-time expenditures. The DNA Tracker program, barcode printers and fingerprint scanners will continue to be utilized well after the grant funds are expended.

Implementation of this project cannot be made without support from the Department of Justice. Extensive training for victim services' providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, and other criminal justice agencies responsible for registering, monitoring, tracking, and prosecuting sex offenders will sustain the goals of this project. OPS, through money from the general fund and other grants will cover the expenses of the staff remaining after month 24 of grant funding.

***Note: Numerous necessary items are provided in-kind by our agency such as rental space, all project support administrative personnel, office furniture, office equipment, additional office supplies, additional cell phones, additional computer hardware, computer software, and utilities at existing locations.***