

10

Simple Steps

to help your agency become a part of the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan

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Working towards systematically sharing law enforcement information among local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies—large or small

1. Establish a mission statement and a policy to address developing and sharing information and intelligence data within your agency.

The National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan ("Plan") provides model policies and guidelines for implementing or reviewing an agency's intelligence function. Examples include Criminal Intelligence Systems Operating Policies federal regulation 28 CFR Part 23, the International Association of Chiefs of Police's *Criminal Intelligence Model Policy*, and the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit's (LEIU) *Criminal Intelligence File Guidelines*.

2. Connect to your state criminal justice network and regional intelligence databases, and participate in information sharing initiatives.

Many states provide access to other government databases, including motor vehicles, corrections, and others. Regional intelligence databases and sharing initiatives promote communication and collaboration by providing access to other agencies' and organizations' investigative and intelligence data.

3. Pay attention to privacy issues.

The protection of individuals' privacy and constitutional rights is an obligation of government officials and is crucial to the long-term success of criminal intelligence sharing. The Plan provides guidelines that support policies which will protect privacy and constitutional rights while not hindering the intelligence process.

4. Access law enforcement Web sites, and subscribe to law enforcement listservs.

Many Web sites on the Internet and others on closed networks provide valuable intelligence assessments and news. Listservs provide instant and widespread communication for investigators. Listservs allow both the receipt and distribution of intelligence information.

5. Provide your agency members with appropriate training on the criminal intelligence process.

Some training models or modules are already found in Internet-based and interactive CD-ROMs, such as the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts (IALEIA), National White Collar Crime Center, and LEIU "Turn Key Intelligence." A listing of available intelligence training sources and specifically scheduled classes is found on the IALEIA Web site: www.ialeia.org. This listing allows individuals to directly contact training source agencies and organizations for more information on classes and schedules.

6. Become a member of your in-region Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) center.

RISS operates the only secure Web-based nationwide network for communication and exchange of criminal intelligence information by local, state, tribal, and federal participating law enforcement member agencies. RISS partners with other law enforcement systems to electronically connect them to riss.net, including High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Investigative Support centers and other federal and state agency systems.

7. Become a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Law Enforcement Online (LEO).

LEO is a free service that provides a network for investigators to share information with each other through Special Interest Groups. For more information on joining LEO, e-mail leoprogramoffice@leo.gov.

8. Use the Internet as an information resource.

The Internet provides a wealth of open source information, including government information and access to private agencies that share with law enforcement.

9. Partner with public and private infrastructure sectors.

Regular communication with the entities that control America's critical infrastructures such as energy, agriculture, transportation, and shipping is critically important to ensuring the safety and security of the citizens in your community.

10. Participate in local, state, and national intelligence organizations.

In most areas of the country, there are locally based intelligence organizations that welcome participation from all agencies and are often affiliated with state and national organizations.