

## 2007 Innovations Awards Program APPLICATION

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ID # (assigned by CSG): 07-S-04OKELECTRONICSURVEILLANCE

**Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:**

State:   Oklahoma  

Assign Program Category (applicant): Public Safety/Drugs (Use list at end of application)

1. Program Name ESI (Electronic Surveillance and Intelligence) Unit
2. Administering Agency Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics
3. Contact Person (Name and Title) Cindy Cunningham, Chief Agent
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5. Telephone Number 405-521-2885
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7. E-mail Address ccunningham@obn.state.ok.us
8. Web site Address www.obn.state.ok.us
9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program. ESI Unit utilizes wire taps, GPS tracking on major importers and distributors of illegal substances into Oklahoma and transshipped from Oklahoma into other states.
10. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Note: the program must be between 9 months and 5 years old on April 2, 2007, to be considered. Began in 1996-present
11. Why was the program created? What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address? Created to address Mexican cell groups operating in behalf of drug cartels in Mexico. The unit targets a cell member and utilizes wire taps, surveillance, undercover operations and GPS (Global Positioning Systems) to track importers. The unit passes information to other states based on intelligence gained from wire taps on cell groups who are operating in other states.
12. Describe the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order. 1996 received BYRNE federal funds and in the past 3 years received JAG (federal) funding. Have been awarded approximately 1.5 million dollars in free equipment to tap telephones and track criminals importing narcotics. OBN has hired 9 bi-lingual agents and 4 support (bi-lingual) staff to address Mexican cell groups operating in Oklahoma.
13. Why is the program a new and creative approach or method? It addresses the higher echelons of drug cartels who remain obscure from law enforcement by tapping telephones of those individuals.
14. What were the program's start-up costs? (Provide details about specific purchases for this program, staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.) BYRNE FEDERAL FUNDS 2002 \$417,446, 2003 \$455,250, 2004 \$467,108, 2005 \$455,000, 2006 \$436,950 . 9 Additional agents were assigned to the unit, approximate cost (salaries) \$407,000. Received approximately 1.5 million dollars in wire tap equipment. In 2006 Gov Brad Henry and the legislature awarded OBN an additional one million dollars to hire/train an additional 6 bi-lingual agents.
15. What are the program's annual operational costs? \$1,876,540.00 (2006)

16. How is the program funded? Prior to 2005 was federally funded for 6 agents, 4 support, 1 attorney and federal match moneys derived from drug seizures/forfeitures.

17. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? If YES, please indicate the citation number. NO, however legislation was enacted to enhance the wire tap statute (added enumerated crimes), wire transfer legislation, and GPS tracking (pending)

18. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program? The Voice Box system is a digital recording work station. 12 terminals are located in the Oklahoma City office, 6 additional work stations are in district offices throughout the state to assist not only OBN agents but any law enforcement agency who has the need for the equipment. OBN has installed a firewall in the system that allows agents/prosecutors to dial into Voice Box and access wire tap conversations or pen register calls. This is at no cost to other agencies. OBN is one of 3 test bed agencies for CTAC (Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center) a division of the Department of Justice. We have been awarded GPS Trackers, Forensic Video and Audio Equipment and a cell phone extraction system. The cost of these systems is approximately \$140,000.00.

19. To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator's name, present address, telephone number and e-mail address. Unknown, however, we are one of a few states that employ a full time bi-lingual wire tap unit.

20. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ? Yes, but the states we are aware of do not operate on a full time basis.

21. Has the program been fully implemented? If NO, what actions remain to be taken? Yes

22. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program's effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples. It is very effective in addressing the heads of drug importers who insulate themselves from law enforcement by dealing only with a few close lieutenants in their organizations. The con is the person carrying the cell phone may travel state to state or out of the country where there is limited cell phone towers to receive calls. Or more commonly the target changes cell phones every 20-30 days.

23. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception? Yes, because Oklahoma is only 10-12 hours from Mexico there has been a great influx of cell groups operating here. More bi-lingual agents and support staff are needed at all levels of law enforcement to address these groups.

24. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program? Linguists and more importantly linguists who know the slang. Overtime pay when a 30 day (or more) wire is operational can be costly. On one occasion a case involved 6 months of wire taps. In 2004 10 months of wire taps were completed on one case. You must have enough agents and support staff to complete these investigations especially when they run for several months.

## **2007 Innovations Awards Program Program Categories and Subcategories**

Use these as guidelines to determine the appropriate Program Category for your state's submission and list that program category on page one of this application. Choose only one.

### *Infrastructure and Economic Development*

- Business/Commerce
- Economic Development
- Transportation

### *Government Operations*

- Administration
- Elections
- Public Information
- Revenue

### *Health & Human Services*

- Aging
- Children & Families
- Health Services
- Housing
- Human Services

### *Human Resources/Education*

- Education
- Labor
- Management
- Personnel
- Training and Development
- Workforce Development

### *Natural Resources*

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Environment
- Environmental Protection
- Natural Resources
- Parks & Recreation
- Water Resources

### *Public Safety/Corrections*

- Corrections
- Courts
- Criminal Justice
- Drugs
- Emergency Management
- Public Safety

**Save in .doc or rtf. Return completed application electronically to [innovations@csg.org](mailto:innovations@csg.org) or mail to:**

CSG Innovations Awards 2007  
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This application is also available at [www.csg.org](http://www.csg.org), in the Programs section.

**Deadline: April 2, 2007**