



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

ROD BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

June 27, 2003

To Members of the General Assembly, Justice Practitioners and the Citizens of Illinois:

I am proud to present to you the "Illinois Integrated Justice Information System Strategic Plan 2003-2004," a multi-disciplinary examination of our state's justice system. This strategic plan reflects the combined experiences of several hundred criminal justice professionals.

We need an integrated system to arm our police with the information to solve crimes faster, take criminals off of our streets more quickly and protect the innocent. The tragic events of September 11, 2001 and the Washington, D.C. serial sniper incident are some of the most dramatic examples underscoring the need to link justice systems to close dangerous loopholes in our overburdened systems.

The thousands of hours devoted to this project have resulted in a vision that will ensure that critical data - data needed by police officers, prosecutors, and judges - can be electronically shared. As a result, access to shared information will improve decision making and, with the proper safeguards, ensure the privacy and confidentiality of the information.

Funding for the first two years of this plan will be provided by federal grant funds already earmarked for integration by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Additional funds will continue to be sought from other federal and private funding sources.

After reading this important document, I know you will share my enthusiasm and lend your support to this exciting initiative. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Rod Blagojevich
Governor