

FY 2023 Community-based Approaches to Prevent and Address Hate Crimes Solicitation Webinar (3/23/23)—Event Transcription

Sunny Schnitzer:

All right. Good afternoon, everyone. Good morning for some of our guests who are joining us from the West Coast. Thank you all so much for joining. My name is Sunny Schnitzer. I'm a policy advisor with the Bureau of Justice Assistance at the Office of Justice Programs, and I'm really excited to talk with you all today about the Community-Based Approaches to Prevent and Address Hate Crimes Grant Program. Just very quickly, I want to go over the agenda with everyone. First, you'll be hearing a little bit from me about the Office of Justice Programs and BJA. Next, we'll go into a little bit of background on this program and why it's so important. We'll be featuring one of our recent program awardees from this program to hear a little bit more about some of the work that's being funded under this program. And then finally, I'll go over some of the nuts and bolts of applying for one of these grants.

Now, one thing I will say is while we'll have a Q&A session at the end, I really want to have this be a little bit more interactive. So, I like to throw in some poll questions here and there and learn a little bit more about some of the folks who are in the room. So, occasionally, we'll have some polls pop up on the screen, and I'd just ask that you take a couple of minutes to respond to those. And so to kick things off, my first question for folks that are joining us here today is has your organization been awarded federal grants in the past? You'll notice on the screen, you can either go to pollev.com/hatecrimesTTA and fill out the form, or you can text Hate Crimes TTA to 22333. And so, we have a few options.

Yes, my organization has extensive experience. My agency maybe has a little bit of experience, but we don't currently have any federal grants, or it's somewhat limited. Maybe your agency has very minimal experience with federal grants, or maybe you're brand new to federal grants. We're really looking forward to hearing from you all. Looks like we're starting to get a few results. And again, you can either visit the polling website listed at the top of the screen or text Hate Crimes TTA to 22333. And then, once you've done that, you can enter in your response. And I promise—once you do this once—it gets a lot easier, and I'm only going to make you do this a few times. All right, we're getting a few more responses. I'll give everyone another 30 seconds or so to get some responses into the poll. All right, and it looks like we have a couple in the chat as well.

And I am also getting a note that I am freezing on the screen, so I'm going to turn off my video to make this a little smoother for folks. All right, great. It looks like we have a really good mix here of folks on the line. Several of you have extensive experience with federal grants. We have some that have a little bit of experience. So, this is a great mix. I'm really excited to share more about this program with you all, especially because this program is relatively unique at OJP and BJA. So, given that some folks are brand new to federal grants, I'll take just a couple of minutes to talk through a little bit about the Office for Justice Programs and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. So, what is OJP? Functionally, the Office of Justice Programs is one of three grant-making components of the U.S. Department of Justice.

We, along with our counterparts at the Office on Violence Against Women and the Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services, offer a range of services and funding really focused on justice system and public safety assistance to state, local, tribal, and community organizations. And as you can see on the screen, the Office of Justice Programs is made up of several different program offices, one of which is

the Bureau of Justice Assistance. We also have partners at the Bureau of Justice Statistics who really focus in on statistics. We have researchers at the National Institute of Justice. The Office for Victims of Crime really focuses in on victim assistance and support. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention really focuses in on how we support our youth. And the SMART Office provides assistance to state and local efforts on sex offender sentencing, monitoring, apprehending, registering, and tracking. So, BJA, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, is really honed in on providing leadership grants, training, and technical assistance and support to, as I mentioned, state, local, and tribal justice agencies.

One thing I want to emphasize is that while we often use this state, local, and tribal entities kind of language, increasingly not only at BJA but across the Office of Justice Programs, we are very much trying to pivot more towards community-driven and led solutions for public safety. So, you'll hear me emphasize that a lot today. We're very excited with this particular program that we're really going to be working directly with community-based organizations and national civil rights organizations to identify and deliver solutions to prevent and address and respond to hate crimes, hate incidents, and hate speech.

So, the Bureau of Justice Assistance is led by Director Karhlton Moore. Director Moore was appointed by President Biden to lead the office in February of 2022, so just over a year in this role. And as I mentioned earlier, in addition to providing resources to the field and training and technical assistance, BJA also focuses on providing direct grant support. And so BJA is divided into four different offices. As I mentioned, I'm a policy advisor with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and so I work with the Policy Office. The Policy Office specifically provides national leadership to criminal justice organizations and partner organizations.

We work on developing grant solicitations and working directly with training and technical assistance providers once grants are awarded to ensure that you have everything you need to be successful in your program. BJA also is supported by a Programs Office. Our Programs Office really focuses in on the implementation piece of your grant. And so, this is going to be on grants management, financial support, making sure that there's careful stewardship over federal funds. The Operations Office at BJA supports all operations across the board, including communications, working on the budget, managing contracts—things like that. And then finally, the Public Safety Officer Benefits Office provides support services and benefits to survivors of fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other public safety officers.

We carry out our mission in five different strategic focus areas. But really, the big thing that I want to emphasize here is that we're really focused in on improving public safety and really focusing in on evidence-based and research-driven strategies to do that, not only in the long term but in day-to-day operations of different functions. In addition to focusing on public safety and crime reduction, BJA is also focused on reducing recidivism and ensuring that there's a prevention of unnecessary confinement and interactions with the criminal justice system. As I mentioned before, we have a few core ways that we do our work. We fund. This is going to look like direct grants to organizations or just states. In some ways, again, we also fund opportunities for education, so that's going to be through training and technical assistance.

We develop research and really share information on what works. We also help develop tools and products that can build capacity in the organizations that we work with. And not just our grantees, but any partner that's interested in these. And then finally, we partner. We like to bring together folks who are all working towards the same end goal. So, that may be convening maybe forums of folks that all

have common interests around public safety. So, today we're here to talk about the Community-based Approaches to Prevent and Address Hate Crimes program. This program was launched for the first time at BJA last fiscal year. Specifically, this program was designed to leverage that unique capability that community-based organizations and civil rights organizations have to really understand and unpack the needs of those who are experiencing hate crimes, hate incidents, and hate speech.

The program is designed to prevent hate crimes, yes, but also to really promote community resiliency and preparedness and, God forbid, healing in the wake of hate incidents. The program is designed to help increase victim reporting of hate crimes and, importantly, to increase opportunities or different ways that reporting can happen. We know that reporting to law enforcement may not always be the best option for someone after they've experienced a hate incident. And then finally, it's also to improve how we respond to hate crimes, not just in our criminal justice system, but as a community. This may look like restorative justice or other types of community healing. So, this program's solicitation was released just a few weeks ago on March 6th, and we'll be accepting applications until May 17th on grants.gov and will be accepting full application materials on the JustGrants system until May 24th. And we'll come back to these dates in a little bit.

One thing I will flag, I know you're probably thinking, "Okay, Sunny, the full application isn't due for another two months." I highly recommend that you go ahead, and if you're interested in applying, go ahead and check out grants.gov; turn in your necessary paperwork. Some of the things that are due on grants.gov are updated registrations. This is kind of the more, "Hey, do we have our ducks in a row to apply?" part of the application. That way, if you go ahead and get that done, you won't hit any deadline issues at the end of the process. I see in the chat, someone said the registration process can take a long time. It definitely can. So definitely, definitely, I urge you . . . Or even if you're an experienced grantee, go ahead and just check online and make sure you have everything ready to go so that you don't hit any renewal issues towards the deadline.

I won't focus too much on these. We've talked a little bit about this earlier, but I will just kind of highlight one quick thing. And that's that really the primary goal of this program is to support and elevate community-led approaches to addressing hate crimes. And again, not just hate crimes. We also know that hate speech and hate incidents that may not necessarily rise to the level of a criminal offense can also terrorize and traumatize communities. And so we also want to be looking for solutions to reduce and eliminate any incidents of hate or hate speech or hate crimes. And then finally, it's also to think through: how do we deescalate when tensions arise or in the wake of a hate incident? What are the solutions that we have that are community-led, community-driven, and that really focus on the healing that needs to happen in the wake of an incident?

So, there are a few core objectives that I want to flag for anyone who's considering applying for this program. The first is really to focus in on partnerships. Now, these partnerships may be among community-based organizations. It could be partnering with a justice agency and saying, "Hey, we think there's a way we can help," or, "We think there's a way you can improve how you're responding to this." It may be partnering with educational institutions, schools, houses of worship, you name it. We're looking to really elevate partnerships in this program. Also about establishing effective outreach and not just effective, but really outreach that's focused on the needs of those that are experiencing hate incidents. We really want to have an emphasis on culturally-specific materials, materials that are made accessible in as many ways as possible, be that language access or through accommodations under ADA.

And certainly, we want to be thinking about this in as many ways as possible. So, are we developing tools and resources? Are we reviewing policies and procedures of government agencies to ensure we're responding appropriately? And finally, we really want to be focusing, again, as I said, on healing and dialogue and creating a sense of community and shared sense of empathy that won't tolerate hate and that addresses incidents ideally before they occur. And finally, as I mentioned, in the wake of hate incidents, we absolutely want to be promoting trauma-informed and culturally specific services and outreach materials that really foster a sense of community and that can help drive away the sense of isolation that hate incidents can create in a community or even for an individual. So, this year, we have two different categories, and I'll talk a little bit more about that a little later in the presentation.

But before we dive into our guest speaker, I wanted to share a little bit about the deliverables we're looking for in these programs. Through this program, BJA is not overly prescriptive. We know that the solutions and that the ways to address hate incidents, they're not necessarily going to be one and done. This is unique to each individual community, to each neighborhood. And so, really what we're looking for in deliverables is, again, evidence of that partnership through a task force or through partnering with other organizations. We'll want to see that there's a plan of action and that you have a plan for developing outreach materials and resources that are really tailored to the group that you're looking to serve or to assist. And then, really importantly, we're hoping that you'll document your efforts and share that information across the field. If you find that something is really effective, we're hoping that you'll share that and that you'll have a plan for sharing that beyond just your one community.

For our category two awardees, we're really looking to leverage your national influence and your expertise in whatever specific subject matter you have. So, in addition to assessing for current resources in the field, we're hoping that you'll develop a series of resources that can be distributed and really tailored to individual communities or neighborhoods or cities and that you'll support several different jurisdictions or communities in adapting your materials and using them in their own communities. Next, I will share, I know that sometimes these solicitation webinars can be kind of brutal to sit through, but it is my absolute honor to introduce one of BJA's inaugural grantees of this program, and that's Forge, Inc.

The Executive Director, Michael Munson, has very generously offered to take a few minutes today to talk with you about their application and what they're doing with funding from this program. I hope you'll listen and get some ideas about how you could potentially use grant funding to help protect your communities from hate and to help them heal in the wake of hate. And after we hear from Michael, I'll talk a little bit more about the nuts and bolts of what an application should include. But with that, I will turn it over to Michael. Thank you.

Michael Munson:

Thanks, Sunny. I'm Michael Munson. I'm really happy to be with you all today as a last year grantee and to share a little bit about how we developed our proposal and what work that we are doing. Like Sunny said, I'm Michael Munson. I'm Forge's executive director, which is just a label. But I'm our primary trainer, and I'm one of a very small staff of workers that loves to get my hands dirty and do the work alongside of my peers and colleagues. Just a brief little bit about who Forge is. We are a 28-year-old national trans antiviolenace organization, with about 75 percent of our time providing training and technical assistance to service providers and other allied professionals. And about 25 percent of our time is doing direct services with trans and non-binary communities and loved ones. We are federally

funded. Almost all of our work is federally funded through the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Violence Against Women, SAMHSA, [and] the National Institutes of Health and Health and Human Services.

And now, we are really grateful to be funded also through OJP and BJA in this grant program that I believe started last year. So, I'm really grateful that OJP has prioritized hate violence and recognized that anti-trans violence is real and needs to be addressed. The title of our program that was funded is Keeping Ourselves Whole: Addressing Hate Crimes Against the Trans Community. So, let me share with you a little bit about the service gaps that we identified in preparing for applying to this grant funding stream. When we applied, it was back, I think, in the summer of 2022. And the avalanche of anti-trans hate violence had only really started to make its way into the public medium. We hadn't known then how much vitriol and violence would continue to emerge and how many profoundly life-impacting ways it would influence our communities.

Over the past few years, more and more people, so legislators and institutions and systems and communities, have created really wide sweeping cultural and systemic pushes to literally try to eradicate trans people. We know that some legislators right now, not to pick on legislators, have overtly stated that trans people should be eliminated. So, the hate is coming from a wide variety of places. And we really didn't know how bad it would get when we initially crafted this proposal. And we still don't really know how bad it's going to get since it seems to be increasing as we speak today. And in my own world, just to make things personal as well as organizational, I live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and I had no idea when we wrote this proposal that we would have four trans people, transwomen of color here in Milwaukee, die from hate-motivated violence.

So, it was within a nine-month period, four separate trans individuals were killed. So, the violence is real, the violence is everywhere, and the violence is deadly in some cases. When we wrote the proposal, we looked at a few gaps in the services, and we crafted deliverables in hoping to address those gaps. So, on an overarching level, we had a gap number one, which was that anti-trans hate-fueled violence is acknowledged by some, but very little action is happening to address or reduce it. So, one of the overarching deliverables that we have is to weave ongoing training for both the trans community and for providers about many things related to anti-trans hate. A second service gap is that trans communities have historically had very, very difficult and negative relationships with law enforcement, and may not seek redress through law enforcement or through the criminal justice system.

This is probably one of the more interesting of our deliverables, which is to create a set of shuttle dialogues. And the shuttle dialogues would be between law enforcement and trans communities. Basically, "shuttle dialogues" are where two different groups are meeting separately about the same issues. So, law enforcement would meet to talk about what the barriers are for them, what the needs are, what the gaps are, [and] what the educational goals are. Trans communities would meet to talk about those same kind of issues. And slowly, the goal is to bridge that shuttle so that it's a less long shuttle to a shorter shuttle when people actually might be able to come together in the same virtual room together to talk about what some of those needs are and to start addressing some of those barriers. We do anticipate that we will work with CRS, or the community relations services, as well as our peer training and technical assistance partners and colleagues.

A third gap that we identified is we don't really know what the impact is on trans community members of hate-motivated violence. We don't really know how much violence is being experienced, but more importantly, we don't know what that violence is doing to their health, their mental health, their ability

to thrive in this world. So, the deliverable that comes out of this is working with our academic partners to craft a community experiences survey to assess the impact of hate-motivated violence within trans communities or trans community members. The fourth goal is that there's so much that we can learn from each other, from our experiences and our successes. Preventing, responding to, and healing from hate-motivated crimes is both really old—we've been doing this for a really long time in our country and our world—and it's both really new as new forms of hate are starting to emerge.

And we know that there has been just such a dramatic increase in violence against folks like immigrants, Asian Americans, Jewish communities, Black and Brown communities, folks living with disabilities, and many other populations over the last five or so years. We want to learn from those experiences of other communities: how they organize, how they heal, what they're responding to in terms of hate-motivated crimes, and community resilience. So, the deliverable here for us is to collect those stories, collect those best practices, [and] listen to other communities' processes around what they're doing. And then help share that back out, translate that to how these things might help trans communities address hate violence. So, we're going to create some publications, some best practice guides, and some webinars out of that. So, those are our main deliverables. And we crafted these deliverables based both on what is needed as well as what some of our strengths are and our partners' strengths are.

We have fairly extensive experience working with providers and trans communities related to sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking. And we've branched out over the years to address issues around anti-trans bullying, anti-trans homicide, and other hate-motivated or hate-fueled crimes. Forge is a trans-led, trans-staffed, and trans-connected organization with a really great network of smart and incredible partners across the country. And we conduct a lot of trainings, and we believe that we're fairly effective in messaging and sharing information with others through trainings, publications, social media, and other dialogues. So, we're hoping to bring those strengths forward as well as our partners. We also believe in grounding our work and work in general in data-driven knowledge, learning directly from the experiences of those who are impacted by violence, as well as working with other training and technical systems providers and other organizations who approach their work intersectionally, with care, with sensitivity, with a curiosity about how to make the world a better place.

For just one quick example, our relationship with two academic partners is based on a great deal of mutual respect and learning from each other. We have a long history of working with each other and learning from each other. And they are excellent, excellent thought partners on this journey of crafting a tool that collects information from the trans community about their experiences with hate-motivated violence, and the impact that it has on trans community members' lives. Together, we are learning and creating this tool together so from very disparate backgrounds. So, this project is very driven from the community, by the community, and for the community, even though a lot of the products that we develop out of this will end up in the hands of victim service providers and other professionals. We also recognize that this work needs to include not just what's wrong, but what needs to happen to make communities or create communities [so] that we can acknowledge their beauty and address things other than just the unthinkable trauma that we're inundated with.

So, we hope to bring the voices of the community forward throughout all of the deliverables that creating, to share both the hardships of what's happening with their experiences with hate-motivated violence, but also to share both trans communities and with mainstream communities the resilience and creativity and the persistence of trans folks in really being the beautiful and joyous people that we are. So, that is the fairly brief thumbnail of what we did to create our proposal and what we're doing and going to be doing over the next couple of years. Sunny, thank you for the chance to share that.

Sunny Schnitzer:

Michael, thank you so much. Really appreciate you joining. We are so grateful to everything that Forge is doing, both through your project and through the other work that you do, so thank you. And for those on the line, I hope that this gave a little bit more of a concrete example of the type of work that can be funded under this program. And what I will share is Forge is doing incredible work nationwide. We also recognize, again, that resources developed under this program may be for a specific neighborhood or for a group of individuals. So, really, we encourage you to be creative and think about how you can help address services in your community. And just as a quick heads up, I see that Michael's added some information to the chat about how you can learn more about Forge so definitely encourage everyone who's on the line to do that.

All right, so we have another poll question up. Now that you've heard from Michael about some of what Forge is doing, are there specific gaps that you can think of in how we prevent and respond to hate incidents that you specifically want to address through a potential application? And again, you'll go to pollev.com/hatecrimesTTA, or do that text option, which is to text Hate Crimes TTA to 22333 and just text with your response to that. We'll give folks a few more minutes to respond. All right, awesome. So this is what we like to see. I agree. I think there's a lot we can do to help prevent and respond to hate crimes. And the other thing I'll share is certainly think about how this program, if you're planning to apply, if you have specific things that you want to do, awesome, that's great. We encourage that.

If there's still a little bit more that you want to learn about what those service gaps are and how you can dive into those, that can be funded under this program as well. So, we're really looking forward to a wide variety of applications this year. All right. Now we'll talk a little bit more about eligibility and application requirements. Now, apologies in advance. I know sometimes this can be a little bit in the weeds. But [I] wanted to share a little bit for this program in particular about how to write and submit a successful application. So, eligibility. I've listed on the screen all of the entities that are eligible to apply for this program. And so, I'm not going to go off and read this list but really want to emphasize that through this program we are really looking to fund community-based organizations, civil rights organizations, [and] organizations that are community-led.

This program is not eligible for state and local or federal government agencies. That being said, I will share [that] if we have some folks on the line from government agencies, we do have two complementary programs that law enforcement and prosecution agencies can apply for. Those are on the street now as well, so I encourage you to check those out. The first is the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Investigations and Prosecutions Program. That program, as I mentioned, is open now and it will close at the end of May. We also have the Emmett Till Cold Case Homicide Investigations and Prosecutions Program. This program looks at racially motivated homicides that occurred prior to 1980 and seeks to investigate, prosecute, and bring resolution for those cases. And again, those two programs are specific to law enforcement and prosecution agencies, but we certainly encourage partnership—often formal partnership with community partners in those programs.

But that being said, coming back to the community-based program, again, we really want to encourage as wide an array of organizations as possible. As long as you're eligible. You'll see, especially if you visit our website, and we can drop this in the chat in a few minutes; last year, BJA funded a wide variety of organizations, some very, very small, some very large doing national-level work. And so, the size of your organization doesn't matter. Even the type of work you want to do. If you have a really small-scale program, that's great. You should apply. All right. So, as I mentioned, this year we have a new program

feature. Last year, we really only funded one category of programs. This year, we've divided it out a little bit. So, for category one, we're really looking to focus in on whether it's an individual community or jurisdiction and community-based organization that's really designed to support a discreet kind of program.

The next category, category two, is for national civil rights organizations. Organizations that have reach in relationships, maybe chapters, with local communities across the country. So, for category two, we've really designed this to help support capacity at the local level and to develop materials that can be used and adapted and tailored to individual communities. All right. So, down to the brass tacks here. These are somewhat estimates, but BJA expects to make 15 awards under this program. So, for category one, those individual communities and community-based organizations, organizations can apply for up to \$400,000 for an award period of up to 36 months. For category two, that national scale, organizations can apply for up to \$1 million for a project period of up to 36 months. The total amount that we anticipate awarding this year is almost \$8 million. And I see there's a question in the chat. That's \$400,000 over the course of the award. So, \$400,000 for all three years as opposed to each year. And lastly, BJA expects to make these awards as grants, not as cooperative agreements.

All right. I'm going to talk a little bit now about what an application should include and what it looks like. I saw in the chat earlier there was a comment about, "Yeah, get your registrations in now. It can take a long time." Really appreciate you emphasizing that point. If you're interested in applying, I definitely encourage you to go ahead and go to grants.gov and start working on your SF-424. And so, that SF-424 is going to be your initial application. "Hey, we're interested," and so on. Each program application, so that grants.gov, that first deadline, you're really going to be turning in really cursory information, making sure all of your registrations are up-to-date and submitted and some really preliminary information about your proposal.

The more in-depth part of the application is where you include the meat on the bones of what's included in your proposed project. So, for that portion, that will all be submitted through the JustGrants portal. One thing I'll share very candidly with this group, having recently about a year and a half ago left local government, I know that these systems can be a real pain. And so, we'll get to it a little later on. But if you run into issues or have questions, we have lots of resources for you. I know especially for those of you that maybe have had OJP awards from the past, we've changed systems in the past few years and are now using a new system. So, I definitely encourage you to log in and get to know the portal so that you understand how to get information submitted, so you can get an application submitted on time.

So, for the JustGrants portion of your application, you'll include an abstract, a proposal narrative, a budget detail, and importantly, a budget narrative that really talks us through how your budget supports your program. If you have an indirect cost rate agreement with the DOJ, you'll submit that or a tribal authorizing resolution. And then, you'll submit some things like financial management and internal systems questionnaires, disclosure of lobbying activities, [and] things like that. A few other things that I want to flag that are really important for this program in particular—you'll want to turn in a timeline. I'm a big believer that everyone's own internal timeline looks a little different. So, rather than filling it out in a form in JustGrants, you can submit that as an attachment. And then, we also, one of the things we're really interested in doing through this program and is very important to us through this program is really understanding that we have the unique and necessary and diverse skill sets working on this program.

So, we encourage you to submit résumés or job descriptions for key staff. Importantly, if you're already a member of a task force or have MOUs or have partnerships that you think are really critical to this work, letters of support, and MOUs, any kind of documentation of those partnerships can really go a long way. And then, you'll also want to say if there are other organizations that you plan to provide a sub-award to. So maybe you're partnering with another organization to do a portion of that work. You'll want to disclose that and include that in your budget. And then, there are a few other more administrative things. If you have other applications, federal applications for the same work, you'll need to disclose that. If you're proposing conducting any research or evaluation, you'll need to submit a disclosure or demonstrate that you have independence and integrity in that process.

And then finally, I would just say certainly review the *OJP Financial Guide*. And that'll give you some information on if you need to request a waiver for employee compensation that exceeds what the federal government will typically pay. And just so everyone knows, I see we have some questions coming in—in the chat. I promise I will address those when we get to the Q&A portion. All right. So, for the abstract, I really wanted to focus in on what should be included in the abstract and why this is important. So the abstract, and I think sometimes in JustGrants, it's referred to as the program description, is really the first snapshot that the folks, the peer reviewers who are reviewing your grant are going to see about your grant. They're going to look at that and compare it with, "Hey, what are the requirements that we need to look for to recommend funding a proposal?"

So, that's going to include your organization's name and the project title, where the work will take place. And if it's nationwide, that's great, you can put that. If it's in an individual community, awesome, put that. But we want to have a sense of what it is, where it is you plan to do the work, the amount of money that you're requesting for the program, and then a few sentences to really talk through and summarize what you plan to do and how you plan to do it. Certainly, you'll want to highlight any key goals or activities. And then, are there specific topic areas or issues that will be addressed by the program? And then finally, you'll also want to use this time to discuss whether or not your application is—you're seeking a priority consideration for this program. So, just really briefly, I'm going to pause on this slide to talk very quickly about priority consideration.

Occasionally, the Office for Justice Programs will offer a priority consideration for certain aspects and certain programs, to really encourage certain types of partnerships and things like that. For this particular program, applications that meet the priority consideration that we're calling 1B will be given a nudge up. You'll be given priority consideration over organizations that do not. So, what priority 1B is, it is in support of executive order 13985, which is the advancing racial equity to support for underserved communities through the federal government executive orders. So, specifically, applicants that can demonstrate that their capabilities and competencies for implementing their proposed projects are enhanced because they or at least one subrecipient that will receive at least 40 percent of the requested funding identify as a culturally specific organization. So, there's more information in the program solicitation on this. It's going to be on page 12 of the program's solicitation.

But I think that's really important for this program. I suspect that many applicants for this program identify as culturally specific organizations, and so I really encourage you, if you identify that way, call that out in your abstract. We want our peer reviewers to see that front and center. As I mentioned earlier, every application that's submitted for a grant that meets basic minimum requirements is reviewed by peer reviewers. This means there are other organizations and other experts in the field who didn't apply for this program, who will be reviewing your application and offering their recommendations and really scoring your applications in terms of potential impact, and really, did you

meet the requirements of the grant? So, where a lot of this information comes from for the peer reviewers is the program narrative. There's a very long section in the program solicitation, and I won't go through line by line, but specifically, BJA asks that proposals, they shouldn't exceed 15 pages, but we ask that you spend some time talking through specifically what it is the proposed project will do.

So, every proposal narrative should include the information in this order. You'll want to describe the issue that you're trying to address through the proposed project. You'll want to describe the specific design. How are you planning to do this? What's your implementation plan? Importantly, next, you'll want to talk about your capabilities and competencies to do so. You'll want to be able to highlight that you have the unique skillset or that you can acquire the unique skillset to do this work and to address the issue that you've identified. Again, I want to call out here, this is another place where I definitely encourage organizations to list whether they are applying for that priority consideration 1B. This is another place to emphasize that information. Next, you'll want to plan for collecting data. So, if you're new to federal grants, this may be new to you.

For those who have had several federal grants before, you're very aware. We at the federal government like to collect a lot of data about how grant funding is being used. And really, we want you to think about how you're going to collect that data and the performance measures. But also, we love hearing from you all. How do you think we should be looking at your programs and measuring them? And then finally, you'll fill out a budget worksheet, and the budget worksheet is not going to be included in your program narrative. It'll be a separate item within the JustGrants system, but your budget and budget worksheet should really align pretty closely with your program narrative. So, if you're suggesting that you want to do a bunch of work and you'll need to hire a few folks to help you do some work, you're definitely going to want to make sure that you have money in your personnel line to support that.

So, this is a little bit about how peer reviewers will look at your application and how they'll assess it. I've included the guidance that we give to peer reviewers on the percentages, how they should be divvying up points, so to speak, as they review applications. And so, that's all listed on the screen. All right. And we've already been through this, but you'll need to submit a budget and a budget narrative. This is in a form in JustGrants. There is not a match required for this program. And so, if you're applying, just know that you do not need to bring money to the table to fund [the] program under this. The other thing I'll flag here is that the budget can take a little bit of time in the JustGrants system because you have to itemize each budget for each year of the grant.

So again, if you're looking to apply and you're applying last minute, I would not leave the budget worksheet until the last minute because it can be a little tedious. We're in the home stretch, I promise, and then we'll start answering some questions. All right. So, just very quickly, [I] definitely encourage you all to check out information on the U.S. Department of Justice Hate Crimes Resources. All of these are great resources for data to support your program narratives or information on maybe where we have programs [and] where we're funding some local partners that you could be working with. So, definitely check this out. I also encourage you to check out the community relations service websites. They're a great resource for addressing hate as well. All right. Now that you've heard a little bit more about this program and the application process, are you ready to apply? Last poll, I promise.

All right, great. Awesome, awesome, awesome. All right. Well, now we'll move on to if we could . . . Adam, if you could pull up the slide that has a view of questions, has the different boxes with where to reach and get questions answered. All right. So just for a quick reference, if you're running into any questions that you have about the solicitation, about applying, [or] the content of the solicitation, you

can always reach out to our Grants Resource Center. So, that's going to be grants@ncirs.gov, and there's a phone number on the screen as well. If you run into any technical issues with either grants.gov or JustGrants, please feel free to reach out to either of those groups. We have some contact information on the screen. Just so you know, we have recorded this session today, so you can come back and visit all of this information as well.

But I want to take a few minutes here. I saw some questions come in on the chat. So, I want to take a couple of quick minutes to address those, and then I'll see if folks have any other questions, feel free to add those in the next minute or two. All right. So I see, "Does that mean 400 per year or for three years?" That is 400,000 for the entire stretch of the three years, so 400 across three years. "Does the grant period have to be less than three years?" At this time, BJA is only accepting applications for up to three years. You're welcome to apply for less than three years. "How many category one awards will be made?" The number of awards based on the category will really depend on the number of applications we get in each category. I believe right now we're estimating we'll make probably around 12 of the category one awards, but that may change if we receive an excess of applications in one category or another.

All right. Let's see. "Law enforcement agencies can't be an applicant, but can they be a sub-recipient?" A great question. I need to look into that, and I will follow up with you. My understanding is that they would be able to serve as a sub-recipient. I definitely want to confirm that with everyone. And one thing I do want to flag as well, complementary programs are also able to apply. So, if one organization, for example, applies for the community-based program, their complementary law enforcement agency could apply for the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. program and have complementary programs, which would effectively double funding if both applications were funded. Okay. I see a question about, "Can I introduce Olivia Schnitzer?" I am Olivia Schnitzer. Sorry about that. I should have clarified. My legal name is Olivia, I go by Sunny. And so, anytime you see Olivia listed either in the submit your questions or anything like that, that's me.

Feel free to reach out to me. But my legal name and my Department of Justice email is Olivia, so just know that if you see Olivia, that's still me. "How does one access the recorded program?" The program recording will be cleaned up. My partners at the Institute for Intergovernmental Research will go through and clean up all my um's and ah's and coughs—and next slide. And then, typically, we post that on the solicitation website within about a week or so. I'm going to let IIR respond in the chat to how long it takes. But we will certainly make this recording available to everyone who registered for today's call so that you can go back and reference it. But it will also be posted publicly. And then, "How does BJA define hate-related relative to crime?" Fantastic question.

What I would say is, while there is statutory language, both in the federal government and in, I believe, 48 of the 50 states, and I'm unsure about each of the territories, actually, I should clarify that. In particular for this program, we understand that hate can look a little different and it doesn't always align with statute. So, for this particular program, while we typically look at hate as a motivation for any type of criminal offense, we also are very cognizant that hate speech, for example, can be really traumatizing to a community, and funding for this program is really designed to flex to the needs of the community. So, while something may not reach the level of a criminal offense, it may still be eligible to be addressed under this program because hate is felt very differently.

I would also flag [that] different states have different statutes. For example, I'm in Maryland. In Maryland, there are hate statutes specific to individuals experiencing homelessness. And so, I certainly

encourage you to work on defining that for your individual community or organization. And that will absolutely be considered by BJA and respected by BJA for this program in particular. All right. Well, thank you. Well, detective, I hope you'll check out the Shepard-Byrd program. That's on the street right now. All right, so I think we've reached the end of the questions. Thank you all so much. I really hope you'll consider applying. We're very excited about this program. Just a reminder about those dual deadlines for grants.gov and JustGrants, and we really, really appreciate everyone jumping on today. I know these can be a little brutal, so thank you all so much.