BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

FY 2023 VIRTUAL REALITY DE-ESCALATION SITE BASED INITIATIVE

Friday, May 19, 2023
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Presenter

Kristie Brackens

Supervisory Sr. Policy Advisor

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction to OJP and BJA
- Program Overview
- Eligibility and Application Requirements
- Application Resources
- Q&A

SECTION 1

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

What is the Office of Justice Programs?

- The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides grant funding, training, research, and statistics to the criminal justice community.
- OJP is one of three grant-making components of the Department of Justice along with the **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)** and the **Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)**.

Office of Justice Programs **(OJP)**	
	BJA – Bureau of Justice Assistance
	BJS – Bureau of Justice Statistics
	NIJ – National Institute of Justice
	OVC – Office for Victims of Crime
	OJJDP – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
	SMART – Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Assistance

Mission: BJA's mission is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support state, local, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. BJA works with communities, governments, and nonprofit organizations to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system.

Karhlton F. Moore, BJA Director

Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

https://bja.ojp.gov/

Fund

Invest diverse funding streams to accomplish goals.

Educate

Research, develop, and deliver what works.

Equip

Create tools and products to build capacity and improve outcomes.

Partner

Consult, connect, and convene.

SECTION 2

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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Initiative Overview

- BJA seeks to support **local, state, campus, and tribal law enforcement** in the adoption of innovative, immersive virtual reality technology designed for training law enforcement.

- This program will provide funding to implement customized, multiparticipant, fully immersive, virtual and/or augmented reality-based training technology that improves responses to individuals in crisis and improves the de-escalation skills of participants.

Goals

- Implement emerging technologies utilized in scenario-based police training that is evidence based and designed to ensure the safety of police officers, individuals they come in contact with, and the community at large.

- This technology should be used and coupled with an evidence-based curriculum, such as BJA's Crisis Response and Intervention Training (CRIT) curriculum available here: https://bja.ojp.gov/events/crisis-response-and-intervention-trainingcrit.

Objectives

- Develop and/or enhance agency-wide strategy for the integration of the new immersive virtual reality scenario-based training to allow multiple officers/persons to simultaneously participate in the training as a means for officers to practice and community members to experience crisis intervention and de-escalation from the perspective of law enforcement.

- Scenario-based police training must be evidence based and designed to ensure the safety of police officers, individuals they come in contact with, and the community at large.

Activities

- Develop a report describing the agency's existing technology platform, along with an assessment demonstrating how integrating virtual reality tools in training will be value-added.

- Develop a training plan that details the proposed design and delivery of the new program which utilizes a fully immersive multiparticipant virtual reality system customized for law enforcement.

- Develop customized, fully immersive virtual reality training platform/curriculum that highlights how the inclusion of new technology addresses the training needs of the agency.

Activities

- Conduct on-going data collection and assessment in partnership with a university-based researcher or team of researchers to assist in the development of the training and review of the implementation progress and outcomes.
- Develop a training plan that details the proposed design and delivery of the new program which utilizes a fully immersive multiparticipant virtual reality system customized for law enforcement.
- Develop a mechanism for individuals who participate in the training to give feedback via an after-action review, similar to that which would occur in real life after an event.
- **More detail on program activities are outlined in the solicitation.**

Important Tips

- Applicants must submit applications that propose both a planning process and an implementation phase for the training program.

- Applicants should describe how the proposed training will improve participants' de-escalation skills while enhancing responses to individuals in crisis, including people with intellectual and/or development disabilities and individuals experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis, as a means to facilitate.

SECTION 3

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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Eligibility

- The following entities are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity:
  - City or township governments
  - County governments
  - Native American/Tribal government (federally recognized tribe with a designated law enforcement agency)
  - Public and state controlled institutions of higher education
  - State governments

Available Funding

- Funding Available
  - Anticipated maximum award amount: $800,000
  - Number of anticipated awards: 11
  - Project start date: October 1, 2023
  - Project Period: 36 months

Priority Areas

- To receive this consideration, the applicant must describe how they currently support one or more of the identified policy areas, including:
  - Participation in the collection and reporting to DOJ of data on law enforcement use of force and deaths in custody
  - Participation in the collection and reporting to DOJ of data on officer suicides and officers killed or assaulted
  - Restrictions on unannounced entries and neck/carotid restraints
  - Restrictions on the possession and use of militarized equipment

Note: Addressing these priority areas is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration for one or more priority areas does not guarantee an award.

Important Dates

Application Grants.gov deadline: June 29, 2023, 8:59 p.m. EST

Application JustGrants deadline: July 6, 2023, 8:59 p.m. EST

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What should be included in my application?

A: Please review the “Application and Submission Information” section of the solicitation, beginning on page 13. Applications must include a proposal abstract, narrative, budget worksheet, budget narrative, timeline, training plan, etc.

Q: Can my organization propose to partner with other entities?

A: Yes. Partnering with other entities is allowable but only one entity may submit the application and assume fiscal/management responsibilities. We encourage applicants to identify those partner organizations within the application, when possible.

SECTION 4

APPLICATION RESOURCES

SAM.gov Entity Validation Update

GSA implemented a new process to validate an entity's legal business name and physical address when requesting a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and for completing a SAM.gov entity registration. Due to a high volume of requests, entity validations are taking longer than expected to process. This validation process is now taking 7-10 business days, and in some cases longer.

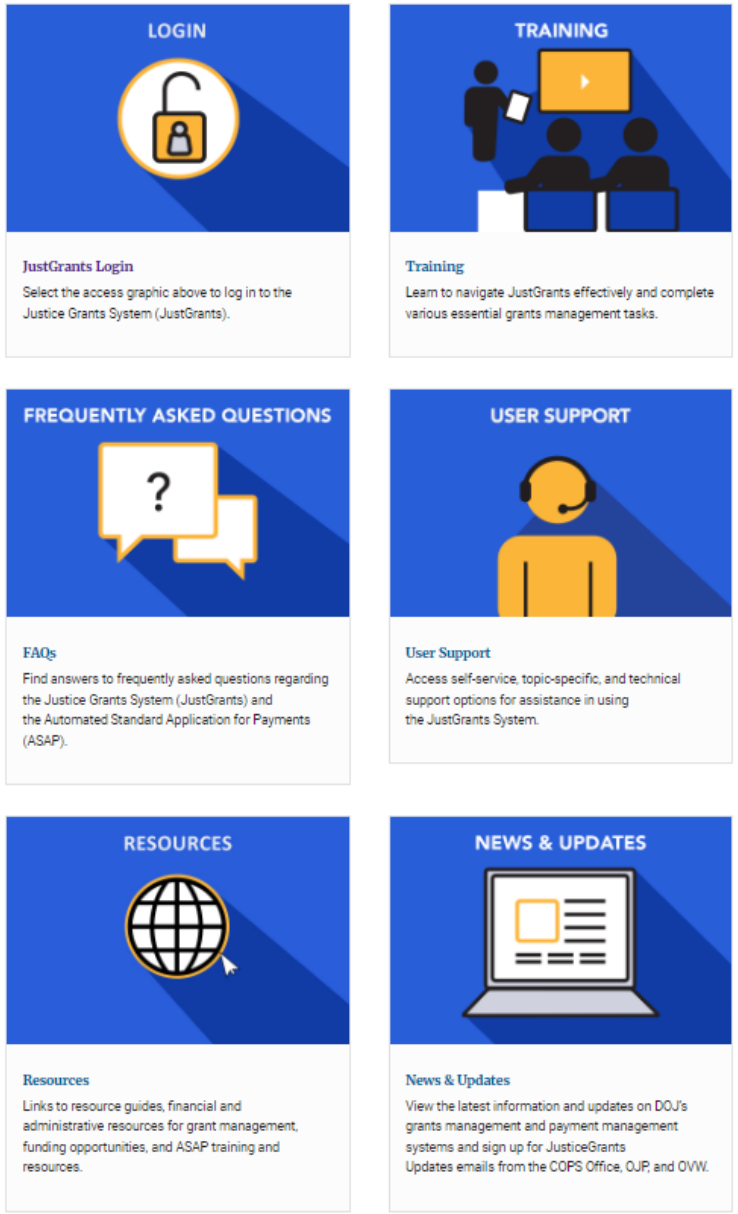
OJP strongly recommends starting your SAM.gov registration process as soon as possible to allow the time necessary to process entity validations well in advance of the Grants.gov due date posted in the solicitation. Read this FAQ for more information.

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Grant Application Resource Guide ("Guide") provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding. It addresses a variety of policies, statutes, and regulations that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP program applicants, or to grants and cooperative agreements awarded in fiscal year (FY) 2023. Some OJP programs may have program solicitations that expressly modify a provision of this Guide; in such cases, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in the solicitation as to any such expressly modified provision.

Contents

- How To Apply
- Application Elements and Formatting Instructions
  - Complete the Application for Federal Assistance(Standard Form (SF)-424)
  - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
    - Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)
  - Proposal Abstract
  - Budget Preparation and Submission Information
    - Detailed Computations and Allowable Costs
    - Narrative Justification for Every Cost
    - Consolidated Budget Summary
    - Information on Proposed Subawards (if any) and Proposed Procurement Contracts (if any)
    - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)
  - Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)
- Application Attachments
  - Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications (Duplication in Cost Items)
  - Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees
  - Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity
  - Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation
- Financial Information
  - Financial Management and System of Internal Controls
  - Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status)
  - Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement
  - Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)
  - Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver
  - Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs
  - Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)
- Application Review Information
- Federal Award Administration Information
  - Federal Award Notices
  - Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements
  - Information Technology (IT) Security Clauses
  - General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements
- Programmatic Information
  - Evidence-Based Programs or Practices
  - Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities
  - Note on Project Evaluations
- Other Information
  - Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552 and 5 U.S.C. § 552a)
  - Provide Feedback to OJP
  - To Become an OJP Peer Reviewer

https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide



https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/

Application Assistance

Grants.gov

- Provides technical assistance with submitting the **SF-424** and **SF-LLL.**
  - **Customer Support Hotline**
    - 800–518–4726 or 606–545–5035
    - Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.
  - **Web and Email**
    - https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html
    - support@grants.gov
- Provides information on available federal funding opportunities for various federal agencies.

JustGrants Technical Support

Provides technical assistance with submitting the full application in DOJ's Justice Grants System (JustGrants).

- **Customer Support Hotline:**
  - 833–872–5175
  - Monday – Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. ET
  - Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET
- **Web and Email**
  - https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/user-support
  - JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov

Email Updates
Text OJP [your email address] to 468-311 to subscribe.

(Message and data rates may apply.)

ShutterStock (see reuse policy).

Stay Connected

- Subscribe to:
  - OJP News Releases for the latest OJP press releases and publication advisories
  - JUSTINFO, a twice-monthly email newsletter
  - Funding News , a weekly notice of new grant opportunities and application tips
  - *JusticeGrants Update* e-newsletter for the latest information and updates on JustGrants, DOJ's grants management system
  - OJP email newsletters and topical messages available from OJP program offices (BJA, BJS, NIJ, OJJDP, OVC, and SMART)
- Sign up for U.S. Department of Justice Email Updates

https://www.ojp.gov/subscribe

Stay Connected!!

- **Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA
- **Twitter:** https://twitter.com/DOJBJA
- **YouTube:** https://www.youtube.com/dojbja

For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit **BJA's website:** www.bja.ojp.gov.

Additional Questions?

Contact the **OJP Response Center**:

- Email: grants@ncjrs.gov
- Toll free: 800–851–3420
- TTY: 301–240–6310 (hearing impaired only)

The Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday.

Reminder: Dual Deadlines

Applications must be submitted in a two-step process, each with its own deadline:

- Step 1: Submit an SF-424 and an SF-LLL at Grants.gov.
- Step 2: Submit the full application, with attachments, at JusticeGrants.usdoj.gov.

NOTE: Submission deadline times for both Grants.gov and JustGrants are now 8:59 p.m. ET, not 11:59 p.m. ET as in past years.

Read the solicitation carefully for further guidance.

Quick Reference: Important Contacts

For technical assistance submitting the SF-424 and SF-LLL into Grants.Gov, **call:** 800–518–4726 or 606–545–5035, 24 hours a day, or **email:** support@grants.gov.

For technical assistance submitting the **full application** into JustGrants, **call:** 833–872–5175, 7–9 ET, M–F, and 9–5 ET, weekends and holidays, or **email:** JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov.

For technical assistance with the programmatic requirements, **call the OJP Response Center**: 800–851–3420, 10–6 ET, M–F, or **email:** grants@ncjrs.gov.

Questions?

Enter in the **Q&A** box and send to **All Panelists**