

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance



BJA FY 2022 Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions Program

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Overview

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) seeks applications for funding to the Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions (ROL/WCR) Site-based Program. OJP is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights and racial equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens community safety and protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community. This program furthers the DOJ's mission to protect civil rights, address inequities, and advance criminal justice reform. The ROL/WCR Program supports efforts by wrongful conviction review entities (WCR entities) that represent individuals with post-conviction claims of innocence to review individual cases.

This solicitation incorporates the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) by reference. The OJP Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to applicants for the preparation and submission to OJP of applications for funding. **If this solicitation expressly modifies any provision in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in this solicitation as to that provision.**

Solicitation Categories

This solicitation does not include Solicitation Categories.

Eligible Applicants

Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments), Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, Private institutions of higher education, Public and State controlled institutions of higher education, Other

Other

County, state, or local public defender offices that have in-house post-conviction representation programs that show demonstrable experience and competence in litigating post-conviction claims of innocence. If the applicant is not a WCR entity, they must be partnered with one.

For purposes of this solicitation, "state" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

To advance Executive Order 13929 Safe Policing for Safe Communities, the Attorney General determined that all state, local, and university or college law enforcement agencies must be certified by an approved independent credentialing body or have started the certification process to be eligible for FY 2022 DOJ discretionary grant funding. To become certified, the law enforcement agency must meet two mandatory conditions: (1) the agency's

use-of-force policies adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and (2) the agency's use-of-force policies prohibit chokeholds except in situations where use of deadly force is allowed by law. The certification requirement also applies to law enforcement agencies receiving DOJ discretionary grant funding through a subaward. For detailed information on this certification requirement, please visit <https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO> to access the Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Safe Communities, the Implementation Fact Sheet, and the List of Designated Independent Credentialing Bodies.

All recipients and subrecipients (including any for-profit organization) must forgo any profit or management fee.

BJA will consider applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients (subgrantees). For additional information on subawards, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

BJA may elect to fund applications submitted under this FY 2022 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and the availability of appropriations.

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting the Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF)-424 and a Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form (SF-LLL) in Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, [Grants.gov Customer Support](#), or support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

For technical assistance with submitting the **full application** in DOJ's Justice Grants System (JustGrants), contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833-872-5175 or JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov. The JustGrants Service Desk operates 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. eastern time Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact the OJP Response Center by telephone at 800-851-3420 or TTY: 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only), or by email at grants@ncjrs.gov. The OJP Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., eastern time Monday–Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the solicitation closing date.

Submission Information

Applications will be submitted to DOJ in two steps:

Step 1: The applicant must submit by the Grants.gov deadline the required Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF)-424 and a Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) form when they register in Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>. To register in Grants.gov, the applicant will need to ensure that its System for Award Management (SAM) registration is current.

Step 2: The applicant must then submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at JustGrants.usdoj.gov. To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline. OJP encourages applicants to review the "How to Apply" section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) and the [JustGrants website](#) for more information, resources, and training.

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Program Description

Overview

OJP is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights and racial equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens community safety and protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community. The ROL/WCR Program supports efforts by wrongful conviction review entities (WCR entities) that represent individuals with post-conviction claims of innocence to review individual cases.

Statutory Authority

Any awards under this solicitation would be made under the Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117-103).

Specific Information

The ROL/WCR Program supports WCR entities providing high-quality and efficient post-conviction representation for defendants in post-conviction claims of innocence. Where possible, the ROL/WCR Program seeks to identify actual perpetrators of crimes, bring justice to victim(s), and enact measures to prevent future errors and ensure justice, thereby enhancing public safety. The strategy should be led by a WCR entity that focuses on review of post-conviction claims of innocence. This strategy may include a range of activities as identified in the budget section. Specifically:

- Jurisdictions with new or established WCR entities are encouraged to apply.
- The applicant's strategic plan should review, investigate, and adjudicate individual cases of post-conviction claims of innocence and appeals. Funds requested must support high-quality and efficient post-conviction representation for defendants in post-conviction claims of innocence.
- The strategy should also include an assessment of the risk for wrongful conviction among the reviewed cases. This assessment should support the prevention of wrongful conviction, including setting criteria and prioritizing for review those at highest risk of wrongful conviction, as well as seek to identify the actual perpetrator.
- Given the analytical work required in the review of cases, sites are encouraged to consider the use of data analysis and research partnerships in their strategies. They can also use these partnerships to translate knowledge on areas of risk for future error.
- If the WCR entity application includes a partnership with the relevant prosecutor's office or conviction integrity unit (CIU), applicants must include description of policies and procedures designed to avoid conflicts of interest and protect defendant's rights, including plans for obtaining waiver of attorney/client privileges and informed consent. See Conflict of Interest Guidelines at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/urlpwc/tta#conflict-of-interest-policy-guidance>.

All applicant organizations should show their capacity and commitment of their key partners to conduct this work, including demonstrable experience and competence with legal representation of post-conviction claims of innocence and appeals.

Each applicant must describe how it will devote resources to coordinate the intake screening, investigation, and representation of post-conviction and appeals innocence claims.

A national training and technical assistance (TTA) provider supports grantees in meeting the requirements of this award. For more information, see the ROL/WCR web page at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/urlpwc/tta>. The TTA provider conducts online orientation meetings with each new award recipient to determine TTA needs and provides ongoing TTA as needed throughout the grant. TTA includes a range of activities including one-on-one consultation, as well as regular monthly community of practice calls and informational webinars. Applicants are expected to work with the TTA provider as needed.

BJA's FY 2022 Post-conviction Testing of DNA Evidence solicitation provides funding for defraying costs associated with post-conviction DNA testing in cases of violent felony offenses in which actual innocence might be demonstrated.

Applicants looking for funds for DNA testing should review that solicitation to determine eligibility for funds under that program.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

Goals

The goal of the ROL/WCR Program is to enhance the capacity of WCR entities and their criminal justice and victims partners to better identify, assess, and manage post-conviction claims of innocence while translating lessons to prevent future error and bring justice for victims.

Objectives

The objectives of the ROL/WCR Program are to:

- Strategically review cases of post-conviction and appeal claims of innocence with a focus on those at greatest risk for error.
- Establish or enhance partnerships, where appropriate, to apply a strategic review of individual post-conviction claims of innocence and appeals, and, where relevant, to use this information to inform efforts to prevent wrongful convictions.
- Enhance the collection and analysis of data to support the prevention of error and enhance efforts to review and manage claims of innocence.
- Identify and apprehend, whenever possible, the actual perpetrator of a crime.
- Evaluate whether or not any systemic issues exist that may compromise the rule of law and recommend practices for mitigating them and preventing wrongful convictions.

Deliverables

The expected deliverables are to:

- Identify and report the number of post-conviction and appeals claims of innocence cases reviewed and the stage of review conducted for each case.
- Document a systematic review of areas of risk for wrongful conviction, and recommend any strategies to mitigate these risks.

The Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables are directly related to the performance measures that show the completed work's results, as discussed in the "Application and Submission Information" section.

Evidence-Based Programs or Practices

OJP strongly encourages the use of data and evidence in policymaking and program development for criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. For additional information and resources on evidence-based programs or practices, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities

OJP may conduct or support an evaluation of the programs and activities funded under this solicitation. For additional information, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) section entitled "Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities."

OJP Priority Areas

The Department of Justice is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights and racial equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens community safety and protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.

1. Priority Considerations Supporting Executive Order 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*

Consistent with this Executive Order, the term “underserved community” refers to a population sharing a particular characteristic, as well as a geographic community, that has been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life or whose members have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality. Such communities include, among others, Black people, Hispanics and Latino/a/e people, Native American and other Indigenous peoples of North America (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts), Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

In support of Executive Order 13985, OJP will:

A. Give priority consideration to applications that include project(s) that will promote racial equity and the removal of barriers to access and opportunity for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality, when making award decisions.

To receive this consideration, the applicant must describe how the proposed project(s) will address potential inequities and barriers to equal opportunity, and/or contribute to greater access to services for underserved and historically marginalized populations.

B. Give priority consideration to applicants that can demonstrate that their capabilities and competencies for implementing their proposed project(s) are enhanced because the applicant (or at least one proposed subrecipient that will receive at least 30 percent of the requested award funding, as demonstrated in the budget worksheet and budget narrative) identifies as a culturally specific organization. To receive this additional priority consideration, applicants must describe being a culturally specific organization (or funding the culturally specific subrecipient organization(s)) will enhance their ability to implement the proposed project(s) and should also specify which culturally specific populations are intended or expected to be served or to have their needs addressed under the proposed project(s).

Culturally specific organizations are defined for purposes of this solicitation as private nonprofit or tribal organizations whose primary purpose as a whole is to provide culturally specific services to, among others, Black people, Hispanics and Latino/a/e people, Native American and other Indigenous peoples of North America (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts), Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and/or Pacific Islanders.

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 is not a guarantee of an award.

Federal Award Information

Solicitation Categories

This solicitation does not include Solicitation Categories.

Awards, Amounts and Durations

Anticipated Number of Awards

12

Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount of Awards

\$500,000.00

Period of Performance Start Date

10/1/22 12:00 AM

Period of Performance Duration (Months)

24

Anticipated Total Amount to be Awarded Under Solicitation

\$6,000,000.00

Continuation Funding Intent

BJA may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this solicitation through continuation awards. OJP will consider, among other factors, OJP’s strategic priorities, a recipient’s

overall management of the award, and the award-funded work's progress, when making continuation award decisions.

Availability of Funds

This solicitation, and awards (if any are made) under this solicitation, are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law. In addition, nothing in this solicitation is intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States; its departments, agencies, or entities; its officers, employees, or agents; or any other person.

Types of Awards

BJA expects to make awards under this solicitation as grants. See the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for a brief discussion of important statutes, regulations, and award conditions that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP grants.

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls

Award recipients and subrecipients (including recipients or subrecipients that are pass-through entities) must, as described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.303, comply with standards for financial and program management. See [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Budget Information

Applications are solicited to review cases of potentially wrongfully convicted individuals and to support providing high-quality and efficient post-conviction representation for defendants in post-conviction claims of innocence. Grant funds may be used for case review, evaluation, and management; experts; and investigation services related to these innocence claims.

For questions pertaining to the budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, see the DOJ Grants Financial Guide at: <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidetoj/iii-postaward-requirements#6g3y8>

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

This solicitation does not require a match.

Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) information on Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs).

Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation: Waiver

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) information on the Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver.

Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs.

Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on Costs Associated with Language Assistance.

Eligibility Information

For eligibility information, see the solicitation cover page.

For information on cost sharing or match requirements, see the “Federal Award Information” section.

Application and Submission Information

The following application elements **must** be included in the application to meet the basic minimum requirements to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding:

- Proposal Abstract
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (web-based form) (The web-based form includes the budget details and the budget narrative.)

See the “Application Elements and Formatting Instructions” section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on what happens to an application that does not contain all the specified elements or is nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation.

Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

The SF-424 must be submitted in Grants.gov. It is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on completing the SF-424.

In Section 8F of the SF-424, please include the name and contact information of the individual **who will complete the application in JustGrants**. JustGrants will use this information (*email address*) to assign the application to this user in JustGrants.

Intergovernmental Review: This solicitation (“funding opportunity”) **is not** subject to [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 12372](#). (In completing the SF-424, an applicant is to answer question 19 by selecting “Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.”)

Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)

The “Standard Applicant Information” section of the JustGrants application is pre-populated with the SF-424 data submitted in Grants.gov. The applicant will need to review the Standard Applicant Information in JustGrants and make edits as needed. Within this section, the applicant will need to add zip codes for areas affected by the project, confirm its Authorized Representative, and verify and confirm the organization’s unique entity identifier, legal name, and address.

Proposal Abstract

A proposal abstract (no more than 400 words) summarizing the proposed project, including the purpose of the project, primary activities, expected outcomes, the service area, intended beneficiaries and subrecipients (if known), will be completed in the JustGrants web-based form. This abstract should be written in the third person and will be made publicly available on the OJP website if the project is awarded.

Proposal abstracts should be:

- Written for a general public audience.
- Submitted as a separate attachment with “Proposal Abstract” as part of its file name.
- Single-spaced, using a standard 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins.

If the applicant is seeking priority consideration, the applicant **must** provide the following information:

- Which priority consideration is being sought: 1(A), 1(B), or both.
- What page(s) in the proposal narrative provide documentation of the applicant’s plan to respond to the priority consideration.
- For applicants seeking priority consideration 1(B), who is the proposed subawardee to receive the funding and the amount of funds proposed.

Proposal Narrative

The proposal narrative should be submitted as an attachment in JustGrants. The attached document should be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point font; have no less than 1-inch margins; and should not exceed 15 pages. Pages should be numbered and submitted as an attachment. If the proposal narrative fails to comply with these length restrictions, BJA may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decision.

The following sections must be included as part of the proposal narrative:

a. Description of the Issue

- Identify the challenge the applicant faces in reviewing post-conviction claims of innocence and mitigating the risk of wrongful conviction. Provide data on the number of innocence claims, exonerations resulting from the work of the WCR entities, and areas of risk for error. Describe any problem(s) regarding the review or development of strategies that could prevent wrongful convictions.
- Describe how additional resources would impact the applicant and any partner's ability to improve public safety, as relevant.
- Describe any specific challenges or issues that impact the need in the jurisdiction(s) the applicant serves. Describe the applicant's intake policy, including how cases are screened, and stages of case review, including the number of cases processed in the last 2 calendar years (2020 and 2021), if any, and the case outcomes. Detail at what stage of the process these cases were completed or closed. Identify the number of cases in which actual perpetrators have been identified, and whether they have been involved in violent crimes. Describe any problem around the ability to screen, evaluate, and process claims, including any problems or shortfalls in providing investigative services and quality reviews to wrongfully convicted defendants.
- Describe any national, regional, state, or local issues impacting the lack of adequate review in these cases in relation to the number of potential cases. Include whether the applicant or jurisdiction has a current backlog of cases, including cases with the WCR entities, and the defense organization involved in the project, as applicable.
- Describe any current partnerships or efforts to assess for the areas of risk for wrongful conviction and to prevent error. Describe any new challenges you face as a result of the pandemic in identifying and addressing these needs and cases.

b. Program Design

- Describe the strategy to address the needs identified in the "Description of the Issue" section, particularly any anticipated needs or areas of specific concern. Describe any area(s) of focus for the project (e.g., eyewitness evidence, confession documentation, forensic evidence, arson, etc.; and/or geographic focus). Discuss how funding under this initiative will address these concerns and reduce the risk of wrongful convictions and violent perpetrators eluding prosecution. Discuss how the applicant will improve the quality and efficacy of case reviews, how it will contribute to improvements in the speed and efficiency with which claims are handled, and how it will support the unwavering rule of law and improve the overall administration of justice in the targeted jurisdiction(s). Describe how the project differs, complements, or builds upon the efforts of other offices in the region, state, or locality that are also involved with potentially innocent defendants in post-conviction proceedings.
- Describe how the current or planned WCR entity has and/or will work to review post-conviction claims of innocence and areas of risk for wrongful convictions, if applicable. Describe how you will use data, research, and analysis to support this work.
- Describe whether the project design seeks to build capacity by hiring or building infrastructure to begin accepting cases and whether the applicant currently has the capacity to accept cases or rather seeks to expand current caseloads.

- Describe any changes or enhancements you have in place or plan to build to address emerging challenges related to the pandemic over the last 2 years.

If the applicant is seeking priority consideration for Priority 1(A), it should address in this section how the proposed project(s) will promote racial equity and/or the removal of barriers to access and opportunity, and/or contribute to greater access to services, for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality.

c. Capabilities and Competencies

- Describe the management structure for implementation of the strategy, including staffing and key partners. Describe how the partners, if any, will work together to implement the key project elements. Provide information, if any, on past efforts and/or outcomes as a result of this partnership, and why it will enhance efforts in this area.
- Describe the applicant's current capacity to handle post-conviction and appeals claims of innocence and current efforts to mitigate the risk of wrongful convictions. Describe the specific qualifications of all staff and partners, including work to analyze and prioritize cases, to assess trends and build knowledge.
- Demonstrate the overall capability to implement the project successfully. If the applicant is planning to hire staff, provide job posting descriptions and describe the anticipated recruitment efforts. Describe how this structure will be tied to the strategy identified in the "Project Design and Implementation" section. Provide position descriptions outlining the roles and responsibilities of the key positions and résumés for current staff (as an attachment).

If the applicant is seeking priority consideration under Priority 1(B), it should describe within this section how being a culturally specific organization (or funding a culturally specific subrecipient organization at a minimum of 30 percent of the project budget) will enhance its ability to implement the proposed project(s) and should also specify which culturally specific populations are intended or expected to be served or have their needs addressed under the proposed project(s).

d. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures

Note: Applicants are **not** required to submit performance data with the application. Rather, performance measure information is included as an alert that successful applicants will be required to submit performance data as part of each award's reporting requirements.

OJP will require each successful applicant to submit regular performance data that show the completed work's results. The performance data directly relate to the goals, objectives, and deliverables identified under the "Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables" section. Applicants can visit OJP's performance measurement page at www.ojp.gov/performance for an overview of performance measurement activities at OJP.

A list of performance measure questions for this program can be found at <https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/WC-Measures.pdf>

BJA will require award recipients to submit performance measure data and performance reports in JustGrants. BJA will provide further guidance on the post-award submission process, if selected for award.

Note on Project Evaluations

An applicant that proposes to use award funds through this solicitation to conduct project evaluations must follow the guidance in the "Note on Project Evaluations" section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

Applicants will submit the Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions Program goals, objectives, and deliverables in the JustGrants web-based form.

Budget and Associated Documentation

Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)

The applicant will complete the JustGrants web-based budget form. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

If the applicant is seeking priority consideration under Priority 1(B) based on the identification of at least one proposed subrecipient as a culturally specific organization, the proposed funding for the subrecipient in the web-based budget form must be a minimum of 30 percent of award funding.

The budget narrative must also describe how the activities that will be funded with the (minimum) 30 percent of award funding provided to the subrecipient specifically relate to the priority consideration requested under Priority 1(B) and described in the “Capabilities and Competencies” section of the application.

Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

The applicant will submit its indirect cost rate agreement by uploading it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Financial Management Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)

The applicant will download the questionnaire, complete it, and submit it by uploading it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for the link to the questionnaire and additional information.

Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation

If applicable, applicants will submit documentation of the process used to determine executive compensation by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants. See the “Application Attachments” section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information.

Additional Application Components

Applicants will attach the additional requested documentation in JustGrants.

Curriculum Vitae or Resumes

Attach position descriptions for the key positions and résumés for current staff in addition to job posting descriptions for anticipated new hires. If the applicant is hiring, please detail in the timeline when it anticipates the hiring process to be complete and when any new hire’s efforts will commence.

Tribal Authorizing Resolution

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of tribal authorizing documentation as an attachment. If applicable, the applicant will submit the tribal authorizing documentation by uploading it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on tribal authorizing resolutions.

Timeline Form

Attach a project timeline with each project objective, activity, expected completion date, and responsible person or organization.

Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement

If an application proposes research (including research and development) and/or evaluation, the applicant must demonstrate research/evaluation independence and integrity, including appropriate safeguards, before it may receive award funds. The applicant will submit documentation of its research and evaluation independence and integrity by uploading it as an attachment in JustGrants. For additional information, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

MOU and Proposed Subrecipients

Applicants are encouraged to submit a signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) or a signed letter of intent (LOI) to enter into an MOU from key partners. The partners should state their commitment and involvement to the

project and describe their role in assisting efforts as presented in the application. The MOU/LOI information will be considered in the review process for all applications considered for funding.

Attach a list of proposed subrecipients of grant funding, if applicable, that includes the name, organizational affiliation, and location of the proposed subrecipient entity.

Attach conflict of interest policies for partnerships where relevant.

Disclosures and Assurances

The applicant will address the following disclosures and assurances.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Complete and submit the SF-LLL in Grants.gov. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

DOJ Certified Standard Assurances

Review and accept the DOJ Certified Standard Assurances in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items

Complete the JustGrants web-based Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items form. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free
Review and accept the DOJ Certified Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Law Enforcement and Community Policing in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

How to Apply

Step 1: The applicant must submit the **SF-424** and **SF-LLL** in Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>.

Step 2: The applicant must then submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://justgrants.usdoj.gov).

For additional information, see the “How to Apply” section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) and the [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#).

Submission Dates and Time

The **SF-424** and the **SF-LLL** must be submitted in Grants.gov by June 1, 2022 at 8:59 PM ET.

The **full application** must be submitted in JustGrants on June 6, 2022 at 08:59 PM ET.

OJP urges applicants to submit their Grants.gov and JustGrants submissions prior to the due dates to allow sufficient time to correct errors and resubmit by the submission deadlines if a rejection notification is received. To be considered timely, the **full application** must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline.

Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues

An applicant that experiences unforeseen SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants technical issues beyond its control that prevent application submission by the deadline must demonstrate all efforts in requesting technical support in order to submit an application by the deadline. Technical support is available via phone and email to the applicable SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants support centers or service desks in which an applicant

received a ticket number for resolution. If an applicant misses a deadline due to unforeseen technical difficulties, the applicant may request a waiver to submit an application after the deadline. *Note: If an applicant does not submit all the required Grants.gov forms by the Grants.gov deadline, the applicant will not be able to proceed to the JustGrants portion of the application process.*

An applicant experiencing technical difficulties with the following systems must contact the associated support desk indicated below to report the technical issue and receive a tracking number:

- Grants.gov — Contact the [Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline](#).
- SAM.gov — Contact the [SAM Help Desk \(Federal Service Desk\)](#).
- JustGrants — Contact the JustGrants Support Desk at JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov or 833–872–5175.

An applicant requesting a waiver to submit a late application must document their request for technical assistance in an email to the OJP Response Center at grants@ncjrs.gov **within 24 hours after the application deadline** to request approval to submit their application after the deadline. If an applicant has technical issues with Grants.gov, the applicant must contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline within 24 hours of the Grants.gov deadline to request approval to submit after the deadline. However, waiver requests will not be reviewed until after the JustGrants deadline to allow time for all waivers to be submitted. Waiver requests to submit after the submission deadline must:

- Describe the technical difficulties experienced.
- Include a timeline of the applicant's submission efforts (e.g., what date and time did the error occur, what date and time was action taken to resolve the issue and resubmit; and what date and time did support representatives respond).
- Include an attachment(s) of the complete grant application and all required documentation and material.
- Include the applicant's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), any applicable SAM.gov tracking number(s), Grants.gov Help Desk, and JustGrants Support Desk Ticket Numbers.

OJP will review each request for late submission and required supporting documentation and notify the applicant whether the request has been approved or denied. For more details on the waiver process, OJP encourages applicants to review the “Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues” section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#)

Application Review Information

Review Criteria

a. Merit Review Criteria

Applications that meet the basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers on how the proposed project/program addresses the following criteria:

1. Description of the Issue (15 percent) — Evaluate the applicant's understanding of the program/issue to be addressed.
2. Project Design and Implementation (40 percent) — Evaluate the adequacy of the proposal, including the goals, objectives, timelines, milestones, and deliverables.
3. Capabilities and Competencies (20 percent) — Evaluate the administrative and technical capacity of the applicant to successfully accomplish the goals and objectives.
4. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (15 percent) — Evaluate the applicant's understanding of the performance data reporting requirements and the plan for collecting the required data.
5. Budget (10 percent) — Evaluate for completeness, cost effectiveness, and allowability (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

b. Other Review Criteria/Factors

Other important considerations for BJA include geographic diversity available funding, past performance, and the extent to which the budget worksheet and budget narrative (web-based form) accurately explain project costs that are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise allowable under federal law and applicable federal cost principles.

Review Process

Applications submitted under this solicitation that meet the basic minimum requirements will be evaluated for technical merit by a peer review panel(s) in accordance with OJP peer review policy and procedures using the review criteria listed above. OJP screens applications to ensure they meet the basic minimum requirements prior to conducting the peer review. Although specific requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all OJP solicitations:

- The application must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- The application must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- The application must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- The application must include all items necessary to meet the basic minimum requirements.

Pursuant to the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, before award decisions are made, OJP also reviews information related to the degree of risk posed by the applicant. Among other things to help assess whether an applicant with one or more prior federal awards has a satisfactory record with respect to performance, integrity, and business ethics, OJP checks whether the applicant is listed in SAM as excluded from receiving a federal award.

In addition, if OJP anticipates that an award will exceed \$250,000 in federal funds, OJP also must review and consider any information about the applicant that appears in the non-public segment of the integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently, the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System, FAPIIS).

Important note on FAPIIS: An applicant may review and comment on any information about itself that currently appears in FAPIIS and was entered by a federal awarding agency. OJP will consider such comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in its assessment of the risk posed by the applicant. Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General, who may consider not only peer review ratings and BJA recommendations, but also other factors as indicated in this section.

Federal Award Administration Information

Federal Award Notices

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on award notifications and instructions.

Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the OJP-approved application, the recipient must comply with all award conditions and all applicable requirements of federal statutes and regulations, including the applicable requirements referred to in the assurances and certifications executed in connection with award acceptance. For additional information on these legal requirements, see the “Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements” section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Information Technology (IT) Security Clauses

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of information related to information technology security. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on information technology security.

General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements

In addition to the deliverables described in the “Program Description” section, all award recipients under this solicitation will be required to submit certain reports and data.

Required reports. Award recipients typically must submit quarterly financial reports, quarterly performance

reports, final financial and performance reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with the Part 200 Uniform Requirements or specific award conditions. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent. (In appropriate cases, OJP may require additional reports.)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measures data.

Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For OJP contact(s), see the solicitation cover page.

For contact information for Grants.gov, see the solicitation cover page.

For contact information for JustGrants, see the solicitation cover page.

Other Information

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a).

Provide Feedback to OJP

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on how to provide feedback to OJP.

Application Checklist

Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions Program

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application. The [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#) is another resource.

What an Applicant Must Do:

Prior to registering in Grants.gov:

- Confirm your Entity's [System Award Management \(SAM\) Registration Information](#) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#)):

To register in Grants.gov:

- Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password(see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

To find the funding opportunity:

- Search for the funding opportunity in Grants.gov using the opportunity number, Assistance Listing or keyword(s)
- Select the correct Competition ID
- Access the funding opportunity and application package (see Step 7 in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Sign up for Grants.gov email [notifications](#) (optional) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Read [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#)
- Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at [ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm](#) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

Overview of Post-Award Legal Requirements:

- Review the "[Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2022 Awards](#)" in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

Review Scope Requirement:

- The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of \$500,000

Review Eligibility Requirement:

- Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- Other

Other:

County, state, or local public defender offices that have in-house post-conviction representation programs that show demonstrable experience and competence in litigating post-conviction claims of innocence. If the applicant is not a WCR entity, they must be partnered with one.

Prepare to submit the Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF)-424 and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form (SF-LLL)

- Review Information to complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) in Grants.gov
- Complete Standard Applicant Information (SF-424 information from Grants.gov)
- Submit the **SF-424** and **SF-LLL** in Grants.gov

After the SF-424 and SF-LLL submission in Grants.gov, receive Grants.gov email notifications that:

- Submission has been received in Grants.gov
- Submission has either been successfully validated or rejected with errors (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

If no Grants.gov receipt and validation, or error notifications are received:

- Contact BJA or Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, at Grants.gov customer support webpage, or email at support@grants.gov regarding technical difficulties (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

Receive email notification to complete application in JustGrants:

- Proceed to complete application in JustGrants

Content of Application Submission: Critical Application Elements

The following items are critical application elements required to pass the basic minimum requirements review. If OJP determines that an application does not include the following elements, it will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive further consideration.

- Proposal Abstract
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (web-based form)

Budget and Associated Documentation:

- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Disclosure of Process related to Executive Compensation (see [OJP Grant Application Resource](#))

[Guide](#))

Additional Application Components:

- Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)(see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) in Grants.gov
- Standard Applicant Information (SF-424 information from Grants.gov)

Disclosures and Assurances:

- [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities \(SF-LLL\)](#) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurances (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

Submit application in JustGrants:

- Application has been successfully submitted in JustGrants

If no JustGrants application submission, validation, or error notifications are received:

- Contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833-872-5175 or JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov regarding technical difficulties.