

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



Solicitation Title: BJA FY24 Competitive DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program

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Step 1: Application Grants.gov Deadline: 8:59 p.m. ET on May 22, 2024

Step 2: Application JustGrants Deadline: 8:59 p.m. ET on June 3, 2024

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Synopsis

Program Description Overview

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) is seeking applications for funding.

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

With this solicitation, BJA seeks to fund states and units of local government with existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis to solve crimes and protect public safety by maximizing the effective utilization of DNA technology to process DNA samples for entry into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).

This program furthers the DOJ's mission to uphold the rule of law, to keep our country safe, and to protect civil rights.

This program is for **Competitive** funding only. See [FY 2024 Formula DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction \(CEBR\) Program](#) for formula funding. Eligible agencies may apply for both Competitive and Formula CEBR Funding.

Eligibility

- City or township governments
- County governments
- Public- and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- State governments

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

Agency Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact the OJP Response Center by phone at 800-851-3420 or 301-240-6310 (TTY for hearing-impaired callers only) or email grants@ncjrs.gov. The OJP Response Center operates from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) Monday–Friday and from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET on the solicitation closing date.

For procedures related to unforeseen technical issues beyond the control of the applicant that impact submission by the deadlines, see the “How To Apply” section, [Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues](#).

For assistance with submitting the [Application for Federal Assistance standard form \(SF-424\)](#) and a [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities \(SF-LLL\)](#) 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 is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

For technical assistance with submitting the **full application** in JustGrants, contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833-872-5175 or JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov. The JustGrants Service Desk operates from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET Monday–Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

Pre-Application Information Session

BJA will hold a webinar on this solicitation on **Tuesday, April 23rd from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET**. This call will provide a detailed overview of the solicitation and allow interested applicants to ask questions. Preregistration is required for all participants. Register by clicking on [this link](#) and following the instructions. To use the time most efficiently, BJA encourages participants to review this solicitation and submit any questions in advance and no later than Friday, April 19th. Submit questions to forensicstta@rti.org with the subject “Questions for *FY 2024 Solicitation Webinar – Competitive DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program*.” The session will be recorded and available on <https://www.forensicstta.org/programs/dna-capacity-enhancement-backlog-reduction-cebr-program/>.

Application Submission Information

Registration

Before submitting an application, an applicant must have a registration in the [System for Award Management \(SAM.gov\)](#).

Submission

Applications must be submitted to DOJ electronically through a two-step process that begins in Grants.gov and is completed in JustGrants. See the [Submission Dates and Times](#) section for the Grants.gov and JustGrants application deadlines.

Step 1: The applicant must register for this opportunity in Grants.gov at <https://grants.gov/register> and submit by the Grants.gov deadline the required [Application for Federal Assistance standard form \(SF-424\)](#) and a [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities \(SF-LLL\)](#). See the [Submission Dates and Times](#) section for application deadlines.

Step 2: The applicant must submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at JustGrants.usdoj.gov by the JustGrants application deadline. See the [Submission Dates and Time](#) section for application deadlines.

Program Description

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.

With this solicitation, BJA seeks to provide funding to states and units of local government with existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis to solve crimes and protect public safety by maximizing the effective utilization of DNA technology to process DNA samples for entry into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).

Statutory Authority

Any awards under this solicitation would be made under statutory authority provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. As of the writing of this solicitation, the Department of Justice is operating under a short-term Continuing Resolution with no full-year appropriation for the Department being enacted for FY 2024 currently.

Specific Information

Funding under this program is to increase the capacity of publicly funded forensic DNA laboratories to conduct analysis of crime scene samples for entry into CODIS. The program is designed to fairly and efficiently prioritize jurisdictions facing challenges in addressing backlogs by considering key performance measures reported by publicly funded forensic DNA laboratories.

NOTICE: BJA recognizes the importance of non-CODIS advances in DNA technology for the criminal justice field. However, because the purpose of the CEBR Program is to process samples for CODIS and to increase the capacity of labs to process samples for CODIS, forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis (FGG) expenses are not allowable under the CEBR Program at this time. FGG is allowable under many other BJA forensic solicitations—such as the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI), Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA, and Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence—due to the nature of the goals and objectives of those programs. FGG is also allowable under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. Recipients using funds for FGG under those other programs must adhere to the [United States Department of Justice Interim Policy Forensic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Searching](#).

Definitions:

For purposes of this solicitation, the following are defined:

- **Backlogged forensic biology/DNA case:** a forensic biology/DNA case that has not been completed within 30 days of receipt in the laboratory.
- **Case:** an analysis request for examination in one forensic investigation area (forensic biology/DNA for this purpose).
- **CODIS:** the Combined DNA Index System, the generic term used to describe the FBI's program of support for criminal justice DNA databases, as well as the software used to run these databases.
- **CODIS hit:** CODIS hits are tracked as either an offender hit (where the identity of a potential suspect is generated) or as a forensic hit (where the DNA profiles obtained

from two or more crime scenes are linked but the source of these profiles remains unknown).

- **DNA analysis/analyses:** Activities conducted to facilitate processing and entry of forensic DNA samples into CODIS and include screening (the location, assessment, identification, and characterization of body fluid(s) and other biological areas of interest) laboratory processing (e.g., extraction, quantitation, amplification), and/or issuing reports (e.g., fragment/sequence analysis, DNA profile evaluation and comparison, report writing and associated technical/administrative reviews of DNA in biological samples).
- **LIMS:** Laboratory Information Management System is a software-based system that collects, creates, and stores all data related to forensic examinations in a crime laboratory. Key features include, but are not limited to, workflow and data tracking support, flexible architecture, and data exchange interfaces.
- **LIMS Module:** a sample/case tracking component separate from the laboratory's LIMS that functions only for the purposes of the forensic biology/DNA unit. NOTE: The module may be a product of the same vendor as the laboratory's current LIMS or a different one.
- **NDIS:** The National DNA Index System, and one part of CODIS, containing the DNA profiles contributed by federal, state, and local participating forensic laboratories. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, the federal government, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, and Puerto Rico participate in NDIS.
- **Number of CEBR-funded DNA profiles from forensic analyses entered into CODIS for the DNA laboratory:** CEBR grant attribution that contributes to the uploading of a DNA profile to CODIS as a result of CEBR-funded overtime, CEBR-funded personnel, CEBR-funded analysis supplies, and/or CEBR-funded outsourcing.
- **Number of CEBR-funded forensic biology/DNA cases completed by the laboratory:** CEBR grant attribution that contributes to the testing of a case as a result of CEBR-funded overtime, CEBR-funded personnel, CEBR-funded analysis supplies, and/or CEBR-funded outsourcing.
- **Number of forensic biology/DNA cases submitted to the laboratory:** the number of forensic biology/DNA analysis requests submitted by agencies for testing in the laboratory.
- **Rapid DNA, Rapid DNA Analysis:** describes the fully automated (hands-free) process of developing a CODIS Core STR profile from a reference sample buccal swab. The "swab in, profile out" process consists of automated extraction, amplification, separation, detection, and allele calling without human intervention. Any laboratory seeking to use funding for Rapid DNA analysis must adhere to the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards. See [Rapid DNA-FBI](#) and [Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories](#).
- **Ratio of backlog/cases completed per month:** This ratio is one method that can be used to normalize backlogs across laboratories of various sizes. It is calculated by taking the backlog of the laboratory and dividing it by the average number of cases the laboratory completes within a month.
- **Sexual assault kit (SAK):** A set of items used by medical personnel for the preservation of physical evidence collected from a person, living or deceased, following an allegation or suspicion of sexual assault.

- **Total number of CODIS hits from forensic analyses for the DNA laboratory:** The total amount of CODIS hits generated by the laboratory regardless of CEBR, local, or other agency funds.
- **Total number of DNA profiles from forensic analyses entered into CODIS for the DNA laboratory:** Laboratory attribution that contributes to the uploading of a DNA profile to CODIS regardless of CEBR, local, or other agency funds.
- **Total number of forensic DNA samples completed by the laboratory:** Total number of forensic DNA samples tested to completion by the laboratory regardless of CEBR, local, or other agency funds.
- **Total number of forensic biology/DNA cases completed by the laboratory:** Laboratory resource attribution that contributes to the testing of a case to completion regardless of CEBR, local, or other agency funds.
- **Turnaround time:** The average number of days from the date a laboratory receives a case to the date that the laboratory issues a final report for the case.

Solicitation Goals and Objectives

Goals

The overarching goal of BJA's FY 2024 Competitive DNA CEBR Program is to maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crimes and protect public safety by states and units of local government with eligible crime laboratories or laboratory systems.

Objectives

The Competitive DNA CEBR Program awards funding to eligible entities with at least one of the two program objectives:

1. Increase the capacity of laboratories to process CODIS-eligible crime scene samples in accredited, publicly funded forensic DNA laboratories through the use of DNA technology.
2. Increase laboratory efficiency for processing CODIS-eligible crime scene samples analyzed in accredited, publicly funded forensic DNA laboratories through the use of DNA technology.

Objectives can be achieved by implementing allowable long-term efficiency or capacity enhancement activities. Allowable activities include, but are not limited to:

- Purchasing/implementing new and more efficient instruments/robotics to automate routine laboratory processing steps.
- Evaluating, validating, and implementing improved workflows for efficient laboratory processing or improved testing results (e.g., enhanced techniques to recover higher quantities of DNA).
- Purchasing and upgrading software (e.g., LIMS) to manage laboratory operations more efficiently.

For information about what the applicant needs to submit regarding Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables, please see the [How to Apply section on the Application Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline Web-Based Form.](#)

Federal Award Information

Awards, Amounts, and Durations

Anticipated Number of Awards: Up to 10

Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount per Award: Up to \$1,000,000

Period of Performance Start Date: October 1, 2024

Period of Performance Duration (Months): 24

Anticipated Total Amount to Be Awarded Under This Solicitation: Approximately \$5,000,000

Additional information: While the maximum allowable funding amount is \$1,000,000, organizations that are new or that have never before received a federal award may wish to submit a proposed budget at a lower amount to support their efforts.

Continuation Funding Intent

OJP may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this funding opportunity through continuation awards. OJP will consider, among other factors, OJP's strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award, and the progress of the work funded under the award, when making continuation award decisions.

Availability of Funds

This funding opportunity, and awards under this funding opportunity, are subject to the availability of funding and to any changes 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.

Type of Award

OJP expects to make awards under this funding opportunity as grants. See the "[Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements](#)" section of the [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.

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

This funding opportunity does not require a match.

Eligibility Information

For the purposes of this notice of funding opportunity, "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.

A state or unit of local government (or any department, agency, or instrumentality of the foregoing) that does not own, control, or operate a crime laboratory or laboratory system is not an eligible applicant under this program. For example, a state or unit of local government that receives forensic services only by way of an inter- or intra- governmental arrangement or contract, but does not own, control, or operate its own crime laboratory within its jurisdiction, is not eligible under this program.

In order to qualify for funding, an applicant for funds must submit the FY 2024 [DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction \(CEBR\) Program Eligibility Certification form](#).

How To Apply

Application Resources

When preparing and submitting an application, the following resources may aid prospective applicants:

1. Grants.gov [“How to Apply for Grants”](#)
2. OJP [“How To Apply”](#) section in the [Application Resource Guide](#)
3. JustGrants [Application Submission Training](#)

This solicitation (notice of funding opportunity) incorporates guidance provided in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) (Application Resource Guide), which provides additional information for applicants to prepare and submit applications to OJP for funding. **If this solicitation requires something different from any guidance provided in the [Application Resource Guide](#), the difference will be noted in this solicitation and the applicant is to follow the guidelines in this solicitation, rather than the guidance in the [Application Resource Guide](#) that is in conflict.**

How To Apply

Registration

Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management (SAM.gov). An applicant must renew their registration every 12 months. If an applicant does not renew their SAM.gov registration, it will expire. An expired registration can delay or prevent application submission in Grants.gov and JustGrants. Applicants are encouraged to start the SAM.gov registration process at least 30 days prior to the application deadlines. Applicants who fail to begin the registration or renewal process at least 10 business days prior to the Grants.gov deadline may not complete the process in time and will not be considered for late submission.

Submission

Applications must be submitted to DOJ electronically through a two-step process that begins in Grants.gov and is completed in JustGrants.

Step 1: After registering with SAM.gov, the applicant must submit the **SF-424** and **SF-LLL** in Grants.gov at <https://grants.gov/register> by the Grants.gov deadline. **To leave time to address any technical issues that may arise, an applicant should submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL as early as possible and recommended not later than 48 hours before the Grants.gov deadline.** If an applicant fails to submit in Grants.gov by the deadline, they will be unable to apply in JustGrants. Applicants can confirm Grants.gov submission by verifying their application status shows as “submitted” or “agency tracking number assigned.”

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

OJP recommends that applicants submit the complete application package in JustGrants at least 48 hours prior to the JustGrants deadline. Some of the required sections of the application will be entered directly into JustGrants, and other sections will require documents to be uploaded and attached. Therefore, applicants should allow enough time before the JustGrants deadline to prepare all the requirements of the application. Applicants may save their progress

in the system and add to or change the application as needed prior to hitting the “Submit” button at the end of the application in JustGrants.

An applicant will receive emails when successfully submitting in Grants.gov and JustGrants and should maintain all emails and other confirmations received from SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants systems.

For additional information, see the “How To Apply” section in the [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 8:59 p.m. on May 22, 2024.

The **full application** must be submitted in JustGrants by 8:59 p.m. on June 3, 2024.

To be considered timely, the **full application** must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline. Failure to begin the SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants registration and application process in sufficient time (i.e., waiting until the due dates identified in this solicitation for those systems to begin the application steps) is not an acceptable reason to request a technical waiver.

Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues Preventing Submission of an Application (Technical Waivers)

OJP will only consider requests to submit an application after the deadline when the applicant can document that a technical issue with a government system prevented submission of the application on time.

If an applicant misses a deadline due to unforeseen technical issues with SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants, the applicant may request a waiver to submit an application after the deadline. However, the waiver request will not be considered unless it includes documentation of attempts to receive technical assistance to resolve the issue prior to the application deadline. A tracking number is the most typical documentation and is generated when the applicant contacts the applicable service desks to report technical difficulties. Tracking numbers are generated automatically when an applicant emails the applicable service desks, and for this reason, long call wait times for support do not relieve the applicant of the responsibility of getting a tracking number.

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

- SAM.gov: contact the [SAM.gov Help Desk \(Federal Service Desk\)](#), Monday–Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET at 866-606-8220.
- Grants.gov: contact the [Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline](#), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays, at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, or support@grants.gov.
- JustGrants: contact the JustGrants Service Desk at JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov or 833-872-5175, Monday–Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET and Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.

If an applicant has technical issues with SAM.gov or Grants.gov, the applicant must contact the OJP Response Center at grants@ncjrs.gov within **24 hours of the Grants.gov deadline** to request approval to submit after the deadline.

If an applicant has technical issues with JustGrants that prevent application submission by the deadline, the applicant must contact the OJP Response Center at grants@ncjrs.gov within **24 hours of the JustGrants deadline** to request approval to submit after the deadline.

Waiver requests sent to the OJP Response Center must—

- describe the technical difficulties experienced (provide screenshots if applicable);
- include a timeline of the applicant’s submission efforts (e.g., date and time the error occurred, date and time of actions taken to resolve the issue and resubmit; and date and time support representatives responded);
- include an attachment of the complete grant application and all the required documentation and materials;
- include the applicant’s Unique Entity Identifier (UEI); and
- include any SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants Service Desk tracking numbers documenting the technical issue.

OJP will review each waiver request and the required supporting documentation and notify the applicant whether the request for late submission has been approved or denied. An applicant that does not provide documentation of a technical issue (including all information listed above), or that does not submit a waiver request within the required time period, will be denied.

For more details on the waiver process, OJP encourages applicants to review the “Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues” section in the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Application and Submission Information

Content of Application Submission and Available Surveys

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:

- SF-424 and SF-LLL (in Grants.gov)
- Proposal Abstract (in JustGrants)
- Proposal Narrative (in JustGrants)
- Budget Web-Based Form, which includes the budget details and the budget narrative (in JustGrants)
- Submitted signed and completed [FY 2024 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction \(CEBR\) Program Eligibility Certification](#) form.
- Signed and completed [FY 2024 Competitive DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction \(CEBR\) Program Budget Breakdown Certification](#) form. This form, to be filled out by the applicant, outlines the proportion of funding that is planned to be used for (1) processing database samples for CODIS, (2) processing crime scene samples for CODIS (shall be a minimum of 40% of the award) and (3) increasing the capacity of the laboratory to process crime scene and/or database samples for CODIS. Review this [Fact Sheet](#) for more information about this form.

If OJP determines that an application does not include these elements, it will not proceed to peer review and will not receive any further consideration.

Content of the SF-424 in Grants.gov

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 [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 funding opportunity is not subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372. In completing the SF-424, an applicant should answer question 19 by selecting “Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.”

Content of the JustGrants Application Submission

Entity and User Verification (First Time Applicant)

For first time JustGrants applicants, once the application is received from Grants.gov, DOJ will send an email (from DIAMD-NoReply@usdoj.gov) to the individual listed in Section 8F of the SF-424 with instructions on how to create a JustGrants account. This email should arrive within 24 hours after this individual receives confirmation from Grants.gov of their SF-424 and SF-LLL submissions. Register the Entity Administrator (the person who manages who can access JustGrants on behalf of the applicant), the Application Submitter, and Authorized Representative for the applicant with JustGrants as early as possible and (recommended) not later than 48-72 hours before the JustGrants deadline. Once registered in JustGrants, the Application Submitter will receive a link in an email to complete the rest of the application in JustGrants. Find additional information on JustGrants Application Submission in the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Standard Applicant 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 their 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 its purpose, primary activities, expected outcomes, the service area, intended beneficiaries, and subrecipients (if known)—must be completed in the JustGrants web-based form. This abstract should be in paragraph form without bullets or tables, written in the third person, and exclude personally identifiable information. Abstracts will be made publicly available on the OJP and USASpending.gov websites if the project is awarded. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for an [example](#) of a proposal abstract.

Data Requested With Application

The following application elements should be submitted in the web-based forms in JustGrants.

[Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire \(including Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status\)](#)

The Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire helps OJP assess the financial management and internal control systems, and the associated potential risks of an applicant as part of the pre-award risk assessment process. Every OJP applicant (other than an individual applying in their personal capacity, not representing an applicant organization) is required to complete the web-based Questionnaire form in JustGrants. See the [Application Resource Guide: Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire \(including Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status\)](#) for additional guidance on how to complete the questionnaire.

[Brief Applicant Entity Questionnaire](#)

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is collecting the following information to help assess its efforts to attract a broader range of applicants. These questions apply to the applicant entity and its work and scope only, and not to the specific project(s) being proposed within the application. Responses to the questions will not be considered in the application review process. The questions included in the questionnaire are available in the [Standard Forms & Instructions: Brief Applicant Entity Questionnaire](#).

[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 size font; have no less than 1-inch margins; and should not exceed 10 numbered pages. If the Proposal Narrative fails to comply with these length restrictions, OJP may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

The Proposal Narrative must include the following sections:

a. Description of the Issue

- Applicants must demonstrate an understanding of how DNA technology has been used to improve laboratory operations. Applicants should focus on how the turnaround time and/or ratio of backlog/cases completed per month are negatively impacted by a lack of DNA technology utilized by the laboratory.
- Applicants must submit baseline measures for (1) turnaround time and (2) backlog/cases completed per month to demonstrate the laboratory's need for additional laboratory funding to improve these measures. Applicants are to discuss how the proposed DNA technology will positively impact these baseline measures. **Priority consideration will be given to applicants falling into the highest percentiles of performance measures (e.g., longest turnaround times) reported by CEBR laboratories in the preceding year. This data is posted on the BJA website at: <https://bj.a.ojp.gov/program/dna-cebr/performance-measures>.**

Baseline Backlog Data Casework Laboratories

1. Total number of forensic biology/DNA cases completed in 2023.
2. Number of untested/not completed forensic biology/DNA cases more than 30 days old (backlogged) on December 31, 2023.
3. The average number of days needed to complete (including peer review and report) forensic DNA cases for calendar year 2023.

b. Project Design and Implementation

This section should address the goals, objectives, and expected results.

- The primary objective must be to maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crime and protect public safety. A direct correlation should be drawn from the implementation of the proposed DNA technology to an improvement in laboratory turnaround time and/or ratio of backlog/cases completed per month. Although it is not unexpected to see a temporary decrease in these two measures of performance during the time directly surrounding implementation of the new DNA technology, the applicant should produce a timeline for the expected realization of gains from the proposed project.
- Applicants must describe how funding supplied through the CEBR Formula Program is insufficient to complete the project proposed.
- A strategy and plan for project implementation must be included. This plan should include a detailed timeline for the project (e.g., for the procurement, validation, and implementation of any new equipment; for the implementation of new procedures; for when personnel expenses [hiring and/or overtime] will start to accrue; and for the execution of contracts) to be completed within the project period. A mitigation plan should be included to outline how the project will still be successful within the period of performance in the face of any hurdles that may be encountered (e.g., changes in staffing, legislative changes, increases in case submissions).
- A sustainability plan should be included that demonstrates the applicant's ability and awareness of how to sustain the proposed project after the completion of the project period. A non-exhaustive list of examples may include a plan for annual maintenance following purchase of new instrumentation, validation of newly purchased instrumentation, and implementation of processes/procedures.

c. Capabilities and Competencies

- The applicant must identify all project staff, including any and all individuals (and organizations) who will be significantly involved in substantive aspects of the project, and provide their qualifications and experience demonstrating their ability to manage the effort, including grant management and project management experience.

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

- The applicant should describe how the performance measures data will be derived, state who will be responsible for collecting the data, and affirm that the data will be available for review for 3 years from the date of submission of the final federal financial report (SF-425) under the award, or as otherwise required by law. See 2 C.F.R. 200.333. The data collection plan should be rigorous to ensure that the performance measures data provided are accurate, auditable, and correctly measure the impact the federal funds provided.
- The data collection plan should clearly describe the method(s) for the collection, tracking, and reporting data produced as a result of federal assistance provided under this solicitation.

- The applicant should also provide its policy regarding who is responsible for the process of collecting and calculating the data, who is responsible for quality control of the data, and how the data will be stored.
- The applicant shall demonstrate an understanding of the [Competitive CEBR Performance Measures](#), the specific section(s) that are relevant to the proposed project.

Note: An applicant is **not** required to submit performance data with the application. Rather, performance measure information is included to provide notice that award recipients will be required to submit performance data as part of each award's reporting requirements.

OJP will require each award recipient to submit regular performance data that show the completed work's results. The performance data directly relate to the solicitation goals and objectives identified in the "[Goals and Objectives](#)" section. Applicants can visit [OJP's performance measurement page](#) at www.ojp.gov/performance for more information on performance measurement activities.

Deliverables for the Competitive CEBR Program include the reporting of specific programmatic measures, which can be found [here](#). In addition, the award recipients are asked to consider what other measures or metrics may be of use in demonstrating the successful outcome of the program/project.

BJA will require award recipients to submit performance measure data in the Performance measurement Tool (PMT) and separately submit a semi-annual performance report in JustGrants. BJA will provide further guidance on the post-award submission process, if the applicant is 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 [Application Resource Guide](#).

[Application Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline Web-Based Form](#)

The applicant will submit the project's goals, objectives, deliverables and timeline in the JustGrants web-based form. This is a summary of the goals, objectives, deliverables, and timeline that relate to the proposal narrative. The applicant will also enter the projected fiscal year and quarter that each objective and deliverable will be completed. Please refer to the [Application Submission Job Aid](#) for step-by-step directions.

- **Goals:** The applicant should describe the project's intent to change, reduce, or eliminate the problem noted in the proposal narrative.
- **Program Objectives and Timeline:** The applicant should include objectives to accomplish its goals. Objectives are specific, measurable actions to reach the project's desired results. The included timelines should be clearly linked to the goal.
- **Deliverables and Timeline:** Project deliverables refer to outputs—tangible (for example, a report or a website) or intangible (for example, greater feelings of safety reported by the community)—that are documented and submitted within the scope of a project. Deliverables include timelines.

Deliverables Expected by Successful Applicants

Program objectives and deliverables should be included in one timeline.

Budget and Associated Documentation

A. Permissible Uses of Funds for Forensic DNA Laboratories

Salary and benefits for laboratory employees

Funds may be used to hire **additional** full-time or part-time laboratory employees to support activities that maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crime and protect public safety.

Overtime for laboratory staff

Funds may be used to pay overtime for laboratory employees (excluding executive personnel) to support activities that maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crime and protect public safety. Any payments for overtime must be in accordance with the applicable provisions of the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#).

Training (limited)

Funds may be used to train forensic DNA laboratory personnel on topics directly related to activities proposed to maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crime and protect public safety. See “**Expenses That Are Not Permitted**,” below, for specific training that is excluded from the FY 2024 program.

Travel (limited)

Funds may also be used for travel associated with DNA training, as described in “Training” above. See “**Expenses That Are Not Permitted**” below for specific travel that is excluded from the FY 2024 program.

Travel expenses must be reasonable and comply with the applicable provisions of the grant award terms and award conditions, the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, the recipient’s (and any subrecipient’s) written policies, and DOJ regulations (Part 200 Uniform Requirements). Justification for the number of staff traveling and the benefit of their attendance at the annual event must be included as well as justification as to why other forms of travel/training (e.g., webinars or review of journal articles) are not sufficient.

Equipment

In general, funds may be used to upgrade or purchase laboratory equipment, instrumentation, and associated computer hardware for the forensic DNA laboratory that maximizes the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crime and protect public safety. See “**Expenses That Are Not Permitted**” below for specific equipment items that are excluded from the FY 2024 program.

Supplies

Justification for supplies must support activities that maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crime and protect public safety.

Contracts

Contracts for process mapping or other efficiency studies

Contracts may be established for an outside vendor to conduct a process mapping or efficiency-type study, such as a Lean Six Sigma-type efficiency study, of the DNA laboratory. One of the potential benefits from such an approach is highlighted in the

report, [Increasing Efficiency of Forensic DNA Casework Using Lean Six Sigma Tools](#).

Warranty, service, or maintenance contracts for equipment

Contracts may be established to provide warranty, service, or maintenance contracts for laboratory equipment purchased as part of the project proposal.

Contracts for temporary laboratory employees

Contracts may be established to hire personnel to support activities that maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crime and protect public safety such as validation or performance check activities.

Contracts for validation studies for new DNA analysis technologies

Contracts may be established for an outside vendor to validate new instruments, processes, procedures, or chemistries that are National DNA Index System approved within the DNA laboratory.

Contracts for in-house training services

Contracts may be established for an outside vendor to provide in-house training that is directly related to activities that maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crime and protect public safety. See “Training” for more information about allowable training expenses.

Direct administrative expenses

Up to 3 percent of the federal portion of an award under this program may be used for direct administrative expenses specifically related to grant administration and management, including travel and training costs related to federal grant management.

Software

Allowable software is that which is associated with running the DNA laboratory and will maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to solve crime and protect public safety. Allowable purchases may include, but are not limited to, software and licenses associated with running DNA instrumentation, software associated with running temperature monitoring systems and other quality control systems, and software for DNA mixture interpretation.

Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)

- New LIMS to upgrade or replace existing systems
Contracts may be established to purchase and install a new LIMS to upgrade or replace an existing system or to install a LIMS in a laboratory previously without one. Projects to purchase and install a new LIMS are expected to be completed by the end of the 2-year award period. Applicants should consider a phased approach and submit requests for one phase or more, if appropriate, that can be completed within the 2-year timeframe of the DNA CEBR award.
- Existing LIMS
Contracts may be established to purchase and add **DNA modules to an existing LIMS** or software upgrades for an existing LIMS or DNA module. **NOTE:** See the definitions section of the solicitation for additional information.

- **Accessories for LIMS**
Accessories for LIMS in the forensic biology and/or DNA section of the laboratory may be purchased. Allowable accessories include items such as barcode printers and barcode scanners; however, these do not include hardware items such as laptops, desktop computers, or computer tablets. A detailed justification for these items would need to be submitted with the application documents.
- **Annual maintenance and service contracts and licensing agreements for new and existing LIMS**
Contracts may be established for annual maintenance and service contracts, as well as licensing agreements for users in the forensic biology/DNA section of the laboratory.

B. Expenses That Are Not Permitted

Federal funds awarded under this program may only be used for the permissible uses of funds outlined above. Among other things, they may not be used for:

- Salaries and benefits other than as discussed in “Permissible Uses of Funds.”
- Travel, other than authorized travel expenses associated with appropriate DNA training and visits to outsourcing laboratories as discussed in “Permissible Uses of Funds.”
- Education that is of primary benefit to an individual (e.g., doctoral degree), personal development training (e.g., general human resources or staff retention trainings), or other trainings that are not directly related to the operation of a forensic DNA laboratory.
- Trial testimony (e.g., hearings, jury/judge trials, depositions) and associated travel costs.
- Construction and renovations.
- Direct administrative expenses that exceed 3 percent of the federal portion of the award.
- **Equipment:** Purchase of equipment or technologies that have not been approved for use by the National DNA Index System, including personnel and supply costs that would be needed to validate equipment or technologies not approved for use by NDIS. This includes Rapid DNA Analysis instruments or supplies proposed to be used in a way not compatible with the FBI’s Addendum to the [QAS for Rapid DNA Analysis](#) and incorporated into the [QAS revision effective 2020](#), Massively Parallel Sequencing (MPS) instruments or supplies proposed to be used in ways that are not [NDIS approved](#), or other instruments not immediately available for purchase through a commercial entity. See the definitions section for additional information about Rapid DNA.

Funding Restrictions

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

Budget Detail and Narrative Web-Based Form

The applicant will complete the JustGrants web-based budget form, which includes both detailed calculations and budget narrative sections.

For additional information about how to prepare a budget for federal funding, see the “[Application Resource Guide](#)” section on [Budget Preparation and Submission Information](#) and the technical steps to complete the budget form in JustGrants in the [Complete the Application in JustGrants: Budget](#) training.

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

OJP strongly encourages every applicant that proposes to use award funds for any conference-, meeting-, or training-related activity (or similar event) to review carefully—before submitting an application—the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on prior approval, planning, and reporting of conference/meeting/training costs.

Costs Associated With Language Assistance (if applicable)

If an applicant proposes a program or activity that would deliver services or benefits to individuals, the costs of taking reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to those services or benefits for individuals with limited English proficiency may be allowable. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on costs associated with language assistance.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The use of BJA grant funds for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), including unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAV), and all accompanying accessories to support UAS or UAV, is unallowable.

Budget/Financial Attachments

Pre-Agreement (Pre-Award) Costs (if applicable)

Pre-agreement costs are defined as costs requiring approval incurred by the applicant prior to the start date of the period of performance of the federal award. OJP does not typically approve pre-agreement costs. If a successful applicant, in anticipation of the Federal award, but before the start date of the period of performance, incurs costs which are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the funded project, those costs may not be charged to the award. See the “Costs Requiring Prior Approval” section in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide Post-Award Requirements](#) for more information.

Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Indirect costs are costs of an organization that are not readily assignable to a particular project, but are necessary to the operation of the organization and the performance of the project. Examples of costs usually treated as indirect include those incurred for facility operation and maintenance, depreciation, and administrative salaries. The requirements for the development and submission of indirect cost proposals and cost allocation plans are listed in Appendices III – VII of 2 C.F.R. Part 200. A non-federal applicant should follow the guidelines applicable to its type of organization. If applicable, an applicant with a current federally approved indirect cost rate agreement will upload it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [DOJ Financial Guide](#) for additional information on [Indirect Cost Rate Agreement](#).

Consultant Rate (if applicable)

Costs for consultant services require prior approval from OJP. If the proposed project expects to fund consultant services, compensation for individual consultant services is to be reasonable

and consistent with that paid for similar services in the marketplace. See the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) for information on the consultant rates, which require prior approval from OJP.

[Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards Over \\$250,000; Waiver \(if applicable\)](#)

If an applicant proposes to hire employees with Federal award funds, for any award of more than \$250,000 made under a funding opportunity, an award recipient may not use federal funds to pay total cash compensation (salary plus cash bonuses) to any employee of the recipient at a rate that exceeds 110 percent of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the federal government's Senior Executive Service (SES) at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on the "Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards over \$250,000; Waiver."

[Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation \(if applicable\)](#)

This notice of funding opportunity expressly modifies the Application Resource Guide by not incorporating its "Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation" provisions. Applicants to this funding opportunity are not required to provide this disclosure.

Additional Application Components

The applicant will attach the additional requested documentation in JustGrants.

Proof of DNA Laboratory Accreditation

Acceptable types of documentation of current accreditation include an electronic (scanned) copy of the current accreditation certificate(s), a digital photograph of the current accreditation certificate(s), or a letter from the accrediting body that includes the certificate number. Additionally, if a certificate references another document that contains key information on the type or scope of the accreditation, provide a copy of that supplemental documentation.

Program Income Declaration

All applications submitted in response to this solicitation are to comply with the Program Income Policy for the DNA CEBR Program. Applicants should carefully read the updated policy to complete the FY 2024 DNA CEBR grant application as well as to ensure compliance with the policy post-award. This policy can be found at <https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/dna-program-income-policy.pdf>.

Applicants are to submit a Program Income Declaration with their grant applications. The declaration should be attached as a separated document in the grant application, and the electronic file should be labeled as "Program Income Declaration."

The Program Income Declaration should indicate one of the four statuses for the applicant in light of any proposed activities to be funded by a grant award:

1. Does not employ a fee-for-service model or otherwise accept compensation from external organizations or jurisdictions to conduct DNA sample testing.
2. Employs a fee-for-service model or otherwise accepts compensation from external organizations or jurisdictions to conduct DNA sample testing, but does not plan to use grant funds for any fee-for-service related activity.

3. Employs a fee-for-service model or otherwise accepts compensation from external organizations or jurisdictions to conduct DNA sample testing, and does plan to accept fees for activities and/or services performed using grant funds, in whole or in part, from the programs referenced in this policy.
4. Employs a fee-for-service model or otherwise accepts compensation from external organizations or jurisdictions to conduct DNA sample testing, but can claim the exclusion in Section 8 of the Program Income Policy and can produce the required documentation in support of this exclusion.

Potential Environmental Impact Coversheet and Checklist—National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Each applicant is to submit a BJA Programmatic Coversheet and Checklist with its application to assist BJA in assessing the potential environmental impacts of the activities proposed for funding by the applicant. Specifically, the applicant is expected to:

- Carefully read the [Programmatic Environmental Assessment](#).
- Complete the [Cover Sheet and the attached Programmatic Checklist](#).
- Attach the completed documents to the grant application.

The applicant should also submit a Cover Sheet and BJA Programmatic Checklist for any organization identified in the Budget Worksheet that will receive grant funds through a subaward or procurement contract to perform any of the following activities: new construction or renovations that change the basic prior use of a facility or significantly change the size, research and/or technology development that could be expected to have an effect on the environment, or implementation of programs involving the use of chemicals. For more information about NEPA and BJA's NEPA Process, please go to <https://bjaj.ojp.gov/national-environmental-policy-act-nepa-guidance>.

Curriculum Vitae or Resumes (if applicable)

Provide resumes of key personnel who will work on the proposed project.

Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Other Supportive Documents (if applicable)

Applicants should include for each named partner, a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), letter of intent, or subcontract that confirms the partner's agreement to support the project through commitments of staff time, space, services, or other project needs. For applications submitted from two or more entities, applicants are encouraged to develop and submit signed MOUs or signed letters of intent that provide a detailed description of how the agencies will work together to meet project requirements.

Each MOU or letter of intent should include the following: (1) names of the organizations involved in the agreement; (2) what service(s) and other work will be performed under the agreement by what organization; (3) duration of the agreement.

Subcontracts, MOUs, or letters of intent should be submitted as one separate attachment to the application.

Disclosures and Assurances

The applicant will address the following disclosures and assurances.

[Disclosure of Lobbying Activities](#)

The SF-LLL attachment that was completed and submitted in Grants.gov is attached to this section.

[Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items](#)

To ensure funding coordination across grant making agencies, and to avoid unnecessary or inappropriate duplication among grant awards, the applicant will disclose if it has any pending applications for federal funding, including pending applications for subawards of federal funds. Complete the JustGrants web-based Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items form. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

[DOJ Certified Standard Assurances](#)

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

[DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Law Enforcement and Community Policing](#)

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

[Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High-Risk Grantees](#)

If applicable, submit the DOJ High-Risk Disclosure and Justification as an attachment in JustGrants. A DOJ High-Risk Grantee is an award recipient that has received a DOJ High-Risk designation based on a documented history of unsatisfactory performance; financial instability; management system or other internal control deficiencies; noncompliance with award terms and conditions on prior awards or is otherwise not responsible. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Application Review Information

Review Criteria

Basic Minimum Review Criteria

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 requirements for all OJP solicitations:

- The application must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- The application must request funding within any stated programmatic funding limits or boundaries.
- The application must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- The application must include all items necessary to meet the basic minimum requirements.

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:

- Description of the Issue (30%): evaluate the applicant's understanding of the program/issue to be addressed.

- Project Design and Implementation (40%): evaluate the strength of the proposal, including information provided in the goals, objectives, timelines, and deliverables web-based form.
- Capabilities and Competencies (10%): evaluate the applicant's administrative and technical capacity to successfully accomplish the goals and objectives.
- Plan for Collecting the Data Required for This Solicitation's Performance Measures (10%): evaluate the applicant's understanding of the performance data reporting requirements and the plan for collecting the required data.
- Budget (10%): evaluate for completeness, cost effectiveness, and allowability (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

Other Review Criteria/Factors

Other important considerations for OJP include geographic diversity, strategic priorities (specifically including, but not limited to, those priority areas already mentioned, if applicable), available funding, past performance, and the extent to which the Budget web-based form accurately explains project costs that are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise allowable under federal law and applicable federal cost principles. Costs are allowable when they are reasonable, allocable to, and necessary for the performance of the federal award, and when they comply with the funding statute and agency requirements (to include the conditions of the award), including the cost principles set out in the [Uniform Requirements 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E](#).

Risk Criteria/Factors

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 of performance, integrity, and business ethics, OJP checks whether the applicant is listed in SAM.gov 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.gov.

Important note on Responsibility/Qualification Data (formerly FAPIIS): An applicant may review and comment on any information about its organization that currently appears in SAM.gov and was entered by a federal awarding agency. OJP will consider such comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in SAM.gov, in its assessment of the risk posed by the applicant.

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. 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

Generally, award notifications are made by the end of the current Federal fiscal year, September 30. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on award notifications and instructions.

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 (programs or practices that have been evaluated as effective), see the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities

OJP may conduct or support an evaluation of the projects and activities funded under this solicitation. For additional information on what should be included in the application, see the [Application Resource Guide](#) section entitled “Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities.”

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 [Application Resource Guide](#).

Civil Rights Compliance

If a successful applicant accepts funding from OJP—as a recipient of OJP funding—that award recipient must comply with certain federal civil rights laws that prohibit it from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability in how the recipient delivers its program’s services or benefits and in its employment practices. The civil rights laws that may be applicable to the award include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), the nondiscrimination provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (Safe Streets Act), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These and other federal civil rights laws are discussed in greater detail here: [“Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements – FY 2024 Awards”](#) under the “Civil Rights Requirements” section, and additional resources are available from the [OJP Office for Civil Rights](#).

Part of complying with civil rights laws that prohibit national origin discrimination includes recipients taking reasonable steps to ensure that people who are limited in their English proficiency (LEP) because of their national origin have meaningful access to a recipient’s program and activity. An LEP person is one whose first language is not English and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. To help recipients meet this obligation to serve LEP persons, DOJ has published a number of resources, including a language access assessment and planning tool, which are available at <https://www.lep.gov/language-access-planning>. Additional resources are available at <https://www.ojp.gov/program/civil-rights-office/limited-english-proficient-lep>. If the award recipient proposes a program or activity that would deliver services or benefits to LEP

individuals, the recipient may use grant funds to support the costs of taking reasonable steps (e.g., interpretation or translation services) to provide meaningful access. Similarly, recipients are responsible for ensuring that their programs and activities are readily accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities. Applicants for OJP funding must allocate grant funds or explain how other available resources will be used to ensure meaningful and full access to their programs. For example, grant funds can be used to support American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter services for deaf or hard of hearing individuals or the purchase of adaptive equipment for individuals with mobility or cognitive disabilities. For resources, see <http://www.ada.gov> or contact OJP.

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 the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Information Technology Security Clauses

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

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 must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual 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 [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measure data.

Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For OJP contact(s), contact information for Grants.gov, and contact information for JustGrants, see the solicitation Synopsis.

Other Information

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

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

Provide Feedback to OJP

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

Performance Measures

See the “Performance Measures” discussion in the Proposal Narrative section and consult the following link for a list of measures: <https://bj.a.ojp.gov/funding/performance-measures/cebr-comp-measures.pdf>.

Application Checklist

BJA FY24 Competitive DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application. For more information, reference [The OJP Application Submission Steps in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) and the [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#).

Pre-Application

Before Registering in Grants.gov

- Confirm your entity's registration in the [System Award Management \(SAM.gov\)](#) is active through the solicitation period; submit a new or renewal registration in SAM.gov if needed (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

Register in Grants.gov

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

Find the Funding Opportunity

- Search for the funding opportunity in Grants.gov using the opportunity number, assistance listing number, or keyword(s).
- Access the funding opportunity and application package (see Step 7 in the [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- Sign up for Grants.gov email [notifications](#) (optional) (see [Application Resource Guide](#))
- Read [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#) (about [browser compatibility and special characters in file names](#)).
- Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedo/iii-postaward-requirements#6g3y8> (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

Review the Overview of Post-Award Legal Requirements

- Review the "[Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements – FY 2024 Awards](#)" in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

Review the Scope Requirement

- The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of \$1,000,000.

Review Eligibility Requirement

- Review the "Eligibility" section in the Synopsis and the "Eligibility Information" section in the solicitation.

Application Step 1

After registering with SAM.gov, submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov.

- In Section 8F of the SF-424, include the name and contact information of the individual **who will complete the application in JustGrants and the SF-LLL in Grants.gov.**

Within 48 hours after the SF-424 and SF-LLL submission in Grants.gov, receive four (4) Grants.gov email notifications:

- A submission receipt.
- A validation receipt.
- A grantor agency retrieval receipt.
- An agency tracking number assignment.

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

- Contact BJA or Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, [Grants.gov customer support](#), or support@grants.gov regarding technical difficulties (see “[Application Resource Guide](#)” section on Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues).

Within 24 hours after receipt of confirmation emails from Grants.gov, the individual in Section 8F of the SF-424 will receive an email from JustGrants with login instructions.

- Proceed to Application Step 2 and complete application in JustGrants.

Application Step 2

Submit the following information in JustGrants:

Application Components

- Entity and User Verification (First Time Applicant)
- Standard Applicant information (SF-424 information from Grants.gov)
- **Proposal Abstract***
- **Proposal Narrative***
- Application Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline web-based form

Budget and Associated Documentation

- **Budget Detail Narrative and web-based form***
- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see [Application Resource Guide](#))
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see [Application Resource Guide](#))
- **Signed and completed [Competitive DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction \(CEBR\) Program Budget Breakdown Certification](#) form.***

Additional Application Components

- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable) (see [Application Resource Guide](#))
- **Submitted signed and completed FY 2024 [DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction \(CEBR\) Program Eligibility Certification](#) form***
- Program Income Declaration
- Potential Environmental Impact Coversheet and Checklist - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Proof of DNA Laboratory Accreditation
- Memorandum of Understanding (if applicable)
- Resumes of key personnel (if applicable)
- List of procurement contracts (if applicable)
- Organizational chart (if applicable)

Disclosures and Assurances

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

****Note: Items designated with an asterisk must be submitted for an application to meet the basic minimum requirements review. If OJP determines that an application does not include the designated items, it will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive further consideration.***

Review, Certify, and Submit Application in JustGrants

- Any validation errors will immediately display on screen after submission.
- Correct validation errors, if necessary, and then return to the “Certify and Submit” screen to submit the application. Access the [Application Submission Validation Errors Quick Reference Guide](#) for step-by-step instructions to resolve errors prior to submission.
- Once the application is submitted and validated, a confirmation message will appear at the top of the page. Users will also receive a notification in the “bell” alerts confirming submission.

If no JustGrants application submission confirmation email or validation is received, or if error notification is received—

- Contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833-872-5175 or JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov regarding technical difficulties. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Standard Solicitation Resources

[Application Resource Guide](#) provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding.

[DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) serves as the primary reference manual to assist award recipients in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility to safeguard grant funds and to ensure funds are used for the purposes for which they were awarded. It compiles a variety of laws, rules and regulations that affect the financial and administrative management of DOJ awards. This guide serves as a starting point for all award recipients and subrecipients of DOJ grants and cooperative agreements in ensuring the effective day-to-day management of awards.

[JustGrants Resources Website](#) is an entryway into information about JustGrants and the grants management system itself. Through this portal both award recipients and applicants can access training resource and user support options, find frequently asked questions, and sign up for the [JustGrants Update e-newsletter](#).

[JustGrants Application Submission Training page](#) offers helpful information and resources on the application process. This training page includes e-learning videos, reference guides, checklists, and other resources to help applicants complete an application.

[Weekly Training Webinars](#) are advertised here and provide opportunities for users to receive topic-specific training, direct technical assistance, and support on JustGrants system functionality.