

BJA FY25 Smart Reentry: Housing Demonstration Program

Anticipated Total Amount To Be Awarded Under This Funding Opportunity: \$7,000,000

Anticipated Award Ceiling: Up to \$1,000,000

Anticipated Period of Performance Duration: 36 months

Funding Opportunity Number: O-BJA-2025-172319

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: **March 04, 2025 11:59 PM Eastern Time**

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: **March 11, 2025 8:59 PM Eastern Time**



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

CONTENTS

	Basic Information	3
	Eligibility	7
	Program Description	8
	Application Contents, Submission Requirements, and Deadlines.....	14
	Application Review	27
	Award Notices.....	29
	Post-Award Requirements and Administration	30
	Other Information	33
	Application Checklist.....	34

BASIC INFORMATION



The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) is accepting applications for funding in response to this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO).

OJP is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights, 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. OJP's grant programs further DOJ's mission to uphold the rule of law, to keep our country safe, and to protect civil rights.

Agency Name	U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance
NOFO Title	BJA FY25 Smart Reentry: Housing Demonstration Program
Announcement Type	Initial
Funding Opportunity Number	O-BJA-2025-172319
Assistance Listing Number	16.812

Executive Summary

This funding opportunity seeks to support state, local, and tribal governments to improve reentry and reduce recidivism by expanding and/or increasing access to housing for people who are currently or formerly involved in the criminal justice system. Prior to release from incarceration, people will be screened, assessed, and identified for program participation. The program will help jurisdictions assess their reentry systems, identify strengths and gaps, and then build capacity for improved housing options for adults released from prison or jail. Please see the [Eligible Applicants](#) section for the eligibility criteria.

Key Dates

Funding Opportunity Release Date	January 10, 2025
Pre-Application Webinar	TBD
SAM.gov Registration/Renewal	Recommend beginning process by February 1, 2025 and no later than February 18, 2025
Step 1: Grants.gov Application Deadline	11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 04, 2025
Step 2: JustGrants Application Deadline	8:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 11, 2025
Award Notification Date	Generally, by September 30

Funding Details

Anticipated Total Amount To Be Awarded Under This Funding Opportunity:

\$7,000,000

Anticipated Number of Awards: 7**Anticipated Award Ceiling:** Up to \$1,000,000

Note: Applicants may propose a budget that is less than the anticipated award ceiling amount. The budget should be reasonable to conduct the proposed project and be within the applicant's capacity to manage.

Anticipated Period of Performance Start Date: October 1, 2025**Anticipated Period of Performance Duration:** 36 months

Availability of Funds

This funding opportunity, and awards under this funding opportunity, are subject to the availability of funding and any changes or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law. In addition, nothing in this NOFO 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 or its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees, agents, or any other person.

Statutory Authority

Pub. L. No. 90-351, Title I, Sec. 2976 (codified at 34 U.S.C. 10631); additional authority for any awards under this funding opportunity is expected to be provided by a full-year appropriations act for FY 2025. As of the writing of this NOFO, the Department of Justice is operating under a short-term "Continuing Resolution"; no full-year appropriation for the Department has been enacted for FY 2025.

Agency Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this funding opportunity:

OJP Response Center

Phone: 800-851-3420 or 301-240-6310 (TTY for hearing-impaired callers only)

Email: grants@ncjrs.gov

Hours of operation: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) Monday–Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET on the funding opportunity closing date.

For assistance with **SAM.gov** (registration/renewal):

SAM.gov Help Desk

Phone: 866-606-8220

Web: [SAM.gov Help Desk \(Federal Service Desk\)](#)

Hours of operation: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET Monday–Friday

For assistance with **Grants.gov** (registration, submission of the Application for Federal Assistance SF-424):

Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline

Phone: 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035

Email: support@grants.gov

Web: [Grants.gov Customer Support](#)

Hours of operation: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays

For assistance with **JustGrants** (registration, submission of full application):

JustGrants Service Desk

Phone: 833-872-5175

Email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov

Hours of operation: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET Monday–Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

For procedures related to unforeseen technical issues beyond the control of the applicant that impact submission by the deadlines, see [Experiencing Technical Issues Preventing Submission of an Application \(Technical Waivers\)](#).

Resources for Applying

Pre-Application Webinar: BJA will hold a webinar to provide a detailed overview of this opportunity and allow interested applicants to ask questions. Once available, a link to register will be included on the National Reentry Resource Center [website](#). The session will be recorded and available on the BJA website once ready.

[OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#): Referred to as the Application Resource Guide throughout the NOFO, this resource provides guidance to help applicants for OJP funding prepare and submit their applications.

[JustGrants Application Submission Training Webpage](#): Offers helpful information and resources on the grant application process.

Note: If this NOFO requires something different from any guidance provided in the [Application Resource Guide](#), the difference will be noted in this NOFO and the applicant should follow the guidance in this NOFO.



ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

The types of entities that are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity are listed below:

- **Government Entities**
 - State governments
 - County governments
 - City or township governments
 - Special district governments
- **Native American Tribal governments (federally recognized)**
- **Public Housing Organizations**
 - Public housing authorities
 - Indian housing authorities
- **Other**
 - Units of local government

State Government Entities: For the purposes of this NOFO, “state” means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Other Units of Local Government: For the purposes of this notice of funding opportunity, other units of local government include towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, or other general purpose political subdivisions of a state.

Additional Applicant Eligibility Factors

Applicants must demonstrate that at least one correctional or community supervision agency will support the project through commitments of staff time, space, services, or other project needs described in an attached memorandum of understanding (MOU) or letter of intent.

Limit on Number of Applications

An applicant may submit more than one application if each application proposes a different project in response to the NOFO. Also, an entity may be proposed as a subrecipient in more than one application.

Applications under which two or more entities (project partners) would carry out the federal award will be considered. However, only one entity may be the applicant for the NOFO; any others must be proposed as subrecipients. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on subawards.

Cost Sharing/Match Requirement

For this opportunity, match **is** required.

Please see [Program Description: Cost Sharing/Match Requirement](#) for details on the match calculation and what types of contributions are acceptable.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

General Purpose of the Funding

People leaving incarceration face barriers upon their return to communities, including challenges accessing housing, obtaining employment, and connecting with physical and behavioral health services. These barriers can lead to negative consequences for both individuals and their communities if unaddressed. Finding safe and affordable housing is well documented as both a challenge and part of the foundation to successful reintegration. Challenges include a lack of options, high costs, and policy restrictions that prevent those reentering from returning to certain places or reuniting with their families. The Smart Reentry: Housing Demonstration Program will help jurisdictions assess their reentry housing systems, identify strengths and gaps, and build capacity for improved housing options for adults released from prison or jail.

People who have been incarcerated are [10 times more likely than the general public to be homeless](#), and those who are homeless are 11 times more likely to interact with law enforcement (National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, 2019). According to [recent work](#) by BJA and the Council of State Governments Justice Center, 95 percent of state departments of corrections (DOCs) reported the lack of affordable housing as the most prevalent challenge for people returning to the community after incarceration. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphasizes the significance of this finding: having safe, affordable, and accessible housing is one of the five social determinants of health, which largely influences a person's overall wellbeing. Thus, secure, safe, and stable housing for those being released from incarceration is a critical prevention and intervention strategy in furtherance of public safety and public health.

In April 2024, BJA, with support from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) and the U.S. Interagency on Homelessness ([USICH](#)), shared its commitment to a vision of "[Zero Returns to Homelessness](#)" from incarceration. This vision supports federal efforts such as [All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#) and [A Collaborative Vision for Corrections, Housing Leaders, and Their Partners](#). These strategic plans identify the steps that communities can take to address homelessness that will also assist them in improving reentry success, public safety, and economic mobility for formerly incarcerated people. This Smart Reentry program provides resources to help jurisdictions take action and ensure that people returning from prison or jail are on a path toward having a safe, sustainable place to call home.

To help realize this vision, applicants should propose projects to develop, implement, and test affordable, safe, and secure housing options for individuals in reentry. This program encourages cross-sector collaboration with justice and housing system stakeholders. Applicants may propose evidence-based or innovative reentry housing models; stand up new or expand existing models of reentry housing by adding program elements or expanding eligibility; or propose other projects that remove barriers and increase access to housing options for people returning to communities from prison or jail. All approaches should facilitate access to wraparound services to address common needs of people in reentry (e.g. substance use disorders, education, employment, and other topics that intersect with reentry) as well as policies and practices that take those needs into account to promote successful reentry (e.g., public health models). In doing so, Smart Reentry efforts will ensure that adults in reentry have access to providers who

can meet their culturally specific needs and are accessible in their home communities. Applicants must partner with a third-party evaluator and use baseline data and target population characteristics to derive a target goal for recidivism reduction during the 3-year period.

Applicants should consider best practices and models that ensure housing stability for participants in reentry. One example of a best practice is the Housing First model. The Housing First model prioritizes stable housing placement without preconditions such as treatment engagement and completion, employment, case management, and other conditions (HUD, 2014). Other research-supported models include housing assistance for people and households experiencing homelessness, as defined by [HUD](#): Permanent Supportive Housing models (long term rental assistance with supportive services), Rapid Re-housing (short- and medium-term rental assistance and supportive services), and Transitional Housing (temporary housing up to 24 months with supportive services).

Applicants must propose demonstration projects to include services that begin prior to release from incarceration and continue through participants' return to the community. Services that begin prior to release from incarceration may include a reentry housing needs assessment to identify participants who can most benefit from this program.

In applying for these grants, applicants agree to cooperate in any and all related research and program evaluations by collecting and providing enrollment and participation data during all years of the program. Applicants also agree to provide detailed individual-level data, if requested, in the format specified by OJP during this time period.

The funding opportunity is part of BJA suite of Second Chance Act (SCA) programs. In FY 2025, a range of programs for states, local units of government, nonprofit organizations, and tribal governments is being competed, including:

- Second Chance Act Community-based Reentry Program
- Second Chance Act Community-based Reentry Incubator Initiative
- Community Supervision Strategies
- Improving Adult and Youth Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry
- Improving Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Outcomes for Adults in Reentry
- Second Chance Act Pay for Success Program
- Second Chance Act Improving Reentry Education and Employment Outcomes Program
- Second Chance Act Smart Supervision Program

BJA will provide TTA support at no cost to the grantees awarded under this funding opportunity to provide strategic support and intensive technical assistance during the life of this grant.

Applicants should refer to [Application Contents, Submission Requirements, and Deadlines: Budget Detail Form](#) for information on allowable and unallowable costs that may inform the development of their project design.

Program Goals and Objectives

Goal: Establish demonstration projects that increase secure, safe, and stable housing options for people who are returning or have returned to the community following a period of incarceration.

Objective 1: Increase the supply of housing.

Objective 2: Reduce barriers and increase access to housing for program participants.

Objective 3: Provide culturally specific and accessible services to meet participant needs in the communities where they reside.

Objective 4: Assess and amend system-level policies and practices to ensure alignment with the goal.

How Awards Will Contribute to Program Goals/Objectives

The award recipients will develop, implement, and test strategies to increase access to housing while providing relevant wraparound services (e.g., substance use disorder treatment, mental health treatment, intensive case management, money management, etc.) to individuals involved in or formerly involved in the criminal justice system. Access to housing will be part of a broader reentry model that is aligned and coordinated with relevant governmental and nongovernmental partners. These efforts will include:

- Identifying and/or hiring a staff member to lead the task force and liaise with relevant stakeholders, including the research partner.
- Identifying a target population and provide individualized case plans and services.
- Training relevant staff and partner organizations on evidence-based interventions and promising reentry housing models (e.g. kinship housing, rapid rehousing, recovery housing, supportive housing, transitional housing).
- Developing creative funding models and align resources that increase the number of units for formerly incarcerated persons, including seeking waivers from federal agencies.
- Adopting new practices that address the collateral consequences and upend the cycle of homelessness for justice-involved individuals.

Expected Outcomes: Deliverables and Performance Measures

To achieve the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity, OJP has identified expected deliverables that must be produced by a recipient. OJP has also identified performance measures (pieces of data) that will indicate how a recipient is achieving the performance goals and objectives previously identified. Recipients will need to collect and report this performance measure data to OJP.

Deliverables

Deliverables are what the applicant will create or produce under the award. The term “deliverables” as used here refers to discrete products under an award. An award may support activities (e.g., personnel time for award activities) that are part of recipient performance but are

not considered deliverables. Award recipients will be expected to develop and submit the deliverables listed below in the course of implementing their proposed project.

Grantees will complete four activities/deliverables:

- **1 (Activity): Convene or Engage a Task Force**—Engage a reentry task force or similar body to examine policies and practices related to housing gaps and needs for the reentry population, and barriers to successful housing placements for formerly incarcerated people.
- **2 (Deliverable): Action Plan**—Complete a Planning and Implementation Guide provided by BJA and with the support of the TTA provider that addresses gaps and deficits identified in the task force review and defines a reentry program focused on reducing recidivism and increasing housing placements among a target population.
- **3 (Activity): Implementation**—Implement the proposed project and document outputs, including number of individuals served, in real time. Share progress with BJA-funded TTA provider at routine meetings.
- **4 (Deliverable): Final Report Due Prior to Grant Closeout**—Produce an evaluation that tracks recidivism, housing outcomes, and other outcomes to assess the effectiveness of their project. Recidivism measures must include arrest, conviction, and incarceration.

SCA Mandatory Requirements

Section 101 of the SCA, as amended by the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018, outlines mandatory requirements that must be satisfied by applicants to be eligible for Smart Reentry grants. BJA expects applicants may be in the preliminary stages of these activities at the time of application and will complete them during the grant period with TTA and via the objectives and deliverables enumerated above. The mandatory requirements are to establish, maintain, and document:

- A reentry strategic plan that describes the jurisdiction's long-term reentry housing strategy to increase public safety, reduce recidivism, and improve housing outcomes, including measurable annual and 3-year performance outcomes. A specific objective of the plan should be to improve social determinants of health and reduce recidivism over a 3-year period for individuals impacted by Smart Reentry. (Deliverable 2: action plan)
- A detailed reentry implementation schedule and sustainability plan for the program. (Deliverable 2: action plan)
 - a. Detail activities, which staff is responsible for what task, and desired benefit to the target population.
- A reentry task force, including relevant state, tribal, territorial, or local leaders and representatives of relevant agencies, service providers, nonprofit organizations, and other key stakeholders. The task force should:
 - Examine ways to pool resources and collect data and best practices in reentry from stakeholder agencies and organizations

- Identify and address barriers to successful reentry, including barriers that are policy or procedural in nature
 - As appropriate, engage nonprofit organizations, crime victims and people who committed crimes, families of people who committed crimes, reentry coordinating council, or other interested parties (Deliverable 1: task force documentation)
- An independent evaluation of grant activities that includes, to the extent possible, random assignment and controlled studies to determine the effectiveness of such programs. (Deliverable 4: evaluation)
- Evidence of collaboration with state and local government agencies, such as those overseeing health, mental health, housing, homeless services, child welfare, education, substance use, victims' services, state child support, and employment services, as well as with local law enforcement agencies. (Deliverables 1 and 2: task force documentation and action plan)
- Consideration of the role of state corrections departments, parole and probation agencies, and local jail corrections systems in ensuring successful reentry in their communities. Applications must include letters of support from corrections officials responsible for facilities or people who committed crimes and who will be served through this program. (Deliverables 1 and 2: task force documentation and action plan)
- Explicit support of the chief executive officer of the applicant unit of government or Native American tribe and how this office will remain informed and connected to the activities of the program. (Deliverable 2: action plan)
- An understanding of evidence-based methods and outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the program. (Deliverables 2 and 4: action plan and evaluation)
- A description of how the program or strategy could be scaled up or broadly replicated if demonstrated to be effective. (Deliverable 4: evaluation)
- A plan to analyze the statutory, regulatory, rules-based, and practice-based hurdles to reentry. (Deliverables 1 and 2: task force and action plan)

Program objectives and deliverables should be included in one timeline.

Performance Measures

Performance measures are data that show a recipient's progress in implementing their project, such as the number of people served or number of trainings conducted. OJP will require each award recipient to submit regular performance reports that communicate progress toward achieving the goals and objectives identified in [Program Goals and Objectives](#). Applicants can visit [OJP's performance measurement page](#) at ojp.gov/performance for more information on performance measurement activities.

A list of performance measure questions for this funding opportunity can be found at [BJA's Funding and Awards Performance Measures page](#).

Funding Instrument

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 awards.

Cost Sharing/Match Requirements

This funding opportunity requires cost sharing or match from the award recipient. “Match” means the portion of project costs not paid by federal funds or contributions (e.g., staff time not charged to the federal share of the budget, supplies provided by the recipient). Items provided as part of the match must support the fulfillment of proposed activities, be allowable costs under this funding opportunity, and have documentation of their value. The match may not be used for, and may not consist of, costs that are unallowable for this funding opportunity. See [Application Contents, Submission Requirements, and Deadlines: Budget Detail Form](#) for more details on this funding opportunity’s unallowable costs.

Recipients must satisfy this match requirement with cash and/or in-kind contributions. “In-kind” contributions may be in the form of services, supplies, real property (e.g., office space), and/or equipment.

Explanation of the Calculation

This NOFO requires a 50 percent match based on the total project costs. Federal funds awarded under this NOFO may not cover more than 50 percent of the total costs of the project being funded. The applicant must cover at least 50 percent of the total project costs.

If an award recipient’s proposed match is more than the required match amount and OJP approves the proposed budget, then that total match amount becomes part of the project budget, which is subject to audit.

How To Calculate Match

Formula					
Step 1	Award Amount	÷	% of Federal Share	=	Total (Adjusted) Project Cost
Step 2	Total (Adjusted) Project Cost	x	% of Recipient Share	=	Required Match
Example					
Match Requirement: 80/20 (Federal Share/Recipient Share)					
Federal Award Amount: \$100,000					
Step 1	\$100,000	÷	80% Federal Share	=	\$125,000
Step 2	\$125,000	x	20% Recipient Share	=	\$25,000

See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on this match requirement and step-by-step instructions for entering match amounts in the budget.



APPLICATION CONTENTS, SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS, AND DEADLINES

This NOFO contains all the information needed to apply for this funding opportunity. The application for this funding opportunity is submitted through web-based forms and attachments in Grants.gov and JustGrants through the steps that follow.

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and SAM.gov Registration

To submit an application, an applicant must have an active registration in the [System for Award Management \(SAM.gov\)](#). SAM.gov assigns entities a unique entity identifier (UEI) that is required for the entity to apply for federal funding. Applicants will enter their UEI with their application. Award recipients must then maintain an active UEI for the duration of their award's period of performance.

First-time Registration: Entities registering in SAM.gov for the first time will submit information about their entity type and structure, financial information (such as dates of the fiscal year, banking information, and executive compensation), entity points of contact, and other information. The information is reviewed and verified by SAM.gov, and then a UEI is issued. This process may take several weeks, so entities considering applying for funding should begin the registration process as soon as possible.

Renewing an Existing Registration: Entities must renew their SAM.gov registration every 12 months to keep it active. If an entity does not renew their SAM.gov registration, it will expire. An expired registration can delay or prevent the submission of an application for funding in Grants.gov and JustGrants.

Applicants are encouraged to start the SAM.gov registration or renewal process **at least 30 days prior to the application's Grants.gov deadline**. Applicants who fail to begin the registration or renewal process at least 10 business days prior to the Grants.gov deadline may not be able to complete the process in time and will not be considered for a technical waiver that allows for late submission.

Submission Instructions: Summary

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

- **Step 1:** The applicant must submit the required [Application for Federal Assistance SF-424](#) by the Grants.gov deadline.
- **Step 2:** The applicant must submit the full application, including attachments, through JustGrants by the deadline (see [JusticeGrants.usdoj.gov](#)).

Submission Step 1: Grants.gov Submission of SF-424

Access/Registration

If the applicant does not already have a Grants.gov account, they will need to register for this opportunity in Grants.gov. Applicants should follow the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#) to register, create a workspace, assign roles, submit an application, and troubleshoot issues.

Submission of the SF-424

Applicants will begin the application process in Grants.gov with the submission of the SF-424, which collects the applicant's name, address, and UEI; the funding opportunity number; and proposed project title, among other information. The SF-424 must be signed by the Grants.gov Authorized Organizational Representative for the applicant.

See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on completing the SF-424.

Section 8F – Applicant Point of Contact: Please include the name and contact information of the individual **who will complete the application in JustGrants**. JustGrants will use this information (*i.e.*, email address) to assign the application to this user in JustGrants.

Section 19 – Intergovernmental Review: This funding opportunity is not subject to [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 12372](#) (Intergovernmental Review). Applicants should answer section 19 by selecting, "Program is not covered by E.O. 12372."

An applicant should submit the SF-424 as early as possible and recommended not later than 48 hours before the Grants.gov deadline. If an applicant fails to submit the SF-424 in Grants.gov by the deadline, they will be unable to submit their application in JustGrants.

Once the first part of the application has been successfully submitted in Grants.gov, the Grants.gov Workspace status will change from "In Progress" to "Submitted." Applicants will also receive a series of four Grants.gov email notifications. Refer to the [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#) for additional details.

If an applicant needs to update information in the SF-424 after it is submitted in Grants.gov, they can update the information as part of their JustGrants submission (see [Application Contents, Submission Requirements, and Deadlines: Standard Applicant Information](#)). They do not need to submit an update in Grants.gov.

Submission Step 2: JustGrants Submission of Full Application Access/Registration

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 email address 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 confirmation from Grants.gov of the SF-424 submission.

Creating and setting up a JustGrants account consists of three steps:

1. Follow the instructions in the email to first confirm who will be the Entity Administrator (the person who manages which staff can access JustGrants on behalf of the applicant).
2. Log in to JustGrants and confirm the information in the Entity Profile.
3. Invite other individuals who will serve as the Application Submitter and the Authorized Representative for the applicant to register for JustGrants.

These steps should be completed in JustGrants as early as possible and recommended not later than 48 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. Applicants can find additional information on JustGrants registration in the [DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist](#).

Preparing for Submission

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, enter, and upload all the requirements of the application.

Applicants may save their application 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. After the application deadline, no changes or additions can be made to the application. **OJP recommends that applicants submit the complete application package in JustGrants at least 48 hours prior to the JustGrants deadline.**

For additional information, including file name and type requirements, see the “How To Apply” section 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 can make whatever edits are needed. Within this section, the applicant will need to add ZIP codes for areas affected by the project; confirm their Authorized Representative; and confirm the organization’s unique entity identifier, legal name, and address.

Proposal Abstract

A proposal abstract (no more than 2,000 characters) summarizing the proposed project must be completed in the JustGrants web-based form. The text from abstracts will be made publicly available on the OJP.gov and USASpending.gov websites if the project is awarded, so this section of the application should not contain any personally identifiable information (e.g., the name of the project director).

The abstract should be in paragraph form without bullets or tables and written in the third person (e.g., they, the community, their, themselves, rather than I or we). The abstract should include the following information:

- The name of the applicant’s proposed project.
- The purpose of the proposed project (*i.e.*, what the project will do and why it is necessary).
- Where the project will take place (*i.e.*, the service area, if applicable).
- Who will be served by the project (*i.e.*, who will be helped or have their needs addressed by the project).
- What activities will be carried out to complete the project.
- The subrecipient(s)/partner organizations or entities, if known.
- Deliverables and expected outcomes (*i.e.*, what the project will achieve).

See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for an [example](#) of a proposal abstract.

Data Requested With Application

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 what financial management and internal control systems the applicant has in place, whether these systems would be sufficient to maintain a funding award, 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 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.

Proposal Narrative

Format of the Proposal Narrative: The Proposal Narrative will 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; have numbered pages; and should not exceed 20 pages. If the Proposal Narrative does not comply with these restrictions, OJP may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

Sections of the Proposal Narrative: The Proposal Narrative must include all of the following sections.

a. Description of the Need: What critical issue or problem is the applicant proposing to address with this project? Please include:

- A brief explanation of the need, gap, or issue to be addressed by the proposed project.
- Supporting information, data, or evidence to demonstrate the need's existence, size, and impact on the target population and community.
- How the need relates to the purpose of the NOFO (scope of the challenges associated with reentry housing and how they relate to recidivism).
- The target population for the intervention:
 - Specific subset of people, or combination of subsets that are proposed to be the target population for the program. For example, people returning from incarceration who are: a specific demographic or set of demographics (e.g., age, gender, etc.), returning to a jurisdiction (e.g., specific community, neighborhood, or ZIP code), where a disproportionate population of people who committed crimes will be released from prison or jails, or housed in the same facility.
 - The number of individuals to be served through the program. Applicants are encouraged to provide services for a minimum of 100 people throughout the funding period. This number may increase or decrease depending on the nature of the project (e.g., the number may decrease if the project is funding housing assistance). Applicants should aim higher or lower depending on the nature of the demonstration project, recognizing the difference in cost to fund housing versus funding positions to support partnership with a housing entity.
 - If proposing to enhance or expand an existing program, state how many people the program has served (who meet the stated target population characteristics) over the past 6 months.

- If proposing to implement a new program, state how many people met the target population characteristics within the past 6 months.
- Efforts to address these needs to date that involve:
 - Individualized transition/reentry plans;
 - Risk and need assessments to develop individualized transition/reentry plans; and/or
 - Pre-release reentry housing assessments to develop individualized reentry housing plans.
- A baseline recidivism rate for the target population, or a comparable one, and a recidivism reduction goal. Include a description of the recidivism metric targeted (such as arrest, conviction, revocation, and/or reincarceration) and an explanation of the data, including population (e.g., demographics, risk level, and offense type), the follow-up period (post-release), and the dates when the recidivism rate was calculated.

b. Project Goals and Objectives: How will the proposed project address the need identified and address the purpose of the NOFO? Please include:

- Project goals (goals are broad, visionary statements on what the applicant hopes to accomplish).
- Project objectives (objectives are specific outcomes the applicant plans to achieve through project activities). Applicants are invited to propose grant projects that will improve access to safe, stable, and secure housing for people returning to their communities from prison or jail. Applicants may propose to work toward one or more of the following on their own or in partnership with relevant entities:
 - Providing safe and affordable housing. For example, a project may propose a partnership with a housing authority to issue housing vouchers for people who are exiting incarceration and need housing.
 - Offering an adequate supply of stable short-term and/or permanent housing services. For example, a department of corrections may partner with a group of nonprofit organizations that hold master leases to properties, offering temporary housing for people leaving incarceration.
 - Reducing policy barriers and promoting access to housing. For example, a state agency may establish a task force of state government agencies, local governments, and housing authorities to identify policy barriers, develop a set of recommendations to remove the barriers, and implement the recommendations.
 - Delivering wraparound services to meet the common needs of, and provide continuity of care to, people returning from incarceration (e.g., substance use disorders, education, employment, and other topics that intersect with reentry). For example, a department of corrections may partner with a housing provider to provide grant funds for supportive services in conjunction with housing placements offered by the provider.
- How the applicant's goals and objectives relate to the goals and objectives of the NOFO.

c. Project Design and Implementation: How will the applicant implement project activities that meet the goals and objectives? Please include:

- What activities the applicant will conduct to achieve the proposed goals and objectives, considering strategies from [Zero Returns to Homelessness](#).

- How the applicant will deliver or complete those activities. Include how the target population will be identified. Use data to support the program design.
- When the activities will take place.
- Who in the applicant's organization will staff the activities, including key staff. Describe the partnerships and/or plan to partner with one or more nonprofit, public, private or government agencies (e.g., HUD, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) at the Department of Health and Human Services, etc.), and provide memoranda of understanding (MOUs)/memoranda of agreement (MOAs).
- Who will participate in and benefit from the activity. How many participants will be served through this program. Provide a description of both the pre- and post-release services to be provided for program participants.
- What deliverables, reports, and other items will be produced as part of the project.
- Applicants must partner with a third-party evaluator, use baseline data, and target population characteristics to derive a target goal for recidivism reduction during the 3-year period.
- If the applicant plans to use subrecipients to help conduct the project, please name them (if they are known) or describe how the applicant will identify them (See Appendix C). Please describe their role in conducting project activities. Describe the partnership with a researcher to evaluate the proposed reentry housing demonstration project, including plans to track recidivism, housing outcomes, and other outcomes to assess the effectiveness of this project.
- A description of program services or planned partnerships that will support the targeted population in improving their social determinants of health, considering the determinants set forth in the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion's [Social Determinants of Health](#).

d. Capabilities and Competencies: What administrative and technical capacity and expertise does the applicant bring to successfully complete this project? Please include:

- A short description of the applicant's capacity to deliver the proposed project and meet the requirements of the award, including collecting and reporting the required performance measure data. Who will be responsible for this task, and how will the applicant collect the data? Refer to [Program Description: Performance Measures](#) for additional details on performance measures for this funding opportunity.
- A description of projects or activities the applicant organization has conducted, or is currently conducting, that demonstrate the applicant's ability to undertake the proposed project activities. Indicate the total number of individuals incarcerated at the prison/jail and provide details explaining how this federally supported effort will align with the existing reentry pipeline.
- A summary of relevant experience of team members with key responsibilities for implementing the project. Describe the applicant's plan to partner with a wide range of stakeholders (e.g., local housing authorities, private, public, non-private funders), including a reentry task force to leverage all funding and resources to meet the project goals and objectives of helping people to secure stable and affordable housing upon and after returning from prison or jail. For example, applicants should contemplate ways to

engage or access resources from HUD and CMS to provide housing and supportive services, respectively.

Project Evaluations: An applicant that proposes to use award funds to conduct project evaluations must follow the guidance in the “[Note on Project Evaluations](#)” section in the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Budget and Associated Documentation: Budget Detail Form

The applicant will complete the JustGrants budget detail form. The form collects the individual costs under each cost category needed to implement the proposed project. Applicants should ensure that the name/description of each cost is clear and provide the detailed calculation (e.g., cost per unit and number of units) for the total cost. Applicants should enter additional narrative, as needed, to fully describe the cost calculations and connection to the project goals and objectives.

Budget proposals should include the funding needed to implement the proposed activities. In preparing their budget proposals, applicants should consider what types of costs are allowable, if awarded funding. Costs are allowable when they are reasonable, allocable to, and necessary for the performance of the project funded under the federal award and when they comply with the funding statute and agency requirements, including the conditions of the award and the cost principles set out in [2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E](#) and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#).

The applicant should identify within their budget which items, services, etc., will/would be covered by matching sources and explain what type of match will be provided. To be considered for a match waiver, a letter of request signed by the Authorized Representative must be submitted with the application describing the fiscal hardship. Fiscal hardship may be defined in terms related to reductions in overall correctional budgets, furloughing or reductions in force of correctional staff, or other similar documented actions that have resulted in severe budget reductions. A match waiver request must be submitted as a separate attachment to the application, submitted through JustGrants, and titled the “Match Waiver.”

Applicants should structure their budgets to allocate \$100,000 to complete the planning phase within 12 months of receiving final OJP approval of the project’s budget. The applicant will need to clearly identify which budget line items are planning costs. While applicants will be required to submit a budget for the entire 36-month project at the time of application submission, applicants may have the opportunity to revise their budget based on any outcomes from the planning phase. Program budget approval and coordination with BJA and a technical assistance coordinator are required to complete the planning phase before beginning the implementation phase.

In addition to unallowable costs identified in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), award funds may not be used for the following:

- Prizes, rewards, entertainment, trinkets, or any other monetary incentives
- Client stipends
- Gift cards
- Vehicle purchases
- Food and beverages

Costs Associated With a Conference/Meeting/Training: An applicant that proposes to use award funds for activities related to a conference, meeting, training, or similar event should review the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on prior approval, planning, and reporting costs for a conference/meeting/training.

Costs Associated With Language Assistance and Access: 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 in specific grant programs. Costs to provide reasonable accommodation and facilitate language access for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may also be allowable in specific grant programs. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on costs associated with language assistance.

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.

Budget and Associated Documentation: Budget/Financial Attachments

Applicants should budget funding for three members of the project team to travel to peer-learning events (such as a regional meeting). Estimate the costs of travel and accommodations for three staff members to attend one meeting per year in Washington, D.C. All expenses must be reasonable, allowable, and necessary to the project. The estimates must provide a breakdown of all costs and adhere to the federal per diem.

Once awarded, each grant will have in place a special condition withholding all but \$100,000, which is designated for preparing an action plan within 180 days of receiving final approval of the project’s budget from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. The recipient will not be authorized to obligate, expend, or draw down funds in excess of \$100,000 until BJA has reviewed and approved the action plan and a grant award modification has been issued and approved to remove the special condition.

Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable): An applicant with a current, federally approved indirect cost rate agreement should upload it as an attachment in JustGrants.

Indirect costs are costs of an organization that are not readily assignable to a particular project but are necessary for the operation of the organization and the performance of the project. Examples of costs usually treated as indirect include those incurred for operation and maintenance of offices or workspaces and salaries of administrative or support staff. 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. See the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) and the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on indirect cost rate agreements.

Consultant Rate (if applicable): OJP has established maximum rates for consultants; see the “Listing of Costs Requiring Prior Approval” section of the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) for more information. If an applicant proposes a rate for a consultant on their project that is higher than the established maximum rate and receives an award, then the award recipient must submit a document requesting approval for the rate and cannot incur costs at the higher rate without prior

OJP approval. The award recipient must provide justification for why the proposed rate is higher than the established maximum rate, such as why the rate is reasonable and consistent with that paid for similar services in the marketplace.

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, the 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. Applicants may request a waiver from this requirement by submitting the appropriate form. 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.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (if applicable)

For each named partner, applicants should include a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or a letter of intent that confirms the partner's agreement to support the project through commitments of staff time, space, services, or other project needs. MOUs or letters of intent demonstrate the commitment of partner organizations to participate in the project. An MOU is a formalized commitment of staff and/or resources that is signed by authorized representatives of both partner organizations. A letter of intent indicates the organizations' intention to partner, but the details of the commitment have not been fully worked out and officially agreed to.

Each MOU should include the following:

- Names of the organizations involved in the agreement.
- What service(s) and other work will be performed under the agreement by what organization.
- Duration of the agreement.

MOUs should be submitted as one separate attachment to the application.

Unsigned draft MOUs may be submitted with the application, but the applicant should describe in a cover page to the attachment why it is unsigned.

Additional Application Components

Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable): An application in response to this NOFO may require inclusion of Tribal authorizing documentation as an attachment. If applicable, the applicant will upload the Tribal authorizing documentation as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on Tribal authorizing resolutions.

Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement (if applicable): 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 upload documentation of its research and evaluation independence and integrity as an attachment in JustGrants. For additional information, see the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Letters of Support (if applicable):

A letter of support is from an entity or individual that knows the applicant's work. The letter tends to speak to the applicant's capacity to implement their proposed project for the benefit of the community. It differs from an MOU in that the entity is not committing staff, services, or supplies to help the applicant implement the project. Applicants should include, for each named supporting entity, a signed letter of support that outlines the supporting entity's reasons for supporting the project.

Each letter of support may include descriptions of the following:

- Relationship between the applicant entity and the supporting entity.
- Need for and benefits that would be gained from the project.
- Applicant's capacity to complete the proposed project.

Letters of support should be signed and submitted as one separate attachment to the application in JustGrants.

Timeline: Provide a timeline listing key activities and milestones, and the quarters during which they will take place.

Subrecipient and Contract Disclosure: The applicant must include an attachment disclosing any proposed subrecipients and contracts. (See Appendix C.)

Disclosures and Assurances

The applicant will address the following disclosures and assurances.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities: JustGrants will prompt each applicant to indicate if it is required to complete and submit a lobbying disclosure under 31 U.S.C. § 1352.

The applicant is required by law to complete and submit a lobbying disclosure form (Standard Form/SF-LLL) if it has paid or will pay any person to lobby in connection with the award for which it is applying AND this application is for an award in excess of \$100,000. This disclosure requirement is not applicable to such payments by an Indian Tribe, Tribal organization, or any other Indian organization that are permitted by other federal law.

Lobbying means (for this requirement) influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress. See 31 U.S.C. 1352; 28 C.F.R. part 69. Note: Most applicants do not engage in activities that trigger this disclosure requirement.

An applicant that is not required by law (31 U.S.C. 1352) to complete and submit a lobbying disclosure, should enter "No." By doing so, the applicant is affirmatively asserting (under applicable penalties) that it has nothing to disclose under 31 U.S.C. § 1352 with regard to the application for the award at issue.

Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items: To ensure funding coordination across grantmaking agencies, and to avoid unnecessary or inappropriate duplication of grant funding, the applicant

must disclose if it has any pending applications for federal funding, including pending applications for subawards of federal funds, for the same project and the same budget items included in this proposal. Complete the JustGrants 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: Review the DOJ document [Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Coordination with Affected Agencies](#). An applicant must review and sign the certification document in JustGrants. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for more information.

Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High-Risk Grantees (if applicable): If applicable, submit the DOJ High-Risk Disclosure and Justification as an attachment in JustGrants. A DOJ high-risk recipient 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 that is otherwise not responsible. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Submission Dates & Times

Refer to [Basic Information: Key Dates](#) for the submission dates and times.

Applicants should submit their applications as early as possible and recommended not later than 48 hours before the deadlines. To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline. Applicants will use the Certify and Submit feature in JustGrants to confirm that all required application components have been entered, which includes identifying the Authorized Representative for the applicant. Once the application is submitted, the Application Submitter, Authorized Representative, and Entity Administrator receive a confirmation email.

An applicant will receive emails after successfully submitting application components in Grants.gov and JustGrants and should retain all emails and other confirmations received from the SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants systems.

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

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. OJP will only consider requests to submit an application via alternative methods or after the deadline when the applicant can document that there is a technical issue with a government system that was beyond their control and that prevents submission of the application via the standard process prior to the deadlines. Issues resulting from circumstances within the applicant's control, such as failure to begin the SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants registration and application process in sufficient time, will not be considered.

Requests and documentation must be sent to the OJP Response Center at grants@ncjrs.gov. Applicants should follow these steps if they experience a technical issue:

- 1. Contact the relevant help desk to report the issue and receive a tracking number.**

See [Basic Information: Contact Information](#) for the phone numbers, email addresses, and operating hours of the SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants help desks. Reports of technical issues to the help desk must occur **before** the application deadline.

If an applicant calls the help desk and experiences a long wait time, they can also email the help desk to obtain a tracking number. Tracking numbers are generated automatically when an applicant emails the applicable service desk, and for this reason, long call wait times for support do not relieve the applicant of the responsibility of getting a tracking number.

2. 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. The applicant's request will need to include:

- A description of the technical difficulties experienced (provide screenshots if applicable).
- 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).
- An attachment of the complete grant application and all the required documentation and materials (this serves as a "manual" submission of the application).
- The applicant's unique entity identifier (UEI).
- Any SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants Service Desk tracking/ticket numbers documenting the technical issue.

3. 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. See step 2 for the list of information the applicant must provide as part of its request.

As a reminder: 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. 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 previously listed), 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 Technical Issues" section in the [Application Resource Guide](#).



APPLICATION REVIEW

Responsiveness (Basic Minimum Requirements) Review

OJP screens applications to ensure they meet the basic minimum requirements (BMR) prior to conducting the merit review. Following are the basic minimum requirements for this funding opportunity. If OJP determines that an application does not include these elements, it will not proceed to merit review and will not receive any further consideration.

- The application is submitted by an eligible applicant.
- The application is responsive to the scope of the NOFO.
- The following application elements are included:
 - SF-424 (Grants.gov)
 - Proposal Narrative (JustGrants)
 - Proposal Abstract (JustGrants)
 - Budget detail form, which includes the budget items, their calculations, and explanation (JustGrants)
 - Applicant Documentation of Proposed Subrecipients and Procurement Contracts (See Appendix C)

Applicants whose application fails to meet the BMR are provided notice (including an appropriate point of contact for questions) within a few weeks after the submission due date.

Merit Review Criteria

Peer Review Criteria

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

- **Description of the Issue (20%):** What critical issue or problem the applicant is proposing to address with this project.
- **Project Goals and Objectives (25%):** How the proposed project will address the identified need and the purpose of the funding opportunity.
- **Project Design and Implementation (30%):** The strength of how the applicant will implement activities, including the soundness of the project design and how the activities align to the stated goals and objectives.
- **Capabilities and Competencies (10%):** The applicant's administrative and technical capacity to successfully complete this project.
- **Budget (5%):** Completeness and cost effectiveness.
- **Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, Sustainability (10%):** The strength of the strategy/methodology for tracking unique participants, monitoring performance, and sustaining the program.

Programmatic and Financial Review Criteria

After the peer review, applications undergo additional programmatic and financial reviews. OJP staff may reach out to applicants during the programmatic or financial review if a submitted form is incomplete or needs to be updated. Note that OJP staff are not authorized to provide

information on peer review scores or comment on programmatic, risk, or budget/financial reviews while the merit review is in progress.

In addition to BMR and peer review criteria, other important considerations for OJP include geographic diversity (including, but not limited to, remote and geographically isolated communities, such as Alaska Native villages), strategic priorities (including, but not limited to, the priority areas already mentioned, if applicable), available funding, past performance, and the extent to which the budget detail form accurately explains project costs that are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise allowable under federal law and applicable federal cost principles. If cost sharing/match is not required for this opportunity, applicants will not receive higher consideration by proposing a voluntary match contribution in their budget.

Risk Review

Pursuant to the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, before award decisions are made, OJP also reviews information related to applicant risk. OJP assesses whether an applicant with one or more prior federal awards has a satisfactory record of performance, integrity, and business ethics, including by (among other things) checking whether the applicant is listed in SAM.gov as excluded from receiving a federal award.

Depending on the severity and nature of the risk factors, the risk assessment may result in the removal of an applicant from consideration or selection for award, or it may result in additional post-award conditions and oversight for an awarded applicant.

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.

Selection Process

All final award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General unless a statute explicitly authorizes award decisions by another official or there is written delegation of authority to another official. This official may consider not only peer review ratings and program office recommendations, but also other factors as indicated in the “Application Review” section to make final award decisions. For additional information on the application review process, see the [Application Resource Guide](#).



AWARD NOTICES

Federal Award Notices

Award notifications are usually sent by September 30 (the end of the current federal fiscal year). For successful applicants, JustGrants will send a system-generated email to the Application Submitter, Authorized Representative, and Entity Administrator with information on accessing their official award package in JustGrants. The award package will include key information (such as funding amount and period of performance) as well as award conditions that must be followed. The Authorized Representative for the entity should accept or decline the award within 45 days of the notification. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on award notifications and instructions.

Applicants not selected for award will receive notification after all award recipients have been notified. OJP also provides unsuccessful applicants with a summary of peer reviewer comments.

Future Funding Opportunities

OJP may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this funding opportunity through continuation awards. When making continuation award decisions, 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.

Applications submitted under this FY 2025 funding opportunity may be funded in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and the availability of appropriations.



POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Reporting

All award recipients under this funding opportunity will be required to submit the following reports and data:

- Quarterly financial reports.
- Action Plan.
- Final evaluation report.
- Semi-annual performance reports.
- Final financial and performance reports.
- If applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with the Part 200 Uniform Requirements or specific award conditions.

See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measure data and the method for submitting reports in OJP's online systems. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent, and in appropriate cases, OJP may require additional reports.

Performance Measure Reporting

Award recipients are required to submit performance measure data and performance reports in JustGrants on a semi-annual basis. Applicants selected for an award will receive further guidance on post-award reporting processes.

Program- and Award-Specific Award Conditions

OJP includes various conditions on its awards. These may include program-specific conditions, which typically apply to all recipients of a funding opportunity, and award-specific conditions, which are included to address recipient-specific issues (*e.g.*, programmatic, or financial risk). Recipients may view all conditions, and actions required to satisfy those conditions, in the award package in JustGrants.

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 the award recipient from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability in how it delivers its program's services or benefits and in its employment practices. The civil rights laws that may be applicable to the award include, but are not limited to, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the nondiscrimination provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of

1968, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These and other federal civil rights laws are discussed in greater detail on OJP's [Legal Overview—FY 2025 Awards](#) webpage under the “Civil Rights Requirements” section. Additional resources are available from the [OJP Office for Civil Rights](#).

Complying with civil rights laws that prohibit national origin discrimination includes the requirement that recipients and subrecipients take reasonable steps to ensure that people with limited English proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access to a recipient's programs and activities. An individual with LEP is one whose first language is not English and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. DOJ offers resources to help recipients meet this requirement, including [Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons](#); a [language access assessment and planning tool](#) with [commonly asked questions](#); and additional resources on [the Office of Justice Programs' Office for Civil Rights website](#).

Faith-based organizations may apply for this award on the same basis as any other organization subject to the protections and requirements of 28 C.F.R. Part 38 and any applicable constitutional and statutory requirements, including 42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq. The Department of Justice will not, in the selection of recipients, discriminate for or against an organization on the basis of the organization's religious character, motives, or affiliation, or lack thereof, or on the basis of conduct that would not be considered grounds to favor or disfavor a similarly situated secular organization. A faith-based organization that participates in this funded program will retain its independence from the Government and may continue to carry out its mission consistent with religious freedom and conscience protections in Federal law. An organization may not use direct Federal financial assistance from the Department of Justice to support or engage in any explicitly religious activities except when consistent with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and any other applicable requirements. An organization receiving Federal financial assistance also may not, in providing services funded by the Department of Justice, or in their outreach activities related to such services, discriminate against a program beneficiary or prospective program beneficiary on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice.

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 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 NOFO may require inclusion of information related to information technology security. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for more information.

Other Reporting Requirements

Applicants and recipients are required to notify OJP if you know that you or any of your organization's principals for the award transaction are presently excluded or disqualified (*i.e.*, debarred or suspended) or otherwise meet any of the criteria in 2 C.F.R. 180.335. Recipients must comply with requirements in 2 C.F.R. Part 180, as implemented by DOJ in 2 C.F.R. Part

2867, which, among other things, require recipients to check certain information sources and, in some cases, notify the federal awarding agency prior to the agency awarding federal funds via contracts or subawards.

If a recipient's award includes a federal share of more than \$500,000 over the period of performance of the award, then the award (per 2 C.F.R. 200.113) will include a condition that may require the recipient to report and maintain certain information (relating to certain criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings) in SAM.gov. See

<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/explore/legaloverview2025/otherrequirements> for more information.



OTHER INFORMATION

Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities

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

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

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

Applicants are advised not to include any unnecessary personally identifiable information, sensitive law enforcement information, or confidential financial information with the application.

Provide Feedback to OJP

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



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

BJA FY25 Smart Reentry: Housing Demonstration 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](#).

SAM.gov Registration/Renewal

- Confirm that your entity’s registration in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) is active through the NOFO period. Submit a new or renewal registration in SAM.gov, if needed (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

Grants.gov Registration

- 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](#)).

Grants.gov Opportunity Search

- 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 under “[OJP Application Submission Steps](#)” in the [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- Sign up for Grants.gov email notifications (optional) (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

Funding Opportunity Review and Project Planning

- Review all sections of the NOFO.
- Confirm your entity is eligible to receive funding (see [Eligibility: Eligible Applicants](#)).
- Confirm your proposed budget is within the allowable limits (see [Basic Information: Funding Details](#)), includes only allowable costs (see [Application Contents, Submission Requirements, and Deadlines: Budget Detail Form](#)), and includes cost sharing if applicable (see [Program Description: Cost Sharing/Match Requirements](#)).
- Review the performance measures for this funding opportunity and confirm you will be prepared to collect and report on this data (see [Program Description: Performance Measures](#)).
- Review the “[Legal Overview—FY 2025 Awards](#)” in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#) and confirm you are prepared to follow the requirements.
- Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting under “Listing of Costs Requiring Prior Approval” in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) or see the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Submission Step 1: Grants.gov

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

- Complete and submit the SF-424 by the deadline.
- Confirm Section 8F of the SF-424 lists the name and contact information of the individual **who will complete the application in JustGrants**.

- Confirm that, within 48 hours of your submission in Grants.gov, you 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 the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, or support@grants.gov regarding technical difficulties (see the [Application Resource Guide](#) section on “[Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues](#)”).
- Confirm that, within 24 hours after receipt of confirmation emails from Grants.gov, the individual listed in Section 8F of the SF-424 receives an email from JustGrants with login instructions.

Submission Step 2: JustGrants

- Complete the following information:
 - Entity and User Verification (first-time applicants)
 - Standard Applicant Information
 - Proposal Abstract
 - Organization Inventory, as applicable
 - Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see [Application Resource Guide](#))
- Upload the Proposal Narrative.*
- Complete the budget detail form.*
- Upload other budget/financial attachments, as applicable.
- Upload additional application components, as applicable.
- Complete the required disclosures and assurances:
 - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities and submission of SF-LLL, if prompted by the system
 - Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items
 - DOJ Certified Standard Assurances
 - Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High-Risk Grantees
- Complete the required DOJ Certification on Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Coordination with Affected Agencies.
- Upload Appendix A: Mandatory Chief Executive Assurance to Comply with Statutory and Program Requirements

****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.***

JustGrants Review, Certification, and Application Submission

- Address any validation errors displayed on screen after attempted submission, then return to the “Certify and Submit” screen to submit the application.

- Note the confirmation message 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 an 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.

Appendix A: Mandatory Chief Executive Assurance to Comply with Statutory and Program Requirements

The Second Chance Act of 2008 and the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018 establish statutory requirements for Smart Reentry awards, including general conditions and priority considerations for applications thereto. BJA incorporates these as, and additionally establishes, program requirements and priority considerations.

Complete the table below to indicate whether the applicant organization seeks priority consideration. Provide assurance that the organization will meet all statutory and program requirements if awarded a Smart Reentry grant. **The chief executive of the applicant organization must sign this form for it to be valid. Applicants are ineligible to receive Smart Reentry grant funds if they do not assure compliance.**

<p>Meet Mandatory Requirements</p> <p>Enter “Yes” to indicate assurance the applicant agency will assess their reentry system and document results in the Action Plan.</p>	
<p>Collect and Report Recidivism Indicator Data</p> <p>Enter “Yes” to indicate assurance the applicant organization will collect unique identifiers and recidivism indicator performance data for each program participant and will aggregate all such data and submit it via JustGrants upon grant closeout. The inability or refusal to submit such data after the award is made may affect this project or the organization’s ability to receive future BJA competitive grant funding.</p>	

Signature of the chief executive of the applicant organization

Title

Date

Appendix B: Recidivism Metrics per the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018, Passed as Part of the First Step Act, Smart Reentry Grantees

1. Must partner with a third-party evaluator to use baseline data and target population characteristics to derive a target goal for recidivism reduction during the 3-year period beginning on the date of implementation of the program. The target should be derived during the planning period, as well as recidivism data captured over the 2-year implementation and additional 1-year evaluation follow-up period. See page 5.

2. Shall measure effectiveness by such metrics as:

- A. Increased number of staff trained to administer reentry services.
- B. Increased proportion of individuals served by the program among those eligible to receive services.
- C. Increased number of individuals receiving risk screening needs assessment and case planning services.
- D. Increased number of individuals' enrollment in and completion of treatment services, including substance abuse and mental health services among those assessed as needing such services.
- E. Increased employment and education opportunities.
- F. Increased number of individuals enrolled in, and degrees earned from, educational programs, including high school, GED, vocational training, and college education.
- G. Increased number of individuals obtaining and retaining employment.
- H. Increased number of individuals obtaining and maintaining housing.
- I. Increased self-reports of successful community living, including stability of living situation and positive family relationships.
- J. Reduction in drug and alcohol use.
- K. Increased payment of child support, if appropriate.
- L. Reduction in violations of conditions of supervised release.
- M. Reduction in recidivism rates for individuals receiving reentry services after release, as compared to either baseline recidivism rates in the jurisdiction of the grantee or recidivism rates of the control or comparison group.
- N. Reduction in crime.

BJA defines recidivism as arrest, conviction, and/or incarceration. Grantees must track all three metrics and discern whether they are the result of a new offense or technical violation.

All measures should be captured from an individual's attachment to the SCA-funded activities (general system improvements or demonstration project) through the end of the evaluation follow-up period, and at intervals therein.

Appendix C: Applicant Documentation of Proposed Subrecipients and Procurement Contracts Sample Table

Complete the table below with information regarding proposed subrecipients and procurement contracts of this funding, including the name, organizational affiliation, and city and state of the proposed subrecipient entity. Add rows if needed. For additional information on subawards, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#). As described previously, applicants will submit the table by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants.

Subrecipient Organization	Subrecipient Location (City, State)	Subrecipient Name (Last, First)