

BJA FY25 Field Initiated: Encouraging Innovation

Anticipated Total Amount To Be Awarded Under This Funding Opportunity: \$10,000,000

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

Anticipated Period of Performance Duration: 36 months

Funding Opportunity Number: O-BJA-2025-172330

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: **April 10, 2025, 11:59 PM Eastern Time**

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: **April 17, 2025, 8:59 PM Eastern Time**



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

CONTENTS

| | | |
|---|--|-----------|
|  | Basic Information | 3 |
|  | Eligibility | 7 |
|  | Program Description | 9 |
|  | Application Contents, Submission Requirements, and Deadlines..... | 15 |
|  | Application Review | 28 |
|  | Award Notices..... | 30 |
|  | Post-Award Requirements and Administration | 31 |
|  | Other Information | 34 |
|  | Application Checklist..... | 35 |



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 Field Initiated: Encouraging Innovation |
| Announcement Type | Initial |
| Funding Opportunity Number | O-BJA-2025-172330 |
| Assistance Listing Number | 16.738 |

Executive Summary

This funding opportunity seeks to support new and innovative strategies for preventing and reducing crime, improving community safety, and strengthening criminal justice system outcomes. BJA seeks to accomplish this by promoting collaborations with the field to identify, define, and respond to emerging or chronic crime problems or justice system challenges. BJA is looking for strategies that address these issues, including trying new approaches, addressing gaps in responses, building or translating research knowledge, or building capacity.

Please see the [Eligible Applicants](#) section for the eligibility criteria.

- Category 1: State, local, or tribal innovations (with a research partnership)
- Category 2: National or regional strategies to advance or translate knowledge

Key Dates

| | |
|--|---|
| Funding Opportunity Release Date | January 14, 2025 |
| Pre-Application Webinar | TBD |
| SAM.gov Registration/Renewal | Recommend beginning process by March 11, 2025, and no later than March 27, 2025 |
| Step 1: Grants.gov Application Deadline | 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on April 10, 2025 |
| Step 2: JustGrants Application Deadline | 8:59 p.m. Eastern Time April 17, 2025 |
| Award Notification Date | Generally by September 30 |

Funding Details

Total Amount To Be Awarded Under This Funding Opportunity: \$10,000,000

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.

- C-BJA-2025-00018-PROD, Category 1: State, local, or tribal innovations (with a research partnership)
 - Anticipated Number of Awards: 6
 - Anticipated Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000
 - Anticipated Period of Performance Start Date: October 1, 2025
 - Anticipated Period of Performance Duration: 36 months
- C-BJA-2025-00019-PROD, Category 2: National or regional strategies to advance or translate knowledge
 - Anticipated Number of Awards: 4
 - Anticipated Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000
 - 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. 506(b) (codified at 34 U.S.C. § 10157(b)); 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. BJA may use additional program authority, depending on the substance of applications submitted.

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 [Funding Webinars](#) page. 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:

For Category 1: State, local, or tribal innovations with a research partnership

- **Government Entities**
 - State governments
 - County governments
 - City or township governments
 - Special district governments and other units of local government, such as towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, or other general purpose political subdivisions of a state
 - Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- **Educational Organizations**
 - Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
 - Private institutions of higher education
- **Public Housing Organizations**
 - Public housing authorities
 - Indian housing authorities
- **Nonprofit Organizations**
 - Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher education
 - Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- **For-Profit Organizations**
 - Organizations other than small businesses
 - Small businesses

For Category 2: National or regional strategies to advance or translate knowledge

- **Educational Organizations**
 - Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
 - Private institutions of higher education
- **Public Housing Organizations**
 - Public housing authorities
 - Indian housing authorities
- **Nonprofit Organizations**
 - Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher education
 - Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- **For-Profit Organizations**
 - Organizations other than small businesses
 - Small businesses

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.

Small Businesses: Small business grants may be awarded to companies meeting the size standards established by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for most industries in the economy.

Additional Applicant Eligibility Factors

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

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 not** required.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

General Purpose of the Funding

BJA's Field Initiated: Encouraging Innovation program seeks to develop and implement new and innovative strategies that address emerging or persistent challenges faced by criminal justice systems in preventing and responding to emerging or chronic challenges that affect multiple agencies within the criminal justice system and many communities across the United States. The criminal justice system serves an important role in protecting communities and seeking justice for victims. To achieve this, criminal justice leaders must prioritize fairness and openness in the system. It is increasingly recognized that our criminal justice system, like other government systems, must be evidence-based, meet clear performance measures, and withstand scrutiny from fiscal, cost-benefit, and disparate impact analyses. This necessitates investing in tools and building capacity to conduct regular systemic evaluations of our criminal justice system, promoting restorative practices and approaches to rehabilitation that consider unintended impacts on people and their communities, and building the integrity of the criminal justice system.

The proposals submitted should have the goal of filling the gaps in current knowledge or testing new ideas for addressing public safety and criminal justice issues. Additionally, these proposals should be developed or implemented in a manner that can provide a learning opportunity for other communities or organizations and potentially facilitate replication of the approach. Applications under this program should not duplicate other BJA-funded programs and should have the potential to broadly benefit the field of criminal justice nationally. BJA is looking for partners who also want to work with BJA staff to translate these resources to the field.

BJA invites applicants to propose an innovative or unique solution, strategy, and/or response to address critical and emerging public safety issues identified by law enforcement, prosecutors, and other criminal justice practitioners working in the field. Areas of particular interests to BJA include, but are not limited to:

- Develop innovative and fair responses to combat, address, or otherwise respond to precipitous or extraordinary increases in crime, or in a type or types of crime, such as homicides, assaults, and hate crimes. This includes combatting, addressing, or otherwise responding to increasing crime at the state, local, tribal, regional, or national level, with strategies that enhance capacity to track, identify, and quickly respond to these crime issues.
- Address and support law enforcement, prosecutors, defense, courts, corrections and other criminal justice agencies and the judiciary in building trust and legitimacy with the communities they serve. Ensure a capable and able workforce to address the increases in these crime and public health challenges. Study challenges and develop approaches to enhance recruitment, retention, and wellness of personnel in the criminal justice system, as well as in first responder and community-based agencies.
- Build new or alternative strategies and systems such as restorative justice programs, community responder models, diversion programs, and strategies for addressing other public order infractions that can prevent unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice system and enhance outcomes for those already involved. This may include efforts to expand access to services for individuals experiencing behavioral health-related or other crises. They also support law enforcement and community-

driven efforts to effectively respond to the needs underlying these challenges and reduce arrests.

- Accelerate justice through the creation of approaches and tools that build the capacity to gather and analyze data and information to understand key decision points and levers for change to strengthen safety while reducing unnecessary incarceration, community correctional control, and racial disparities, such as through effective pretrial processes and sentencing practices that prevent overincarceration and collateral consequences.
- Enhance efforts to ensure effective right to counsel and access to justice, addressing the unique challenges faced by rural communities, ensuring system integrity including preventing future errors, addressing legal deserts including collaboration with civil legal supports, and building alternative approaches to address safety concerns.
- Explore innovative approaches that use technology and artificial intelligence to both enhance practices in investigations and prosecutions while safeguarding privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties, as well as manage the increasing complexity of crime related to these tools.
- Develop and/or explore effective strategies to reduce the number of youth (age 18 and over) within the criminal justice system and decrease recidivism rates. These strategies may include diversion programs as alternatives to incarceration, helping to redirect youth away from the system and into supportive environments, incorporating trauma-informed care and life skills training promoting their ability to navigate society successfully, and/or other holistic approaches to effectively address the unique challenges faced by youth and promote lasting positive outcomes in their lives.

In addition to these areas of interest, BJA wants to hear ideas from the field that reflect the most recent, emerging issues and creative solutions to new and long-term challenges. BJA recognizes that practitioners are well situated to see these trends and strongly encourages practitioners in the field to take the lead to identify and offer projects to address challenges they see faced by the criminal justice system. This approach allows practitioners to contribute to identifying new and creative solutions for persistent or emerging issues and recommending resolutions to critical problems within the criminal justice system. BJA is seeking new ideas for this NOFO, and applicants are encouraged to review [BJA's website](#) and the [DOJ Grants Program Plan](#) to ensure there are no other programs that can support the projects proposed. Proposals must address demonstrated gaps in the functions and knowledge base of the criminal justice system or address a need for which there are limited or nonexistent services. For a proposal to be considered “innovative,” it must:

- Propose a strategy or response that has not been implemented previously, yet is supported by research, data, theory, or evidence;
- Propose a new modification to an existing strategy or response that has not been implemented previously, yet is supported by research, data, theory, or evidence;
- Propose a new approach to delivering existing evidence-based strategies or responses that have not been implemented previously and has the potential to reduce costs and increase efficiencies while maintaining effectiveness (including organizational developments and changes that may enhance the effectiveness or long-term sustainability of the existing strategy or response); or

- Seek to update current knowledge and practice in a particular area of need.

If the proposal advances a new approach that builds upon previous BJA-funded work, the applicant must specify within the project description how the new project will be different from the existing work. BJA will not fund applications that are not responsive to the scope of this NOFO. Applications will be considered unresponsive if:

- Funding is being sought for a specific program for which the applicant has been or is currently receiving funding from DOJ in the last 3 fiscal years, which is the same or similar in scope.
- Proposed projects or topic areas are not within the mission of BJA or are not generally seen or documented as a priority issue for the state, local, or tribal justice community.
- The definition of “innovative” is not satisfied as described above.

Applications are sought in two areas:

Category 1: Applications that propose to test a strategy or theory of change at the state, local, or tribal level working with a research partner to document the implementation and develop tools to support national replication. In Category 1, applicants are required to formally partner with a research organization for project development, assessment, or evaluation activities, as well as the development of tools to support replication. No more than 20 percent of the total budget may be used to support research or evaluation services.

Category 2: Applications that propose to develop targeted national or regional strategies to advance or translate knowledge that will make an impact in addressing a critical need or gap in the field. Regional projects must propose a model that is specific to a regional need or could be effectively implemented regionally and replicated elsewhere. In Category 2, applicants are required to work with a research partner to document the implementation and develop tools to support further implementation in the field. No more than 50 percent of the total budget may be used to support research or evaluation services.

Examples of previously funded field-initiated projects can be accessed at [FY 2024 Field Initiated: Encouraging Innovation](#). For assistance on research partnerships, applicants may wish to access the [Center for Research Partnerships and Program Evaluation](#).

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: To identify, define, and respond to emerging or chronic crime problems or criminal justice system challenges by supporting new and innovative strategies that address these issues, including trying new approaches, addressing gaps in responses, building or translating research knowledge, or building capacity.

Objective 1: Develop and implement new and innovative strategies to prevent and reduce crime and enhance public safety.

Objective 2: Develop effective and efficient strategies that can be replicated in the criminal justice system.

Objective 3: Enhance the capacity of criminal justice professionals and the communities to respond to crime and justice system challenges effectively through training and education.

Objective 4: Advance knowledge and build capacity by developing and providing tools and resources for the field.

How Awards Will Contribute to Program Goals/Objectives

The award recipients will create and implement new and innovative strategies to address emerging or persistent challenges faced by criminal justice systems. These strategies will specifically focus on preventing and responding to public safety issues identified by law enforcement, prosecutors, and other criminal justice practitioners. The aim is to improve public safety outcomes, develop effective and efficient strategies that can be replicated, enhance the capacity of criminal justice professionals and the communities to respond to crime and justice system challenges effectively, advance knowledge and build capacity, and take a more proactive and preventive approach to emerging challenges. These efforts will ensure that the criminal justice system remains responsive and adaptable to evolving threats and challenges in public safety.

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.

Category 1: State, local, or tribal innovations (with a research partnership)—: All proposed project deliverables should include practical tools and materials for use by other criminal justice practitioners and policymakers to support the replication of the innovations. They should include, but not be limited to, program manuals, program assessments/evaluations, training curricula, policy-relevant documents, implementation guides, and toolkits.

Applicants, in collaboration with the identified researcher, must develop an action plan within the first six (6) months of the grant award. The action plan must be developed with the identified researcher and must contain a description of the problem and the data that led to its identification, a logic model that identifies the strategies to be tested, the project’s expected result(s), and the plan for an impact evaluation.

The researcher must also conduct an evaluation of all grant-funded activities, providing an interim update no later than 18 months after the performance period begins and a final evaluation report prior to the close of the grant period.

A final report of activities and outcomes at the end of the project period. This information will be publicly shared to assist peer agencies. Recipients will be expected to actively participate in quarterly cohort meetings to promote collaboration and share insights among participants. They will also present lessons learned from their projects to their cohorts, as well as to criminal justice practitioners and policymakers. This knowledge exchange aims to support the replication of innovations and create a collaborative environment that enhances collective learning and growth within the community.

Category 2: National or regional strategies to advance or translate knowledge—All proposed project deliverables should include the development of targeted national or regional strategies that will make an impact in addressing a critical need or gap in the field, including knowledge, working with a research partner to document the implementation and developing tools and knowledge transfer to support further implementation in the field. This could include training and technical assistance (TTA) projects.

The selected applicants will engage the field and build the capacity to understand and address at least one of the focus areas outlined in this NOFO. This could include projects to assess, analyze, or advance knowledge in one of the focus areas; build new tools or resources for the field; address a critical gap in the field, including the provision of TTA and analysis; or address other needs of the field that are consistent with the focus areas outlined above.

A final report of activities and outcomes (including results/findings) at the end of the project period. This information will be publicly shared as a resource for the field. Recipients will be expected to actively participate in quarterly cohort meetings to promote collaboration and share insights among participants. They will also present lessons learned from their projects to their cohorts, as well as to criminal justice practitioners and policymakers. This knowledge exchange aims to support the replication of innovations and create a collaborative environment that enhances collective learning and growth within the community.

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 [on BJA's funding and awards website](#).

Funding Instrument

OJP expects to make awards under this funding opportunity as cooperative agreements, which allow OJP to have substantial involvement in carrying out award activities. 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 does not require a match.



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.

For Small Businesses: In addition to SAM.gov registration, a small business applicant may need to obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The person applying for an award should submit the EIN value as the Tax Identification Number (TIN) during the SAM.gov registration process. The applicant should not submit their Social Security Number. For additional information, including the steps to obtain an EIN, see the IRS [Apply for an Employer Identification Number \(EIN\) online](#) webpage.

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 subject to [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 12372](#) (Intergovernmental Review). States that participate in the Intergovernmental Review process have an opportunity to review the applicant's submission. An applicant may find the names and addresses of state Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) for Intergovernmental Review at the following website: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/SPOC-list-as-of-2023.pdf>. If the applicant's state appears on the SPOC list, the applicant must contact its SPOC to find out about, and comply with, the state's process under E.O. 12372. On the SF-424, an applicant whose state appears on the SPOC list must make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 once the applicant has complied with its state E.O. 12372 process. An applicant whose state does not appear on the SPOC list should answer question 19 by selecting, "Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the state for review."

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.
- Category for which they are applying.
- 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).

In addition, the abstract should include specific language that indicates which of the allowable uses/activities, as listed below, the project will address along with each use/activity's percentage of the budget. Planned activities/allowable uses include:

- Law Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Defense
- Courts
- Judicial
- Jails
- Prisons
- Reentry
- Rural Communities
- Forensics
- Community-Based
- Behavioral Health Partnership
- Research
- Artificial Intelligence
- Other: Please describe the activity

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 15 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:

Category 1: Describe what the project is seeking to address and why this is important, including how it addresses:

(a) a critical emerging or chronic crime problem or systemic issues faced by one or more components of the criminal justice system for which there currently are no resources, or resources are limited or insufficient, and

(b) the specific [areas of particular interest](#) identified on pages 9–10 that will be addressed. How does this need relate to the purpose of the NOFO?

Include any relevant data, background information, and other information to show the significance and importance of the issue(s), using data that are pertinent to understanding the identified problem. Describe the need for testing of the proposed strategy in the field and gaps in capacity to address the issue.

Category 2: Describe what the project is seeking to address and why this is important, including how it addresses:

(a) a demonstrated gap in areas within the criminal justice system or in the knowledge base of criminal justice system practitioners or state, tribal, or local policymakers for which there currently are no resources, or resources are limited or insufficient, and

(b) the specific [areas of particular interest](#) identified on pages 9–10 that will be addressed. How does this need relate to the purpose of the NOFO?

Include any relevant data, background information, and any other information to show the significance and importance of the issue(s), using data that are pertinent to understanding the identified problem.

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).
- 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:

A detailed description of your program model or strategy to be, including:

- Key program elements and implementation.
- How the proposed innovative project will build upon and contribute to evidence-based strategies or promising practices, and how its outcomes could serve as a model for replication or adaptation in similar sites or on a nationwide scale. Additionally, what role do research and data play in advancing knowledge within the project?
- The process for the testing of a strategy and how the applicant will document implementation and develop tools to support replication. This should include:
 - How the applicant will deliver or complete those activities.
 - When the activities will take place.
 - Who will participate in and benefit from the activity.
 - Who in the applicant's organization will staff the activities, including key staff.
- What deliverables, reports, and other items will be produced as part of the project.
- How the project will create deliverables that effectively translate knowledge and provide tools of significant value and benefit to criminal justice practitioners, policymakers, and/or community partners.
- 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. Please describe their role in conducting project activities.

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

- A 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 demonstration of, including giving specific examples, your organization's expertise and experience in planning, developing, implementing, and managing criminal justice-related programs at the national, state, or local level, with a strong emphasis on the focus areas identified in this NOFO.
- 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. The applicant should submit examples of prior work to demonstrate their expertise. This can be done as an attachment or by providing online access links.
- A summary of relevant experience of team members with key responsibilities for implementing the project.

Please describe your proposed research partner's experience completing the research activities as outlined in the NOFO. This could include:

- Developing a "theory of change."
- Collecting and analyzing criminal justice and public safety data and using data to identify criminal justice and public safety-related problems.

- Ability to work through barriers to research-driven problem solving.
- Identifying and proposing proven strategies and interventions to address identified problems; document program operations and processes; measure program outcomes; and utilize data to evaluate program effectiveness.
- Regularly presenting findings and conclusions, both orally and in written form, to an implementation team, as well as making recommendations for program improvement.
- Developing “real-time” products and resources for strategic decisionmaking.
- Assessing the implementation fidelity while collaborating with the team to develop a sustainability plan.
- Communicating with a wide variety of public sector, private, and community members; for example, organizations may be called on to present their evaluation findings, conclusions, and recommendations to individuals such as prosecutors, law enforcement leadership and line officers, clergy representatives, funding agency representatives, legislators, city council members, and persons in the criminal justice system.

Applicants applying under Category 1 are required to formally partner with research organizations for project development, assessment, and evaluation activities, as well as for the development of tools that can be used to support replication. No more than 20 percent of the total budget may be used to support research or evaluation services.

Applicants applying under Category 2 are required to work with a research partner to document the implementation and develop tools to support further implementation in the field. No more than 50 percent of the total budget may be used to support research or evaluation services.

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](#).

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

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)

An MOU is recommended when a formal agreement is needed to set the groundwork for cooperation between organizations, especially for shared goals requiring coordination and resource allocation, when the unique nature of the partnership necessitates a clear understanding of contributions and expectations, or when long-term collaboration is anticipated. Regular updates and feedback mechanisms will help maintain accountability and adaptability as the project progresses, allowing all partners to work effectively toward a common goal. 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

The applicant will attach the additional requested documentation in JustGrants.

Curriculum Vitae or Resumes (if applicable): Provide resumes of key personnel who will work on the proposed project or a description of the experience and skills of key personnel necessary to implement the project.

Supporting Documentation of Past Training Delivery Experience: Attach documentation of prior experience delivering training, including a URL of a website built and maintained, an example of an individualized technical assistance work plan, sample policy documents, fact sheets, and sample curriculum. Supporting documentation of past training delivery examples should be submitted as one separate attachment to the application in JustGrants.

Work Product Examples: Applicants should include deliverables or completed products that demonstrate their ability to meet the goals, objectives, and deliverables sought in this funding opportunity. Examples of work product that demonstrates the applicant has the experience to

successfully complete the TTA being requested (e.g. websites, toolkits, periodic performance or activity reports for a funder or organizational leadership, final TTA reports that include recommendations). Work product examples should be submitted as one separate attachment to the application in JustGrants.

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.

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 requested award amount does not exceed the award ceiling.
- The application is responsive to the scope of the NOFO.
- The following application elements are included:
 - SF-424 (Grants.gov)
 - Proposal Abstract
 - Proposal Narrative (JustGrants)
 - Budget detail form, which includes the budget items, their calculations, and explanation (JustGrants)
 - Time Task Plan

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 (15%):** What critical issue or problem the applicant is proposing to address with this project.
- **Project Goals and Objectives (20%):** How the proposed project will address the identified need and the purpose of the funding opportunity.
- **Project Design and Implementation (35%):** 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 (20%):** The applicant's administrative and technical capacity to successfully complete this project.
- **Budget (10%):** Completeness and cost effectiveness.

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.
- 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 Field Initiated: Encouraging Innovation

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).
- Select the correct Competition ID:
 - Category 1: State, local, or tribal innovations (with a research partnership)
 - Category 2: National or regional strategies to advance or translate knowledge
- 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.**
- Submit documents for Intergovernmental Review (if applicable).
- 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*
 - 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:
 - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)
- Upload additional application components, as applicable:
 - Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) see [Application Resource Guide](#).
 - Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity (if applicable) (see [Application Resource Guide](#))
 - Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable) (see [Application Resource Guide](#))
 - Memorandum of Understanding (if applicable)
 - Letter of Support (if applicable)
 - Resumes of key personnel (if applicable)
 - List of procurement contracts (if applicable)
 - Organizational chart (if applicable)
 - Supporting Documentation of Past Training Delivery Experience
 - Work Product Examples
 - Timeline web-based form*
- 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.

****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.