

# BJA FY25 Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions

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Anticipated Total Amount To Be Awarded Under This  
Funding Opportunity: \$8,300,000

Anticipated Award Ceiling: Up to \$600,000

Anticipated Period of Performance Duration: 36 months

Funding Opportunity Number: O-BJA-2025-172349

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: **April 3, 2025, by 11:59pm Eastern Time**  
Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: **April 10, 2025, by 8:59pm Eastern Time**



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

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## BASIC INFORMATION

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) 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.

<b>Agency Name</b>	U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance
<b>NOFO Title</b>	BJA FY25 Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions Program
<b>Announcement Type</b>	Initial
<b>Funding Opportunity Number</b>	O-BJA-2025-172349
<b>Assistance Listing Number</b>	16.746

### Executive Summary

This funding opportunity seeks to support wrongful conviction review (WCR) entities and conviction integrity units (CIU). WCR entities represent and review individual cases of post-conviction claims of innocence. CIUs enhance criminal justice system integrity. The goal of this program is to enhance the ability of WCR entities and CIUs and their criminal justice and victims' services partners to better identify, assess, and manage post-conviction claims of innocence while preventing future error and bring justice for victims.

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

- Category 1: Wrongful Conviction Review Entity-Led Strategy (WCR Entity-Led Strategy)
- Category 2: Prosecutor/Conviction Integrity Unit-Led Partnerships with Wrongful Conviction Review Entities (CIU-Led Partnerships)

### Key Dates

<b>Funding Opportunity Release Date</b>	January 17, 2025
<b>Pre-Application Webinar</b>	TBD
<b>SAM.gov Registration/Renewal</b>	Recommend beginning process by March 4, 2025, and no later than March 20, 2025
<b>Step 1: Grants.gov Application Deadline</b>	11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on April 3, 2025
<b>Step 2: JustGrants Application Deadline</b>	8:59 p.m. Eastern Time on April 10, 2025
<b>Award Notification Date</b>	Generally by September 30

## Funding Details

**Total Amount Anticipated To Be Awarded Under This Funding Opportunity: 8,300,000**

- **C-BJA-2025-00046-PROD Category 1: WCR Entity-Led Strategy: \$6,000,000**
  - Anticipated Number of Awards: 10
  - Anticipated Award Ceiling Up to \$600,000
  - Anticipated Period of Performance Start Date: October 1, 2025
  - Anticipated Period of Performance Duration: 36 months
  
- **C-BJA-2025-00047-PROD Category 2: CIU-Led Partnerships: \$2,300,000**
  - Anticipated Number of Awards: 4
  - Anticipated Award Ceiling: Up to \$600,000
  - Anticipated Period of Performance Start Date: October 1, 2025
  - Anticipated Period of Performance Duration: 36 months

*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.*

## 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

Any awards under this NOFO would be made under statutory authority 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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:** This NOFO may have a webinar. Please check the BJA [Funding Webinars](#) page for the latest updates.

**[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)
  - Native American tribal governments (other than federally recognized)
- **Educational Organizations**
  - Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
  - Private institutions of higher education
- **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
- **Other**
  - State, county, towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, or other general purpose political subdivisions of a state, or local public defender offices

**“Other” Entities Definition:** State, county, or local public defender offices that have in-house post-conviction representation programs that show demonstrable experience and competence in litigating post-conviction claims of innocence. If the applicant organization is not a WCR entity, they must be partnered with one.

**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 NOFO, 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 the following in their applications for each category:

#### Category 1: WCR Entity-Led Strategy

WCR entities with demonstrable experience and competence in managing post-conviction claims of innocence. This project can support a partnership with a prosecutor’s office or CIU. If the application includes this partnership, applicant should document how it will coordinate relevant information-sharing of post-conviction claims of innocence. It must include a description

of policies and procedures that are in place to avoid conflicts of interest and protect defendants' rights, including plans for obtaining a waiver of attorney-client privilege and informed consent.

### Category 2: CIU-Led Partnerships

Entities such as prosecutors' offices, CIUs, or others with the authority and responsibility for the review of adjudicated cases that are at risk for error and where there are needs for review of cases. This can include a collaborative review process involving both prosecutors and defense counsel, considering conflicts of interest. This approach is not mandated. If applicable, applicant should submit an MOU or letter of intent that documents this partnership. Applicant must include a description of policies and procedures in place to prevent conflicts of interest or perceptions of bias, mostly involving prosecutors who were originally part of the case. Applicant must include a description to include policies and procedures for handling evidence of prosecutorial misconduct, with a strong preference for referral to an independent entity once discovered.

Note: For both categories 1 and 2, all applicant organizations should show the capacity and commitment of their key partners to conduct this work, including demonstrable experience and competence with handling motions related to or legal representation in post-conviction claims of innocence and appeals.

### **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

The Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Conviction (ROL/WCR) Program is funded by an annual appropriation through the authorization of the Capital Case Litigation Initiative via the Innocence Protection Act of 2004 (part of the Justice for All Act of 2004) and Department of Justice appropriations acts (34 U.S.C. §§ 60301 and 60302). The ROL/WCR Program provides funding to support wrongful conviction review (WCR) entities providing high-quality representation for defendants in post-conviction claims of innocence. The ROL/WCR Program seeks to identify actual perpetrators of crimes, bring justice to victim(s), and enact measures to prevent future errors and ensure justice, thereby enhancing public safety.

Projects in category 1 are led by a WCR entity that focuses on the review of post-conviction claims of innocence while also supporting efforts to assess and reduce risk of future error by enhancing criminal justice system integrity through conviction integrity efforts. Projects in category 2 are led by entities such as prosecutors' offices or others with the authority and responsibility for the review of adjudicated cases that are at risk for error and where there are needs for review of cases. They can be coordinated with defense counsel, where appropriate.

Two studies published within the past decade estimated that 4% to 6% of people incarcerated in U.S. prisons are actually innocent ([Samuel Gross, 2014](#) and [Charles Loeffler, 2018](#)). According to data from the Innocence Project and the [National Registry of Exonerations](#) (NRE), Black Americans make up roughly 60% of all DNA exonerations in the United States, despite only representing around 13.6% of the population. This highlights a significant disparity in wrongful convictions based on race. In addition, Black Americans are seven times more likely than their white counterparts to be falsely convicted of serious crimes.

To address the systemic, programmatic, and institutional disproportionate impacts on historically marginalized and underserved populations, BJA seeks to reduce wrongful convictions, which disproportionately impact people of color, furthering the DOJ's mission to uphold the rule of law, to keep our country safe, and to protect civil rights.

As of December 2023, BJA grantees reported 64 exonerations from FY 2018 to FY 2023. The most recent exoneree, supported by the [North Carolina Center for Actual Innocence](#), served 14 years of a 30-year sentence for a crime he did not commit. He was released from prison in June 2023.

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 Office Priority Consideration

#### Increase Access to Legal Representation in "Legal Deserts"

- Projects that demonstrate a plan to provide legal representation to individuals with post-conviction claims of innocence in rural areas with fewer than one attorney per 1,000 residents.

To receive priority consideration, the applicant should demonstrate a plan to increase access to legal representation in legal deserts in the “Project Design and Implementation” section of the Project Narrative.

**Note:** Addressing this priority area is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration does not guarantee a funding award.

## Program Goals and Objectives

**Goal:** To enhance the ability for WCR entities and CIUs to identify, assess, and manage post-conviction claims of innocence while preventing future error and bring justice for victims.

**Objectives:** Ensure all grantees have access to BJA resources that can support the effective implementation of their projects, to include:

- Developing and implementing a wrongful conviction risk assessment process.
- Improving the ability to identify and review high-risk cases.
- Increasing the number of case review requests received.
- Increasing the number of case reviews that result in an innocence exoneration.
- Fostering collaborative partnerships between WCR entities and CIUs to include other criminal justice organizations and victim services agencies.
- Improving the ability to demonstrate the value of identifying appropriate suspects when convictions are overturned.
- Expanding the ability to provide reentry services to new exonerees.
- Enhancing the collection and analysis of data to support the prevention of error and enhance efforts to review and manage claims of innocence.

## How Awards Will Contribute to Program Goals/Objectives

To achieve the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity, OJP has identified expected activities that must be conducted by a recipient.

Award recipients, to include wrongful conviction entities, prosecutors, law enforcement, defense counsel, and courts, will identify and review high-risk cases, conduct investigations, establish and maintain partnerships, and implement new or enhanced activities, policies, practices, or procedures that will support both the review of post-conviction claims of innocence and conviction integrity. This can include resources for expert testimony, review of data and analysis with researchers and experts, and enhancing capacity to support reviews and litigation, including partnerships with nonprofits and law schools and other academic entities.

### Activities

Grantees may conduct the following activities in support of the program goals and objectives:

- Develop, establish, or enhance a project led by a WCR entity that reviews, investigates, and adjudicates individual cases of postconviction claims of innocence and appeals.
- Develop, establish, or enhance a project led by a CIU that assesses the risk and prevention of wrongful conviction through the collection and analysis of data on post-conviction claims of innocence and outcomes of appeals.
- Develop new policies, policy guides, or procedures to enhance program operations.
- Develop a process to systematically identify and review cases that meet the criteria for risk of wrongful conviction.

- Develop new partnerships with WCR entities, CIUs, and other criminal justice partners to improve the quality and efficacy of case reviews, where appropriate.
- Develop a plan to provide support services to new exonerees aimed to restore basic rights, privileges, and benefits that may contribute to a successful reentry process.

## 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.

Recipients under this funding opportunity do not need to submit any deliverables other than the standard [Post-Award Requirements and Administration](#).

### 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](http://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 [Preventing Wrongful Convictions Program Performance Measures Questionnaire](#).

## 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 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.

### 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](mailto: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 applicable category:
  - Category 1: WCR Entity-Led Strategy
  - Category 2: CIU-Led Partnerships
- 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.
- The research partner organizations or entities, if applicable.
- 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 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. Tables, charts, and graphs included in the Program Narrative can be created in a legible font smaller than 12-point and will be included in the total page limit.

**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 CIU or WCR entity.
- Supporting information, data, or evidence to demonstrate the need's existence, size, and impact on individuals that have been wrongfully convicted and the challenges they face upon reentry into the community.
- Data on the estimated number of innocence claims and the areas of greatest risk for error in criminal cases in the proposed service area.
- Any national, regional, state, or local issues impacting the lack of adequate review in post-conviction claims of innocence cases in relation to the number of potential cases.
- Whether the applicant or the proposed service area has a current backlog of cases, and which of these would be the focus for this project.
- How the need relates to the purpose of the NOFO.

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

- Broad project goals that demonstrate how the project will enhance the ability for a WCR entity and/or CIU to better identify, assess, and manage post-conviction claims of innocence while preventing future errors.
- Specific project objectives that detail measurable outcomes, such as:

- increasing the number of cases received, reviewed, investigated, and adjudicated for individuals with post-conviction claims of innocence with a focus on those at greatest risk for error,
- assessing the risk and prevention of wrongful conviction through the collection and analysis of data on post-conviction claims of innocence and outcomes of appeals where error is found, and
- developing and/or enhancing strong partnerships between WCR entities, CIUs, and other criminal justice and victim services organizations that may assist in the coordination of relevant information-sharing of post-conviction claims of innocence.
- A discussion on how these goals and objectives align with the goals of the ROL/WCR Program, including building and fostering strong partnerships.

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

- A detailed description of the relevant activities planned. Not every application will include each activity but should note as relevant:
  - area(s) of focus for the project (e.g., eyewitness evidence, confession documentation, forensic evidence; and/or geographic focus),
  - how the project seeks to build capacity by hiring or building infrastructure to begin accepting cases, and whether the applicant currently has the capacity to accept cases or rather seeks to expand current caseloads or any efforts to build or enhance conviction integrity efforts,
  - how the project can devote resources to coordinate the intake screening, investigation, and representation of post-conviction and appeals in innocence claims,
  - how the project can improve the quality and efficacy of case reviews, contribute to improvements in the efficiency of how claims are handled, reduce or mitigate risk for error and wrongful convictions, in the targeted service area and/or on the set of target cases,
  - how the project can assess risk for wrongful conviction among the reviewed cases. This assessment should support setting criteria and prioritizing for review those at highest risk of wrongful conviction,
  - how the project can support a partnership with a prosecutor's office or CIU, documenting how applicants would coordinate relevant information-sharing of post-conviction claims of innocence. This partnership should have an attached MOU or letter of intent between the CIU and WCR entities documenting this partnership,
  - how the project can develop or enhance reentry support services for new exonerees that may incorporate restorative justice practices,
  - if applicable, how the project can provide legal representation to individuals with post-conviction claims of innocence in areas defined as legal deserts,
  - how the project can incorporate technology to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of case reviews and discovery efforts,
  - how the project can use data, research, and analysis to support this work.
- An outline of how these activities will be executed, including strategies for collaboration.



- A description of the target population that will benefit from the project and how they will be engaged.
- An overview of expected deliverables, such as progress reports, evaluations, and other items that may be produced as part of the project.
- If applicable, a description of any subrecipients involved, their roles, and how they will contribute to the project. 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. This can be submitted as a one separate attachment to the application via MOU.

**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. This will include data related to exonerations in cases supported by this program.
- 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.
- A summary of relevant experience of all team members with key responsibilities for implementing the project.

**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):** An applicant that is a nonprofit organization may be required to make certain disclosures relating to the

processes it uses to determine the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees. If applicable, the applicant will upload a description of the process used to determine executive compensation as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information.

### **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. 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 all 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.

**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 months 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 (JustGrants)
  - Proposal Narrative (JustGrants)
  - Budget detail form, which includes the budget items, their calculations, and explanation (JustGrants)
  - Timeline web-based form (JustGrants)

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 (15%):** How the proposed project will address the identified need and the purpose of the funding opportunity.
- **Project Design and Implementation (40%):** 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.

Additionally, OJP will consider where services by location or on an emerging issue are not represented, for a new applicant, capacity to complete the proposed project, current partnerships, and pre-award risk rating.

## 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 FY24 Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Conviction 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).
- Select the correct Competition ID:
  - C-BJA-2025-00046-PROD - Category 1: WCR Entity-Led Strategy
  - C-BJA-2025-00047-PROD - Category 2: CIU-Led Partnerships
- 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](mailto: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\*
  - Increase Access to Legal Representation in “Legal Deserts”, 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.
- Timeline web-based form (in JustGrants) \*
- 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](mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov) regarding technical difficulties. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.