RURAL AND SMALL DEPARTMENT VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION GRANTEE ORIENTATION

DECEMBER 18, 2023





Agenda



Program Overview

Grant Program Requirements

Performance Management at BJA

Additional Resources

Q&A

SECTION 1

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION





What is the Office of Justice Programs?

- The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides grant funding, training, research, and statistics to the criminal justice community.
- OJP is one of three grantmaking components of the Department of Justice along with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

BJA – Bureau of Justice Assistance



BJS – Bureau of Justice Statistics



NIJ - National Institute of Justice



OVC – Office for Victims of Crime



OJJDP – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



SMART – Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking





U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance

Mission: BJA's mission is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support state, local, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. BJA works with communities, governments, and nonprofit organizations to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system.

Karhlton F. Moore, BJA Director



https://bja.ojp.gov/





How BJA Supports the Field









Fund

Invest diverse funding streams to accomplish goals.

Educate

Research, develop, and deliver what works.

Equip

Create tools and products to build capacity and improve outcomes.

Partner

Consult, connect, and convene.

SECTION 2

PROGRAM OVERVIEW







Question for Grantees

What are some of the greatest violent crime challenges your jurisdiction is facing?



Initiative Overview

- Through this program, BJA will support small and rural agencies in their efforts to combat violent crime.
- This program will provide funding to small and/or rural agencies and/or to prosecutors who are interested in implementing or improving the capacity of their organization around one or more critical elements found in the <u>Violent</u> <u>Crime Reduction Operations Guide</u> or the <u>Prosecutors'</u> <u>Guide for Reducing Violence and Building Safer</u> <u>Communities</u>.



Activities

Complete the *Violent Crime Reduction Operations Guide* online assessment tool.

Select one or more of the critical elements within the Guide to improve capacity as part of an overall violent crime reduction strategy.

Partner with a researcher or subject matter expert to monitor the activities identified for the project.



Activities

Implement programming and activities that reflect an enhanced capacity, per the Guide.

Deploy agency resources such as personnel, services, or analytical tools that meet the capacity enhancement goal.

Document the development and implementation of strategies to reduce the violent crime problem(s) identified in the application.

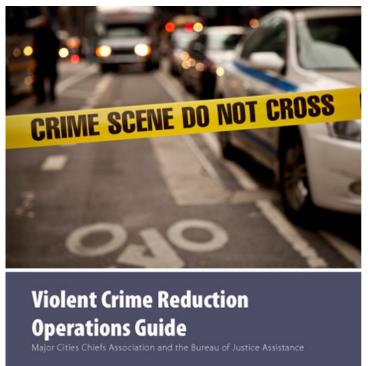
Track progress and outcomes.

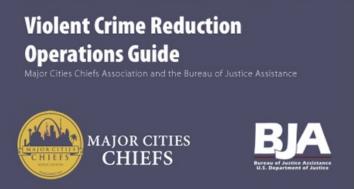
Work closely with the TTA provider on implementation efforts.



Violent Crime Reduction Operations Guide

- The Guide outlines Critical Elements that discuss important capabilities for any agency in its fight against violent crime, including the most essential, overarching element: leadership.
- Law enforcement leaders can use this Guide and its Critical Elements as a resource to assess their agency's capacity and identify additional actions that can assist them in their fight against violent crime.







Violent Crime Reduction Operations Guide

The Guide outlines the **Critical Elements**, essential components of crime-fighting strategies, in a format that can assist agency executives in determining their respective capacity in each of these areas.





Previous Program Funding

Previous funding through this program has been used to support efforts to combat various rural violent crime challenges, including:



Assaults, robberies, and sexual assaults



Homicides



Narcotics-related violent crime



Intimate partner violence



Gang-related violent crime



Firearms-related violent crime



Child abuse and exploitation

SECTION 3

GRANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS







Official Award Document

Award Acceptance

The award document is a legally binding contract with the federal government that must be accepted by the Authorized Representative.

Award conditions may be attached to an award for financial and/or programmatic issues requiring resolution, referred to as withholding conditions.

Applicants have 45 days to accept the award through JustGrants from the date of award notification. The following training video regarding acceptance/denial may be helpful: https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-grant-award-acceptance.

Program-specific award conditions may be applied based on the individual needs, goals, and objectives of each grantee.

Please contact your Grant Manager for any questions regarding the award acceptance process, or for any programmatic, financial, or administrative questions.



Special Award Conditions

The most common withholding conditions.

- Uncleared budget
- Missing documents
- Conditional Clearance
- Disclosure of Duplication
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
- Application Attachments

Program-specific conditions, including withholdings, will typically be found on the last page of your conditions.

Withholding conditions must be removed/resolved before funds can be obligated, expended, or drawn down.

Regular communication with your assigned Grant Manager is critical; you cannot begin activities until these holds have been cleared.



Budget and Financial Information

- Recipients agree to read and comply with the financial and administrative requirements set forth in the current edition of <u>DOJ Grants Financial Guide</u> and <u>2 C.F.R. 200</u> Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.
- All costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project.
- Recipients will work with assigned Grant Manager to clear the budget that is reviewed by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Budgets must:
 - Conform to federal cost categories.
 - Have correct calculations.
 - Include only allowable costs.
 - Accurately identify subrecipients and contractors.
- Reimbursement requests are based on immediate disbursement requirements to be made immediately or within 10 days. If not spent or disbursed within 10 days, funds must be returned to the awarding agency.



Budget Clearance Process

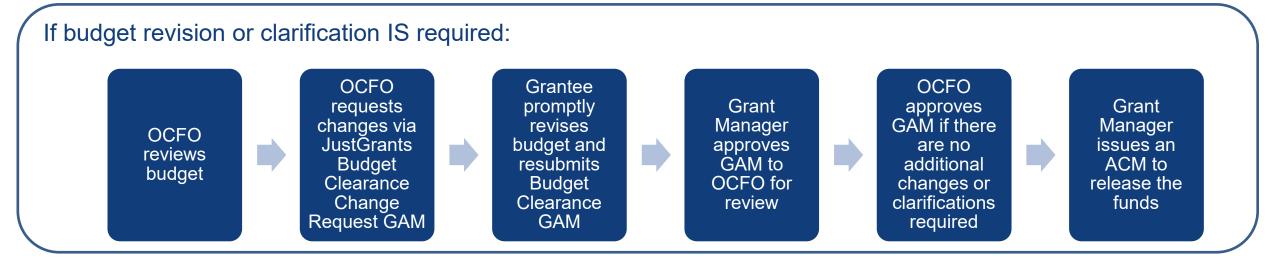
All new awards include a withholding award condition for budget approval. A Grant Award Modification (GAM) and subsequent Award Condition Modification (ACM) must be processed to access funds.

If budget revision or clarification IS NOT required:

OCFO reviews budget

OCFO approves budget

Grant Manager issues an ACM to release funds





Grants Financial Management Training

- This training is required for all Points of Contact (POCs)/Grant Award Administrators and Financial Managers/Financial Points of Contact (FPOCs).
- For some new grantees, the POC and FPOC must take and pass the Grants Financial Management Training to access grant funds. A withholding condition is included in the award document.
- For all other awards, POCs and FPOCs have 120 days after the acceptance date of the new award to take and pass the GFMD training. After day 120, a hold will be put on the award until the training is taken.
- For FY23 awards, if the POC and FPOCs have previously taken the training, the completion date must be after October 15, 2020. Otherwise, the POC and FPOCs will need to retake the training.
- The online training is available at https://www.ojp.gov/training/fmts.htm





Reporting Requirements

The Final FFR and Final Performance Reports will be due 120 days from the project end date.

RVC recipients will report their performance semi-annual reports in JustGrants.

Report Type	Reporting Period	Due*	JustGrants Role
Federal Financial Report (SF-425) – Submitted in JustGrants	• Apr 1 – Jun 30	April 30July 30October 30January 30	Financial Manager
Semi-annual Performance Report – Submitted in JustGrants	Jan 1 – Jun 30Jul 1 – Dec 31	July 30January 30	Grant Award Administrator (Alternate GAA can edit but not submit).



IMPORTANT REPORTING REMINDERS

Federal Financial Reports (SF-425)	Progress Reports	
 Report funds obligated and/or expended, NOT draw-down amounts. 	Answer performance measure questions specifically written in the solicitation.	
Ensure funds that have been obligated align with approved budget. Report for every quarter regardless of whether expenses were incurred. Report CUMULATIVE amounts each quarter.	Detail successes and challenges; elaborate on accomplishments; mention strategies to address	
	 challenges. Narrative description. Comparison of goals in application to their accomplishments. Program highlights. Report must be submitted even if no activities occurred in report period. 	
 For questions, contact the Office of the Chief Financial Officer Helpdesk (800) 458-0786 or email <u>Ask.ocfo@usdoj.gov</u>. 		

JustGrants automatically freezes grant funds for delinquent reports. It is important to submit reports on time. Late reports also influence how your award risk is assessed by OJP and may affect subsequent applications.



Grant Award Modifications (GAMs)

- Programmatic GAMs: Revision of scope or goals/objectives of the project
 - Programmatic scope change
 - Altering programmatic activities
 - Changing the purpose of the project
 - Changing the project site(s)
 - Updating organizational staff with primary responsibility for implementation
 - Changes in key personnel
 - Contracting out and/or subawarding
 - Otherwise obtaining the services of a third party

- Financial GAMs
 - Budget Modification
 - Sole Source
- Project No-Cost Extension

Note:

GAMs requests must be submitted in the JustGrants System



Grant Award Modifications (GAM) Overview

- A GAM is used to request changes that require prior approval.
- The assigned GAA must submit GAMs in JustGrants.
- No changes to the purpose of the project or project title will be approved.

Programmatic

- Programmatic Costs GAM (costs requiring prior approval).
- Scope Change GAMs (alter programmatic activities, add subaward, change the project site, or change key staff).

Financial

- Budget Clearance GAM.
- Budget Modification GAM (moving more than 10% of funds, or adding \$ into category previously \$0).
- Sole Source GAM for any sole source procurement in excess of simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000).

BEST PRACTICE: Contact your BJA Grant Manager if you have questions prior to submitting a GAM.

Resource: https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-grant-award-modifications



Grant Monitoring Activities

OJP Program Office

- Desk reviews
- Site visits
- Enhanced Programmatic Desk Reviews

Other In-Depth Monitoring

- Financial Review Office of the Chief Financial Officer
- Office of Inspector General (DOJ) audit
- Office of Inspector General (DOJ) investigation



Working Effectively With the Program Office

Share updates about your project—we appreciate those emails!

We are available to troubleshoot or talk through issues you encounter.

If a request is a little unusual, it's okay to email or call and talk through it before you spend time submitting it.

It's okay to remind us if we have not gotten back to you within a few days after a request.

How do I reach my program manager? The award document includes a program office contact (pg. 1 of the award letter). However, this contact may change over time.

SECTION 4

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW





Agenda

- Performance Management at the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
- Purpose of Performance Measures and Benefits to Grantees
- Data Reporting: What, Where, When, and How
- Program Specific Questionnaire
- Data Reporting Best Practices
- Contact Information and Resources





What is Performance Management?

Process by which grantees regularly collect and report data

Determine whether they are implementing activities as intended and achieving their desired goals and objectives.

Questionnaire captures inputs, outputs, and outcomes over time and enable pre- and post-comparisons that can be used to facilitate change, as needed.

Periodic reporting over life of grant.

For more information, visit the OJP Grant Performance Measurement and Progress Reporting Information Portal at ojp.gov/performance and the BJA Performance Measures site at https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/performance-measures/overview.



Why Does BJA Use Performance Measures?



To identify areas of success and potential areas of improvement



To track grant activity and progress towards program goals



To understand how funds are being distributed



To comply with the law



What Data Will I Need to Report?

Performance measures

A series of questions that measure outcomes of grant.

Narrative questions

• A series of narrative questions related to the grantee's specific goals, objectives, barriers, and successes.

Closeout questions

 A series of questions grantees will need to respond to only when activities have been completed and the grant is ending.



Where Do I Report?

The JustGrants System is the online system required for grantee performance measurement reporting and grant management.

FY23 grantees will report on the measures directly in JustGrants semi-annually.

Please access JustGrants at: https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/

For JustGrants system-related questions, contact the JustGrants Support Team: <u>JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</u>





When Do I Report?

Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction grantees report performance measures semiannually in JustGrants. If your program reports in JustGrants, you have no reporting requirement in the PMT.

Reporting Period	Data Required	JustGrants Deadline
January 1–June 30	Performance Measures and Narrative Questions	July 30
July 1–December 31	Performance Measures and Narrative Questions	January 30
Last Reporting Period of Award – Mark as "Final Report"	Performance Measures and Narrative Questions	120 days after the award end date



Questionnaire Structure

General Award Administration

- Only respond "Yes" to question 1 if your award is in closeout.
- Grantees will need to submit their performance measure questionnaire every reporting period, even if there is no grant activity.
- There is grant activity once you have obligated, expended, or drawn down funds. The award then remains active until closeout.

GENERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION

- Is this the last reporting period for which the award will have data to report?
 For example, were all funds expended and is the award in the process of closing out in the Grants
 Management System?
 - A. Yes/No
- 2. Was there grant activity during the reporting period? There is grant activity when the grantee has obligated, expended, or drawn down grant funds to implement objectives proposed in the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)-approved grant application. Grant activity also is initiated when you have contact with BJA training and technical assistance providers, even if you have not expended federal funds for this activity. If you select Yes, the program becomes operational and should remain so until the grant closes out.

Reason(s) for no grant activity during the reporting period	Select all that apply
In procurement	
Project or budget not approved by agency, county, city, or state governing agency	
Seeking subcontractors (request for proposal stage only)	
Waiting to hire project manager, additional staff, or coordinating staff	
Paying for the program using prior federal funds	
Administrative hold (e.g., court case pending)	
Still seeking budget approval from BJA	
Waiting for partners or collaborators to complete agreements	
Other	
If Other, explain	



Questionnaire Overview

Link to Performance Measures Questionnaire:

Rural Violent Crime Performance Measures

Reporting Tip

You can use the questionnaire as a guide to track relevant data in your file in the time interval that is easiest for you. When it is time to report, you can add those figures to get your reporting period totals.



Questionnaire Structure

Problem Identification

 Grantees will need to briefly describe and characterize the core violence problem.

PI	ROBLEM IDENTIFICATION		
3.	 Please briefly name and describe the core rural violence problem that you proposed to address with this grant. 		
	A. Core Problem Name:		
4.	. Did you identify more than one rural violence problem or identify component problems in your grant application?		
	A. Yes/No B. If Yes, please state the number of problems identified: C. If Yes, list the two most prominent associated problems: i. Associated Problem Name 1: ii. Associated Problem Description 1: iii. Associated Problem Name 2: iv. Associated Problem Description 2:		
5.	How would you characterize your core rural violence problem at the outset of your grant? Select all that apply.		
	 A. The problem is jurisdiction wide. B. The problem is place-based (e.g., it tends to concentrate in specific areas or hot spots within my jurisdiction). C. The problem is group-based or person-based (e.g., it involves mostly certain types of people or groups such as students or the elderly). D. Other, describe: 		
6.	Enter any other information about your problem that will be important in addressing and solving the problem.		



Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment Model

 BJA is using the common problem-solving process known as SARA, which consists of four core components: Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment. For more information on the SARA model visit: https://popcenter.asu.edu/content/sara-model-0

SCANNING, ANALYSIS, RESPONSE, AND, ASSESSMENT MODEL AND PROBLEM-SOLVING

BJA Is using the common problem-solving process known as SARA, which consists of four core components: Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment. For more information on the SARA model visit: https://popcenter.asu.edu/content/sara-model-0.

- 7. During this reporting period, what **scanning** activities took place regarding this problem? *Select all that apply.*
 - A. Further defining or explaining the rural violence crime problem of concern to the public and the police
 - B. Identifying the consequences of the problem for the community and the police
 - C. Prioritizing those problems
 - D. Developing broad goals
 - E. Confirming where the problem exists and who is most affected
 - F. Determining how frequently the problem occurs and how long it has taken place
 - G. Selecting associated problems for closer examination
 - H. Other, describe:
 - None



Partnerships

 In the Partnerships section, grantees will answer questions related to internal and external personnel.

PARTNERSHIPS

- 12. During this reporting period, what **internal** personnel were involved in the problem-solving process?
 - A. Analysts within the department (e.g., crime or intelligence analysts)
 - B. Line-level or patrol officers
 - C. Mid-level officers (e.g., sergeants and lieutenants)
 - D. Senior-level executives (e.g., captains, majors, and chiefs).
 - E. Detectives or investigators
 - F. Forensic examiners or analysts
 - G. Other, describe: _
- 13. During this reporting period what **external** personnel were involved in the problem-solving process?
 - A. Law enforcement personnel outside of your jurisdiction (e.g., state police or neighboring jurisdiction with needed expertise)
 - B. Prosecutor's office
 - C. Local public health or medical personnel
 - D. Local mental health services or providers
 - E. Local social service providers
 - F. Other government or nonprofit service (e.g., medical examiner)
 - G. Community groups
 - H. Subject matter experts or researchers from a university, nonprofit, or for-profit



Grant-Funded Activities

 Grantees select which activities they used federal grant funds for during the reporting period.

GRANT-FUNDED ACTIVITIES

- 14. Did you use federal grant funds for any of the following during the reporting period?
 - A. Crime analysis software
 - B. Personnel
 - C. Salary or overtime expenditures for program staff
 - D. Consultation services related to program design, implementation, and evaluation
 - E. Attending online training on related techniques, tactics, strategies, or software
 - F. In-person training on related techniques, tactics, strategies, or software
- 15. Did your agency institute or adapt any of the following tactics or strategies in your crime reduction effort during this reporting period? Select all that apply.
 - A. Hot spots policing
 - B. "Focused-deterrence" or "pulling levers" strategies
 - Increased attention on prolific or influential offender
 - D. Increasing "costs" to offenders (e.g., certainty or severity of consequences)
 - E. Target hardening/removal
 - F. Outreach/Education to populations vulnerable to victimization
 - G. Protective or other intervention services for familial or domestic violence
 - H. Increased police surveillance/presence



Narrative Questions

- Grantees are required to complete the Narrative Questions in January, July, and at the close of their award.
- In the Narrative section, grantees can highlight their accomplishments and discuss their challenges.

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SEMIANNUAL NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

In this module, you will identify the goals you hope to achieve with your funding. Once submitted, these goals cannot be changed without approval from your grant manager.

- Set S-M-A-R-T goals to clarify the scope of your priorities
- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Relevant
- Time-bound

If you have multiple goals, provide updates on each one separately.

Answer the following questions every semiannual reporting period (January and July of each year), based on your grant-funded activities.

1.	. What were your accomplishments during reporting period?	
2.	What goals were accomplished, as they relate to your grant application?	
3.	What problems/barriers did you encounter, if any, within the reporting period that prevente you from reaching your goals or milestones?	
4.	Is there any assistance that BJA can provide to address any problems/barriers identified in question 3?	
	A. Yes/No B. If Yes, explain:	
5.	Are you on track to complete your program fiscally and programmatically as outlined in your grant application?	
	A. Yes/No B. If No, explain:	
6.	What major activities are planned for the next 6 months?	
7.	Based on your knowledge of the criminal justice field, are there any innovative programs/accomplishments that you would like to share with BJA?	

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Defining Goals and Objectives





Defining Goals and Objectives

Great Goals but Needs Improvement

- Engage in community outreach.
- Reduce violent crimes.
- Identified violence problem.

SMART Goal Examples

- Connect community groups and law enforcement to build relationships and discuss crime prevention in the community within the comprehensive plan stage.
- Identify core rural violence problem and outline a response plan within the first six months.
- Train 100 law enforcement officers to respond to violent crimes across the life of the award.



Ensuring Data Quality

Data Quality Best Practices

- Designate staff for coordination of the performance data collection.
- Review the performance measure questionnaire before entering data.
- Ensure that designated staff participate in trainings.
- Review, edit, and validate data with subrecipients before submission.
- Be mindful of the validation alerts built into the JustGrants questionnaire and verification outreach by the PMT Helpdesk.





Contact Information and Resources

JustGrants Helpdesk

Monday–Friday 5:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. eastern time (ET)

Saturday—Sunday and federal holidays 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. ET

1–833–872–5175 | JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov

JustGrants Training and Resources

https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/





Contact Information and Resources



BJA PMT HELPDESK

Monday–Friday
8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Closed on federal holidays
bjapmt@usdoj.gov

WEBSITES

- Office of Justice Programs
- BJA Performance Measures
- OJP Grant Performance Measurement and Progress Reporting Information Portal
- Performance Measurement Tool
- BJA YouTube Channel

Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

SECTION 5

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES







The Justice Grants System (JustGrants) is the Department of Justice's grants management system for the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

The JustGrants Resources website is an entryway into information about JustGrants and the system itself. Through this portal both award recipients and applicants can access training resources and user support options, find answers to frequently asked questions and sign up for the JusticeGrants Update e-newsletter.

Users can also log in to JustGrants through the site.

News Flash &

Aug. 1: Resources To Support Routine Entity Management for Current DOJ Grant Awards &

July 26: <u>Updated Process To Access ASAP</u> &

July 18: <u>Register Now! August Dates Added</u> for Virtual Q&A Sessions &

https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/



JustGrants Login

Select the access graphic above to log in to the Justice Grants System (JustGrants).



Training

Learn to navigate JustGrants effectively and complete various essential grants management tasks.



FAQs

Find answers to frequently asked questions regarding the Justice Grants System (JustGrants) and the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP).



User Support

Access self-service, topic-specific, and technical support options for assistance in using the JustGrants System.

RESOURCES



Resources

Links to resource guides, financial and administrative resources for grant management, funding opportunities, and ASAP training and resources.



News & Updates

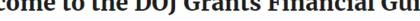
View the latest information and updates on DOJ's grants management and payment management systems and sign up for JusticeGrants
Updates emails from the COPS Office, OJP, and OVY



DOJ Grants Financial Guide 2022

Last Updated June 2023

Welcome to the DOJ Grants Financial Guide &



Foreword &

We hope you find this guide useful and informative. If you have any questions or comments, please contact your appropriate DOJ Funding Source.

TOP 10 TOPICS		
1. Financial Management Systems	6. <u>Audit Requirements</u>	
2. <u>Allowable Costs</u>	7. Conference Costs	
3. <u>Unallowable Costs</u>	8. Adjustments to Awards	
4. Federal Financial Reports	9. Accounting by Approved Budget Category	
5. <u>Performance Reports</u>	10. <u>Subrecipient Monitoring</u>	

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has three primary grant-making components, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office). The mission of OJP is to provide innovative leadership to federal, state, local, and tribal justice systems by disseminating state-of-the-art knowledge and practices across America, and providing grants for the implementation of these crime fighting strategies. The mission of OVW is to provide federal leadership in developing the national capacity to reduce violence against women, and administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assaults, and stalking. The mission of the COPS Office is to advance the practice of community policing by the nation's state, local, territory, and tribal law enforcement agencies through information and resources.

Welcome to the DOJ **Grants Financial Guide** I. General Information II. Preaward requirements III. Postaward Requirements

IV. Organization Structure

V. Appendices

DOJ Grants Financial Guide &

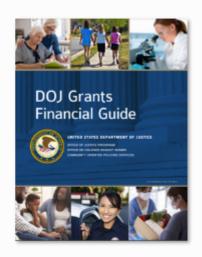
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View Change History summarizing changes to the 2022 Guide. PDF Format (81 kb)



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 - <u>JusticeGrants Update e-newsletter</u> for the latest information and updates on JustGrants, DOJ's grants management system
 - OJP email newsletters
 and topical messages available from OJP program offices (BJA, BJS, NIJ, OJJDP, OVC, and SMART)
- Sign up for <u>U.S. Department of Justice Email Updates</u>

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 latest information from BJA and the field.
- For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit BJA's website: www.bja.ojp.gov.













Next Steps

- Training and Technical Assistance Provider Introductory Webinar with Justice and Security Strategies, Inc. – early 2024
- JustGrants Reporting due January 30, 2024



BJA Contact Information

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Juliana Palmer
Policy Advisor
juliana.palmer@usdoj.gov





Questions?

Enter in the **Q&A** box and send to **All Panelists**.