FY 2023 VIRTUAL REALITY DE-ESCALATION SITE BASED INITIATIVE

Friday, May 19, 2023
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Presenter
Kristie Brackens
Supervisory Sr. Policy Advisor
Bureau of Justice Assistance
Agenda

Welcome and Introduction to OJP and BJA
Program Overview
Eligibility and Application Requirements
Application 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 grant-making components of the Department of Justice along with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

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<th>Office of Justice Programs (OJP)</th>
<th>BJA – Bureau of Justice Assistance</th>
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<td>BJS – Bureau of Justice Statistics</td>
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<td>NIJ – National Institute of Justice</td>
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<td>OVC – Office for Victims of Crime</td>
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<td>OJJDP – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention</td>
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<td>SMART – Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking</td>
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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
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
Initiative Overview

• BJA seeks to support local, state, campus, and tribal law enforcement in the adoption of innovative, immersive virtual reality technology designed for training law enforcement.

• This program will provide funding to implement customized, multiparticipant, fully immersive, virtual and/or augmented reality-based training technology that improves responses to individuals in crisis and improves the de-escalation skills of participants.
Goals

• Implement emerging technologies utilized in scenario-based police training that is evidence based and designed to ensure the safety of police officers, individuals they come in contact with, and the community at large.

• This technology should be used and coupled with an evidence-based curriculum, such as BJA’s Crisis Response and Intervention Training (CRIT) curriculum available here: https://bja.ojp.gov/events/crisis-response-and-intervention-trainingcrit.
Objectives

- Develop and/or enhance agency-wide strategy for the integration of the new immersive virtual reality scenario-based training to allow multiple officers/persons to simultaneously participate in the training as a means for officers to practice and community members to experience crisis intervention and de-escalation from the perspective of law enforcement.

- Scenario-based police training must be evidence based and designed to ensure the safety of police officers, individuals they come in contact with, and the community at large.
Activities

• Develop a report describing the agency’s existing technology platform, along with an assessment demonstrating how integrating virtual reality tools in training will be value-added.

• Develop a training plan that details the proposed design and delivery of the new program which utilizes a fully immersive multiparticipant virtual reality system customized for law enforcement.

• Develop customized, fully immersive virtual reality training platform/curriculum that highlights how the inclusion of new technology addresses the training needs of the agency.
Activities

• Conduct on-going data collection and assessment in partnership with a university-based researcher or team of researchers to assist in the development of the training and review of the implementation progress and outcomes.

• Develop a training plan that details the proposed design and delivery of the new program which utilizes a fully immersive multiparticipant virtual reality system customized for law enforcement.

• Develop a mechanism for individuals who participate in the training to give feedback via an after-action review, similar to that which would occur in real life after an event.

• More detail on program activities are outlined in the solicitation.
Important Tips

• Applicants must submit applications that propose both a planning process and an implementation phase for the training program.

• Applicants should describe how the proposed training will improve participants’ de-escalation skills while enhancing responses to individuals in crisis, including people with intellectual and/or development disabilities and individuals experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis, as a means to facilitate.
SECTION 3

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
Eligibility

- The following entities are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity:
  - City or township governments
  - County governments
  - Native American/Tribal government (federally recognized tribe with a designated law enforcement agency)
  - Public and state controlled institutions of higher education
  - State governments
Available Funding

• Funding Available
  – Anticipated maximum award amount: $800,000
  – Number of anticipated awards: 11
  – Project start date: October 1, 2023
  – Project Period: 36 months
Priority Areas

- To receive this consideration, the applicant must describe how they currently support one or more of the identified policy areas, including:
  - Participation in the collection and reporting to DOJ of data on law enforcement use of force and deaths in custody
  - Participation in the collection and reporting to DOJ of data on officer suicides and officers killed or assaulted
  - Restrictions on unannounced entries and neck/carotid restraints
  - Restrictions on the possession and use of militarized equipment

Note: Addressing these priority areas is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration for one or more priority areas does not guarantee an award.
Important Dates

Application Grants.gov deadline: June 29, 2023, 8:59 p.m. EST
Application JustGrants deadline: July 6, 2023, 8:59 p.m. EST
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What should be included in my application?

A: Please review the “Application and Submission Information” section of the solicitation, beginning on page 13. Applications must include a proposal abstract, narrative, budget worksheet, budget narrative, timeline, training plan, etc.

Q: Can my organization propose to partner with other entities?

A: Yes. Partnering with other entities is allowable but only one entity may submit the application and assume fiscal/management responsibilities. We encourage applicants to identify those partner organizations within the application, when possible.
SECTION 4
APPLICATION
RESOURCES
The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Grant Application Resource Guide ("Guide") provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding. It addresses a variety of policies, statutes, and regulations that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP program applicants, or to grants and cooperative agreements awarded in fiscal year (FY) 2023. Some OJP programs may have program solicitations that expressly modify a provision of this Guide; in such cases, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in the solicitation as to any such expressly modified provision.

https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide
Learn About the Department of Justice’s Grants and Payment Management Systems

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

Feb 21: Register Now! March Dates Added for Virtual Q&A Sessions

Aug 10: Review New and Updated JustGrants FAQs

https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/
Application Assistance

Grants.gov

• Provides technical assistance with submitting the **SF-424** and **SF-LLL**.
  o **Customer Support Hotline**
    ▪ 800–518–4726 or 606–545–5035
    ▪ Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.
  o **Web and Email**
    ▪ [https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html)
    ▪ support@grants.gov

• Provides information on available federal funding opportunities for various federal agencies.

JustGrants Technical Support

Provides technical assistance with submitting the full application in DOJ’s Justice Grants System (JustGrants).

• **Customer Support Hotline:**
  o 833–872–5175
  o Monday – Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. ET
  o Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

• **Web and Email**
  o [https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/user-support](https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/user-support)
  o JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov
Email Updates
Text OJP [your email address] to 468-311 to subscribe.
(Message and data rates may apply.)

https://www.ojp.gov/subscribe
Stay Connected!!

• Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA
• Twitter: https://twitter.com/DOJBJA
• YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/dojbja

For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit BJA’s website: www.bja.ojp.gov.
Contact the OJP Response Center:

- Email: grants@ncjrs.gov
- Toll free: 800–851–3420
- TTY: 301–240–6310 (hearing impaired only)

The Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday.
Reminder: Dual Deadlines

Applications must be submitted in a two-step process, each with its own deadline:

• **Step 1:** Submit an SF-424 and an SF-LLL at [Grants.gov](https://Grants.gov).

• **Step 2:** Submit the full application, with attachments, at [JusticeGrants.usdoj.gov](https://JusticeGrants.usdoj.gov).

**NOTE:** Submission deadline times for both Grants.gov and JustGrants are now 8:59 p.m. ET, not 11:59 p.m. ET as in past years.

Read the solicitation carefully for further guidance.
Quick Reference: Important Contacts

For technical assistance submitting the SF-424 and SF-LLL into Grants.Gov, call: 800–518–4726 or 606–545–5035, 24 hours a day, or email: support@grants.gov.

For technical assistance submitting the full application into JustGrants, call: 833–872–5175, 7–9 ET, M–F, and 9–5 ET, weekends and holidays, or email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov.

For technical assistance with the programmatic requirements, call the OJP Response Center: 800–851–3420, 10–6 ET, M–F, or email: grants@ncjrs.gov.
Questions?

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