

FY25 Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI)

AMEEN BEALE:

Hello. Thank you for joining us for this Notice of Funding Opportunity Webinar on the FY25 Office of Justice Programs, Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative, commonly referred to as CVIPI. Before we get into the NOFO, I will start off with brief introductions. My name is Ameen Beale and I'm a Senior Policy Advisor here at the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and I help lead the CVIPI portfolio.

KEVIN STEWART:

Thank you, Ameen. My name is Kevin Stewart, also a Policy Advisor here at BJA, and along with Ameen, I co-lead the CVIPI Grant Initiative.

AMEEN BEALE:

Now let's take a look at the agenda for the webinar.

So, we have a lot of information to cover today. First, we will provide an OJP Overview, a Program Overview, NOFO Information, the OJP Funding Process Overview, and grant Application Resources.

Let's get started with the OJP Overview. What is the Office of Justice Programs? The Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs or OJP is the largest grant making component of DOJ. OJP is one of the grant making components within DOJ, along with the Office on Violence Against Women, a Community Oriented Policing Services Office or COPS Office. OJP's mission is to provide federal leadership funding, training, technical assistance, and other critical resources around criminal justice issues.

We aim to advance work that strengthens community safety, increase access to justice, support crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, and build trust between law enforcement and communities. The Bureau of Justice Assistance or BJA is a component agency under OJP. On the next few slides, we'll dive into the specific mission of BJA. The Bureau of Justice Assistance was created in 1984 to reduce violent crime, create safer communities, and reform our nation's criminal justice system. BJA helps state, local, and tribal jurisdictions reduce and prevent crime, reduce recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA focuses its programmatic and policy efforts on providing a wide range of resources, including training and technical assistance to law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, reentry, and community-based partners to address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges. Now let's look at the ways in which BJA supports the field.

At BJA, we have three main ways that we support the field. First, we provide resources through jurisdictions and organizations to support programming, technologies and personnel that promote a fair and effective administration of justice. Second, we are actively engaged in developing resources related to promising practices so that the field can build capacity to provide evidence-informed services to the public and improve criminal justice outcomes. Lastly, we also engage with experts across the country to support information exchange, create

learning opportunities, and convene criminal justice stakeholders with the goal of spreading evidence informed criminal justice practices across our nation.

Now that we've added some background on BJA, let's transition into an overview of the CVIPI grant program. The FY25 CVIPI program provides fundings to support law enforcement and community-based efforts to reduce violent crime and improve police community relations through coordinated enforcement prevention and intervention strategies. Next slide.

OJP Partnership. The CVIPI program is managed through a collaborative effort with BJA, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, also known as OJJDP, the Office for Victims of Crime and the National Institute of Justice. This allows each component agency to leverage subject matter expertise to support grantees.

Next slide. Funding Purpose. This program is designed to address the root causes of violent crime through collaborative community-oriented approaches, funding support strategies that combine enforcement, prevention, and intervention to reduce crime, enhance public safety, and build stronger relationships between law enforcement and community. Key purpose areas include using data-driven cross sector strategies, combining enforcement, prevention, and intervention. Building crucial partnerships between law enforcement and community to foster trust and develop sustainable solutions. Increasing local capacity for comprehensive crime reduction through improved coordination, communication, and data analysis. Strategically engaging individuals at highest risk of violence involvement, exposure, and victimization. Next slide.

Key Activities. Examples of Key Activities that can be funded under the FY25 CVIPI NOFO include funding to support sworn law enforcement analysts and other CVIPI dedicated personnel, law enforcement equipment that supports violence prevention and intervention activities, evidence informed approaches targeting individuals or groups most likely to engage in or be victims of community violence, supporting youth violence intervention programs and constructing community centers for engagement of the targeted population.

So, for a recap, the primary focus of the FY25 CVIPI program is to reduce violent crime and to engage law enforcement, local governments, residents and stakeholders in coordinated crime reduction strategies. Next slide.

In this section we'll talk about the information contained within the NOFO.

Eligible Applicants. Eligible Applicants for this funding opportunity include county, city, township and Tribal governments, other units of local government and Tribal organizations. Applicants may submit multiple applications, but each application must propose a different project. Partnerships with subrecipients are highly encouraged. Importantly, there is no cost sharing or match requirement under this program. Next slide please.

Planning Phase. All award recipients are required to engage in a Planning Phase of up to 12 months. During this time, grantees will conduct a violent crime assessment, engage community

and law enforcement partners, and develop or refine a community specific violence reduction strategy. This planning phase helps to ensure that funded strategies are data driven and tailored to your local needs. Next slide please.

Mandatory Certification. What is it? Applicant entity and its officials or other personnel will comply with 8 United States code § 1373 and 1644 in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance under any award made by OJP pursuant to this application. This includes that subrecipients of an award will also comply with 8 U.S.C. § 1373 and 1644.

Proposal Basic Minimum Requirements. All applications must satisfy basic requirements to be considered for funding. These elements are outlined in the NOFO and include Proposal Narrative, Budget Detail Form, and Timeline Form. Next slide please.

Federal Award Information. Below is an overview of the relevant funding information. The anticipated total amount of funding under this project is \$34,621,469. The anticipated number of awards to be funded under this project are 17. The period of performance start date is October 1, 2025, and the performance period is 48 months, which represents a change from the 36 months under the previous CVIPI project years. The maximum dollar amount per award is up to \$2 million. Next slide please.

Agency Funding Priorities. In order to advance public safety and help meet its mission, OJP will provide priority consideration to applicants that propose, as applicable within the scope of this funding opportunity, projects designed to advance the goals listed below, directly supporting law enforcement operations (including immigration law enforcement operations), combating violent crime, supporting services to American citizens, protecting American children, supporting American victims of trafficking and sex assault, and coordinating state and local efforts with federal law enforcement. As a part of this funding opportunity, law enforcement must comply with information sharing requirements under 8 United States Code § 1373, ensure federal access to correctional facilities for immigration enforcement and honor DHS requests for advance notice of release dates. This shows up as the Agency Funding Priorities Inventory in the application process. Applicants should check all the applicable priority boxes. Next slide please.

Unallowable Uses of Funds. Starting at the bottom of page nine, this NOFO provides an overview of unallowable costs and activities that are out of scope and will not be funded. Please refer to the guidance related to United States Code § 1373, and coordination with federal law enforcement. For additional guidance, please refer to the applicable sections of the DOJ Financial Guide outline in the NOFO. Next slide please.

Deliverables. All CVIPI grant award recipients are required to submit the deliverables outline in the funding notice. These deliverables include a Violent Crime Assessment, which is due within 12 months of award date and must thoroughly describe nature and patterns of violent crime in areas targeted for intervention under your proposed project. Required to identify violent crime hotspots should build on existing efforts and address resource gaps. Final Report. Due within 90 days of program end and must include summary of activities and successes, key lessons

learned, sustainability plans, documentation of intervention/prevention strategies and research findings (if applicable). Next slide.

The Application Review Process. All those specific requirements may vary. The following are common requirements applicable to all OJP NOFOs. They must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant, must request funding within programmatic funding constraints, must be responsive to the scope of the NOFO, and must include all items necessary to meet the basic minimum requirements.

Merit Review Criteria. Applications that meet the basic minimum requirements will be evaluated for funding using the Merit Review Criteria outlined starting on page 23 of the NOFO. Statement of the Problem/Description of the Issue. An applicant should clearly define the violent crime issue they aim to address, including the scope, severity, and specific challenges within their local jurisdiction. Program Goals and Objectives. The narrative should include clear and measurable community center goals that reflect a clear commitment to reducing violent crime. Project Design and Implementation. We are looking for applicants who present clear actionable strategies to achieve the stated goals and objectives within a plan with a well-defined operational plan for the full funding period. Capabilities and Competencies. Applicants should demonstrate the administrative and technical capacity to carry out the proposed project and meet all award requirements, including accurate collection and reporting of performance data. Clear identification of responsible personnel and data systems is essential. Budget. The JustGrants, which is our web-based grant management application budget form should be submitted with clear cost descriptions and detailed calculations that directly support project goals and objectives. Next slide please.

Important Application Attachments. The following attachments should be included with your applications. CV or resumes. Provide resumes of key personnel who will work on the proposed project or a description of their expertise and skills as it relates to the proposed project. Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable). Upload tribal authorizing documentation as an attachment in JustGrants if your application requires tribal authorization. Research and Evaluation, Independence and Integrity Statement (if applicable). Upload documentation demonstrating research/evaluation, independence and integrity, including appropriate safeguards if your application proposes research or evaluation. Human Subjects Protection. Comply with human subjects and privacy certificate requirements if your proposed research involves human subjects and is intended to provide generalizable knowledge. Next slide please.

Request to Use Incentives or Stipends. Provide strong justification for using incentives or stipends, explaining how amounts were determined, who would benefit and why, and why such costs are beneficial and necessary for the project. Timeline. Provide a timeline listing key activities and milestones, and the months during which they will take place. Ensure that it covers the entire 48-month project period.

Application Checklist. To reiterate, please be sure to review the Application Checklist on page 29 of the NOFO to ensure that you complete and submit all applicable materials. I'm now going to turn it over to Kevin to cover the remaining slides, starting with the overview of the OJP Funding Process.

KEVIN STEWART:

All right, thanks, Ameen. First up is the OJP Funding Review Process. In order to submit your application, your entity must register with SAM.gov and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier, and you must maintain an active SAM.gov registration status at all times. For entities new to SAM.gov, the registration process can take time, so start early and be sure your status reaches active before submitting your application. Once active, you should plan to renew your registration SAM.gov every 12 months. Even if you've applied for a federal grant before, you need to check that your registration is current and if it's not, you should renew that registration. Applicants who do not have an active SAM.gov status will not be able to complete step one of the application process in Grants.gov. Also, be sure that your organization's points of contact and SAM.gov, especially electronic business point of contact or EBiz POC are current. The EBiz POC may receive notices about time-sensitive actions they need to take during the application process. Next slide.

Continue with the Funding Process. Applications are submitted to DOJ electronically through a two-step process, and you'll be required to register and add users in two different systems. For Step 1, you'll submit an Application for Federal Assistance, or an SF-424, in Grants.gov. For Step 2, you'll complete the full application in JustGrants, which is DOJ's grants management system. Please note that we recommend completing each step at least 48 hours before the deadline. Do not wait the deadline to submit materials. Just ensure that you have time to address unexpected errors and make corrections if needed. As a reminder, the Grants.gov deadline of October 2 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time is earlier than the JustGrants deadline on November 3 by 8:59 PM Eastern Time. Next slide.

Now let's take a closer look at Step 1 of the application process, starting with a few important points about Grants.gov. Be sure everyone you plan to have work on your fund application can access and take actions in Grants.gov. Do this in advance of the application to be sure you're ready to submit when the time comes. Grants.gov will only allow entities with an active SAM.gov registration status to submit an application for federal assistance, so please be sure to check your registration is not expiring anytime soon prior to submitting your application. For the SF-424, one common question we often receive is, "Do I need a firm budget amount to submit this form?" The answer here is no. You can provide an estimate on this form and then update your funding request in JustGrants. Once submitted, the SF-424 helps to pre-populate standard information in your JustGrants application. One other note about the SF-424, the individual listed in § 8F of this form is automatically identified as the application submitter in JustGrants, so please be sure that person is checking their email and is prepared to complete the application in JustGrants during Step 2.

Additionally, if this is your entity's first DOJ application, your SAM.gov EBiz Point of Contact will also need to monitor their email and prepare to take actions to onboard your entities into JustGrants as you move to Step 2. You can find more information about SF-424 and the links provided on page 13 of the NOFO. Next slide.

Now let's take a look at Step 2.

KEVIN STEWART:

For Step 2, ensure your JustGrants application aligns with the requirements described in the NOFO, included Standard Application Information, which is pre-populated in JustGrants with data from your SF-424. You need to review and make edits as needed in JustGrants. You do not need to go back and make changes to your SF-424 in Grants.gov. Just be sure that the information in your JustGrants application is accurate and complete. The Proposal Abstract, which provides a brief summary of your proposed project is publicly available if the project is awarded, so be sure this does not contain any personal identified information and ensure that it does not exceed 2000 characters. Please follow the instructions in NOFO on page 14. Proposal Narrative provides detailed information about your proposed project, including the problems and needs it will address, goals and objectives, project design, and your organization's ability to implement the project.

Additionally, your budget should align with your Proposal Narrative and clearly explain how each cost will support the project. Costs should be reasonable and necessary for your project. Since allowable costs will vary by DOJ program, you should review the Allowable Costs for this NOFO outline on page nine. If applicable, MOU should reflect partnerships and show agreements to support your project through commitment of staff time, space, services, or other project needs. Please review the Additional Application Components on page 19 for more detailed guidance. Lastly, your application will also need to address the multiple Disclosure and Insurances outlined on page 20 of the NOFO. These questions guide applicants through programmatic financial and legal topics. Read those carefully and seek clarification when needed. Next slide.

Right. After the JustGrants deadline has passed, OJP will thoroughly review all applications. This process typically takes several months. First, we check to confirm that the application contains the Basic Minimum Requirements that were described in the funding opportunity.

For applications that miss these requirements, you'll receive notice that your application has been eliminated from further review. For competitive opportunities, peer reviewers who are subject matter experts assess the technical merit of an application. OJP staff then assess applications based on factors such as geographic diversity, past performance, and whether the applications are likely to meet the fund opportunities, goals, and objectives. We then evaluate the fiscal integrity of the applicant. We examine proposed costs and determine whether the Budget and Budget Narrative accurately explain the project's costs and whether those costs are allowable and reasonable. Finally, OJP reviews potential risks presented by applicants prior to making an award. This pre-award Risk Assessment takes into account a variety of factors including applicant's financial capability and past project performance. During the review process, OJP may contact you to clarify program or budget details.

Applicants are often eager to learn how their application is progressing through the review process. Unfortunately, DOJ staff, including User Support and the OJP Response Center cannot share any information with you until final awards have been made public.

Next slide.

Award Notices. You can visit OJP's grant awards website to see all awards made by year, program, and even locality. This site is updated as awards are made. If your application is selected for funding, specific JustGrants users for your organization will be notified by email of an award. They'll also see the award in their JustGrants account. If you receive an award, you must take specific steps in JustGrants to accept or decline the

award within 45 days. The DOJ award acceptance checklist on the JustGrants Resources website can walk you through the process to accept your award. Next slide.

Now, let's look at some Application Resources that are available to assist you. We recommend visiting the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide webpage where we have several resources to assist you with submitting your application. Next slide.

There are also several resources on the JustGrants Resources webpage to help you navigate the application submission process. Next slide.

Additional Grants.gov application support is also available via phone, email, or you can review resources on the Grants.gov Support website. Additionally, JustGrants customer support is also available via phone, email, or through online resources. Next slide.

Lastly, the OJP Response Center is also available to assist you with questions related to the content of the NOFO between the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern Time via phone or email. Next slide.

Lastly, as we close, please stay connected to OJP on the various social media platforms including Facebook, X and YouTube.

Lastly, please stay connected with OJP on the various social media platforms, including Facebook, X and YouTube. We thank you for joining us for this webinar. We wish you the best of luck on your grant application and just again, please take advantage of the resources available through JustGrants, Grants.gov, and the OJP Resource Center.

AMEEN BEALE:

And we also encourage anyone who has questions related to this NOFO to contact the OJP Resource Center. And thank you and good luck with your application.