



The **U.S. Department of Justice** (DOJ), **Office of Justice Programs** (OJP), **Bureau of Justice Assistance** (BJA) is seeking applications for the Violence Reduction Network National Training and Technical Assistance program. This program furthers the Department's mission by leveraging the vast array of existing resources across DOJ components to reduce violence in some of the country's most violent cities.

Violence Reduction Network: National Training and Technical Assistance Program FY 2016 Competitive Grant Announcement

Applications Due: May 5, 2016

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are for-profit organizations, nonprofit organizations (including tribal nonprofit or for-profit organizations), faith-based and community organizations, institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education), and consortiums with demonstrated experience providing national training and technical assistance in addressing violent crime. For-profit organizations must agree to waive any profit or fees for services.

BJA welcomes applications that involve two or more entities that will carry out the funded federal award activities; however, one eligible entity must be the applicant and the others must be proposed as subrecipients. The applicant must be the entity with primary responsibility for administering the funding and managing the entire program. Only one application per lead applicant will be considered; however, a subrecipient may be part of multiple proposals.

BJA may elect to make awards for applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

Deadline

Applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application. All applications are due to be submitted and in receipt of a successful validation message in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on May 5, 2016.

All applicants are encouraged to read this **[Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#)**.

For additional information, see [How to Apply](#) in Section [D. Application and Submission Information](#).

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035, or via email to support@grants.gov. The [Grants.gov](http://grants.gov) Support Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

Applicants that experience unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must email the BJA contact identified below **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. Additional information on reporting technical issues is found under "Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues" in the [How to Apply](#) section.

For assistance with any other requirement of this solicitation, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Response Center: toll-free at 800-851-3420; via TTY at 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only); email grants@ncjrs.gov; fax to 301-240-5830; or web chat at <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>. The NCJRS Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

Grants.gov number assigned to this announcement: BJA-2016-9113

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Violence Reduction Network: National Training and Technical Assistance Program (CFDA #16.738)

A. Program Description

Overview

The Violence Reduction Network (VRN or the “Network”), administered by BJA, is designed to enhance and improve the capacity of local jurisdictions to address violent crime and increase public safety. VRN is a comprehensive program to leverage existing DOJ resources to deliver strategic, intensive training and technical assistance (TTA) to local jurisdictions experiencing a precipitous increase in violent crime. BJA is seeking two TTA providers who will deliver TTA to state and local law enforcement agencies, and other criminal justice system agencies in jurisdictions selected to participate in the VRN. Cities currently participating in the VRN include Camden, New Jersey; Chicago, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; Oakland/Richmond, California; Wilmington, Delaware; Compton, California; Flint, Michigan; Little Rock, Arkansas; Newark, New Jersey; and West Memphis, Arkansas. The providers will also be responsible for supporting all aspects of the VRN TTA, a collaborative effort of the following DOJ component agencies: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); U.S. Marshals Service (USMS); the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA); local United States Attorney’s Offices (USAOs); Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS); Office of Violence Against Women (OVW); and OJP, including BJA.

The Network is designed to coordinate the delivery of TTA resources that are critical to communities’ efforts to reduce violent crime. In addition, VRN provides comprehensive TTA that addresses a range of criminal justice subject areas that have an impact on cities selected to participate in the Network.

The goal of VRN is to provide assistance to state and local law enforcement and criminal justice professionals in select jurisdictions to improve the level of knowledge, communication, collaboration, and tactics involved in addressing the violent crime that affects cities throughout the nation. VRN is supported by research and evidence-based practices and strategies. The program combines the leadership of DOJ and the expertise of nationally recognized criminal justice practitioners and action research experts to deliver a wide variety of TTA to participating sites.

Program-Specific Information

Recognizing that cities troubled by chronic violence problems will be more successful if they have access to the full inventory of evidence-based violence reduction resources, DOJ launched VRN in 2014 through BJA. VRN is a comprehensive approach to violence reduction that complements the U.S. Attorney General’s [Smart on Crime Initiative](#) by leveraging the vast array of existing resources across DOJ components to reduce violence in some of the country’s most violent cities. Cities selected to participate in VRN have experienced precipitous increases in violent crime. The Network brings DOJ law enforcement and programmatic support agencies together with VRN sites to collaborate on violence reduction efforts in some of our nation’s most violent cities. The Network supports existing local antiviolence efforts in participating sites by providing requested TTA and resources in a systematic and strategic way. DOJ component

agencies work in partnership with police chiefs and other local partners, such as prosecutors, on effective approaches to accomplishing their violence reduction strategies. City leaders are also given access to leading criminal justice researchers and practitioners, and they exchange information regarding violence reduction best practices through a community of practice model.

Through this comprehensive and innovative approach, the Network synthesizes existing resources across DOJ component agencies including ATF, DEA, FBI, USMS, COPS, OVW, and OJP with subject-matter expertise from the criminal justice, local government, advocacy, and academic communities. In addition, the Network shares lessons learned from evidence-based violence reduction initiatives and key data from organizations representing other disciplines, increasing the capacity of local communities to implement data-driven solutions that reduce violent crime and increase public safety. VRN is designed to ensure that the cities selected to participate in the Network are better equipped to navigate violence reduction resources through a collaborative and coordinated inventory of evidence-based strategies. Jurisdictions identified as candidates for VRN are cities that have experienced precipitous increases in violent crime and have violent crime rates that exceed the national average. They also represent jurisdictions in different geographic regions with distinctive characteristics, such as multiple federal initiatives or unique law enforcement structures.

BJA is seeking two TTA providers who will work collaboratively to develop the Network TTA and support the delivery of TTA to cities participating in VRN. One of the providers will be responsible for working with VRN sites to identify TTA needs and respond to TTA requests. The other provider will coordinate weekly VRN meetings and the agenda and logistics of the large VRN summits and peer-to-peer exchanges. These combined TTA services include, but are not limited to, coordination of federal law enforcement agency resources, training sessions and educational sessions developed and conducted by relevant subject matter experts, onsite or remote guidance on violent crime reduction strategies, peer-to-peer visits, partnerships, strategic planning, crime analysis and research integration, outreach, accountability and data-driven efforts, and other matters relevant to VRN. VRN sites will leverage TTA solicited through this competitive grant announcement to implement solutions to their chronic violent crime problems. The results of these efforts will assist participating jurisdictions with enhancing their violent crime reduction strategies and increasing public safety. More information about VRN is available at www.vrnetwork.org.

This program is funded under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. The JAG Program (42 U.S.C. §3751(a), *et seq.*) is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state, local, and tribal jurisdictions, and JAG funds support all components of the criminal justice system. The JAG Program authorization also provides that up to 5 percent of the funds available to carry out subpart 1 of Title I, Part E of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (“Omnibus”) may be granted, among other reasons, for one or more of the purposes specified in Section 501 of Title I, Part E, Subpart 1 of Omnibus upon a determination that it is necessary “to combat, address, or otherwise respond to precipitous or extraordinary increases in crime, or in a type or types of crime.” (42 U.S.C. §3756(b)(1)).

Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

The goal of the VRN TTA is to support the violence reduction strategies of VRN sites and to provide TTA, resources, instruction, tactics, and information that will enable communities and their stakeholders to more effectively address violent crime. The general objectives of the VRN TTA are to:

- Assist local leadership in VRN sites with addressing the negative impact of violent crime on their communities.
- Assist law enforcement with utilization of evidence-based policies and procedures to enhance their community-based violent crime reduction strategies.
- Assist current and future VRN sites with successful implementation of data-driven and problem-solving activities in their efforts to reduce violent crime.
- Establish and/or enhance policies and practices within local law enforcement agencies participating in VRN that align with national best practices.
- Advance nationwide changes in local policing that align with best practices.
- Engage proactively with VRN sites to assess progress, address challenges, and identify sustainable solutions.
- Re-engineer federal-to-federal and federal-to-local law enforcement relationships in addressing violent crime.
- Communicate regularly with BJA to assess the impact of VRN TTA services on program goals and progress of the individual sites.
- Collaborate with local USAOs, OJP, OVW, COPS, FBI, DEA, ATF, and USMS to identify and provide training and/or technical assistance to address a wide range of violent crime issues for state and local law enforcement in participating jurisdictions.
- Develop communication strategies to improve national awareness and knowledge of best policing practices for addressing violent crime.

This solicitation offers two TTA categories for two distinct sets of activities to provide targeted customized TTA to existing and future cities selected to participate in VRN on data- and analysis-driven law enforcement, crime prevention, and applied research strategies. Applicants must clearly designate under which category they are applying. Applicants may submit applications for one or more of the categories listed below; however, if an applicant chooses to apply for funding in both categories, two unique applications must be submitted. Applicants must clearly indicate on the front page of the Program Abstract and Program Narrative under which category or categories they are applying.

CATEGORY 1: LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT VIOLENT CRIME STRATEGY ENHANCEMENT GRANT ANTICIPATED AMOUNT: \$3,000,000. COMPETITION ID: BJA-2016-9366

Any TTA provided under this category of the solicitation must first have BJA's prior approval and/or must be provided in response to a BJA-approved request. Additionally, all TTA must be requested from a local agency and may not be solicited or arranged independently by the technical assistance providers. BJA expects to make up to one award in this category.

Applicants are solicited to provide customized TTA to VRN sites to help local jurisdictions enhance and/or develop and implement violent crime reduction strategies as well as consulting services, technical assistance, and training to law enforcement and criminal justice professionals.

Deliverables include:

- Recruit, maintain, and use a cadre of Strategic Site Liaisons (SSL) who will work with local VRN site(s) to assess and identify current violence reduction strategies and resources, navigate DOJ resources, and provide assistance to VRN site in refining and promoting violence reduction; including coordination of SSL training and onsite meetings.

- Provide analytical support to SSLs and VRN sites to assist with identifying and assessing current local initiatives and resources, as well as coordinating TTA and resources to ensure timely delivery.
- Provide site-specific technical assistance sessions to support the Network and assist jurisdictions in producing and/or enhancing violent crime strategic plans that, when implemented, will lead to a reduction in the level of violent crime within the local jurisdiction.
- Direct sites to subject matter experts (SMEs) and other VRN subject-specific TTA providers for specific site needs, such as youth violence reduction, police collaborations with communities of color, officer safety, technology assessments, victim services, corrections, or others as necessary.
- Recruit, train, and deploy crime analysts to VRN sites who will provide analytic support and tools that support proactive and coordinated crime prevention and control. The crime analysts training should include topics such as Crime Analysis for Crime Prevention; Strategic Problem Solving and Violence Reduction; People-, Place-, and People/Place-Based Strategies; Social Network Analysis; Critical Thinking for Crime Analysts; and Geospatial Approaches to Crime Analysis. Where appropriate, TTA provider will work with VRN site representative to identify a local university who can support agencies within VRN site crime analysis through use of graduate students seeking advanced degrees in law enforcement intelligence and analysis.
- Contribute to the creation and marketing of an online toolkit that will serve as a resource for non-Network jurisdictions experiencing precipitously high rates of violent crime wishing to implement data-driven violence reduction strategies.
- Assist current and future VRN sites with successfully implementing anti-violence strategies in their efforts to reduce violent crime. Provide technical assistance in translating relevant research on violent crime reduction, hot spot policing, and/or group violence reduction into practice.
- Plan and deliver ongoing comprehensive technical assistance to VRN sites, for example: assisting with evaluation design, brainstorming on available data sources, addressing data analysis challenges, facilitating partnerships with relevant stakeholders, and any other issue that may hinder a site's progress in achieving results.
- Conduct data collection, review, and analyze metrics to assist in the selection of cities that are experiencing a precipitous increase in crime for possible inclusion in the Network, including development of comprehensive city profiles.
- Develop case studies on FY 14, FY 15, and FY 16 VRN sites' experiences and results of VRN TTA/Resource delivery model upon completion of two-year engagement.
- Provide direct technical assistance and/or SMEs to VRN sites on the implementation of information-sharing technology solutions that enable agencies to effectively identify, assess, and respond to specific violent crime challenges. Depending on community needs, this may include targeting gun violence, aggravated assault and robberies, domestic violence, or witness intimidation, or addressing violent offender recidivism and rehabilitation.
- Collect and analyze data, and evaluate local violent crime and anti-violence strategies and collaborate with SSLs and research partners to determine the most appropriate strategies to measure the impact of TTA.
- Enhance VRN sites' capability to address gun crime, from initial detection and recovery through the investigation and processing of both the criminal defendant and the firearms evidence, toward a successful prosecution; utilizing Firearms Tracing and Investigative

Tools for Firearms Identification as well as National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN)¹ and e-Trace².

- Develop quarterly and annual evaluation reports on VRN delivery of TTA and sites' progress.
- Work collaboratively and share information among the selected TTA providers to ensure projects are planned and implemented in tandem.
- Coordinate all TTA activities with BJA to include report summaries of TTA events and timely submission of required programmatic and financial status reports.

CATEGORY 2: VRN LOGISTICAL SUPPORT GRANT ANTICIPATED AMOUNT: \$2,500,000.
COMPETITION ID: BJA-2016-9367

Any TTA provided under this category of the solicitation must first have BJA's prior approval and/or be provided in response to a BJA-approved request. Additionally, all TTA (with the exception of that provided in conjunction with the summits described below) must be requested from a local agency and may not be solicited or arranged independently by the technical assistance providers. BJA expects to make up to one award in this category.

Applications are solicited to support the infrastructure and logistics of VRN including online training, networking, and technical assistance; onsite support for strategic planning and networking; peer-to-peer learning and the development and implementation of two VRN national multi-day summits for VRN sites, to include appropriate faculty and SMEs.

Deliverables include:

- Develop strategic opportunities for VRN sites to build peer-to-peer support networks, and share promising and best practices with one another and amongst criminal justice agencies that have a role in preventing and investigating crime within their jurisdiction.
- Develop and deliver content for data- and analysis-driven law enforcement and criminal justice training and employ a variety of training delivery mechanisms, such as online trainings and other electronic or distance-learning formats, including podcasts, webinars, etc.³
- Provide logistical support for TTA and SME activities with DOJ program offices (OJP, OVW, COPS) and federal law enforcement agencies (ATF, DEA, FBI, USMS).
- Scan the field to identify emerging trends, promising practices, and model programs that address violent crime. Develop reports, publications, and other outreach vehicles to relate the research to the VRN sites.
- Maintain robust public and invitation-only websites for the Network where TTA services and other relevant resources are made available to the VRN sites and the broader law enforcement community. The website should include information on VRN structure, publications, activities, and resources.

¹ The NIBIN Program automates ballistics evaluations and provides actionable investigative leads in a timely manner. NIBIN is the only interstate automated ballistic imaging network in operation in the United States and is available to most major population centers in the United States.

² eTrace is an Internet-based firearm trace request submission system developed by ATF that provides for the electronic exchange of traced firearm data in a secure internet-based environment. Participating law enforcement agencies (domestic and foreign) with access to the internet can acquire 24/7 real-time capabilities to electronically submit firearm trace requests, monitor the progress of traces, retrieve completed trace results, and query firearm trace-related data in ATF firearms registration database at the National Tracing Center.

³ Examples of technical assistance to VRN sites may include: assisting with research design, brainstorming on available data sources, data analysis challenges, facilitating partnerships with relevant stakeholders, and any other assistance that may assist a site's progress in achieving positive results.

- Collect, distribute, and maintain site/city specific communications, articles of interest, reports, and other relevant information.
- Create and market an online toolkit that will serve as a resource for jurisdictions experiencing precipitously high rates of violent crime wishing to implement data-driven violence reduction strategies.
- Provide administrative support to VRN to include coordination of VRN conference calls note taking, development and distribution of meeting summaries, and preparation of VRN agendas and briefing materials.
- Assist BJA in conducting and providing logistics for national summit(s) convening executive local and federal leadership and key stakeholders that offer customized training and technical assistance for current and future VRN sites and adjacent jurisdictions during the 24-month project period.
- Recruit, maintain, and use a cadre of SMEs to assist VRN sites with implementation of violent crime reduction strategies and technical assistance needs, schedule and organize training venues, market trainings and recruit participants, and administer and oversee implementation of the trainings.
- Create quarterly VRN newsletter and annual public report that highlights VRN sites' successes and DOJ programmatic and federal law enforcement resources and TTA.
- Provide data for VRN site quarterly and annual reports. Assist in drafting and editing of VRN reports and publications to ensure they are error free.
- Work collaboratively and share information among the selected TTA providers to ensure projects are planned and implemented in tandem.
- Coordinate all TTA activities with BJA to include report summaries of TTA events and timely submission of required programmatic and financial status reports.

Applicants may consider partnering with other entities to garner the necessary expertise outlined in this grant announcement. Successful applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide the support, but also to identify, understand, and translate the research findings and evidence-based practices.

If an applicant proposes to make one or more non-competitive procurements of products or services, where the non-competitive procurement will exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (also known as the small purchase threshold), which is currently set at \$150,000, the application should address the considerations outlined in the [Financial Guide](#). In addition, all recipients who intend to make subawards of \$150,000 or more to a partner agency must submit a sole source justification to BJA for review and approval post award. The approval of the application or award does not automatically approve the sole sources.

BJA TTA providers are required to coordinate all TTA activities with BJA's National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC); www.bjatrainng.org. The successful applicant will be required to comply with BJA NTTAC protocols in order to ensure coordinated delivery of services among TTA providers and effective use of BJA TTA grant funding. BJA reserves the right to reasonably modify these protocols at any time at its discretion.

Additionally, all TTA providers may be required to participate in BJA's GrantStat. Through GrantStat, BJA management and staff examine the performance of the grant programs funded by BJA by tracking grantee or program performance along several key indicators. GrantStat calls for the collection and analysis of performance data and other relevant grant-level information that enables BJA as well as our TTA partners to be held accountable for the grantee's and program's performance as measured against the program's goals and objectives.

In addition, the TTA provider will be required to assist grantees in the collection of performance measure data, working in collaboration with the local research partners.

Evidence-Based Programs or Practices

OJP strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policy making and program development in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. OJP is committed to:

- Improving the quantity and quality of evidence OJP generates.
- Integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions within OJP and the field.
- Improving the translation of evidence into practice.

OJP considers programs and practices to be evidence-based when their effectiveness has been demonstrated by causal evidence, generally obtained through one or more outcome evaluations. Causal evidence documents a relationship between an activity or intervention (including technology) and its intended outcome, including measuring the direction and size of a change, and the extent to which a change may be attributed to the activity or intervention. Causal evidence depends on the use of scientific methods to rule out, to the extent possible, alternative explanations for the documented change. The strength of causal evidence, based on the factors described above, will influence the degree to which OJP considers a program or practice to be evidence-based. The [OJP CrimeSolutions.gov](http://OJP.CrimeSolutions.gov) website is one resource that applicants may use to find information about evidence-based programs in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.

B. Federal Award Information

Category 1: Local Law Enforcement Violent Crime Strategy Enhancement: BJA-2016-9366. BJA expects to award one cooperative agreement up to \$3,000,000 for a 24-month project period, beginning on October 1, 2016, to support the enhancement and/or development of local jurisdictions' strategies to address violent crime. Applicants must allocate at least \$500,000 to support the deployment of crime analysts to local jurisdictions.

Category 2: VRN Logistical Support: BJA-2016-9367. BJA expects to award one cooperative agreement up to \$2,500,000 for a 24-month project period, beginning on October 1, 2016, to provide logistical support for VRN and plan VRN national summits.

In order to be considered for an award under category one and/or two, applicants must clearly identify how the applied-for funding will directly address a precipitous or extraordinary increase in crime service applicants, in the population(s) to be served by the services identified in the application. Of particular interest to BJA are applications that identify a precipitous increase in the following types of crime: murder, nonnegligent homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

BJA may, in certain cases, provide supplemental funding in future years to awards under this solicitation. Important considerations in decisions regarding supplemental funding include, among other factors, the availability of funding, strategic priorities, assessment of the quality of the management of the award (for example, timeliness and quality of progress reports), and assessment of the progress of the work funded under the award.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Type of Award⁴

BJA expects that it will make any award from this solicitation in the form of a cooperative agreement, which is a particular type of grant used if BJA expects to have ongoing substantial involvement in award activities. Substantial involvement includes direct oversight and involvement with the grantee organization in implementation of the grant, but does not involve day-to-day project management. See Administrative, National Policy, and other Legal Requirements, under Section [F. Federal Award Administration Information](#), for details regarding the federal involvement anticipated under an award from this solicitation.

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls

Award recipients and subrecipients (including any recipient or subrecipient funded in response to this solicitation that is a pass-through entity⁵) must, as described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.303:

- (a) Establish and maintain effective internal control over the federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the recipient (and any subrecipient) is managing the federal award in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in “Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government” issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the “Internal Control Integrated Framework,” issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).
- (b) Comply with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal awards.
- (c) Evaluate and monitor the recipient’s (and any subrecipient’s) compliance with statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions of federal awards.
- (d) Take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings.
- (e) Take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity designates as sensitive or the recipient (and any subrecipient) considers sensitive consistent with applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality.

In order to better understand administrative requirements and cost principles, applicants are encouraged to enroll, at no charge, in the Department of Justice Grants Financial Management Online Training available [here](#).

⁴ See *generally* 31 U.S.C. §§ 6301-6305 (defines and describes various forms of federal assistance relationships, including grants and cooperative agreements [a type of grant]).

⁵ For purposes of this solicitation (or program announcement), “pass-through entity” includes any entity eligible to receive funding as a recipient or subrecipient under this solicitation (or program announcement) that, if funded, may make a subaward(s) to a subrecipient(s) to carry out part of the funded program.

Budget Information

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

This solicitation does not require a match. However, if a successful application proposes a voluntary match amount, and OJP approves the budget, the total match amount incorporated into the approved budget becomes mandatory and subject to audit.

Pre-Agreement Cost (also known as Pre-award Cost) Approvals

Pre-agreement costs are costs incurred by the applicant prior to the start date of the period of performance of the grant award.

OJP does not typically approve pre-agreement costs; an applicant must request and obtain the prior written approval of OJP for all such costs. If approved, pre-agreement costs could be paid from grant funds consistent with a grantee's approved budget, and under applicable cost standards. However, all such costs prior to award and prior to approval of the costs are incurred at the sole risk of an applicant. Generally, no applicant should incur project costs *before* submitting an application requesting federal funding for those costs. Should there be extenuating circumstances that appear to be appropriate for OJP's consideration as pre-agreement costs, the applicant should contact the point of contact listed on the title page of this announcement for details on the requirements for submitting a written request for approval. See the section on Costs Requiring Prior Approval in the Financial Guide, for more information.

Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver

With respect to any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation, recipients may not use federal funds to pay total cash compensation (salary plus cash bonuses) to any employee of the award recipient at a rate that exceeds 110% 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.⁶ The 2016 salary table for SES employees is available at the Office of Personnel Management [website](#). Note: A recipient may compensate an employee at a greater rate, provided the amount in excess of this compensation limitation is paid with non-federal funds. (Any such additional compensation will not be considered matching funds where match requirements apply.) For employees who charge only a portion of their time to an award, the allowable amount to be charged is equal to the percentage of time worked times the maximum salary limitation.

The Assistant Attorney General for OJP may exercise discretion to waive, on an individual basis, the limitation on compensation rates allowable under an award. An applicant requesting a waiver should include a detailed justification in the Budget Narrative of the application. Unless the applicant submits a waiver request and justification with the application, the applicant should anticipate that OJP will request the applicant to adjust and resubmit the budget.

The justification should include the particular qualifications and expertise of the individual, the uniqueness of the service the individual will provide, the individual's specific knowledge of the program or project being undertaken with award funds, and a statement explaining that the individual's salary is commensurate with the regular and customary rate for an individual with his/her qualifications and expertise, and for the work to be done.

⁶ OJP does not apply this limitation on the use of award funds to the nonprofit organizations listed at Appendix VIII to 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs

OJP strongly encourages applicants that propose to use award funds for any conference-, meeting-, or training-related activity to review carefully – before submitting an application – the OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at <http://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm>. OJP policy and guidance (1) encourage minimization of conference, meeting, and training costs; (2) require prior written approval (which may affect project timelines) of most conference, meeting, and training costs for cooperative agreement recipients and of some conference, meeting, and training costs for grant recipients; and (3) set cost limits, including a general prohibition of all food and beverage costs.

Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)

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. Reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services or benefits may include interpretation or translation services where appropriate.

For additional information, see the "Civil Rights Compliance" section under "Solicitation Requirements" in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

C. Eligibility Information

For additional eligibility information, see title page.

For additional information on cost sharing or matching requirements, see Section [B. Federal Award Information](#).

Limit on Number of Application Submissions

If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, BJA will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted. For more information on system-validated versions, see [How to Apply](#).

D. Application and Submission Information

What an Application Should Include

Applicants should anticipate that if they fail to submit an application that contains all of the specified elements, it may negatively affect the review of their application; and, should a decision be made to make an award, it may result in the inclusion of special conditions that preclude the recipient from accessing or using award funds pending satisfaction of the conditions.

Moreover, applicants should anticipate that applications that are determined to be nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation, or that do not include the application elements that BJA has designated to be critical, will neither proceed to peer review nor receive further consideration. Under this solicitation, BJA has designated the following application elements as critical: Program Narrative, Budget Detail Worksheet, and Budget Narrative. Applicants may combine the Budget Narrative and the Budget Detail Worksheet in one document. However, if

an applicant submits only one budget document, it must contain **both** narrative and detail information. Please review the “Note on File Names and File Types” under [How to Apply](#) to be sure applications are submitted in permitted formats.

OJP strongly recommends that applicants use appropriately descriptive file names (e.g., “Program Narrative,” “Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative,” “Timelines,” “Memoranda of Understanding,” “Résumés”) for all attachments. Also, OJP recommends that applicants include résumés in a single file.

1. Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

The SF-424 is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. Grants.gov and the OJP Grants Management System (GMS) take information from the applicant’s profile to populate the fields on this form. When selecting “type of applicant,” if the applicant is a for-profit entity, select “For-Profit Organization” or “Small Business” (as applicable).

Intergovernmental Review: This funding opportunity (program) **is not** subject to Executive Order 12372. (In completing the SF-424, applicants are to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 to indicate that the “Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.”)

2. Project Abstract

Applications should include a high-quality Project Abstract that summarizes the proposed project in 400 words or less. Project Abstracts should be—

- Written for a general public audience.
- Submitted as a separate attachment with “Project Abstract” as part of its file name.
- Single-spaced, using a standard 12-point font (Times New Roman) with 1-inch margins.

As a separate attachment, the Project Abstract will **not** count against the page limit for the Program Narrative.

All Project Abstracts should follow the detailed template available at ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/ProjectAbstractTemplate.pdf.

Permission to Share Project Abstract with the Public: It is unlikely that BJA will be able to fund all applications submitted under this solicitation, but it may have the opportunity to share information with the public regarding unfunded applications, for example, through a listing on a web page available to the public. The intent of this public posting would be to allow other possible funders to become aware of such proposals.

In the Project Abstract template, applicants are asked to indicate whether they give OJP permission to share their Project Abstract (including contact information) with the public. Granting (or failing to grant) this permission will not affect OJP’s funding decisions, and, if the application is not funded, granting permission will not guarantee that abstract information will be shared, nor will it guarantee funding from any other source.

Note: OJP may choose not to list a project that otherwise would have been included in a listing of unfunded applications, should the abstract fail to meet the format and content requirements noted above and outlined in the Project Abstract template.

3. Program Narrative

The Program Narrative must respond to the Selection Criteria in the order given. Applications are peer reviewed and scored on answers to the Selection Criteria. The Program Narrative should be double-spaced, using standard 12-point font (Times New Roman is preferred) with 1-inch margins, and should not exceed 15 pages. Number pages “1 of 15”, “2 of 15,” etc.

If the Program Narrative fails to comply with these length-related restrictions, BJA may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

The following sections should be included as part of the Program Narrative:

- a. Statement of the Problem
- b. Project Design and Implementation
- c. Capabilities and Competencies
- d. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation’s Performance Measures

To demonstrate program progress and success, as well as to assist the Department with fulfilling its responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), Public Law 103-62, and the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, Public Law 111-352, applicants that receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measure the results of their work done under this solicitation. OJP will require any award recipient, post award, to provide the data requested in the “Data Grantee Provides” column so that OJP can calculate values for the “Performance Measures” column. Post award, recipients will be required to submit performance metric data semi-annually through BJA’s online Training and Technical Assistance Reporting Portal. More information on reporting requirements can be found at: <https://www.bjatrainng.org/working-with-nttac/providers>.

Below are the performance measures for both categories of this solicitation:

Objectives	Catalog ID	Performance Measure	Data Grantee Provides
Provision of training to increase the knowledge of law enforcement and criminal justice personnel regarding violent crime reduction strategies; through in-person training and the delivery of onsite assistance	458	Number of trainings conducted	For the current reporting period: Number of trainings (by type): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person • Web-based • CD/DVD • Peer-to-peer • Workshop
	228	Number of participants who attended the training	Number of individuals who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the training (in-person) or started the training (web-based)
	239	Percentage of participants who successfully completed the training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the training • Completed an evaluation at the conclusion of the training
	235	Percentage of participants who rated the training as satisfactory or better	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed an evaluation and rated the training as satisfactory or better • Completed the post-test with an improved score over their pre-test

Objectives	Catalog ID	Performance Measure	Data Grantee Provides
	215	Percentage of participants trained who subsequently demonstrated performance improvement	<p>For the current reporting period, number of individuals who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received a scholarship Completed the training Completed a survey at the conclusion of the training Reported the training provided information that could be utilized in their job <p>Number of training curricula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed Pilot tested Revised after being pilot tested
	237	Percentage of recipients surveyed who reported that the training provided information that could be utilized in their job	
	144	Number of curricula developed	
	520	Number of curricula that were pilot tested	
	521	Percentage of curricula that were revised after pilot testing	
Provision of technical assistance to VRN sites to implement violent crime reduction strategies.	12	Percentage of requesting agencies who rated services as satisfactory or better	<p>For the current reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of onsite TTA events completed Number of reports submitted to requesting agencies after onsite TTA events Number of requesting agencies who completed an evaluation of services Number of agencies who rated the services as satisfactory or better <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in terms of timeliness b) in terms of quality Number of follow-ups with requesting agencies completed 6 months after onsite TTA event Number of agencies that were planning to implement at least one or more recommendations 6 months after the onsite TTA event Number of agencies that implemented at least one or more recommendation 12 months after the TTA event.
	11	Percentage of requesting agencies that were planning to implement one or more recommendations	
Facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges to assist VRN sites in implementing best practices violent crime reduction.	247	Percentage of peer visitors who reported that the visit to the other agency was useful in providing information on policies or practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of peer-to-peer visits completed Number of peer visitors who completed an evaluation Number of peer visitors who reported that the visit was useful in providing information on policies or practices Number of follow-ups with the requesting peer visitor completed 6 months after the peer-to-peer visit Number of peer visitors who were planning to implement at least one or more recommendations 6 months after the onsite visit Number of peer visitors that implemented at least one or more recommendation 12 months after the peer-to-peer visit.
	246	Percentage of peer visitors that were planning to implement one or more policies or practices 6 months after the peer-to-peer site visit.	

Objectives	Catalog ID	Performance Measure	Data Grantee Provides
Increase information provided to BJA and the criminal justice community.	147	Number of conferences or advisory/focus groups/webinars held	For the current reporting period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of conferences or advisory/focus groups/webinars held • Number of conference or advisory/focus group attendees who completed an evaluation • Number of conference or advisory/focus group attendees who rated the advisory/focus group as satisfactory or better • Number of publications/resources developed • Number of publications/ resources disseminated • Number of new web pages developed • Number of web pages maintained or updated • Number of visits to websites during the current reporting period • Number of visits to websites during the previous reporting period • Number of information requests • Number of information requests responded to
	493	Percentage of advisory/focus groups evaluated as satisfactory or better	
	144	Number of publications developed	
	145	Number of publications disseminated	
	492	Percent of websites developed and maintained	
	486	Percent increase in the number of visits to websites	
	354	Percentage of information requests responded to	

BJA does not require applicants to submit performance measure data with their application. Performance measures are included as an alert that BJA will require successful applicants to submit specific data as part of their reporting requirements. For the application, applicants should indicate an understanding of these requirements and discuss how they will gather the required data, should they receive funding.

Note on Project Evaluations

Applicants that propose to use funds awarded through this solicitation to conduct project evaluations should be aware that certain project evaluations (such as systematic investigations designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge) may constitute “research” for purposes of applicable DOJ human subjects protection regulations. However, project evaluations that are intended only to generate internal improvements to a program or service, or are conducted only to meet OJP’s performance measure data reporting requirements, likely do not constitute “research.” Applicants should provide sufficient information for OJP to determine whether the particular project they propose would either intentionally or unintentionally collect and/or use information in such a way that it meets the DOJ regulatory definition of research.

Research, for the purposes of human subjects protections for OJP-funded programs, is defined as, “a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge” 28 C.F.R. § 46.102(d). For additional information on determining whether a proposed activity would constitute research, see the decision tree to assist applicants on the “Research and the Protection of Human Subjects” section of the [OJP Funding Resource Center](http://www.ojp.gov/funding/Explore/SolicitationRequirements/EvidenceResearchEvaluationRequirements.htm) web page (www.ojp.gov/funding/Explore/SolicitationRequirements/EvidenceResearchEvaluationRequirements.htm). Applicants whose proposals may involve a research or statistical component also should review the “Data Privacy and Confidentiality Requirements” section on that web page.

4. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative

a. Budget Detail Worksheet

A sample Budget Detail Worksheet can be found at www.ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/BudgetDetailWorksheet.pdf. Applicants that submit their budget in a different format should include the budget categories listed in the sample budget worksheet. The Budget Detail Worksheet should be broken down by year.

For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, see the Financial Guide at <http://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm>.

b. Budget Narrative

The Budget Narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe every category of expense listed in the Budget Detail Worksheet. OJP expects proposed budgets to be complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

Applicants should demonstrate in their Budget Narratives how they will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget Narratives should generally describe cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the goals of the project. For example, a Budget Narrative should detail why planned in-person meetings are necessary, or how technology and collaboration with outside organizations could be used to reduce costs, without compromising quality.

The narrative should be mathematically sound and correspond with the information and figures provided in the Budget Detail Worksheet. The narrative should explain how the applicant estimated and calculated all costs, and how they are relevant to the completion of the proposed project. The narrative may include tables for clarification purposes but need not be in a spreadsheet format. As with the Budget Detail Worksheet, the Budget Narrative should be broken down by year.

c. Non-Competitive Procurement Contracts In Excess of Simplified Acquisition Threshold

If an applicant proposes to make one or more non-competitive procurements of products or services, where the non-competitive procurement will exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (also known as the small purchase threshold), which is currently set at \$150,000, the application should address the considerations outlined in the [Financial Guide](#).

d. Pre-Agreement Cost Approvals

For information on pre-agreement costs, see Section [B. Federal Award Information](#).

5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Indirect costs are allowed only under the following circumstances:

- (a) The applicant has a current, federally approved indirect cost rate; or
- (b) The applicant is eligible to use and elects to use the “de minimis” indirect cost rate described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.414(f).

Attach a copy of the federally approved indirect cost rate agreement to the application. Applicants that do not have an approved rate may request one through their cognizant federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant organization, or, if the applicant’s accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct cost categories. For the definition of Cognizant Federal Agency, see the “Glossary of

Terms” in the [Financial Guide](#). For assistance with identifying your cognizant agency, please contact the Customer Service Center at 800-458-0786 or at ask.ocfo@usdoj.gov. If DOJ is the cognizant federal agency, applicants may obtain information needed to submit an indirect cost rate proposal at <http://www.ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/IndirectCosts.pdf>.

In order to use the “de minimis” indirect rate, attach written documentation to the application that advises OJP of both the applicant’s eligibility (to use the “de minimis” rate) and its election. If the applicant elects the “de minimis” method, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. In addition, if this method is chosen then it must be used consistently for all federal awards until such time as you choose to negotiate a federally approved indirect cost rate.⁷

6. Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)

Tribes, tribal organizations, or third parties proposing to provide direct services or assistance to residents on tribal lands should include in their applications a resolution, a letter, affidavit, or other documentation, as appropriate, that certifies that the applicant has the legal authority from the tribe(s) to implement the proposed project on tribal lands. In those instances when an organization or consortium of tribes applies for a grant on behalf of a tribe or multiple specific tribes, the application should include appropriate legal documentation, as described above, from all tribes that would receive services or assistance under the grant. A consortium of tribes for which existing consortium bylaws allow action without support from all tribes in the consortium (i.e., without an authorizing resolution or comparable legal documentation from each tribal governing body) may submit, instead, a copy of its consortium bylaws with the application.

Applicants unable to submit an application that includes a fully-executed (i.e., signed) copy of appropriate legal documentation, as described above, consistent with the applicable tribe’s governance structure, should, at a minimum, submit an unsigned, draft version of such legal documentation as part of its application (except for cases in which, with respect to a tribal consortium applicant, consortium bylaws allow action without the support of all consortium member tribes). If selected for funding, BJA will make use of and access to funds contingent on receipt of the fully-executed legal documentation.

7. Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status

Applicants are to disclose whether they are currently designated high risk by another federal grant making agency. This includes any status requiring additional oversight by the federal agency due to past programmatic or financial concerns. If an applicant is designated high risk by another federal grant making agency, you must email the following information to OJPComplianceReporting@usdoj.gov at the time of application submission:

- The federal agency that currently designated the applicant as high risk.
- Date the applicant was designated high risk.
- The high risk point of contact name, phone number, and email address, from that federal agency.
- Reasons for the high risk status.

⁷ See 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f).

OJP seeks this information to ensure appropriate federal oversight of any grant award. Disclosing this high risk information does not disqualify any organization from receiving an OJP award. However, additional grant oversight may be included, if necessary, in award documentation.

8. Additional Attachments

a. Timeline

Include a comprehensive timeline that identifies milestones, numerically listed deliverables, and who is responsible for each activity (provide title and agency).

b. Position Descriptions and Résumés

Include position descriptions and résumés for key project personnel, if known.

c. Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications

Applicants are to disclose whether they have pending applications for federally funded grants or subgrants (including cooperative agreements) that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover the identical cost items outlined in the Budget Narrative and Budget Detail Worksheet in the application under this solicitation. The disclosure should include both direct applications for federal funding (e.g., applications to federal agencies) and indirect applications for such funding (e.g., applications to state agencies that will subaward federal funds).

OJP seeks this information to help avoid any inappropriate duplication of funding. Leveraging multiple funding sources in a complementary manner to implement comprehensive programs or projects is encouraged and is not seen as inappropriate duplication.

Applicants that have pending applications as described above are to provide the following information about pending applications submitted within the last 12 months:

- The federal or state funding agency.
- The solicitation name/project name.
- The point of contact information at the applicable funding agency.

Federal or State Funding Agency	Solicitation Name/Project Name	Name/Phone/Email for Point of Contact at Funding Agency
DOJ/COPS	COPS Hiring Program	Jane Doe, 202/000-0000; jane.doe@usdoj.gov
HHS/ Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration	Drug Free Communities Mentoring Program/ North County Youth Mentoring Program	John Doe, 202/000-0000; john.doe@hhs.gov

ould include the table as a separate attachment to their application. The file should be named "Disclosure of Pending Applications."

Applicants that do not have pending applications as described above are to include a statement to this effect in the separate attachment page (e.g., "[Applicant Name on SF-424] does not have pending applications submitted within the last 12 months for federally funded grants or subgrants (including cooperative agreements) that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover the identical cost items outlined in the Budget Narrative and Budget Detail Worksheet in the application under this solicitation.").

d. Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity

If a proposal involves research and/or evaluation, regardless of the proposal's other merits, in order to receive funds, the applicant must demonstrate research/evaluation independence, including appropriate safeguards to ensure research/evaluation objectivity and integrity, both in this proposal and as it may relate to the applicant's other current or prior related projects. This documentation may be included as an attachment to the application which addresses BOTH i. and ii. below.

i. For purposes of this solicitation, applicants must document research and evaluation independence and integrity by including, at a minimum, one of the following two items:

a. A specific assurance that the applicant has reviewed its proposal to identify any research integrity issues (including all principal investigators and subrecipients) and it has concluded that the design, conduct, or reporting of research and evaluation funded by BJA grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts will not be biased by any personal or financial conflict of interest on the part of part of its staff, consultants, and/or subrecipients responsible for the research and evaluation or on the part of the applicant organization;

OR

b. A specific listing of actual or perceived conflicts of interest that the applicant has identified in relation to this proposal. These conflicts could be either personal (related to specific staff, consultants, and/or subrecipients) or organizational (related to the applicant or any subgrantee organization). Examples of potential investigator (or other personal) conflict situations may include, but are not limited to, those in which an investigator would be in a position to evaluate a spouse's work product (actual conflict), or an investigator would be in a position to evaluate the work of a former or current colleague (potential apparent conflict). With regard to potential organizational conflicts of interest, as one example, generally an organization could not be given a grant to evaluate a project if that organization had itself provided substantial prior technical assistance to that specific project or a location implementing the project (whether funded by OJP or other sources), as the organization in such an instance would appear to be evaluating the effectiveness of its own prior work. The key is whether a reasonable person understanding all of the facts would be able to have confidence that the results of any research or evaluation project are objective and reliable. Any

outside personal or financial interest that casts doubt on that objectivity and reliability of an evaluation or research product is a problem and must be disclosed.

- ii. In addition, for purposes of this solicitation applicants must address the issue of possible mitigation of research integrity concerns by including, at a minimum, one of the following two items:
 - a. If an applicant reasonably believes that no potential personal or organizational conflicts of interest exist, then the applicant should provide a brief narrative explanation of how and why it reached that conclusion. Applicants **MUST** also include an explanation of the specific processes and procedures that the applicant will put in place to identify and eliminate (or, at the very least, mitigate) potential personal or financial conflicts of interest on the part of its staff, consultants, and/or subrecipients for this particular project, should that be necessary during the grant period. Documentation that may be helpful in this regard could include organizational codes of ethics/conduct or policies regarding organizational, personal, and financial conflicts of interest.

OR

If the applicant has identified specific personal or organizational conflicts of interest in its proposal during this review, the applicant must propose a specific and robust mitigation plan to address conflicts noted above. At a minimum, the plan must include specific processes and procedures that the applicant will put in place to eliminate (or, at the very least, mitigate) potential personal or financial conflicts of interest on the part of its staff, consultants, and/or subrecipients for this particular project, should that be necessary during the grant period. Documentation that may be helpful in this regard could include organizational codes of ethics/conduct or policies regarding organizational, personal, and financial conflicts of interest. There is no guarantee that the plan, if any, will be accepted as proposed.

Considerations in assessing research and evaluation independence and integrity will include, but are not limited to, the adequacy of the applicant's efforts to identify factors that could affect the objectivity or integrity of the proposed staff and/or the organization in carrying out the research, development, or evaluation activity; and the adequacy of the applicant's existing or proposed remedies to control any such factors.

9. Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire

In accordance with the Part 200 Uniform Requirements as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.205, federal agencies must have in place a framework for evaluating the risks posed by applicants before they receive a federal award. To facilitate part of this risk evaluation, **all** applicants (other than an individual) are to download, complete, and submit this [form](#).

10. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

All applicants must complete this information. Applicants that expend any funds for lobbying activities are to provide the detailed information requested on the form Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL). Applicants that do not expend any funds for lobbying activities are to enter "N/A" in the text boxes for item 10 ("a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant" and "b. Individuals Performing Services").

How to Apply

Applicants must register in and submit applications through Grants.gov, a primary source to find federal funding opportunities and apply for funding. Find complete instructions on how to register and submit an application at www.Grants.gov. Applicants that experience technical difficulties during this process should call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at **800-518-4726** or **606-545-5035**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays. Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, **processing delays may occur, and it can take several weeks** for first-time registrants to receive confirmation and a user password. OJP encourages applicants to **register several weeks before** the application submission deadline. In addition, OJP urges applicants to submit applications 72 hours prior to the application due date to allow time to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

BJA strongly encourages all prospective applicants to sign up for Grants.gov email [notifications](#) regarding this solicitation. If this solicitation is cancelled or modified, individuals who sign up with Grants.gov for updates will be automatically notified.

Note on Attachments: Grants.gov has two categories of files for attachments: mandatory and optional. OJP receives all files attached in both categories. Please ensure all required documents are attached in the mandatory category.

Note on File Names and File Types: Grants.gov only permits the use of certain specific characters in names of attachment files. Valid file names may include only the characters shown in the table below. Grants.gov is designed to reject any application that includes an attachment(s) with a file name that contains any characters not shown in the table below.

Characters	Special Characters		
Upper case (A – Z)	Parenthesis ()	Curly braces { }	Square brackets []
Lower case (a – z)	Ampersand (&)	Tilde (~)	Exclamation point (!)
Underscore (_)	Comma (,)	Semicolon (;)	Apostrophe (')
Hyphen (-)	At sign (@)	Number sign (#)	Dollar sign (\$)
Space	Percent sign (%)	Plus sign (+)	Equal sign (=)
Period (.)	When using the ampersand (&) in XML, applicants must use the “&amp;” format.		

Grants.gov is designed to forward successfully submitted applications to the OJP Grants Management System (GMS).

GMS does not accept executable file types as application attachments. These disallowed file types include, but are not limited to, the following extensions: “.com,” “.bat,” “.exe,” “.vbs,” “.cfg,” “.dat,” “.db,” “.dbf,” “.dll,” “.ini,” “.log,” “.ora,” “.sys,” and “.zip.” GMS may reject applications with files that use these extensions. It is important to allow time to change the type of file(s) if the application is rejected.

All applicants are required to complete the following steps:

OJP may not make a federal award to an applicant organization until the applicant organization has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements. Individual applicants must comply with all Grants.gov requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the federal awarding agency is ready to make a federal award, the

federal awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

Individual applicants should search Grants.gov for a funding opportunity for which individuals are eligible to apply. Use the Funding Opportunity Number (FON) to register. Complete the registration form at <https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/IndCPRegister> to create a username and password. Individual applicants should complete all steps except 1, 2, and 4.

- 1. Acquire a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.** In general, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal funds include a DUNS number in their applications for a new award or a supplement to an existing award. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and differentiating entities receiving federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information for federal assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, one-time activity. Call Dun and Bradstreet at 866-705-5711 to obtain a DUNS number or apply online at www.dnb.com. A DUNS number is usually received within 1–2 business days.
- 2. Acquire registration with the System for Award Management (SAM).** SAM is the repository for standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. OJP requires all applicants (other than individuals) for federal financial assistance to maintain current registrations in the SAM database. Applicants must be registered in SAM to successfully register in Grants.gov. Applicants must **update or renew their SAM registration annually** to maintain an active status. SAM registration and renewal can take as long as 10 business days to complete.

Applications cannot be successfully submitted in Grants.gov until Grants.gov receives the SAM registration information. Once the SAM registration/renewal is complete, **the information transfer from SAM to Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours.** OJP recommends that the applicant register or renew registration with SAM as early as possible.

Information about SAM registration procedures can be accessed at www.sam.gov.

- 3. Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password.** Complete the AOR profile on Grants.gov and create a username and password. The applicant organization's DUNS number must be used to complete this step. For more information about the registration process for organizations, go to www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html. Individuals registering with Grants.gov should go to <https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/IndCPRegister>.
- 4. Acquire confirmation for the AOR from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC).** The E-Biz POC at the applicant organization must log into Grants.gov to confirm the applicant organization's AOR. The E-Biz POC will need the Marketing Partner Identification Number (MPIN) password obtained when registering with SAM to complete this step. Note that an organization can have more than one AOR.
- 5. Search for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov.** Use the following identifying information when searching for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov. The Catalog of

Federal Domestic Assistance number for this solicitation is CFDA 16.738, titled “Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant,” and the funding opportunity number is BJA-2016-9113.

6. **Select the correct Competition ID.** Some OJP solicitations posted to Grants.gov contain multiple purpose areas, denoted by the individual Competition ID. If applying to a solicitation with multiple Competition IDs, select the appropriate Competition ID for the intended purpose area of the application.
7. **Submit a valid application consistent with this solicitation by following the directions in Grants.gov.** Within 24–48 hours after submitting the electronic application, the applicant should receive two notifications from Grants.gov. The first will confirm the receipt of the application and the second will state whether the application has been successfully validated, or rejected due to errors, with an explanation. It is possible to first receive a message indicating that the application is received and then receive a rejection notice a few minutes or hours later. Submitting well ahead of the deadline provides time to correct the problem(s) that caused the rejection. **Important:** OJP urges applicants to submit applications **at least 72 hours prior** to the application due date to allow time to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification. All applications are due to be submitted and in receipt of a successful validation message in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on May 5, 2016.

Click [here](#) for further details on DUNS, SAM, and Grants.gov registration steps and timeframes.

Note: Duplicate Applications

If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, BJA will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted. See Note on File Names and File Types under [How to Apply](#).

Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues

Applicants that experience unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must contact the Grants.gov [Customer Support Hotline](#) or the [SAM Help Desk](#) (Federal Service Desk) to report the technical issue and receive a tracking number. Then applicants must email the BJA contact identified in the Contact Information section on page 2 **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. The email must describe the technical difficulties, and include a timeline of the applicant’s submission efforts, the complete grant application, the applicant’s DUNS number, and any Grants.gov Help Desk or SAM tracking number(s). **Note: BJA does not automatically approve requests.** After the program office reviews the submission, and contacts the Grants.gov or SAM Help Desks to validate the reported technical issues, OJP will inform the applicant whether the request to submit a late application has been approved or denied. If OJP determines that the applicant failed to follow all required procedures, which resulted in an untimely application submission, OJP will deny the applicant’s request to submit their application.

The following conditions are generally insufficient to justify late submissions:

- Failure to register in SAM or Grants.gov in sufficient time. (SAM registration and renewal can take as long as 10 business days to complete. The information transfer from SAM to Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours.)

- Failure to follow Grants.gov instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its website.
- Failure to follow each instruction in the OJP solicitation.
- Technical issues with the applicant’s computer or information technology environment, including firewalls.

Notifications regarding known technical problems with Grants.gov, if any, are posted at the top of the OJP funding web page at www.ojp.gov/funding/Explore/CurrentFundingOpportunities.htm.

E. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria

The following five selection criteria will be used to evaluate each application, with the different weight given to each based on the percentage value listed after each individual criteria. For example, the first criteria, “Statement of the Problem,” is worth 15 percent of the entire score in the application review process.

1. Statement of the Problem (10 percent)

Provide a thorough understanding of the need for gathering and transferring knowledge, best practices, and information to state and local law enforcement and criminal justice professionals as well as to communities to support the general goals of VRN.

2. Project Design and Implementation (40 percent)

Detail how the applicant will implement the deliverables listed in the [Program-Specific Information](#) section. Describe how the applicant will identify, assess, and deliver TTA needs for cities selected to participate in VRN. Provide specific information on the project to include an overview of any materials to be developed, information, area of instruction, and/or technical assistance to be provided as related to violent crime reduction.

3. Capabilities/Competencies (35 percent)

Fully describe the applicant’s capabilities to implement the project within established timelines to enable the timely and effective delivery of the information, material, training, and technical assistance. Provide an overview of the competencies of the staff assigned to develop and deliver all of the information, instruction, and technical assistance specifically required under each category. Demonstrate experience in addressing violent crime and gang violence, related criminal prosecutions and corrections strategies, as well as the delivery of TTA on a national level to include any prior experience supporting or delivering VRN TTA. **Applicants must discuss prior experience working with federal law enforcement agencies and/or United States Attorneys to support local jurisdictions. Applicants must include discussion of the organization’s experience with and capacity to provide effective innovative training and technical assistance to the audiences being served (e.g., law enforcement, district attorneys, probation and parole, crime prevention, researchers, criminal justice professionals, and community organizations, etc.). Additionally, applicants must have demonstrated experience recruiting former law enforcement executives, who have extensive experience and exposure to law enforcement and criminal justice leaders, to work with police departments as advisors to promote effective interactions with U.S. Attorneys,**

mayors, police chiefs, district attorneys/prosecutors, and other criminal justice system leaders.

4. Impact/Outcomes and Evaluation/ Plan for Collecting Data for Performance Measures (5 percent)

Clearly explain how the material, instruction, and allied documents to be developed for this program will be current, comprehensive, and effective. One method of demonstrating this would be to reference prior delivery of the information, material, and instruction and the resulting impact on the organization/area that it was directed to. Detail what will be measured (see Performance Measures), who is responsible for performance measurement, and how the information will be used to guide the program.

5. Budget (10 percent)

Provide a proposed budget and Budget Narrative that are complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities). Budget Narratives should demonstrate how applicants will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget Narratives should demonstrate cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the goals of the project.⁸

Review Process

OJP is committed to ensuring a fair and open process for awarding grants. BJA reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with the solicitation.

Peer reviewers will review the applications submitted under this solicitation that meet basic minimum requirements. For purposes of assessing whether applicants have met basic minimum requirements, OJP screens applications for compliance with specified program requirements to help determine which applications should proceed to further consideration for award. Although program requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all solicitations for funding under OJP grant programs:

- Applications must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- Applications must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- Applications must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- Applications must include all items designated as “critical elements.”
- Applicants will be checked against the System for Award Management (SAM)

For a list of critical elements, see [What an Application Should Include under Section D. Application and Submission Information.](#)

BJA may use internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination, to assess applications meeting basic minimum requirements on technical merit using the solicitation’s selection criteria. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the subject matter of a given solicitation who is not a current DOJ employee. An internal reviewer is a current DOJ employee who is well-versed or has expertise in the subject matter of this solicitation. A peer review panel will evaluate, score, and rate applications that meet basic minimum requirements. Peer

⁸ Generally speaking, a reasonable cost is a cost that, in its nature or amount, does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the costs.

reviewers' ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only, although their views are considered carefully. In addition to peer review ratings, considerations for award recommendations and decisions may include, but are not limited to, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance under prior BJA and OJP awards, and available funding.

OJP reviews applications for potential discretionary awards to evaluate the risks posed by applicants before they receive an award. This review may include but is not limited to the following:

1. Financial stability and fiscal integrity
2. Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in the Financial Guide
3. History of performance
4. Reports and findings from audits
5. The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on award recipients
6. Proposed costs to determine if the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative accurately explain project costs, and whether those costs are reasonable, necessary, and allowable under applicable federal cost principles and agency regulations

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General, who may consider factors including, but not limited to, peer review ratings, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance under prior BJA and OJP awards, and available funding when making awards.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

Federal Award Notices

OJP sends award notification by email through GMS to the individuals listed in the application as the point of contact and the authorizing official (E-Biz POC and AOR). The email notification includes detailed instructions on how to access and view the award documents, and how to accept the award in GMS. GMS automatically issues the notifications at 9:00 p.m. eastern time on the award date (by September 30, 2016). Recipients will be required to log in; accept any outstanding assurances and certifications on the award; designate a financial point of contact; and review, sign, and accept the award. The award acceptance process involves physical signature of the award document by the authorized representative and the scanning of the fully-executed award document to OJP.

Administrative, National Policy, and other Legal Requirements

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the agency-approved project proposal and budget, the recipient must comply with award terms and conditions, and other legal requirements, including but not limited to OMB, DOJ, or other federal regulations which will be included in the award, incorporated into the award by reference, or are otherwise applicable to the award. OJP strongly encourages prospective applicants to review the information pertaining to these requirements **prior** to submitting an application. To assist applicants and recipients in accessing and reviewing this information, OJP has placed pertinent information on its [Solicitation Requirements](#) page of the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

Please note in particular the following two forms, which applicants must accept in GMS prior to the receipt of any award funds, as each details legal requirements with which applicants must provide specific assurances and certifications of compliance. Applicants may view these forms in the Apply section of the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#) and are strongly encouraged to review and consider them carefully prior to making an application for OJP grant funds.

- [Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements](#)
- [Standard Assurances](#)

Upon grant approval, OJP electronically transmits (via GMS) the award document to the prospective award recipient. In addition to other award information, the award document contains award terms and conditions that specify national policy requirements⁹ with which recipients of federal funding must comply; uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements; and program-specific terms and conditions required based on applicable program (statutory) authority or requirements set forth in OJP solicitations and program announcements, and other requirements which may be attached to appropriated funding. For example, certain efforts may call for special requirements, terms, or conditions relating to intellectual property, data/information-sharing or -access, or information security; or audit requirements, expenditures, and milestones; or publications and/or press releases. OJP also may place additional terms and conditions on an award based on its risk assessment of the applicant, or for other reasons it determines necessary to fulfill the goals and objectives of the program.

Prospective applicants may access and review the text of mandatory conditions OJP includes in all OJP awards, as well as the text of certain other conditions, such as administrative conditions, via the [Mandatory Award Terms and Conditions](#) page of the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

As stated above, BJA anticipates that it will make any award from this solicitation in the form of a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreement awards include standard “federal involvement” conditions that describe the general allocation of responsibility for execution of the funded program. Generally stated, under cooperative agreement awards, responsibility for the day-to-day conduct of the funded project rests with the recipient in implementing the funded and approved proposal and budget, and the award terms and conditions. Responsibility for oversight and redirection of the project, if necessary, rests with BJA.

In addition to any “federal involvement” condition(s), OJP cooperative agreement awards include a special condition specifying certain reporting requirements required in connection with conferences, meetings, retreats, seminars, symposium, training activities, or similar events funded under the award, consistent with OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting.

General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements

Recipients must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, final financial and progress reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with the Part 200

⁹ See generally 2 C.F.R. 200.300 (provides a general description of national policy requirements typically applicable to recipients of federal awards, including the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 [FFATA]).

Uniform Requirements. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.

Special Reporting requirements may be required by OJP depending on the statutory, legislative, or administrative obligations of the recipient or the program.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s), see title page.

For contact information for Grants.gov, see title page.

H. Other Information

Provide Feedback to OJP

To assist OJP in improving its application and award processes, we encourage applicants to provide feedback on this solicitation, the application submission process, and/or the application review/peer review process. Provide feedback to OJPSolicitationFeedback@usdoj.gov.

IMPORTANT: This email is for feedback and suggestions only. Replies are **not** sent from this mailbox. If you have specific questions on any program or technical aspect of the solicitation, **you must** directly contact the appropriate number or email listed on the front of this solicitation document. These contacts are provided to help ensure that you can directly reach an individual who can address your specific questions in a timely manner.

If you are interested in being a reviewer for other OJP grant applications, please email your résumé to ojppeerreview@lmsolas.com. The OJP Solicitation Feedback email account will not forward your résumé. **Note:** Neither you nor anyone else from your organization can be a peer reviewer in a competition in which you or your organization have submitted an application.

Application Checklist
Violence Reduction Network:
National Training and Technical Assistance Program

This application checklist has been created to assist in developing an application.

What an Applicant Should Do:

Prior to Registering in Grants.gov:

- _____ Acquire a DUNS Number (see page 24)
- _____ Acquire or renew registration with SAM (see page 24)

To Register with Grants.gov:

- _____ Acquire AOR and Grants.gov username/password (see page 24)
- _____ Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Biz POC (see page 24)

To Find Funding Opportunity:

- _____ Search for the Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov (see page 24)
- _____ Select the correct Competition ID (see pages 10 and 25)
- _____ Download Funding Opportunity and Application Package
- _____ Sign up for Grants.gov email [notifications](#) (optional) (see page 23)
- _____ Read [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#)
- _____ Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm (see page 13)

After application submission, receive Grants.gov email notifications that:

- _____ (1) application has been received,
- _____ (2) application has either been successfully validated or rejected with errors (see page 25)

If no Grants.gov receipt, and validation or error notifications are received:

- _____ contact BJA regarding experiencing technical difficulties (see page 25)

General Requirements:

- _____ Review the [Solicitation Requirements](#) in the OJP Funding Resource Center.

Scope Requirement:

- _____ The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of \$2,500,000.

Eligibility Requirement: Applicants are limited to nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations (including tribal nonprofit or for-profit organizations), institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education), faith-based organizations, and consortiums with demonstrated experience in addressing violent and gun-related crime. For-profit organizations must agree to waive any profit or fees for services.

What an Application Should Include:

- _____ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (see page 14)
- _____ Project Abstract (see page 14)
- _____ * Program Narrative (see page 15)
- _____ * Budget Detail Worksheet (see pages 17-18)
- _____ * Budget Narrative (see pages 17-18)
- _____ Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see page 18)
- _____ Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) (see page 19)
- _____ Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status (see page 19)
- _____ Additional Attachments
 - _____ Timeline (see page 20)
 - _____ Position Description and Résumés (see page 20)
 - _____ Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications (see page 20)
 - _____ Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity (see page 21)
- _____ Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see page 22)
- _____ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (see page 22)
- _____ Employee Compensation Waiver request and justification (if applicable) (see page 12)

* These elements are the basic minimum requirements for applications. Applications that do not include these elements shall neither proceed to peer review nor receive further consideration by BJA.