



BJA FY 21 Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Reducing Crime by Improving Justice System Performance

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Application JustGrants Deadline: July 12, 2021 11:59 PM

Overview

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) is seeking applications for funding to allow jurisdictions to apply the Justice Reinvestment approach to identify and respond to crime and other public safety problems.

This solicitation incorporates the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) by reference. The OJP Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to applicants for the preparation and submission to OJP of applications for funding. **If this solicitation expressly modifies any provision in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in this solicitation as to that provision.**

Solicitation Categories

| Competition ID | Category * | Number of Awards | Dollar Amount for Award | Performance Start Date | Performance Duration (Months) |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| C-BJA-2021-00094-PROD | 1. Improving Court Processing and Efficient Docket Management | 1 | \$1,000,000.00 | 10/1/21 12:00 AM | 36 |
| C-BJA-2021-00095-PROD | 2. Improving and Implementing Pretrial Systems | 1 | \$1,000,000.00 | 10/1/21 12:00 AM | 36 |
| C-BJA-2021-00096-PROD | 3. Innovations in Information Sharing to Coordinate Crime Reduction | 1 | \$1,000,000.00 | 10/1/21 12:00 AM | 36 |
| C-BJA-2021-00097-PROD | 4. Innovative Approaches to Improve the Efficacy of State Justice Systems | 2 | \$1,000,000.00 | 10/1/21 12:00 AM | 36 |
| C-BJA-2021-00098-PROD | 5. Training and Technical Assistance for Site-based JRI Projects | 1 | \$1,000,000.00 | 10/1/21 12:00 AM | 36 |

Eligible Applicants:

Other

Other

Categories 1-4:

- State governments

For purposes of this solicitation, "state" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Category 5:

- Public and state controlled institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education

To advance Executive Order 13929 Safe Policing for Safe Communities, as of October 28, 2020, the Attorney General determined that all state, local, and university or college law enforcement agencies must be certified by an approved independent credentialing body or have started the certification process to be allocated FY 2021 DOJ discretionary grant funding, as either a recipient or a subrecipient. For detailed information on this new certification requirement, please visit <https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO>.

All recipients and subrecipients (including any for-profit organization) must forgo any profit or management fee.

BJA may elect to fund applications submitted under this FY 2021 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting the **SF-424** and **SF-LLL** in Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, at [Grants.gov customer support webpage](#), or email at support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

For technical assistance with submitting the **full application** in DOJ's Justice Grants System (JustGrants), contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833-872-5175 or JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov. The JustGrants Service Desk operates 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. eastern time, Monday-Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

An applicant that experiences unforeseen Grants.gov or JustGrants technical issues beyond its control that prevent it from submitting its application by the deadline must email the National Criminal Justice Reference Service Center (Response Center) at grants@ncjrs.gov **within 24 hours after the application deadline** to request approval to submit its application after the deadline.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact the Response Center by telephone at 800-851-3420 or TTY: 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only) or by email at grants@ncjrs.gov. Response Center hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. eastern time Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

Submission Information

In FY 2021, applications will be submitted to DOJ in a **NEW** two-step process.

Step 1: Applicants will submit an **SF-424 and an SF-LLL** in Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>. To register in Grants.gov, applicants will need to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration or renewal.

Step 2: Applicants will submit the **full application** including attachments in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://www.justgrants.usdoj.gov).

To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline.

OJP encourages applicants to review, the "How to Apply" section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

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Program Description

Overview

The Department of Justice is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights, increases access to justice, supports crime victims, protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.

BJA's Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Improving Justice System Performance provides funding to develop and implement innovative and research-based responses that address a range of criminal justice system problems. It employs the Justice Reinvestment approach to criminal justice, which recognizes that every justice agency has a role to play in preventing crime, ensuring a fair and efficient justice system, facilitating appropriate sentencing and treatment, and protecting community security.

Statutory Authority

Any awards under this solicitation would be made under statutory authority provided by Pub. L. No. 116-260, 134 Stat 1182, 1260.

Specific Information

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) enables criminal justice systems to improve their business management and operations processes by addressing the complex factors that drive crime and use of criminal justice system resources.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

Goal

The goal of the site-based awards in Categories 1-4 is for jurisdictions to use the five-step Justice Reinvestment Initiative process to address persistent or emerging crime and public safety problems, or to remove impediments to directly addressing them. The goal of Category 5's training and technical assistance (TTA) is to work directly with current and future sites in accomplishing their project goals through ongoing support.

Award recipients will receive technical assistance from subject matter experts (solicited in Category 5) and are expected to follow the five-step Justice Reinvestment approach, as follows:

1. Engage stakeholders. The project team includes all agencies and individuals necessary to understand and address the problem.
2. Analyze data and identify drivers. The project team uses data to determine the causes, symptoms, scope of the problem, and impediments to addressing the problem. The lead and other stakeholder agencies provide relevant data.
3. Develop innovative or research-based responses. The project team devises strategies and activities to specifically address the root causes of the problem and/or impediment to addressing the root causes. The team documents planned activities, including the parties responsible and timelines, and secures buy-in from stakeholders.
4. Implement innovative responses. The project team enacts strategies and activities according to the plan and makes course corrections as needed to increase the likelihood of achieving the desired outcomes.
5. Measure outcomes. The project team assesses the effectiveness of the implemented innovative strategies and activities to address the crime problem. The team documents what works and how it will work to support sustainability, future funding requests, and to inform replication.

Objectives

Category 1: Improving Court Processing and Efficient Docket Management

Identify and address the challenges that prevent efficient, timely, and effective court case processing. Applicants should review their court system data, policies, and procedures to identify opportunities to improve docket management, thus reducing unnecessary costs and delays that negatively impact the justice system and public safety.

Category 2: Improving and Implementing Pretrial Systems

Identify and address the challenges faced by jurisdictions in making pretrial release decisions that are timely, risk-informed, and fair, and assure a defendant's court appearance while protecting public safety. Applicants should review their pretrial data, policies, and procedures to identify opportunities for planning, implementation, and enhancements to better determine a defendant's level of risk to public safety and reduce the likelihood of their failure to appear in court if released pending trial, as well as opportunities to create or enhance pretrial release assessment services.

Category 3: Innovations in Information Sharing to Coordinate Crime Reduction

Develop and build data-sharing tools such as arrest alert systems that assist in addressing expensive deficiencies in sites' criminal justice systems. Projects must seek to break down information-sharing silos and challenge current practices that may impede a community's crime reduction strategies.

Category 4: Innovative Approaches to Improve the Efficacy of State Justice Systems

Identify innovative approaches to address persistent or emerging crime and public safety problems, or the impediments/barriers to address them. Applicants should review the entire criminal justice system spectrum — from event to reentry — to identify innovative opportunities for improvement that align with holding offenders accountable, addressing the opioid epidemic, supporting law enforcement and correctional institutions, and supporting victims of crime.

Category 5: Training and Technical Assistance for Site-based JRI Projects

The selected provider will work closely with the sites funded by BJA, to include applicants for FY 2021 funding (up to 5) as well as previous year cohorts (approximately 24 grantees), to help them achieve their project goals and deliverables. The provider will provide ongoing, intensive coaching to develop a detailed implementation plan, assist each site in executing it, and develop sustainability plans before the end of the sites' award period. The provider may also be asked by BJA to provide training to the field, prioritizing jurisdictions engaged in Justice Reinvestment, as well as participate in group interactions at conferences or workshops, peer-to-peer consultations, distance learning, and/or web-based assistance.

Deliverables

For Categories 1-4, deliverables include:

- A final report summarizing the changes made and preliminary outcomes.

For Category 5, deliverables include:

- Provide education and proactive, comprehensive training and technical assistance via teleconferencing, peer-to-peer consultations, onsite assistance, web-based assistance, and follow-up TTA as required by phone and/or email.
- Assign coaches to each site to manage, monitor, and report on support needs, including keeping track of site progress, recommending next steps to improve performance, and providing BJA with regular updates.
- Identify and maintain a list of consultants whose expertise and experience can best meet grantees' needs. As needed and with the approval of BJA, assign consultants to assist sites, and report on and monitor support provided.
- As needed and with BJA approval, plan for and host distance-learning sessions for sites and the field at large, such as webinars and subject-specific conference calls on topics such as strategic planning, collaboration, and sustainability.
- Develop end-of-engagement materials, such as case studies, to document each grantee's experiences and results of assistance, as well as to demonstrate how activities reduced crime and/or made the justice system more effective and efficient.

The Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables are directly related to the performance measures that demonstrate the results of the work completed, as discussed under the Application and Submission Information section.

Evidence-Based Programs or Practices

OJP strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policymaking and program development in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. For additional information and resources on evidence-based programs or practices, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities

OJP may conduct or support an evaluation of the programs and activities funded under this solicitation. For additional information, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) section entitled "Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities."

Priority Areas

The Department of Justice is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights, increases access to justice, supports crime victims, protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community. In FY 2021, OJP will give priority consideration in award decisions to applications in Categories 1-4 that demonstrate ways in which their projects will advance one or more of these areas.

To receive priority consideration for advancing one or more of the Department's priorities, the applicant must provide a sufficient narrative explanation as an attachment, that specifies how the project will advance the promotion of civil rights, access to justice, support to crime victims, protecting the public from crime and evolving threats, or building trust between law enforcement and the community. In addition, OJP will give priority consideration, if applicable, to applicants that demonstrate that the individuals who are intended to benefit from the requested grant reside in high-poverty areas or persistent-poverty counties.

To receive priority consideration under the poverty priority, the applicant must provide information to demonstrate that the individuals who are intended to benefit from the requested grant reside in high-poverty areas or persistent poverty counties. For purposes of this priority consideration, the term "high-poverty area" means any census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2013–2017 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Census Bureau (applicants may search by census tract at <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2017/>) and the term "persistent poverty counties" means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (applicants may search by county at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/dec/census-poverty.html> and at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html>).

Priority consideration is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions and is not a guarantee of an award.

Federal Award Information

Solicitation Category

| Competition ID Enter to sort | Category * | Number of Awards | Dollar Amount for Award | Performance Start Date | Performance Duration (Months) |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| C-BJA-2021-00094-PROD | 1. Improving Court Processing and Efficient Docket Management | 1 | \$1,000,000.00 | 10/1/21 12:00 AM | 36 |
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| C-BJA-2021-00097-PROD | 4. Innovative Approaches to Improve the Efficacy of State Justice Systems | 2 | \$1,000,000.00 | 10/1/21 12:00 AM | 36 |
| C-BJA-2021-00098-PROD | 5. Training and Technical Assistance for Site-based JRI Projects | 1 | \$1,000,000.00 | 10/1/21 12:00 AM | 36 |

Awards, Amounts and Durations

Period of Performance Start Date

10/1/21 12:00 AM

Period of Performance Duration (Months)

36

Anticipated Total Amount to be Awarded Under Solicitation

\$6,000,000.00

Continuation Funding Intent

BJA may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this solicitation, through continuation awards. OJP will consider, among other factors, OJP's strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award, and progress of award-funded work, when making continuation award decisions.

Availability of Funds

This solicitation, and awards (if any are made) under this solicitation, are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law. In addition, nothing in this solicitation is intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Types of Awards

BJA expects to make awards under this solicitation under Categories 1-4 as grants. See the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for a brief discussion of important statutes, regulations, and award conditions that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP grants (and cooperative agreements).

BJA expects to make awards under this solicitation under Category 5 as a cooperative agreement, which provides for OJP to have substantial involvement in carrying out award activities. See the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information](#).

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls

Award recipients and subrecipients (including recipients or subrecipients that are pass-through entities) must, as described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.303, comply with standards for financial and program management. The "Part 200 Uniform Requirements" means the DOJ regulation at 2 C.F.R. Part 2800, which adopts (with certain modifications) the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200. See [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Budget Information

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

This solicitation does not require a match.

Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) information on Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs).

Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation: Waiver

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) information on Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver.

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

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs.

Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on Costs Associated with Language Assistance.

Eligibility Information

For eligibility information, see the solicitation cover page.

Application and Submission Information

Content of Application Submission

The following application elements **MUST** be included in the application submission for an application to meet the basic minimum requirements (BMR) to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding:

- Proposal Abstract
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (web-based form)
- Timeline/Task Plan
- Documentation of Proposed Subrecipients

See the "Application Elements and Formatting Instructions" section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on what happens to an application that does not contain all the specified elements or that is nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation.

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

The SF-424 will be submitted in Grants.gov. The SF-424 is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on completing the SF-424.

In Section F of the SF-424, please include the name and contact information of the individual **who will complete application materials in JustGrants**. JustGrants will use this information (*email address*) to assign the application to this user in JustGrants.

Intergovernmental Review: This solicitation ("funding opportunity") is subject to [Executive Order 12372](#). An applicant may find the names and addresses of State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) at the following website: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SPOC-4-13-20.pdf>. If the applicant's state appears on the SPOC list, the applicant must contact the State SPOC to find out about, and comply with, the state's process under E.O. 12372. In completing the SF-424, an applicant whose state appears on the SPOC list is to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19, once the applicant has complied with its state E.O. 12372 process. (An applicant whose state does not appear on the SPOC list should answer question 19 by selecting the response that the: "Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.")

Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)

The Standard Applicant Information section of the JustGrants application is pre-populated with the SF-424 data submitted in Grants.gov. Applicants will need to review the Standard Applicant Information in JustGrants and make edits as needed. Within this section, applicants will need to: add zip codes for areas affected by the project; confirm their Authorized Representative; and verify the organization's legal name and address.

Proposal Abstract

A proposal abstract (no more than 400 words) summarizing the proposed project including primary activities, products and deliverables, the service area, and who will benefit from the proposed project, will be completed in the JustGrants Web-based form.

Proposal Narrative

The proposal narrative should be submitted as an attachment in JustGrants. The attached document should be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point Times New Roman font; have no less than 1-inch margins; and should not exceed 15 pages. Pages should be numbered and submitted as an attachment. If the proposal narrative fails to comply with these length restrictions, BJA may negatively consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

The following sections must be included as part of the proposal narrative:

a. Description of the Issue

For Category 1-4 applicants, identify the criminal justice challenges faced and whether those challenges will be addressed directly or if the applicant will focus on removing impediments to addressing those challenges.

For Category 5 applicants, demonstrate a thorough understanding of the JRI process and the unique way it can be used to improve criminal justice outcomes. Also describe the needs for training and technical assistance support by sites using the JRI process.

b. Project Design and Implementation

For Category 1-4 applicants, identify how the applicant will use the five-step JRI process (described in the Program Description under "Goals") to address its identified criminal justice system challenge. Describe the proposed project design and how it will be implemented.

For Category 5 applicants, describe how the applicant will deliver the proposed assistance to meet the objectives and deliverables described in the solicitation.

c. Capabilities and Competencies

For all categories, describe the applicant organization's ability to implement the proposed project design. List all partners, if applicable, and detail each organization's role in delivering upon the objectives and deliverables described in the solicitation.

d. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures

Describe the process for measuring project performance. Identify who will collect the data; who is responsible for performance measurements; and how the information will be used to guide and evaluate the impact of the project. Describe the process to accurately report data.

Note: Applicants are **not** required to submit performance data with the application. Rather, performance measures information is included as an alert that successful applicants will be required to submit performance data as part of the reporting requirements under an award.

OJP will require each successful applicant to submit regular performance data that demonstrate the results of the work carried out under the award. The performance data directly relate to the goals, objectives, and deliverables identified under "Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables."

Applicants can also visit OJP's performance measurement page at www.ojp.gov/performance for an overview of performance measurement activities at OJP.

For Categories 1-4, award recipients will be required to submit performance measure data and performance reports in JustGrants. Examples of the performance measures questionnaire can be found at <https://bja.ojp.gov/JRI/Measures>. Further guidance on the post-award submission process will be provided, if selected for award.

For Category 5, the award recipient will be required to submit performance measure data in the BJA TTA Reporting Portal and/or JustGrants. Examples of the performance measures questionnaire can be found [here](#). Further guidance on the post-award submission process will be provided, if selected for award.

Note on Project Evaluations

An applicant that proposes to use award funds through this solicitation to conduct project evaluations must follow the guidance under "Note on Project Evaluations" in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

Applicants will submit the Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Improving Justice System Performance solicitation's goals, objectives, deliverables, and timelines in the JustGrants web-based form.

Budget and Associated Documentation

Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)

Applicants will complete the JustGrants web-based budget form. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Applicants will submit their indirect cost rate agreement by uploading the agreement as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Financial Management Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)

Applicants will download the questionnaire in JustGrants and submit by uploading the completed questionnaire as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Additional Application Components

Applicants will attach the additional requested documentation in JustGrants.

Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement

If an application proposes research (including research and development) and/or evaluation, the applicant must demonstrate research/evaluation independence and integrity, including appropriate safeguards, before it may receive award funds. Applicants will submit a description of their research and evaluation independence and integrity by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants. For additional information regarding demonstrating research/evaluation independence and integrity, including appropriate safeguards, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Documentation of Advancing DOJ Priorities (if applicable)

As is mentioned above, OJP will give priority consideration in award decisions to applications that specify how the project will advance one or more of the following DOJ priorities: the promotion of civil rights, access to justice, support to crime victims, protecting the public from crime and evolving threats, or building trust between law enforcement and the community. Applicants will submit the narrative by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants.

Documentation of High-Poverty Areas or Persistent-Poverty Counties (if applicable)

As mentioned above, OJP will give priority consideration in award decisions to applications that demonstrate that the individuals who will benefit from the requested grant reside in high-poverty areas or persistent-poverty counties as defined above. Each applicant proposing to receive consideration under the High-Poverty Areas or Persistent-Poverty Counties priority must provide a sufficient narrative explanation to identify each specific High-Poverty Area (by census tract number(s)) and/or each specific Persistent-Poverty County where individuals are intended to benefit from the requested grant and how the requested grant will address specific challenges in each such identified area and/or county. Applicants will submit the narrative by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants.

Timeline/Project Plan

Provide a timetable indicating roughly when key activities or program milestones are to be accomplished, in support of the Project Design and Implementation. Applicants will submit the timeline by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants.

Documentation of Proposed Subrecipients

Complete Appendix B to indicate proposed subrecipients, including the name, organizational affiliation, and city and state of the proposed subrecipient entity. Applicants will submit Appendix B by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants.

Disclosures and Assurances

Applicants will complete the following disclosures and assurances.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Applicants will complete and submit the SF-LLL in Grants.gov. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

DOJ Certified Standard Assurances

See the DOJ Certified Standard Assurances in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items

Applicants will complete the JustGrants web-based Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items form. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

Applicants will review and accept the DOJ Certified Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements. See [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable)

If applicable, applicants will submit as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information. A DOJ High Risk Grantee is a recipient that has received a DOJ High Risk designation based on a documented history of unsatisfactory performance, financial instability, management system or other internal control deficiencies, or noncompliance with award terms and conditions on prior awards, or that is otherwise not responsible.

How to Apply

Applicants will submit an SF-424 and an SF-LLL in Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>.

Applicants will submit the **full application** including attachments in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](#).

For additional information, see the "How to Apply" section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) and the [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#).

Submission Dates and Time

The SF-424 and the SF-LLL will be submitted in Grants.gov by 11:59 pm EST on June 28, 2021. OJP urges applicants to submit applications at least 72 hours prior to the application due date to allow time for the applicant 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.

The **full application** will be submitted in JustGrants by 11:59 pm EST on July 12, 2021.

To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline.

Application Review Information

Review Criteria

a. Merit Review Criteria

Applications that meet basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers.

Applications in Categories 1-4 will be evaluated on how the proposed project/program addresses the following criteria:

1. Description of the Issue (30%)

- Describe the criminal justice problem and please provide data to support this description. Both the data and description should be specific to the application category. Describe what data are available, what data are missing, and how data will be used to guide the decisionmaking about the problem.
- Describe prior efforts to correct the issue and why federal funding is needed to undertake the proposed activities.
- Describe efforts previously undertaken to address the issue and provide information about the outcomes to date.

2. Project Design and Implementation (40%)

- Describe the activities that will address the criminal justice problem.
- Describe in detail how the applicant proposes to address the problem through the five Justice Reinvestment steps: engaging stakeholders, analyzing data and identifying drivers, developing innovative or research-based responses, implementing responses, and measuring outcomes.
- Describe the theory of change — how the proposed activities will lead to the desired outcome — and summarize available data and the research basis for the proposed strategy.

3. Capabilities and Competencies (15%)

- Provide a detailed description of the organization's capacity to perform the key tasks described in the Project Design and Implementation section.
- Describe the proposed management structure and staffing of the project. The structure described should match the staffing needs necessary to accomplish the tasks outlined in the Timeline/Task Plan.
- Discuss the staffing resources that will contribute to effective implementation and oversight of the project.

4. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (5%)

- Describe the method by which the data required for this solicitation's performance measures will be collected, including the system(s) used and the person(s) responsible.
- Describe how other performance metrics specific to the proposed project activities will be documented, monitored, and evaluated.

5. Budget (10%)

- Submit a budget that is complete, cost effective, and allowable (i.e., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).
- The budget narrative should demonstrate generally how the applicant will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. The budget narrative should demonstrate cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the objectives of the project.

Applications in Category 5 will be evaluated on how the proposed project/program addresses the following criteria:

1. Description of the Issue (15%)

- Describe the type of and need for training and technical assistance support for sites to successfully examine issues in their jurisdiction and implement their proposed projects.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the five-step JRI process and explain how the applicant will assist jurisdictions in following it.

2. Project Design and Implementation (40%)

- Address in detail how the applicant proposes to undertake and accomplish each of the objectives and tasks outlined in the solicitation. The application should specify the types of assistance the applicant proposes to provide.
- Describe how the proposed management structure and staffing of the project will facilitate the completion of the required deliverables.

3. Capabilities and Competencies (30%)

- Provide a detailed description of the capacity of the organization, and relevant partners, to deliver the required services and perform the key tasks described in the solicitation.

4. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (5%)

- Describe the manner in which the data required for this solicitation's performance measures will be collected, including the system(s) used and the person(s) responsible.

5. Budget (10%)

- Submit a budget that is complete, cost effective, and allowable (i.e., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).
- The budget narrative should demonstrate generally how the applicant will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. The budget narrative should demonstrate cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the objectives of the project.

b. Other Review Criteria/Factors

Other important considerations for BJA include geographic diversity, strategic priorities (specifically including, but not limited to, those mentioned above relating to priority areas), available funding, past performance, and the extent to which the Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (web-based form) accurately explain project costs that are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise allowable under federal law and applicable federal cost principles

Review Process

Applications submitted under this solicitation that meet basic minimum requirements, will be evaluated for technical merit by a peer review panel(s) in accordance with OJP peer review policy and procedures using the stated review criteria above.

OJP screens applications to ensure they meet the basic minimum requirements prior to conducting peer review. Although specific requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all solicitations for funding under OJP programs:

- The application must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- The application must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- The application must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- The application must include all items necessary to meet the basic minimum requirements.

Pursuant to the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, before award decisions are made, OJP also reviews information related to the degree of risk posed by the applicant. Among other things to help assess whether an applicant that has one or more prior federal awards has a satisfactory record with respect to performance, integrity, and business ethics, OJP checks whether the applicant is listed in SAM as excluded from receiving a federal award.

In addition, if OJP anticipates that an award will exceed \$250,000 in federal funds, OJP also must review and consider any information about the applicant that appears in the non-public segment of the integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently, the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System, FAPIIS).

Important note on FAPIIS: An applicant may review and comment on any information about itself that currently appears in FAPIIS and was entered by a federal awarding agency. OJP will consider any such comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in its assessment of the risk posed by the applicant.

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 take into account not only peer review ratings and BJA's recommendations, but also other factors as indicated in this section.

Federal Award Administration Information

Federal Award Notices

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on award notifications and instructions.

Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the OJP-approved application, the recipient must comply with all award conditions, and all applicable requirements of federal statutes and regulations (including applicable requirements referred to in the assurances and certifications executed in connection with award acceptance).

For additional information on these legal requirements, see the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Information Technology (IT) Security Clauses

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of information related to information technology security. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on information technology security.

General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements

In addition to the deliverables described in the Program Description section, any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to submit certain reports and data.

Required reports. Recipients typically 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 Uniform Requirements or specific award conditions. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent. (In appropriate cases, OJP may require additional reports.)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measures data.

Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For OJP contact(s), see solicitation cover page.

For contact information for Grants.gov and JustGrants, see solicitation cover page.

Other Information

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a).

Provide Feedback to OJP

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on how to provide feedback to OJP.

Application Checklist

Appendix A: Application Checklist Justice Reinvestment Initiative

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application. The [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#) is another resource.

What an Applicant Must Do:

Prior to Registering in Grants.gov:

- Acquire a DUNS Number (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Acquire or renew registration with SAM (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

To Register with Grants.gov:

- Acquire AOR and Grants.gov username/password (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Biz POC (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

To Find Funding Opportunity:

- Search for the Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov
- Select the correct Competition ID
- Access Funding Opportunity and Application Package (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Sign up for Grants.gov email [notifications](#) (optional) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- 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 [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

Overview of Post-Award Legal Requirements:

- Review the ["Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2021 Awards"](#) in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

Scope Requirement:

- The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of \$1,000,000.

Eligibility Requirement:

Categories 1-4

- State governments

Category 5

- Public and state controlled institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education

- Submit **SF-424** and **SF-LLL** in Grants.gov

After SF-424 and SF-LLL submission in Grants.gov, Receive Grants.gov Email Notifications That:

- Submission has been received in Grants.gov
- Submission has either been successfully validated or rejected with errors (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

If No Grants.gov Receipt, and Validation or Error Notifications are Received:

- Contact the Response Center by telephone at 800-851-3420 or TTY: 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only) or by email at grants@ncjrs.gov. Response Center hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. eastern time Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

Receive email notification to complete application in JustGrants

- Complete Application in JustGrants

Content of Application Submission:

The following items are critical application elements required to pass Basic Minimum Requirements review. An application that OJP determines does not include the application elements that must be included in the application submission in order for the application to meet the basic minimum requirements will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive further consideration.

- **Proposal Abstract**
- **Proposal Narrative**
- **Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (web-based form)**
- **Timeline/Task Plan**
- **Documentation of Proposed Subrecipients**
- Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) in Grants.gov
- Intergovernmental Review
- Standard Applicant Information (SF-424 information from Grants.gov)

Budget and Associated Documentation

- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

