



BJA FY 21 Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner System Program

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Overview

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) is seeking applications for funding to strengthen the medical examiner-coroner system. This program furthers the Department's mission by providing resources to improve medicolegal death investigations (MDI) in the United States.

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-2021-00101-PROD1	1	7	\$150,000.00	10/1/21 12:00 AM	24
C-BJA-2021-00102-PROD2	2	10	\$100,000.00	10/1/21 12:00 AM	24

Eligible Applicants:

Other

Other

See Eligibility Section

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 Response 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.

With this solicitation, BJA seeks proposals to strengthen the medical examiner/coroner (ME/C) system in the United States. Through this program, BJA will support grants in two focus areas by:

1. Supporting forensic pathology fellowships.
2. Providing resources necessary for medical examiner and coroner offices to achieve accreditation.

Statutory Authority

Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, 134 Stat 1182, 1258.

Specific Information

BJA's Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner System Program is designed to increase the supply of forensic pathologists and support the enhancement of medicolegal death investigation (MDI) services nationwide. BJA is seeking proposals in two purpose areas:

- Purpose Area 1: Forensic Pathology Fellowships
- Purpose Area 2: Medical Examiner-Coroner Office Accreditation

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

The goals of the Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner System Program are to:

1. Increase the supply of qualified forensic pathology practitioners.
2. Strengthen the quality and consistency of ME/C services.

Proposals are expected to clearly identify the purpose area to which they are applying. If applicants are requesting funds from both purpose areas, separate applications must be submitted for each purpose area.

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.

Purpose Area 1: Forensic Pathology Fellowships

Background: There is an extreme shortage of board-certified forensic pathologists in the United States. This call, first underscored in the 2009 report by the National Academies of Sciences on strengthening forensic science in the United States, was reaffirmed by several recent reports developed through national initiatives dedicated to improving the quality and practice of forensic sciences. Both the National Commission on Forensic Science and the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Fast-Track Action Committee on Strengthening the Medicolegal Death Investigation System recommended investments in workforce development initiatives for forensic pathologists in order to increase their quantity and thereby support the medicolegal death investigation needs of our nation.

Through this funding opportunity, applications are being solicited from institutions with current ACGME-accredited **forensic pathology** fellowship programs to recruit quality candidates who have completed all the necessary medical education and pathology residency requirements. This program will strengthen the ME/C system by increasing the number and quality of board-certified forensic pathologists.

Agencies that are awarded funds under this purpose area will be required to provide information to BJA, generally in the form of progress reports and performance metrics, throughout the duration of the award. These reports should describe all relevant progress, including any issues encountered and/or successes achieved. Once identified, the awarded agency should identify the fellow in subsequent progress reports to assist BJA in tracking progress of the funded fellow. Awardees are encouraged to report to BJA any additional information about the fellowship program that may assist BJA to better serve the MDI community.

Purpose Area 2: Medical Examiner-Coroner Office Accreditation

Background: Accreditation provides an independent measure of quality assurance by assessing that an office maintains written policies and procedures and adequate staff, equipment, training, and suitable physical facilities to produce a forensically documented, accurate, and credible death investigation product. Examples of accrediting bodies that publish professional standards on procedures for conducting autopsies and medicolegal death investigations are the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IACME).

Through this funding opportunity, applications are being solicited from ME/C agencies seeking accreditation through an appropriate ME/C accrediting agency such as, but not limited to, those listed above. Final determination of the appropriateness of an accrediting body for the

purposes of this solicitation will be made by BJA. This program will strengthen the quality of ME/C services in the United States by ensuring that agencies performing postmortem examinations are in compliance with industry and professional standards and performance criteria. **Funds awarded under this program may not be used to maintain existing accreditation.**

Agencies that are awarded funds under this purpose area will be required to provide information to BJA, generally in the form of progress reports, throughout the duration of the award. BJA is interested in, among other things, understanding the advantages and challenges that arise with implementing an accreditation program, especially when resources and policies vary among jurisdictions. Reports should address progress made in achieving accreditation and, for example, costs, benefits, and other technical, administrative, policy, or legal gaps that support, sustain, or limit the achievement of accreditation.

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."

OJP 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 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-2021-00101-PROD	1	7	\$150,000.00	10/1/21 12:00 AM	24
C-BJA-2021-00102-PROD	2	10	\$100,000.00	10/1/21 12:00 AM	24

Awards, Amounts and Durations

Period of Performance Start Date

10/1/21 12:00 AM

Period of Performance Duration (Months)

24

Anticipated Total Amount to be Awarded Under Solicitation

\$2,000,000.00

Additional Information

One purpose area 1 award will likely be a partial award due to availability of funds.

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.

PLEASE NOTE: BJA strongly encourages medical examiner fellowship applicants and awardees to review the following information regarding "loan repayment" opportunities through the link provided. The loan repayment program is not managed through this solicitation, BJA, or OJP; all questions should be directed to the organization.

The NIH Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs) are a set of programs established by Congress and designed to recruit and retain highly qualified health professionals into biomedical or biobehavioral research careers.

Applicants from medical examiner or coroner offices may be eligible for the Extramural Loan Repayment Program for Clinical Researchers (LRP-CR) as long as they contractually agree to engage in NIH mission-relevant research for an average of at least 20 hours each week for at least 2 years and are working with human material. The Extramural LRP repays up to \$50,000 annually of a researcher's qualified educational debt. The applicant does not need to work at a hospital but needs to be employed or supported by an institution described as follows: "a domestic nonprofit foundation (e.g., universities), professional nonprofit association, or other nonprofit institution, or a U.S. government agency (Federal, State, or local). A domestic foundation, professional association, or institution is considered to be nonprofit if exempt from Federal tax under the provisions of Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 501)."

Please visit the LRP website at www.lrp.nih.gov, send an email to lrp@nih.gov, or call the Division of Loan Repayment Information Center toll free at 866-849-4047. Applicants are strongly encouraged to pay attention to Institute or Center (IC)-specific funding priorities, and also to discuss their career interests with an IC scientific liaison: www.lrp.nih.gov/contact-engage#ContactEngageContactListsTile.

Types of Awards

BJA expects to make awards under this solicitation 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).

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

Purpose Area 1: Funds may be used toward a salary/stipend for the fellow and related costs that may include fringe benefits (if applicable), at the applicant institution's discretion. Up to \$75,000 of the \$150,000 may be used for other related direct or indirect costs. Related costs may include any combination of the fellow's fees, project costs, professional society membership fees, conference travel, and/or loan repayment (up to \$50,000) among other allowable expenses incurred during the award period of performance.

Purpose Area 2: Funds may be used to support new ME/C office accreditation. Funds may **not** be used to maintain existing accreditation.

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

- State governments
- City or township governments
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- County governments
- Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education
- For-profit organizations, other than small businesses
- Other: Agencies directly involved in medicolegal death investigations as part of their normal business, such as medical examiner offices and coroner offices
- Other: Certain qualified individuals

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

Eligible applicants for Purpose Area 1, Forensic Pathology Fellowships, are limited to entities with programs that should meet or exceed the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). For additional information on ACGME, please visit <https://www.acgme.org/What-We-Do/Accreditation/Common-Program-Requirements>.

Eligible applicants for Purpose Area 2, Medical Examiner-Coroner Office Accreditation, are limited to domestic medical examiner and coroner offices actively seeking accreditation through an independent accrediting organization such as the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IACME) or other appropriate accrediting bodies. **Funds awarded under this program may not be used to maintain existing accreditation.**

To advance Executive Order 13929 Safe Policing for Safe Communities, 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 no later than January 31, 2021, to be eligible for FY 2021 DOJ discretionary grant funding. To become certified, the law enforcement agency must meet two mandatory conditions: (1) the agency’s use of force policies adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws; and (2) the agency’s use of force policies prohibit chokeholds except in situations where use of deadly force is allowed by law. The certification requirement also applies to law enforcement agencies receiving DOJ discretionary grant funding through a subaward. For detailed information on this new certification requirement, please visit <https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO> to access the Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Safe Communities, Implementation Fact Sheet, and List of Designated Independent Credentialing Bodies.

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

BJA will consider applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients (subgrantees). For additional information on subawards, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Application and Submission Information

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)

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.

Intergovernmental Review: This solicitation (“funding opportunity”) is not subject to [Executive Order 12372](#). (In completing the SF-424, an applicant is to answer question 19 by selecting the response that the “Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.”)

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 12 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 main body of the proposal narrative should describe the proposed project in depth. Within its sections (specified below), the main body of the proposal narrative should:

- Explain the criminal justice significance of the proposed project.
- Explain how the application will strengthen the ME/C system and improve ME/C services.

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

a. Description of the Issue OR Statement of the Problem if research is involved

a. Description of the challenges faced by the agency when performing ME/C services.

a. Demonstrated awareness of the current state of ME/C issues.

a. Impact of funding and staffing on the ME/C system and ME/C services in the United States. (PURPOSE AREA 1 ONLY)

a. Impact of funding ME/C accreditation activities on the ME/C system and ME/C services in the United States. (PURPOSE AREA 2 ONLY)

b. Project Design and Implementation

a. Description of the strategy to address the needs identified in the Statement of the Problem, particularly any areas of specific concern and the relevance to the Goals and Objectives of the program.

a. Soundness of methods and approach to addressing the stated objectives of the proposed project. The overall strategy should be well reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the goals of the project.

a. Feasibility of proposed project including likelihood of completion within the proposed period of performance.

- a. Awareness of pitfalls of the proposed project design and actions to minimize and/or mitigate them.

- a. Effectiveness of recruitment and/or advertising strategies used by the agency to fill fellowship positions. (PURPOSE AREA 1 ONLY)

- a. Innovation and creativity (when appropriate).

- c. Capabilities and Competencies
 - a. Qualifications and experience of proposed project staff (including all individuals and organizations identified in the application who will be significantly involved in substantive aspects of the proposal).

 - a. Demonstrated ability of the applicant organization to manage the effort.

 - a. Relationship between the capabilities/competencies of the proposed project staff (including the applicant organization) and the scope of the proposed project.

 - a. Strength of the environment (e.g., institutional and jurisdictional support, equipment and other physical resources, or collaborative arrangements) in which the work will be done and its contribution to the probability of success.

 - a. Does the program meet or exceed ACGME-accredited forensic pathology fellowship requirements? (PURPOSE AREA 1 ONLY)

 - a. Affordability and cost-effectiveness of proposed approach.

- d. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures
 - a. Demonstrated plan for collection of the performance measure data as described in the solicitation.

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.

In addition to the performance metrics, awardees under Purpose Area 1 will be required to provide to BJA details about the impact and progress of the fellowship program in a narrative report. The report should include any details about the number of fellowship applications prior to implementing the BJA program and any changes noted in the number of fellowship applications received. Outreach efforts to increase the fellowship applicant pool, as well as the results of these efforts, should also be described.

Awardees under Purpose Area 2 will be required to provide to BJA details about the impact and progress of the accreditation efforts in a narrative report in addition to the performance metrics. The report should include information on the level of effort provided toward accreditation processes and the progress made, including the level of staffing and amount of time provided. Successes and pitfalls, as well as any information BJA can use toward the learning of ME/C accreditation processes, issues, and results, should also be provided.

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.

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/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/MEC-Measures.pdf>. 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 program's goals, objectives, deliverables, and timelines in the JustGrants web-based form. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

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.

Timeline Form

Proposed project timeline and expected milestones. Attach this as a separate PDF file titled "Project Timeline."

Letters of Support

Letters of commitment or cooperation/support or administrative agreements from organizations collaborating in the project (if applicable). Attach this as a separate PDF file titled "Letters of Commitment."

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.

Accreditation Documentation - For Purpose Area 1: Forensic Pathology Fellowships (if applicable)

Acceptable types of documentation of current accreditation include: an electronic (scanned) copy of the current accreditation certificate(s), a digital photograph of the current accreditation certificate(s), or a letter from the accrediting body that includes the certificate number.

Additionally, if a certificate references another document that contains key information on the type or scope of the accreditation, provide a copy of that supplemental documentation. Independent accrediting or certifying organizations may include the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or other appropriate accrediting bodies.

Accreditation Documentation - For Purpose Area 2: Medical Examiner-Coroner Office Accreditation (if applicable)

Acceptable types of documentation of current accreditation include: an electronic (scanned) copy of the current accreditation certificate(s), a digital photograph of the current accreditation certificate(s), or a letter from the accrediting body that includes the certificate number.

Additionally, if a certificate references another document that contains key information on the type or scope of the accreditation, provide a copy of that supplemental documentation. Independent accrediting or certifying organizations may include the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IACME), or other appropriate accrediting bodies.

Note: If the office is not currently accredited, applicants may provide supporting documentation that demonstrate activities seeking achievement of accreditation.

List of Key Personnel

Organizational Chart: Of the applicant agency and all proposed collaborators involved in the project. Include project-related staffing plans and narratives for each organizational chart, proposed new hires, and any anticipated staffing changes related to the Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner System Program funding if received.

Position Descriptions and Résumés: Curriculum vitae, résumés, or biographical sketches for key personnel. Attach this as a separate PDF file titled "Curriculum Vitae or Résumés."

List (to the extent known) of All Proposed Project Staff Members: Including those affiliated with the applicant organization or any proposed subrecipient organization(s), any proposed consultant(s) and contractors (whether individuals or organizations), and any proposed members of an advisory board for the project (if applicable). The list should include for each individual and organization: name, title (if applicable), employer or other organizational affiliation, and roles and responsibilities proposed for the project. Attach this as a separate PDF file titled "Proposed Project Staff."

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](https://www.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 June 24, 2021 at 11:59 pm. 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 on July 8, 2021 at 11:59 pm.

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 for Purpose Area 1 – Forensic Pathology Fellowships

Applications that meet basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers. Applications will be evaluated on how the proposed project/program addresses the following criteria:

1. Statement of the Problem/Description of the Issue (15%) - evaluate the applicant's understanding of the program/issue to be addressed.
1. Project Design and Implementation (15%) - evaluate the adequacy of the proposal, including the goals, objectives, timelines, milestones, and deliverables.
1. Capabilities and Competencies (15%) - evaluate administrative and technical capacity of the applicant to successfully accomplish the goals and objectives.
1. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (15%) - evaluate the applicant's understanding of the performance data reporting requirements and the plan for collecting the required data.
1. Budget (10%) - evaluate for completeness, cost effectiveness, and allowability (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).
 - a. Total cost of the project relative to the perceived benefit (cost effectiveness).
 - a. Appropriateness of the budget relative to the level of effort.
 - a. Use of existing resources to conserve costs.
 - a. Proposed budget alignment with proposed project activities.
1. Expected Outcomes/Potential Impact (30%)
 - a. Description of the expected outcome(s) of the project. Anticipated forensic pathology fellowships to be completed and anticipated forensic pathology fellowship processes to be initiated and/or assisted through the program.
 - a. Potential for significantly improved understanding of the stated problem. If the goals of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or MDI practice in the criminal justice system be improved?
 - a. What is the likelihood that the project will exert a sustained, powerful influence on the MDI-ME/C field(s) as related to criminal justice?
 - a. Potential for innovative solutions to address (all or a significant part of) the stated criminal/justice problem. How will successful completion of the project change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, or services that drive MDI as it relates to criminal justice? How will a successful project address the identified ME/C problem and associated critical barriers to progress?
 - a. Potential to increase the awareness of best practices for the ME/C community.

b. Merit Review Criteria for Purpose Area 2 – Medical Examiner-Coroner Office Accreditation

Applications that meet basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers. Applications will be evaluated on how the proposed project/program addresses the following criteria:

1. Statement of the Problem/Description of the Issue (15%) - evaluate the applicant's understanding of the program/issue to be addressed.

1. Project Design and Implementation (15%) - evaluate the adequacy of the proposal, including the goals, objectives, timelines, milestones, and deliverables.
1. Capabilities and Competencies (15%) - evaluate administrative and technical capacity of the applicant to successfully accomplish the goals and objectives.
1. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (15%) - evaluate the applicant's understanding of the performance data reporting requirements and the plan for collecting the required data.
1. Budget (10%) - evaluate for completeness, cost effectiveness, and allowability (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

a. Total cost of the project relative to the perceived benefit (cost effectiveness).

a. Appropriateness of the budget relative to the level of effort.

a. Use of existing resources to conserve costs.

a. Proposed budget alignment with proposed project activities.

1. Expected Outcomes/Potential Impact (30%)

a. Description of the expected outcome(s) of the project. Anticipated accreditation processes to be completed and anticipated accreditation processes to be initiated or assisted through the program.

a. Potential for significantly improved understanding of the stated problem. If the goals of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or MDI practice be improved?

a. What is the likelihood that the project will exert a sustained, powerful influence on the MDI field(s) as related to criminal justice?

a. Potential for innovative solutions to address (all or a significant part of) the stated criminal justice problem. How will successful completion change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, or services that drive MDI as it relates to criminal justice? How will a successful project address the identified ME/C problem and associated critical barriers to progress?

a. Potential to increase the awareness of best practices for the ME/C community.

a. Potential to improve the understanding of scientific rationale underpinning existing ME/C practices.

a. Potential for innovative protocols to increase the efficiency, accuracy, reliability, or cost-effectiveness of medicolegal death investigations.

c. 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, performance metrics, 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.

Performance Measures

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/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/MEC-Measures.pdf>. Further guidance on the post-award submission process will be provided, if selected for award.

Application Checklist

Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner System Program

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, 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 each Purpose Area.

Eligibility Requirement: See Eligibility Section

- 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)**

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#### **Content of Application Submission**

- Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) in Grants.gov
- Standard Applicant Information (SF-424 info from Grants.gov)

#### **Budget and Associated Documentation**

- Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based form)
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

#### **Additional Application Components**

- Accreditation Documentation – For Purpose Area 1: Forensic Pathology Fellowships (if applicable)
- Accreditation Documentation – For Purpose Area 2: Medical Examiner-Coroner Office Accreditation (if applicable)
- List of Key Personnel
- Timeline
- Letters of Commitment
- Potential Environmental Impact Coversheet and Checklist – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Documentation of Advancing DOJ Priorities (if applicable)
- Documentation of high-poverty areas or persistent-poverty counties (if applicable)
- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

#### **Disclosures and Assurances**

- [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities \(SF-LLL\)](#) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items (Pending Applications) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurance (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- DOJ 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) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

#### ***Submit Application in JustGrants:***

- Application has been successfully submitted in JustGrants

#### ***If No JustGrants Application Submission, Validation, or Error Notifications are Received:***

- Contact [JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov](mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov) or 833-872-5175 regarding technical difficulties