



BJA FY 21 Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative for Law Enforcement Agencies

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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 efforts to reduce violent crime in rural areas. This initiative furthers the Department's mission by providing competitive grants and technical assistance to small law enforcement agencies in rural locations to address the unique challenges these departments face in combating violent crime.

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

This solicitation does not include Solicitation Categories.

Eligible Applicants:

City or township governments, County governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), Other

Other

This solicitation is limited to agencies serving rural communities. The following entities are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity:

- Sheriff's offices serving rural population areas
- Local or county law enforcement agencies serving rural populations
- Tribal law enforcement agencies operating in rural areas or reservations
- County prosecutors' offices or functional equivalents serving rural populations

To qualify as rural for the purposes of this solicitation, an applicant must provide services in a rural area, although the jurisdiction's service area need not be exclusively rural. This definition holds for all entity types. For any municipality (e.g., town, village, or borough), the area must be considered rural and the population served must not exceed 15,000, based on the latest U.S. Census enumeration.

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 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](#).

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 JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov or at 833-872-5175. The JustGrants Service Desk operates 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST 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.

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.

The Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative is awarding grants on a competitive basis to small law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices in rural locations. These grants will support improved training and technology, expanded community-based crime prevention programs, and partnerships with victim services providers. This initiative is intended to improve communication and collaboration between state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve in order to address the unique criminal justice challenges in rural areas.

Statutory Authority

Public Law No. 116-260, 134 Stat 1182, 1257

Specific Information

The Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative will provide funding to law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices committed to engaging in strategies to address the underlying crimes and criminogenic conditions contributing to clearly identified violent crime problems occurring in rural jurisdictions. All applicants that receive funding under this initiative are expected to collaborate with a training and technical assistance (TTA) provider. Each site-based applicant should consider that the TTA provider will provide the following guidance and assistance:

- Provide references or literature reviews regarding professional and academic work related to the site's identified rural crime problem(s).
- Provide assistance in assessing the problem, identifying possible reduction strategies, implementing those strategies, and tracking outcomes.
- Provide opportunities to consult with relevant subject matter experts.
- Provide opportunities for peer-to-peer exchanges with sites addressing similar rural violent crime problems.
- Provide assistance to sites in compiling and reporting their performance measures to BJA.

In addition, the TTA provider will:

- Coordinate and integrate activities across sites.
- Identify program commonalities and promising practices.
- Compile and publish a final summary report that will allow other law enforcement entities to adapt approaches developed by the site-based grantees.

This initiative is designed to support the development and implementation of problem-solving strategies that specifically address violent crime occurring in rural areas and affecting rural populations. Successful applicants will demonstrate a commitment to:

- Community collaboration
- Criminal justice partner cooperation
- Victim-centered approaches
- Evidence-based strategies
- Commitment to measuring crime reduction outcomes in meaningful terms, commensurate with the scope of the violence problem and funding amount requested

With respect to outcome measures, these need not result in formal process or outcome evaluations. However, applicants should clearly propose the outcome variables they intend to track. Note that TTA will be made available, as necessary, to assist in the design, collection, and analysis of those outcome measures during the grant period.

This initiative is intended to fund violence reduction efforts and is not considered, in general terms, to provide grants for equipment, technology, services, or hiring. Proposed funding for equipment, technology, services, and personnel is allowable as long as it can be shown to be directly related to, and clearly instrumental to, strategic crime reduction plans.

The costs of such equipment, technology, services, and personnel must be reasonable and proportional to the proposed programmatic elements.

Entity Definitions, Roles, and Applicable Definitions Unique to this Solicitation

This initiative will provide funding to support the development, implementation, and practical tracking of violent crime reduction efforts across a diverse cross-section of rural settings and violent crime problem types. The scope of the violent crime problems should be clearly articulated in the applicant's proposal. Such description may include describing the rural crime problem using relevant metric(s) that can be assessed in terms of change at the conclusion of the grant period. These metrics may focus on the number of incidents or crime victimization rates. Other measures of violent crime impacts, such as measures of social harms and adverse economic impacts, may also be relevant.

The applicant should demonstrate an understanding of incorporating before-and-after comparisons in assessing the implemented crime reduction strategies, although there is no requirement for a formal process or outcome evaluation. If a more formal assessment is proposed, individuals or organizational units, whether internal or external to the applying entity, should be identified and their qualifications should be documented (e.g., résumés attached as part of the application). Applicants should acknowledge and describe their willingness to cooperate with the TTA provider that will be selected to work with the site-based grantees.

Rural Area Definition Applicable to this Solicitation

A "rural law enforcement agency," as defined under this initiative, is: (a) one serving any area or community, no part of which is within an area designated as a standard metropolitan statistical area by the Office of Management and Budget, (b) any agency serving one or more rural census tracts, or (c) any federally recognized Indian tribe that is operating in full or in part in rural areas. The population served by any municipality (e.g., town, village, or borough) must not exceed 15,000, based on the latest U.S. Census enumeration.

Applicants will need to state in their applications that they qualify and meet this definition. An applicant's acknowledgment that it and the proposed work are consistent with this definition should be included in the proposal abstract and discussed in detail within the proposal narrative.

Defining the Scope of Violent Rural Crime Problem

This grant opportunity may be used to support rural violent crime reduction programs that are either jurisdiction wide, affect a specific area or areas within the jurisdiction (i.e., place based), or are related to particular subpopulations (e.g., vulnerable victims or high-risk groups for offending). For each violent crime problem identified, applicants should be clear in describing whether the problem is jurisdiction wide, place based, or population based. Applicants should also make an effort to describe the impact of the violent crime problems using metrics such as count, rates, or level of social harm, as appropriate.

Applicants may reference the publication [Conversation with Rural Law Enforcement Leaders](#) as they develop the scope of the rural crime violence problem. Unique law enforcement considerations discussed in this document include rural violence associated with drug addiction, job loss and other social stressors, and illicit human, gun, and drug trafficking. In addition, recent data suggest that homicides, nonfatal shootings, domestic violence, and intrafamilial violence may have increased due to stressors related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Allowable and Unallowable Expenditures

This initiative is intended to assist in the development, implementation, and assessment of long-term, sustainable strategic solutions that are evidence based and tailored to local violent crime problems experienced in rural areas. It is not intended to support short-term tactical responses (such as crime sweeps), surveillance technology purchases, or tactically focused operations (such as funding task forces).

Examples of equipment and services that would **not be funded** under this initiative include firearms, ammunition, vehicles, electronic control devices, and general overtime pay (e.g., for extended normal operations). Equipment and services that are integral and directly relate to the proposed violence reduction strategies are allowable, provided that they are reasonable and commensurate in cost to the scale of the program.

Examples of allowable costs for equipment and services include, but are not limited to:

- Crime analysis software or personnel.
- Salary or overtime expenditures for personnel integral to violent crime reduction operations.
- Consultation services related to program design, implementation, and assessment.
- Development or acquisition of offender-based risk assessment tools to better target investigation,

intervention, or enforcement.

- Development or acquisition of software, assessment tools, or services to better serve, protect, and communicate with victims and populations vulnerable to victimization.
- Forensic evidence tools and services for identifying suspects or enhancing evidence, testimony, and outreach to victims.
- Strategies to more effectively serve and address populations in remote areas, including ways to enhance orders of protection and improve access to services and shelter for remote populations.
- Strategies and services to mitigate the risk for violent behavior in individuals dealing with mental health and/or substance use disorders, including crisis intervention programs and services.
- Strategies, personnel, services, and tools to improve intragovernmental collaboration in effectively addressing rural violence problems. These efforts could include data sharing efforts or coordinating councils involving service providers, prosecutors' offices, community stakeholder groups, child protective services, treatment courts, corrections agencies, and other community stakeholders.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

Goals

Goals

The goals of this initiative are to develop, implement, and assess strategies that reduce rural violence through identification of programs and approaches that are innovative, targeted, and adaptable.

Objectives

Successful applicants will be expected to meet the following objectives:

- Deploy agency resources such as personnel, services, or analytical tools that they identified in their proposals. Appropriate documentation should be provided in the proposals about the utility of these resources in addressing rural crime.
- Document how personnel and resources will be used in furtherance of their crime reduction strategies. They must describe how they will deploy funded resources (e.g., services, personnel, software, or equipment) and how that will be reported to BJA on a semi-annual basis.
- Track their outcomes to determine if the violent crime reduction strategy (or strategies) have had an impact once implemented. This tracking objective will be accomplished with the assistance of the TTA provider selected to work with the site-based entities.

Deliverables

Successful applicants will be expected to deliver on the following:

- Document the development and implementation of strategies to reduce the violent crime problem or problems identified in their applications. These program descriptions should be memorialized in official agency documents and in a manner consistent with professional standards. Relevant agency policies and procedural manuals should be developed and/or updated as necessary.
- Commit to measuring violent crime outcomes before and after the implementation of the crime reduction strategies. This outcomes tracking should be commensurate with the funding amount requested and appropriate for the scope and nature of the underlying problem. The format used may be similar to that involved in the SARA model (scanning, analysis, response, and assessment) of problem-solving. Assistance from a qualified TTA provider will be available to the site-based grantees for the development and implementation of the problem-solving strategies and other efforts to track crime reduction outcomes. More information about the SARA model can be found [here](#).

The assessment should be documented in a format that is suitable for sharing within the agency, with

outside agencies that might want to adapt the strategy, and with the TTA provider for inclusion in a report summarizing findings across the grant sites.

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

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/saie.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

Awards, Amounts and Durations

Anticipated Number of Awards

45

Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount of Awards

\$150,000.00

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

\$5,500,000.00

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 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

Provide a budget for the entire project period that is complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities). Budget narratives should demonstrate generally how applicants will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget narratives should demonstrate cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the objectives of the project. The funds awarded under this initiative may not be used for land acquisition or construction projects, and may not be used to purchase firearms, ammunition, armored vehicles, or other tactical equipment used strictly for enforcement purposes.

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 title page.

For information on cost sharing or match requirements, see [Federal Award Information](#)

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.

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 **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 abstracts should:

- Be written for a general public audience.
- Be submitted as a separate attachment with “Proposal Abstract” as part of its file name.
- Be single-spaced, using a standard 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins.
- Affirm that the applicant qualifies under the definition of rural as defined in this solicitation.

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 10 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 final award decisions.

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

This section should answer the question: What is the rural violent crime problem or problems that the applicant is trying to address? Applicants must identify one or more violent crime problems that have had an impact in their jurisdiction or with the population they serve. The scope and impact of the program should be described in quantifiable terms as much as possible. Applicants should define the baseline level of violent crime against which they can assess potential reductions that would result in the proposed violence intervention(s).

b. Project Design and Implementation

This section should answer the question: How does the applicant propose to address the identified rural violent crime

problem(s)? Describe any planned interventions or programmatic enhancements that are proposed to address the jurisdiction's violent crime problem(s). Applicants need not select a predefined intervention strategy; however, if an established violence reduction approach (e.g., hotspots policing or focused deterrence) is selected, the rationale for applying it to the jurisdiction's problem should be addressed. Applicants may propose multiple approaches or a problem-solving analysis process to identify and select from alternate solutions. Applicants should describe the baseline (e.g., crime count or victimization rate) as it exists at the time of application. The applicant should also address the harm or social cost the problem is having on the community and the applicant entity, as well as how to mitigate that harm.

c. Capabilities and Competencies

Fully describe the applicant's capabilities to implement the proposed program and the competencies of the staff assigned to program tasks and/or overseeing the program. Identify the personnel who are critical to the program's successful implementation and discuss their roles, responsibilities, and qualifications. Discuss the organizational capabilities or competencies that will directly impact the applicant's ability to successfully implement the proposed problem-solving program. The applicant entity should also provide a description of any additional capacity in terms of personnel, services, or equipment it proposes to use to address the violent crime problem. The applicant should describe how it will work with partners and stakeholders that are affected by the violent crime problem or are part of the intervention strategy.

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

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 objectives and deliverables identified under "Objectives and Deliverables" in the Program Description.

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.



Award recipients will be required to submit performance measure data and performance reports in JustGrants. 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 Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative'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.

Non-competitive Justification

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.

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.

Tribal Authorizing Resolution

If applicable, applicants will submit the Tribal Authorizing Resolution by uploading the resolution as an attachment in JustGrants. An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of information related to a tribal authorizing resolution as an attachment. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on tribal authorizing resolutions.

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 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.

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.

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 July 6, 2021 at 11:59 pm EST. 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 July 23, 2021 at 11:59 pm EST.

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

Application Review Information

Review Criteria

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 (10%) - evaluate the applicant's understanding of the program/issue to be addressed.
2. Project Design and Implementation (35%)- evaluate the adequacy of the proposal, including the goals, objectives, timelines, milestones, and deliverables.
3. Capabilities and Competencies (25%) - evaluate administrative and technical capacity of the applicant to successfully accomplish the goals and objectives.
4. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (20%) - evaluate the applicant's understanding of the performance data reporting requirements and the plan for collecting the required data.
5. Budget (10%) - evaluate for completeness, cost effectiveness, and allowability (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

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.

Performance Measures

Award recipients will be required to submit performance measure data in JustGrants. Examples of the performance measures you will be required to report on post-award can be found [here](#). Further guidance on the post-award submission process will be provided, if selected for award.

Application Checklist

FY 21 Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative for Law Enforcement Agencies

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 [insert if applicable]
- 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 \$150,000

Eligibility Requirement:

The following entities are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity:

- Sheriff's offices serving rural population areas
- Local or county law enforcement agencies serving rural population areas
- Tribal law enforcement agencies operating in rural areas or reservations
- County prosecutors' offices or functional equivalents serving rural populations

To qualify as rural for the purposes of this solicitation, an applicant must provide services in a rural area, but the jurisdiction's service area need not be exclusively rural. This definition holds for all agency types. For any municipality (e.g., town, village, or borough), the area must be considered rural and the population served must not exceed 15,000, based on the latest U.S. Census enumeration.

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- 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**
 - **The proposal narrative must identify one or more rural violent crime problems that the applicant will address if awarded funding.**
- **Budget Worksheet and Narrative (web-based form; see [OJP Application Resource Guide](#))**
- **Program Timeline**

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- 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**

- 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**

- Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) [insert if applicable] (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity [insert if listed in the solicitation] (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Documentation of Advancing DOJ Priorities (if applicable)
- Documentation of enhanced public safety in federally designated Qualified Opportunity Zones (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