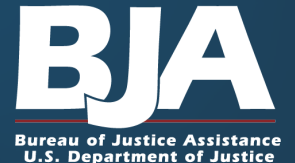


BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY COURTS SITE-BASED AND
TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE
FY2020 COMPETITIVE GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

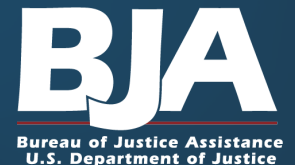
March 18, 2020



BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY COURTS SITE-BASED AND
TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE
FY2020 COMPETITIVE GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Presenter: *Alyse Altenburg, Policy Advisor*



AGENDA

Overview of the Program
Application Materials
Questions and Answers

Solicitation Overview

- The National Community Courts Site-based and Training and Technical Assistance Initiative supports efforts by state, local, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments to establish and enhance community courts in their jurisdictions.
- Community courts enhance public safety by addressing underlying issues that lead to criminal behavior, including substance abuse and behavioral health issues. By engaging communities in planning and operational processes, they provide justice system officials with more effective options in dealing with lower-level offenses, enhance public trust in the conduct of justice, and help to reduce unnecessary incarceration.

Solicitation Overview (Cont.)

- BJA funds in this program may not be used to serve persons who are violent offenders (see 34 U.S.C. § 10613),¹ unless the offender is a veteran. The prohibition applies to activities that are funded by the BJA grant award, including match funds contributed by the grantees. Grantees who use both BJA Community Court funds and other funds in a program must be able to track these expenses to ensure separation of funds. They must maintain documentation that demonstrates the separation of BJA-funded expenses and services from non-BJA funded expenses and services.
- Applicants can serve veterans charged with violent or nonviolent offenses under this program. Applicants should clearly identify in their project abstract whether they are using funds to primarily serve a veteran population as a track of a community court.

Solicitation Overview (Cont.)

- All Category 1 applicants under this solicitation must demonstrate how the proposed community court conforms to the key community court principles. For more information on community courts see <https://www.bja.gov/national-community-courts-program/index.html>.
- In addition, Category 1 applicants must demonstrate that the proposed community court conforms with statutory requirements:
 - Continuing judicial supervision over offenders with substance abuse problems
 - Coordination with appropriate State or local prosecutor
 - The integrated administration of other sanctions and services (for more information on this bullet point see page 5 of the solicitation).

National Community Courts Site-based and Training and Technical Assistance Initiative (Program Objectives)

- **Category 1: Implementation or Enhancement:**
 - Implementation grants are available to eligible jurisdictions that have completed a substantial amount of planning and are ready to establish a community court.
 - Enhancement grants are available to eligible jurisdictions with an existing community court that has been fully operational for at least one year as of September 30, 2020.

- **Objectives and Deliverables:**
 - Establish or enhance court-based intervention programs to prioritize and expedite the provision of treatment and recovery services to individuals who are frequent users of justice, health, and other services who commit low-level misdemeanor offenses.
 - Build and maximize the capacity of jurisdictions to ensure that all participants are identified, assessed, and referred to services.
 - Enhance the provision of treatment and recovery support services, including transitional housing assistance, to reduce recidivism and reduce homelessness.
 - Expand the use of community services by defendants in the community court docket.
 - Support case management and service coordination.
 - Support data collection and program evaluation.

National Community Courts Site-based and Training and Technical Assistance Initiative (Program Objectives)

- Category 2: Training and Technical Assistance:
 - The National Community Court Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) program is designed to help judges, court personnel, and other partners to plan, implement, sustain, enhance, and evaluate problem-solving justice initiatives that link judicially-supervised offenders to drug treatment, alternative sanctions, and other services in order to reduce drug use, crime, and incarceration. Applicants should be capable of providing TTA in all settings (including rural) where assistance building capacity may be needed.

Eligibility

Category 1: Implementation and Enhancement:

The following entities are eligible to apply on behalf of a single jurisdiction court:

- States
- Territories
- State and local courts
- Counties
- Units of local government
- Federally recognized Indian tribal governments (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior)

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

Training and Technical Assistance

- **All sites will have access to a national training and technical assistance (TTA) provider that will provide support to:**
 - Provide targeted technical assistance to the Category 1 recipients.
 - Developing individualized TTA plans for each grantee based on their grant-funded project, state of readiness, and other grantee-specific considerations (e.g., staffing).
 - Assisting grantees in disseminating information and updates about their projects within their community throughout the life of the project.
- Assistance will be provided via regional training, ongoing direct TA, online orientations, tools and promising practices, sample motions, etc.

Expected Deliverables

- Describe the process the applicant will use to measure project performance. This should include measures for adhering to project timelines, meeting deliverable schedules, obtaining input from customers, and seeking feedback from stakeholders.
- Identify what data information will be collected, who will be responsible for collecting and reporting the data, who is responsible for performance measurement, how the data will be stored, how any personally identifiable information (PII) will be protected, and how the information will be used to guide the program.

NOTE: See Appendix B of the solicitation for information re: performance measures.

Performance Measures Requirement

- Applicants are not required to submit performance data with their applications.
- 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 their awards.
- The application should demonstrate the applicant's understanding of the performance data reporting requirements for this grant program and detail how the applicant will gather the required data should it receive funding.

National Community Courts Site-based and Training and Technical Assistance Initiative

<https://bja.ojp.gov/program/community-courts-program/funding>

Tips for Applying

- Applicants must register in and submit applications through Grants.gov. Registering is a one-time process but can take several weeks for first time registrants.
- Applicants must comply with all applicable System for Award Management (SAM) and unique entity identifier (DUNS) requirements.
- OJP encourages applicants to submit at least **72 hours** prior to the application due date to allow time to correct any problems that might occur.
- **Application due date: May 1, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. ET**

Tips for Applying

- 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 designated as “critical elements.”
 - For a list of the critical elements for this solicitation, see “What an Application Should Include” under Section D. Application and Submission Information (page 6).

Questions & Answers

Please submit questions using the Q&A box and selecting all panelists.

Solicitation Link: <https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/bja-2020-17249.pdf>

Other BJA Funding Opportunities:

https://www.bja.gov/funding.aspx?utm_source=announcements_bja.gov&utm_medium=web

Application Assistance and Support



National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Response Center:

- **Phone** 800–851–3420
- **TTY** 301–240–6310 (hearing impaired only)
- **E-mail** grants@ncjrs.gov
- **Fax** 301–240–5830
- **Web chat** <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>
- **Hours of operation** 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET M - F, (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET on Due Date)
- **Subscribe** to JustInfo and Funding News from NCJRS

Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline (24/7, except federal holidays)

- **Phone** 800–518–4726 or 606–545–5035
- **Web** <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>
- **E-mail** support@grants.gov

Stay Connected!!



Email Updates

- Text OJP [your email address to 468-311 to subscribe. *Message and data rates may apply.

Social Media

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DOJBJA>
- RSS: <https://www.bja.gov/Connect.aspx>

For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit **BJA's website** – <https://www.bja.gov>.

Recommended Resources

BJA Grant Applicant Education Series

A series of four previously recorded webinars designed to assist potential applicants interested in applying for BJA funding opportunities.

- Funding Opportunities for Your Community in 2020: An Overview of What's Ahead
- The Federal Funding Process: The First Steps to Applying, How to Prepare and Other Considerations
- <https://www.bja.gov/funding/webinars.html>



Recommended Resources

OJP Funding Resource Center

- <https://ojp.gov/funding/index.htm>

2019 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide

- <https://ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/Grant-App-Resource-Guide.htm>

DOJ Grants Financial Guide

- <https://ojp.gov/financilaguide/DOJ/index.htm>

DOJ Grants Financial Management Online Training

- <https://ojpfgm.webfirst.com/>

NIJ's CrimeSolutions.gov

- <https://www.CrimeSolutions.gov>