Emmett Till Cold Case Investigation Program
FY 2020 Competitive Grant Announcement

March 25, 2020
1:00 – 2:30 PM
Presenters:

A. Elizabeth Griffith, Associate Deputy Director, BJA

Barbara Kay Bosserman, Deputy Chief of the Cold Case Unit and Senior Legal Counsel, Department of Justice

Randy Gonzalez, Supervisory Special Agent, Civil Rights Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Gerri Ratliff, Deputy Director, Community Relations Service
Agenda

• Overview of OJP and BJA
• Emmett Till Cold Case Funding
• Eligibility Requirements
• Grant Requirements
• Review Application Sections
• Department Support for Emmett Till Act
• Top Grant Application Tips
• Questions and Answers
What is the Office of Justice Programs (OJP)?

- OJP provides grant funding, training, research and statistics to the criminal justice community.
- OJP is one of three grant-making components of the Department of Justice.
  - Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
  - Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
BJA Mission Statement

BJA provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities.

To learn more about BJA, visit www.bja.gov, or follow us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA/) and Twitter (@DOJBJA).
Administration Priorities

Funding through BJA is aligned with the Administration’s priorities to develop and sustain strategies that address violent crime, including strategies designed to:

• Support law enforcement and prosecutors;
• Focus on strategies to combat violent crime, including hate crimes; and
• Address the needs of victims.
Program Objectives

• Enhance collaboration between federal, state and local law-enforcement and prosecution agencies in their investigation and prosecution of unsolved civil rights cold case murders.

• Increase the number of state, local and tribal investigations and prosecutions of civil rights cold case murders.

• Bring justice and support to families and stakeholders impacted by these murders.
Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations Solicitation was released on March 4, 2020

Close Date: May 4, 2020
Eligibility:

The following entities are eligible to apply:

State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, including prosecutors’ offices.

Tribal law enforcement must be from federally recognized Indian tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior).

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

BJA expects to make approximately six awards

Estimated maximum award amount: $300,000

Total amount anticipated to be awarded: $1,800,000

Grant start date: October 1, 2020

Period of performance: 24-36 months
Budget Information

Allowable costs include:
• Staffing;
• Costs associated with processing crime scene and other evidence including forensic evidence and crime lab associated costs;
• Expert testimony;
• Case preparation, investigation and prosecution;
• Costs to inventory, track, investigate and prosecute the cases; and
• Support to family members and stakeholders impacted by these cases.

Match Requirement: This solicitation does not require a match.
Application Sections

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (required)
2. Program Abstract
3. Program Narrative (required)
4. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative (required)
5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)
6. Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)
7. Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire
8. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
9. Additional Attachments (listed on next slide)
Additional Attachments

- Time Task Plan
- Resumes/Job Descriptions of Key Staff
- Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications
- Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity
- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation Waiver (if applicable)
Abstract

- Applicant’s name and project title.
- Description of the scope of cases the project will address, including geographic or jurisdictional boundaries.
- Dollar amount of federal grant funds requested.
- A list of partners and describe current coordination, if relevant.
- A summary of the project’s goals and proposed project activities.
- Identification of other resources that will support the program.
Program Narrative

Double-spaced, using standard 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Number pages “1 of 20,” etc.

Should not exceed 20 pages.

SCORING:
- Description of the Issue 25%
- Project Design and Implementation 30%
- Capabilities and Competencies 30%
- Plan for Collecting Data Required for Performance Measures 5%
- Budget and Budget Worksheet 10%
Budget and Budget Narrative

- Itemized budget for each year of the grant.
- There is no match required.
- Prior approval, planning, and reporting of conference/meeting/training costs
Additional Attachments

• **Time and Task Plan:**
  • Outline goals and objectives
  • Summarize major activities, expected date of completion, and responsible agencies

• **Resumes and/Job Description:** For all staff to be funded under the grant.

• **Applicant Disclosure of Proposed Subrecipients:** Attach a list of proposed subrecipients of grant funding, if applicable, that includes their name, organizational affiliation, and location.
Department of Justice Support for Emmett Till Cases
Civil Rights Division
Emmett Till

- In August 1955, Till, a 14-year-old Chicago teen, was kidnapped while visiting relatives in Money, Mississippi.

- His body was later discovered in the Tallahatchie River.
Emmett Till Acts
Original Till Act

- Recognized importance of unsolved, racially motivated murders.
Original Till Act

• Required FBI/DOJ to look at unsolved matters that occurred before December 31, 1969.

• Encouraged FBI/DOJ to work on cold cases, even when federal prosecution is unavailable, to assist state or local jurisdictions.
Reauthorization Act of 2016

- Extends date of cold cases to December 31, 1979.
- Requires DOJ/FBI to meet regularly with stakeholders.
Reporting a Cold Case

• The Till Act is meant to respond to death-resulting cases; therefore, cases in which people were beaten or shot but not killed do not fall under the Act.
Reporting a Cold Case

• There must be evidence that the death was the result of a *civil rights* crime.
Successful Prosecutions

Ernest Avants
Federal Conviction, 2003
Successful Prosecutions

James Ford Seale
Federal Conviction, 2007
Successful Prosecutions

Thomas Edwin Blanton
AL conviction, 2001

Bobby Frank Cherry
AL conviction, 2002
Successful Prosecutions

Edgar Ray Killen
MS conviction, 2005

James Bonard Fowler
AL conviction, 2010
Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Cold Case Unit

https://www.fbi.gov/services/laboratory

This website provides information on FBI lab resources and capabilities available to assist state, local and tribal law enforcement on cold case investigations.

Randy Gonzalez, Supervisory Special Agent
Civil Rights Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation
202-324-3432
U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS)

Facilitation
Convening parties in dialogue to identify issues and solutions

Mediation
Structured process to reach agreement

Consultation
Technical assistance, best practices, models, and evidence-based resources

Training
Knowledge or skills-based programs
CRS Service Areas

Administration of Justice
- Police-community relations
- Controversial incidents
- Alleged bias or hate incidents/crimes

Education
- Intergroup tensions in schools
- Alleged bias or hate incidents/crimes in schools
- Alleged bullying

General Community Relations
- Demographic shifts
- Language-based conflicts
- Public demonstrations or controversial events
- Alleged bias or hate incidents/crimes
To contact a CRS office, email askCRS@usdoj.gov
## Application Tips

### Top application tips to prevent issues that may delay access to funds post award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1) SF 424, Legal Name/Address/Tax EIN:</th>
<th>(2) SF 424/SAM registration:</th>
<th>(3) SF 424/Authorized Representative:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The legal name/Tax EIN/Address/DUNS entered in the SF-424 should be for the legal entity that will be receiving and managing the funds. Please carefully review and follow the guidance in the Application Resource Guide that is linked via the solicitation.</td>
<td>When processing awards, OJP/BJA uses SAM.gov to confirm active registration and verify the legal name/address entered in the SF-424. If there is a discrepancy with what is entered in the SF-424 and the SAM entity registration associated with the DUNS number, you will be asked to address this and/or BJA will need to issue the award based on the SAM registration.</td>
<td>The authorized representative listed in the SF-424 should be the official with authority to sign and accept grant agreements for the legal entity applying for the award. In general, this will be the highest elected official of the applicant agency. OJP uses the internet to confirm prior to award. If someone else in your agency has been delegated authority to sign award documents, you should attach to your application a letter of delegation on agency letterhead, signed by the highest elected official/governing body, which explicitly gives this person authority to sign the award document.</td>
</tr>
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# Application Tips

Top application tips to prevent issues that may delay access to funds post award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(4) SF 424/Funding:</th>
<th>(5) Budget/Proper Format:</th>
<th>(6) Budget/Unallowable Costs:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The total federal request entered in the SF-424 should match the total federal request in your application budget for the entire project period.</td>
<td>It is required that you use the Budget Detail Worksheet template that is linked in the solicitation for your application. If you use a different format, it is possible to receive an award but you will not be able to access funds until a budget in the proper format is submitted and approved post-award.</td>
<td>Please do not include any of the costs listed in the “Budget Information” section, and make sure any proposed federal costs avoid supplanting. If such costs are identified in your application budget and you receive an award, you will need to revise your budget before receiving funds.</td>
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## Application Tips

Top application tips to prevent issues that may delay access to funds post award (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(7) Budget/Subgrants:</th>
<th>(8) Budget:</th>
<th>(9) Application Attachments/General:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The budget template distinguishes between subgrants versus procurement contracts. You should carefully OJP Grant Application Resource Guide (linked in the solicitation) subsection titled “Information on Proposed Subawards (if any) and Proposed Procurement Contracts (if any)” to properly categorize your costs in these sections. If BJA has questions about the identification of a particular relationship in the budget, we may place a hold on funds.</td>
<td>Be sure that funding requested is consistent with the allowable activities under the solicitation and OJP financial manual. You should carefully OJP Grant Application Resource Guide (linked in the solicitation) for more details.</td>
<td>Follow exactly the “What an Application Should Include” section. It is very helpful for reviewers if each attachment is a separate file named/numbered as it is in the solicitation. If you combine attachments (not recommended), please include a table of contents with page numbers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application Tips

Top application tips to prevent issues that may delay access to funds post award

(10) Application Attachments: Disclosure of Pending Applications/Time Task Plan

Disclosure of Pending Applications is required for all applicants, whether you have duplications to declare or not. Please use the legal name listed in the SF-424 in the disclosure language. Be sure to enclose a Time/Task plan and resumes/position descriptions as required.
BJA Cold Case Investigation Resources

For information on the FBI Cold Case Initiative, see:

For other BJA training and tools on cold case investigations see:

https://www.sakitta.org/

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800–518–4726, 606–545–5035, at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html, or at support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.
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](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
A Elizabeth Griffith
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