Emmett Till Cold Case Investigation and Training and Technical Assistance Program
FY 2021 Competitive Grant Announcement

February 17, 2021
1:00 – 2:00 PM
Presenters:

A. Elizabeth Griffith, Associate Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance

Barbara Kay Bosserman, Deputy Chief of the Cold Case Unit and Senior Legal Counsel, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

LaShunda Q. Williams, Supervisory Special Agent, Civil Rights Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Gerri Ratliff, Acting Director, Community Relations Service, U.S. Department of Justice
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.ojp.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 and ensure a fair criminal justice system, including strategies designed to:

- Support law enforcement and prosecutors, especially in working with families of victims and communities who have been disproportionately impacted by crime;
- Focus on strategies to combat and prevent violent crime, including hate crimes; and
- Address the needs of victims’ families and other stakeholders.
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 (pre December 31, 1979).

• Increase the number of state, local and tribal investigations and prosecutions of civil rights cold case murders, including partnerships with key stakeholders.

• Bring justice and support to families and stakeholders impacted by these murders.
Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations and Training and Technical Assistance Solicitation was released on January 4, 2021

Close Date: May 11, 2021
Categories:

**Category One: Project Implementation**

- State, local, and tribal agencies are encouraged to work with their partners to pursue these cases and coordinate review of case files and evidence related to potential cases, consistent with other activities under the Emmett Till Act.
- BJA expects to make awards under this solicitation as grants.

**Category Two: Training and Technical Assistance**

- Funding for a partner who will offer training and technical advice to assist jurisdictions to better investigate and prosecute cases and support the needs of victims, including family members of those murdered and impacted community stakeholders. This would include technical assistance for Emmett Till grantees, outreach to address the needs from the field including written or web-based materials, training and webinars, and a community of practice, based on an assessment of need.
- BJA expects to make awards under this solicitation as cooperative agreements.
Eligibility:

The following entities are eligible to apply:

For Category One:
- State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, including prosecutors’ offices.
- Law enforcement must be from federally recognized Indian tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior).
- Can partner with other agencies and nonprofit organizations with expertise to support the investigation of these cold cases and expertise to leverage historical documents to inform investigations such as reconciliation commissions.

For Category Two:
- For-profit (commercial) organizations,
- Nonprofit organizations (including tribal organizations) and faith-based and community organizations
- Institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education).
- Must have demonstrated expertise in assisting communities to develop and implement cold case homicide investigations, hate crimes investigations and civil rights violations.
- For profit must agree to forgo a profit on award.
Award Information

**For Category One:**
- BJA expects to make approximately six awards

Estimated maximum award amount:
$500,000

Total amount anticipated to be awarded:
$2,947,446

Grant start date: October 1, 2021

Period of performance: 36 months

**For Category Two:**
- BJA expects to make one award

Estimated maximum award amount:
$325,000

Total amount anticipated to be awarded:
$325,000

Grant start date: October 1, 2021

Period of performance: 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 and dialogue with 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)
Application Sections – con’t

Additional Attachments

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

- Resumes/Job Descriptions of Key Staff:
  - 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.

- 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.
Department of Justice Support for Emmett Till Cases
Civil Rights Division
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

- This was done because he had allegedly whistled at a white woman he had seen in a store a few days earlier.
Emmett Till

- Two local men, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, were prosecuted by state authorities.
- They were quickly acquitted by an all-white jury.
The World Watches

- Till’s mother begins a crusade to bring Till’s murder to the attention of the world.
The Federal Government Did Little Then

• There were no federal hate crime laws to be enforced in federal courts.

• First hate crime laws enacted in 1968.
The U.S. Senate last night approved a resolution apologizing for its failure to enact federal anti-lynching legislation decades ago, marking the first time the body has apologized for the nation's treatment of African Americans.
Emmett Till Acts
One Hundred Tenth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Began and held at the City of Washington on Thursday, the third day of January, two thousand and eight

An Act

To provide for the investigation of certain unsolved civil rights crimes, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act of 2008”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that all authorities with jurisdiction, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other entities within the Department of Justice, should—

(1) expediously investigate unsolved civil rights murders,

and

(2) provide all the resources necessary to ensure timely and thorough investigations in the cases involved.

SEC. 3. DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE CRIMINAL SECTION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL—The Attorney General shall designate a Deputy Chief in the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

(b) RESPONSIBILITY.

(1) IN GENERAL—The Deputy Chief shall be responsible for coordinating the investigation and prosecution of violations of criminal civil rights statutes that occurred not later than December 31, 1963, and resulted in a death.

(2) COORDINATING—In investigating a complaint under paragraph (1), the Deputy Chief shall coordinate investigative activities with State and local law enforcement officials.

(c) STUDY AND REPORT.

(1) STUDY—The Attorney General shall annually conduct a study of the cases under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Chief or under the jurisdiction of the Supervisory Special Agent and, in conducting the study, shall determine—

(A) the number of open investigations within the Department for violations of criminal civil rights statutes that occurred not later than December 31, 1963;
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.
Public Law 114–325
114th Congress

An Act


Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) meet regularly with eligible entities to coordinate the sharing of information and to discuss the status of the Department's work under this Act.”
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.
Reporting a Cold Case

- Did the crime occur before December 31, 1979?
  - This is the date of the Till Reauthorization Act.
BARRIERS TO SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION
Many of These Barriers Not Faced by State/Local Prosecutions
Successful Prosecutions

Ernest Avants
Federal Conviction, 2003
Successful Prosecutions

James Ford Seale
Federal Conviction, 2007
Successful Prosecutions

Edgar Ray Killen
MS conviction, 2005

James Bonard Fowler
AL conviction, 2010
Successful Prosecutions

Thomas Edwin Blanton
AL conviction, 2001

Bobby Frank Cherry
AL conviction, 2002
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.

LaShunda Q. Williams, Supervisory Special Agent
Civil Rights Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation
202-324-3000
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
Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships (SPCP) Program

- Improve
  - Communication
  - Problem Solving
  - Trust
  - Relationships

- Collaborate
  - Issues Identification
  - Solutions Development
  - Plan of Action
  - SPCP Council

- Prevent and Respond
  - Community Distrust
  - Historical Tensions
  - Police-Community Conflict
  - Critical Incidents
Step 1: Sets the tone and explores the question **Who Are We?** through the sharing of personal stories.

Step 2: Helps participants understand **Where Are We?** through a deeper exploration of personal and shared racial history in the community.

Step 3: Participants develop a vision for the community, in response to the question **Where Do We Want To Go?**

Step 4: Participants answer the question, **What Will We Do, As Individuals and With Others, To Make A Difference?**
CRS Regional and Field Office Locations

Legend:
- New England Regional Office (ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI)
- Northeastern Regional Office (NY, NJ, VI, PR)
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Office (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV)
- Southeastern Regional Office (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)
- Midwestern Regional Office (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)
- Central Regional Office (IA, KS, MO, NE)
- Southwestern Regional Office (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)
- Rocky Mountain Regional Office (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)
- Northwestern Regional Office (AK, ID, OR, WA)
- Western Regional Office (AZ, CA, GU, HI, NV)

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>
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<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>
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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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<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>
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<tr>
<th>(7) Budget/Subgrants:</th>
<th>(8) Budget:</th>
<th>(9) Application Attachments/General:</th>
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<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 <strong>exactly</strong> 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>
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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 more information on the overview of the program, see:
https://bja.ojp.gov/program/emmett-till-cold-case-investigations-program/overview

For information on the FBI Cold Case Initiative, see:

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

https://www.sakitta.org/

Previously Held Webinars

The Funding Process: First Steps to Applying, How to Prepare Now, and Other Considerations
Date/Time: January 21, 2021, 1 p.m. ET
In this webinar, attendees learn what registrations are necessary to apply, how to navigate Grants.gov and JustGrants, and what resources are available for applicants, such as the Office of Justice Programs’ Funding Resource Center.
Watch the Recording | Access the Presentation | Read the Transcript

JustGrants and ASAP: OJP's New Grant Management Systems
Webinar held: December 21, 2020
During this virtual meeting with the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations, BJA shared information about the new grants management and payment systems.
Watch the Recording | Access the Presentation | Read the Transcript

Other Funding Webinars – Links to upcoming and past webinars.
JustGrants Training and Resources

• Refer to the JustGrants Training Application Submission page for additional information and training on the application submission process

• Review the Application Mechanics: Submitting an Application Webinar Slide Deck

• Bookmark the JustGrants Training page for updates.
JustGrants Technical Support

- For technical assistance with submitting the full application in DOJ’s Justice Grants System (JustGrants), contact the JustGrants Service Desk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technical Support</th>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov">JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(833) 872-5175</td>
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Monday – Friday between the hours of 5:00 AM and 9:00 PM EST
Saturday, Sunday, and Federal holidays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST
Application Assistance

Grants.gov

• Provides technical assistance with submitting an application
  • **Customer Support Hotline** – 800-518-4726 or 606—545-5035
    • The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.
  • Email
    • [https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html)
    • support@grants.gov

• Provides information on available federal funding opportunities for various federal agencies.
Application Assistance and Support

Response Center

- Provides solicitation support and general assistance.
- email - grants@ncjrs.gov
- web chat - https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp
- toll free at 800–851–3420;
- TTY at 301–240–6310 (hearing impaired only)

The Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Subscribe

- Subscribe to receive email notifications of new funding opportunities and other resources.
  - Sign-up to receive the twice monthly JUSTINFO newsletter as well as the weekly Funding News email.
  - Subscribe at https://www.ojp.gov/subscribe and be sure to select “Grants/funding” as an area of interest.
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
- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/dojbjaj

For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit BJA’s website – https://bja.ojp.gov
FY 2021 Resources for Funding Opportunities

BJA’s website
https://www.bja.ojp.gov

JustGrants
https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov

Grants.gov

OJP Grant Funding Resource Center
https://www.ojp.gov/funding

Office of Justice Programs – Award Data
https://www.ojp.gov/funding/explore/ojp-award-data

NIJ’s CrimeSolutions.gov
Questions & Answers

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