BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

# 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 <a href="www.bja.ojp.gov">www.bja.ojp.gov</a>, or follow us on Facebook (<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA/">https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA/</a>) and Twitter (<a href="@DOJBJA">@DOJBJA</a>).



#### **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 lawenforcement 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:
  - o 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**

#### **Emmett Till**



In August 1955, Till, a 14-yearold 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



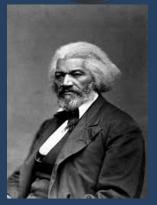
Till's mother begins a crusade to bring Till's murder to the attention of the world.

# 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.







Ida B. Wells
Mary Talbert, and Frederick
Douglass advocated for
enactment of federal laws to
criminalize racial crimes

# A Senate Apology for History on Lynching

By Avis Thomas-Lester Washington Post Staff Writer Tuesday, June 14, **2005** 

The U.S. Senate last night approved a resolution apologizing for its failure to enact federal antilynching legislation decades ago, marking the first time the body has apologized for the nation's treatment of African Americans.

# **Emmett Till Acts**



#### **Original Till Act 2008**

H. R. 923

#### One Hundred Tenth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

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

#### An Art

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

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 Crime Act of 2007".

#### 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) expeditiously investigate unsolved civil rights murders, due to the amount of time that has passed since the murders and the age of potential witnesses; 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, 1969, and resulted in a death.

(2) COORDINATION.—In investigating a complaint under paragraph (1), the Deputy Chief may 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, 1969;



# **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 2016**

Public Law 114–325 114th Congress

#### An Act

To reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

Dec. 16, 2016 [S. 2854]

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".

Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016. 28 USC 509 note.

#### 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
- $(C) \ by \ inserting \ after \ paragraph \ (2) \ the \ following: \\ \text{``(3)} \ meet \ regularly \ with \ eligible \ entities \ to \ coordinate \ the } \quad \text{$\sf Coordination}.$
- sharing of information and to discuss the status of the Departmont'a 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 deathresulting 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.

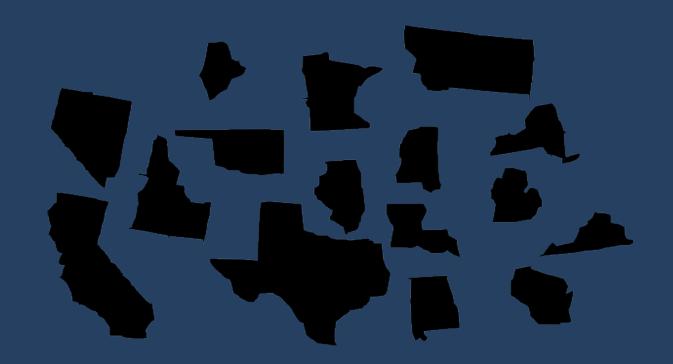
# Reporting a Cold Case

- 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





Ernest Avants
Federal Conviction, 2003

#### National Repo

The New Hork Times

#### Former Klansman Is Found Guilty of 1966 Killing

#### Federal Court Jury Decides in 3 Hours

By RICK BRAGG

ACRO MISS. Feb. 28 — Ben Chester Son, Miss., Feb. 28 — Ben Chester Son, Miss., Feb. 28 — Ben Chester Son, Miss., Feb. 29 — Ben Son Chester Son, Miss own clothes with scrap and said 'yes, sir,' to white men, and when he will be a little money, he wrapped the side a little money, he wrapped the side and the son of the side of the son of the son of the side of the son of the side of the sid

He died buddled in a cur's back seat, killed by men who needed a piece of bait, who needed a biece of bait, who needed to kill a black man so brutally in the summer of 1966 that the act itself would lure the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Natchez, Miss., so that they could assassinate him.

Today, in a federal courtroom in Jackson, Mr. White, the 67-year-old field hand, became, officially, a martyr of the civil rights movement.

After just three hours of deliberations and a three-day trial, a jury of nine whites and three blacks found Ernest Avants, 72, a former Klansman and the last living suspect in this old case, gullry of murdering Mr. White as part of a beer-inspired plot to draw Dr. King down to them.

"Imagine the hatred," said Paige Fitzgerald, a trial lawyer with the United States Department of Justice, after helping to convict Mr. Avants.

after helping to convict Mr. Avants.

If was just the latest of several

for any and the latest of several

old killers in civil rights cases who
hought they had gotten clean away.

But it was the first federal murder

tral, and the first to involve a victim
who was not a civil rights hero or

welknown casualty, like Medgar

welknown casualty, like Medgar

sippl, or the four girls killed in the

sippl, or the four girls killed in the

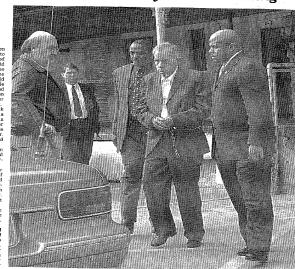
sirmingham church bombing.

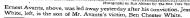
"This courtroom has been a time machine where the past and the present have collided," said Jack Lacy, the federal prosecutor who tried the case here.

tried the case here.

Mr. Avants, who has suffered a stroke and other health problems, showed no emotion as the verdict was read. His wife, Martha, sat near him, impassive, her arms crossed on her chest. Mr. Avants had predicted this, speaking to a reporter four years ago.

"Hell," he said then, "they'll prob







15 to 18 bullets into him from an automatic rifle, murdering him in the back seat of a 1966 Chevrolet as he cried out, "Oh Lord, what have I done to deserve this."

To corroborate that testimony from Mr. Jones, who was granted a mistrial in 1967 despite confessing to taking part in the killing, prosecutors in the new trial brought Mr. Korrblum back into the courtroom.

"An eyewitness account and the

splashed on him from the shotgus blast. Mr. Royals asked the jury if the would want such a man to be thei

doctor or stockbroker.

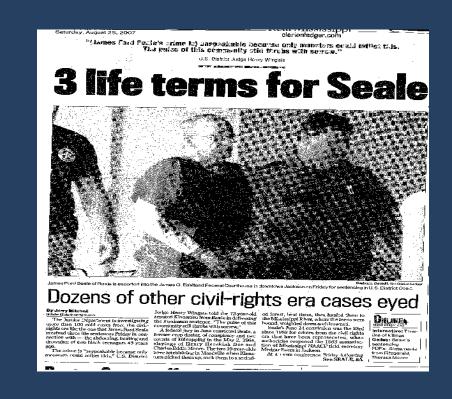
"I lie when I need to want to," said
Mr. Royals, pretending to quote Mr.
Jones. "I lie sometimes, but I'm telling the truth now, so believe me."

ing the truth now, so believe me."

Ms. Fitzgerald countered with
these words, "Crimes committee in
hell do not be transple for without

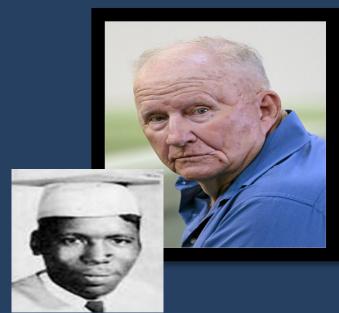


James Ford Seale Federal Conviction, 2007





Edgar Ray Killen MS conviction, 2005



James Bonard Fowler AL conviction, 2010



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

#### U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS)





Convening parties in dialogue to identify issues and solutions







#### 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	Collaborate	Prevent and Respond
Communication	Issues Identification	Community Distrust
Problem Solving	Solutions Development	Historical Tensions
Trust	Plan of Action	Police-Community Conflict
Relationships	SPCP Council	Critical Incidents

# Dialogue on Race facilitated dialogue program

#### 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.

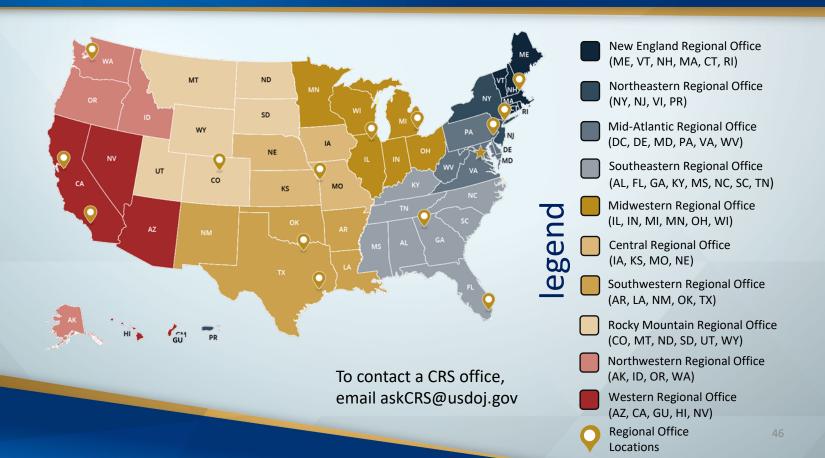
#### Step 3:

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**





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

(1) SF-424, Legal Name/Address/Tax EIN:	(2) SF-424/SAM registration:	(3)SF-424/Authorized Representative:
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.	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.	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.



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

(4) SF-424/Funding:	(5) Budget/Proper Format:	(6) Budget/Unallowable Costs:
The total federal request entered in the SF-424 should match the total federal request in your application budget for the entire project period.	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 postaward.	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.



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

(7) Budget/Subgrants:	(8) Budget:	(9) Application Attachments/General:
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.	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.	Follow <u>exactly</u> 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.



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: <a href="https://bja.ojp.gov/program/emmett-till-cold-case-investigations-program/overview">https://bja.ojp.gov/program/emmett-till-cold-case-investigations-program/overview</a>

For information on the FBI Cold Case Initiative, see: <a href="https://www.justice.gov/crt/cold-case-initiative">https://www.justice.gov/crt/cold-case-initiative</a>.

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

https://www.sakitta.org/

https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/Publications/promising-strategies-for-strengthening-homicide-investigations.pdf



# **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 <u>JustGrants Training Application Submission</u> page for additional information and training on the application submission process
- Review the <u>Application Mechanics: Submitting an Application Webinar Slide</u> <u>Deck</u>
- Bookmark the <u>JustGrants Training</u> 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.

#### **Technical Support**

<u>JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</u>

Or

(833) 872-5175

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
    - 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 <a href="https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp">https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp</a>
- 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 <a href="https://www.ojp.gov/subscribe">https://www.ojp.gov/subscribe</a> 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: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA">https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA</a>
- Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/DOJBJA">https://twitter.com/DOJBJA</a>
- YouTube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/dojbja">https://www.youtube.com/dojbja</a>



For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit

BJA's website – <a href="https://bja.ojp.gov">https://bja.ojp.gov</a>



# FY 2021 Resources for Funding Opportunities

**BJA's website** 

https://www.bja.ojp.gov

**JustGrants** 

https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov

**Grants.gov** www.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

https://www.CrimeSolutions.ojp.gov



# Questions & Answers

Please submit questions using the <u>Q&A box</u> and selecting <u>all panelists</u>.