FY2021 BJA Solicitation Webinar
Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative for Law Enforcement Agencies

June 28, 2021
2:00 to 3:00 p.m. (EDT)

BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Webinar Topics

- Eligibility
- Key Elements for Successful Applications
- Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables
- Funding Levels and Details
  - Allowable Funding
  - Unallowable Funding
- Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Role

- Required Elements for BJA Grants
- Required Elements Specific to RVCRI
- Priority Consideration
- Tips for Assuring Clarity for Peer Reviewers
- Selection Criteria
- Important Dates and Processes

Eligibility

- Sheriffs' 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 sheriffs and prosecutors offices.

❑ For any municipality (e.g., town, village, or borough), the area must be considered rural <u>and</u> the population served must not exceed 15,000. Population should be based on the latest U.S. Census enumeration.

Key Program Elements of Successful Applications

- Clearly identify one (or more) rural crime problems to address

- Propose or propose to develop strategies to address the problem(s)

- Commit to track the impact of these problems over time

- Work with training and technical assistance (TTA) provider on implementation, outcome tracking, and final report production

- Emphasize collaborative and data-driven approaches
  - Victim-centered approaches
  - Community collaboration
  - Criminal justice partner cooperation
  - Evidence-based strategies
  - Problem-solving approaches encouraged (e.g., SARA)

RCVPI Goals and Objectives

<u>GOALS</u>

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.

<u>OBJECTIVES</u>

- Deploy agency resources such as personnel, services, or analytical tools that they identified in their proposals.
- Document how personnel and resources (e.g., services, software, or equipment) will be used in furtherance of area's crime reduction strategies.
- Track project outcomes to determine if the violent crime reduction strategy (or strategies) have had an impact once implemented.

  Note: This tracking objective will be accomplished with the assistance of the TTA provider selected to work with the site-based entities.

RCVPI Deliverables

- Document the development and implementation of strategies to reduce the violent crime problem(s) or problems identified in their applications. These program strategies should be memorialized in official agency documents and in a manner consistent with professional standards.

- Provide tracking data on violent crime outcomes before and after the implementation of the crime reduction strategies. The format used may be similar to that involved in the SARA model (scanning, analysis, response, and assessment) of problem-solving.

- Work collaboratively with the TTA provider on above deliverables

Funding Levels and Details

- The funding CAP for this solicitation is $150,000

- There is no match requirement for this grant

- Grant period is 36 months (beginning on or about October 1, 2021).

- Submitted budget should be complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

- All expenditures should be reasonably related to project goals, objectives, and deliverables.

RVCPI Allowable Costs and Program Activities

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

- Programs that support victims services and community engagement

- Salary or overtime expenditures for personnel integral to violent crime reduction operations.

- Crime analysis software or personnel.

- 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.

RCVPI Allowable Costs and Program Activities (cont.)

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

- 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.

- Forensic evidence tools and services for identifying suspects or enhancing evidence, testimony, and outreach to victims.

- Strategies, personnel, services, and tools to improve intragovernmental collaboration in effectively addressing rural violence problems.

Unallowable Costs for RVCRI

Neither federal funds nor matching funds can be used for:
- Pre-award costs and expenditures
- Land acquisition
- Construction projects
- Firearms / ammunition
- Armored vehicles
- Other tactical equipment used strictly for enforcement purposes.

Past BJA Programs Similar to RVCRI

- FY 19 Southwest Border Rural Law Enforcement Information Sharing and Interdiction Assistance Grants (site-based)
- FY 20 Northern and Middle States Rural Law Enforcement Training and Technical Assistance Grant Program (TTA)

Search for program descriptions at
https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/awards/list

Awardee Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)

- BJA will select a TTA provider to assist awardees

- The TTA support can include assistance with:

  - *Documentation of programs and processes*
  - *Data and outcome tracking*
  - *Peer engagements*

  - *Research assistance*
  - *Specialized training*
  - *Identify promising practices*

- TTA provider will be selected based on ability:
  - ❑ To provide targeted assistance
  - ❑ Demonstrated expertise in addressing rural violence
  - ❑ Collect and integrate lessons learned across sites

RVCRI Applications Must Include:

- ❑ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- ❑ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
- ❑ Project Abstract
- ❑ Program Narrative
- ❑ Budget Detail Worksheet with Budget Narrative (online via JustGrants)
- ❑ Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire
- ❑ Applicant's Disclosure of Pending Applications (for similar work)
- ❑ List of Subrecipient Agencies (if partnership is proposed)

Project Abstract

- A proposal abstract (no more than 400 words)
- Summarizing the proposed project including the service area and who will benefit from the proposed work; primary activities; products and deliverables
- Abstract submitted using JustGrants web-based application

Project Narrative Formatting Specifications

- Not to exceed 10 pages, double-spaced
- 12-point standard font, Times New Roman preferred
- One-inch margins
- Use of sections and structured format are preferred
- Attachments do not count against the page limit

Note: Closely following this format makes it easier for peer-reviewers to understand and assess your agencies application.

Project Narrative Topic Areas

- Description of the Issue(s)

- Project Design and Implementation

- Capabilities and Competencies

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

- Plans for Continuation of the Program after Federal Funds Have Been Expended

RCVPI Budgets

- Use the provided budget form in JustGrants
- Provide narrative for budget items to provide context
  - Attach separate budget narrative if desired
- Assure budget is cost-effective, reasonable, and directly related to project objective and mission

Performance Management and Reporting

- Plan for collecting the data required for this solicitation's performance measures and sustainment, to assist the Department with fulfilling its responsibilities.

- Applicants that receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measure the results of work completed under this solicitation.

- OJP will require any award recipient to comply with post-federal award reporting requirements (see solicitation).

Attachments to Include, <u>if Applicable</u>

- ❑ Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- ❑ Tribal Authorizing Resolution
- ❑ Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity
- ❑ Memoranda of Understanding / Letters of Support from Subrecipient Agencies
- ❑ Research Partner Letter of Participation

Review Criteria

- Statement of Problem/Description of the Issue   10%
- Project Design & Implementation: 35%
- Capabilities & Competencies: 25%
- Plan for Collecting the Required
  Performance Measures Data: 20%
- <u>Budget: 10%</u>

     Total   **100%**

Major Takeaways

- This is a competitive solicitation program
- This is NOT an equipment purchase grant
  - Equipment, personnel, and other resources are allowed but must be in support of goals, objective, and deliverables outlined in solicitation
- This is a three-year grant program
- The more you demonstrate an understanding of your jurisdiction's unique rural violent crime problem and willingness to work with the TTA provider, the more favorable your proposal will be
- Formatting, clarity, and organization matter

What You Should Do Next (if you have not already)

- **Prior to registering with Grants.gov:**
  - Acquire a DUNS Number
  - Acquire or renew registration with SAM (System for Award Management)

- **Register with Grants.gov - Due July 6, 2021 (11:59 PM)**
  - Acquire AOR (Authorized Organization Representative)
  - Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Biz POC

- **FY 2021 Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative for Law Enforcement Agencies- Due July 20, 2021 (11:59 PM)**
  - https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2021-120001

Contact Information

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NEW: Two Step Application Process

Applications will be submitted in a new two-step process, each with its own deadline:

- Step 1: Applicants submit an SF-424 and an SF-LLL at Grants.gov.
- Step 2: Applicants submit the full application, including attachments, at JusticeGrants.usdoj.gov.

*Read the solicitation document carefully for further guidance.

DOJ Application Submission Checklist

Review the *DOJ Application Submission Checklist*

The checklist covers all necessary steps to complete the two-part application process in Grants.gov and JustGrants.

The checklist includes:

- ✓ how to prepare to apply
- ✓ completing the abbreviated application in Grants.gov
- ✓ Entity Onboarding and JustGrants Access
- ✓ completing, reviewing, certifying and submitting your application in JustGrants, and
- ✓ helpful user tips

JustGrants Application Submission Resources

Application Mechanics eLearning Videos

By viewing the eLearning videos, job aids, DOJ Application Checklist and other resources, applicants will have all of the information needed to successfully navigate the mechanics of submitting an application.

- ✓ Application Mechanics: Getting Ready to Apply (NEW)

- ✓ Application Mechanics: Initiating Application Submission in Grants.gov (NEW)

- ✓ Application Submission: Locating an Application

- ✓ Application Submission: Submitting an Application

- ✓ Application Submission: Completing a Budget Detail Form

- ✓ Application Mechanics: After Submitting an Application (NEW)

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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/dojbja
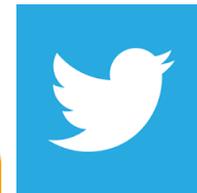
For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit
BJA's website – https://bja.ojp.gov

Important Contact Information

Technical Assistance Submitting the <u>SF-424 and SF-LLL</u> into Grants.Gov: 800–518–4726, 606–545–5035 │ support@grants.gov

Technical Assistance Submitting the <u>FULL APPLICATION</u> into JustGrants: 833–872–5175 │ JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov

Technical Assistance with Programmatic Requirements contact the OJP Response Center: 800–851–3420 │ grants@ncjrs.gov

Please submit your questions into the **Q@A** box