

Notice regarding the transcript for the April 22, 2019, “STOP School Violence FY 2019 Funding” webinar:

May 9, 2019: During the webinar, questions were asked regarding if previously funded grantees could apply again through the FY 2019 STOP School Violence opportunities. To clarify the answer(s) provided during the webinar, grantees that were funded last year *are* eligible to apply again for FY 2019 funding. However, the FY 2019 funding has to be used for something the grantees were not funded to do with the FY 2018 funding.

The webinar transcript that follows has been adjusted to reflect the correct information.

Funding Webinar Transcript (Adjusted May 9, 2019)

On April 22 2019, BJA hosted a webinar that provided an overview of this solicitation. Following is the transcript from that webinar.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Good afternoon everyone and welcome to today's webinar, "STOP School Violence FY 2019 Funding" webinar. At this time, I would like to introduce you to today's presenter, David Adams, Senior Policy Advisor with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and Lynette Chambliss, Grant Program Specialist with the COPS Office.

DAVID ADAMS: Good afternoon. My name is David Adams and I'm a Senior Policy Advisor with the Law Enforcement Team at the Bureau of Justice Assistance. I manage the STOP School Violence Program here at BJA. Today's discussion will center on the two BJA site-based solicitations that are currently posted, the BJA STOP Prevention Training and Response to Mental Health Crisis Program, and the BJA STOP Technology and Threat Assessment Solutions for Safer Schools Program. In addition, we'll talk about the COPS Office portion of the STOP School Violence Program. And Ms. Chambliss will discuss that for the COPS Office. BJA solicitation is based on the 2018 STOP School Violence Act. This year, Congress appropriated \$75 million for both of the--it will--that is split between the two BJA Solicitations. And this funding is available to states, local government, local units of government, as well as Indian Tribes. Specifically, the projects for both solicitations are for up to 36 months. They must be submitted in the appropriate category based on population of the applicant. There is no match requirement this year. And we also decided at the last minute to remove the priority consideration for applicants proposing a match, so you are not required to provide a match and there will not be a priority consideration as is currently stated on this slide. Submissions will use evidence-based strategies and programs. And there's a link in the solicitation that will give you more information about evidence-based programs at OJP. A State unit of local government, or Indian Tribe may use the grant to contract with or make one or more subawards to one or more local education

agencies, non-profit organizations excluding schools, or units of local government, or tribal organizations. No amounts of the funding provided by BJA under this part may be used for the provision of any person of a firearm or training to use a firearm. Discussing the eligibility, units of local government, any city, county, township, town, borough, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a state, any law enforcement district or judicial enforcement district that is established under applicable state law, and has the authority to, in a manner independent of other state entities, establish a budget and impose taxes, or for the purposes of assistance eligibility, any agency of the government of the District of Columbia or the federal government that performs law enforcement functions in and for the District of Columbia or any Trust Territory to the United States. A local education agency is a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a state, or for a combination of school districts, or counties as are recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools. Now to the Mental Health Program. This solicitation, you may request funding for the training of Staff, education of Students, or education of administrators--Administrators to Respond to Mental Health Crisis. Applications are submitted by category based on population. Category 1 is a state with a population greater than five million. Category 2 is a state with a population of less than five million. Category 3 is an urban area or large county defined as having a population greater than 500,000. Category 4 is a suburban area or medium-sized county defined as having a population between 100,000 and 500,000. Category 5 is a rural area or small county defined as having a population of less than 100,000. And Category 6 is a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

The objectives and deliverables for the solicitation is to support efforts by states, units of all government, and federally recognized Indian Tribes to prevent school violence specifically by the training of school personnel and the education of students, to provide training to teachers and education to students with the intent to prevent school violence and to provide specialized trainings for school officials in responding to related mental health crises that may precipitate violent attacks on school grounds. The deliverables would be a creation and delivery of a multidisciplinary training program for school personnel, which includes volunteers, counselors, coaches, school resource officers, and other individuals working in and around schools that result in policies and programs that provoke successful, safe learning environment. The training should be based on an evidence-based curriculum and adult learn--with adult learning principles and address critical issues, such as mental health, bullying, addiction, and a personal violence. Training should be developed in accordance with STOP site grantees, current

legal frameworks, and governing policies of the grantee. Deliverables can also include the creation and delivery of an education session for students with the intent to prevent violence against others. Sessions should include best practices for recognizing and responding to potential signs of violence. Note that scenario training directed at students that incorporates volatile role playing is prohibited. Sessions should be thought-based and not risk traumatizing students with role players assuming violent roles, creation of delivery or evidence-based comprehensive multidisciplinary training for school personnel, enabling them to respond to mental health crises that may precipitate violent attacks on school grounds. Training should be conducted in consultation with experts such as school violence researchers, licensed mental health professionals, social workers, teachers, principals, public safety, and other school personnel. You should document all training and education sessions conducted under the award, and work in close coordination with the BJA STOP Training and Technical Assistance provider throughout the life of the grant program to meet project goals including sharing materials, resources, data, and best practices. BJA is posting--or has posted a training and technical assistance solicitation that will provide a TTA provider for this program. And that will be funded later this year as well. Now, the BJA STOP Technology and Threat Assessment Solutions for Safer Solutions Program. This is to--for the creation and support of Threat Assessment Teams, Crisis Intervention Teams, and there's a technology category that allows applicants to request funding to assist with technology such as Anonymous Reporting systems. Category 8 was created this year and it's to support the creation or enhancement of existing state school safety centers. There is no population breakdown for Category 7. All five communities can apply. Category 8 is specifically for states of any size to support the creation or enhancement of school safety centers. This category is open to any state size, as I stated, as well as to states who may already have a state school safety center. Funding amounts for the categories are listed. States with a population greater than five million may request funding up to \$1 million. A state with a population less than five million may request funding for up to \$500,000. Urban area or large counties with a population greater than 500,000 may request funding for up to \$500,000. Category 4, a suburban area or medium-sized county with a population between 100,000 and 500,000 may request funding for up to \$250,000. A rural area or small county with a population of less than 100,000 may request funding for up to \$150,000. Federally-recognized Indian Tribes may request funding for up to \$100,000. Then Category 7, the anonymous reporting technology category is for an award up to \$250,000. And category eight, state school safety centers or for states, and that's for an award of up to \$1 million.

The application process, applications are to be submitted to Grants.gov by June the 8th and June the 18th for the respective solicitations. The Threat Assessment Solutions for Safer Schools programs is due on June the 11th. And mental health is due on June the

18th. We strongly suggest that applications be submitted at least 72 hours prior to the due date. Applications will then be reviewed to meet--that they meet basic minimum requirements as stated in the solicitation. Also, applications that meet basic minimum requirements will be--will then be forwarded to peer review. Applications will be peer reviewed by panel of three outside reviewers. Peer reviewed applications will be scored and those scores will be presented to BJA. At that time, this--BJA will provide the scoring results through the Director with recommendations for funding, and the Director will make the final decision and submit the recommendations to the Office of Justice Programs, Principal Deputy AAG. Upon approval of awards, applications--applicants will be notified no later than September 30th of 2019.

LYNETTE CHAMBLISS: Okay. Good afternoon. This is Lynette Chambliss from the COPS Office. I am the Program Manager for the COPS portion of the STOP School Violence Program. In our office, it is known as School Violence Prevention Program or SVPP for short. So, I'll be using SVPP. Okay. Our program opened in March and it will run through May 31st of this year at 8:00 pm. Okay. Our office--so it's just some background information on our information if you are not familiar, but in terms of this program, last year, we funded 91 agencies, which benefited 5000 schools and three million students with our appropriations, so we're very proud of this program. Okay. So our funding does come through the same act that David mentioned, the Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing--excuse me, Preventing School Violence Act of 2018. For this year, we have again \$25 million dollars, okay. Our awards for this year go to States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes. And if you notice, we have a change for this year. We've expanded it to public agencies, which, you know, would typically include a police department, a sheriff's office, school districts, boards of education, independent school districts. So, keep in mind that is a change from last year. Okay. And same with BJA, the appropriation allows for our award recipients to make subawards with those same eligible agencies. Okay.

So our funding is geared towards law enforcement. So, we have purpose areas five through nine through the act. So, we provide up to 75 percent funding for coordination with law enforcement, training for law enforcement officers to prevent school violence, metal detectors, locks, lighting, other target hardening items, technology for expedited notification during an emergency, and there's an anything our Director sees in the proposals that could improve school safety that doesn't fit the other item. Okay. Okay. So here's some information about the award. We do have an award cap at \$500,000. So, the federal share will be that. The local match is at least 25 percent and it will be a catch match. So, we do not allow for in-kind matches. Our award for two years, 24 months, and you are able to extend that timeframe if necessary. Our application is essentially in two parts, geared towards finding out, you know, your need for security,

your need for financial assistance, as well as your comprehensive approach to school safety. So, those are the three bullets you see there. Demonstrated need for improved security as well as finance--financial assistance that is within our application, you'll answer questions around those items. And then your evidence-based strategies and programs will be your submitted narrative. So, our application is our questions as well as the narrative that you will attach in our system. And like I said earlier, the solicitation is open until the 31st of May at 7:59 pm. Okay.

And I'll be happy to answer questions about this program. The slide you see now is the link to our webpage, as well as my name, our contact number, and the SVPP email box. So please send all of your questions that you may have. I do encourage if you haven't already to please register your ORI number, which is your identification number with our office, so that you may complete the generic Grants.gov portion of your application and then move on over to our site. So, if you need help with that, please either email this address here or contact that phone number and we'll be happy to get you set up if you're not already. Okay? So, thank you.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. We are going to go back into the question portion here in a second. A couple things I want to go over before we get there. Showing right now on your screen is a slide with the BJA website. So you--if you need that information, as well as where the Stop School Violence solicitations are available on the BJA website under their funding section. And you can also contact them through the phone number and fax number seen on the screen. We also encourage you to follow BJA on their social media information about their Facebook, Twitter, and RSS feed are listed on the slide. They do often announce webinars and funding opportunities via these mechanisms. And again, the BJA website is listed here. After today's webinar, if you don't have a question to submit your--if you don't have an opportunity to submit your question or you don't think of the question that you want and after the webinar ends you think of something, please submit it to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, and you can send it to Grants at ncjrs.gov. They will work with David to answer any questions that you may have regarding the solicitation. They also have a toll-free number that is shown on the screen as well as a web chat feature. They are open at 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday Eastern Standard Time. And they are open a little later on the solicitation due date. But, again, as David indicated during his portion of the presentation, please do not wait until that last 11:59 hour on the due date. Try to submit your application at least 72 hours in advance. If you're having problems submitting your application, please contact Grants.gov, their information is on the screen, both NCJRS's and Grants.gov information is also on the solicitation. So you can refer to the solicitation and get the same information that you're looking at here. Grants.gov is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day, except on federal holidays.

And they also have an email address as well. One other thing, if you are having questions about application process and different items, you can look at or review, read the transcript for webinars that were conducted through BJA earlier this year. The grants app--grant applicant education series, in particular webinars two, three, and four are addressing certain things that you would need and would be helpful during the application process. That information is also located on the BJA website, if you go to the funding section and then scroll down below the charts, you're going to find the links that is here, BJA funding webinar/webinars and you can click on it from there, and again, the full URL though is www.bja.gov/funding/webinars.html. Lastly, a list of resources that we would want to make available to you that again will help you during your funding process as listed on this slide here. Items such as the DOJ Financial Guide and the funding--OJP Funding Resource Center can be a valuable resource to you as you go through the process. The last link here is NIJ's CrimeSolutions.gov and it has a listing of different programs that are out there and they rate programs as being promising, effective, or not effective so this might be a good place for you to look when you're developing or enhancing your program. So at this time, we are going to open it up and start addressing the questions that were asked and submitted, give me one second here and we'll get to the first question. We're taking them in order as they were submitted. "Can a LEA apply directly without going through the county as the fiscal agent?"

DAVID ADAMS: I believe that you would be able to apply as the fiscal agent.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Many Americans think that since 1994, something has gone wrong. How does this get admitted to and resolved?" Not really sure how that question applies to the solicitations at hand. All right. Give us one second please as we look through these questions. I apologize for the delay. I'm going to move the slide to the NCJRS slide right now so that you have the opportunity to write some of that information down.

All right. So we do have questions here about the PowerPoint. A PowerPoint, the transcript, and the audio recording for today's webinar will be posted to the BJA website. I'm going to say in approximately 10 business days but it's probably going to be in less time than that but that'll give you kind of the far end. One of the things I do suggest, looking at the slide right now NCJRS is up, if you go to the NCJRS website, NCJRS.gov, you can sign up for their funding newsletter, this newsletter comes out every Friday, it announces the new--funding opportunities from the Office of Justice Programs, it'll also alert you to when there's a webinar related to those opportunities and when the items from the webinar have been posted to the appropriate agency websites. So if you sign up for that, you will find out when the information has been

posted, you can also just check back at the BJA website. "Do school districts need to submit anything in our application to indicate our eligibility?"

DAVID ADAMS: Speaking from BJA, that is not--that is not a requirement this year, last year there was a requirement that you had to submit a letter that you are authorized to apply, that is with the appropriations language that Congress passed this year, that's no longer a requirement to BJA.

LYNETTE CHAMBLISS: And same with COPS, you may apply directly, you do not have to submit any additional paperwork to show eligibility.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Can the FY '18 STOP grant award E apply for additional funding in the same school district to enhance programs, i.e., extend into different counties or provide services to elementary populations when previous awards were from middle or high school?

DAVID ADAMS: Grantees that were funded last year are eligible to apply again for FY 2019 funding. However, the FY 2019 funding has to be used for something the grantees were not funded to do with the FY 2018 funding.

LYNETTE CHAMBLISS: Okay. On the COPS side, our solicitation is open so if you were funded last year, you are welcome to also fund, you know--I'm sorry, apply again this year for an extension of your project.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: For catch match required for the COPS grant, can a school district use grant funding to receive from the state for security programs not federal funding?

LYNETTE CHAMBLISS: So the short answer is yes, the longer answer is provided that that particular funding does not have restrictions on what you're able to do with it. So for example, if the regulations of that funding prohibit using as a match for a federal grant then no, you may not. But otherwise, yes, that funding is allowable provided there are no inhibitions on how they may be used.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Something was mentioned about funding for a training and technical assistance program, do you have more information on what that is?

DAVID ADAMS: So we at BJA will typically have a training and technical assistance provider that assist grantees of a particular program. For instance, we have our Project Safe Neighborhoods Program, we also have a TTA provider that assist the local

awardees meet the requirements of their program. That will be the case with the STOP program this year, we--with the additional funding, we were provided, we were able to create a training and technical assistance program, there's different eligibility to apply for that as a provider. The applicants must be able to provide training and technical assistance on a national scale and be able to provide assistance to all of the local grantees that we awarded last year, that we will award this year, and in coming years.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. So at this time, we're waiting for some additional questions to come through, I am going to flip it over to the Grants.gov slide for a hot second or two. Again, if you have any technical difficulties submitting your application or uploading any documents, please contact Grants.gov, you can reach them at their 800 number, 800-518-4726, again, they are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week except on federal holidays and you can also email them at the email address provided on the screen. If you have any issues or questions about financial aspects of your application, please use the DOJ Financial Guide, the URL for that is listed here on the screen as well as some other resources that are available to you.

LYNETTE CHAMBLISS: I just wanted to add, this is Lynette from COPS, requesting that I've been getting a lot is regarding whether or not individual schools are eligible to apply, and unfortunately no, we are not allowing individual schools to apply this year. So if you are an individual school, please consider reaching out to your local government, your law enforcement office, your LEA to partner with them but we're not able to accept applications from individual schools which would include charter schools, okay.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: For COPS please clarify what you mean by an extension of the project that was previously funded.

LYNETTE CHAMBLISS: So one of the earlier questions mentioned whether or not, you know, an awardee from last year would be able to apply again and hope to include other schools within their jurisdiction as part of their project. So that is what I mean about an extension of the project. So you're not limited to just your award last year, if you apply this year that's fine, if you're funded this year, you know, that's great, and if it ends up expanding your comprehensiveness of your school safety that's even better.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Should a smartphone app project be submitted for a COPS or BJA grant or could we submit to both?

DAVID ADAMS: So that would be appropriate under the Technology and Threat Assessment Solutions for Safer Schools Program and you would come in under category seven with that.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. We will give you another few minutes, questions are not coming in really fast, so if you do have anything please, you have Lynette and David's undivided attention right now, so it's a great time to ask the questions. And again if for some reason that you think of something after the fact you can contact and submit that question for the BJA grants to NCJRS. For the COPS grants if you have any questions after...

LYNETTE CHAMBLISS: You can submit them to our final slide address which is the SVPP email box, I'm responding to everything out of that box. So send anything you have there, and I'll get to you.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: I have moved the slide right now so you're seeing that address, its svpp@usdoj--I'm sorry, COPS, hyphen?

LYNETTE CHAMBLISS: Yeah.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: svpp@usdoj.gov. So if you have any questions about the COPS grant please submit your question after the webinar to that address. Another question came in, just to confirm can you kindly verify if LEAs are eligible to apply directly as a prime applicant on the BJA Prevention and Mental Health Training Program grant? The note at the bottom of the page 10 of the RSP seems to state otherwise, thank you.

DAVID ADAMS: So I--it's my understanding that you would be eligible to apply. Now I believe the slide has my contact information, if you'd like to send me an email I'll be more than happy to check with our general counsel law office just to verify that but it's my understanding you would be eligible to apply.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Under the BJA opportunities if a district received an award under both programs last year can we apply again this year if the scope is different?

DAVID ADAMS: Grantees that were funded last year are eligible to apply again for FY 2019 funding. However, the FY 2019 funding has to be used for something the grantees were not funded to do with the FY 2018 funding.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: And while we're waiting I'm going again back to the NCJRS slide. We'll give you another minute to see if any questions come through, otherwise I think we will end the webinar. So with regards to the question about the LEA submitting an application and--on their own, please resubmit your question to NCJRS, NCJ--grants@ncjrs.gov and David will work with NCJRS to get you a firm answer on that. So please again, if you're still on the call submit your question to ncjrs.gov. If I am a threat assessment category three grantee can I apply as a threat assessment category three grantee if I am proposing completely different activities?

DAVID ADAMS: Grantees that were funded last year are eligible to apply again for FY 2019 funding. However, the FY 2019 funding has to be used for something the grantees were not funded to do with the FY 2018 funding.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: If we apply under the category for state level population does that mean we have to serve the whole state?

DAVID ADAMS: Yes.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: There is a question here, I'm not sure if the whole thing came through, it just says Local Education Agency or Law Enforcement Agency?

DAVID ADAMS: That's a good question because LEA to me means Law Enforcement Agency, if you're referring to Local Education Agency you're eligible to apply.

LYNETTE CHAMBLISS: That's correct. When we, at the COPS office, for the purpose of this program say LEA every first to local education agency because that is what the statute said. So law enforcement is eligible but so are LEA that's defined in the statute, local education.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: I hope that clarifies the--everything for everybody on what LEAs are. I guess it just becomes where--which you're familiar with.

LYNETTE CHAMBLISS: Uh-hmm.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. I'm going to check the chat box just to see if any questions came through there. And I'm not seeing anything. Okay. And we got--it looks like we got another question. If one county and a state was funded in FY 2018 can we apply for the remainder of the state this year?

DAVID ADAMS: Can you clarify what you're referring to?

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: So this person joined a little late, they apologized if the question was addressed, when applying do you--do you partially fund or fully fund, or only fully fund?

DAVID ADAMS: We fully fund an application, if there's available funds. Last year we had funds due to the Full Funding Act, I expect that to be the case this year.

LYNETTE CHAMBLISS: Same for the COPS office we make awards until we have, you know, run out of funding, so.

DAVID ADAMS: So you should apply only for the amount of funding that you need, not for the maximum amount allowable.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Regarding applying for category focused on medium sized county, if we are a school district that serves part of a county can our proposed plan only cover our district or do we have to cover the entire county?

DAVID ADAMS: It would be my understanding that you would apply for the area that you serve. So if you're only serving a portion of--if your area is only a portion of that, you're applying for the portion that you serve.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. And I'm going to flip it over to the Grants.gov slide here for a second so you guys can take a look at that information, and if you'd give us a second. All right. At this time we are going to end the webinar, and we thank you very much on behalf of BJA and the COPS office for attending today's webinar, and we look forward to receiving your applications, you have a wonderful day and best of luck.