U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance



BJA FY 22 Justice Reinvestment Initiative Assessment and Coordination

Grants.gov Opportunity Number: O-BJA-2022-171097

Solicitation Release Date: April 14, 2022 11:06 AM

Grants.gov Deadline: May 24, 2022 8:59 PM

Application JustGrants Deadline: May 31, 2022 8:59 PM

Overview

The <u>U.S. Department of Justice</u> (DOJ), <u>Office of Justice Programs</u> (OJP), <u>Bureau of Justice Assistance</u> (BJA) is seeking applications for funding for this training and technical assistance (TTA) program which will provide coordination and third-party assessment support to the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI). This program furthers the DOJ's mission by helping states to improve the fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency of their criminal justice systems.

This solicitation incorporates the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide by reference. The OJP Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to applicants on how to prepare and submit applications for funding to OJP. If this solicitation expressly modifies any provision in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in this solicitation as to that provision.

Solicitation Categories

This solicitation does not include Solicitation Categories.

Eligible Applicants:

Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments), Nonprofits having a 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, Private institutions of higher education, Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

To advance Executive Order 13929 Safe Policing for Safe Communities, the Attorney General determined that all state, local, and university or college law enforcement agencies must be certified by an approved independent credentialing body or have started the certification process to be eligible for FY 2022 DOJ discretionary grant funding. To become certified, the law enforcement agency must meet two mandatory conditions: (1) the agency's use-of-force policies adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and (2) the agency's use-of-force policies prohibit chokeholds except in situations where use of deadly force is allowed by law. The certification requirement also applies to law enforcement agencies receiving DOJ discretionary grant funding through a subaward. For detailed information on this certification requirement, please visit https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO to access the Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Safe Communities, the Implementation Fact Sheet, and the List of Designated Independent Credentialing Bodies.

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

BJA will consider applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients (subgrantees). For additional information on subawards, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting the **SF-424 and SF- LLL** in Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, at <u>Grants.gov customer support webpage</u>, or email at <u>support@grants.gov</u>. The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

For technical assistance with submitting the full application in DOJ's Justice Grants System (JustGrants), contact the

JustGrants Service Desk at <u>JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</u> or at 833-872-5175. The JustGrants Service Desk operates 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

An applicant that experiences unforeseen Grants.gov or JustGrants technical issues beyond its control that prevent it from submitting its application by the deadline must email the National Criminal Justice Reference Service Response Center (Response Center) contact identified below **within 24 hours after the application deadline** to request approval to submit its application after the deadline.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact the Response Center by telephone at 800–851–3420 or TTY: 301–240–6310 (hearing impaired only) or by email at grants@ncjrs.gov. Response Center hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. eastern time Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

Submission Information

In FY 2022, applications will be submitted to DOJ in a NEW two-step process.

<u>Step 1:</u> Applicants will submit an **SF-424 and an SF-LLL** in Grants.gov at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html
. To register in Grants.gov, applicants will need to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration or renewal.

Step 2: Applicants will submit the full application including attachments in JustGrants at JustGrants.usdoj.gov.

To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline.

OJP encourages applicants to review, the "How to Apply" section in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Contents

Contact Information	1
Program Description	5
Overview	5
Statutory Authority	5
Specific Information	5
Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline	5
Evidence-Based Programs or Practices	6
Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities	6
OJP Priority Areas	6
Federal Award Information	6
Awards, Amounts and Durations	7
Availability of Funds	7
Types of Awards	7
Financial Management and System of Internal Controls	7
Budget Information	7
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement	7
Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)	7
Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation: Waiver	7
Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs	7
Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)	7
Unmanned Aircraft Systems	8
Eligibility Information	8
Application and Submission Information	8
Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	8
Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)	8
Proposal Abstract	8
Proposal Narrative	9
Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline	10
Budget and Associated Documentation	10
Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)	10
Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)	10
Financial Management Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)	10
Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation	10
Additional Application Components	10
Tribal Authorizing Resolution	10
Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement	10
Disclosures and Assurances	10
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	10
DOJ Certified Standard Assurances	10
Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items	11
DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters;	
and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements	11
How to Apply	11
Submission Dates and Time	11
Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues	11
Application Review Information	12
Review Criteria	12
Review Process	12

Federal Award Administration Information		
Federal Award Notices		
Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements	13	
Information Technology (IT) Security Clauses	13	
General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements	13	
Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)	13	
Other Information		
Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a)	13	
Provide Feedback to OJP		
Application Checklist	13	
What an Applicant Must Do:	13	
Appendix A	16	

Program Description

Overview

OJP is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights and racial equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens community safety and protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.

This training and technical assistance (TTA) program will provide coordination and third-party assessment support to the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI). JRI uses a data-driven process to help states improve the fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency of their criminal justice systems.

Statutory Authority

Any awards under this solicitation would be made under Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117-103, 136 Stat. 49, 127)

Specific Information

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative uses a data-driven process to help states improve the fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency of their criminal justice systems. More than 30 states have used JRI since 2007 to fundamentally change the way they conduct criminal justice, including addressing the drivers of correctional costs and population growth; increasing collaboration among state and local agencies; and investing in strategies that have the greatest impact on improving justice system outcomes and reducing recidivism.

To assist in these state-level efforts, current BJA-funded training and technical assistance partners support leaders in all three branches of state governments and multiple agencies through intensive, multipear, and multiphase engagements. They analyze agency-spanning data, engage stakeholders, and identify policy and practice changes to improve outcomes. If states adopt those policy and practice changes, TTA is available to provide equally intensive support for implementation of those changes.

Assessing the outcomes and impact of JRI in any given state, and as a whole, is a complex challenge. The state-level TTA providers build invaluable relationships and become familiar with a vast amount of data in each state. These data pave the way for assessments. With this solicitation, BJA is seeking a provider to work collaboratively on assessments, somewhat akin to the role of a third-party evaluator. The provider selected under this solicitation will work collaboratively with current state-level providers and BJA to assess outcomes in both individual states and across the initiative as a whole. The selected provider will also serve as a coordinator to manage meetings, related events, publications, and communication strategies among the JRI team, including BJA, state-level TTA providers, and other key stakeholders.

For more information about JRI, see https://bja.ojp.gov/program/justice-reinvestment-initiative/overview.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

Goals

The goal of this TTA program is to support the JRI infrastructure by providing the research and evaluation expertise necessary to assess and document the impact of policy and practice changes made through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, in close consultation with BJA. Specifically, the selected provider will support state-specific and initiative-wide assessments as a third-party expert through collaboration with the BJA-funded state-level JRI TTA providers. Additionally, the selected provider will serve as a coordinator for the broader JRI partner team.

Objectives

BJA will make one award to:

- · Provide coordination support for JRI.
- Partner with the TTA providers and:
 - · Leverage existing data and relationships.
 - Scope and execute new assessment projects.
 - Consider innovative approaches to assessing JRI's outcomes and impact.

Deliverables

The required assessment deliverables will be developed in collaboration with current BJA-funded JRI TTA providers in order to leverage the research and evaluation expertise of the provider selected under this solicitation, as well as the lessons learned from BJA-funded JRI TTA providers' past and ongoing work in the states. The required assessment deliverables are:

- · A new assessment strategy
- · Data collection
- · Data cleaning and analysis
- A report and other products such as briefs, infographics, blog posts, webinars (applicants to propose the nature and number, in line with assessment strategy)
- Dissemination on multiple domains

The Required Coordination Deliverables are:

- Administrative and logistical support for quarterly JRI Steering Committee and other meetings, including scheduling, note taking, distribution of meeting summaries, and preparation of agendas and briefing materials.
- Keep the content up to date in BJA's JRI microsite using new and existing materials, including materials from state level providers at: https://bja.ojp.gov/program/justice-reinvestment-initiative/overview.
- Manage and keep up to date a state engagement and policy tracker to have a bird's eye view of JRI, including a
 comprehensive tally of policies enacted.
- · Collect, distribute, and maintain communications, articles of interest, reports, and other relevant information.
- · Work collaboratively and share information among the JRI partners.
- · Provide planning and staffing support for events.

The Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables are directly related to the performance measures that demonstrate the results of the work completed, as discussed under Application and Submission Information.

Evidence-Based Programs or Practices

OJP strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policymaking and program development in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. For additional information and resources on evidence-based programs or practices, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities

OJP may conduct or support an evaluation of the programs and activities funded under this solicitation. For additional information, see the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> section entitled "Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities."

OJP Priority Areas

The Department of Justice is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights and racial equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens community safety and protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.

1. Priority Considerations Supporting Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

Consistent with this Executive Order, the term "underserved community" refers to a population sharing a particular characteristic, as well as a geographic community, that has been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life or whose members have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality. Such communities include, among others, Black people, Hispanics and Latino/a/e people, Native American and other Indigenous peoples of North America (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts), Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

In support of Executive Order 13985, OJP will:

A. Give priority consideration to applications that include project(s) that will promote racial equity and the removal of barriers to access and opportunity for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality, when making award decisions.

To receive this consideration, the applicant must describe how the proposed project(s) will address potential inequities and barriers to equal opportunity, and/or contribute to greater access to services for underserved and historically marginalized populations.

Note: Addressing this priority area is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration for one or more priority areas is not a guarantee of an award.

Federal Award Information

Solicitation Categories

This solicitation does not include Solicitation Categories.

Awards. Amounts and Durations

Anticipated Number of Awards

Period of Performance Start Date

10/1/22 12:00 AM

Anticipated Total Amount to be Awarded Under Solicitation \$750,000,00

Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount of Awards \$750,000,00

Period of Performance Duration (Months)

Availability of Funds

This solicitation, and awards (if any are made) under this solicitation, are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law. In addition, nothing in this solicitation is intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Types of Awards

BJA expects to make awards under this solicitation as cooperative agreements, which provide for OJP to have substantial involvement in carrying out award activities. See the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section of the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls

Award recipients and subrecipients (including recipients or subrecipients that are pass-through entities) must, as described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.303, comply with standards for financial and program management. The "Part 200 Uniform Requirements" means the DOJ regulation at 2 C.F.R. Part 2800, which adopts (with certain modifications) the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200. See OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

Budget Information

Applicants should consider the most effective and efficient ways to reach the field when proposing their approaches to the

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

This solicitation does not require a match.

Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide information on Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs).

Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation: Waiver

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide information on Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver.

Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs.

Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on Costs Associated with Language Assistance.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The use of BJA grant funds for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), including unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAV), and all accompanying accessories to support UAS or UAV, is unallowable.

Eligibility Information

For eligibility information, see the title page.

For information on cost sharing or match requirements, see Federal Award Information.

Application and Submission Information

The following application elements MUST be included in the application submission for an application to meet the basic minimum requirements (BMR) to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding:

- · Proposal Abstract,
- · Proposal Narrative,
- Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (web-based form) (The web-based form includes the budget details and the budget narrative.)

See the "Application Elements and Formatting Instructions" section of the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for information on what happens to an application that does not contain all the specified elements or that is nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation.

Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

The SF-424 will be submitted in Grants.gov. The SF-424 is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for additional information on completing the SF-424.

In Section F of the SF-424, please include the name and contact information of the individual who will complete application materials in JustGrants. JustGrants will use this information (email address) to assign the application to this user in JustGrants.

Intergovernmental Review: This solicitation ("funding opportunity") is not subject to <u>Executive Order 12372</u>. (In completing the SF-424, an applicant is to answer question 19 by selecting the response that the "Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.")

Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)

The Standard Applicant Information section of the JustGrants application is pre-populated with the SF-424 data submitted in Grants.gov. Applicants will need to review the Standard Applicant Information in JustGrants and make edits as needed. Within this section, applicants will need to: add zip codes for areas affected by the project; confirm their Authorized Representative; and verify the organization's legal name and address.

Proposal Abstract

A proposal abstract (no more than 400 words) summarizing the proposed project, including the purpose of the project, primary activities, expected outcomes, the service area, intended beneficiaries and subrecipients (if known), will be completed in the JustGrants web-based form. This abstract should be written in the third person and will be made publicly available on the OJP website if the project is awarded.

Proposal Narrative

The proposal narrative should be submitted as an attachment in JustGrants. The attached document should be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point Times New Roman font; have no less than 1-inch margins; and should not exceed 10 pages. Pages should be numbered and submitted as an attachment. If the proposal narrative fails to comply with these length restrictions, BJA may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

The following sections must be included as part of the proposal narrative:

- a. Description of the Issue OR Statement of the problem if research is involved
 - · Demonstrate a thorough understanding of JRI and the initiative's assessment and coordination problem.
 - Discuss the landscape around this problem, including relevant efforts undertaken to address it and specific challenges.
 - Describe why this project/these proposed activities are necessary (significance/value) and include supporting information.

b. Project Design and Implementation

- Address in detail how the applicant proposes to undertake and accomplish each of the objectives and tasks outlined
 in the solicitation.
- Provide a complete description of all the requested deliverables, including the purpose and general scope of each assessment deliverable, and the methods for their delivery.
- Include a Timeline/Project plan that identifies the major tasks and deliverables of the proposed project and who is responsible for each activity. This will contribute to higher scoring under this criterion.
- Applicants may propose other items/deliverables, in addition to the ones listed in this grant announcement, and should provide detailed information of those items, if applicable.

c. Capabilities and Competencies

- Describe the research and evaluation qualifications of the applicant and its partners and each organization's role and responsibilities.
- Demonstrate the capability of the lead organization and any collaborative partners to implement each component of the project.
- · Describe the management structure, staffing, and in-house or contracted capacity to complete each component.
- Describe how the proposed management structure and staffing of the project will facilitate the delivery of those
 components. The management and organizational structure described should match the staffing needs necessary to
 accomplish the tasks outlined in the Timeline/Project plan. Information regarding the personnel assigned to these
 tasks, including résumés, position descriptions, and work product examples, will contribute to the assignment of points
 relative to this criterion.
- Provide examples of the applicant's expertise specifically as it relates to assessing JRI, notably:
 - · Collaboration with state agencies and TTA providers
 - Policy assessment and program evaluation
 - Data cleaning and analysis
 - Developing uniform protocols for cross-site data collection, cleaning, and analysis

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

Describe the process for measuring project performance. Identify who will collect the data, who is responsible for performance measurements, and how the information will be used to guide and evaluate the project's impact. Describe the process to accurately report data.

Note: applicants are **not** required to submit performance data with the application. Rather, performance measures information is included as an alert that successful applicants will be required to submit performance data as part of the reporting requirements under an award.

OJP will require each successful applicant to submit regular performance data that demonstrate the results of the work carried out under the award. The performance data directly relate to the goals, objectives, and deliverables identified under "Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables."

Applicants can also visit OJP's performance measurement page at www.ojp.gov/performance for an overview of performance measurement activities at OJP.

BJA will require award recipients to submit performance measures data in the TTA Reporting Portal and separately submit a semi-annual performance report in JustGrants. BJA will provide further guidance on the post-award submission process, if selected for award. A list of performance measure questions for this program can be found at https://bja.ojp.gov/performance-measures/tta-deliverable-performance-metrics.pdf.

Note on Project Evaluations

An applicant that proposes to use award funds through this solicitation to conduct project evaluations must follow the guidance in the "Note on Project Evaluations" section in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

Applicants will submit the Justice Reinvestment Initiative Assessment and Coordination Program's goals, objectives, deliverables, and timelines in the JustGrants Web-based form.

Budget and Associated Documentation

Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)

The applicant will complete the JustGrants web-based budget form. See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for additional information.

Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

The applicant will submit its indirect cost rate agreement by uploading it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the <u>OJP Grant</u> Application Resource Guide for additional information.

Financial Management Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)

The applicant will download the questionnaire, complete it, and submit it by uploading it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information and the link to the questionnaire.

Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation

This solicitation expressly modifies the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide by not incorporating its "Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation" provisions. Applicants to this solicitation are not required to provide this disclosure.

Additional Application Components

- Timeline/Task Plan Position Descriptions
- Documentation of Proposed Subrecipients and Procurement Contracts (if any, complete the table in Appendix A.)
- Résumés of Key Personnel
- Work Product Examples
- Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications
- Letter(s) from Partner(s): Provide letters of support from key partners demonstrating commitment to the project.

The applicant will attach the additional requested documentation in JustGrants.

Tribal Authorizing Resolution

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of tribal authorizing documentation as an attachment. If applicable, the applicant will submit the tribal authorizing documentation by uploading it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on tribal authorizing resolutions.

Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement

If an application proposes research (including research and development) and/or evaluation, the applicant must demonstrate research/evaluation independence and integrity, including appropriate safeguards, before it may receive award funds. The applicant will submit documentation of its research and evaluation independence and integrity by uploading it as an attachment in JustGrants. For additional information, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Disclosures and Assurances

Applicants will complete the following disclosures and assurances.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Applicants will complete and submit the SF-LLL in Grants.gov. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

DOJ Certified Standard Assurances

Review and accept the DOJ Certified Standard Assurances in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items

Complete the JustGrants web-based Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items form. See the <u>OJP</u> <u>Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for additional information.

DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

Applicants will review and accept the DOJ Certified Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements. See OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

How to Apply

Step 1: The applicant must submit an SF-424 and an SF-LLL in Grants.gov at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html.

Step 2: The applicant must then submit the full application including attachments in JustGrants at JustGrants.usdoj.gov.

For additional information, see the "How to Apply" section in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide and the DOJ Application Submission Checklist.

Submission Dates and Time

The SF-424 and the SF-LLL must be submitted in Grants.gov by 8:59PM May 24th, 2022.

The full application must be submitted in JustGrants by 8:59PM May 31st, 2022.

OJP urges applicants to submit their Grants.gov and JustGrants submissions prior to the due dates to allow sufficient time to correct errors and resubmit by the submission deadlines if a rejection notification is received. To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline.

Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues

An applicant that experiences unforeseen SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants technical issues beyond its control that prevent application submission by the deadline, must demonstrate all efforts in requesting technical support in order to submit an application by the deadline. Technical support is available via phone and email to the applicable SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants support centers or service desks in which an applicant received a ticket number for resolution. If an applicant misses a deadline due to unforeseen technical difficulties, the applicant may request a waiver to submit an application after the deadline. Note: If an applicant does not submit all the required Grants.gov forms by the Grants.gov deadline, the applicant will not be able to proceed to the JustGrants portion of the application process.

An applicant experiencing technical difficulties with the following systems must contact the associated support desk indicated below to report the technical issue and receive a tracking number:

- Grants.gov contact the <u>Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline</u>
- SAM.gov contact the <u>SAM Help Desk (Federal Service Desk)</u>
- JustGrants contact the JustGrants Support Desk at JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov or 833–872–5175

An applicant requesting a waiver to submit a late application must document their request for technical assistance in an email to the OJP Response Center at grants@ncjrs.gov within 24 hours after the application deadline to request approval to submit its application after the deadline. If an applicant has technical issues with Grants.gov, the applicant must contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline within 24 hours of the Grants.gov deadline to request approval to submit after the deadline. However, waiver requests will not be reviewed until after the JustGrants deadline to allow time for all waivers to be submitted. Waiver requests to submit after the submission deadline must:

- Describe the technical difficulties experienced.
- Include a timeline of the applicant's submission efforts (e.g., what date and time did the error occur, what date and time was action taken to resolve the issue and resubmit; and what date and time did support representatives respond).
- Include an attachment(s) of the complete grant application and all required documentation and material.
- Include the applicant's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and any applicable SAM.gov tracking number(s), Grants.gov Help Desk, and JustGrants Support Desk Ticket Numbers.

OJP will review each request for late submission and required supporting documentation and notify the applicant whether the request has been approved or denied. For more details on the waiver process, OJP encourages applicants to review the "Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues" section in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Application Review Information

Review Criteria

Applications that meet basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers. Applications will be evaluated on how the proposed project/program addresses the following criteria:

- 1. Statement of the Problem/Description of the Issue (15%) evaluate the applicant's understanding of the program/issue to be addressed.
- 2. Project Design and Implementation (40%)- evaluate the adequacy of the proposal, including the goals, objectives, timelines, milestones, and deliverables.
- 3. Capabilities and Competencies (30%)- evaluate administrative and technical capacity of the applicant to successfully accomplish the goals and objectives.
- 4. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (5%) evaluate the applicant's understanding of the performance data reporting requirements and the plan for collecting the required data.
- 5. Budget (10%) evaluate for completeness, cost effectiveness, and allowability (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities)

Other Review Criteria/Factors

Other important considerations for BJA include geographic diversity, strategic priorities (specifically including, but not limited to, those mentioned above relating to priority areas), available funding, past performance, and the extent to which the Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form) accurately explain project costs that are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise allowable under federal law and applicable federal cost principles.

Review Process

Applications submitted under this solicitation that meet the basic minimum requirements, will be evaluated for technical merit by a peer review panel(s) in accordance with OJP peer review policy and procedures using the review criteria listed above

OJP screens applications to ensure they meet the basic minimum requirements prior to conducting the peer review. Although specific requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all OJP solicitations:

- The application must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- The application must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- The application must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- The application must include all items necessary to meet the basic minimum requirements.

Pursuant to the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, before award decisions are made, OJP also reviews information related to the degree of risk posed by the applicant. Among other things to help assess whether an applicant with one or more prior federal awards has a satisfactory record with respect to performance, integrity, and business ethics, OJP checks whether the applicant is listed in SAM as excluded from receiving a federal award.

In addition, if OJP anticipates that an award will exceed \$250,000 in federal funds, OJP also must review and consider any information about the applicant that appears in the non-public segment of the integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently, the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System, FAPIIS).

Important note on FAPIIS: An applicant, may review and comment on any information about itself that currently appears in FAPIIS and was entered by a federal awarding agency. OJP will consider such comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in its assessment of the risk posed by the applicant.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General, who may consider not only peer review ratings and BJA recommendations, but also other factors as indicated in this section.

Federal Award Administration Information

Federal Award Notices

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on award notifications and instructions.

Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the OJP-approved application, the recipient must comply with all award conditions, and all applicable requirements of federal statutes and regulations (including applicable requirements referred to in the assurances and certifications executed in connection with award acceptance). For additional information on these legal requirements, see the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Information Technology (IT) Security Clauses

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of information related to information technology security. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on information technology security.

General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements

In addition to the deliverables described in the Program Description section, any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to submit certain reports and data.

Required reports. Recipients typically must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, final financial and progress reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with the Part 200 Uniform Requirements or specific award conditions. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent. (In appropriate cases, OJP may require additional reports.)

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measures data.

Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For OJP contact(s), see solicitation cover page.

For contact information for Grants.gov and JustGrants, see the solicitation cover page.

Other Information

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a)

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a).

Provide Feedback to OJP

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on how to provide feedback to OJP.

Application Checklist

BJA FY 22 Justice Reinvestment Initiative Assessment and Coordination

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application. The <u>DOJ Application Submission Checklist</u> is another resource.

What an Applicant Must Do:

Prior to registering in Grants.gov:

 Confirm your Entity's <u>System Award Management (SAM) Registration Information</u> (see <u>OJP Grant Application</u> Resource Guide)

To register in Grants.gov:

Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password (see

OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

To find the funding opportunity:

- · Search for the funding opportunity in Grants.gov using the opportunity number, Assistance Listing or keyword
- Access the funding opportunity and application package (see Step 7 in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Sign up for Grants.gov email notifications (optional) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Read Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov
- Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedoj/iii-postaward-requirements#6g3y8. (See OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

Overview of Post-Award Legal Requirements:

· Review the "Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2022 Awards" in the OJP Funding Resource Center.

Review Scope Requirement:

• The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of \$750,000

Review Eligibility Requirement

- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits having a 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

- Private institutions of higher education
 Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

Prepare to submit the Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF)-424 and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form (SF-LLL)

- Review Information to complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) in Grants.gov.
- Complete Standard Applicant Information (SF-424 information from Grants.gov)
- · Submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov

After the SF-424 and SF-LLL submission in Grants.gov, receive Grants.gov email notifications that:

- Submission has been received in Grants.gov
- Submission has either been successfully validated or rejected with errors (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

If no Grants.gov receipt and validation, or error notifications are received:

Contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, at Grants.gov customer support webpage, or email at support@grants.gov regarding technical difficulties (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

Receive email notification to complete application in JustGrants

· Proceed to complete application in JustGrants

Content of Application Submission: Critical Application Elements
The following items are critical application elements required to pass the basic minimum requirements review. If OJP determines that an application does not include the following elements, it will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive

further consideration.

- · Proposal Abstract
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (web-based form)

Budget and Associated Documentation:

- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see <u>OJP Grant Application Resource</u> Guide)
- Disclosure of Process related to Executive Compensation (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

Additional Application Components:

- Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable) (see <u>OJP Grant Application</u> Resource Guide)
- Timeline/Task Plan
- Documentation of Proposed Subrecipients and Procurement Contracts (if any, complete the table in Appendix A)
- Résumés of Key Personnel
- Work Product Example
- Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications
- Letter(s) from Partner(s)

Disclosures and Assurances:

- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurances (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Applicant Disclosure and Justification DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable) (see <u>OJP Grant Application</u> Resource Guide)

Submit application in JustGrants:

· Application has been successfully submitted in JustGrants

If no JustGrants application submission, validation, or error notifications are received:

• Contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833-872-5175 or JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov regarding technical difficulties.

Appendix A: Applicant Documentation of Proposed Subrecipients and Procurement Contracts

Complete the table below with information regarding proposed subrecipients and procurement contracts, including the name, organizational affiliation, and city and state of the proposed subrecipient entity. Add rows if needed. For additional information on subawards, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide. As described previously, applicants will submit the table by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants.

Subrecipient Name (Last, First)	Subrecipient Organization	Subrecipient Location (City, State)