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



Preventing School Violence: BJA's STOP School Violence Program

**FY 2022 Competitive Solicitation** 

Assistance Listing Number # 16.839

Grants.gov Opportunity Number:

O-BJA-2022-171118

Solicitation Release Date:

April 19, 2022 2:00 PM

Grants.gov Deadline:

June 21, 2022 8:59 PM

Application JustGrants Deadline:

June 28, 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) seeks applications for funding to prevent violence in a K-12 school setting. This program furthers the DOJ's mission by supporting and assisting county, local, territorial, and tribal jurisdictions in improving efforts to reduce violent crime in and around schools.

This solicitation incorporates the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> by reference. The OJP Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to applicants to prepare and submit applications to OJP for funding. 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**

Competition ID	Category *	Number of Awards	Dollar Amount for Award	Performance Start Date	Performance Duration (Months)
C-BJA-2022-00097-PROD	1	10	\$2,000,000.00	10/1/22 12:00 AM	36
C-BJA-2022-00098-PROD	2	69	\$1,000,000.00	10/1/22 12:00 AM	36

## **Eligible Applicants:**

Other

#### Other

Category 1:

- State governments
- · Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education

## Category 2:

- · City or township governments
- · County governments
- Units of local governments
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- · Private institutions of higher education
- Independent school districts

For purposes of this solicitation, "state" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For the purposes of this solicitation, a "federally recognized Native American tribe" means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Private K-12 schools, including private charter schools, should apply as "nonprofits." Public charter schools should apply as "independent school districts."

Applicants may propose to use the grant to contract with, or make one or more subawards to:

- · Local educational agencies
- · Nonprofit organizations
- Units of local government or tribal organizations (as defined in section 4(I) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(I))

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 <a href="https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO">https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO</a> 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.

BJA may elect to fund applications submitted under this FY 2022 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and the availability of appropriations.

## **Contact Information**

For technical assistance with submitting the Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF)-424 and a Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form (SF-LLL) in Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline

at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, <u>Grants.gov Customer Support</u>, or <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 833-872-5175 or <u>JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</u>. The JustGrants Service Desk operates 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. eastern time (ET) Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact the OJP Response Center by telephone at 800-851-3420 or TTY: 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only), or by email at <a href="mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov">grants@ncjrs.gov</a>. The OJP Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., ET Monday–Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the solicitation close date.

#### **Submission Information**

Applications will be submitted to DOJ in two steps:

<u>Step 1:</u> The applicant must submit by the Grants.gov deadline the required Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF)-424 and a Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) form when they register in Grants.gov at <a href="https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html">https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html</a>. To register in Grants.gov, the applicant will need to ensure that its System for Award Management (SAM) registration is current.

<u>Step 2</u>: The applicant must then submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at <u>JustGrants.usdoj.gov</u>. 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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> and the <u>JustGrants website</u> for more information, resources, and training.

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## **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 program is based on the Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act of 2018 (or STOP School Violence Act). The program seeks to increase school safety by implementing: training that will improve school climate using school-based behavioral threat assessments and/or intervention teams to identify school violence risks among students; technological solutions such as anonymous reporting technology that can be implemented as a mobile phone-based app, a hotline, or a website in the applicant's geographic area to enable students, teachers, staff, and community members to anonymously identify threats of school violence; or other school safety strategies that assist in preventing violence.

NOTE: Under the STOP School Violence Act, BJA funds cannot be used for the purchase of target hardening equipment to secure schools such as cameras, security systems, fencing, locks, etc. In addition, these funds cannot be used to hire armed security officers or school resource officers. Applicants interested in funding for target hardening equipment should see the <a href="COPS School Violence">COPS School Violence</a> Prevention Program (SVPP).

BJA, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) are all releasing solicitations in FY 2022 for funding supported by the STOP School Violence Act. Applicants should not submit duplicate proposals that include a similar project design and budget in response to these DOJ solicitations.

## **Statutory Authority**

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

#### **Specific Information**

BJA's STOP School Violence Grant Program is designed to improve K-12 school security by providing students and teachers with the tools they need to recognize, respond quickly to, and help prevent acts of violence and ensure a positive school climate.

Eligible applicants for Categories 1 or 2 may submit **one application** that includes proposals for one or more of the following areas:

- (1) **Developing and operating technology solutions** such as anonymous reporting systems for threats of school violence, including mobile telephone applications, hotlines, websites, or other school safety technology solutions, for accurate identification of danger (without resort to discriminatory stereotypes or violating privacy) or other technology solutions shown to improve school safety. Applicants will demonstrate in their applications or with attached letters of support or memorandums of understanding (MOUs) that they have the support of relevant team partners, including local law enforcement.
- (2) Develop and implement multidisciplinary behavioral threat assessment (BTA) and/or intervention teams. BTA and/or intervention teams BTA and/or intervention teams must be multidisciplinary and should coordinate with law enforcement agencies, behavioral health specialists, community stakeholders, and school personnel. Applicants should demonstrate in their applications or with attached letters of support or MOUs that they have the support of relevant team partners. BTA must be done in conjunction with a research partner or evaluator who can track data pertaining to the use of BTA, the demographic characteristics of those who undergo assessments and the referral results of those assessments; document services provided after each assessment; and review data and evaluation to ensure there is no disparate impact based on race, ethnicity, or disability.
- (3) Train school personnel and educate students on preventing school violence, including

**strategies to improve a school climate,** which may include training for school officials on intervening and responding to individuals in mental health crises, social emotional learning, anti-bullying prevention, suicide prevention, or other evidence-based programs that may improve school climate.

- (4) Specialized training for law enforcement who work in schools and/or with school-age populations such as school resource officers (SROs) and probation officers. Such training should include the basics of mental health awareness, conflict resolution, mediation, problem solving, mentoring principles, crisis intervention, youth development, implications of trauma, basic classroom instruction and expectations, integrated response training with mental health and school psychologists, family and parent engagement, and appropriate use of information. Additional training topics may include:
  - · Incident reporting and data collection
  - · Procedural justice
  - Multitiered system of support (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports [PBIS] or other)
  - Community policing and SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment) problemsolving model
  - · De-escalation and conflict resolution techniques
  - · Child development, including adolescent brain development
  - · Teen dating violence and sexual assault
  - Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
  - Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), including training on Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the requirement that SROs must make reasonable modifications when necessary to interact with young people with disabilities
  - Working with specific student groups, including youth with disabilities, English as a second language learners, and youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and/or intersex
  - · Bias-free policing, including implicit bias and cultural competence
  - Alternatives to arrest, including diversion programs
  - Trauma-informed care
  - Civil rights and protected classes as well as constitutional rights
  - Bullying prevention
  - · Drug and alcohol education
  - · Social media use
  - · Emergency management
  - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
  - · Behavioral threat assessment in school settings
  - · Active shooter training
  - · Restorative justice/practices and conflict resolution

## Nontraining activities may include:

- Policy development specific to law enforcement including on the appropriate use of force, response protocols, parameters and limitations of the law enforcement role in educational settings
- Policy development and training to identify school disciplinary issues (which should be handled
  by teachers or school administrators) and situations where law enforcement may be necessary
  to protect physical safety
- Policy development regarding the limited circumstances in which arrest is necessary, to include support for diversion
- Policy development regarding the appropriate use of student information including privacy protections
- Policy development regarding conflict resolution
- Development of performance metrics to measure implementation of policy, e.g. use of conflict resolution, adherence to privacy measures, etc.
- Enhancing data collection to support transparency and tracking measures

(5) Hiring of school support personnel such as climate specialists, school psychologists, school social workers, school-based violence interrupters, and others directly supporting the prevention of school violence. These hires can work independently in the school or as part of an SRO co-responder model. Applicants proposing to hire staff as outlined in this section must state in their applications what steps they will take to sustain the position(s) when grant funds are exhausted. Applicants should also identify the specific training that new hires will receive, or may have already completed prior to being hired, to ensure readiness to work with children who comprise the school-age population, such as the trainings identified in Section 4 above. By statute, funds may not be used to hire new SROs but may be used to pay overtime to existing SROs who are performing duties as part of a grant that are outside the scope of their normal job duties.

Applications that propose behavioral threat assessments, intervention teams, and/or operating technology solutions such as anonymous reporting systems should ensure that their implementation strategies, polices, and protocols address critical issues such as student privacy, data security, race, national origin, disability, religion, and sex-based discrimination and bias. They also must ensure that community stakeholders are a part of the planning process, as described in the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center's document, *Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence*, and that interventions are trauma informed as well as informed by child and adolescent development. BJA's training and technical assistance (TTA) provider, the <a href="National Center for School Safety">National Center for School Safety</a>, will work with grantees to assess their strategies and provide support as necessary throughout the grant period on vital issues such as developing evidence-based, constitutionally sound programs.

For more information related to policies and protocols to address student privacy, data security, discrimination, and bias, see <a href="https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/">https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/</a> and <a href="https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/school-resource-officers-school-law-enforcement-units-and-ferpa.">https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/resources/school-resource-officers-school-law-enforcement-units-and-ferpa.</a>

Applications must ensure that the improvements to be funded under the grant are

- Protective of student privacy, as required by FERPA and applicable state privacy laws, and
  ensure that students are not discriminated against on the basis of race, national origin, disability,
  religion, or sex
- Limited to allow personnel in law enforcement agencies to receive student information from education records only when such disclosure is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals (e.g., necessary to prevent school violence).
- Consistent with a comprehensive approach to preventing school violence and promoting a
  positive school climate.

- Transparent so that students, parents/guardians, and community members know what is being
  done and have the data necessary to monitor its effectiveness and compliance with privacy and
  non-discrimination requirements.
- Individualized to the needs of each school at which those improvements are to be made.

#### **Digital Trust**

Technological devices, artificial intelligence, predictive analytics, and other data-driven solutions ("Technological Enhancements") are increasingly used to augment crime reduction strategies and efforts. Care must be taken to assess and address any potential harm that could be activated by these solutions to ensure privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties are protected. Applicants proposing to utilize grant funds to support technological enhancements directly or via training and technical assistance may receive priority consideration if their proposal addresses the tenets of digital trust such as:

- How the technology will be carefully implemented through training of personnel and the setting and
  enforcement of policies governing its use to ensure that it contributes to positive outcomes for public safety,
  the community and/or the criminal justice system.
- How the applicant will safeguard privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties throughout the duration of the project period.

Applicants proposing to implement an anonymous reporting system (ARS) in a state or jurisdiction that has an existing ARS system should describe how the proposed ARS system will not be duplicative.

## STOP funds may not be used to address violence on the campus of an institution of higher education.

All applicants should be aware that under federal law, OJP may not award grant funds to procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses "covered telecommunications equipment or services" as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. In general, with limited exceptions, "covered telecommunications equipment or services" includes telecommunications and video surveillance equipment or services produced by a foreign entity that is specifically designated by statute or designated by the federal government pursuant to statute.

## Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

#### Goals

The goal of this program is to prevent and reduce school violence.

## **Objectives**

The program's objectives are to increase school safety using evidence-based solutions to prevent violence against schools, staff, and students and ensure a positive school climate. Applicants should also be mindful of the potential to cause or exacerbate trauma for some students, and should use a trauma-informed approach when implementing program activities to help mitigate this concern.

## **Deliverables**

- Implementation of training, including for all behavioral threat assessments and/or intervention teams, that prepares school and/or law enforcement personnel to identify school violence risks among students in a nondiscriminatory and trauma-informed way and/or to improve their school climate. A positive school climate is paramount for learning; activities should not generate additional fears or traumatize students who may already be living in an unsafe environment. Threat assessment training must not discriminate against or stereotype students based on race, national origin, disability, religion, or sex.
- Resources and strategies for responding to students in mental health crisis that are trauma informed, protect student privacy rights, and, most importantly, involve mental health professionals at all stages of training and in practice.

Technological solutions, such as anonymous reporting technology that can be implemented as a mobile phone-based app, a hotline, a website, or other technology solution in the applicant's geographic area to enable students, teachers, faculty, and community members to anonymously identify threats of school violence, or other technology solutions shown to improve school safety and/or improve a school climate. Implementation of an ARS in a state or jurisdiction that has an existing ARS system must complement and

work with current efforts and not be duplicative. Activities should be protective of student privacy and ensure that students are not discriminated against on the basis of race, national origin, disability, religion, or sex.

- Other school safety strategies that assist in preventing violence and improving a school climate as outlined above such as improving access to school-based behavioral health services or implementing appropriate social and emotional learning programs or other interventions that promote a positive and healthy school climate.
- Training for school-based law enforcement officers or probation officers who work with school-based populations.
- Hiring of personnel to improve a school climate and positive responses to student behavior.

Applicants will be required to document all training and education sessions conducted under the award, as applicable. Applicants will also be required to coordinate with the BJA STOP Program TTA provider.

Applicants should consider the most effective and efficient ways for reaching the field in proposing approaches to the work.

The Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables are directly related to the performance measures that show the completed work's results, as discussed in the "Application and Submission Information" section.

#### **Evidence-Based Programs or Practices**

OJP strongly encourages the use of data and evidence in policymaking and program development for 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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide section entitled "Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities."

## **Federal Award Information**

## **Solicitation Categories**

Competition ID	Category *	Number of Awards	Dollar Amount for Award	Performance Start Date	Performance Duration (Months)
C-BJA-2022-00097-PROD	1	10	\$2,000,000.00	10/1/22 12:00 AM	36
C-BJA-2022-00098-PROD	2	69	\$1,000,000.00	10/1/22 12:00 AM	36

#### **Awards, Amounts and Durations**

Period of Performance Start Date 10/1/22 12:00 AM

Period of Performance Duration (Months) 36

Anticipated Total Amount to be Awarded Under Solicitation \$45,000,000,00

#### **Additional Information**

Maximum dollar amount for each award: Category 1: estimated 10 awards of up to \$2,000,000 each Category 2: estimated 69 awards of up to \$1,000,000 each

#### **Continuation Funding Intent**

BJA may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this solicitation through continuation awards. OJP will consider, among other factors, OJP's strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award, and the award-funded work's progress, when making continuation award decisions.

#### **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 grants. See the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section of the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for a brief discussion of important statutes, regulations, and award conditions that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP grants.

#### **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. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

#### **Budget Information**

## **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.

## **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.

## **Eligibility Information**

For eligibility information, see cover page.

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

## **Application and Submission Information**

The following application elements **must** be included in the application to meet the basic minimum requirements 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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on what happens to an application that does not contain all the specified elements or is nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation.

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

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

In Section 8F of the SF-424, please include the name and contact information of the individual **who will complete the application 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 Executive Order (E.O.) 12372. (In completing the SF-424, an applicant is to answer question 19 by selecting "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. The applicant will need to review the Standard Applicant Information in JustGrants and make edits as needed. Within this section, the applicant will need to add zip codes for areas affected by the project; confirm its Authorized Representative; and verify and confirm the organization's unique entity identifier, 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 font; have no less than 1-inch margins; and should not exceed 15 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 the peer review and final award decision.

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

## a. Description of the Issue

Describe why this project/these proposed activities are necessary (significance/value) and/or address a need and include supporting data/information to support your statement.

#### b, Project Design and Implementation

Completely describe the strategy to address the needs identified in the Description of the Issue. Applicants should be specific when listing the proposed project activities and describe how they relate to the stated objective. Activities are the specific actions to be undertaken to fulfill the program's objectives and reach the program's goal and should not be vague generalities. Provide a detailed description of the method(s) to be used to carry out each activity, as well as include a description of all individuals/groups involved in the project and that will be served by the project.

The applicant must clearly outline the different school(s)/school district(s) where the project will be implemented and include letters of support for the project from those schools/school districts if another entity is submitting the application. Include a description of why these schools were selected. The applicant should demonstrate through description in the narrative, attached letters of support, or attached MOUs that the applicant has the full support of project partners related to the implementation of the project. Evidence shows that collaboration with law enforcement is critical to the success of projects pertaining to such activities as anonymous reporting systems and behavioral threat assessments. Applicants should demonstrate how they plan to coordinate and collaborate with these local partners.

The applicant should describe how grant funding will address the strategy proposed and the benefits. The applicant should include how the proposed project fits into the overall safety strategy of the school(s) or school district and how the project will ensure compliance with all applicable privacy and civil rights laws. If the applicant is including proposals for more than one area (training/threat assessment, etc.), it should clearly outline the different areas and distinguish the activities within the narrative. If the applicant is a current STOP Program grantee, the application must also include how this project differs from the current funded project to ensure there is no duplication of effort. This should also be clearly reflected in the budget.

Provide a timetable indicating roughly when activities or program milestones are to be accomplished. While the Project Design and Implementation should discuss the project timeline, applicants may also include a timeline chart as a separate attachment that will not count toward the 15-page limit.

## c. Capabilities and Competencies

Describe completely the capabilities and competencies of the individuals that will be assigned to the project to accomplish the goal and objectives of the program. Résumés should be included as separate attachments and will not count against the 15-page limit. Describe the partners involved in the project and indicate their full support.

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

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.

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 impact of the project. Describe the process to accurately report data.

OJP will require each successful applicant to submit regular performance data that show the completed work's results. The performance data directly relate to the goals, objectives, and deliverables identified in the "Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables" discussion. Applicants can visit OJP's performance measurement page at <a href="https://www.ojp.gov/performance">www.ojp.gov/performance</a> for an overview of performance measurement activities at OJP.

A list of performance measure questions for this program can be found at https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/STOP-Measures.pdf.

BJA will require award recipients to submit performance measure data and performance reports in JustGrants. BJA will provide further guidance on the post-award submission process, if selected for

award.

#### e. Plan for Sustainability

Describe what steps will be taken to sustain the project after federal funds are exhausted. This should be included as part of the 15-page narrative.

#### **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

The applicant will submit the Preventing School Violence: BJA's STOP School Violence Program's goal, objective, and deliverables 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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

Applicants should budget travel/lodging expenses for one visit to the Washington, DC area to meet with federal officials and/or take part in a BJA-sponsored grantee meeting as directed. It is expected that this meeting would be for a minimum of 2 days and 1 night, for at least one representative from the project. Additional attendees may attend, with a maximum of three.

#### Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

The applicant will complete its indirect cost rate agreement by uploading it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant 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 the link to the questionnaire and additional information.

## Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation

If applicable, applicants will submit a description of the process used to determine executive compensation by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants. See the <a href="OJP Grant Application Resource Guide">OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</a> for additional information.

#### **Additional Application Components**

Applicants 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 <a href="OJP Grant Application Resource Guide">OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</a> for information on tribal authorizing resolutions.

## **Timeline Form**

Outlining key tasks, benchmarks, and persons or entities responsible. Applicants will submit the timeline by

uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants.

## 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 <a href="OJP Grant">OJP Grant</a> Application Resource Guide.

#### **Applicant Disclosure of Proposed Subrecipients:**

Attach a list of proposed subrecipients of grant funding, if applicable, that includes the name, organizational affiliation, and location of the proposed subrecipient entity.

**Optional Letters of Support**: Attach relevant letters of support between key partners to the project to reflect their support, roles, and agreements about collaboration.

Optional Memorandum of Understanding (if applicable) should contain the following elements:

- **Purpose of the MOU.** The statement of purpose should describe the agencies or organizations that are entering into the partnership, the purpose of the partnership, and the effective date of the agreement. The effective date of the agreement must cover the term of the award or contain language regarding the annual renewal of the agreement.
- Description of partner roles and responsibilities. This description must include the roles and responsibilities of the school, the school district, and each partner, and should be specifically listed within the document. It must also describe how each signatory will protect student privacy and ensure that students are not discriminated against on the basis of race, national origin, disability, religion, or sex.
- This document should also include any budget information such as specific funds allocated to other partners and for the stated purpose.
- **Signatures.** The MOU should be signed and dated by the school official(s) who will have general educational oversight and decisionmaking authority (i.e., board of education chairperson, superintendent, or school principal) regarding this project, and the lead law enforcement agency leadership (i.e., police chief or sheriff) if law enforcement is included as part of the multidisciplinary team. Understanding that the completion of an MOU may take longer than the application period, a draft MOU may be submitted that **includes** the names and titles of all parties that will be signing the document.

## **Disclosures and Assurances**

The applicant will address the following disclosures and assurances.

## **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

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

Review and accept the DOJ Certified Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; and Law Enforcement and Community Policing in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

Applicant Disclosure and Justification - DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable)

If applicable, applicants will submit as an attachment in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information. A DOJ High Risk Grantee is a recipient that has received a DOJ High Risk designation based on a documented history of unsatisfactory performance, financial instability, management system or other internal control deficiencies, or noncompliance with award terms and conditions on prior awards, or that is otherwise not responsible.

## **How to Apply**

Step 1: The applicant must submit the SF-424 and 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 8:59 PM ET on June 21, 2022

The full application must be submitted in JustGrants by by 8:59 PM ET on June 28, 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 prevents 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 Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline.
- SAM.gov Contact the SAM Help Desk (Federal Service Desk).
- 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 grants@ncjrs.gov within 24 hours after the application deadline to request approval to submit their application after the deadline. If an applicant has technical issues with Grants.gov, the applicant must contact the OJP Response Center 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**

#### a. Merit Review Criteria

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

- 1. Statement of the Problem/Description of the Issue (20%) evaluate the applicant's understanding of the program/issue to be addressed.
- Project Design and Implementation (30%) evaluate the adequacy of the proposal, including the goals, objectives, timelines, milestones, and deliverables. Applicants should demonstrate the level of commitment of their partners through their application narrative and optional attachments such as letters of support or MOUs.
- 3. Capabilities and Competencies (20%) evaluate the 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 (15%) evaluate for completeness, cost effectiveness, and allowability (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).
- 6. Sustainability Plan (10%) evaluate the applicant's sustainability plan to address how the project or technology will continue to operate and be maintained once the award funding has ended. This plan should not assume that additional funding under this program is available after the award period, but it should identify state, local, or possibly private funding to ensure the program or technology continues.

## b. Other Review Criteria/Factors

Other important considerations for BJA include geographic diversity, 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 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 the 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 <a href="OJP Grant Application Resource Guide">OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</a> 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, all award recipients under this solicitation will be required to submit certain reports and data.

<u>Required reports</u>. Award recipients typically must submit quarterly financial reports, *semi-annual* performance reports, final financial and performance 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 measure data.

## Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

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

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

For contact information for 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**

## Preventing School Violence: BJA's STOP School Violence Program

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application. The <u>DOJ Application</u> Submission Checklist 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 Resource Guide</u>)

To Register with Grants.gov:

- Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and Grants.gov username/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 Funding Opportunity:

- Search for the Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov
- Select the correct Competition ID
- Access Funding Opportunity and Application Package (see 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 <u>Important Notice</u>: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov

Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, reporting available at ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm (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 its of
  - Category 1: estimated 10 awards of up to \$2,000,000 each
  - Category 2: estimated 69 awards of up to \$1,000,000 each

## **Review Eligibility Requirement:**

#### Category 1:

- · State governments
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education

## Category 2:

- City or township governments
- · County governments
- · Units of local governments
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- · Private institutions of higher education
- Independent school districts

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

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.

## **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</u> Resource Guide)
- Disclosure of Process related to Executive Compensation

## **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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Timeline/Project Plan outlining key tasks, benchmarks, and persons or entities responsible.
- Applicant Disclosure of Proposed Subrecipients: Attach a list of proposed subrecipients of grant funding
- Letters of Support
- MOUs

## **Disclosures and Assurances**

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

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 <a href="mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov">JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</a> regarding technical difficulties.