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



Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program

Assistance Listing Number # 16.745

Grants.gov Opportunity Number: O-BJA-2023-171520 **Solicitation Release Date:** January 26, 2023 8:00 PM ET

Step 1: Application Grants.gov Deadline: April 24, 2023 8:59 PM ET
Step 2: Application JustGrants Deadline: May 01, 2023 8:59 PM ET

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 the Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program (Connect and Protect). This program furthers the DOJ's mission by supporting law enforcement–behavioral health cross-system collaboration to improve public health and safety as well as responses to and outcomes for individuals with mental health disorders (MHDs) or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (MHSUDs).

This solicitation is one of two solicitations available as part of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program funding in FY 2023. For justice system-focused projects aimed to help individuals with MHDs or MHSUDs who have come into contact with the criminal justice system, are booked into jail, or are leaving a custodial setting, see the solicitation entitled: "Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program."

Additionally, to further assist people with co-occurring MHSUDs, the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP), the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program for State Prisoners, and the Improving Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Outcomes for Adults in Reentry are three other BJA programs that support the provision of behavioral health treatment and services. Not all entities are eligible for all programs. Applicants are encouraged to review each solicitation in its entirety to determine their eligibility, if it fits their proposals, and if taking advantage of another funding opportunity could further enhance a comprehensive approach to supporting individuals with mental health and/or substance use treatment and recovery support needs that have come in contact with the justice system. Additional details on the three programs can be found on the BJA List of Programs page.

This solicitation incorporates guidance provided in the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> which provides additional information for applicants to prepare and submit applications to OJP for funding. If this solicitation expressly modifies any provision in the OJP Grant Application

Page 1 of 29 O-BJA-2023-171520 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.

Eliqible Applicants:

City or township governments, County governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), Public and State controlled institutions of higher education, Special district governments, State governments, Other

Other

Agencies with a different legal status (e.g., nonprofit or for-profit mental health agencies) are eligible to apply **only if they meet two requirements:**

- 1. The applicant is designated by the state mental health authority to provide services as a unit of the state or local government.
- 2. The applicant must attach documentation to support this designation.

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 2023 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and the availability of appropriations.

Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact the OJP Response Center at 800-851-3420, 301-240-6310 (TTY for hearing-impaired callers only), or grants@ncjrs.gov. The OJP Response Center operates from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern time (ET) Monday–Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET on the solicitation close date.

Submission Information

Registration: Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management (SAM). You must renew and validate your registration every 12 months. If you do not renew your SAM registration, it will expire. An expired registration can delay or prevent application submission in Grants.gov and JustGrants. Registration and renewal can take up to 10 business days to complete.

<u>Submission:</u> Applications must be submitted to DOJ electronically through a two-step process via Grants.gov and JustGrants.

Step 1: 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 https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html. Submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL as early as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the Grants.gov deadline. ftps://grants.gov/ deadline. ftps://grants.gov/ deadline. ftps://grant

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

Step 2: The applicant must submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at JustGrants.usdoj.gov by the JustGrants application deadline.

For technical assistance with submitting the **full application** in JustGrants, contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833-872-5175 or JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov. The JustGrants Service Desk operates 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday–Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET on Saturday, Sunday, and Federal holidays.

OJP encourages applicants to review the "How To Apply" section in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide and the JustGrants website for more information, resources, and training. Applicants should maintain all receipts and confirmations received from SAM.gov, Grants.gov, JustGrants systems.

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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.

With this solicitation, BJA seeks to fund cross-system collaboration programs that improve or enhance public safety and public health responses to and outcomes for individuals with mental health disorders (MHDs) or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (MHSUDs) who come in contact with law enforcement. BJA provides grant funding to help entities prepare, create, or expand comprehensive plans and then implement these collaborative projects to target preliminarily qualified individuals.

BJA will only accept applications that demonstrate the proposed project will be administered jointly by an agency with responsibility for criminal or juvenile justice activities and a mental health agency.

To Learn more, view samples of previous, successful applications at: the Successful Grant Application Examples page.

Statutory Authority

Public Law No. 90-351, Title I, Sec. 2991 (codified at 34 U.S.C. 10651); (Public Law No. 117-103, 136 Stat. 49, 127). Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2023 (Pub. L. No. 117-328; 136 Stat. 4459, 4537).

Specific Information

The Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program is specifically designated to support law enforcement and behavioral health cross-system collaboration and to improve public health and safety responses to and outcomes for individuals with MHDs or co-occurring MHSUDs who come into contact with the criminal justice system. BJA is seeking applicants to design or enhance a law enforcement-behavioral health response to people with MHDs or co-occurring MHSUDs who come into contact with law enforcement.

For the purposes of this FY23 Connect and Protect solicitation, the definition of someone with MHD includes individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Like other mental health disorders, TBI and PTSD are chronic diseases that may cause cognitive and psychological impairment.

To learn more about building comprehensive response systems see: <u>Police-Mental Health</u> <u>Collaborations: A Framework for Implementing Effective Law Enforcement Responses for People Who Have Mental Health Needs.</u>

Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

Goals

Connect and Protect offers grants to eligible entities to plan, implement, or expand comprehensive collaboration response programs that target preliminarily qualified individuals with MHDs or MHSUDs and promote public health and public safety. The definition of "preliminarily qualified offender" is outlined in the 21st Century Cures Act and codified at 34 U.S.C. 10651(9)(A). See text at: Text - H.R.34 - 114th Congress (2015-2016): 21st Century Cures Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress.

Objectives

An applicant should address all the objectives that are relevant to their proposed program/project in the Goals, Objectives, Deliverables and Timeline web-based form.

Design and implement a crisis response program based on current best practice to assist law

enforcement officers to improve encounters with individuals who have MHDs or cooccurring MHSUDs. These could include any of the following:

Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT)

Co-Responder Teams

Law Enforcement-based Case Management Services

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

Mobile Crisis Teams

Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment Teams

EMS and Ambulance-based Responses

Plan and deliver a crisis response program, through coordination between law enforcement and a mental health agency, that includes services to improve or enhance the response.

Pay salaries, as well as expenses such as training (overtime) and coordination activities, to <u>design and</u> <u>implement a police-mental health collaboration program</u> (PMHC).

Engage residents through outreach and education to improve public health and public safety.

Build positive community relations and trust through public communication strategies.

Enhance officer knowledge and skills in responding to community members with MHDs or co-occurring MHSUDs.

Increase public safety and public health agencies' capacity to develop and sustain the program by collecting data to inform practices, create stakeholder groups, develop policy, and encourage ongoing professional development.

Seek guidance through <u>BJA's 14 law enforcement-mental health learning sites</u>, then incorporate and build upon successful strategies for PMHCs.

Deliverables

Connect and Protect requires a two-phase process consisting of planning and implementation activities. The planning phase is up to 12 months. The implementation phase will begin once the grantee has met the requirements of the planning phase, to include completion of the required "Planning and Implementation Guide," and will continue for the remaining time of the grant. Deliverables and activities include:

Document the approach for implementing or enhancing law enforcement–behavioral health responses to individuals with MHDs or co-occurring MHSUDs who come in contact with law enforcement

Collect data on the program's outcomes, effectiveness, and challenges and develop a report to share with fellow grantees.

Conduct an evaluation of the PMHC and community satisfaction, and create a report on the survey results.

Incorporate training and technical assistance as well as information and best practice guidance, using BJA's training and technical assistance provider, into the "Planning and Implementation Guide."

Outline and submit a plan at close out for obtaining the necessary support to sustain and continue the proposed collaboration program following the conclusion of federal support.

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 projects and activities funded under this solicitation. For additional information and applicable documentation to be included in the application, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide section entitled "Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities."

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

In support of this Executive Order, OJP will provide priority consideration when making award decisions to the following:

A. Applications that propose project(s) that are designed to 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.

To receive this consideration, the applicant must describe how the proposed project(s) will address potential racial inequities and contribute to greater access to services and opportunities for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality, and identify how the project design and implementation will specifically incorporate the input or participation of those communities and populations disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and the criminal justice system overall. Examples addressing this requirement include, but are not limited to, the following: budgeted project planning and/or implementation meetings with community stakeholders representing historically underserved and marginalized communities; outreach and/or public awareness campaigns specifically tailored to historically underserved and marginalized communities to encourage participation in the proposed project(s); budgeted incorporation of members representing historically underserved and marginalized communities in program evaluation, surveys, or other means of project feedback; and partnership with organizations that primarily serve communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality.

2. BJA will give priority consideration to rural communities. The Census Bureau defines rural as "any population, housing, or territory NOT in an urban area. (See https://www.nal.usda.gov/rural-development-and-communities/what-is-rural.) Its definition of rural is closely tied to its urban definition. There are two types of urban areas:

"Urbanized Areas" - populations of 50,000 or more

"Urban Clusters" - populations of at least 2,500 but fewer than 50,000

For an Interactive map and rural data, including state and county information, see https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/state-fact-sheets.aspx.

3. Program-specific Priority Areas

In addition to executing any OJP priority areas listed above that may be applicable, priority consideration will be given to applications that:

Promote effective strategies by law enforcement to identify and reduce the risk of harm to individuals with MHDs or co-occurring MHSUDs who encounter law enforcement and improve public safety.

Promote effective strategies for the identification and treatment of females who have been incarcerated with MHDs or co-occurring MHSUDs.

Propose interventions that have been shown by empirical evidence to reduce recidivism. When appropriate, use validated assessment tools to target people who have been incarcerated with a moderate or high risk of recidivism and a need for treatment services.

To receive priority consideration under any of these areas, applicants must identify, in the proposal abstract, each area for which priority consideration is being sought, and describe, in the proposal narrative, how they will address each priority.

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

Federal Award Information

Solicitation Categories

This solicitation does not include Solicitation Categories.

Awards, Amounts and Durations

Anticipated Number of Awards

30

Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount of Awards \$550.000

Period of Performance Start Date 10/1/23

Period of Performance Duration (Months)

Anticipated Total Amount to be Awarded Under Solicitation \$17,000,000

Additional Information

Applicants that are planning a program for shorter than 36 months must indicate the period of performance in the abstract with a corresponding budget.

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 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.

Type of Award

BJA expects to make awards under this solicitation as grants. See the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section of the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> 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 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

The applicant should identify within their budget which items, services, etc., will/would be covered by matching sources and explain what type of match will be provided.

Applicants should structure their budgets to allocate \$100,000 to complete the planning phase within 12 months of receiving final OJP approval of the project's budget. The applicant will need to clearly identify which budget line items are planning costs.

While applicants will be required to submit a budget for the entire 36-month project at the time of application submission, applicants may have the opportunity to revise their budget based on any outcomes from the planning phase.

Program budget approval and coordination with BJA and a technical assistance coordinator are required to complete the planning phase before beginning the implementation phase.

In addition to unallowable costs identified in the <u>DOJ Grants Financial Guide</u>, award funds may not be used for the following:

Prizes, rewards, entertainment, trinkets, or any other monetary incentives

Client stipends

Gift cards

Vehicle purchases

Food and beverages

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 requires an escalating percentage cash or in-kind match. For years 1 and 2, a 20 percent match is required. For year 3, a 40 percent match is required. Federal funds awarded under this solicitation may not cover more than 80 percent of the total costs of the project being funded in years 1 and 2, and 60 percent in year 3 of the total costs of the project being funded.

Page 12 of 29 O-BJA-2023-171520 An applicant must identify the source of the 20 percent and 40 percent non-federal portion of the total project costs and how they will use match funds. If an award recipient's proposed match exceeds the required match amount, and OJP approves the budget, the total match amount in the approved budget becomes mandatory and subject to audit. ("Match" funds may be used only for purposes that would be allowable for the federal funds.) Recipients must satisfy this match requirement with cash or in-kind match.

Example: How to calculate match for \$550,000 Federal Award Amount

Years 1 & 2: 80% Federal Share / 20% Recipient Share

Year 3: 60% Federal Share / 40% Recipient Share

Years 1 and 2 (Combined) Escalating Match

Formula								
Step 1	Total Federal Expenditures	÷	% of Federal Share	=	Total (Adjusted) Project Cost			
Step 2	Total (Adjusted) Project Cost	-	Total Federal Expenditures	=	Required Match			
Exampl	Example							
Years 1 and 2 Escalating Match Requirement – 80/20 (Federal share/Recipient share)								
Total Federal Expenditures = \$200,000 (of the \$550,000 total federal award)								
Step 1	\$200,000	÷	80% Federal Share	=	\$250,000			
Step 2	\$250,000	1	\$200,000	II	\$50,000 (Required match total years 1 and 2 combined)			

Year 3 Escalating Match

Formula									
Step 1	Federal Expenditures	÷	% of Federal Share	=	Total (Adjusted) Project Cost				
Step 2	Total (Adjusted) Project Cost	-	Federal Expenditures	=	Required Match				
Exampl	Example								
Year 3 Escalating Match Requirement – 60/40 (Federal share/Recipient share)									
Federal Expenditures = \$350,000 (of the \$550,000 total federal award)									
Step 1	\$350,000	÷	60% Federal Share	=	\$583,334 (rounded up)				
Step 2	\$583,334	-	\$350,000	=	\$233,334 (Required Match for year 3)				

See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for additional information on this escalating match requirement. For step-by-step instructions for entering match amounts in the budget, see the Budget Summary Match Guide.

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

See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for information on pre-agreement costs (also known as pre-award costs).

Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation: Waiver

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

Eligibility Information

For eligibility information, see the solicitation cover page.

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

For the 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.

Notice regarding law enforcement agencies: 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 2023 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.

Application and Submission Information

Content of Application Submission

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 Web-Based Form (The web-based form includes the budget details and the budget narrative.)
- MOU between a criminal justice agency and a mental health agency to demonstrate partnership
- Those entities applying as "other" mental health agencies must attach documentation to support their designation as a state or local government provider

If OJP determines that an application does not include these elements, it will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive further consideration.

Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) in Grants.gov

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 their 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 its purpose, primary activities, expected outcomes, the service area, intended beneficiaries, and subrecipients (if known) — must be completed in the JustGrants web-based form. This abstract should be in paragraph form without bullets or tables, written in the third person, and exclude personally identifiable information. Abstracts will be made publicly available on the OJP and USASpending.gov websites if the project is awarded. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for an example of a proposal abstract.

In addition, the abstract must:

Be written for a public audience.

Be submitted with "Proposal Abstract" as part of its file name.

Be single-spaced, using a standard 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins.

In one sentence, identify if a program-specific priority area will be addressed in the application (as addressed in the Program-specific Priority Areas section).

Include the names of the lead applicant and the partner applicant (justice and mental health agencies); if applicable, the target population and the proposed number of individuals the applicant plans to serve; the jurisdiction's population demographic characteristics; a brief description of how the applicant plans to address the problem; and the amount of federal funding requested.

Indicate whether the applicant is a previous recipient of JMHCP or Connect and Protect grant funds and include the award number.

Include a list of proposed subcontractors, if applicable.

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 numbered 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 decision.

The Proposal Narrative must include the following sections:

a. Description of the Issue

Identify or introduce the issue to be addressed by the grant and why this project/ these proposed activities are necessary (significance/value).

Describe and demonstrate understanding of the nature and scope of the problem to be addressed, using data and research as support.

Describe successful efforts to date to address the needs identified.

Describe the need for assistance and resources to address the problem.

Briefly introduce how the applicant proposes to address the problem.

b. Project Design and Implementation

Describe the strategy to address the needs identified in the Description of the Issue.

List the activities and describe how they relate to the stated objectives.

Describe the specific actions and how they will fulfill the program's objectives and reach the program's goal(s).

Provide a detailed description of the method(s) to be used to carry out each activity.

Provide a timetable/project plan indicating roughly when the activities or program milestones are to be accomplished and who is responsible.

Address whether any of the program-specific priority areas have been met.

Explain the applicant's inability to fund the collaboration program adequately without federal assistance.

Specify how the federal support will be used to supplement, and not supplant, state, local, American Indian tribe, or tribal organization funding sources that would otherwise be available, including billing for services already covered under programs such as Medicaid. Medicare, and the State Children's Insurance Program.

If the applicant is seeking priority consideration for Priority 1(A), it should address in this section how the proposed project(s) 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, and identify how the project design and implementation will specifically incorporate the input or participation of these communities.

c. Capabilities and Competencies

Describe the capabilities and competencies of the applicant to manage the award.

Provide a detailed description of the capacity of the partners and the key personnel to deliver the required services and perform the key tasks described under Project Design and Implementation.

Include a letter of support from the joint applicants' agency executives demonstrating agency commitment to the project. Demonstration of the partners' commitment will contribute to scoring under this criterion.

Describe how the proposed management structure and staffing of the project will facilitate the delivery of the required services. 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 and whether their résumés and role descriptions are included will contribute to the assignment of points relative to this criterion.

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

Note: An applicant is **not** required to submit performance data with the application. Rather, performance measure information is included as a notification that award recipients will be required to submit performance data as part of each award's reporting requirements. Some measures are presented as examples, while others are the exact measures that every recipient will be expected to address.

OJP will require each award recipient 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 www.ojp.gov/performance 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/Connect-and-Protect-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 the applicant is selected for award.

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.

Goal, Objective and Deliverables

The applicant will submit the project's goals, objectives, deliverables and timeline in the JustGrants web-based form. The applicant will also enter the projected fiscal year and quarter that each objective and deliverable will be completed. Please refer to the Application Submission Job Aid for step-by-step directions.

Goals. The applicant should describe the project's intent to change, reduce, or eliminate the problem noted in the previous section and outline the project's goals.

Program Objectives. The applicant should explain how the program will accomplish its goals. Objectives are specific, quantifiable statements of the project's desired results. They should be measurable and clearly linked to the goals.

Deliverables. Project deliverables refer to outputs—tangible or intangible—that are submitted within the scope of a project.

Budget and Associated Documentation

Applicants should structure their budgets to allocate \$100,000 to complete the planning phase within 12 months of receiving final OJP approval of the project's budget. The applicant will need to clearly identify which budget line items are planning costs.

While applicants will be required to submit a budget for the entire 36-month project at the time of application submission, applicants may revise their budgets based on any outcomes resulting from the planning phase.

Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)

The applicant will complete the JustGrants web-based budget form. For additional information, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide and the <u>Complete the Application in JustGrants – Budget</u> training.

If the applicant is seeking priority consideration under Priority 1(A) and has proposed activities (such as community or stakeholder meetings, community outreach or public awareness campaigns, community participation in project design, implementation, or evaluation, etc.) to incorporate the input and participation of communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality, financial support for the identified activities and participation must be reflected in the web-based budget form.

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

See the section on Costs Requiring Prior Approval in the <u>DOJ Grants Financial Guide Post Award</u> Requirements for more information.

Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

If applicable, the applicant will upload their indirect cost rate agreement as an attachment in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for more information on indirect costs.

Consultant Rate

See the <u>DOJ Grants Financial Guide</u> for information on the consultant rates which require prior approval from OJP.

Employee Compensation Waiver

See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for information on the Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards over \$250,000: Waiver.

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)

The applicant will download the questionnaire, complete it, and upload it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for the link to the questionnaire and additional information.

Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation

If applicable, the applicant will upload a description of the process used to determine executive compensation as an attachment in JustGrants. See the "Application Attachments" section of the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information.

Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Other Supportive Documents

Applicants should include for each named partner, a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Letter of Intent, or subcontract that confirms the partner's agreement to support the project through commitments of staff time, space, services, or other project needs. For applications submitted from two or more entities, applicants are encouraged to develop and submit signed MOUs or signed Letters of Intent that provide a detailed description of how the agencies will work together to meet project requirements.

Each MOU or Letter of Intent should include the following: (1) names of the organizations involved in the agreement; (2) scope of the direct service(s) and other work to be performed under the agreement; (3) duration of the agreement. Subcontracts, MOUs, or Letters of Intent should be submitted as one separate attachment to the application.

Additional Application Components

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 upload the tribal authorizing documentation as an attachment in JustGrants. See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for information on tribal authorizing resolutions.

Timeline Form

Include a timeline/project plan that identifies the major tasks and deliverables of the proposed project and who is responsible for each activity. Refer to "Program Design and Implementation" in the Proposal Narrative section.

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 upload documentation of its research and evaluation independence and integrity as an attachment in JustGrants. For additional information, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Documentation to Provide Services

To be eligible, when applying as "other," the applicant must attach documentation to support their designation as a state or local government provider.

The applicant will address the following disclosures and assurances.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Complete and submit the SF-LLL in Grants.gov. Once the applicant submits in Grants.gov, this information will pre-pend into JustGrants. See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> 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; Law Enforcement and Community Policing. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

Applicant Disclosure and Justification - DOJ High Risk Grantees

If applicable, submit the DOJ High Risk Disclosure and Justification as an attachment in JustGrants. A DOJ High Risk Grantee is an award 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; noncompliance with award terms and conditions on prior awards or is otherwise not responsible. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

How to Apply

<u>Registration</u>: Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management (SAM). You must renew and validate your registration every 12 months. If you do not renew your SAM registration, it will expire. An expired registration can delay or prevent application submission in Grants.gov and JustGrants. Registration and renewal can take up to 10 business days to complete.

<u>Submission</u>: Applications must be submitted to DOJ electronically through a two-step process via Grants.gov and JustGrants.

Step 1: After registering with SAM, the applicant must submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html by the Grants.gov deadline. Submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL as early as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the Grants.gov deadline. If an applicant fails to submit in Grants.gov, they will be unable to apply in JustGrants.

Step 2: The applicant must then submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at JustGrants.usdoi.gov by the JustGrants deadline.

Within 24 hours after receipt of confirmation emails from Grants.gov, the individual in Section 8F of the SF-424 will receive an email from DIAMD-NoReply@usdoj.gov with instructions on how to create a JustGrants account. Register the Entity Administrator and the Application Submitter with JustGrants as early as possible but no later than 48-72 hours before the JustGrants deadline. Once registered in JustGrants, the Application Submitter will receive an emailed link to complete the rest of the application in JustGrants. The Entity Administrator also will need to log into JustGrants to review and invite the applicant's Authorized Representative(s) before an application can be submitted.

Submit the complete application package in JustGrants at least 24 – 48 hours prior to the JustGrants deadline. Some of the application components will be entered directly into JustGrants, and others will require uploading attached documents. Therefore, applicants will need to allow ample time before the JustGrants deadline to prepare each component. Applicants may save their progress in the system and revise the application as needed prior to hitting the Submit button at the end of the application in JustGrants.

For additional information, see the "How to Apply" section in the <u>OJP Grant Application</u> 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 April 24, 2023 8:59 PM ET

The full application must be submitted in JustGrants by May 1, 2023 8:59 PM ET

OJP urges applicants to submit their Grants.gov and JustGrants submissions prior to the due dates with sufficient time to correct any 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. Failure to begin the SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants registration process in sufficient time (i.e., waiting until the date identified in this solicitation) is not an acceptable reason for late submission.

Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues Preventing Submission of an Application

OJP will only consider requests to submit an application after the deadline when the applicant can document that a technical issue with a government system prevented application submission.

If an applicant misses a deadline due to unforeseen technical issues with SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants, the applicant may request a waiver to submit an application after the deadline. However, the waiver request will not be considered unless it includes a tracking number generated when the applicant contacts the applicable service desks to report technical difficulties. Tracking numbers are generated automatically when an applicant emails the applicable service desks; and for this reason applicants are encouraged to email the appropriate service desk, even if they also intend to call the service desk for phone support. Experiencing wait times for phone support does not relieve the applicant of the responsibility of getting a tracking number.

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

- SAM.gov contact the <u>SAM Help Desk (Federal Service Desk)</u>, Monday Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET at 866-606-8220.
- Grants.gov contact the <u>Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline</u>, 24 hours a day, 7 days a
 week, except on federal holidays, at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, or support@grants.gov.
- JustGrants contact the JustGrants Service Desk at <u>JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</u> or 833-872-5175, Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET and Saturday, Sunday, and Federal holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

If an applicant has technical issues with SAM.gov or Grants.gov, the applicant must contact the OJP Response Center at grants@ncjrs.gov within 24 hours of the Grants.gov deadline to request approval to submit after the deadline.

If an applicant has technical issues with JustGrants that prevent application submission by the deadline, the applicant must contact the OJP Response Center at grants@ncjrs.gov within 24 hours of the JustGrants deadline to request approval to submit after the deadline.

Waiver requests sent to the OJP Response Center must -

- describe the technical difficulties experienced.
- include a timeline of the applicant's submission efforts (e.g., date and time the error occurred, date and time of actions taken to resolve the issue and resubmit; and date and time support representatives responded),
- include an attachment of the complete grant application and all the required documentation and materials,
- · include the applicant's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and
- include any SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants Service Desk tracking numbers documenting the technical issue.

OJP will review each waiver request and the required supporting documentation and notify the applicant whether the request for late submission has been approved or denied. An applicant who does not provide documentation of a technical issue or who does not submit a waiver request within the required time period will be 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

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:

- Statement of the Problem/Description of the Issue (15%) evaluate the applicant's understanding of the program/issue to be addressed.
- 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 the applicant's administrative and technical capacity 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 [insert PO] include geographic diversity, strategic priorities (specifically including, but not limited to, those priority areas already mentioned, if applicable), available funding, past performance, [insert any additional programmatic review criteria that will be used to make funding decisions], and the extent to which the Budget Web-Based form accurately explains 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 entity. Among other things to help assess whether an applicant with one or more prior federal awards has a satisfactory record of performance, integrity, and business ethics, OJP checks whether the applicant entity is listed in SAM as excluded from receiving a federal award.

Page 24 of 29 O-BJA-2023-171520 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 entity 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 its organization 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 entity.

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

Generally, award notifications are made by the end of the current Federal fiscal year, September 30th. 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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for more information.

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.

Required reports. Award recipients typically must submit quarterly financial reports, quarterly 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. If awarded and by statute, applicants will be required to complete a planning and implementation guide. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent. (In appropriate cases, OJP may require additional reports.)

See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measure data.

Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For OJP contact(s), contact information for Grants.gov, and 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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for information on the 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

Performance Measures

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

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

Application Checklist

Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application. For more information, reference the OJP Application Submission Steps in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide and the DOJ Application Submission Checklist.

Pre-Application

Before Registering in Grants.gov:

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

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)

Find the Funding Opportunity

Search for the funding opportunity in Grants.gov using the opportunity number, assistance

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- Access the funding opportunity and application package (see Step 7 in the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u>)
- Sign up for Grants.gov email <u>notifications</u> (optional) (see <u>OJP Grant Application Resource</u> 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)

Review the 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 the Scope Requirement

• The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of \$550,000.

Review Eligibility Requirement:

 Review the Eligibility section on the cover page and Eligibility Information section in the solicitation.

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# Application Step 1 Submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov

 In Section 8F of the SF-424, include the name and contact information of the individual who will complete the application in JustGrants and the SF-LLL in Grants.gov

Within 48 hours after the SF-424 and SF-LLL submission in Grants.gov, receive four (4) Grants.gov email notifications:

- · a submission receipt
- · a validation receipt
- a grantor agency retrieval receipt
- an agency tracking number assignment

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

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

Within 24 hours after receipt of confirmation emails from Grants.gov, the individual in Section 8F of the SF-424 will receive an email from JustGrants with login instructions.

· Proceed to Application Step 2 and complete application in JustGrants

#### **Application Step 2**

Submit the following information in JustGrants:

#### **Application Components**

- Standard Applicant information (SF-424 information from Grants.gov)
- · Proposal Abstract\*
- Proposal Narrative\*

**Budget and Associated Documentation** 

- Budget Web-Based form\*
- · Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see <u>OJP Grant</u> Application Resource 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 <u>OJP Grant Application</u> Resource Guide
- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Timeline
- Memorandum of understanding (if applicable) \*(applicable to Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Responses must be included)\*
- If applying as "other," documentation to support designation as a state or local government provider\*

#### Disclosures and Assurances

- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource</u> Guide)
- Applicant Disclosure and Justification DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

Review, Certify and Submit Application in JustGrants

Any validation errors will immediately display on screen after submission.

<sup>\*</sup>Note: Items designated with an asterisk must be submitted for an application to meet 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.

- Correct validation errors, if necessary, and then return to the "Certify and Submit" screen to submit the application. Access the <u>Application Submission Validation Errors Quick</u> Reference Guide for step-by-step instructions to resolve errors prior to submission.
- Once the application is submitted and validated, a confirmation message will appear at the top of the page. Users will also receive a notification in the "bell" alerts confirming submission.

If no JustGrants application submission confirmation email or validation is received, or if error notification is received:

Contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833-872-5175 or <u>JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</u> regarding technical difficulties. See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for additional information.

#### Standard Solicitation Resources

OJP Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding.

<u>DOJ Grants Financial Guide</u> serves as the primary reference manual to assist award recipients in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility to safeguard grant funds and to ensure funds are used for the purposes for which they were awarded. It compiles a variety of laws, rules and regulations that affect the financial and administrative management of DOJ awards. This guide serves as a starting point for all award recipients and subrecipients of DOJ grants and cooperative agreements in ensuring the effective day-to-day management of awards.

<u>JustGrants Resources Website</u> is an entryway into information about JustGrants and the grants management system itself. Through this portal both award recipients and applicants can access training resource and user support options, find frequently asked questions and sign-up for the JustGrants Update e-newsletter.

<u>JustGrants Application Submission Training Page</u> offers helpful information and resources on the application process. This training page includes e-learning videos, reference guides, checklists and other resources to help applicants complete an application.

<u>Virtual Q&A Sessions</u> are advertised here and provide opportunities for users to receive topicspecific training, direct technical assistance and support on JustGrants system functionality.