

# **FY 22 Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Research Partner Questions:**

**Q:** If an applicant to Category 3 or 4 is coordinating with an evaluation research partner submitting a proposal under the NIJ solicitation, does the application also need to include an internal research partner?

**A:** Yes. The role of the evaluation to be funded under the NIJ solicitation is to provide a rigorous, independent evaluation of the CVIPI project (see page 5 of the NIJ solicitation). The role of the internal research partner in the OJP solicitation is to assist with the implementation of the program and its strategies, identify and suggest evidence-based strategies to tailor to the community, and lead the identification and collection of key performance metrics, including ongoing process and outcome assessments of the program. Applicants coordinating with an evaluation application to the NIJ solicitation should also include an internal research partner with the application to the OJP solicitation to support the data collection and implementation through an action research method, as appropriate.

**Q:** Can the same research partner serve as both the internal research partner and as the NIJ evaluation partner?

**A:** Yes, if they are eligible applicants as specified in the solicitations. If the same entity proposed as the internal research partner in the OJP solicitation also applies to perform the independent evaluation funded under the NIJ solicitation, separate applications must be submitted to each solicitation. However, the evaluation funded under the NIJ solicitation must be independent, as stated on page 5 of the NIJ solicitation: “..NIJ seeks proposals for rigorous, independent evaluations of the outcome and impact of projects funded under the FY 2022 OJP Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative solicitation....” It is incumbent on the applicant to demonstrate in the proposal how that independence will be maintained.

**Q:** Who or what qualifies as or constitutes a research partner? Does the internal research partner have to reside outside of the applicant agency?

**A:** In traditional terms, a research partner is someone who has received formal training in research and evaluation methods and has applied those skills in a specified field (e.g., criminal justice). As experts in their fields, research partners tend to be well versed in relevant subject matter literature and tend to be aware of the state-of-practice in criminal justice and/or related fields. Research partners are most frequently found in university and college criminology, criminal justice, social work,

sociology, public health, public policy, and urban affairs programs. Research partners can also be found in private research or consulting firms, research centers, and in state and local agencies. Research partners generally reside outside of the agency implementing the program. For more information on research partners, please see: [https://psn.cj.msu.edu/tta/researchpartnerqa\\_version-2\\_june2017.pdf](https://psn.cj.msu.edu/tta/researchpartnerqa_version-2_june2017.pdf)

### **Law Enforcement:**

Q: Can a police department with a community engagement office be the primary applicant?

A: Yes. Law enforcement agencies may apply with the expectation that a considerable portion of the funding will be directed to implementing CVI strategies through CBOs or local units of government such as mayors' and county executives' offices.

### **Eligibility and Priority Considerations**

Q: Is a Public Housing Authority that contracts with law enforcement, local government, and community organizations around a violence prevention and intervention initiative eligible to apply under category 2 or 4 for City/County/Tribal Governments Category?

A: Public Housing Authorities are listed as an eligible applicant under Categories 2 and 4, as stated on p. 3 of the solicitation. 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](#).

Q: If a non-profit is the primary applicant and a mayor's office is a subrecipient, are we still eligible to apply under Categories 1 or 3?

A: Yes. Eligibility is based on the status of the lead applicant (fiscal agent).

Q: For categories 2 and 4, would a county community corrections agency be eligible to apply? Or would the application need to come from the county itself?

A: Provided that the county community corrections agency is designated as part of the county government, then they would be eligible to apply under these categories. If it isn't part of county government, 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](#).

Q: What types of organizations are eligible for priority consideration under Priority 1B?

**A:** To receive priority consideration under Priority 1B, the applicant (or at least one proposed subrecipient that will receive at least 30% of the requested award funding, as demonstrated in the Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative) must self-identify within the application as a culturally specific organization - an organization whose primary purpose is to serve a specific cultural population - and must demonstrate how being a culturally specific organization enhances their ability to implement the proposed project(s). Culturally specific organizations are defined for purposes of this solicitation as private nonprofit or tribal organizations whose primary purpose, as a whole, is to provide culturally specific services to, among others, Black people, Hispanics and Latino/a/e people, Native American and other Indigenous peoples of North America (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts), Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and/or Pacific Islanders.

### **Miscellaneous**

**Q:** What is the difference in membership between the Category 4 Planning Team and the CVIPI Team?

**A:** The Planning Team refers to an attachment that includes a description of the current team and proposed enhancements or expansions to the structure of the team. It should be referenced in the proposal narrative and be submitted as an attachment labeled "Planning Team." The CVIPI Team is an attachment listing the names and names of agencies of team participants with formalized partnerships. See page 10 of the solicitation.

**Q:** What is the definition of community violence?

**A:** Community violence generally happens outside the home in public spaces. Most community violence involves a relatively small number of people— whether youth or adult — as the parties who carry out violence or become its victims. This violence affects entire communities, thereby eroding public safety and public health, causing economic disruption, and contributing to lasting individual and community traumas. See page 7 of the solicitation.

**Q:** May an applicant apply under more than one category?

**A:** Yes, an applicant may apply to more than one category, but they must be for distinct projects that fit the requirements for each category and do not duplicate services.

**Q:** In Category 5, would the \$100-250k sub-awards be over the course of the full grant period or annually?

**A:** The subawards made by the intermediary organizations will be made once during the grant period.

Q: Can any of these grants be used for purchasing technology to help manage program data?

A: Please see the DOJ Financial Guide (<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedojo/overview>) for information on allowable costs.