

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

EMMETT TILL COLD CASE INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM

This webinar will begin shortly



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Agenda

- **Overview of the Program**
- **Eligibility**
- **Award Information**
- **Application Sections**
- **Department of Justice Support for Emmett Till Cases**
- **Review of Resources Available to Grant Applicants**
- **Questions**

Disclaimer: All Grant Program Plan and Forecast data provided by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) are subject to the availability of appropriations and potential legislative changes of statutory requirements. The information provided by DOJ is based on projected operational plans and may be updated frequently, including the addition, substitution, or cancellation of projected solicitations without advance notice. Grants.gov provides an email subscription service, upon request, to send notifications when solicitations are officially released.

What is the Office of Justice Programs (OJP)?

- OJP provides grant funding, training, research, and statistics to the criminal justice community
- OJP is one of three grant-making components of the U.S. Department of Justice along with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

Office of Justice Programs

BJA - Bureau of Justice Assistance

BJS - Bureau of Justice Statistics

NIJ - National Institute of Justice

OVC - Office for Victims of Crime

OJJDP - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

SMART - Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking

OJP Goals

OJP strives to provide leadership, resources and solutions for creating safe, just and engaged communities

BJA Mission Statement

BJA provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal justice strategies to reduce violent crime and strengthen communities

Program Objectives

- Enhance collaboration between federal, state and local law-enforcement and prosecution agencies in their investigation and prosecution of unsolved civil rights cold case murders (pre December 31, 1979)
- Increase the number of state, local and tribal investigations and prosecutions of civil rights cold case murders, including partnerships with key stakeholders
- Bring justice and support to families and stakeholders impacted by these murders

Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations and Training and Technical Assistance

Solicitation was released on
March 23, 2022

Grants.gov Deadline: **May 20, 2022**, 8:59p.m. ET

Application JustGrants Deadline: **May 25, 2022**, 8:59 p.m. ET

Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations Program

- The Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations Program supports state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecution agencies to investigate and prosecute unsolved homicide cold case murders suspected of having been racially motivated. It also includes support for victims' families and stakeholders impacted by these cases
- Funds are limited to violations of civil rights statutes resulting in death that occurred no later than December 31, 1979
- BJA collaborates with DOJ's Community Relations Service to support reconciliation and support services for families of victims and other stakeholders

Eligibility

The following entities are eligible to apply:

- State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, including prosecutors' offices
- Law enforcement must be from federally recognized Indian tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior)
- Can partner with other agencies and nonprofit organizations with expertise to support the investigation of these cold cases and expertise to leverage historical documents to inform investigations such as reconciliation commissions

Award Information

- BJA expects to make approximately **four awards**
- Estimated maximum award amount: **\$500,000**
- Total amount anticipated to be awarded: **\$2,000,000**
- Grant start date: **October 1, 2022**
- Period of performance: **36 months**
- BJA expects to make awards under this solicitation as grants

Budget Information

Allowable costs include:

- Staffing
- Costs associated with processing crime scene and other evidence including forensic evidence and crime lab associated costs
- Expert testimony
- Case preparation, investigation and prosecution
- Costs to inventory, track, investigate and prosecute the cases
- Support and dialogue with family members and stakeholders impacted by these cases

Match Requirement: This solicitation does not require a match

Application Sections

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (required)
2. Program Abstract
3. Program Narrative (required)
4. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative (required)
5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)
6. Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)
7. Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire
8. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
9. Additional Attachments (listed on next slide)

Application Sections – con't

Additional Attachments

- Time Task Plan:
 - Outline goals and objectives
 - Summarize major activities, expected date of completion, and responsible agencies

- Resumes/Job Descriptions of Key Staff:
 - For all staff to be funded under the grant.

- Applicant Disclosure of Proposed Subrecipients:
 - Attach a list of proposed subrecipients of grant funding, if applicable, that includes their name, organizational affiliation, and location.

- Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications

- Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity

- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation Waiver (if applicable)

Abstract

- Applicant's name and project title
- Description of the scope of cases the project will address, including geographic or jurisdictional boundaries
- Dollar amount of federal grant funds requested
- A list of partners and describe current coordination, if relevant
- A summary of the project's goals and proposed project activities

Program Narrative

Double-spaced, using standard 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Number pages “1 of 20,” etc.

Should not exceed 20 pages.

SCORING:

-Description of the Issue	25%
-Project Design and Implementation	30%
-Capabilities and Competencies	30%
-Plan for Collecting Data Required for Performance Measures	5%
-Budget and Budget Worksheet	10%

Budget and Budget Narrative

- Itemized budget for each year of the grant
- There is no match required
- Prior approval, planning, and reporting of conference/meeting/ training costs

Department of Justice Support for Emmett Till Cases

Emmett Till



- In August 1955, Till, a 14-year-old Chicago teen, was kidnapped while visiting relatives in Money, Mississippi
- His body was later discovered in the Tallahatchie River

Emmett Till



- This was done because he had allegedly whistled at a white woman he had seen in a store a few days earlier

Emmett Till



- Two local men, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, were prosecuted by state authorities
- They were quickly acquitted by an all-white jury

The World Watches



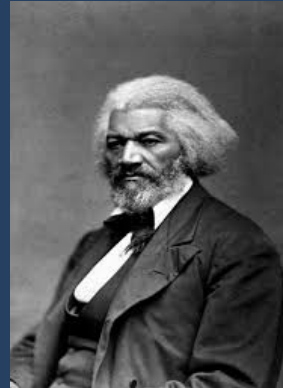
- **Till's mother begins a crusade to bring Till's murder to the attention of the world**

The Federal Government Did Little Then

- There were no federal hate crime laws to be enforced in **federal** courts
- First hate crime laws enacted in 1968



Ida B. Wells
Mary Talbert, and Frederick
Douglass advocated for
enactment of federal laws to
criminalize racial crimes



A Senate Apology for History on Lynching

By Avis Thomas-Lester
Washington Post Staff Writer
Tuesday, June 14, 2005

The U.S. Senate last night approved a resolution apologizing for its failure to enact federal anti-lynching legislation decades ago, marking the first time the body has apologized for the nation's treatment of African Americans.

Emmett Till Acts



Original Till Act 2008

H. R. 923

One Hundred Tenth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Began and held at the City of Washington on Thursday,
the third day of January, two thousand and eight*

An Act

To provide for the investigation of certain unsolved civil rights crimes, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that all authorities with jurisdiction, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other entities within the Department of Justice, should—

- (1) expeditiously investigate unsolved civil rights murders, due to the amount of time that has passed since the murders and the age of potential witnesses; and
- (2) provide all the resources necessary to ensure timely and thorough investigations in the cases involved.

SEC. 3. DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE CRIMINAL SECTION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall designate a Deputy Chief in the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

(b) RESPONSIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Chief shall be responsible for coordinating the investigation and prosecution of violations of criminal civil rights statutes that occurred not later than December 31, 1969, and resulted in a death.

(2) COORDINATION.—In investigating a complaint under paragraph (1), the Deputy Chief may coordinate investigative activities with State and local law enforcement officials.

(c) STUDY AND REPORT.—

(1) STUDY.—The Attorney General shall annually conduct a study of the cases under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Chief or under the jurisdiction of the Supervisory Special Agent and, in conducting the study, shall determine—

(A) the number of open investigations within the Department for violations of criminal civil rights statutes that occurred not later than December 31, 1969;

The logo for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) features the letters "BJA" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. The letters are set against a dark blue background that is part of a larger graphic design on the right side of the page, consisting of several overlapping, diagonal, semi-transparent blue shapes that create a sense of depth and movement.

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U.S. Department of Justice

Original Till Act

- Recognized importance of unsolved, racially motivated murders

Original Till Act

- Required FBI/DOJ to look at unsolved matters that occurred before December 31, **1969**
- Encouraged FBI/DOJ to work on cold cases, even when ***federal*** prosecution is unavailable, to assist state or local jurisdictions

Reauthorization Act 2016

Public Law 114-325
114th Congress

An Act

To reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

Dec. 16, 2016

[S. 2854]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Emmett Till
Unsolved Civil
Rights Crimes
Reauthorization
Act of 2016.
28 USC 509 note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;
(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) meet regularly with eligible entities to coordinate the sharing of information and to discuss the status of the Department’s work under this Act.”

Coordination.

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U.S. Department of Justice

Reauthorization Act of 2016

- ▶ Extends date of cold cases to December 31, **1979**
- ▶ Requires DOJ/FBI to meet regularly with stakeholders

BJA Cold Case Investigation Resources

For more information on the overview of the program:

<https://bja.ojp.gov/program/emmett-till-cold-case-investigations-program/overview>

For information on the FBI Cold Case Initiative:

<https://www.justice.gov/crt/cold-case-initiative>

For other BJA training and tools on cold case investigations:

<https://www.sakitta.org>

<https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/Publications/promising-strategies-for-strengthening-homicide-investigations.pdf>

BJA FY 2022 Resources Available for Grant Applicants

Application Assistance

Grants.gov

- Provides technical assistance with submitting the SF-424 and SF-LLL.
 - **Customer Support Hotline** – 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035
 - Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays
 - **Email**
 - <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>
 - support@grants.gov
- Provides information on available federal funding opportunities for various federal agencies

Application Assistance (cont.)

JustGrants Technical Support

- Provides technical assistance with submitting the full application in DOJ's Justice Grants System (JustGrants).
 - **Customer Support Hotline** – 833-872-5175
 - Monday – Friday between 5:00 AM and 9:00 PM ET
 - Saturday, Sunday, and Federal holidays from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET
 - **Email**
 - <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/user-support>
 - JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov

Application Assistance and Support (cont.)

OJP Response Center

- Provides solicitation support and general assistance.
- **email** - grants@ncjrs.gov
- **web chat** - <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>
- **toll free** at 800–851–3420;
- **TTY** at 301–240–6310 (hearing impaired only)

The Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Subscribe

- Subscribe to receive email notifications of new funding opportunities and other resources.
 - Sign-up to receive the twice monthly **JUSTINFO** newsletter as well as the weekly **Funding News** email.
 - Subscribe at <https://www.ojp.gov/subscribe> and be sure to select “Grants/funding” as an area of interest.

Reminder: Dual Deadlines

Applications will be submitted in a two-step process, each with its own deadline:

- Step 1: Submit an SF-424 and an SF-LLL at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- Step 2: Submit the full application, with attachments, at [JusticeGrants.usdoj.gov](https://www.justicegrants.usdoj.gov)

****NOTE: Submission deadline times for both Grants.gov and JustGrants are now 8:59pm ET, not 11:59pm ET as in past years***

Read the solicitations carefully for further guidance

Stay Connected



Email Updates

- Text OJP [your email address] to 468-311 to subscribe.
*Message and data rates may apply

Social Media

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DOJBJA>

For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit

BJA's website – <https://bja.ojp.gov>

Quick Reference: Important Contacts



Solicitation Content Assistance

1-800-851-3420

Grants@ncjrs.gov

10-6 EST, M-F



Submit the SF-424 and SF- LLL

1-800-518-4726

Support@grants.gov

24 hours a day, 7 days a week



JUSTICE GRANTS SYSTEM

Submit full application

1-833-872-5175

JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov

5-9 EST, M-F

9-5 EST, Weekends, Holidays

Questions?

Enter in the Q&A box and send to All Panelists