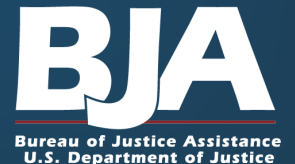


BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

**FY 2021 UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW AND PREVENTING
WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS: SITE BASED AND TRAINING AND
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Presenter:

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AGENDA

Overview of the Program

Category 1 Overview

Category 2 Overview

Application Materials

Questions and Answers

Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions (ROL/WCR) Program Objectives

- Strategically review cases of post-conviction and appeal claims of innocence with a focus on those at greatest risk for error.
- Establish or enhance partnerships, where appropriate, to apply a strategic review of individual post-conviction claims of innocence and appeals, and where relevant to use this information to inform efforts to prevent wrongful convictions.
- Identify and apprehend, whenever possible, the actual perpetrator of a crime.
- Evaluate whether or not any systemic issues exist that may compromise the rule of law and recommend practices for mitigating them and preventing wrongful convictions.

Eligibility

The following entities are eligible to apply

- Nonprofit organizations (including tribal nonprofit organizations)
- Institutions of higher education
- State or local public defender offices that have in-house post-conviction representation programs.
- County Governments

Must show demonstrable experience and competence in litigating postconviction claims of innocence.

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

Solicitation Overview

FY21 ROL/WCR funding will be used to support two categories:

- 1. Site Based funds for Wrongful Conviction Review entities** to provide high quality and efficient post-conviction representation for defendants in post-conviction claims of innocence, working with partners to accomplish program objectives.
- 2. Delivery of National Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)** to Category 1 award recipients with implementation of their projects.

Category 1: WCR Entities

- Wrongful Conviction Review Entity-Led Strategy
 - A strategy led by a WCR entity that focuses on review of post-conviction claims of innocence.
 - Jurisdictions with new or established WCR entities are encouraged to apply.
 - The applicant's strategic plan should review, investigate, and adjudicate individual cases of post-conviction claims of innocence and appeals.
 - Funds requested must support high quality and efficient post-conviction representation for defendants in post-conviction claims of innocence.
 - The strategy should also include an assessment of the risk for wrongful conviction among the reviewed cases. This assessment should support the prevention of wrongful conviction, including setting criteria and prioritizing for review those at highest risk of wrongful conviction, as well as to seek to identify the actual perpetrator.

Category 1: WCR Entities (continued)

- If the application includes a partnership with the relevant prosecutor's office/CIU, applicants must include description of policies and procedures designed to avoid conflicts of interest and protect defendant's rights, including plans for obtaining waiver of attorney/client privileges and informed consent.
- All applicant organizations should show their capacity and commitment of their key partners to conduct this work, including demonstrable experience and competence with legal representation of post-conviction claims of innocence and appeals.

Category 2: Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)

- Delivery of National TTA to Category 1 award recipients to:
 - Develop and enhance strong partnerships between entities and other criminal justice organizations to effectively implement their projects.
 - Develop and implement a wrongful conviction risk assessment process.
 - Enhance capacity to identify and review cases of high risk.
 - Enhance the expertise of the entities to support quality post-conviction and appeals legal representation in the identified cases.
 - Document the efficacy of entities in seeking to overturn challenged convictions.
 - Document the efficacy of entities in identifying appropriate suspects when convictions are overturned.

Additional Application Considerations (Categories 1 & 2)

- Each applicant organization must demonstrate its capacity and commitment (and that of its key partners where applicable) to conduct this work, including demonstrable experience and competence with legal representation of post-conviction claims of innocence and appeal.
- As with all OJP-funded activities, applicants are encouraged to use data and scientific evidence to inform their proposals and program development.
 - See: <https://crimesolutions.ojp.gov>
 - See: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/crppe/overview>

Expected Deliverables – Category 1

- Identify and report the number of post-conviction and appeals claims of innocence cases reviewed and the stage of review conducted for each case.
- Identify and report the number of exonerations and identifications of actual perpetrators.
- Document a systematic review of areas of risk for wrongful conviction, and recommend any strategies to mitigate these risks.

Expected Deliverables – Category 2

- Delivery of regional and topical (potentially virtual) training sessions that focus on evaluating, and representing clients in, cases of post-conviction and appeals claims of innocence, as well as strategies to assess and mitigate risk and identify actual perpetrator. This training should be based upon assessment of Category 1 award recipients' capacity and need, and should ensure all key partners are involved.
- Delivery of ongoing direct technical assistance to entities and partners as they implement their strategies, including an online orientation meeting for each recipient.
- Work with Category 1 award recipients to track cases reviewed, exonerations and actual perpetrators identified, as well as to develop potential policies or guidelines.
- Maintain a central online database of materials, including briefs, motions, and expert information needed by lawyers who screen, investigate, and handle potential cases of wrongful conviction.

Performance Measures Requirement

- Applicants are not required to submit performance data with their applications.
- 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 their awards.
- The application should demonstrate the applicant's understanding of the performance data reporting requirements for this grant program and detail how the applicant will gather the required data should it receive funding.

Upholding the Rule of Law and Preventing Wrongful Convictions (ROL/WCR) Program

**[https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/
o-bja-2021-60001](https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2021-60001)**

Tips for Applying

- 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 designated as “critical elements.”
 - For a list of the critical elements for this solicitation, see Application and Submission Information section (page 12).

Tips for Applying

- Applicants must register in and submit applications through Grants.gov. Registering is a one-time process but can take several weeks for first time registrants.
- Applicants must comply with all applicable System for Award Management (SAM) and unique entity identifier (DUNS) requirements.
- OJP encourages applicants to submit at least **72 hours** prior to the application due date to allow time to correct any problems that might occur.
- **Application Grants.gov due date: March 10, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET**
- **Application JustGrants due date: March 24, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET**

Previously Held Webinars

The Funding Process: First Steps to Applying, How to Prepare Now, and Other Considerations

Date/Time: January 21, 2021, 1 p.m. ET

In this webinar, attendees learn what registrations are necessary to apply, how to navigate Grants.gov and JustGrants, and what resources are available for applicants, such as the Office of Justice Programs' Funding Resource Center.

[Access the Presentation](#)

JustGrants and ASAP: OJP's New Grant Management Systems

Webinar held: December 21, 2020

During this virtual meeting with the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations, BJA shared information about the new grants management and payment systems.

[Watch the Recording](#) | [Access the Presentation](#) | [Read the Transcript](#)

JustGrants Technical Support

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

Technical Support

JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov

Or

(833) 872-5175

*Monday – Friday between the hours of 5:00 AM and 9:00 PM EST
Saturday, Sunday, and Federal holidays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST*

Application Assistance and Support

Response Center

<https://www.ncjrs.gov>

- Provides solicitation support and general assistance
- Links to all current OJP funding opportunities
- Funding Notices - subscribe to receive email notifications of new opportunities
 - Sign-up to receive the bi-weekly JUSTINFO newsletter as well as the weekly Funding News From NCJRS email.
 - Be sure to select “Grants/funding” as an area of interest in your registration profile when you subscribe.
- **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.

Application Assistance

Grants.gov

- Provides technical assistance with submitting an application
 - **Customer Support Hotline** – 800-518-4726 or 606—545-5035
 - The Grants.gov Support Hotline 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.

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*Message and data rates may apply

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- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA>
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- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/dojbja>



For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit **BJA's website** – <https://bja.ojp.gov>

Questions & Answers

Please submit questions using the Q&A box and selecting all panelists.

Solicitation Link:

<https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/O-BJA-2021-60001.pdf>