

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

# THE SMART POLICING INITIATIVE

2021 Competitive Grant Program

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

# Overview of Today's Webinar

- What is SPI?
- What has SPI achieved?
- What types of agencies may apply?
- What can funds support?
- What are the 2021 SPI Solicitation Purpose Areas?
- What should competitive applicants demonstrate?
- What are the steps in the application process?
- Where can I go for guidance and assistance?
- Q&A

**Since 2009, the Smart Policing Initiative (SPI) has provided grant funding and assistance to law enforcement organizations to support their efforts to identify and test innovative, evidence-based solutions to policing challenges and chronic crime problems in their jurisdictions.**

**SPI's goals are to enable law enforcement agencies to test, establish, or expand innovative ideas and evidence-based programming in police agencies; establish sustainable practitioner-researcher partnerships; foster effective collaborations to increase public safety; and use technology, intelligence, and data in innovative ways.**

**SPI has helped 73 law enforcement agencies change the way they do business.**



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# What is the SPI Site Based Program?

- Law enforcement agencies competitively receive funding support innovative initiatives meant to improve their crime fighting capacity
- Target a pressing operational, technology implementation, or crime reduction issue for innovative, intensive intervention or implementation
- Partner with expert evaluators to document their progress and results
- Issues addressed include:
  - Violent crime reduction
  - Technology implementation
  - Crime analysis
  - Prolific offenders and hot spots
  - Innovative responses to individuals in mental health or drug related crisis
- Receive intensive training and technical assistance (TTA)
- See [www.smart-policing.com](http://www.smart-policing.com) for valuable information on SPI's ongoing work

# SPI Results

**Boston, MA:** The Boston Police Department engaged in a problem-oriented policing process to improve its homicide investigation processes and practices that resulted in a significant increase in its homicide clearance rate.

**Chicago, IL:** The Chicago Police Department (CPD) implemented Strategic Decision and Support Centers (SDSCs), a real-time crime center approach, in select districts across the city to focus on hot spot crime corridors and chronic violent offenders. In 2017, SDSC districts saw a 33 percent reduction in shooting incidents, compared to a 14 percent reduction in shooting incidents in non-SDSC districts. Given the success, CPD is expanding the SDSC approach to all CPD districts.

**Rochester, NY:** The Rochester Police Department (RPD) developed and validated a risk assessment tool as an effective predictive device in retaliatory gun violent disputes. Trends in aggravated assaults and murders in Rochester have continued to decline in the year and a half since the RPD implemented its SPI intervention.

**Commerce City, CO:** The Commerce City Police Department implemented a Sexual Assault Task Force that enabled the police department to absorb a 46% increase in sexual assault investigations. With 225 cases investigated and 471 primary and secondary victims served, victim and citizen satisfaction with the investigatory process has improved. The project received Agencies Sean May Leadership Award for its groundbreaking work on sexual assault investigations and victim support in 2019.

# Who Can Apply?

- ✓ State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies
  - ✓ Governmental non-law enforcement agencies acting as their fiscal agent
  - ✓ Federally recognized Indian tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions
  - ✓ Tribal consortia consisting of two or more federally recognized Indian tribes (including tribal consortia operated as nonprofit organizations) acting as a fiscal agent for one or more tribal law enforcement agencies
- 
- ❖ Two or more entities may carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant
  - ❖ All recipients and subrecipients (including any for-profit organization) must forgo any profit or management fee

# What Can Funds Support?

To address a specific crime problem or organizational challenge identified by the applicant, funds can be used to support:

- ❖ Personnel costs
- ❖ Technology
- ❖ Research/Evaluation Expertise
- ❖ Activities that support the selected problem solving strategy

Grant award amounts are capped at \$500,000 for both purpose areas

# Research Partner Requirement

- Research partnerships are central to the SPI Model
- The work of research partners must be adequately supported
  - At least 20% of project budget
- Findings on both implementation and outcomes shared with policing community
- Benefits for both individual sites and the policing field



# Research Partner Qualifications

- Policy, program, action research, or organization evaluation experience, preferably in policing or in the justice system.
- Previous experience working with police agencies and/or organizations.
- Experience in several different data collection methodologies, and in both quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Preferable that they have several years of evaluation research experience and experience with oral and written presentations of research results.

# The SPI FY 2021 Competitive Solicitation Purpose Areas

- **Two Separate Purpose Areas**
  - **Purpose Area 1** supports projects that implement and test innovative approaches to operational challenges and crime reduction in police departments.
  - **Purpose Area 2** supports projects that implement technology-driven justice information-sharing solutions that enable police departments to promote public safety by responding to a specific crime issue.
- ❖ **Can you apply to both? Yes, but each application must focus on a different project**

# The SPI FY 2021 Competitive Solicitation: Purpose Area 1 (PA-1)

Focused on developing and implementing innovative evidence-based policing practices

Applicants are expected to:

- Describe the innovative, data-driven approach
- Enlist a qualified research partner to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach
- Identify a specific policing issue to address.
- Develop a prevention/mitigation/response strategy to address the problem.
- Evaluate the initiative.
- Assess and report the results to BJA, who will make the results publicly available.

Examples available at [www.smart-policing.com/spi-sites](http://www.smart-policing.com/spi-sites): Los Angeles (2018); Tempe, AZ (2017); Detroit, MI (2016); Chicago, IL (2015); Portland, OR (2014); Brooklyn Park, MN (2013)

# Areas of Particular Interest: PA-1

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to focus on issues likely to be confronted by other law enforcement agencies in the United States.
- Areas of particular interest to BJA include initiatives that:
  - Reduce identified disparities in services and support provided to historically underserved communities
  - Partner mental health and substance use disorder experts, social workers, and disability advocates with police departments to increase officer and community members' safety.
  - Test new operational approaches to crisis response, that support public safety, maintain civil rights of community members, and reduce the likelihood of violence.
  - Increase an agency's ability to effectively investigate fatal and nonfatal shootings/aggravated assaults that are driving factors in a community's violent crime issues, and support the victims and witnesses of these crimes.

# The SPI FY 2020 Competitive Solicitation: Purpose Area 2 (PA-2)

Focused on helping police agencies respond to crime and policing challenges through implementation of technology or information sharing initiatives.

- Describe the information sharing, crime analysis, or technology approach/solution to be implemented.
- Enlist a qualified research partner to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach or solution.
- Identify a specific policing issue to address.
- Develop a prevention/mitigation/response strategy to address the problem using the analytical or technological approach/solution.
- Evaluate the initiative.
- Assess and report the results to BJA, who will make the results publicly available.

Examples available at [www.smart-policing.com/spi-sites](http://www.smart-policing.com/spi-sites): Houston, TX (2019); Metropolitan Police Department, DC (2019); City of Roanoke (2019); City of Salisbury, NC; Anniston (AL) Police Department (2019)

# Areas of Particular Interest: PA-2

- Areas of particular interest to BJA include initiatives that examine:
  - Social network and geospatial analysis approaches and technologies to reduce violent crime and promote community policing activities.
  - Information sharing, crime analysis, or technology to support the implementation of Community Violence Intervention Initiative (CVI) strategies.
  - The Cardiff Violence Prevention Model, and evaluate its implementation and effects regarding police operations and violent crime hot-spot identification.
  - Support the development of real-time crime centers (RTCCs) in communities with high rates of violence and gun crime, and develop and test problem-solving interventions using the RTCC technology.
  - Test and expand the use of the Violent Crime Apprehension Program (ViCAP) by state and local law enforcement agencies Test the development, implementation, and outcomes of web-based dashboards or online portals meant to increase agency transparency.

# Competitive applicants will have.....

- Strong executive support for the project within the law enforcement agency
- A focus on an area determined to be an OJP priority and/or a pressing need for the policing field
- A clear and comprehensive plan for problem and data analysis and a well qualified research partner
- Willingness to examine standard operating procedures and business practices of the agency to identify opportunities for improvement that optimize the agency's capacity to respond to crime
- A commitment to making the changes necessary to sustain the strategies found to be successful, as measured by the project's outcome assessment.

# New This Year: Community Violence Intervention Focus

In FY 2021, OJP will give priority consideration in award decisions to applications that specify how the project will support Community Violence Intervention (CVI) strategies.

- CVI strategies involve identifying those who are at the highest risk of violence and working to reduce violence through targeted community-based interventions.
- To receive priority consideration under the CVI priority, the applicant must provide a sufficient narrative explanation as an attachment that describes one or more specific CVI strategies that will be implemented with funding and how they will be targeted to reduce violence.
- OJP may also prioritize submissions from jurisdictions with high levels of poverty.



# Specific Application Information for BJA Submissions:

- Proposed project periods may be up to 36 months
- Applications for funding amounts: up to \$500,000
- Submissions will use evidence-based strategies and programs
- A match is not required
- Awards will be made in the form of a grant
- Project start date should be October 1, 2021 or later
- ❖ **Two stage application process!**

# NEW: Two Step Application Process

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

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

\*Read the solicitation document carefully for further guidance.

# DOJ Application Submission Checklist

Review the [\*DOJ Application Submission Checklist\*](#)

The checklist covers all necessary steps to complete the two-part application process in Grants.gov and JustGrants.

## The checklist includes:

- ✓ how to prepare to apply
- ✓ completing the abbreviated application in Grants.gov
- ✓ Entity Onboarding and JustGrants Access
- ✓ completing, reviewing, certifying and submitting your application in JustGrants, and
- ✓ helpful user tips



**SPI Solicitation was released on  
May 19, 2021**

**Grants.gov submission date: July 6, 2021**

**JustGrants submission date: July 20, 2021**

# JustGrants

- Offers a streamlined, end-to-end process, enabling applicants and grantees to move seamlessly through the full grants management life cycle
- Gives applicants and award recipients new ways to manage their own entity information and that of users in the system

# JustGrants Application Submission Resources

## [Application Mechanics eLearning Videos](#)

By viewing the eLearning videos, job aids, DOJ Application Checklist and other resources, applicants will have all of the information needed to successfully navigate the mechanics of submitting an application.



- ✓ [Application Mechanics: Getting Ready to Apply \(NEW\)](#)
- ✓ [Application Mechanics: Initiating Application Submission in Grants.gov \(NEW\)](#)
- ✓ [Application Submission: Locating an Application](#)
- ✓ [Application Submission: Submitting an Application](#)
- ✓ [Application Submission: Completing a Budget Detail Form](#)
- ✓ [Application Mechanics: After Submitting an Application \(NEW\)](#)

# Budget Information

Applicants will submit:

- The JustGrants web-based budget form
- Their indirect cost rate agreement by uploading the agreement as an attachment in JustGrants
- The Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high risk status)
- Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation
- Training: [Training: Application Submission | JUSTICEGRANTS \(usdoj.gov\)](https://www.usdoj.gov/justgrants/training)

# Application Assistance and Support

## OJP Response Center

- Provides solicitation support and general assistance.
- **email** - [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto: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 OJP 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.



# Recommended Resources

## **JustGrants Training**

<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-application-submission>

## **DOJ Application Submission Checklist**

<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh296/files/media/document/appln-submission-checklist.pdf>

## **OJP Grant Application Resource Guide**

<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide>

## **DOJ Grants Financial Guide**

<https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm>

## **DOJ Grants Financial Management Online Training**

<https://www.ojp.gov/training/financial-management-training>

## **SPI Website**

[www.smart-policing.com](http://www.smart-policing.com)

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# 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>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/dojbja>



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

# Important Contact Information



Technical Assistance Submitting the SF-424 and SF-LLL into  
Grants.Gov: 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035 | [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)



Technical Assistance Submitting the FULL APPLICATION into  
JustGrants: 833-872-5175 | [JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov](mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov)



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# Questions?