

Funding Webinar Transcript

On April 29, 2019, BJA hosted a webinar that provided an overview of this solicitation. Following is the transcript from that webinar.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Hello, everyone. And welcome to today's webinar, STOP School Violence Training and Technical Assistance hosted by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. At this time, I would like to introduce you to today's presenter, David Adams, Senior Policy Advisor.

DAVID ADAMS: Hello. My name's David Adams. I'm a Senior Policy Advisor with the Bureau of Justice Assistance and I oversee the STOP School Violence Program here at BJA. Thank you for attending today's webinar about the STOP School Violence Training and Technical Assistance Program. This program is--will make one award for \$6,000,000. The eligible applicants are national nonprofit organizations; for-profit commercial organizations, including tribal nonprofit or for-profit organizations; or institutions of higher education, including tribal institutions that have expertise and experience in managing training and technical assistance on a national scale for evidence-based school safety programs. It is important to note that for-profit organizations must sign an agreement not to make a profit off of the program if they receive the award.

Specific application information for this submission, projects are to be for up to 36 months. There is no match requirement. Submissions will--must use evidence-based strategies and programs. The deliverables include a--an all-encompassing list of deliverables included--applicants will create a comprehensive TTA program primarily, but not exclusively for STOP grantees, which identifies core capabilities for creating safe and secure educational environments. They'll establish multidisciplinary TTA delivery team that includes subject matter experts from across the continuum of STOP grantee activities. These experts and their qualifications must be identified in the grant application.

Applicants must describe a plan to assess and support STOP grantee projects, core capabilities, and what their TTA needs may be. The plan must ensure that followup intensive assistance is available to grantees related to application of promising and evidence-based practices and planning for STOP project implementation and sustainment. The plan should also discuss how the TTA provider will evaluate the TTA provided and its impact on the grantees, how peer-to-peer learning opportunities will be encouraged across sites, and how specialized assistance will be provided when applicable.

Applicants must have the expertise to be able to assist STOP grantees in developing evidence-based school threat assessment processes and plans, and assist with their implementation. The TTA provider should assist sites in creating regular reviews and exercises of the assessments, validating school threat assessments, or provide additional ongoing assistance as needed. Applicants must also--the successful applicant must also be able to assist BJA and the COPS Office in identifying promising projects, practices, and deliverables for all aspects of the STOP School Violence Act Program; develop toolkits,

model policies, practices, templates, curricula, and other grantee-related deliverables to ensure consistency across the STOP program; and provide actionable resources for the field, maintain an online clearinghouse of these resources, and coordinate with the U.S. Department of Education in their dissemination.

They should provide training and educational materials in all areas of the STOP program, to include but not limited to, areas of threat assessment, development of crisis intervention teams, mental health educational resources, violence prevention, violence reduction, law enforcement coordination and training, and implementation of deterrent measures and notification technology.

They should assist grantees with site and risk assessments and determine the most effective and efficient uses of target-hardening deterrent measures and technology, including those related to expedited law enforcement notification. Assist STOP grantees in developing and implementing technological and school culture solutions for an anonymous reporting system, to include a plan for acquiring and implementing the technology based on best practices and developing marketing and educational programs for students to encourage its use.

Coordinate TTA delivery for grantees that are providing training for school officials, responding to mental health issues, which includes crisis intervention team, CIT, training and multidisciplinary team development and appointment. Activities pertaining to CIT TTA should be coordinated with BG--BJA crisis intervention team efforts to ensure consistency of content across programs. You'll coordinate TTA delivery with law enforcement agencies to ensure effective coordination between schools and law enforcement, document the work being done under the STOP School Violence Act Program, and highlight successful strategies and programs and develop an annual report to be submitted to the BJA Director for approval.

You'll plan, support, and manage national or regional meetings of awardees and numerous peer-to-peer site visits, focus groups, and site meetings as directed by BJA and the COPS Office. Describe a plan to assist individual STOP grantee organizations in disseminating updates about STOP goals, practices, and project process--progress. These plans should address how the TTA provider will facilitate consistent sharing of project information with key agency components throughout the life of individual STOP projects, with the objective of increasing the understanding of the value of evidence-based practices. You'll regularly check in with STOP grantees to increase the likelihood of the success of their individual programs and assist BJA and COPS Office in collecting, reviewing, and analyzing STOP-related grantee data and performance measures. You'll provide technical assistance as requested by the field and/or BJA and the COPS Office that may not come from STOP grantees.

Regarding the application process, applications are to be submitted to grants.gov by June the 18th, 2019, no later than 11:59 p.m. Applications will be reviewed to ensure they meet basic minimum requirements as stated in the solicitation. All applications meeting BMR will be moved forward for peer review. Applications will be peer reviewed by a panel of three outside reviewers. Peer-reviewed scores are presented to BJA program

representatives and then BJA staff will provide the scoring results to the Director with recommendations for funding. BJA's Director makes the final decision and submits recommendations for that application to the Office of Justice Programs Principal Deputy AAG. And awards--the awardee will be notified no later than September 30th of 2019. Also not listed on this is the important recommendation that you submit your application 72 hours prior to the June 18th deadline. That is all of the information regarding the solicitation.

I would like to speak very briefly about the COPS portion of the program. And just to let you know that the COPS funding for this is \$25,000,000 for their fight--for their fight--solicitation. And the types of things that they do that you will need to be able to be prepared to assist with, their solicitation includes training for local law enforcement officers to prevent school violence. Their money can pay for metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other target-hardening measures. They provide technologies to expedite notification of law enforcement during an emergency. And they also include any other measures that the COPS Office Director determines may provide a significant improvement in security. If you have questions about what types of information is included in the COPS program, you can contact the COPS Office or you can contact me at the information on these thank you slides. And we can forward the information to COPS, who'll respond.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. We're going to start questions here in just a little bit but before we do that, I wanted to go over a few things for you. Right now, you're looking at a slide that has information for the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. They are available at ncjrs.gov. And you may reach out to them if you have any questions about this solicitation. They will work together with David to get you an answer. You can also subscribe to their biweekly newsletter JUSTINFO and the Funding Newsletter from NCJRS that comes out every Friday. Both of these items will talk about and announce new competitive opportunities. They'll let you know when there's a webinar and they'll also let you know when the artifacts for the webinar have been posted to the website. You can email them your grant questions at grants@ncjrs.gov. Additionally, if you're having any technical assistance--or technical problems with submitting your application or uploading a document, you should reach out to grants.gov. Their information is on the screen. They are available at 800-518-4726. You--they are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays. And they, too, have an email address that is reflected here, including support@grants.gov. BJA would love for you to follow them on social media. You can follow them on Facebook, Twitter, and they also have an RSS feed. Their URLs are listed here on the screen and you can also go to the BJA website, www.bja.gov, and get that information from there.

Additionally, BJA earlier this year produced four webinars related and focused around funding opportunities and how to apply. Each of these webinars, the recordings, transcripts, and files are all posted to the BJA website, and they are located at <https://www.bja.gov/funding/webinars.html>. You can also easily get to that by going to the BJA funding page and scrolling down, and you'll find the links for them.

Lastly, before we get into questions, here are some additional resources that you could use that would help you in your application process. The OJP Funding Resource Center, DOJ Financial Guide will help you when it comes to questions about funding information--or budget information. The DOJ Grants Financial Management Online Training, as well as the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide. Additionally, you could reach--look at NIJ's CrimeSolutions.gov. This website in particular has information about programs that had been evaluated and determined as either being successful, borderline successful, or not effective. So, before we get into the questions, we're going to pause for a quick moment to search through them, and we will be right back with you.

So somebody would like to know, to be eligible for this grant, do you have to be creating a new threat assessment team or would a team that has had a lot of transitions and new additions be eligible as well?

DAVID ADAMS: Okay. So, the individual site solicitations for this program that BJA has already posted for states and local governments, one of those is a technology and threat assessment solutions for safer schools. The second one is a mental health training program where applicants are training school personnel and students on recognizing behaviors and threats that could happen and preparing them for how to address situations that may cause harm in the future. For this solicitation, the TTA, the provide--TTA provider would be assisting those local grantees in creating or putting together and/or training their threat assessment teams for their individual school divisions, or states, or whatever the case might be.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "We are a nonprofit and believe a portion of this, the School Violence Prevention Programs TTA, are in our wheelhouse. Is there any indication of who will apply as a prime so that we can talk to them?"

DAVID ADAMS: A nonprofit can apply for the solicitation if they have the expertise and the--can demonstrate they have the ability to provide the necessary training and technical assistance on a national scale.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. Just one second as we scroll to see if we're missing any questions. "Do recipients of the grant need to match funds?"

DAVID ADAMS: There is no match requirement for the solicitation.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. At this time, it does not appear that we have any further questions in the queue. We'll give you a moment or two to see if anything comes up. You do have David's undivided attention so now is the perfect time. But if for some reason you can't think of it--and if you're like me and it's after you left you think of the question, please submit it to NCJRS--at grants@ncjrs.gov. And again, they will work with David to get you an answer. And I'm going to flip over to the grants.gov slide to give you a chance to write that information down again. Again, their customer service hotline number is 800-518-4726. They are open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, except on federal holidays.

Another question came through. "If awarded the grant, is there a list of approved training programs to be used or can an agency select these on their own?"

DAVID ADAMS: Typically, what happens with training and technical assistance solicitations is that the applicant would propose what type of training they are going to do that would assist the individual program grants in being successful in what they're doing. If you're--if you're interested in finding out more about both the technology and threat assessment for safe school solutions and the mental health solicitation that is currently on the street, you can go to bj.gov and click on the Funding Opportunities tab at the top of the website, and you can pull down and download both of the local site solicitations so you have a sense of what types of things you would be providing assistance to those local grantees.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. And I'm going to go back because I realized that I have not read the 800 number for NCJRS. You can call them at 1-800-851-3420. They are open 10 to 6 Monday through Friday, and they are open later on the day the solicitation closes. However, as David mentioned earlier, do not wait until that final day and that final hour. Please submit your applications at least 72 hours in advance.

"Based on what I'm hearing, it seems a school district may not be the best candidate to apply for this grant. Am I correct?"

DAVID ADAMS: That is correct. Now, you may be interested in the local site grant that we currently have solicitations open for, and so I would direct you to the BJA website, the Funding Opportunities for the two STOP solicitations for individual grantees that we currently have. This is a national training and technical assistance program, so a local school district or division would likely not fit the eligibility for this.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: And the solicitation David just mentioned, he did a webinar last week on it, and that information will be posted to the BJA website, if you want to re-watch it or listen to it I should say, correct?

DAVID ADAMS: Correct.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "For estimates for giving trainings, we are estimating for only existing grantees and FY 2019. Also, past grantees in FY 2018 and/or other nongrantees." I guess they're asking if they should estimate.

DAVID ADAMS: You should estimate over the life of the program, or the life of the grant, which is a 3-year grant. You would be providing assistance to those funded in 2018, those funded in 2019, and future grantees in 2020 because this program has been authorized for a period of 10 years. And so you should estimate the training for each of those 3 years. Understanding it is likely that not every site grant--local site grantee is going to require the same level of training and technical assistance that another site may require.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. While we are waiting to see if anything else comes through, I'm going to flip it to the BJA Stay Connected slide so that you can write down the URLs if you like on Facebook and Twitter. All right. If you just give us a moment, please, we'll be back with you.

All right. At this time, it does not appear that there are any other questions. So, again, if something does come up after the webinar, you can go ahead and reach out to NCJRS. We will also post a recording, transcript, and PowerPoint presentation for today's webinar to the BJA website. So if you go to the Funding page and just scroll down slightly, you'll get a link and it'll show you all the upcoming webinars, as well as anything that's been posted. So, on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Assistance and David Adams, we'd like to thank you for attending today's webinar.

DAVID ADAMS: Thank you.