



NIJ FY 2024

**Field-Initiated Action Research Partnerships
Solicitation Webinar**

April 17, 2024 | 1:00 PM ET

The webinar will begin shortly.



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NIJ FY 2024 Field-Initiated Action Research Partnerships

Solicitation: O-NIJ-2024-172070

Post Date: April 2, 2024 | Close Date: July 1, 2024

Grants.gov Deadline: June 17, 2024

Participants

Nancy La Vigne, Director

Mark Greene, Office Director, Office of Technology and Standards

Nancy Merritt, Senior Policy Advisor



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Today's Webinar

- Introductory remarks: NIJ Director Nancy La Vigne
- Vision statement
- Solicitation goal and what partnerships should accomplish
- Expected deliverables
- Statement of Institutional Partnership
- Submission and review process
- Support and resources
- Q&A



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Vision statement

Partnerships with researchers can be the catalyst for justice agencies and service providers to embrace the use of data and evidence

Must be an equal and mutually beneficial collaboration — one that honors the agency's needs and priorities.

Partnerships seeded here are not just to examine specific issues or problems but to help transform partner entities into evidence-based organizations

To embrace a culture of performance assessment and ongoing learning and adaptation and apply this lens to all operations and initiatives.



Solicitation Goal: Support research partnerships that meet the needs and missions of partner entities and the communities they serve

Primary Grantee: NIJ envisions that the research entity would be the applicant and primary grantee

Partner Entities: May include police, corrections, courts, victim services, forensic science service providers, and community safety and adult and juvenile justice entities

Eligibility requirements are on p. 4.



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Partnerships should accomplish the following

- Apply data-driven, problem-solving approaches to challenges prioritized by agency partners
- Identify actionable and measurable responses
- Employ an action research evaluation approach to assess response and impact
- Implement changes
- Measure impact



Apply data-driven, problem-solving approaches to challenges prioritized by agency partners

- Partnerships must focus on **specific and pressing challenges experienced by the practitioner entity.**
- Applicants should describe how the partners have already collaborated to identify the specific topic, challenge, or crime problem that will be the focus of the partnership and conduct a data-driven scan and initial analysis of the problem.
- The proposal should describe plans for how the partners will collaborate to conduct a thorough analysis of the issue or challenge, to include input from all manner of agency, community, government, and other relevant stakeholders, as well as how they will approach the process of identifying, selecting, piloting, and measuring the impact of responses.
- In doing so, applicants should consider a range of pragmatic questions to promote project viability and adaptability when impediments are encountered throughout the course of the project.



Apply data-driven, problem-solving approaches to challenges prioritized by agency partners

- Applicants are also encouraged to incorporate the collaborative development of a logic model to:
 - Clearly identify baseline data indicators
 - Proposed strategies to address the problem
 - Necessary inputs to support full implementation (e.g., staff, data capacity development, funding, training, facilities, community engagement)
 - Measurable indicators of implementation fidelity and impact
 - Data collection and analysis to inform future improvement and refinement of the approach



Identify actionable and measurable responses

- Successful partnerships must demonstrate agency partner buy-in and be designed to maximize the ability to yield long-term benefits.
- Proposals should describe how the research partner will help build agency partners' processes and capacities to identify actionable, data-driven, and evidence-based responses.
- Research partners should assess agency partners' existing research, data, and analytic capabilities and be mindful of existing resource constraints.
- As such, successful applicants will integrate the practitioner entity's data and research capabilities into the project and describe strategies to enhance that capacity over time.



Employ an action research evaluation approach to assess response and impact

- The research partner should have the capabilities to develop an appropriate evaluation plan that can effectively measure the quality and impact of the data-driven, problem-solving effort.
- Proposals should employ an action research evaluation approach to assessing their process, response, and impact that emphasizes:
 - Scientific rigor
 - Meaningful stakeholder engagement
 - Comprehensive, collaborative assessment of the problems to be addressed
 - Recognition of the need to adapt evidence-based practice models to more effectively address the specific problems identified
 - Assessment and improvement of implementation fidelity measurement
 - Timely, ongoing data feedback loop to inform program enhancement and evolution
 - Long-term sustainability of the problem-solving research partnership



Implement changes

- Data-driven, problem-solving approaches are most successful when practitioner entities are capable of **long-term, sustainable implementation**.
- Proposals should describe the research partner's understanding of and/or experience in conducting problem-solving research with practitioner entities, identifying potential project pitfalls, and proposing risk-mitigation strategies.
- Additionally, the proposal must describe how key findings, insights, and innovations will be shared on an ongoing basis with the practitioner entity and local stakeholders, particularly after completing key project milestones.
- Successful proposals will also describe and implement intentional and creative dissemination efforts as a set of deliverables, along with the Final Research Report.
- An innovative and broad dissemination approach across diverse platforms is desired and might include, but not be limited to: academic and industry publications; research briefs tailored to specific stakeholder audiences and interests; presentations and interactive workshops; policy briefs, blogs, and websites; community meetings; and media outreach, including social media, podcasts, and other non-traditional research dissemination channels.





Expected deliverables

- Standard grant reporting requirements
- Final research report
- Research impact brief – In addition to a final research report, the successful applicant will be expected to deliver a public facing research summary highlighting actionable implications for policy and practice that would be useful to policymakers, practitioners, and researchers.
- Required data sets, associated files, and documentation
- Scholarly products





Key application submission requirements

Critical Application Elements (Basic Minimum Requirements)

- Forms: SF-424 and SF-LLL (in Grants.gov)
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget Web-Based Form (budget details and narrative)
- Curriculum vitae or resume for key personnel
- **Statement of Institutional Partnership**

Additional Requirements

- e.g., Any tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/charts/graphs, maps; Data archiving plan; Project management plan and timeline



Statement of Institutional Partnership should address the following:

- The nature of the current relationship between the research entity and the local justice or service provider entity, as well as the rationale for why the two entities would form a strong partnership.
- The partnership's goals, key roles, governance structure, and principles guiding joint work.
- The mechanisms through which data and information will be collected and shared to support proposed program design/development, implementation, refinement and associated research and evaluation activities.
- Acknowledgment that de-identified data derived from, provided to, or obtained through an award funded by NIJ will be archived by the grant recipient in accordance with the approved Data Archiving Plan will be required at the conclusion of the award (applicants and their potential partners are encouraged to review NIJ's data archiving guidance).



Statement of Institutional Partnership

- It is preferred that the Statement of Institutional Partnership be submitted as a final, signed document, and NIJ will give special consideration in award decisions to applications that do so.
- However, the Statement may be submitted in draft form at the time of application, and, if an award is made, finalized within the first 45 days of the grant award. The draft Statement of Institutional Partnership must be signed by both the principal investigator at the research institution and the partnership leader at local justice or service provider entity.



Additional notes

As these projects are expected to include substantive effort by non-research partners, applicants should include estimated costs in the budget to cover expenses associated with data collection and implementation, for example, that may be incurred by those partners.

Applicants should also include within their budget funds to travel to a convening or symposium in Washington, DC, in Project Year 2 to present their award activities.



Two-step application submission protocol

1. **Grants.gov** (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>)

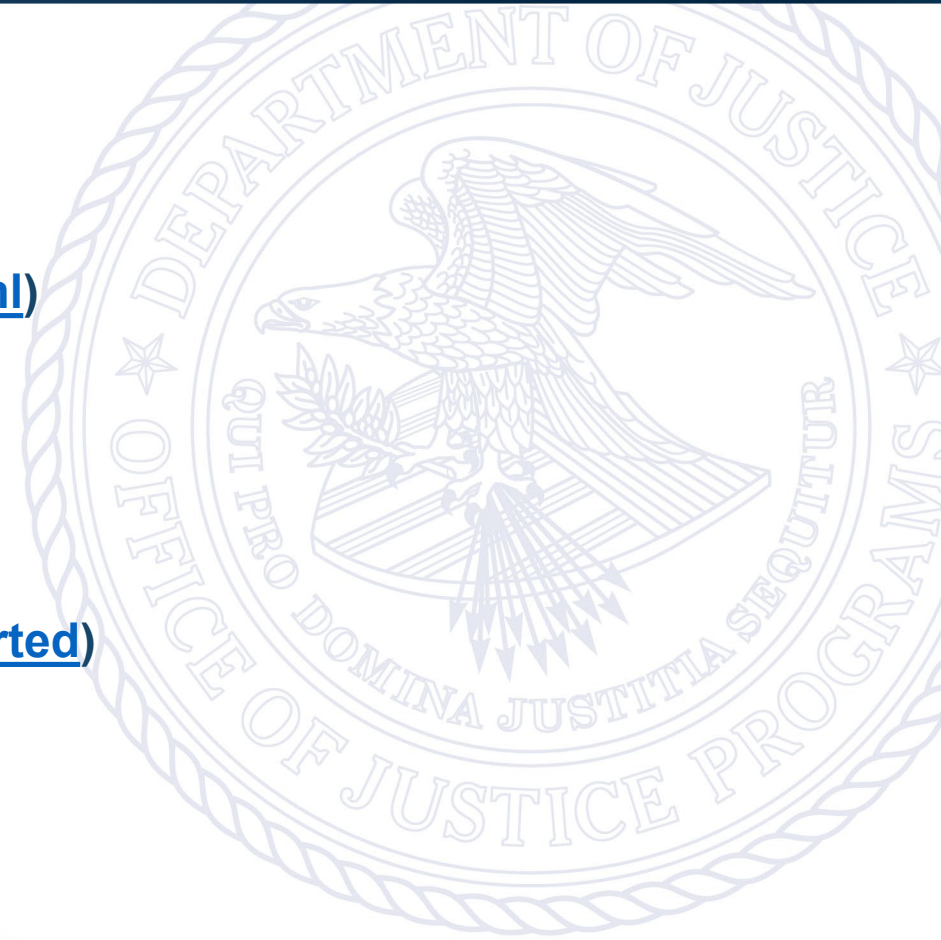
Submit SF-424 and SF-LLL forms ONLY

June 17, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET

2. **JustGrants.gov** (<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/getting-started>)

Submit FULL application, including ALL attachments

July 1, 2024 at 8:59 p.m. ET



Support

- **OJP Response Center**
 - Phone: 800-851-3420
 - Email: grants@ncjrs.gov
- **Grants.gov**
 - Phone: 800-518-4726
 - Email: support@grants.gov
- **JustGrants**
 - Phone (toll-free): 833-872-5175
 - Email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov





Application Review Process

- **Basic Minimum Review (BMR) Determination**
- **External Peer Review (p. 30)**
 - Technical and Practitioner Reviewers
- **Internal Review**
 - NIJ science staff, NIJ leadership, other federal subject matter experts
- **All funding decisions are made at the discretion of the NIJ Director**
 - For insights see her Dear Colleague Letter (<https://nij.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh171/files/media/document/nij-dear-colleage-letter-to-potential-applicants-2024.pdf>)



Peer Review

Critical Application Elements	Substantive Strengths - Reviewer Comments
Statement of the Problem (15%)	Comprehensive literature review demonstrating understanding of current needs, existing literature, and previously funded NIJ work
Project Design & Implementation (30%)	Clearly articulated strategy – research design and scope are logical, appropriately ambitious, feasible, and as rigorous as possible
Capabilities & Competencies (25%)	Project team demonstrates proficiency with proposed methods and includes necessary and appropriate subject matter experts
Potential Impact (25%)	Innovative and specific dissemination plan that includes methods for reaching non-academic audiences
Budget (5%)	Sufficient budget and staff time for proposed activities with clearly articulated staff duties





FAQs

- Award amount + period of performance
- Timing of award and non-award notifications
- Foreign entities / subrecipients / co-investigators
- Filling and submitting forms / IRB / HSP / New Investigator



Recommended resources

- OJP Funding Resource Center:
<https://ojp.gov/funding/index.htm>
- DOJ Grants Financial Guide:
<https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm>
- NIJ Funding FAQs:
<https://www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/faqs.aspx>



Questions?

Please enter your questions into the **Q&A box**

Send to **All Panelists**

