

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
National Institute of Justice



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## NIJ FY23 Criminal Justice Technology Testing and Evaluation Center

**Assistance Listing Number #** 16.560

**Grants.gov Opportunity Number:** O-NIJ-2023-171681

**Solicitation Release Date:** March 21, 2023 2:30 PM ET

**Step 1: Application Grants.gov Deadline:** June 06, 2023 11:59 PM ET

**Step 2: Application JustGrants Deadline:** June 20, 2023 8:59 PM ET

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### Overview

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ) seeks applications for funding to host a Criminal Justice Technology Testing and Evaluation Center. This program furthers the DOJ's mission by supporting the development of new knowledge and tools to address the challenges of crime and justice in the United States through fundamental research.

This solicitation incorporates guidance provided in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) which provides additional information for applicants to prepare and submit applications to OJP for funding. **If this solicitation expressly modifies any provision in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in this solicitation as to that provision.**

### Solicitation Categories

This solicitation does not include Solicitation Categories.

### Eligible Applicants:

City or township governments, County governments, For profit organizations other than small businesses, Independent school districts, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments), Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with

the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, Private institutions of higher education, Public and State controlled institutions of higher education, Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, Small businesses, Special district governments, State governments, Unrestricted (open to any type of entity above), subject to any clarification in text field entitled as Additional Information on Eligibility

An applicant entity may submit more than one application, if each application proposes a different project in response to the solicitation. Also, an entity may be proposed as a subrecipient (subgrantee) in more than one application.

NIJ will consider applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients (subgrantees). For additional information on subawards, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

NIJ may elect to fund applications submitted under this FY 2023 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and the availability of appropriations.

## Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact the OJP Response Center at 800-851-3420, 301-240-6310 (TTY for hearing-impaired callers only), or [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov). The OJP Response Center operates from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern time (ET) Monday–Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET on the solicitation close date.

## Submission Information

Registration: Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management (SAM). You must renew and validate your registration every 12 months. If you do not renew your SAM registration, it will expire. An expired registration can delay or prevent application submission in Grants.gov and JustGrants. Registration and renewal can take up to 10 business days to complete.

Submission: Applications must be submitted to DOJ electronically through a two-step process via Grants.gov and JustGrants.

**Step 1**: The applicant must submit by the Grants.gov deadline the required **Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF-424)** and a **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)** form when they register in Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>. **Submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL as early as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the Grants.gov deadline.** If an applicant fails to submit in Grants.gov, they will be unable to apply in JustGrants.

For technical assistance with submitting the SF-424 and a SF-LLL in Grants.gov, contact

the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, Grants.gov Customer Support, or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

**Step 2:** The applicant must submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://JustGrants.usdoj.gov) by the JustGrants application deadline.

For technical assistance with submitting the **full application** in JustGrants, contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833-872-5175 or [JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov](mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov). The JustGrants Service Desk operates 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday–Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET on Saturday, Sunday, and Federal holidays.

OJP encourages applicants to review the “[How To Apply](#)” section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) and the [JustGrants website](#) for more information, resources, and training. Applicants should maintain all receipts and confirmations received from SAM.gov, Grants.gov, JustGrants systems.

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## Program Description

### Overview

OJP is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights and racial equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens community safety and protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.

With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals to host a Criminal Justice Technology Testing and Evaluation Center. The Center will provide testing, evaluation, and other activities to support the safety, effectiveness, efficiency, and efficacy of technologies in use or adaptable by criminal justice and juvenile justice communities. The Center will inform NIJ's research and development efforts as well as NIJ's stakeholders, including criminal justice practitioners, policymakers, researchers, federal partners, and private industry, by: (1) conducting secondary research on technologies and technology implementation for potential use by criminal justice communities; (2) performing experimental testing and evaluation on technologies to inform potential adoption by criminal justice agencies; (3) conducting experimental or rigorous quasi-experimental research and evaluation of technology implementation by criminal justice agencies; (4) administering the NIJ Compliance Testing Program (CTP); and (5) supporting the development, validation, and maintenance of criminal justice equipment standards. This program furthers the Department's mission by sponsoring research to provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of crime and justice, particularly at the state and local levels.

NIJ will give special consideration to proposals with methods that include meaningful engagement with the people with lived experience of the subject of study, including, but not limited to, justice practitioners, community members, crime victims, service providers, and individuals who have experienced justice system involvement.

Applicants are encouraged to propose multidisciplinary research teams to build on the complementary strengths of different methods and areas of subject matter expertise. NIJ also seeks proposals that include consideration and measurement of issues of diversity, discrimination, and bias across age, gender and gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation, as applicable.

NIJ seeks proposals that include robust, creative, and multi-pronged dissemination strategies which include strategic partnerships with organizations and associations best equipped to ensure that research findings lead to changes in policies and practices related to the subjects of study. Special consideration will be given to proposals that dedicate at least 15% of the requested project award funding toward implementing such strategies, as demonstrated in the Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative.

In the case of partnerships that will involve the use of federal award funds by multiple

partnering agencies to carry out the proposed project, only one entity/partnering agency may be the applicant (as is the case with any application submitted in response to this solicitation); any others must be proposed as subrecipients. The applicant is expected to conduct a majority of the work proposed.

### **Statutory Authority**

Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (sections 201 and 202); the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (sections 231-233, 235); 28 U.S.C. 530C.

### **Specific Information**

NIJ sponsors research, development, testing, and evaluation efforts to assess technologies and practices used by state and local criminal justice agencies, such as law enforcement, courts, and corrections agencies, as well as juvenile justice agencies and publicly funded forensic crime laboratories. NIJ also coordinates and collaborates with federal agencies. NIJ's efforts are wide-ranging, requiring the application of diverse science and engineering expertise, including but not limited to physical sciences; life sciences; social and behavioral sciences; materials science and engineering; mechanical, electrical, and industrial engineering; computer science; statistics; and operations research.

The Center will inform NIJ's research and development efforts as well as NIJ's stakeholders, including criminal justice practitioners, policymakers, researchers, federal partners, and private industry, by:

1. Conducting secondary research on technologies and technology implementation, including:
  - a. Technology foraging activities to identify technologies for potential use by criminal justice communities.
  - b. Knowledge gathering about criminal justice agencies and jurisdictions that have implemented, or attempted to implement, various technologies and the results of those implementations.
2. Performing experimental or rigorous quasi-experimental testing and evaluation of technologies and technology implementation to inform potential adoption by criminal justice agencies, including:
  - a. Verifying or validating capabilities and/or performance claims.
  - b. Comparing technology solutions.
3. Conducting experimental or rigorous quasi-experimental research and evaluation on technology implementation by criminal justice agencies.
4. Administering the NIJ Compliance Testing Program (CTP).
5. Supporting the development, validation, and maintenance of criminal justice equipment standards.

The Center's activities will be developed collaboratively between the successful



applicant and NIJ, with substantial involvement by NIJ. The award will not involve technology development.

### Secondary Research on Technologies and Technology Implementation

The Center will conduct secondary research on technologies and technology implementation with two broad purposes: (1) Technology foraging activities to identify technologies for potential use by criminal justice communities and (2) knowledge gathering about criminal justice agencies and jurisdictions that have implemented, or attempted to implement, various technologies and the results of those implementations. This research is aimed at potential use by NIJ's stakeholders, which include criminal justice practitioners, policymakers, researchers, federal partners, and private industry.

Technology foraging as described here means the process of identifying, assessing, and compiling existing technologies, products, services, and emerging trends. Some examples of recent technology foraging reports include a series of briefs on artificial intelligence in the criminal justice system, a series of briefs on contraband detection technologies in correctional facilities, a landscape study on field-portable driving under the influence of drugs screening products, and landscape studies on various software tools for law enforcement use. These publications can be found here <https://nij.ojp.gov/criminal-justice-testing-and-evaluation-consortium#pubs>.

NIJ is also interested in knowledge gathering about criminal justice agencies and jurisdictions that have implemented, or attempted to implement, various technologies and the results of those implementations. These studies should strive to capture the circumstances motivating the adoption of the technology; the steps that agencies took to implement the technology, including policy development and implementation and training of staff in use of the technology; the fidelity with which the technology and accompanying policies and trainings were implemented and adhered to; the impact of the technology implementation on intended outcomes; and the documentation of any unintended outcomes, including those pertaining to racial and ethnic disparities. NIJ also expects that these studies will address any lessons learned from technology implementation, including changes in policy and practice resulting from the technology, measured or perceived return on investment of implementing the technology, and empirical evidence pertaining to the cost-effectiveness of the technology. These secondary studies will not involve the Center performing any original research, testing, or evaluation, but rather the Center will cull existing research and summarize research findings.

### Testing and Evaluation of Technologies

The Center will perform experimental testing and evaluation on technologies to verify or validate capabilities and/or performance claims, and to compare technology

solutions in order to inform potential adoption by criminal justice agencies. This would allow the criminal justice community to determine whether a technology meets their needs, or to select a commercial product that best suits their needs and requirements. Activities may include validation testing of products of interest to criminal justice agencies to established requirements, verification testing of prototypes developed under an NIJ-funded award, or comparative evaluations of multiple products or technologies within a class or category. Testing and evaluation will be conducted either in the laboratory or in the field, depending on the type and maturity of the technology, as well as the nature of the evaluation to be conducted, and may take the form of demonstrations. These activities may involve the purchase of products for the purposes of conducting testing and evaluation. More information on testing and evaluation can be found here <https://nij.ojp.gov/criminal-justice-testing-and-evaluation-consortium>.

### Research and Evaluation on Technology Implementation

The Center will conduct experimental or quasi-experimental research and evaluation of technology implementation by criminal justice agencies. These activities should involve using rigorous methods in the field, and may involve the purchase of products for the purposes of conducting research and evaluation. NIJ expects that the Center will work with criminal justice agencies on the selection of technology, deployment plans, data collection, and analysis, and will employ rigorous and appropriate evaluation methods to understand how implementation influences changes in policy and practice. Similar to the secondary research activities described above, these studies should strive to capture the circumstances motivating the adoption of the technology, including policy development and implementation and training of staff in use of the technology; the fidelity with which the technology and accompanying policies and trainings were implemented and adhered to; the impact of the implementation on intended outcomes; and the documentation of any unintended outcomes, including those pertaining to racial and ethnic disparities. NIJ also expects that these studies will address any lessons learned from technology implementation, including changes in policy and practice resulting from the technology, measured or perceived return on investment of implementing the technology, and empirical evidence pertaining to the cost-effectiveness of the technology.

### NIJ Compliance Testing Program

NIJ is the recognized authority on body armor for state and local criminal justice agencies' use in the United States. Body armor is a ballistic-resistant vest that is made up of a carrier, soft armor panels, and/or hard armor plates. NIJ certifies models of armor panels and armor plates that meet the requirements of NIJ Standard 0101.06 – the current ballistic resistant body armor standard for the NIJ CTP. Armor models that meet NIJ ballistic resistance performance requirements can be found on the [Compliant Products List \(CPL\)](#). The body armor CPL is the most widely-recognized list

of body armor suitable for criminal justice use based on third-party testing, with hundreds of listed models from manufacturers representing over 150 manufacturing locations in 21 countries. It is also the recognized list of products used by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP), which provides funding to state and local law enforcement agencies to purchase vests.

The NIJ CTP is a product certification program that manages a process to establish: (1) how armor models become listed on the CPL through initial certification testing of new articles and (2) how armor models listed on the CPL that have already undergone initial certification testing remain listed through periodic surveillance testing of new articles. The successful applicant will be responsible for managing the processes that manufacturers will follow to move their product through the program from initial contact to determination of compliance, and will be responsible for resolving routine program issues.

NIJ does not test equipment through the NIJ CTP itself, but rather recognizes a list of independent, third-party testing laboratories to participate in NIJ CTP testing. NIJ also does not fund test laboratories to perform compliance testing. Instead, testing is paid by the entity that submits an item of equipment for testing (e.g., product manufacturers). The testing laboratories are accredited by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) to an appropriate scope, which includes ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*, and relevant equipment performance standards, such as NIJ Standard 0101.06. The NIJ CTP also includes product surveillance called Follow-up Inspection Testing (FIT), to ensure that products listed on the CPL continue to be manufactured and perform as they did when they were originally certified. This involves inspectors approved by the NIJ CTP visiting manufacturing facilities and additional third-party testing by NIJ-recognized laboratories.

The applicant should detail its plan for administration of the NIJ CTP processes, describe its competencies and capabilities to do so, and demonstrate expertise working on standards, conformity assessment, body armor, and other criminal justice equipment. NIJ expects that applicants will build and administer a secure electronic system to manage NIJ CTP recordkeeping. Applicants should also expect to manage the existing electronic archive of records called the Testing Information Management (TIMS) system (<https://cjtec.org/compliance-testing-program/testing-information-management-system/>). It should be noted that the NIJ CTP for ballistic-resistant body armor requires storage of physical test items (i.e., samples of body armor panels and plates) for archival purposes. As such, applicants must address how they plan to manage that aspect of the program, and how they plan to manage existing archival inventories.

For context, since the NIJ CTP began accepting armor submissions to meet the requirements of NIJ Standard 0101.06 in 2009, approximately 1,900 unique models of

ballistic-resistant body armor have been submitted to the NIJ CTP for compliance testing through the first half of calendar year 2022. Of these, the program has found over 800 unique armor models to be compliant, with nearly 150 of them designed specifically for female officers. Notably, manufacturers have submitted approximately 450 models that have failed compliance testing due to ballistic test failures, with dozens of additional models failing due to inconsistent construction. For more information on the NIJ CTP and body armor compliance testing, please visit <https://nij.ojp.gov/body-armor-compliance-testing>.

Applicants should describe their plan for the successful transition of the NIJ CTP between awards and account for a transition period in their project timeline and budget. A new applicant should anticipate that a transition may occur at the beginning and end of their project period. An incumbent applicant should anticipate that a transition may occur at the end of their project period.

### Supporting Criminal Justice Equipment Standards Activities

NIJ develops its own performance standards through a consensus process and participates in the development of standards through external standards development organizations (SDO). NIJ's standards development process also typically involves integrating external standards into an NIJ performance standard. NIJ establishes Special Technical Committees (STC) in specific topical areas to develop NIJ standards and to facilitate the integration of external standards for use in U.S. law enforcement and corrections applications. For example, NIJ has established STCs on body armor, law enforcement firearms, and civil disturbance unit personal protective equipment (CDU PPE) to oversee the development of performance standards for equipment that meet the needs of U.S. law enforcement. NIJ is also in the process of establishing an STC for Criminal Justice Practice for Digital Multimedia Evidence.

In its application, the applicant should detail its plan for participation in the development of both new and revised NIJ standards and its plan to host at least four (4) STC meetings per year in the Washington D.C. area for approximately 25 individuals from throughout the U.S. The applicant should also detail its plan for participation in external SDOs. For more information on NIJ's equipment standards and conformity assessment activities, please visit <https://nij.ojp.gov/equipment-standards-and-conformity-assessment>.

### Additional Information

For this solicitation, proposals to study content on social media or online forums must be theoretically grounded, with analytical methods that are justified within the context of the technology's use. Applications that propose exploratory data mining or other a theoretical AI approaches to analyze big data will not be funded. Additionally, NIJ will not fund applications that propose to use social media data to identify individuals

Applicants should discuss potential risks and harms to individuals or groups associated with the use and/or misuse of any practice or technology proposed as a part of the research and evaluation, including any disparate racial, ethnic, or gender-based impacts; any threats to Constitutional rights; and any ethical considerations that may factor into its use. In addition, applicants should be aware of all relevant statutes, regulations, and/or governing judicial decisions (e.g., established case law, prevailing court rulings) related to the practice or technology's proposed use. Any limitations that may impede the lawful use or implementation of any practice or technology proposed should be described, and a realistic approach to mitigate such limitations in the context of the proposed research should be discussed.

When conducting research involving partnerships with criminal justice or other agencies, the successful grantee should expect to obtain a strong letter of support, signed by an appropriate decision-making authority from each proposed, partnering agency. A letter of support should include the partnering agency's acknowledgment that de-identified data derived from, provided to, or obtained through an award funded by NIJ will be archived by the grant recipient with the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the conclusion of projects or the award. The successful grantee and their potential partners are encouraged to review [NIJ's data archiving guidance](#). The successful grantee will be expected to have a formal agreement in place with partnering agencies prior to conducting research projects. That formal agreement must include a provision to meet the data archiving requirements of the award.

### **Evaluation Research**

If an application includes an evaluation research component (or consists entirely of evaluation research), the application is expected to propose the most rigorous evaluation design appropriate for the research questions to be addressed. If the primary purpose of the evaluation is to determine the effectiveness or impact of an intervention (e.g., program, practice, or policy), the most rigorous evaluation designs may include random selection and assignment of participants (or other appropriate units of analysis) to experimental and control conditions. In cases where randomization is not feasible, applicants should propose a strong quasi-experimental design that can address the risk of selection bias.

Applications that propose evaluation research should also include an implementation evaluation component to ensure that implementation fidelity metrics are collected and analyzed. Applicants are encouraged to propose research methods that enable interim feedback on implementation fidelity to enable program providers to make ongoing improvements in program delivery.

If an application proposes research (including research and development) and/or evaluation, the applicant must demonstrate research/evaluation independence and integrity through discussion of potential risks (if any) to independence and integrity, and appropriate safeguards, as required.

NIJ also encourages applicants to consider the feasibility of including a cost/benefit

analysis. In cases where evaluations find that interventions have produced the intended benefit, cost/benefit analysis provides valuable and practical information for practitioners and policymakers that helps with decision-making. Evaluation research projects may also address a wide range of research questions beyond those focused on the effectiveness or impact of an intervention. Different research designs may be more appropriate for different research questions and at different stages of program development. The intervention strategies, setting, other contextual factors, and resources should be considered when selecting an evaluation design.

In all cases, applications are expected to propose the most rigorous evaluation design appropriate for the research questions to be addressed. Applicants are encouraged to review evidence-rating criteria at <https://crimesolutions.ojp.gov/about/how-we-review-and-rate-program-start-finish> for further information on high-quality evaluation design elements.

## **Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables**

### **Goals**

The goal of this solicitation is to provide testing evaluation, and other activities to inform NIJ's non- forensic research and development efforts, and to inform the criminal justice field concerning technologies and technology implementation in a more innovative, sustainable, efficient, and effective manner.

### **Objectives**

Activities undertaken by this Center are described in the section "Specific Information" above. Objectives and deliverables will vary with each project undertaken, but in general will involve development and publication of research reports, guides, and knowledge products. All activities undertaken by this center will be evidence-based, will collect and use relevant data, will be reported in a fashion that is understood by all stakeholders, and will provide practical information that can be used by the criminal justice community. The principal consumers of the deliverables resulting from the center's activities will be members of the three criminal justice communities of practice: law enforcement, corrections, and courts.

An applicant should address the objectives that are relevant to their proposed program/project in the Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline web-based form.

### **Deliverables**

Individual Study Reports. Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be expected to produce reports documenting secondary research studies, testing and evaluation studies, and studies focusing on technology implementation. Reports should be technically sound, written to be accessible to broad audiences, and visually appealing. NIJ may also require the award recipient to produce brief publications summarizing

results from individual studies in one- to two-page formats.

Final Research Report. Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be expected to submit a final research report. Additional information on the final research report requirement for the solicitation is posted on NIJ's [webpage](#).

Required Data Sets and Associated Files and Documentation. Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be expected to submit to the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) all data sets that result in whole or in part from the work funded by the award, along with associated files and any documentation necessary for future efforts by others to reproduce the project's findings and/or to extend the scientific value of the data set through secondary analysis.

In addition to these deliverables (and the required reports and data on performance measures), NIJ expects scholarly products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of one or more published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products. NIJ expects that there will be an equal effort to make the research findings accessible to practitioner and policymaker audiences.

#### NIJ Compliance Testing Program and Criminal Justice Equipment Standards

Deliverables. NIJ expects various publicly available web-based information resources to be published for the various stakeholders of the NIJ CTP and criminal justice equipment standards. These include program information for participants of the NIJ CTP, Compliant Products Lists, and informational resources for criminal justice practitioners who use equipment within the scope of the NIJ CTP and criminal justice equipment standards. Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be expected to build and administer a secure electronic platform to manage NIJ CTP recordkeeping.

The goals, objectives, and deliverables are directly related to the performance measures that show the completed work's results, as discussed in the "Application and Submission Information" section.

### **Priority Areas**

NIJ will give special consideration in award decisions to proposals from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).

Minority-Serving Institutions include:

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)
- Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSI)
- Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU)
- Alaska Native-serving Institutions or Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions (ANNH)

- Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI)
- Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions (AANAPISI)
- Native American-serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI)

Note: Addressing these priority areas is one of many factors that NIJ considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration for one or more priority areas does not guarantee an award.

## Federal Award Information

### Solicitation Categories

This solicitation does not include Solicitation Categories.

### Awards, Amounts and Durations

#### Anticipated Number of Awards

1

#### Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount of Awards

\$3,500,000.00

#### Period of Performance Start Date

1/1/24

#### Period of Performance Duration (Months)

60

#### Anticipated Total Amount to be Awarded Under Solicitation

\$3,500,000.00

### Additional Information

Please see Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount of awards and Period of Performance Duration sections below.

### Continuation Funding Intent

NIJ may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this solicitation through continuation awards. NIJ will consider, among other factors, NIJ's strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award, and the award-funded work's progress, when making continuation award decisions.

### Availability of Funds

This solicitation, and awards under this solicitation, are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law. In addition, nothing in this solicitation is intended to,



and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

### **Type of Award**

NIJ expects to make award under this solicitation as a cooperative agreement, which provide for OJP to have substantial involvement in carrying out award activities. See the “Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements” section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

### **Financial Management and System of Internal Controls**

Award recipients and subrecipients (including recipients or subrecipients that are pass-through entities) must, as described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.303, comply with standards for financial and program management. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

### **Budget Information**

If the applicant is proposing a project that reasonably could be conducted in discrete phases, with each phase resulting in completion of one or more significant, defined milestones, then NIJ strongly recommends that the applicant structure the application — specifically including the narrative, expected scholarly products, timelines/milestones, and budget detail worksheet and budget narrative — to clearly define each phase. (This is particularly the case if the applicant proposes a project that will exceed — in cost or the length of the period of performance — the amount or length of time anticipated for an individual award (or awards) under this solicitation.) Given limitations on the availability to NIJ of funds for awards for research, development, and evaluation, this information will assist NIJ in considering whether partial funding of applications would be productive. (If, in FY 2023, NIJ elects to fund only certain phases of a proposed project, the expected scholarly products from the partial-funding award may, in some cases, vary from those described above.)

NIJ may elect to fund applications submitted under this FY 2023 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

What will not be funded:

- Applications primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies, or to provide direct services. (A budget may include these items if they are necessary to conduct research, development, demonstration, evaluation, or analysis.)
- Applications that are not responsive to the purposes of this specific solicitation.

The applicant should identify within their budget which items, services, etc., will/would be covered by matching sources and explain what type of match will be provided.

### **Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement**

See “Cofunding” paragraph under “Budget and Associated Documentation” in the “Application and Submission Information” section.

### **Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on pre-agreement costs (also known as pre-award costs).

### **Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation: Waiver**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on the Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver.

### **Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs.

### **Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on Costs Associated with Language Assistance.

### **Anticipated Maximum dollar amount of Awards**

\$3,500,000. Applicants are encouraged to submit budgets that match the research activities offered, up to the total dollar amount anticipated to be awarded under this solicitation.

### **Period of Performance Duration**

NIJ expects that the period of performance for any award under this solicitation will be five years, with only the first 12-months of effort funded initially. Subsequent funding, if any, will be determined by the results of the initial phase of work, the availability of funding, and agency priorities, among other factors.

### **Eligibility Information**

For eligibility information, see the solicitation cover page.

For information on cost sharing or match requirements, see the “Federal Award Information” section.

For the purposes of this solicitation, “state” means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Foreign governments, foreign organizations, and foreign colleges and universities are not eligible to apply. Federal agencies are eligible to apply. (Any award made to a federal agency will be made as an inter-agency reimbursable agreement.)

**Notice regarding law enforcement agencies:** State, local, and university or college law enforcement agencies must be certified by an approved independent credentialing body or have started the certification process to be eligible for FY 2023 DOJ discretionary grant funding. To become certified, the law enforcement agency must meet two mandatory conditions: (1) the agency’s use-of-force policies adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, and (2) the agency’s use-of-force policies prohibit chokeholds except in situations where use of deadly force is allowed by law. The certification requirement also applies to law enforcement agencies receiving DOJ discretionary grant funding through a subaward. For detailed information on this certification requirement, please visit <https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO> to access the Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Safe Communities, the Implementation Fact Sheet, and the List of Designated Independent Credentialing Bodies.

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

## Application and Submission Information

### Content of Application Submission

The following application elements must be included in the application to meet the basic minimum requirements to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding:

Proposal Narrative

Budget Web-Based Form (The web-based form includes the budget details and the budget narrative.)

Curriculum Vitae/Resumes for Key Personnel. (For purposes of this solicitation, “key personnel” means the principal investigator, and any and all co-principal investigators.)

If NIJ determines that an application does not include these elements, it will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive further consideration.

### **Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) in Grants.gov**

The SF-424 must be submitted in Grants.gov. It is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on completing the SF-424.

In Section 8F of the SF-424, please include the name and contact information of the individual **who will complete the application in JustGrants**. JustGrants will use this information (*email address*) to assign the application to this user in JustGrants.

**Intergovernmental Review:** This solicitation (“funding opportunity”) **is not** subject to [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 12372](#). (In completing the SF-424, an applicant is to answer question 19 by selecting “Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.”)

### **Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)**

The “Standard Applicant Information” section of the JustGrants application is pre-populated with the SF-424 data submitted in Grants.gov. The applicant will need to review the Standard Applicant Information in JustGrants and make edits as needed. Within this section, the applicant will need to add ZIP codes for areas affected by the project; confirm their Authorized Representative; and verify and confirm the organization’s unique entity identifier, legal name, and address.

### **Proposal Abstract**

A Proposal Abstract (no more than 400 words) summarizing the proposed project — including its purpose, primary activities, expected outcomes, the service area, intended beneficiaries, and subrecipients (if known) — must be completed in the JustGrants web-based form. This abstract should be in paragraph form without bullets or tables, written in the third person, and exclude personally identifiable information. Abstracts will be made publicly available on the OJP and USASpending.gov websites if the project is awarded. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for an example of a proposal abstract.

### **Proposal Narrative**

The Proposal Narrative should be submitted as an attachment in JustGrants. The attached document should be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point font; have no less than 1-inch margins; and should not exceed 30 numbered pages. If the Proposal Narrative fails to comply with these length restrictions, NIJ may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in the final award decision.

The Proposal Narrative should include the following sections:

a. Title Page (not counted against the proposal narrative page limit)

The title page should include:

Project title.

Submission date.

Funding opportunity number.

Principal Investigator (and any co-principal investigators).

Unique author identifier (e.g., ORCID, ResearcherID, Scopus Author ID), if available.

Key words, including science focus areas.

Contact information (that is, name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address) for both the applicant and the principal investigator.

b. Resubmit Response (if applicable) (not counted against the proposal narrative page limit.)

If an applicant is resubmitting an application presented previously to NIJ, but not funded, the applicant should indicate this. A statement should be provided, no more than two pages, addressing: (1) the title, submission date, and NIJ-assigned application number of the previous application, and (2) a brief summary of revisions to the application, including responses to previous feedback received from NIJ.

c. Table of Contents and Figures (not counted against the proposal narrative page limit)

d. Main Body

1. Statement of the Problem

The statement of the problem should address the need for research in this area. Applicants should discuss current gaps in data, research, and knowledge, including those for particular justice sectors, for certain populations, and to answer questions relevant to current policy and practice needs and public interests. It is not uncommon for multiple problems to exist simultaneously (for example, there may be a criminal justice problem affecting public safety, a current technical challenge/ need identified by forensic practitioners, as well as a scientific/technology gap between the current state of the art and a desired solution) and applicants should discuss each of these clearly and justify the importance of the separate issues. As

part of this discussion, applicants should present a review of previous literature and discuss previous research related to these problems.

## 2. Project Design and Implementation

Applicants should provide a detailed description of the strategies to implement this research project and address the research questions. Design elements should follow directly from the research project's goals and objectives and address the program-specific information noted in the solicitation. Applicants should describe the research methodology and analysis plan in detail and demonstrate the validity and usefulness of the data they will collect. Applicants should consider the rigor and soundness of the methodology and analytical and technical approaches for the proposed research and address the feasibility of the proposed project and potential challenges or problems in carrying out the activities.

## 3. Potential Impact

Applicants should describe the potential impact of the research and how it may inform or improve criminal or juvenile justice-related policy, practice, or theory in the United States. The applicant should include a discussion of the proposed dissemination plan to produce scholarly products and to make information available to broader interested audiences, such as criminal justice practitioners or policymakers.

## 4. Capabilities and Competencies

This section should describe the experience and capability of the applicant organization, key staff, and any proposed subgrantees (including consultants) that the applicant will use to implement and manage this effort and the federal funds under this award, highlighting any previous experience implementing projects of similar scope, design, and magnitude. Applicants should address:

- Experience and capacity to work with the proposed data sources in the conduct of similar research efforts.
- Experience and capacity to design and implement rigorous research and data analysis projects.
- Experience producing and disseminating meaningful deliverables.

Applicants should also outline the management plan and organization that connects to the goals and objectives of the project. Among other factors, that plan should include a description of the anticipated level of effort of key personnel.

## 5. Appendices (not counted against the proposal narrative page limit) include:

- The project management plan.

- If the application (including the budget) identifies any proposed non-competitive agreements that are or may be considered procurement "contracts" (rather than subawards), for purposes of federal grants administrative requirements, the applicant also must list the entities with which the applicant proposes to contract.
- List of other agencies, organizations, or funding sources to which this application has been submitted (if applicable).

## 6. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures

Note: An applicant is **not** required to submit performance data with the application. Rather, performance measure information is included as a notification that award recipients will be required to submit performance data as part of each award's reporting requirements. Some measures are presented as examples, while others are the exact measures that every recipient will be expected to address.

OJP will require each award recipient to submit regular performance data that show the completed work's results. The performance data directly relate to the goals, objectives, and deliverables identified in the "Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables" discussion. Applicants can visit OJP's performance measurement page at [www.ojp.gov/performance](http://www.ojp.gov/performance) for an overview of performance measurement activities at OJP.

A list of performance measure questions for this program can be found in the 'Performance Measures' section below.

NIJ will require award recipients to submit performance measure data in quarterly financial reports, semi-annual performance reports, and the final research report and separately submit a semi-annual performance report in JustGrants. NIJ will provide further guidance on the post-award submission process, if the applicant is selected for award.

### **Goal, Objective and Deliverables**

The applicant will submit the project's goals, objectives, deliverables and timeline in the JustGrants web-based form. The applicant will also enter the projected fiscal year and quarter that each objective and deliverable will be completed. Please refer to the [Application Submission Job Aid](#) for step-by-step directions.

**Goals.** The applicant should describe the project's intent to change, reduce, or eliminate the problem noted in the previous section and outline the project's goals.

**Program Objectives.** The applicant should explain how the program will accomplish its goals. Objectives are specific, quantifiable statements of the project's desired results.

They should be measurable and clearly linked to the goal.

Deliverables. Project deliverables refer to outputs—tangible or intangible—that are submitted within the scope of a project.

## **Budget and Associated Documentation**

### **Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)**

The applicant will complete the JustGrants web-based budget form. For additional information, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) and the [Complete the Application in JustGrants – Budget](#) training.

The following paragraph (on “Cofunding”) expressly modifies the “Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement” provisions in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#). The applicant is to follow the guidance in the following paragraph instead of the guidance stated under the “Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement” heading in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

**Cofunding:** An award made by NIJ under this solicitation may account for up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project. The application should indicate whether it is feasible for the applicant to contribute cash, facilities, or services as non-federal support for the project. The application should identify generally any such contributions that the applicant expects to make and the proposed budget should indicate in detail which items, if any, will be supported with non-federal contributions

For additional match information, see the “Cost Sharing or Match Requirement” section under Federal Award Information.

If a successful application proposes a voluntary match amount, and OJP approves the budget, the total match amount incorporated into the approved budget becomes mandatory and subject to audit.

### **Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)**

See the section on Costs Requiring Prior Approval in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide Post Award Requirements](#) for more information.

### **Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)**

If applicable, the applicant will upload their indirect cost rate agreement as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for more information on indirect costs.

### **Consultant Rate**



See the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) for information on the consultant rates which require prior approval from OJP.

### **Limitation on Employee Compensation; Waiver**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on the Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards over \$250,000; Waiver.

### **Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)**

The applicant will download the questionnaire, complete it, and upload it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for the link to the questionnaire and additional information.

### **Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation**

This solicitation expressly modifies the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide by not incorporating its “Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation” provisions. Applicants to this solicitation are not required to provide this disclosure.

### **Additional Application Components**

The applicant will attach the additional requested documentation in JustGrants.

### **Curriculum Vitae or Resumes**

Provide curriculum vitae or resume of the principal investigator and any and all co-principal investigators. In addition, curriculum vitae, resume, or biographical sketches of all other individuals (regardless of “investigator” status) who will be significantly involved in substantive aspects of the proposed project (including, for example, individuals such as statisticians used to conduct proposed data analysis).

### **Tribal Authorizing Resolution**

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of tribal authorizing documentation as an attachment. If applicable, the applicant will upload the tribal authorizing documentation as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on tribal authorizing resolutions.

### **Timeline Form**

Proposed project timeline and expected milestones.

## **Letters of Support**

Letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements from organizations collaborating in the project, such as law enforcement and correctional agencies (if applicable).

## **Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement**

If an application proposes research (including research and development) and/or evaluation, the applicant must demonstrate research/evaluation independence and integrity, including appropriate safeguards, before it may receive award funds. The applicant will upload documentation of its research and evaluation independence and integrity as an attachment in JustGrants. For additional information, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

## **Bibliography/reference**

Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Proposal Narrative.

## **Any Tools/Instruments, Questionnaires, Tables/Charts/Graphs, or Maps**

Any tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/charts/graphs, or maps pertaining to the proposed project that are supplemental to such items included in the main body of the narrative.

## **List of Individuals in the Application**

To assist OJP in assessing actual or apparent conflicts of interest (including such conflicts on the part of prospective reviewers of the application), provide a complete list of the individuals named or otherwise identified anywhere in the application (including in the budget or in any other attachment) who will or may work (or advise or consult) on the proposed research, development, or evaluation project. Applicants should use the “[Proposed Project Staff, Affiliation, and Roles](#)” form available on the NIJ webpage to prepare this list.

## **Human Subjects Protection**

Human Subjects Protection paperwork as a separate attachment (documentation and forms related to Institutional Review Board [IRB] review). See <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/human-subjects-protection>. **Note:** Final IRB approval is not required at the time an application is submitted.

## Privacy Certificate

Privacy Certificate as a separate file (for further guidance go to <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/confidentiality-and-privacy-protections> and <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/model-privacy-certificate>).

## Request to Use Incentives or Stipends

Applicants proposing to use incentives or stipends payments as part of their research project design, must submit an incentive or stipend approval request, as a separate document, according to the requirements set forth at <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/participant-support-costs-and-incentives-social-science-research>.

## Consortium/Contractual Arrangements

Explain the programmatic, fiscal, and administrative arrangements to be made between the applicant organization and the consortium organization(s).

## Data Archiving Plan

Applicants should anticipate that NIJ will require, through special award conditions, that data sets resulting in whole or in part from projects funded under this solicitation be submitted for archiving with the NACJD. See <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/data-archiving>.

Applications should include as a separate file a brief plan — labeled “Data Archiving Plan” — to comply with data archiving requirements. The plan should provide brief details about proposed data management and archiving, including submission to NIJ (through NACJD) of **all files and documentation** necessary to allow for future efforts by others to reproduce the project’s findings and/or to extend the scientific value of the data set through secondary analysis. Pertinent files and documentation include, among other things, qualitative and quantitative data produced, instrumentation and data collection forms, codebook(s), any specialized programming code necessary to reproduce all constructed measures and the original data analysis, description of necessary de-identification procedures, and (when required) a copy of the privacy certificate and informed consent protocols.

The plan should be one or two pages in length and include the level of effort associated with meeting archiving requirements.

Note that recipients are strongly encouraged to submit required data sets at least 90 days before the end of the period of performance.

## **Disclosures and Assurances**

The applicant will address the following disclosures and assurances.

### **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

Complete and submit the SF-LLL in Grants.gov. Once the applicant submits in Grants.gov, this information will pre-pend into JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

### **DOJ Certified Standard Assurances**

Review and accept the DOJ Certified Standard Assurances in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

### **Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items**

Complete the JustGrants web-based Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items form. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

### **DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Law Enforcement and Community Policing**

Review and accept the DOJ Certified Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Law Enforcement and Community Policing. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

### **Applicant Disclosure and Justification - DOJ High Risk Grantees**

If applicable, submit the DOJ High Risk Disclosure and Justification as an attachment in JustGrants. A DOJ High Risk Grantee is an award recipient that has received a DOJ High Risk designation based on a documented history of unsatisfactory performance; financial instability; management system or other internal control deficiencies; noncompliance with award terms and conditions on prior awards or is otherwise not responsible. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

## **How to Apply**

**Registration:** Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management (SAM). You must renew and validate your registration every 12 months. If you do not renew your SAM registration, it will expire. An expired registration can delay or prevent application submission in Grants.gov and JustGrants. Registration and renewal can take up to 10 business days to complete.

**Submission:** Applications must be submitted to DOJ electronically through a two-step process via Grants.gov and JustGrants.

**Step 1:** After registering with SAM, the applicant must submit the **SF-424** and **SF-LLL** in Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html> by the Grants.gov deadline. **Submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL as early as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the Grants.gov deadline.** If an applicant fails to submit in Grants.gov, they will be unable to apply in JustGrants.

**Step 2:** The applicant must then submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://JustGrants.usdoj.gov) by the JustGrants deadline.

Within 24 hours after receipt of confirmation emails from Grants.gov, the individual in Section 8F of the SF-424 will receive an email from [DIAMD-NoReply@usdoj.gov](mailto:DIAMD-NoReply@usdoj.gov) with instructions on how to create a JustGrants account. Register the Entity Administrator and the Application Submitter with JustGrants as early as possible but no later than 48-72 hours before the JustGrants deadline. Once registered in JustGrants, the Application Submitter will receive an emailed link to complete the rest of the application in JustGrants. The Entity Administrator also will need to log into JustGrants to review and invite the applicant's Authorized Representative(s) before an application can be submitted.

Submit the complete application package in JustGrants at least 24 – 48 hours prior to the JustGrants deadline. Some of the application components will be entered directly into JustGrants, and others will require uploading attached documents. Therefore, applicants will need to allow ample time before the JustGrants deadline to prepare each component. Applicants may save their progress in the system and revise the application as needed prior to hitting the Submit button at the end of the application in JustGrants.

For additional information, see the "How to Apply" section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) and the [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#).

### **Submission Dates and Time**

The **SF-424 and the SF-LLL** must be submitted in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on June 06, 2023.

The **full application** must be submitted in JustGrants by 8:59 p.m. eastern time on June 20, 2023.

OJP urges applicants to submit their Grants.gov and JustGrants submissions prior to the due dates with sufficient time to correct any errors and resubmit by the submission deadlines if a rejection notification is received. To be considered timely, the **full application** must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline. Failure to begin the SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants registration process in sufficient time (i.e., waiting until the date identified in this solicitation) is not an acceptable reason for late submission.

### **Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues Preventing Submission of an Application**

OJP will only consider requests to submit an application after the deadline when the applicant can document that a technical issue with a government system prevented application submission.

If an applicant misses a deadline due to unforeseen technical issues with SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants, the applicant may request a waiver to submit an application after the deadline. However, the waiver request will not be considered unless it includes a tracking number generated when the applicant contacts the applicable service desks to report technical difficulties. Tracking numbers are generated automatically when an applicant emails the applicable service desks; and for this reason applicants are encouraged to email the appropriate service desk, even if they also intend to call the service desk for phone support. Experiencing wait times for phone support does not relieve the applicant of the responsibility of getting a tracking number.

An applicant experiencing technical difficulties must contact the associated service desk indicated below to report the technical issue and receive a tracking number:

- SAM.gov - contact the [SAM Help Desk \(Federal Service Desk\)](#), Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET at 866-606-8220.
- Grants.gov - contact the [Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline](#), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays, at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).
- JustGrants - contact the JustGrants Service Desk at [JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov](mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov) or 833-872-5175, Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET and Saturday, Sunday, and Federal holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.

If an applicant has technical issues with SAM.gov or Grants.gov, the applicant must contact the OJP Response Center at [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov) within **24 hours of the Grants.gov deadline** to request approval to submit after the deadline.

If an applicant has technical issues with JustGrants that prevent application submission by the deadline, the applicant must contact the OJP Response Center at [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov) within **24 hours of the JustGrants deadline** to request approval to submit after the deadline.

Waiver requests sent to the OJP Response Center must -

- describe the technical difficulties experienced,
- include a timeline of the applicant's submission efforts (e.g., date and time the error occurred, date and time of actions taken to resolve the issue and resubmit; and date and time support representatives responded),
- include an attachment of the complete grant application and all the required documentation and materials,
- include the applicant's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and

- include any SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants Service Desk tracking numbers documenting the technical issue.

OJP will review each waiver request and the required supporting documentation and notify the applicant whether the request for late submission has been approved or denied. An applicant that does not provide documentation of a technical issue or that does not submit a waiver request within the required time period will be denied.

For more details on the waiver process, OJP encourages applicants to review the “Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues” section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

## Application Review Information

### Review Criteria

#### Merit Review Criteria

Applications that meet the basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers on how the proposed project/program addresses the following criteria:

#### Statement of the Problem (understanding of the problem) (5%)

- Demonstrated understanding of the problem.
- Demonstrated importance of research questions, goals and objectives, including alignment with the aims of the solicitation.
- Demonstrated awareness of the state of current research.

#### Project Design and Implementation (quality and technical merit) (30%)

- Feasibility of proposed project.
- Soundness of methods and analytic and technical approach to addressing the stated aim(s) of the proposed project.
- Awareness of potential pitfalls of proposed project design and feasibility of proposed actions to minimize and/or mitigate them.
- Feasibility of completing the deliverables noted in the solicitation.

#### Capabilities and Competencies (capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of the applicant organization and proposed project staff) (40%)

- Qualifications and experience of proposed project staff (that is, the principal investigator, any and all co-principal investigators, and all other individuals (and organizations) identified in the application (regardless of “investigator” status) who will be significantly involved in substantive aspects of the proposed project)
- Demonstrated ability of the applicant organization to implement the proposed

strategies and manage the effort.

- Relationship between the capabilities/competencies of the proposed project staff (including the applicant organization) and the scope and strategies of the proposed project.

#### Potential Impact (20%)

- Potential for a significant scientific or technical advance(s) that will improve criminal/juvenile justice in the United States.
- Potential for significantly improved understanding of the stated criminal/juvenile justice problem.
- Potential for innovative solution to address (all or a significant part of) the stated criminal/juvenile justice problem.
- Strength and feasibility of the proposed dissemination plan to produce scholarly products (such as published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, databases, standards or similar scientific products) as well as make summary information available to broader interested audiences, such as criminal justice practitioners or policymakers.

#### Budget (5%)

In addition, peer reviewers will consider and may comment on the following additional items in the context of scientific and technical merit.

- Alignment of the proposed budget with proposed project activities.
- Appropriateness of the budget relative to the level of effort.
- Use of existing resources to conserve costs.

#### **Other Review Criteria/Factors**

Other important considerations for NIJ include geographic diversity, available funding, past performance, and the extent to which the Budget Web-Based Form accurately explains project costs that are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise allowable under federal law and applicable federal cost principles.

#### **Review Process**

Applications submitted under this solicitation that meet the basic minimum requirements will be evaluated for technical merit by a peer review panel(s) in accordance with OJP peer review policy and procedures using the review criteria listed above.

OJP screens applications to ensure they meet the basic minimum requirements prior to conducting the peer review. Although specific requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all OJP solicitations:

- 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 necessary to meet the basic minimum requirements.

Pursuant to the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, before award decisions are made, OJP also reviews information related to the degree of risk posed by the applicant entity. Among other things to help assess whether an applicant with one or more prior federal awards has a satisfactory record of performance, integrity, and business ethics, OJP checks whether the applicant entity is listed in SAM as excluded from receiving a federal award.

In addition, if OJP anticipates that an award will exceed \$250,000 in federal funds, OJP also must review and consider any information about the applicant entity that appears in the non-public segment of the integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently, the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System, FAPIIS).

**Important Note on FAPIIS:** An applicant may review and comment on any information about its organization that currently appears in FAPIIS and was entered by a federal awarding agency. OJP will consider such comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in its assessment of the risk posed by the applicant entity.

All final award decisions will be made by the Director of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), who may take into account not only peer review ratings and NIJ recommendations, but also other factors as indicated in this section.

## Federal Award Administration Information

### Federal Award Notices

Generally, award notifications are made by the end of the current Federal fiscal year, September 30th. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on award notifications and instructions.

### Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the OJP-approved application, the recipient must comply with all award conditions and all applicable requirements of federal statutes and regulations, including the applicable requirements referred to in the assurances and certifications executed in connection with award acceptance. For additional information on these legal requirements, see the “Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements” section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

### Information Technology Security Clauses

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of information related to information technology security. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for more information.

### **General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements**

In addition to the deliverables described in the “Program Description” section, all award recipients under this solicitation will be required to submit certain reports and data.

Required reports. Award recipients typically must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual performance reports, final financial and performance reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with the Part 200 Uniform Requirements or specific award conditions.. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent. (In appropriate cases, OJP may require additional reports.)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measure data.

### **Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

For questions directed to the Federal Awarding Agency, see OJP Response Center contact information on cover page.

For OJP contact(s), contact information for Grants.gov, and contact information for JustGrants, see the solicitation cover page.

### **Other Information**

#### **Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a)**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a).

#### **Provide Feedback to OJP**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on how to provide feedback to OJP.

### **Performance Measures**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Performance Measure(s)</b>	<b>Data Recipient Provides</b>
Ensure the safety,		

effectiveness, efficiency, and efficacy of technologies and practices in use or adaptable by criminal justice communities through characterization/comparative evaluations, equipment standards, and the administration of a testing-based program.

1. Relevance to the needs of the field as measured by whether the project's substantive scope did not deviate from the funded project or any subsequent agency-approved modifications to the scope.

- Number of deliverables completed on time.
- Number of deliverables that meet expectations.
- Number of tools, technologies, and practices tested or evaluated annually.
- Number of criminal justice agencies receiving information from the center.

2. Quality of the deliverables as demonstrated by end user feedback (e.g., practitioners) and the scholarly products that result, in whole or in part, from work funded under the NIJ award (published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (as appropriate for the funded project) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or

1. Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual and final progress reports, and products of the work performed under the NIJ award (including, at minimum, a final research report). If applicable, an annual audit report.

2. List of citation(s) to all scholarly products that resulted in whole or in part from work funded under the NIJ award.

- Number of publications published or updated, including reports, guides, and performance standards.
- Number of tools, technologies, and practices tested or evaluated.
- Number of discrete criminal justice agencies using the center as a resource for information.

3. If applicable, each data set that resulted in whole or in part from work funded under the NIJ award.

	<p>book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products).</p> <p>3. Quality of management as measured by such factors as whether significant project milestones were achieved, reporting and other deadlines were met, and costs remained within approved limits.</p>	<p>4. Quarterly report of NIJ CTP activities, including a snapshot of the number products in the various stages of progress through the administration process and any program issues for resolution.</p>
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## Application Checklist

### NIJ FY23 Criminal Justice Technology Testing and Evaluation Center

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application. For more information, reference [the OJP Application Submission Steps in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) and the [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#).

#### Pre-Application

##### ***Before Registering in Grants.gov:***

- Acquire or renew your Entity's [System Award Management \(SAM\)](#) Registration Information (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

##### ***Register in Grants.gov***

- Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

##### ***Find the Funding Opportunity***

- Search for the funding opportunity in Grants.gov using the opportunity number, assistance listing number, or keyword(s)
- Access the funding opportunity and application package (see Step 7 in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Sign up for Grants.gov email [notifications](#) (optional) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Read [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#)
- Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedoj/iii-postaward-requirements#6g3y8> (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

##### ***Review the Overview of Post-Award Legal Requirements***

- Review the "[Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2023 Awards](#)" in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

##### ***Review the Scope Requirement***

- The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of \$3,500,000.

##### ***Review Eligibility Requirement:***

- Review the Eligibility section on the cover page and Eligibility Information section in the solicitation.

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### **Application Step 1**

Submit the **SF-424** and **SF-LLL** in Grants.gov

- In Section 8F of the SF-424, include the name and contact information of the individual **who will complete the application in JustGrants and the SF-LLL in Grants.gov**

*Within 48 hours after the SF-424 and SF-LLL submission in Grants.gov, receive four (4) Grants.gov email notifications:*

- a submission receipt
- a validation receipt
- a grantor agency retrieval receipt
- an agency tracking number assignment

*If no Grants.gov receipt and validation email is received, or if error notifications are received:*

- Contact OJP Response Center at [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov) or 800-851-3420 or TTY: 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only) or Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, [Grants.gov customer support](#), or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov) regarding technical difficulties (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

Within 24 hours after receipt of confirmation emails from Grants.gov, the individual in Section 8F of the SF-424 will receive an email from JustGrants with login instructions.

- Proceed to Application Step 2 and complete application in JustGrants

### **Application Step 2**

Submit the following information in JustGrants:

Application Components

- Standard Applicant information (SF-424 information from Grants.gov)
- Proposal Abstract
- **Proposal Narrative\***

Budget and Associated Documentation

- **Budget Web-Based form\***
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

#### Additional Application Components

- Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- **Curriculum Vitae or Resumes\***
- Timeline Form
- Letters of Support
- Bibliography/reference
- Any tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/chart/graphs, or maps
- List of Individuals
- Human Subjects
- Privacy Certificate
- Request to Use Incentives or Stipends
- Consortium/Contractual Arrangements
- Data Archiving

#### Disclosures and Assurances

- [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities \(SF-LLL\)](#) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurances (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

**\* Note: Items designated with an asterisk must be submitted for an application to meet the basic minimum requirements review. If OJP determines that an application does not include the designated items, it will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive further consideration.**

#### Review, Certify and Submit Application in JustGrants

- Any validation errors will immediately display on screen after submission.
- Correct validation errors, if necessary, and then return to the “Certify and Submit” screen to submit the application. Access the [Application Submission Validation Errors Quick Reference Guide](#) for step-by-step instructions to resolve errors prior to submission.
- Once the application is submitted and validated, a confirmation message will appear at the top of the page. Users will also receive a notification in the “bell” alerts confirming submission.

*If no JustGrants application submission confirmation email or validation is received, or if error notification is received:*

- Contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833-872-5175 or [JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov](mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov) regarding technical difficulties. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

#### Standard Solicitation Resources

[OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding.

[DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) serves as the primary reference manual to assist award recipients in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility to safeguard grant funds and to ensure funds are used for the purposes for which they were awarded. It compiles a variety of laws, rules and regulations that affect the financial and administrative management of DOJ awards. This guide serves as a starting point for all award recipients and subrecipients of DOJ grants and cooperative agreements in ensuring the effective day-to-day management of awards.

[JustGrants Resources Website](#) is an entryway into information about JustGrants and the grants management system itself. Through this portal both award recipients and applicants can access training resource and user support options, find frequently asked questions and sign-up for the [JustGrants Update e-newsletter](#).

[JustGrants Application Submission Training Page](#) offers helpful information and resources on the application process. This training page includes e-learning videos, reference guides, checklists and other resources to help applicants complete an application.

[Virtual Q&A Sessions](#) are advertised here and provide opportunities for users to receive



topic-specific training, direct technical assistance and support on JustGrants system functionality.