

Notices regarding the solicitation “NIJ Multisite Impact and Cost-Efficiency Evaluation of Veterans Treatment Courts, Fiscal Year 2022”

November 18, 2021: NIJ has posted a recorded webinar in which NIJ and BJA staff discuss this funding opportunity. The video and transcript are available at <https://nij.ojp.gov/media/video/27546>

The original funding opportunity document begins on the next page.

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



NIJ Multisite Impact and Cost-Efficiency Evaluation of Veterans Treatment Courts, Fiscal Year 2022

Assistance Listing Number #	16.560
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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 conduct a multisite impact and cost-efficiency evaluation of veterans treatment courts. NIJ anticipates making one award under this solicitation. This project 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..

This solicitation incorporates the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) by reference. The OJP Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to applicants on how to prepare and submit applications for funding to OJP. **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, Other

Other

For 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.

To advance Executive Order 13929 Safe Policing for Safe Communities, as of October 28, 2020, the Attorney General determined that all 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 allocated FY 2021 DOJ discretionary grant funding, as either a recipient or a subrecipient. For detailed information on this new certification requirement, please visit <https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO>.

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.)

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

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 2022 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting the **SF-424 and SF- LLL** in Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, at [Grants.gov customer support webpage](#), or email at support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

For technical assistance with submitting the **full application** in DOJ's Justice Grants System (JustGrants), contact the JustGrants Service Desk at JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov or at 833-872-5175. The JustGrants Service Desk operates 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

An applicant that experiences unforeseen Grants.gov or JustGrants technical issues beyond its control that prevent it from submitting its application by the deadline must email the National Criminal Justice Reference Service Response Center (Response Center) at grants@ncjrs.gov **within 24 hours after the application deadline** to request approval to submit its application after the deadline.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact the Response Center by telephone at 800-851-3420 or TTY: 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only) or by email at grants@ncjrs.gov. Response Center hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET on the solicitation close date.

Submission Information

In FY 2022, applications will be submitted to DOJ in a **NEW** two-step process.

Step 1: Applicants will submit an **SF-424 and an SF-LLL** in Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>. To register in Grants.gov, applicants will need to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration or renewal.

Step 2: Applicants will submit the **full application** including attachments in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://www.justgrants.usdoj.gov).

To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline.

OJP encourages applicants to review, the "How to Apply" section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

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Program Description

Overview

The Department of Justice is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights, increases access to justice, supports crime victims, protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.

With this solicitation, NIJ, in collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), seeks applications for funding to conduct a multisite impact and cost-efficiency evaluation of veterans treatment courts (VTCs). NIJ proposes to make one award as a cooperative agreement under this solicitation. The awardee will lead a cross-site evaluation involving court and research partners in up to six VTCs across the U.S. Incorporating experimental design and other research methods, the process, impact, and cost study will examine:

- Program impact on relapse, recidivism, and other outcomes
- For whom are programs effective
- Which program elements are effective
- Whether programs are cost-efficient

Topics of interest include veterans with violent offense histories, mental health and comorbidity, leveraging technology, peer mentoring, and equitable service access. The 5-year period of performance will begin with a planning phase to confirm the research protocol including VTC site selection.

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.

This solicitation supports DOJ Strategic Objective 3.1: Combat violent crime, promote safe communities, and uphold the rights of victims of crime. It also supports the National Institute of Justice Courts Strategic Research Plan, 2020-2024.

NIJ plans to post on its website a webinar that will provide information on the cross-site evaluation, research solicitation, and research partner site eligibility.

Statutory Authority

Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, 134 Stat 1182, 1259.

Specific Information

NIJ Research on Problem Solving Courts

NIJ's Courts Research Portfolio [1] sponsors research, development, and evaluation to identify court tools, programs, and policies that satisfy criminal justice goals, including public safety, cost-efficiency, and fair and equitable treatment of victims and defendants. It supports rigorous applied research to examine pretrial, prosecution and defense, and sentencing policies, as well as problem-solving courts and other alternatives to incarceration. [2] Prime examples are NIJ's Multisite Adult Drug Court Evaluation, and NIJ's Evaluation of Second Chance Act Adult Reentry Courts. [3]

In FY 2015, NIJ collaborated with BJA and other federal agencies for a process and implementation study of VTCs. Modeled after mental health and drug courts, VTCs are dedicated court dockets that support justice-involved active military service members and veterans diagnosed with substance use disorders or mental health issues and other rehabilitation needs. The VTC program model includes a continuum of treatment and rehabilitative services (including peer mentors), graduated sanctions and incentives, and ongoing judicial interaction and court supervision. [4]

Using a convenience sample of VTCs in three southern states (ranging in program maturity, rurality, and other characteristics), the FY 2015 study sought to address basic questions about: characteristics and needs of VTC participants, and services provided; structures, policies, and practices of VTC programs; and short-term program and participant outcomes. The project documented important observations, [5] but it also underscored the limited means of VTC programs to contribute valid and reliable archival information, and the challenges of interviews and other primary data collection involving participants and other stakeholders. Such research limitations are common in court studies, and inspired NIJ to identify data and research capacity building as a distinct priority in our Courts Strategic Research Plan. [6]

Multisite Impact and Cost-Efficiency Evaluation of Veteran Treatment Courts

The purpose of this solicitation is to create a rigorous cross-site evaluation led by the awardee in partnership with up to six large VTCs across the U.S. with caseloads of 40 or more participants. Incorporating experimental design and other research comparison groups, the process, impact, and cost study will examine: program impact on relapse, recidivism, and other outcomes; for whom are programs effective; which program elements are effective; and whether programs are cost-efficient. Topics of interest include veterans with violent offense histories, mental health and comorbidity, leveraging technology, peer mentoring, and equitable service access.

Project Phases

This will be a two-phase project:

1. Planning (6 months) – finalize the research protocol including VTC site selection, obtain IRB and Privacy Certificate approval, and finalize memoranda and information sharing agreements with the sites recruited.

The purpose of the Planning phase is to produce a revised evaluation plan detailing the final research protocol for a cross-site evaluation in partnership with six VTC sites. The plan must receive IRB approval, and the Privacy Certificate must be approved by NIJ. The awardee will select the VTC research partner sites in coordination with NIJ (please see Additional Guidance below). The awardee will begin site recruitment and finalize all necessary memoranda of agreements, information transfer agreements, and other documentation necessary for site participation. As needed, sites will be replaced through the first year to ensure that there are six sites for the Research phase of the award.

2. Research (54 months) - complete site recruitment, conduct the three research tasks, analyze the information collected, submit data and written deliverables, and disseminate findings.

Research Tasks

Minimally, the applicant's proposal will address how it proposes to accomplish three research tasks: (1) process evaluation; (2) impact evaluation; and (3) cost-efficiency evaluation.

1. Process Evaluation^[7]

A process evaluation documents a program's actual caseflow, service delivery and resources in relation to its planned target population, and policies and procedures over time. At a minimum, the process evaluation should review: policies and procedures, staff and other resources, program caseflow, assessments, service delivery, and community activities. Applicants should propose to develop logic models that illustrate the inputs, activities, outputs, short- and long-term outcomes, and external factors associated with each program. Topics of interest include program retention and compliance, leveraging technology, peer mentoring, and equitable service access.

2. Impact Evaluation

An impact evaluation gauges the intervention's effect on the target population. Using equivalent information available on comparable offenders outside the program, it contrasts participant outcomes while controlling for characteristics (criminal history) that may alone predict those outcomes (recidivism). Public safety outcomes of interest include arrests, violations, convictions, and incarcerations. Applicants should consider additional outcomes in their proposed analyses as appropriate to the VTC program and participants. These include but are not limited to alcohol and other drug use, mental health, and housing stability.

3. Cost-Efficiency Evaluation

Cost-efficiency analysis indicates what impact the program has on public resources and expenditures and whether the investment yields savings over the status quo or an alternative. Past NIJ studies have applied different techniques that are well documented, ranging from a transactional and institutional cost analysis (TICA) for a top-down estimation approach,^[8] to a net benefits bottom-up estimation approach.^[9] The applicant may propose any rigorous cost-efficiency analysis approach with clear justification in consideration of its advantages and limitations. The proposed approach must detail research methods including primary information collection, use of secondary data sources, multiple outcomes of interest, and connection to findings from the process and impact evaluations.

Additional Guidance

Research Partner Sites

- The VTC sites will be selected by the awardee during the Planning phase in coordination with NIJ. NIJ will provide a list of potential VTC sites for consideration to the awardee,^[10] but the awardee may propose other sites for discussion at the Project Startup Meeting. (Neither site nominations nor program letters of support should be included in the application.)
- Site information collected for research purposes will remain confidential per a privacy certificate.
- Each site will name (1) a coordinator or other designated VTC program representative, and (2) a designated research staff representing the state or local agency responsible for court administration.
- Sites will be required to participate in cross-site meetings organized by the awardee, and facilitate local planning and research tasks; activities include contributing to and reviewing research protocols, data analyses, written deliverables, and dissemination.
- Sites must follow the final cross-site evaluation protocol, but are encouraged to collaborate with the awardee and other sites on complementary research tasks.
- The initial NIJ grant award budget includes federal support to each site for their participation in the research project, including \$25,000 in each of the first two years; the awardee will be responsible for administering those funds. (See Federal Award Information below.) This may be supplemented subject to availability of funds during the Research phase such as to support complementary research tasks.

Research applications must:

- State research questions that correspond clearly to proposed evaluation methods, data collection, analysis, and reporting plans.
Detail how qualitative and quantitative research methods will be implemented, and how the information collected will

- be compiled and analyzed.
- Detail participant interview protocols including baseline and follow up interviews with at least 75% response rates and bioassay alcohol and other drug tests.
- Describe protocol and associated budget options should field research plans need to be modified due to public health concerns.
- Describe potential archival data resources, and how potential validity and reliability concerns will be addressed.
- Demonstrate cultural competence in research protocol and team capabilities that addresses geographic, racial/ethnic, language, and other relevant diversity issues.
- Describe in the project management plan each research team member (staff, contractor, consultant, etc.) with a clearly specified role and projected level of effort, regardless of compensation.
- Submit a 60-month project timeline beginning in July 1, 2022 that indicates key milestones in the Planning and Research phases, and necessary steps to produce the grant deliverables outlined in the Deliverables section below.

Evaluation Research

Applications are 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 should 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.

Randomized controlled trial (RCT) studies are a powerful, much needed tool for building scientific evidence about what works. Therefore, studies employing RCT methods to assess the effectiveness of programs and practices will be given higher priority consideration. RCT applications with strong designs measuring outcomes of self-evident policy importance are strongly encouraged. A strong RCT design should include low sample attrition, sufficient sample size, close adherence to random assignment, valid outcome measures, and statistical analyses.

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. The intervention strategies, setting, other contextual factors, and resources should be taken into account 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.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

Goals

The goal of this NIJ research portfolio is to provide court tools, programs, and policies that satisfy criminal justice goals, including public safety, cost-efficiency, and fair and equitable treatment of victims and defendants.

Objectives

The main objective of this solicitation is to support applied research that examines the process, impact, and cost-efficiency of VTCs. VTCs are dedicated court dockets that support justice-involved active military service members and veterans diagnosed with substance use disorders or mental health issues and other rehabilitation needs. Outcomes of interest include equitable access, program retention, recidivism, relapse, mental health functioning, and housing stability.

Deliverables

Monthly Project Update Calls. Beginning in the first month following award, the awardee will facilitate monthly calls with NIJ to report project updates, review next steps, and discuss any substantive matters.

Project Startup Meeting. During the Planning phase, NIJ will host a virtual meeting for the awardee to present an overview of their proposed project for discussion with BJA and other federal agencies to review the research tasks, timeline, partner sites, and other final protocol decisions. Draft presentation materials (including PowerPoint slides) are due to NIJ one week in advance of the meeting.

Revised Evaluation Plan. During the Planning phase, the awardee will submit to NIJ a revised evaluation plan for a cross-site evaluation including six VTC research partner sites. A special condition will be attached to the award stipulating that the awardee may not obligate, expend, or drawdown more than \$100,000 until NIJ approves the revised evaluation plan and issues a grant adjustment notice to remove or modify this special condition.

Draft Abstract, Executive Summary, and Report. By 90 days prior to the grant end date, the awardee will submit to NIJ draft written deliverables for external expert and agency review coordinated by NIJ. Written feedback will be provided by NIJ to the awardee for consideration in preparing the final written deliverables.

NIJ Briefing. NIJ will host a virtual meeting for the awardee to present an overview of their completed project by 30 days prior to the grant end date. Draft presentation materials (including PowerPoint slides) that summarize research methods and findings are due to NIJ one week in advance of the briefing.

Final Abstract, Executive Summary, and Research Report. With consideration to feedback provided via the NIJ Briefing and reviews of draft written deliverables, the awardee will submit final written deliverables to NIJ by the grant end date for public archive on the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) website.

Professional Conference Presentations. The awardee will work with NIJ to develop at least two conference panels on the

project with presentations delivered by the principal investigators and other research team members including research partner site representatives.

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.

The Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables are directly related to the performance measures that demonstrate the results of the work completed.

Federal Award Information

Awards, Amounts and Durations

Anticipated Number of Awards

1

Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount of Awards

\$3,000,000.00

Period of Performance Start Date

7/1/22 12:00 AM

Period of Performance Duration (Months)

60

Anticipated Total Amount to be Awarded Under Solicitation

\$3,000,000.00

Additional Information

The single \$3,000,000 NIJ research grant award will fund two phases: (1) Planning \$100,000, and (2) Research \$2,900,000. Of the \$2,900,000, each site will be paid \$25,000 in each of the first two years of the NIJ grant. This may be supplemented subject to availability of funds.

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 progress of award funded work, when making continuation award decisions.

Availability of Funds

This solicitation, and awards (if any are made) 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.

Types of Awards

NIJ expects to make awards under this solicitation as cooperative agreements, 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](#).

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. The "Part 200 Uniform Requirements" means the DOJ regulation at 2 C.F.R. Part 2800, which adopts (with certain modifications) the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200. See [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Budget Information

What will not be funded:

- Applications primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies. (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.

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

This solicitation does not require a match.

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

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) 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](#) information on 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.

Period of Performance Duration

To be determined by the period of performance of the awarded application. Successful applicants will be expected to complete the work proposed within a five-year period of performance.

Eligibility Information

For eligibility information, see the title page.

For information on cost sharing or match requirements, see Federal Award Information.

Application and Submission Information

The following application elements **MUST** be included in the application submission for an application to meet the basic minimum requirements (BMR) to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding:

- Proposal Narrative,
- Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (web-based form by year, and file attachment showing phases (1) Planning and (2) Research.)
- Curriculum Vitae/Resumes for Key Personnel. (Curriculum Vitae for key personnel (For purposes of this solicitation, “key personnel” means the principal investigator, and any and all co-principal investigators.

See the “Application Elements and Formatting Instructions” section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on what happens to an application that does not contain all the specified elements or that is nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation.

Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

The SF-424 will be submitted in Grants.gov. The SF-424 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 F of the SF-424, please include the name and contact information of the individual who will complete application materials 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 12372](#). (In

completing the SF-424, an applicant is to answer question 19 by selecting the response that the “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. Applicants will need to review the Standard Applicant Information in JustGrants and make edits as needed. Within this section, applicants will need to: add zip codes for areas affected by the project; confirm their Authorized Representative; and verify the organization's legal name and address.

Proposal Abstract

A proposal abstract (no more than 400 words) summarizing the proposed project including primary activities, products and deliverables, the service area, and who will benefit from the proposed project, will be completed in the JustGrants Web-based form.

Proposal Narrative

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

The following sections must be included as part of the program narrative:

a. Title Page (not counted against the program 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.
- Requests for consideration under “new investigator” and/or “priority areas of research” areas.
- 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 program 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 program narrative page limit)

d. Main Body

1. Description of the Issue OR Statement of the problem if research is involved.

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.

5. Appendices (not counted against the program 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).

Note: applicants are not required to submit performance data with the application. Rather, performance measures information is included as an alert that successful applicants will be required to submit performance data as part of the reporting requirements under an award.

OJP will require each successful applicant to submit regular performance data that demonstrate the results of the work carried out under the award. The performance data directly relate to the goals, objectives, and deliverables identified on page 7.

A list of performance measure questions for this program can be found on page 16.

Applicants can also visit OJP's performance measurement page at www.ojp.gov/performance for an overview of performance measurement activities at OJP.

Award recipients will be required to submit performance measure data in quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, and the Final Research Report. Further guidance on the post-award submission process will be provided, if selected for award.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

Applicants will submit the project's goals, objectives, deliverables, and timelines in the JustGrants Web-based form. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Budget and Associated Documentation

Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)

Applicants will complete the JustGrants web-based budget form. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for

additional information.

Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Applicants will submit their indirect cost rate agreement by uploading the agreement as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Financial Management Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)

Applicants will download the questionnaire in JustGrants and submit by uploading the completed questionnaire as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation

Applicants to this NIJ Multisite Impact and Cost-Efficiency Evaluation of Veterans Treatment Courts, Fiscal Year 2022 solicitation are not required to provide the Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation.

Additional Application Components

Applicants will attach the additional requested documentation in JustGrants.

Curriculum Vitae or Resumes

Curriculum vitae of key personnel. 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

If applicable, applicants will submit the Tribal Authorizing Resolution by uploading the resolution as an attachment in JustGrants. An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of information related to a tribal authorizing resolution as an attachment. 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 (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. Applicants will submit a description of their research and evaluation independence and integrity by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants. For additional information regarding demonstrating research/evaluation independence and integrity, including appropriate safeguards, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Bibliography/reference

Bibliography/references. Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Project Narrative.

Any tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/chart/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 (documentation and forms related to Institutional Review Board [IRB] review). See <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/human-subjects-and-privacy-protection>. **Note:** Final IRB approval is not required at the time an application is submitted.

Privacy Certificate

Privacy Certificate (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 NEW: <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/research-development-and-evaluation-grant-award-requirements#data>.

Applications should include as an appendix 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

Applicants will complete the following disclosures and assurances.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Applicants will complete and submit the SF-LLL in Grants.gov. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

DOJ Certified Standard Assurances

See the DOJ Certified Standard Assurances in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items

Applicants will 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; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

Applicants will review and accept the DOJ Certified 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)

If applicable, applicants will submit as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information. A DOJ High Risk Grantee is a 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, or noncompliance with award terms and conditions on prior awards, or that is otherwise not responsible.

How to Apply

Applicants will submit an **SF-424** and an **SF-LLL** in Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>.

Applicants will submit the **full application** including attachments in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://www.justgrants.usdoj.gov).

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** will be submitted in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on January 13, 2022. OJP urges applicants to submit applications at least 72 hours prior to the application due date to allow time for the applicant to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

The **full application** will be submitted in JustGrants by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on January 27, 2022.

To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline.

Application Review Information

Review Criteria

a. Merit Review Criteria

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

1. Statement of the Problem/Description of the Issue (understanding of the problem) (15%)
 - 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.
2. Project Design and Implementation (quality and technical merit) (50%).
 - 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.
3. Capabilities and Competencies (capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of the applicant organization and proposed project staff) (25%)
 - 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.
4. Potential Impact (10%)
 - Potential for a significant scientific or technical advance(s) that will improve criminal justice in the United States.
 - Potential for significantly improved understanding of the stated criminal justice problem.
 - Potential for innovative solution to address (all or a significant part of) the stated criminal 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.

5. Budget (0%)

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.
- Total cost of the project relative to the perceived benefit (cost effectiveness).
- Appropriateness of the budget relative to the level of effort.
- Use of existing resources to conserve costs.

b. Additional Review Criteria

Other important considerations for NIJ include, but are not limited to, past performance, and the extent to which the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based form, uploaded attachment) accurately explain 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 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 stated review criteria above.

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

- 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.
- The application, if submitted by an applicant that is a DOJ High Risk Grantee, or is designated "high risk" by a federal grant-making agency outside of DOJ, must not have been determined by the NIJ Director to pose a substantial risk of program implementation failure, based on 1) the applicant's lack of sufficient progress in addressing required corrective actions necessary for removal of the DOJ High Risk Grantee (or non-DOJ high risk) designation, 2) the nature and severity of the issues leading to or accompanying the DOJ High Risk Grantee (or non-DOJ high risk) designation, and/or 3) the applicant's expected ability to manage grant funds and achieve grant goals and objectives.

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. Among other things to help assess whether an applicant that has one or more prior federal awards has a satisfactory record with respect to performance, integrity, and business ethics, OJP checks whether the applicant 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 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 itself that currently appears in FAPIIS and was entered by a federal awarding agency. OJP will consider any such comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in its assessment of the risk posed by the applicant.

All final award decisions will be made by Director of the National Institute of Justice, 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

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 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 (IT) 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 information on information technology security.

General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements

In addition to the deliverables described in the "Program Description" section, any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to submit certain reports and data.

Required reports. Recipients typically must submit quarterly financial reports, *semi-annual* performance reports, final financial and progress reports, final research 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 measures data.

Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For questions directed to the Federal Awarding Agency, see NCJRS contact information on page 2.

For contact information for Grants.gov, see page 2.

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 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

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Data Recipient Provides
<p>Conduct research in social and behavioral sciences having clear implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. Quality of the research as demonstrated by the scholarly products that result in whole or in part from work funded under the NIJ award, such as published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (as appropriate for the funded project) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products. 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. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 3. If applicable, each data set that resulted in whole or in part from work funded under the NIJ award.

Application Checklist

NIJ Multisite Impact and Cost-Efficiency Evaluation of Veterans Treatment Courts, Fiscal Year 2022

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application. The [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#) is another resource.

What an Applicant Must Do:

Prior to Registering in Grants.gov:

- Acquire a DUNS Number (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Acquire or renew registration with SAM (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

To Register with Grants.gov:

- Acquire AOR and Grants.gov username/password (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Biz POC (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

To Find Funding Opportunity:

- Search for the Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov
- Access Funding Opportunity and Application Package (see [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, reporting available at ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

Overview of Post-Award Legal Requirements:

- Review the “[Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2021 Awards](#)” in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

Scope Requirement:

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

Eligibility Requirement: See cover page.

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

After SF-424 and SF-LLL Submission in Grants.gov, Receive Grants.gov Email Notifications That:

- Submission has been received in Grants.gov
- Submission has either been successfully validated or rejected with errors (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

If No Grants.gov Receipt, and Validation or Error Notifications are Received:

- Contact NCJRS Response Center regarding technical difficulties (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

Receive email notification to complete application in JustGrants:

- Complete Application in JustGrants

Content of Application Submission:

The following items are critical application elements required to pass Basic Minimum Requirements review. An application that OJP determines does not include the application elements that must be included in the application submission in order for the application to meet the basic minimum requirements, will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive further consideration.

- Program Narrative (see page 10)
- Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative, and (see page 11)
- Curriculum Vitae/Resumes for Key Personnel. (see page 12)

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**Content of Application Submission**

- Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) in Grants.gov
- Standard Applicant Information (SF-424 info from Grants.gov)
- Proposal Abstract

**Budget and Associated Documentation**

- Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (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](#))

#### Disclosures and Assurances

- [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities \(SF-LLL\)](#) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items (Pending Applications) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurance (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](#))

#### *Submit Application in JustGrants:*

- Application has been successfully submitted in JustGrants

#### *If No JustGrants Application Submission, Validation, or Error Notifications are Received:*

- Contact [JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov](mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov) or 833-872-5175 regarding technical difficulties

## Endnotes

[1] Visit NIJ's website for more information on NIJ's Courts Research at <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/courts>.

[2] NIJ's Courts Research: Examining Alternatives to Incarceration for Veterans and Other Policy Innovation (2021) NIJ Journal, <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/courts>.

[3] Visit NIJ's website for more information on NIJ's Multisite Adult Drug Court Evaluation at <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/nij-multisite-adult-drug-court-evaluation>, and NIJ's Evaluation of Second Chance Act Adult Reentry Courts at <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/awards/2010-ry-bx-0001>.

[4] Ten Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts (2017), <https://justiceforvets.org/resource/ten-key-components-of-veterans-treatment-courts/>.

[5] Baldwin and Hartley (2021). NIJ's Multisite Evaluation of Veterans Treatment Courts, <https://www.american.edu/spa/jpo/nij-multisite-evaluation.cfm>.

[6] National Institute of Justice Courts Strategic Research Plan, 2020-2024 at <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/254684.pdf>.

[7] See Drug Court Performance Measures, Program Evaluation and Cost Efficiency – Logic Model for Adult Drug Courts at <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/drug-court-performance-measures-program-evaluation-and-cost-efficiency-logic-model>.

[8] See Reentry Court Research: Overview of Findings from the National Institute of Justice's Evaluation of Second Chance Act Adult Reentry Courts at <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/251496.pdf>.

[9] See Cost-Benefit Analysis: A Guide for Drug Courts and Other Criminal Justice Programs at <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/246769.pdf>, and Cost-Benefit Analysis of Criminal Justice Reforms: NIJ's Multisite Adult Drug Court Evaluation at <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/cost-benefit-analysis-criminal-justice-reforms>.

[10] NIJ is compiling information on potential sites in collaboration with BJA and other federal agencies, and contacting VTCs to gauge their interest and resources. Note the six VTC research partner sites may have received program grant funds from BJA, but that is not a criterion for selection into this NIJ research study.