Notices regarding the solicitation "NIJ FY23 Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) Research, Evaluation, and Associated Training & Technical Assistance Support"

April 13, 2023: NIJ added an additional seven grantees to the <u>list of OJP-</u> funded CVIPI grantees that are eligible for receipt of TTA under Category 1 and for evaluation under Category 3 of this solicitation.

April 12, 2023: NIJ has posted the <u>transcript and slides</u> from a webinar discussing this solicitation.

March 23, 2023: NIJ has posted a <u>list of OJP-funded CVIPI grantees that</u> are eligible for receipt of TTA under Category 1 and for evaluation under Category 3 of this solicitation.

March 13, 2023: The link to the webinar on page 3 under the "Pre-application Information Session" heading has been corrected.

OJP has released the solicitation "<u>FY 2023 Office of Justice</u> <u>Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention</u> <u>Initiative</u>," which is referenced on page 10 of this solicitation.

The original funding opportunity document begins on the next page.

OMB No. 1121-0329 Expires 12/31/2023

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



NIJ FY23 Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) Research, Evaluation, and Associated Training & Technical Assistance Support

Assistance Listing Number # 16.560 Grants.gov Opportunity Number: O-NIJ-2023-171648 Solicitation Release Date: March 07, 2023 2:30 PM ET Step 1: Application Grants.gov Deadline: May 22, 2023 11:59 PM ET Step 2: Application JustGrants Deadline: June 05, 2023 8:59 PM ET

Overview

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), National Institute of Justice (NIJ) seeks applications for funding under the OJP Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI). The CVIPI provides resources to support evidence-informed violence intervention and prevention programs in communities across the United States. This solicitation includes four funding categories: 1) Training and Technical Assistance to Support CVIPI Evaluation Capacity Building and Researcher and Practitioner Partnerships; 2) Training and Technical Assistance to Support Violent Crime Problem Analyses of Jurisdictions not Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations; 3) Site-Based Evaluations of Programs Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations, and 4) Other Community-Violence Research and Evaluations. This program furthers the DOJ's mission by supporting the development of new knowledge and tools to reduce violent crime and address the challenges of crime and justice in the United States through fundamental and action research.

This solicitation incorporates guidance provided in the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource</u> <u>Guide</u> 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**

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guidelines in this solicitation as to that provision.

Solicitation Categories

Competition ID	Category *	Number of Awards	Dollar Amount for Award		Performance Duration (Months)
C-NIJ-2023-00017-PROD	Category 1: Training and Technical Assistance to Support CVIPI Evaluation Capacity Building and Researcher and Practitioner Partnerships	1	\$5,000,000	1/1/24 12:00 AM	60
C-NIJ-2023-00018-PROD	Category 2: Training and Technical Assistance to Support Violent Crime Problem Analyses of Jurisdictions not Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations	1	\$2,000,000	1/1/24 12:00 AM	60
C-NIJ-2023-00019-PROD	Category 3: Site- Based Evaluations of Programs Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations	4 to 6	\$833,000 to \$1,250,000	1/1/24 12:00 AM	60
C-NIJ-2023-00020-PROD	Category 4: Other Community-Violence Research and Evaluations	3 to 5	\$600,000 to \$1,000,000	1/1/24 12:00 AM	60

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, Small businesses, Special district governments,

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State governments

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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u>.

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. 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.

Pre-application Information Session

NIJ will hold a solicitation webinar on March 23, 2023, at 3:00 PM ET. This call will provide a detailed overview of the solicitation and allow an opportunity for interested applicants to ask questions. Preregistration is required for all participants. Register by clicking on this link: <u>https://ojp.webex.com/weblink/register/</u>

r14637774056595a30a74e37d8593b44a and following the instructions. To use the time most efficiently, NIJ encourages participants to review the solicitation and submit any questions they may have in advance and no later than March 19, 2023. Submit your questions to <u>Barbara.E.Lopez@usdoj.gov</u> with the subject as "Questions for NIJ FY23 Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) Research, Evaluation, and Associated Training &Technical Assistance Support Webinar."

Submission Information

<u>Registration</u>: Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the <u>System for Award Management (SAM)</u>. 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.

Page 3 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 <u>Submission</u>: Applications must be submitted to DOJ electronically through a two-step process via Grants.gov and JustGrants.

<u>Step 1</u>: 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 <u>https://www.grants.gov/</u> 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, <u>Grants.gov</u> <u>Customer Support</u>, or <u>support@grants.gov</u>. The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

<u>Step 2</u>: The applicant must submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at <u>JustGrants.usdoj.gov</u> 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 <u>JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</u>. 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 "<u>How To Apply</u>" section in the <u>OJP Grant</u> <u>Application Resource Guide</u> and the <u>JustGrants website</u> 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 applications for funding under <u>OJP Community-Based</u> <u>Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI)</u>. CVIPI provides resources to support evidence-informed violence intervention and prevention programs in communities across the United States. This solicitation includes four funding categories: 1) Training and Technical Assistance to Support CVIPI Evaluation Capacity Building and Researcher and Practitioner Partnerships; 2) Training and Technical Assistance to Support Violent Crime Problem Analyses of Jurisdictions not Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations; 3) Site-Based Evaluations of Programs Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations, and 4) Other Community-Violence Research and Evaluations.

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.

Applications proposing research involving partnerships with criminal justice or other agencies, should include a 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 acknowledgement 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 the award. Applicants and their potential partners are encouraged to review <u>NIJ's data archiving guidance</u>. If selected for an award, grantees will be expected to have a formal agreement in place with partnering agencies by January 1, 2024. That formal agreement must include a provision to meet the data archiving requirements of the award.

NIJ seeks proposals that include robust, creative, and multi-pronged dissemination

Page 8 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 strategies that include strategic partnerships with organizations and associations that are 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

Bipartisan Safer Communities Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117-159, 136 Stat. 1313, 1339); Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2023 (Pub. L. No. 117-328, 136 Stat. 4459, 4537; 28 U.S.C. 530C).

Specific Information

The OJP Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) provides resources to support evidence-informed violence intervention and prevention programs in communities across the United States. Specifically, the Initiative seeks to prevent and reduce violent crime in communities by supporting comprehensive, evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs based on partnerships among community residents, local government agencies (including law enforcement, social services, employment, and housing), victim service providers, community-based organizations, law enforcement, hospitals, researchers, and other community stakeholders. The Initiative is carried out through a collaborative approach of various OJP components to help ensure access to expertise and resources to address community violence.

Community violence generally happens outside the home in public spaces, involving a relatively small number of people as victims or perpetrators. Higher levels of violence in communities undermine community stability and well-being and contribute to a lower sense of safety and security. Community violence often impacts entire communities by, for example, eroding public health and safety, triggering economic disruption, and contributing to lasting individual and community traumas. Mitigation efforts typically focus on high-risk individuals, gun violence, specific violent crime problems, as well as the historical and structural challenges that underlie concentrations of community violence.[1]

Community violence intervention (CVI) is an approach that uses evidenceinformed strategies to reduce violence through tailored, community-centered initiatives. These multidisciplinary strategies engage individuals and groups to prevent and disrupt

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cycles of violence and retaliation and establish relationships between individuals and community assets to deliver services that save lives, address trauma, provide opportunity, and improve the physical, social, and economic conditions that drive violence.[2]

This solicitation includes four funding categories with different expectations and requirements to support research and evaluation complementary to and in support of the CVIPI. Applicants may apply for NIJ funding consideration under multiple categories. If an applicant intends to submit proposals to multiple categories, each proposal should be submitted in a separate application and must specify which category is applicable on the cover page of the program narrative.

Category 1: Training and Technical Assistance to Support CVIPI Evaluation Capacity Building and Researcher and Practitioner Partnerships

Many community-based entities implementing community violence intervention and prevention programs funded under the OJP CVIPI demonstrate commitment to developing and implementing evidence-based violence reduction strategies. Still, many have limited capacity to build partnerships with researchers, monitor performance, and gather reliable data to document the given program's impact. This often hinders the development of sound evidence and solutions to reduce violence in the community.

To address this challenge, NIJ seeks proposals to host the NIJ Community Violence Intervention Research and Evaluation Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Center to assist OJP-funded CVIPI sites to best position themselves to implement programs with fidelity, thus increasing the odds of them yielding intended impacts in violence reduction, and to support sites in preparing for rigorous impact evaluations. These include projects funded under FY 2022 OJP CVIPI solicitation and projects receiving funding under FY23 OJP CVIPI solicitation.

The successful applicant is expected to achieve two primary objectives:

- 1. Expand the capacity of OJP-funded CVIPI grantees and their partners by enhancing researcher and practitioner partnerships and gathering reliable data to document the program's implementation and impact.
- 2. Contribute to the body of knowledge on promising practices among participating OJP CVIPI programs/sites, CVI strategies, and/or how the program is moving the field forward. This can be achieved by capturing findings, common challenges, documenting successes across the network of CVIPI sites, and disseminating resources and lessons learned to the CVIPI programs/sites and allied professionals based on analysis of performance metric data, case studies, and other documentation of programmatic implementation and impact.

Tasks associated with achieving these objectives are minimally expected to include:

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- Provide CVIPI program sites and their local research partners* with training, TA, and tools to ensure they are approaching their work in an inclusive manner that builds internal data collection and analysis capacity and employs an action research framework. Heavy emphasis should be placed on implementation evaluation, which includes guidance on developing robust site-specific logic models and collecting and tracking performance metrics on inputs, outputs, and outcomes. When applicable, assistance should also be provided in developing a common set of variables to assess and measure implementation, outputs, outcomes, and impacts associated with the CVIPI program and strategies.
- Provide guidance to local research partners in conducting data-driven scanning and analysis activities to support accurate identification of target populations (e.g., by risk and need); routine tracking of implementation fidelity; provision of real-time feedback to program implementors about areas of program delivery, content, and dosage in need of improvement; and development of site-specific assessments of impact.
- Assist CVIPI sites in the development of meaningful implementation and short and long-term impact measures, including the development of data collection and process-monitoring systems.
- Improve the collection of performance metric data to be shared with BJA for grant management purposes.
- Conduct case studies,** using both qualitative and quantitative methods as appropriate, to identify promising practices in evaluation capacity building based on intermediate outcomes. The focus should be on implementation and impact evaluations and the applicability of new evaluation approaches, developmental evaluations, principles from complexity science, and implementation science to examine how CVI strategies are adapting and evolving and how these strategies contribute to behavior change.
- Provide training at conferences and other events, including the convening(s) of OJP CVIPI grantees, to help raise awareness of promising practices in building partnerships, monitoring performance, and implementing or enhancing programs that are evaluation-ready.
- Develop online resources, tools, and other products to help improve the evaluation capacity for the CVIPI programs and promote continuous learning within the CVIPI community (please refer to the <u>BJA Smart Suite TTA</u> to ensure that this TTA is complementary and not duplicative of BJA Smart Suite TTA).
- Share emerging information with various stakeholders engaged with CVI work through webinars, conferences, workshops, blogs, and other online/virtual communication methods. The information should be tailored to the specific audience. For example, the information for research partners might focus on methods, peer support, community of practice, and other applicable topics, while the information for practitioners might focus on what to expect when working with a researcher, how to communicate about research and findings to policymakers, and other relevant topics.

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*All participating local research partners funded with OJP funds must comply with OJP Human Subject Protection (See HSP Section on page 37) and Privacy (See Privacy Certificate section on page 37) regulations.

**The case studies requirement necessitates compliance with OJP Human Subject Protection (See HSP Section on page 37) and Privacy (See Privacy Certificate section on page 37) regulations.

In carrying out these activities, the successful applicant is expected to collaborate with the other OJP-funded TTA providers to support the management and continuous improvement of OJP-funded programs/sites.

Minimally, NIJ expects the following deliverables:

- Monthly calls with the NIJ science staff monitor.
- Monthly reports, tracking TTA activities.
- Quarterly financial and performance reports and semiannual performance reports in compliance with DOJ grant requirements.
- An interim and final report summarizing the overall Initiative, including a summary
 of the TTA project, success stories, and lessons learned from all relevant capacitybuilding activities, including those aiming to strengthen and/or develop researcherpractitioner partnerships, support evaluation of CVI initiatives, performance metric
 data and analysis, case studies descriptive summary of emerging themes and
 promising practices, as well as other documentation of programmatic impact.

In furtherance of the goals and objectives described above, NIJ will enter into a cooperative agreement with the successful TTA applicant to ensure NIJ's involvement in key decisions and the project's direction.

Successful applicants must provide staffing support to include necessary and demonstrated qualifications related to expertise and credentials in contemporary data collection methods, evaluation research design, participatory research methods, and action research methods. Prior experience working with and assisting community-based organizations/entities and/or units of local government is preferable. Applicants must present a phased budget that reflects the following phases of work: 1) planning and developing assistance to individual sites, 2) all anticipated costs associated with completing all the tasks under this category, and 3) final comprehensive technical report and data archiving.

Category 2: Training and Technical Assistance to Support Violent Crime Problem Analyses of Jurisdictions not Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations

Page 12 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 Research consistently demonstrates that highly focused strategies aimed at factors driving violent crime are effective in preventing and reducing levels of violent crime.[3] The starting point for informing highly focused intervention and prevention strategies for community-based organizations (CBOs) or units of local government (ULGs) is to develop a strategic plan. Such strategic plans identify potential drivers of violence in the given community based on analysis of holistic/various data (both quantitative and qualitative) and specific populations adversely affected by community violence and at the greatest need for intervention. Importantly, the plan also provides problem-solving strategies for integrating evidence-based strategies into practice for more effective and efficient community-led programmatic interventions and prevention efforts in reducing community violence. Unfortunately, some CBOs and ULGs have limited resources to pursue such an undertaking. Thus, NIJ aims to support CBOs and ULGs through a TTA provider to help them use data to set the stage for successful CVI initiatives.

Under Category 2, NIJ seeks applications for funding of one TTA provider to support violent crime problem analyses of CBOs or ULGs **not funded** under <u>FY 2022 OJP CVIPI</u> <u>solicitation</u> or FY23 OJP CVIPI solicitation. Specifically, NIJ expects to fund one TTA provider to support violent crime problem analyses based on shootings, homicides, and other relevant data and strategic plan development to support the design and implementation of CVI strategies. Applicants must apply as a centralized TTA provider with responsibility for designing the overall approach and the activities and products but have leeway to delegate the execution of tasks related to specific jurisdictions through contracts.

The successful applicant will deliver a wide range of TTA services to jurisdictions not receiving OJP CVIPI funding, namely, to CBOs or ULGs (e.g., Mayors' Offices of Violence Prevention) aiming at reducing violence in their respective communities. These services will focus on analyses of shootings and homicides and other relevant factors potentially driving violence in the given community/jurisdiction to support the design and implementation of CVI strategies. Services will also support key tools to translate this knowledge into strategic plans for each participating jurisdiction/site. One of the key benefits of integrating analytical tools into CVI programs is that such analyses support the development of highly focused interventions. Another benefit is that the information obtained through such analysis helps better understand crime drivers specific to the given community, allowing for more targeted responses to specific issues. These efforts help jurisdictions identify the root cause(s), allowing the implementation of targeted and promising/evidence-based interventions suitable for future implementation and impact evaluation.

The successful applicant will also provide TTA to inform development of strategic plans for the participating CBOs or ULGs. Strategic plans should include means to improve programs' capabilities to implement innovative, data-driven CVI approaches, enabling jurisdictions to understand the full nature and extent of community violence and related challenges and target resources toward the highest priorities in their specific community.

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When applicable, the plans should set a baseline for 1) future evaluation that is specific to potential target areas; 2) identification of other outcomes relevant to CVI that extend beyond reducing violent crime numbers; 3) identification/improvement of measures of community trust/concerns about law enforcement; 4) community-level inventory of resources/services that might support a future CVI program (e.g., trauma-informed therapeutic care, jobs programs/training/opportunities, education programs, housing programs); 5) service gaps/needs analysis; 6) examining community perceptions of crime drawn directly from community members – including those directly impacted by violence; and 7) analysis of other law enforcement information beyond violent crime statistics (e.g., high-level gang intelligence – rivalries, territories, methods, and activities). Training, materials, and technical assistance should focus on supporting multi-method, <u>community-driven</u> analyses of quantitative and qualitative data to set the stage for building CVI programs that are well-suited to meet local needs.

The TTA provider should partner with an interdisciplinary team of subject matter experts (researchers and practitioners). The team should include individuals with expertise in community-driven violence reduction strategies, evaluation and implementation science, community violence, strategic crime analysis, strategic communications, and other relevant expertise.

Services will include, but are not limited to, virtual training sessions, collaboration with the <u>CVIPI Resource Center</u> to provide tools and resources supporting violent crime analysis and strategic plan development to reduce community violence; collaboration with participating CBOs or ULGs; when feasible, collecting and tracking analytical reports and strategic plans; providing remote and onsite guidance on problem analysis, solution development, and data analysis; and producing "real-time" products and resources for strategic decision-making.

NIJ seeks a TTA provider with extensive TTA expertise, experience, and knowledge related to this Category and the goals and objectives described below.

- Enhance the violent crime problem analyses capacity of community- or localgovernment-led violence intervention and prevention programs not funded under OJP CVIPI by providing TTA support and assistance in collecting and analyzing criminal justice, public safety, public health, and other relevant community data and using data to analyze and identify a community, criminal justice-, and public safetyrelated problems in the given community/jurisdiction to inform the development of the CVI strategic plan.
- 2. Enhance the strategic plan development capacity of community- or localgovernment-led violence intervention and prevention programs not funded under OJP CVIPI by providing TTA support and assistance in using data to develop and/ or enhance the CVI program, evidence-based strategic planning techniques and approaches, evidence translation and how to communicate findings to diverse audiences, and developing "real-time" products and resources for strategic

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decision-making.

The recipient selected for this award will provide TTA in problem analysis, offer resources to proven processes and strategies, develop jurisdiction-specific resources to inform CVI strategic plans, and support jurisdictions/program providers with ongoing assistance. The TTA provider will be expected to develop a process for soliciting, selecting, and intaking TTA recipients and describe how they will market their services, prioritize applicants, and what the limits are to their services (note: NIJ must approve the application process, selection criteria, and selection of subrecipients suggested by the applicant). The TTA provider will also be expected to assess the general range and types of available TTA to selected jurisdictions/program providers that will be needed for each analysis and to devise analytic plans that support local strategic plans for combating community violence.

For Category 2, NIJ expects the following tasks and deliverables:

- Support training and assistance to CBOs and/or ULGs on violent crime problem analysis through virtual training sessions. Training may be in the form of concentrated virtual sessions over 2-3 days or extended virtual training courses that take place over a number of weeks. Applicants are encouraged to think creatively about training delivery methods, ensuring they are based on adult learning principles and incorporating lessons learned for educating through virtual means. Training should be geared to meet the needs of jurisdictions/program providers. At the minimum, the training should provide information on adaptive and strategic problem solving, violent crime problem analysis (examples of such training may include basic or advanced descriptive and inferential statistical methods and introduction to applied geospatial social research), and strategic plan development with devised measurable goals and objectives, and data collection methods to support development or enhancement of an evaluable CVI program. Training should be made available virtually and recorded to ensure equitable access. The selection of teams (i.e., participating jurisdictions/program providers) shall be done in coordination with NIJ science staff. The successful applicant should also demonstrate how the services provided will complement the resources provided by the OJP FY22 CVIPI Resource Center and site-based TTA Providers, as well as with NTTAC's Crime Analysis on Demand program to streamline processes and deliverables.
- A web-based resource for participating jurisdictions/program providers and other relevant audiences with information on violent crime problem analysis in the community and tools and guidelines for translating evidence into an actionable, community-focused CVI strategic plan and tracking and promoting information highlighting the successes and outcomes of participating jurisdictions.
- As needed, deliver onsite and remote TTA to participating jurisdictions/program providers on implementation challenges. This should include plans for up to 5 onsite engagements and multiple remote-only assistance per site.
- TTA on strategic communications and how to effectively translate violent crime problem analysis findings into strategic plans or guidance at the state and local

Page 15 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 levels. This TTA should assist participating jurisdictions/program providers in disseminating information and updates about their projects within their community stakeholders and/or department/agency throughout the life of the project to create greater knowledge and understanding about the value of the findings and proposed solutions to the identified violent crime problem in the community.

- A series of products (webinars, white papers, podcasts, videos, short courses, etc.) to promote continuous learning within the CVI community for an ongoing dialogue of peers to support learning and networking.
- Active coordination and communication with jurisdictions/program providers to compile lessons learned and development of summary documents and other products on these findings.

In furtherance of the goals and objectives described above, NIJ will enter into a cooperative agreement with the successful TTA applicant to ensure NIJ's involvement in key decisions and the project's direction.

Successful applicants must provide staffing support to include necessary and demonstrated qualifications related to expertise and credentials relevant to requirements under this category. Prior experience working with and assisting CBOs and ULGs is preferable. Applicants must present a phased budget that reflects the following phases of work: 1) planning and developing assistance to individual programs/jurisdictions, 2) all anticipated costs associated with completing all the tasks under this category, and 3) final comprehensive technical report and data archiving.

Category 3: Site-Based Evaluations of Programs Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations

Under Category 3, NIJ seeks applications for funding of rigorous evaluation projects to produce evidence about programs that aim to prevent and reduce violence in the community. Specifically, NIJ seeks to fund proposals for rigorous FY22 and FY23 OJP-Funded Site-Based Evaluations.

NIJ will accept proposals for funding of rigorous, independent formative or process evaluations and evaluations of the outcomes and impacts of projects funded under the FY 2022, Categories 1-4, or in tandem with applications requesting programmatic funding under FY 2023 OJP Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative solicitation (hereafter, the OJP CVIPI solicitation), Categories 1-2. Outcome and impact evaluations are also expected to examine questions regarding program implementation (e.g., process evaluation).^[4] To be considered under this solicitation, an applicant must collaborate with an entity awarded under FY 2022, Categories 1-4, or an entity applying to the FY 2023 OJP programmatic solicitation, Categories 1-2. The applicant must clearly document that collaboration with a signed memorandum of understanding or letter of support.

The knowledge gained through these evaluations will build evidence of the

Page 16 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 implementation and effectiveness of strategies designed to reduce violent crime using community-based interventions.

CVIPI is an approach that uses comprehensive, evidence-based intervention and prevention programs to reduce violence through tailored, community-centered initiatives. This includes efforts to address gang and gun violence based on partnerships between community residents, law enforcement, local government agencies, and other community stakeholders. These multidisciplinary strategies engage with individuals and groups to prevent and disrupt cycles of violence and retaliation and establish relationships with individuals and community assets to deliver services that save lives, address trauma, and provide opportunities to improve the physical, social, and economic conditions driving community violence.

NIJ seeks to support independent, rigorous evaluations of projects funded under the OJP CVIPI solicitation. NIJ recognizes that the projects funded through the OJP CVIPI solicitation will implement an expansive range of program approaches and strategies to address community violence in keeping with the following CVIPI guiding principles, as articulated in the OJP CVIPI solicitation:

- Targeted Violence Interventions and Supports for Highest-Need Groups
- Community-Centered and Equity-Focused
- Integration with Public Safety/Public Health
- Strategic, Data-Driven, and Performance-Focused

NIJ encourages applicants to propose evaluations that address the complexities of CVIPI projects which engage stakeholders across systems such as public safety, public health, education, social services, economic development, housing, and other relevant community sectors.[5] Evaluation applicants should propose the most rigorous, appropriate design, incorporating community stakeholder and resident involvement as a focus in the design and conduct of the evaluation. This may include a focus on participatory or action research.

Applicants are expected to demonstrate how their study would build on existing research. The application should clearly describe the approach(es) to be evaluated, including the purpose, key components, and intended short, intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

In preparing their application, the NIJ applicant should work with the OJP applicant or grantee organization to develop a conceptual logic model for evaluating the CVIPI project. If relevant, applications should include and append supplementary materials to describe the program, practice, or policy under study and demonstrate that needed data will be available for the study.

Applicants proposing impact evaluation must consider other potential influences and confounds when applicable. NIJ wants to understand whether an overall program is effective and what elements within or external to the program design or implementation

Page 17 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 contribute to its success or failure. For example, applicants may investigate the impact of particular program services or individuals who provide services (e.g., violence interrupters, skills development) in producing safer communities and how to best engage the community in violence prevention and intervention.

CVIPI projects may impact, either intentionally or unintentionally, outcomes other than violence reduction. Consequently, NIJ is interested in studies that propose to explore outcomes other than violence reduction that such programs may have.

The proposed evaluation should help inform the development or refinement of community intervention and/or prevention programs, policies, and/or practices to reduce community violence. Applicants should clearly describe the proposed evaluation approach's external validity, emphasizing how findings may be generalizable to additional populations and jurisdictions.

Funds from any award under Category 3 may include reasonable costs incurred by program personnel to support activities directly and exclusively required to execute the research and evaluation (e.g., manual extraction of administrative records). No funds are allowed to be budgeted for direct services.

Note: Applicant for this category must include the name of the collaborating organization funded under the <u>OJP FY2022 CVIPI</u> solicitation or applying for funding under the OJP FY2023 CVIPI solicitation and the title and location of the CVIPI application to be evaluated on the cover page of the proposal narrative.

Category 4: Other Community-Violence Research and Evaluations

Under Category 4, NIJ seeks applications for funding of community violence research and evaluation of programs not funded under:

- OJP FY2022 CVIPI solicitation or
- Those applying for programmatic funding under OJP FY2023 CVIPI solicitation.

This category focuses broadly on concerns related to community violence. Communities that have endured the highest levels of violence over generations are often communities of color, and disproportionate levels of violence in these communities contribute to a lowered sense of safety and security and disparities in the criminal justice system. Much has been learned about violence in the community, including strategies for violence intervention, prevention, and reduction. However, community violence remains a significant problem without a simple solution.^[6] Thus, this category seeks to advance knowledge on violence in the community to inform the development of effective, violent crime reduction programs.

Applicants should propose the most rigorous and appropriate design, incorporating theory-driven research and evaluation and community stakeholder involvement

Page 18 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 whenever possible. This may include a focus on participatory or action research. Multisite studies and replication studies of rigorously conducted research and evaluations are encouraged. In addition, NIJ is interested in both evaluations that propose using existing data or conducting primary data collection. NIJ encourages applicants to propose studies that include the collaboration of the criminal justice system with other systems that address community violence. These systems may include public safety, public health, education, social services, economic development, and other relevant community sectors.[7]

Applications should include and append any supplementary materials necessary to describe the program, practice, policy, or legislation under study and demonstrate that needed data will be available for the study.

Research to Improve Understanding of Community Violence

NIJ seeks applications for rigorous research with clear research questions to help improve our understanding of violence in the community. Studies may examine community violence, the communities where violence occurs, those who perpetrate violence, and/or victims of violence.[8] Applicants are encouraged to focus on communities where violence is persistently high or where there has been a recent increase in violence. Applications may propose a range of topics related to community violence, and proposed research should help develop or refine community intervention or prevention programs and/or practices to reduce community violence. Examples may include, but are not limited to, the examination of the causes and consequences of violence in the community, individuals who are at high risk of engaging in or being victimized by violent crime in the community, place-based strategies addressing violent crime, and legislation and/or policies designed to support community violence prevention and/or intervention.

NIJ is specifically interested in proposals involving collaboration or partnerships with practitioners and community stakeholders to help inform the study.

Evaluation of Community Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs (other than those funded under OJP CVIPI FY22 and FY23)

NIJ seeks applications for rigorous evaluations to improve evidence on the effectiveness of local, community-based, and government-based prevention and intervention programs aiming to improve public safety by reducing violence in the community.^[9] Some of these programs may intend to impact violence in the community generally. Other programs may target particular types of violence or individuals who are hard to reach and/or at the highest risk of violence perpetration and victimization (e.g., those involved in gangs or traumatized individuals). Applicants are expected to demonstrate how their study would build on existing research. The application should clearly describe the approach(es) to be evaluated, including the purpose, key components, and intended short, intermediate, and

Page 19 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 long-term outcomes.

Of particular interest are applications that propose to examine the process and impact of **community violence intervention and prevention programs**. NIJ will also consider applications proposing evaluations of strategies listed below only if the applicant clearly demonstrates the connection and/or interaction of the given strategy to or with CVI.

- Comprehensive, community-wide approaches to prevention
- Collaborative approaches involving multiple systems or disciplines (e.g., criminal justice and community-based service providers)
- Place-based interventions
- Approaches to improve procedural justice and equity
- Low-cost violence reduction strategies
- · Policing prevention strategies and practices that interact with CVI

NIJ wants to understand not only whether an overall program is effective but also what elements within or external to the program design or implementation contribute to its success or failure. For example, applications may address the impact of particular program services or individuals who provide services (e.g., violence interrupters, skills training) in producing safer communities and how to best engage the community in violence prevention and intervention. Relatedly, NIJ wants to improve the understanding of benefits other than violence reduction that programs may have.

Additional Information

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, as well as 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.

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 Page 20 of 53

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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.

New Investigator/Early Career Opportunity

Applies only to Category 4 applicants.

NIJ is interested in supporting researchers who are early in their careers and new to NIJ's research grant portfolios, specifically non-tenured assistant professors, or equivalent full-time staff scientist positions in a research institution, who propose research on topics relevant to NIJ's Office of Research, Evaluation, and Technology (ORET). To that end, NIJ may, in appropriate circumstances, give special consideration in award decisions to applications proposing such researchers as principal investigators (PIs). To qualify, the proposed PI must at the time of application submission:

- Hold a non-tenured assistant professor appointment at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States or an equivalent full-time staff scientist position at a research institution in the United States.
- Have completed a terminal degree or post-graduate clinical training within the six

Page 21 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 (6) years prior to September 30, 2023.

• Have never previously received NIJ funding as a PI on a research project with the exception of Graduate Research Fellows.

If seeking to be considered for the New Investigator/Early Career Opportunity, the applicant should identify that it is submitting a New Investigator/Early Career proposal on the title page of the application.

Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

With this solicitation, NIJ seeks applications for funding to support the conduct of and carry out independent evaluations of community violence intervention and prevention programs and conduct rigorous research on community violence.

Goals

This solicitation aims to enhance CVI evaluation capacity and produce practical knowledge that can advance the prevention and reduction of violent crime in communities.

Objectives

An applicant should address all the objectives listed below in the Goals, Objectives, Deliverables and Timeline web-based form.

Funding projects under four different categories will achieve the goals of this solicitation:

Category 1: Training and Technical Assistance to Support Researcher and Practitioner Partnerships, Performance Monitoring, and Documentation of the Programmatic Impact of OJP-funded CVIPI Programs/Sites.

Category 2: Training and Technical Assistance to Support Violent Crime Problem Analyses of Jurisdictions not Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations.

Category 3: Site-Based Evaluations of Programs Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations.

Category 4: Other Community-Violence Research and Evaluations.

Deliverables

Refer to each Category for this solicitation for the category-specific deliverables, if applicable. All successful applicants are required to submit the following deliverables:

Final Research Report. Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be expected

Page 22 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 to submit a final research report. Additional information on the final research report requirement for the solicitation is posted on NIJ's <u>webpage</u>.

<u>Required Data Sets and Associated Files and Documentation</u>. 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 show the completed work's results, as discussed in the "Application and Submission Information" section.

Priority Areas

The Department of Justice 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.

1. Priority Considerations Supporting Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

In support of Executive Order 13985, OJP will give priority consideration to:

A. (Category 4 only) Applications that propose research project(s) that are designed to promote racial equity **and** the removal of barriers to access and opportunity for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality, when making award decisions.

To receive this consideration, the applicant must describe how the proposed project(s) will address potential inequities and barriers to equal opportunity, and/or contribute to greater access to services for underserved and historically marginalized populations.

Page 23 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 B. (Categories 1 - 4) Applicants that demonstrate that their capabilities and competencies for implementing their proposed project(s) are enhanced because they (or at least one proposed subrecipient that will receive **at least 40%** of the requested award funding, as demonstrated in the Budget Web-Based Form) identify as a *culturally specific organization*.

To receive this additional priority consideration, applicants must describe how being a culturally specific organization (or funding the culturally specific subrecipient organization (s)) will enhance their ability to implement the proposed project(s) and should also specify which populations are intended or expected to be served or to have their needs addressed under the proposed project(s).

Culturally specific organizations are defined for the purposes of this solicitation as private nonprofit or tribal organizations whose primary purpose as a whole is to provide culturally specific services to racial and ethnic groups, including, among others, Black people, Hispanic and Latino people, Native American and other Indigenous peoples of North America (including Alaska Native, Eskimo, and Aleut), Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and/or Pacific Islanders.

2. Minority Serving Institutions

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

MSIs 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)

Whether an institution is an MSI is based on the original purpose of its establishment or its current enrollment thresholds and is designated as such by the federal government for various purposes under specific statutes. For more information, please see the U.S. Department of Education's <u>definitions</u> and <u>lists of institutions</u>. (The lists are provided for reference purposes only; MSI status is not an eligibility criterion for this solicitation.)

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.

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Federal Award Information

Solicitation Categories

Competition ID	Category *	Number of Awards	Dollar Amount for Award		Performance Duration (Months)
C-NIJ-2023-00017-PROD	Category 1: Training and Technical Assistance to Support CVIPI Evaluation Capacity Building and Researcher and Practitioner Partnerships	1	\$5,000,000	1/1/24 12:00 AM	60
C-NIJ-2023-00018-PROD	Category 2: Training and Technical Assistance to Support Violent Crime Problem Analyses of Jurisdictions not Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations	1	\$2,000,000	1/1/24 12:00 AM	60
C-NIJ-2023-00019-PROD	Category 3: Site- Based Evaluations of Programs Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations	4 to 6	\$833,000 to \$1,250,000	1/1/24 12:00 AM	60
C-NIJ-2023-00020-PROD	Category 4: Other Community-Violence Research and Evaluations	3 to 5	\$600,000 to \$1,000,000	1/1/24 12:00 AM	60

Awards, Amounts and Durations

Anticipated Number of Awards TBD

Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount of Awards TBD

Period of Performance Start Date	
1/1/24	

Period of Performance Duration (Months) Up to 60

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Anticipated Total Amount to be Awarded Under Solicitation

Up to \$15,000,000

Additional Information

Please see Anticipated Number of Awards, 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 awards under (Categories 1 & 2) of this solicitation as cooperative agreements, which provide for OJP to have substantial involvement in carrying out award activities.

NIJ expects to make awards under (Categories 3 & 4) of this solicitation as grants.

See the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section of the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for a brief discussion of important statutes, regulations, and award conditions that apply to many (or, in some cases, all) OJP.

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls

Awards recipients and subrecipients (including recipients or subrecipients that are passthrough 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.

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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.

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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for information on pre-agreement costs (also known as pre-award costs).

Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation: Waiver

See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for information on the Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver.

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

Page 27 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for information on Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs.

Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)

See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for information on Costs Associated with Language Assistance.

Anticipated Number of Awards

One award for Category 1 and one award for Category 2. Four to six awards for Category 3 and three to five awards for Category 4. Total number of awards to be determined by the number of applications received and their merit.

Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount of the Awards

For Category 1, up to \$5,000,000. For Category 2, up to \$2,000,000. For Category 3, up to \$5,000,000 and for Category 4, up to \$3,000,000. Total amount for categories 3 and 4 to be determined by the research requirements proposed in applications selected for award. 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

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

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

Page 28 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> 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

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Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)

The "Standard Applicant Information" section of the JustGrants application is prepopulated 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 webbased 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, Researcher ID, Scopus Author ID), if

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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.

For Category 3: Must include the name of the collaborating organization funded under the <u>OJP FY2022 CVIPI</u> solicitation or applying for funding under the OJP FY2023 CVIPI solicitation, the corresponding programmatic application title, and name and location of the CVIPI program to be evaluated.

For Category 4: Requests for consideration under "new investigator" and/or "priority areas of research" areas.

b. <u>Resubmit Response</u> (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. <u>Table of Contents and Figures</u> (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

Page 31 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 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.

If the applicant is seeking priority consideration for Priority 1(A), it should address in this section how the proposed project(s) will address issues related to racial equity **and** the removal of barriers to access and opportunity, and/or contribute to greater access to services, for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality, and should also identify how the project design and implementation will specifically incorporate the input or participation of these communities.

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.

If the applicant is seeking priority consideration under Priority 1(B), it should describe within this section how being a culturally specific organization (or funding Page 32 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 a culturally specific subrecipient organization at a minimum of **40%** of the project budget) will enhance its ability to implement the proposed project(s) and specify which culturally specific populations are intended or expected to be the subject and/ or beneficiary of the research conducted under the proposed project(s).

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

- The project management plan.
- If the application (including the budget) identifies any proposed noncompetitive 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 <u>www.ojp.gov/performance</u> 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

Page 33 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 quarter that each objective and deliverable will be completed. Please refer to the <u>Application Submission Job Aid</u> 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 <u>Complete the Application in JustGrants – Budget</u> training.

The following paragraph (on "Cofunding") expressly modifies the "Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement" provisions in the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u>. 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.

If the applicant is seeking priority consideration under Priority 1(A) and has proposed activities (such as community or stakeholder meetings, community outreach or public awareness campaigns, community participation in project design, implementation, or evaluation, etc.) to incorporate the input and participation of communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality, financial support for the identified activities and participation must be reflected in the web-based budget form.

If the applicant is seeking priority consideration under Priority 1(B) based on the identification of at least one proposed subrecipient as a culturally specific organization, the proposed funding for the subrecipient in the web-based budget form **must reflect a minimum of 40% of award funding.** The budget narrative must also describe how the activities that will be funded with the (minimum) 40% of award funding provided to the subrecipient **specifically relate to the priority consideration requested** and described in the Capabilities and Competencies section of the application.

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

See the section on Costs Requiring Prior Approval in the <u>DOJ Grants Financial Guide</u> <u>Post Award Requirements</u> 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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for more information on indirect costs.

Consultant Rate

See the <u>DOJ Grants Financial Guide</u> for information on the consultant rates which require prior approval from OJP.

Limitation on Employee Compensation; Waiver

See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> 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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> 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.

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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 coprincipal 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 <u>OJP Grant</u> <u>Application Resource Guide</u> 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 <u>OJP Grant</u> <u>Application Resource Guide</u>.

Bibliography/reference

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

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

Page 36 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 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 " <u>Proposed Project Staff, Affiliation, and Roles</u>" 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 <u>https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/human-subjects-protection</u>. **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 <u>https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/confidentiality-and-privacy-protections</u> and <u>https://nij.ojp.gov/</u><u>funding/model-privacy-certificate</u>).

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.

Documentation of "new investigator" status, if applicable

Documentation of "new investigator" status, if applicable.

Consortium/Contractual Arrangements

Page 37 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 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 <u>https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/data-archiving</u>.

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 <u>OJP Grant Application</u> <u>Resource Guide</u> for additional information.

DOJ Certified Standard Assurances

Review and accept the DOJ Certified Standard Assurances in JustGrants. See the <u>OJP</u> <u>Grant Application Resource Guide</u> 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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for additional information.

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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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> 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

<u>Registration</u>: 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.

<u>Submission</u>: 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 <u>https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html</u> 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 <u>JustGrants.usdoj.gov</u> 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 <u>DIAMD-NoReply@usdoj.gov</u> 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 Page 39 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 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 <u>OJP Grant Application</u> <u>Resource Guide</u> and the <u>DOJ Application Submission Checklist</u>.

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 May 22, 2023.

The **full application** must be submitted in JustGrants by 8:59 p.m. eastern time on June 05, 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:

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- SAM.gov contact the <u>SAM Help Desk (Federal Service Desk)</u>, Monday Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET at 866-606-8220.
- Grants.gov contact the <u>Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline</u>, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays, at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, or <u>support@grants.gov</u>.
- JustGrants contact the JustGrants Service Desk at <u>JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</u> or 833-872-5175, <u>Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. to 9</u> 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 <u>grants@ncjrs.gov</u> 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 <u>grants@ncjrs.gov</u> 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 <u>OJP Grant Application</u> <u>Resource Guide</u>.

Application Review Information

Review Criteria

Merit Review Criteria

Page 41 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 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) (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.

Project Design and Implementation (quality and technical merit) (45%)

- 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) (15%)

- 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

Page 42 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 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, strategic priorities (specifically including, but not limited to, those priority areas already mentioned, if applicable), 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

Page 43 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 (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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> 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 <u>OJP</u> <u>Grant Application Resource Guide</u>.

Information Technology Security Clauses

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of information related to information technology security. See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> 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.

<u>Required reports</u>. 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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measure data.

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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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> 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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for information on how to provide feedback to OJP.

Performance Measures

Category 1

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Data Recipient Provides
Provide training and technical assistance to support CVIPI evaluation capacity building and researcher and practitioner partnerships.	 The number of sites supported. Number of site case studies conducted. The number of online resources, tools, and other products developed to help improve the evaluation capacity for the CVIPI programs and promote continuous learning within the CVIPI community. 	1. Quarterly financial reports, semiannual and final progress reports, and products of the work performed under the NIJ award. If applicable, an annual audit report.

Category 2

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Data Recipient Provides
Provide training and technical assistance to	1. The number of sites supported.	1. Quarterly financial reports, semiannual and
support violent crime problem analysis.	 The number of virtual training sessions provided. The number web-based tools and resources supporting violent crime analysis and strategic plan development to reduce community violence developed. 	final progress reports, and products of the work performed under the NIJ award. If applicable, an annual audit report.

Categories 3 and 4

social and behavioralthe fieldsciences having clearwhetheimplications for criminalsubstar	ormance Measure(s)	Data Recipient Provides
practice in the United States.or any s approve scope.Conduct research in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics having clear implications for criminal or juvenile justice policy and practice in the United States.or any s approve scope.Description2. Qual demonst product in part, the NIJ publish project) articles	vance to the needs of d as measured by r the project's ntive scope did not from the funded project subsequent agency- ed modifications to the ity of the research as strated by the scholarly is that result, in whole or from work funded under award, such as ed, peer-reviewed, ic journal articles, and/or propriate for the funded law review journal book chapter(s) or in the academic press,	 Quarterly financial reports, semiannual 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. List of citation(s) to all scholarly products that resulted, in whole or in part, from work funded under the NIJ award. If applicable, each data set that resulted, in whole or in part, from work

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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.	

Application Checklist

NIJ FY23 Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) Research, Evaluation, and Associated Training & Technical Assistance Support

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 <u>System Award Management (SAM)</u> Registration Information (see <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u>)

Register in Grants.gov

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

Find the Funding Opportunity

- Search for the funding opportunity in Grants.gov using the opportunity number, assistance listing number, or keyword(s)
- Select the correct Competition ID
 - Category 1: Training and Technical Assistance to Support CVIPI Evaluation Capacity Building and Researcher and Practitioner Partnerships - C-NIJ-2023-00017-PROD
 - Category 2: Training and Technical Assistance to Support Violent Crime Problem Analyses of Jurisdictions not Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations - C-NIJ-2023-00018-PROD
 - Category 3: Site-Based Evaluations of Programs Funded under the OJP FY22 and FY23 CVIPI Solicitations - C-NIJ-2023-00019-PROD
 - Category 4: Other Community-Violence Research and Evaluations C-NIJ-2023-00020-PROD
- Access the funding opportunity and application package (see Step 7 in the <u>OJP</u> <u>Grant Application Resource Guide</u>)
- Sign up for Grants.gov email <u>notifications</u> (optional) (see <u>OJP Grant Application</u> <u>Resource Guide</u>)

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- Read Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov
- Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at <u>https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedoj/iii-postaward-</u> requirements#6g3y8 (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

Review the Overview of Post-Award Legal Requirements

 Review the "<u>Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants</u> and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2023 Awards" in the <u>OJP Funding Resource</u> <u>Center</u>.

Review the Scope Requirement

• The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of \$15,000,000.

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 <u>grants@ncjrs.gov</u> 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, <u>Grants.gov customer support</u>, or <u>support@grants.gov</u> 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

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# **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 <u>OJP Grant Application Resource</u> <u>Guide</u>)
- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see <u>OJP</u> <u>Grant Application Resource Guide</u>)

Additional Application Components

- Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) (see <u>OJP Grant Application Resource</u> <u>Guide</u>)
- Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity (see <u>OJP Grant Application</u> <u>Resource Guide</u>
- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable) (see <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u>)
- 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
- New Investigator Status (if applicable)
- Consortium/Contractual Arrangements
- Data Archiving

Page 50 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 **Disclosures and Assurances** 

- <u>Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)</u> (see <u>OJP Grant Application Resource</u> <u>Guide</u>)
- Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items (see <u>OJP Grant Application</u> <u>Resource Guide</u>)
- 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 <u>OJP Grant</u> <u>Application Resource Guide</u>)
- Applicant Disclosure and Justification DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable) (see <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u>)

# \* 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 <u>Application Submission Validation</u> <u>Errors Quick Reference Guide</u> 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 <u>JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</u> regarding technical difficulties. See the <u>OJP Grant</u> <u>Application Resource Guide</u> for additional information.

## **Standard Solicitation Resources**

<u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding.

<u>DOJ Grants Financial Guide</u> serves as the primary reference manual to assist award recipients in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility to safeguard grant funds and to ensure

Page 51 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 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 dayto-day management of awards.

<u>JustGrants Resources Website</u> 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 <u>JustGrants Update e-newsletter</u>.

<u>JustGrants Application Submission Training Page</u> 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.

<u>Virtual Q&A Sessions</u> are advertised here and provide opportunities for users to receive topic-specific training, direct technical assistance and support on JustGrants system functionality.

# Endnotes

[1] <u>Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative | Overview | Bureau of Justice Assistance (ojp.gov)</u>.

[2] <u>Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative | Overview | Bureau of Justice Assistance (ojp.gov)</u>.

[3] <u>The Fight Against Rampant Gun Violence: Data-Driven Scientific Research Will Light</u> the Way | National Institute of Justice (ojp.gov).

[4] Applicants interested in conducting research and evaluation on community violence not funded under FY22 or applying for funding under FY23 Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative should consider applying under Category 4 of this solicitation.

[5] See <u>Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative</u> | Implementation Checklist | Bureau of Justice Assistance (ojp.gov) and <u>The Fight Against</u> Rampant Gun Violence: Data-Driven Scientific Research Will Light the Way | National Institute of Justice (ojp.gov).

[6] Lopez, B.E. and Haskins, P.A. (2021, Nov 30). The Fight Against Rampant Gun Violence: Data-Driven Scientific Research Will Light the Way. *Police Chief Online*.

Page 52 of 53 O-NIJ-2023-171648 https://www.policechiefmagazine.org/the-fight-against-rampant-gun-violence/ ?ref=22c041fab2103e0a05dc9f3c8f7d424d; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (2017). Community Violence as a Population Health Issue: Proceedings of a Workshop. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <u>https:// doi.org/10.17226/23661</u>; Carlton, M.P. (2021). Advancing Knowledge to Reduce Gangs and Gang Violence: Perspectives from Researchers and Practitioners. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice. <u>https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/300672.pdf</u>.

[7] See OJP CVI checklist.

[8] See <u>NIJ FY23 Research and Evaluation of Services for Victims of Crime | National</u> <u>Institute of Justice (ojp.gov)</u> solicitation for additional opportunities to studying victimization in the community.

[9] For more information see, for example, <u>https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-merrick-b-garland-announces-new-effort-reduce-violent-crime</u>.