

Graduate Research Fellowship Program at the National Institute of Justice

Today's Presenters:

Gregory Dutton

Program Manager

Megan Chambers

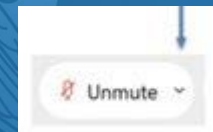
Program Manager



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Important Information for Today's Webinar

- **Having difficulties hearing?** Click the **caret** next to the **Mute/Unmute** icon to make adjustments or call in to the Webex from your phone.



- **Live-captioning:** Click on **Multimedia Viewer** to access.



- **Questions about the presentation?** Use the **Q&A box** to submit questions any time during the presentation. Questions will be answered at the end of the presentation.



Webinar Topics

1. Program Overview
2. Terms of the Fellowship
3. What's New?
4. How to Apply



National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Who we are:

- NIJ is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice
- A science funding agency within the Office of Justice Programs (OJP)

Our mission:

- Improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science



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NIJ's Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF)

Program Goal:

- Support the development of new researchers addressing the challenges of crime and justice in the U.S.

Objective:

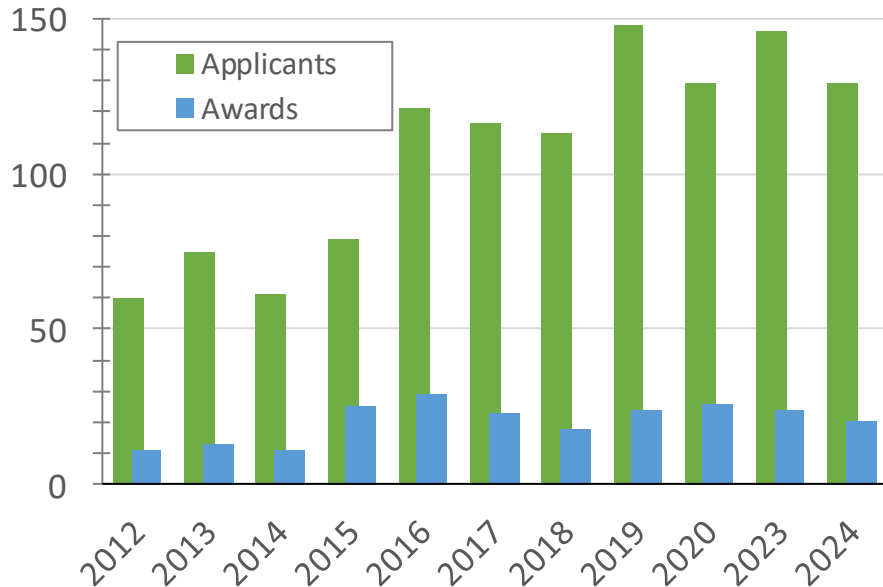
- Fund PhD students at their home institutions to the completion of their degrees.



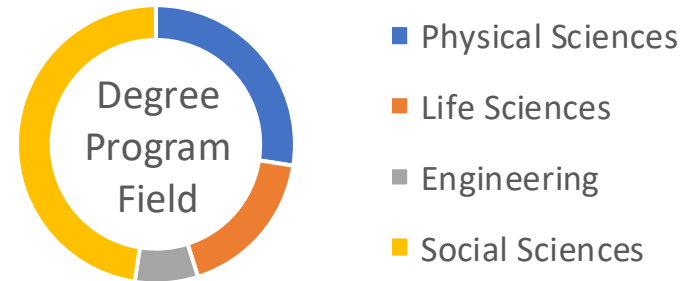
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Recent Program History

Program Volume



GRF Fellows 2012 - 2024



224 fellows from 81 institutions



2024 GRF Fellows' Degree Fields

- Applied Anthropology
- Chemistry
- Clinical Psychology
- Communication
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Criminology, Law and Society
- Economics
- Human Development and Family Studies
- Human Medical Genetics & Genomics
- Logic, Computation and Methodology
- Psychology
- Social Welfare
- Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy



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GRF Program Page



www.nij.gov/GRF



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Graduate Research Fellowship Program

[Learn more about the program.](#)

Funding Opportunities [↗](#)

[NIJ FY25 Graduate Research Fellowship](#)

[View related funding opportunities](#)

Podcast - A Leg Up: NIJ's Graduate Research Fellowship Program [+](#)

The NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) program supports doctoral students engaged in research that advances [NIJ's mission](#).

The goal of the GRF program is to increase the pool of scholars engaged in research that addresses the challenges of crime and justice in the United States, particularly at the state and local levels.

[Read more about the program.](#)

FAQs [↗](#)

Read our [FAQs](#) to learn about the program and how to apply.

[See past and present fellows.](#)

[Review publications by](#)

[Current Funding](#)

[Forthcoming Funding](#)

[Expired Funding](#)

[List of Funded Projects](#)

[Guidance for Applicants and Awardees](#)

Fellowship & Student Programs

Graduate Research Fellowship Program

[GRF Overview](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Past and Present Fellows](#)

[Publications By Fellows](#)

Notice of Funding Opportunity: GRF

About
8 new fellows
expected

OMB No. 1121-0329
Approval Expires 02/28/2027

NIJ FY25 Graduate Research Fellowship

Total Amount To Be Awarded Under This Funding Opportunity: \$1 million

Anticipated Award Ceiling: up to \$180,000

Anticipated Period of Performance Duration: between 12 and 60 months

Funding Opportunity Number: O-NIJ-2025-172575

Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: **May 19, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time**
Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: **May 27, 2026, by 8:59 p.m. Eastern Time**

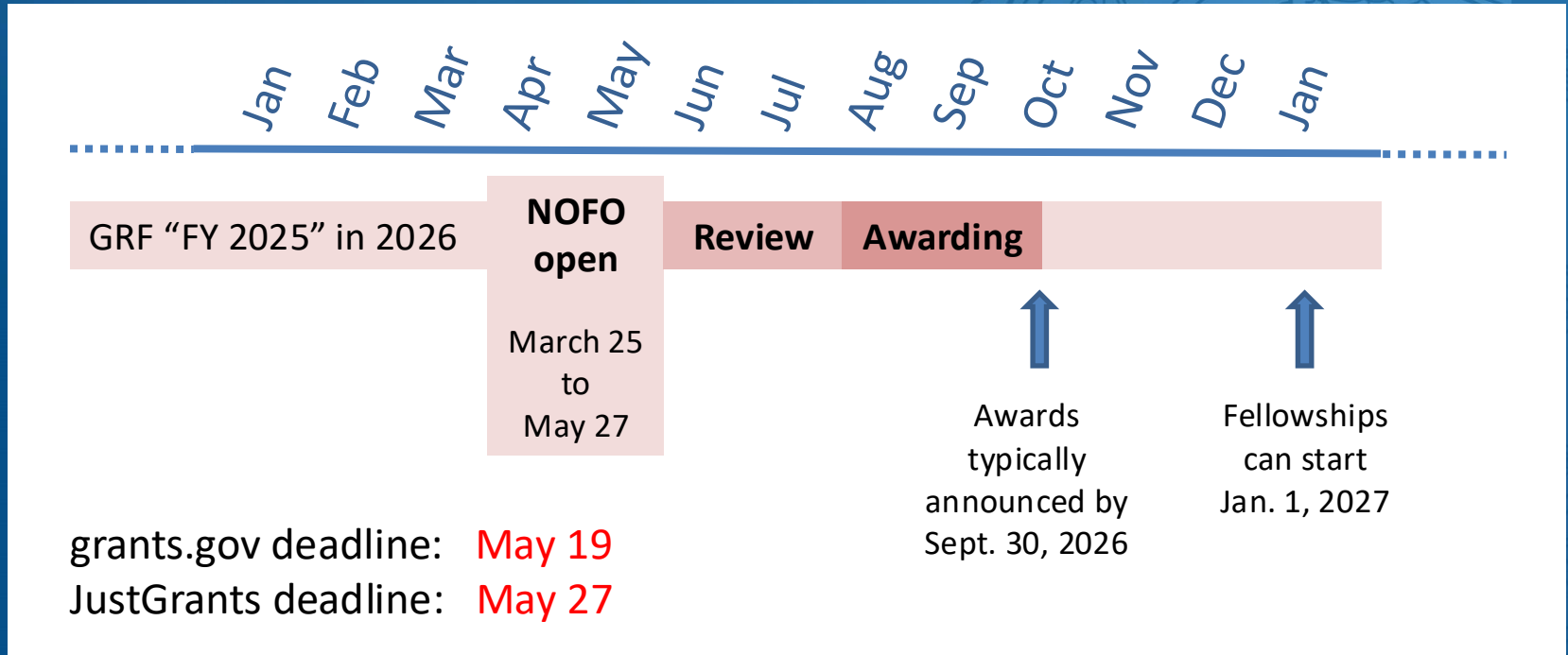


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INSTITUTE OF
JUSTICE
ADVANCING JUSTICE THROUGH SCIENCE

Timeline



Eligibility

Student:

- Enrolled full-time in a research doctorate program
- Dissertation topic is relevant to preventing and controlling crime, protecting the border, enforcing the law, promoting public safety, or ensuring the fair and impartial administration of criminal or juvenile justice in the United States.

University:

- Accredited institution in the U.S. or its territories
- The university applies on behalf of the student



Fellowship Terms

Up to **\$60,000/year** for up to three (3) years of support usable within a five-year period:

- **\$41,000** annual student salary
- **\$16,000** annual cost of education allowance
- **\$3,000** annually for research expenses



Programmatic Budget Categories

1. Salary and Fringe Benefits (\$41,000/yr.)

- Student salary
- Fringe benefits
- Health insurance

NIJ recommends that the full \$41,000 be requested



Programmatic Budget Categories

2. Cost of Education Allowance (up to \$16,000/yr.)

- Tuition
- Student fees
- University administrative or indirect costs



Programmatic Budget Categories

3. Research Expenses (up to \$3,000/yr.)

- Research supplies
- Instrument time
- Human subjects incentives
- Undergraduate research assistants
- Data collection site travel
- Conference travel
- Professional society membership fees
- Other reasonable, allowable costs



Fellowship Terms

These are one-time awards:

- Total amount needed **must be requested up front**

Annual requirements:

- Progress report
- Verification of enrollment; Chair statement of progress

Final Deliverables:

- Defended dissertation
- List of scholarly products
- Data archived



What's New?

Eligibility Clarified

- All research doctorates (not just PhD) eligible
- Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts not eligible
- Research relevance now includes: protecting the border, enforcing the law, and promoting public safety

Merit Review Criteria

- Now identical to all other NIJ programs



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What's New?

Publications and Data

- Data Management, Sharing and Archiving Plan (DMSAP) submitted with application.
- Author accepted manuscripts of peer reviewed publications must be deposited in a public access repository. Associated data must be made accessible per the DMSAP.

Proposal Formatting

- Page limit reduced to 8



How to Apply

- 1. Review the solicitation for eligibility**
- 2. Contact your university grants office (e.g., Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP)) – NOW!**
- 3. Start assembling application materials**
 - Write the program narrative
 - Ask for letter of support
 - Obtain enrollment verification and transcripts



Application Submission

- 1. The university submits on your behalf**
- 2. NIJ has a 2-step submission process**
 - 1) Grants.gov deadline for submitting SF-424
 - 2) JustGrants deadline for submitting complete application package
- 3. Your university OSP will have their own internal timeline**



Application Elements

Six Critical Elements:

1. Proposal Narrative
2. Budget webform
3. Verification of Current Enrollment
4. Undergraduate and Graduate Transcripts
5. Statement of Support
6. Biosketch, CV, or resume



Application Elements

Other Elements

- Personal Statement
- Human Subjects Protection form
- Privacy Certificate
- Data Management, Sharing and Archiving Plan
- **Gold Standard Science statement**
- Others, as applicable (see NOFO)



Application Elements

- Dissertation topic approval is not required at time of application
- IRB (Institutional Review Board) approval for human subjects research is not required at the time of application

BUT— fellowship funds will become available only after these are completed and reviewed by NIJ



Additional Help

General guidance for
all NIJ applicants

<https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/guidance-applicants-and-awardees>

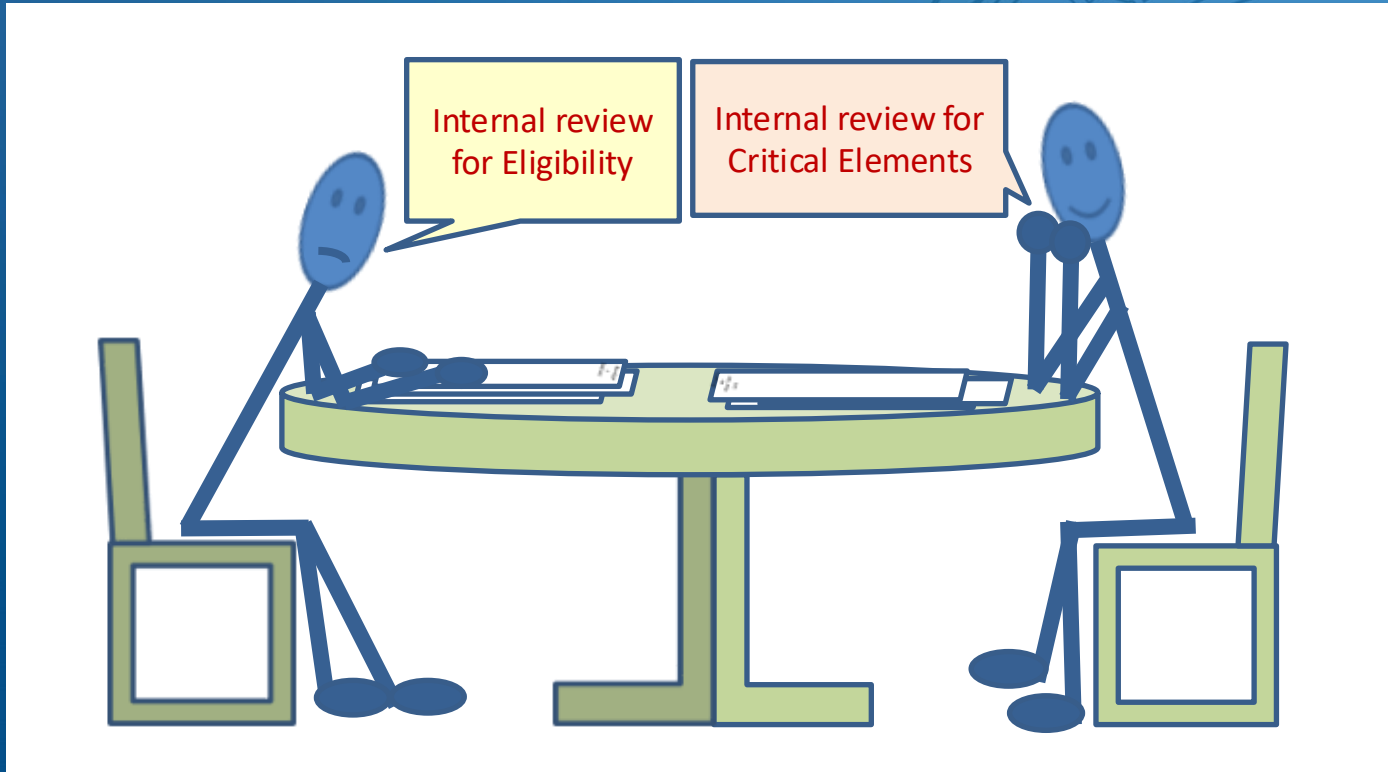
Guidance for Applicants and Awardees

What NIJ Funds	+	Current Funding
Find a Funding Opportunity	+	Forthcoming Funding
What to Do Before You Apply	+	Expired Funding
Build Your Proposal	+	List of Funded Projects
Submit Your Application	+	Guidance for Applicants and Awardees
Application Review and Award Notification	+	FAQs
If Your Proposal Is Funded	+	Human Subjects and Privacy Protection
If Your Proposal Is Not Funded	+	National Environmental Policy Act
		Data Archiving
		Research, Development, and Evaluation Grant Award Requirements
		Grant Product Submission Form



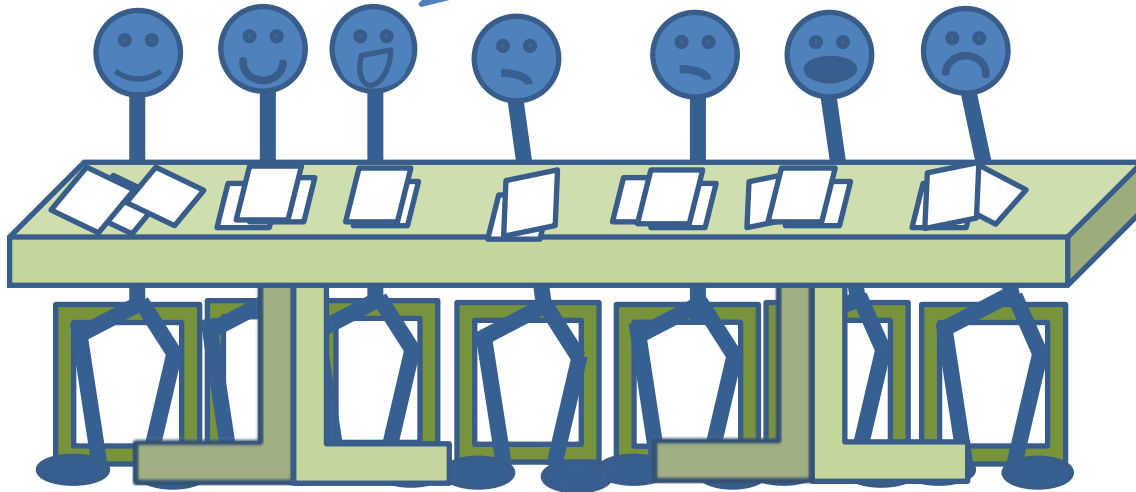
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Application Review – Initial Review

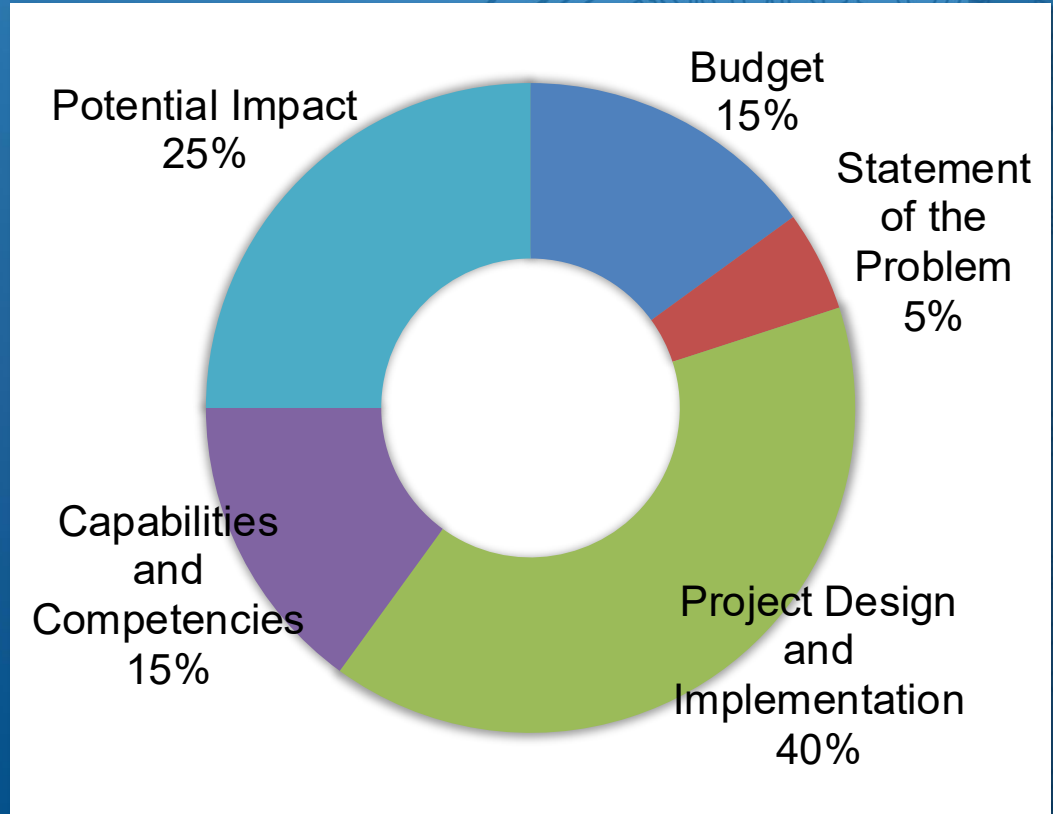


Application Review – Merit Review

External Review against the Merit Review Criteria!



What are the Merit Review Criteria?



Priority Areas

NIJ will provide priority consideration to applicants that propose:

- (a) Directly supporting law enforcement operations (including immigration law enforcement operations);
- (b) Combatting violent crime;
- (c) Supporting services to American citizens;
- (d) Protecting American children; and
- (e) Supporting American victims of trafficking and sexual assault.

Note: this is one of many factors that NIJ considers in making funding decisions.



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Award Decisions

1. Merit review is the primary factor
2. Award decisions are made by the NIJ Director, who may take into account merit review ratings as well as other factors
3. Applicants are typically notified of outcomes in September/October



Helpful Tips

1. Browse past fellows' project topics
2. Be sure to articulate the relevance to criminal justice
3. Include preliminary results, if available
4. Ask others (peers and advisors) to read and comment:
 - Concept
 - Experimental design
 - Proofread for errors
5. **Visit the program FAQs**



For More Information

Program page & FAQs: www.nij.gov/GRF



For questions while the solicitation is open, contact:

OJP Response Center

1-800-851-3420 (TTY: 202-353-5556 for hearing impaired only)

Email: OJP.ResponseCenter@usdoj.gov



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