

NIJ FY 2025 Research and Evaluation on Forensic Science Systems Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Webinar

Opportunity ID: O-NIJ-2025-172599
NOFO Post Date: April 30, 2026 | NOFO Close Date: June 9, 2026
Grants.gov: June 2, 2026

Participants:

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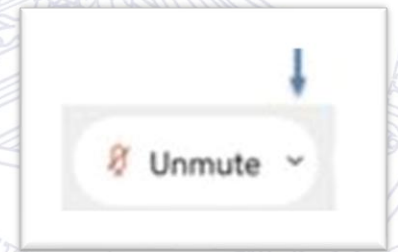
Eric Martin, Senior Social Science Analyst, NIJ



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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.



Today's Webinar

- Welcome
- NOFO Overview, Goals, and Objective
- Specific Information
- Application Submission Process
- Application Review Process
- Support and Resources
- Q & A



NIJ FY 2025 Research and Evaluation on Forensic Science Systems NOFO - Overview

NOFO topic areas:

1. The impact of forensic science on the criminal justice system, such as improving investigative clearance rates, increasing law enforcement effectiveness, and reducing crime lab backlogs;
2. Evaluations of the implementation of new and innovative forensic science methods and their impact on strengthening courtroom admissibility and evidentiary reliability; and
3. Developing the forensic science workforce.



Goals & Objectives

The **goal** of this NOFO is to better understand the impact of forensic science on the criminal justice system.

- **Objective 1:** To promote and support rigorous research and evaluation on the impact of forensic science on the criminal justice system.
- **Objective 2:** To promote and support rigorous research and evaluation on the implementation of new and innovative policies and practices.
- **Objective 3:** To promote and support rigorous research and evaluation on developing the forensic science workforce.



Evaluation Research

- If proposing evaluation research, applicants should:
 - Propose the most rigorous evaluation design appropriate for the research questions to be addressed
 - Include an implementation evaluation component to ensure that implementation fidelity metrics are collected and analyzed
 - Propose research methodologies that enable interim feedback on implementation fidelity to enable program providers to make ongoing improvements in program delivery

If proposing evaluation research, applicants must include cost/benefit and cost effectiveness analysis



Topic Area 1: The impact of forensic science on the criminal justice system

NIJ invites proposals that address a range of issues regarding the impact of forensic science on the criminal justice system, such as:

- Examining the relative rate and frequency of various forensic techniques in identifying suspects;
- The role of forensic evidence in successful prosecutions;
- Cost benefit analyses of various forensic techniques or the implementation of new methods and/or workflow processes; and/or
- Methods and workflows to enhance or inform investigations and contribute to case clearances



Topical Area 2: Evaluations of the implementation of new and innovative policies and practices

NIJ invites proposals that address a range of issues regarding the implementation of new and innovative policies and practices, such as:

- Evaluating policy and practice implications of novel forensic science techniques or emerging investigative technology advancements.
- Examining factors which inform the courtroom admissibility and evidentiary reliability of emerging forensic techniques and strategies



Topical Area 3: Forensic science workforce

NIJ invites proposals for research that support the development of the current and future forensic science research and practitioner workforce, such as:

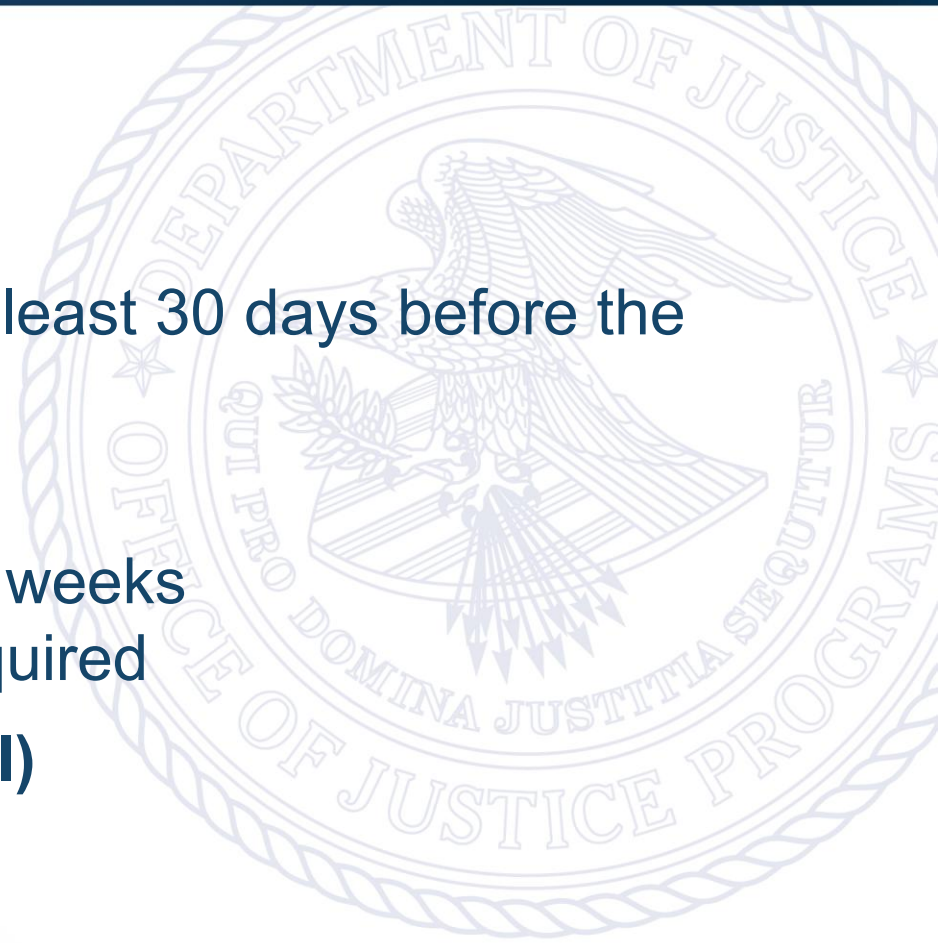
- Staffing and resource needs;
- The use and efficacy of forensic science training and certification or licensure programs;
- Best practices for recruitment and retention;
- The forensic science workforce pipeline;
- Strategies and programs to address workforce sustainability and retention



Before You Apply For Funding

SAM.gov Registration – recommend beginning at least 30 days before the first application deadline

- Register/confirm “active” registration status
 - First-time registration – may take several weeks
 - Existing registration – annual renewal required
- Obtain/confirm **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)**
- Identify current SAM.gov points of contact



Apply For OJP Funding: Overview

Step 1: Grants.gov – complete *at least* 48 hours before deadline in NOFO

- Register/confirm registration
- Submit Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

Step 2: JustGrants – complete *at least* 48 hours before deadline in NOFO

- Register/confirm access
- Submit full application, including required attachments



Apply For OJP Funding: Step 1

Step 1: Grants.gov

- Register/confirm registration
- Add/confirm users and their roles
- Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

You can complete the first two actions at any time. Check the [Grants.gov Quick Start Guide](#) for more tips.



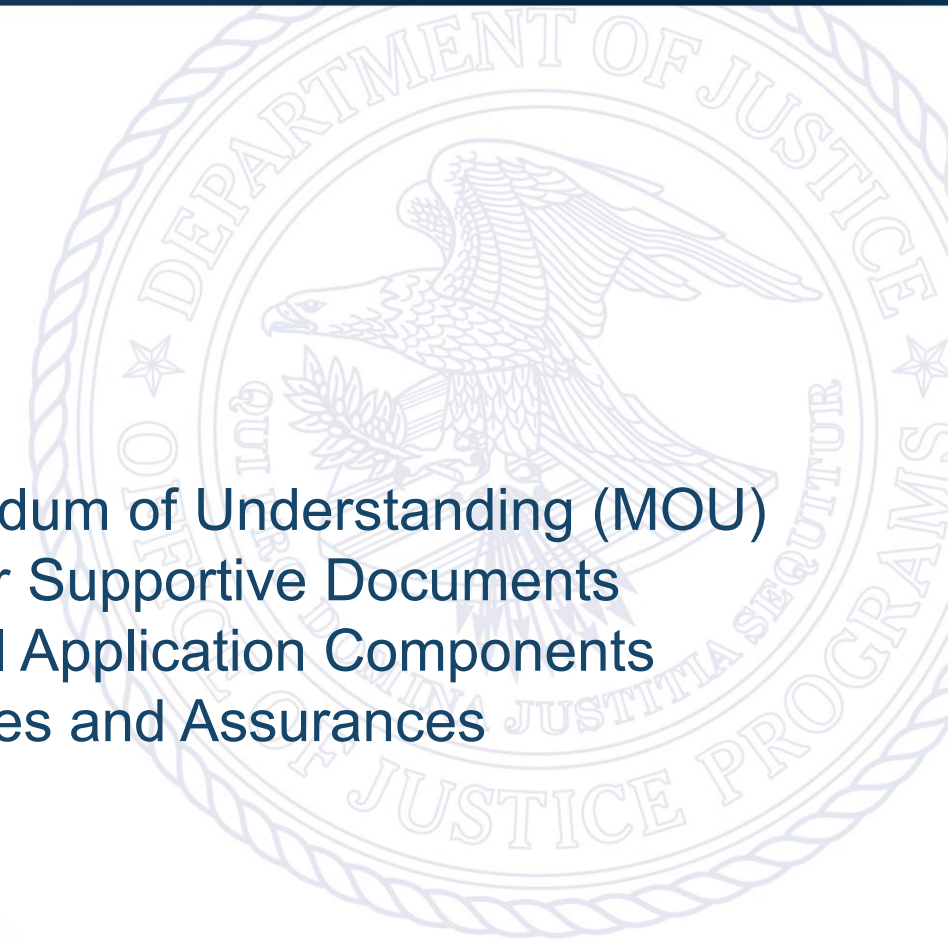
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Apply For OJP Funding: Step 2

Step 2: JustGrants

Complete the full application in JustGrants

- Standard Applicant Information
- Proposal Abstract
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget and Associated Documentation
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Other Supportive Documents
- Additional Application Components
- Disclosures and Assurances



What Happens Next?

After the JustGrants application deadline, OJP starts its review process:

- Basic Minimum Requirements
- Peer Review
- Programmatic and Financial Review
- Risk Review



Award Notices

Visit the OJP Grant Awards public website: ojp.gov/funding/ojpgrantawards

Funded applications:

- Notifications sent via JustGrants
- Accept or decline award within 45 days
- Follow steps in [DOJ Award Acceptance Checklist](#)



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Application Review Process

Internal Initial Review

- Basic Minimum Requirements
- Responsiveness to Solicitation

External Merit Review

- External SME peer reviewers
- Independent scores and comments

Internal Review

- NIJ science staff, NIJ leadership and other federal subject matter experts

All funding decisions are made at the discretion of the NIJ Director.



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Support

OJP Response Center

- Phone: (800) 851-3420
- Email: grants@ncjrs.gov

Grants.gov

- Phone: (800) 518-4726
- Email: support@grants.gov

JustGrants

- Toll-free: +1 (833) 872-5175
- Email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov



Resources

OJP Funding Resource Center:

- <https://www.ojp.gov/funding>

DOJ Grants Financial Guide:

- <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedoj/overview>

NIJ Funding FAQs:

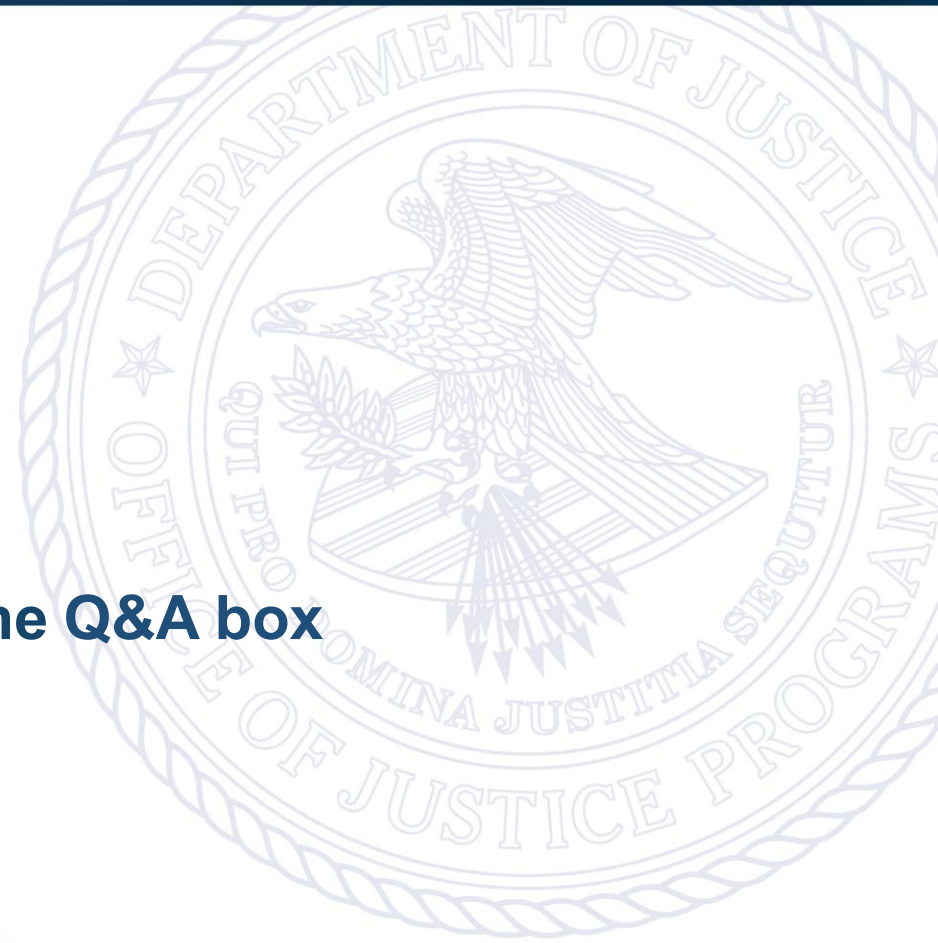
- <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/frequently-asked-questions-about-applying-grants-and-cooperative-agreements>



Questions?

Please enter your questions into the Q&A box

Send to All Panelists



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