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The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is seeking applications for funding to evaluate the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) Program. As of Fiscal Year 2008, the SAVIN program has provided funding for 33 States and Puerto Rico for the development, implementation, and/or enhancement of a victim notification system. BJA expects to fund additional sites this year. Funding through this solicitation is intended to support a national evaluation including State-level analyses of the SAVIN program leading to a promising practices toolkit to aid the continued development, implementation, and enhancement of comprehensive victim notification programs within individual States and territories. In addition to the evaluation focus, NIJ hopes to advance both theory and practice related to victims through this research. This program furthers the Department's mission by sponsoring research to provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of crime and justice, particularly at the State and local levels.

## **Solicitation: Evaluation of the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) Program**

### **Eligibility**

(See "Eligibility," page 3)

### **Deadline**

**Registration with the Office of Justice Programs' Grant Management System (GMS) is required prior to application submission.**

(See "Registration," page 3)

All applications are due **July 20, 2009, 11:45 p.m. eastern time.**

### **Contact Information**

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact Bethany Backes, Social Science Analyst, at 202-305-4419 or [bethany.backes@usdoj.gov](mailto:bethany.backes@usdoj.gov).

This application must be submitted through the Office of Justice Programs' Grants Management System (GMS). For technical assistance with submitting the application, call the Grants Management System Support Hotline at 1-888-549-9901, option 3.

**Note:** The GMS Support Hotline hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. eastern time.

**SL# 000883**

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# **Evaluation of the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) Program CFDA No. 16.560**

## **Overview**

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and a component of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). NIJ provides objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to enhance the administration of justice and public safety. NIJ solicits applications to inform its search for the knowledge and tools to guide policy and practice.

The Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) Program (guided in part by the general principles of 42 USC 10603e) is intended to protect crime victims from further victimization and help ensure their legal rights are upheld by providing access to registration for timely and accurate notification about any changes to the status of their offender (e.g., trial dates and times, inmate relocation, offender release). As of Fiscal Year 2008, 33 States and Puerto Rico have received funding to develop, implement, and/or enhance their notification system; however, notification features differ from State to State and sometimes from county to county. This solicitation seeks applications for support of a national evaluation including State-level analyses that identify strategies for developing, implementing, and enhancing a victim notification system that fully addresses the needs and concerns of victims.

## **Deadline: Registration**

Applicants must register with GMS prior to applying. The deadline to register is **11:45 p.m. eastern time on July 20, 2009.**

## **Deadline: Application**

The due date for applying for funding under this announcement is **July 20, 2009, 11:45 p.m. eastern time.**

## **Eligibility**

In general, NIJ is authorized to make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, States (including territories), local governments (including federally recognized Indian tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions), nonprofit and profit organizations (including tribal nonprofit and profit organizations), institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education), and certain qualified individuals. Foreign governments, foreign organizations, and foreign institutions of higher education are not eligible to apply.

**Faith-Based and Other Community Organizations:** Consistent with Executive Order 13279, dated December 12, 2002, and 28 C.F.R. Part 38, faith-based and other community organizations that statutorily qualify as eligible applicants under DOJ programs are invited and encouraged to apply for assistance awards to fund eligible grant activities. Faith-based and other community organizations will be considered for awards on the same basis as other eligible applicants and, if they receive assistance awards, will be treated on an equal basis with all other grantees in the administration of such awards. No eligible applicant or grantee will be discriminated for or against on the basis of its religious character or affiliation, religious name, or the religious composition of its board of directors or persons working in the organization.

Faith-based organizations receiving DOJ assistance awards retain their independence and do not lose or have to modify their religious identity (e.g., remove religious symbols) to receive assistance awards. DOJ grant funds, however, may not be used to fund any inherently religious activity, such as prayer or worship. Inherently religious activity is permissible, although it cannot occur during an activity funded with DOJ grant funds; rather, such religious activity must be separate in time or place from the DOJ-funded program. Further, participation in such activity by individuals receiving services must be voluntary. Programs funded by DOJ are not permitted to discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of a beneficiary's religion.

If your organization is a faith-based organization that makes hiring decisions on the basis of religious belief, it may be entitled, under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb, to receive Federal funds and yet maintain that hiring practice, even if the law creating the funding program contains a general ban on religious discrimination in employment. For the circumstances under which this may occur, and the certifications that may be required, please see the section titled "Funding to Faith-Based Organizations" on the "Other Requirements for OJP Applications" Web page at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other\\_requirements.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm).

Applicants are also encouraged to review the "Civil Rights Compliance" section of the "Other Requirements for OJP Applications" Web page, which also can be found at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other\\_requirements.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm).

**American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Tribes and/or Tribal Organizations:** If a grant application is being submitted on behalf of a tribe or tribal organization, a current authorizing resolution of the governing body of the tribal entity or other enactment of the tribal council or comparable government body authorizing the inclusion of the tribe or tribal organization named in the application must be included with the application.

## **Specific Information—Evaluation of the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) Program**

The SAVIN program helps protect crime victims from further victimization and helps ensure their legal rights are upheld by providing registered victims with timely and accurate information about any important dates and developments relating to the criminal proceedings at issue in the case (e.g., trial dates, times, or changes; probation hearings; inmate relocation; and offender release). This information enables victims to

fully participate in the judicial process while maintaining total anonymity. Effective SAVIN programs, which require broad multiagency support, increase victim safety, meet legislative requirements, and minimize the costs associated with keeping victims informed throughout the criminal justice process. Information on SAVIN grantees including state, grantee name, award amount, and program title can be found at the following link: [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/06\\_08SAVINawards.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/06_08SAVINawards.pdf).

The SAVIN program provides funding for two categories: implementation or enhancement. Funding for implementation supports the creation of new programs including planning, deploying, operating, and assessing the effectiveness of new SAVIN programs. Funding for enhancements supports the expansion of coverage and inclusion of additional information for notification such as court events, offenders on community supervision (probation or parole), juvenile cases, protection orders, and related information important to crime victims and can also be used to assess the effectiveness of enhancements. Not all States that have a notification program in place receive funding through the SAVIN program. Additionally, some States have received funds for both implementation and enhancement whereas others have received funds for only one category.

In October 2006, the Integrated Justice Information Systems Institute, through BJA funding, produced a report entitled “Planning, Implementing and Operating Effective Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) Programs: Guidelines and Standards” (see full report at [http://it.ojp.gov/documents/ijis\\_savin\\_guidelines\\_standards.pdf](http://it.ojp.gov/documents/ijis_savin_guidelines_standards.pdf)). The report provided recommendations for planning, implementing, and operating effective SAVIN programs. The report also noted the importance of cooperation and involvement by all stakeholders including victims; private organizations; and State, local, and county criminal justice agencies. Although the report provides guiding principles for SAVIN grantees, it did not evaluate practices or procedures related to the development and enhancement of SAVIN programs.

In order to assess the effectiveness of the SAVIN program, including State and local investment and victim participation and satisfaction, and provide a guide for current and new SAVIN grantees, NIJ is seeking applications for a national evaluation including State-level analyses of the SAVIN program and the development of a promising practices toolkit. The evaluation should examine implementation, process, outcome, and cost-effectiveness of SAVIN-funded programs. The toolkit should provide information on and strategies for the implementation, development, and enhancement of notification programs. The toolkit should be developed in a format that is easily accessible and understandable to the target audience of the SAVIN program.

Although this is not an exhaustive list, the successful applicant is expected to conduct a national evaluation including State-level analyses related to the development, implementation, and enhancement of the SAVIN-funded programs by addressing the following:

- What are the different and best approaches for developing, implementing, and administering State and local notification programs that address the goals of the SAVIN program? (For example: Was there an advisory board or governance plan? Who was involved with the development? Once implemented, how are programs administered and supported?)

- What are the major obstacles that State and local jurisdictions have faced with the development, implementation, and sustainability of their SAVIN-funded programs, and what are the solutions to these obstacles?
- How are victims informed of the existence of a notification program, and are they notified in a timely and appropriate manner? (For example: Are there written protocols requiring notification of the program by law enforcement, advocates, or court personnel?)
- Who are the stakeholders in various States, and what role do they play within their SAVIN-funded program? How does stakeholder support or lack of support impact the development, implementation, and sustainability of the SAVIN-funded program?
- How does specific State legislation impact the development, implementation, and ongoing administration of SAVIN-funded programs (including sustainability)? (For example: Did legislation require the development of a notification program and/or specify additional funding to support the program? How does legislation differ among States? Is there model legislation?)
- How are the SAVIN-funded programs publicized to stakeholders including victims, advocacy organizations, and State, local, and county agencies? (For example: do promoters use public service announcements or public education programs, mail pamphlets, etc. to disseminate information?)
- How satisfied are victims and advocacy agencies with the SAVIN-funded program in their State or jurisdiction in terms of usability, availability of needed features, and reliability?
- How do SAVIN-funded notification programs address the relocation of victims and other participants who are registered?
- What are the major enhancements undertaken by SAVIN grantees and are the enhancements helpful to victims?
- What are the costs associated with implementing and sustaining SAVIN-funded notification programs? What are the costs associated with adding and sustaining enhancements to SAVIN-funded programs?
- What are the differences between States with an active victim notification program receiving funds wholly or partially from the SAVIN program versus States that have an active victim notification program and do not receive funds from the SAVIN program?

Currently, there is a SAVIN Advisory Committee that meets twice a year, some of whose members may participate in the future on a smaller board (SAVIN Evaluation Advisory Committee) that would include researchers. The applicant awarded funding is expected to consult with BJA and NIJ staff, and any SAVIN Evaluation Advisory Committee that may be established, prior to finalizing the research questions and evaluation design and

throughout the course of the evaluation. Additional research questions may emerge, and some research questions may be revised or eliminated based on this consultation. In addition to the mandatory semi-annual progress reports, grantees will be required to provide two interim reports per year to NIJ, which will be shared with BJA and the SAVIN Evaluation Advisory Committee (if applicable). Interim reports should be submitted in April and October and include updates on the evaluation including adherence to timeline, ongoing activities, and instruments developed. Applications should provide an overview of what will be addressed in the interim reports and include the submission of interim reports on the project timeline.

Applications should contain a thorough dissemination plan that includes a symposium expected to be appended to a BJA-sponsored SAVIN National Conference. The symposium should focus on a presentation and discussion of the evaluation results including promising practices. In addition to the symposium, at a minimum, applicants should propose multiple methods for dissemination that would include written submission to research and practice journals, presentations at professional conferences, and other dissemination vehicles. Applications should also address dissemination of the promising practices toolkit.

**Evaluation Research:** Within applications proposing evaluation research, funding priority will be given to experimental research designs that use random selection and assignment of participants to experimental and control conditions. When randomized designs are not feasible, priority will be given to quasi-experimental designs that include contemporary procedures like Propensity Score Matching and Regression Discontinuity Design to address selection bias in evaluating outcomes and impacts.

Evaluations that also include measurements of program fidelity and implementation as part of a thorough process assessment are desirable. Measurements of program fidelity should be included as part of an assessment of program processes and operations to ensure that policies, programs, and technologies are implemented as designed. As one aspect of a comprehensive evaluation, assessments of program processes should include objective measurements and qualitative observations of programs as they are actually implemented and services are delivered. These may include assessment of such aspects as adherence to program content and protocol, quantity and duration, quality of delivery, and participant responsiveness.

Proposed evaluation research designs with multiple units of analysis and multiple measurements will also be given priority. Design aspects that contribute to the validity of results are necessary to effectively address issues of generalizability and representativeness of findings.

Finally, applications that include cost/benefit analysis will be given priority. NIJ views cost/benefit analysis as an effective way to communicate and disseminate findings from evaluation research.

**Please note:** All applicants under this solicitation must comply with Department of Justice regulations on confidentiality and human subjects protection. See “Other Requirements for OJP Applications” at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other\\_requirements.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm).

**What will *not* be funded:**

1. Provision of training or direct service.
2. Proposals primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies. (Your budget may include these items if they are necessary to conduct applied research, development, demonstration, evaluation, or analysis.)
3. Work that will be funded under another specific solicitation.

**Cost of proposed work:** NIJ anticipates that up to \$1.5 million may become available for an award made through this solicitation. **All NIJ awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.** NIJ expects to make one award, depending on funds available, the number of high-quality applications, and other pertinent factors. If you propose a project that exceeds the amount of money that may be available for this solicitation, we recommend that you divide the project into phases, stages, or tasks so that NIJ can consider making an award for a specific portion of the work. NIJ cannot guarantee that subsequent phases, stages, or tasks will be funded. Such additional funding depends on, among other things, NIJ resources, strategic priorities, and your satisfactory completion of each phase, stage, or task. Note: Deliverables (e.g., a final report) will be required at the end of each phase, stage, or task.

Applicants should be aware that the total period of an award, including one that receives additional funding, ordinarily will not exceed 3 years.

A grant made by NIJ under this solicitation may account for up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project. See "Cofunding," under "What an Application Must Include."

**Limitation on use of award funds for employee compensation; waiver:** No portion of any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation may be used to pay any portion of the total cash compensation (salary plus bonuses) of any employee of the award recipient whose total cash compensation exceeds 110 percent of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service (SES) at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year. (The salary table for SES employees is available at <http://www.opm.gov>.)

This prohibition may be waived at the discretion of the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs. An applicant that wishes to request a waiver should include a detailed justification in the budget narrative for the application. The justification should include: the particular qualification and expertise of the individual, the uniqueness of the service being provided, the individual's specific knowledge of the program or project undertaken with the grant funds and a statement explaining that the individual's salary is commensurate with the regular and customary rate for an individual with her/his qualifications and expertise, and for the work that is to be done.

## Performance Measures

To assist in fulfilling the Department's responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), P.L. 103-62, applicants who receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measure the results of their work. Performance measures for this solicitation are as follows:



Objective	Performance Measures	Data Grantee Provides
<p>Develop and analyze information and data having clear implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.</p>	<p>Relevance to the needs of the field as measured by whether the grantee's substantive scope did not deviate from the funded proposal or any subsequent agency modifications to the scope.</p> <p>Quality of the research as assessed by peer reviewers.</p> <p>Quality of management as measured by whether significant interim project milestones were achieved, final deadlines were met, and costs remained within approved limits.</p> <p>If applicable, number of NIJ final grant reports, NIJ research documents, and grantee research documents published.</p>	<p>A final report providing a comprehensive overview of the project and a detailed description of the project design, data, and methods; a full presentation of scientific findings; and a thorough discussion of the implications of the project findings for criminal justice practice and policy.</p> <p>Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, interim reports, and a final progress report.</p> <p>If applicable, each data set that was collected, acquired, or modified in conjunction with the project.</p> <p>If applicable, citation to report(s)/document(s).</p>

## How to Apply

**Grants Management System Instructions.** Applications must be submitted through OJP's online Grants Management System (GMS). To access the system, go to <https://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov>. Applicants should begin the process a few weeks prior to the GMS registration deadline, especially if this is the first time they have used the system. Each application requires a separate GMS registration. For a step-by-step guide, visit <http://www.ojp.gov/gmscbt/> and refer to the section entitled "External Overview: Locating & Applying for Funding Opportunities." For additional assistance, call the GMS Help Desk at 1-888-549-9901 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. eastern time.

**Note: OJP will not review any application whose attachments are in Microsoft Vista or Microsoft 2007 format.** Applications submitted via GMS must be in the following formats: Microsoft Word (\*.doc), Word Perfect (\*.wpd), PDF files (\*.pdf), or Text Documents (\*.txt), and may include Microsoft Excel (\*.xls) files. GMS is not yet compatible with Vista and cannot yet process Microsoft Word 2007 documents saved in the new default format with the extension ".docx." Please ensure that Word documents you are submitting are saved using "Word 97-2003 Document (\*.doc)" format. Additionally, GMS does not accept executable file types as application attachments. These disallowed file types include, but are not limited to, the following extensions: ".com," ".bat," ".exe," ".vbs," ".cfg," ".dat," ".db," ".dbf," ".dll," ".ini," ".log," ".ora," ".sys," and ".zip."

**CFDA Number:** The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this solicitation is 16.560, titled "National Institute of Justice Research, Evaluation, and Development Project Grants."

**A DUNS number is required:** The Office of Management and Budget requires that all businesses and nonprofit applicants for Federal funds include a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number in their application for a new award or renewal of an award.

Applications without a DUNS number are incomplete. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving Federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point-of-contact information for Federal assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, simple, one-time activity. Obtain one by calling 1-866-705-5711 or by applying online at <http://www.dnb.com/us>. Individuals are exempt from this requirement.

**Central Contractor Registration (CCR) is required:** In addition to the DUNS number requirement, OJP requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for Federal financial assistance maintain current registrations in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database. The CCR database is the repository for standard information about Federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. Organizations that have previously submitted applications via Grants.gov are already registered with CCR, as it is a requirement for Grants.gov registration. Please note, however, that applicants must update or renew their CCR at least once per year to maintain an active status. Information about registration procedures can be accessed at [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov).

## What an Application Must Include

An application must include the following:

### Standard Form 424

#### Program Narrative

The Program Narrative includes:

a. Abstract (not to exceed 600 words).

The abstract should state the problem under investigation (including goals and objectives of the proposed project) and the anticipated relevance of the project to criminal justice public policy, practice, or theory applicable to the United States. It should describe the proposed method and/or research design, including data to be used in addressing research questions, data collection procedures and instrumentation, access to data, and other methods or procedures of the proposed study. It should also describe procedures for data analysis and all expected products, including interim and final reports, instrumentation, devices, and data sets to be submitted in accordance with the Data Archiving Strategy (see below). If applicable, it should describe the subjects who will be involved in the proposed project, including the number of participants; participants' age, gender, and race/ethnicity; and other pertinent characteristics, such as methods used to gain access to subjects.

b. Resubmit response (if applicable).

If you are resubmitting a proposal that was submitted, but not funded, under a previous solicitation, you must provide a response indicating that your proposal is a revision and that it was submitted before. You should prepare a two-page response to the earlier panel review that includes (1) the title, submission date, and NIJ-assigned application number of the previous proposal, and (2) a brief summary of responses to the review and/or revisions to the proposal. Insert the response after the abstract.

c. Table of contents.

d. Main body.

The main body of the Program Narrative should describe the project in depth and include the following sections:

- Purpose, goals, and objectives.
- Review of relevant literature.
- Research design and methods.
- Implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.
- Management plan and organization.
- Dissemination strategy including plans for a symposium and toolkit.

e. Appendixes.

Appendixes are not counted against program narrative page limit and must include:

- Bibliography/References (if applicable).
- Data Archiving Strategy (see “Other Program Attachments” below).
- List of key personnel (required).
- Résumés of key personnel (required).
- List of previous and current NIJ awards (required).
- Letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements from organizations collaborating in the project (if applicable).
- Chart for timeline, research calendar, or milestones (required).
- Other materials required by the solicitation.

### **Budget Detail Worksheet**

The Budget Detail Worksheet should address the full scope, duration, and cost of the project. The Budget Detail Worksheet should include a breakdown of costs associated with each budget category, including itemizations and calculations where necessary.

The budget must be broken down on a year-by-year basis over the length of the project. That is, if the proposed project is 3 years, then there should be separate budgets for year one, year two, and year three.

Templates for filling out the Budget Detail Worksheet may be found online at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms/budget\\_detail.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms/budget_detail.pdf), OJP Standard Forms & Instructions. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Chief Financial Officer's Customer Service Center at 1–800–458–0786.

### **Budget Narrative**

The Budget Narrative is a plain-language description of each of the proposed expenditures listed in the Budget Detail Worksheet. It should clearly explain the purpose and reason for all expenditures in the budget. There should be no ambiguities about any budget item. The narrative should also include details for calculated rates or other figures.

As with the Budget Detail Worksheet, the Budget Narrative must be broken down on a year-by-year basis.

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

Applicants that do not have a federally negotiated indirect cost rate and wish to establish one can submit a proposal to their “cognizant” Federal agency. Generally, the cognizant

Federal agency is the agency that provides the preponderance of direct Federal funding. This can be determined by reviewing an organization's schedule of Federal financial assistance. If DOJ is your cognizant Federal agency, obtain information needed to submit an indirect cost rate proposal at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/part3/part3chap17.htm>.

### **Other Program Attachments**

These include several forms, available on OJP's funding page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms.htm>.

**Data Archiving Strategy:** NIJ requires that each data set resulting from funded research be submitted as a grant product or deliverable for archiving with the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. (Data sets are to be submitted 90 days before the end of the project period.) Applications for NIJ research grants must include a brief (one- or two-page) data archiving strategy. For purposes of research replication and extension, the inclusion of only the final data set often prevents other researchers from replicating or extending the study because there are no original data, intermediate data, or documentation detailing how the data changed throughout the project. This data archiving strategy therefore must briefly describe the—

- Anticipated manipulations of original, intermediate, and final data sets (as applicable).
- Methods of documentation of such manipulations.
- Preparation of original, intermediate, and final data sets for archive submission.

The data archiving strategy should be submitted as an appendix to the application and will NOT count toward the 30-page limit. Please label this appendix "Data Archiving Strategy."

**Page limit:** The program narrative section of your application must not exceed 30 double-spaced pages in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Abstract, resubmit response, table of contents, charts, figures, appendixes, and government forms do not count toward the 30-page limit for the narrative section.

**Cofunding:** A grant made by NIJ under this solicitation may account for up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project. You must indicate whether you believe it is feasible for you to contribute cash, facilities, or services as non-Federal support for the project. Your application should identify generally any such contributions that you expect to make and your proposed budget should indicate in detail which items, if any, will be supported with non-Federal contributions.

## **Selection Criteria**

Successful applicants must demonstrate the following:

**Statement of the Problem** (Understanding of the problem and its importance)—15%

1. Clarity of problem statement.
2. Awareness of relevant research.
3. Connection between proposed research and problem.

**Project/Program Design and Implementation** (Quality and technical merit)—30%

1. Awareness of the state of current research or technology.
2. Soundness of methodology and analytic and technical approach.
3. Feasibility of proposed project and awareness of pitfalls.
4. Innovation and creativity (when appropriate).

**Capabilities/Competencies** (Capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of applicants)—20%

1. Qualifications and experience of proposed staff.
2. Demonstrated ability of proposed staff and organization to manage the effort.
3. Adequacy of the plan to manage the project, including how various tasks are subdivided and resources are used.
4. Successful past performance on NIJ grants and contracts (when applicable).

**Budget**—15%

1. Total cost of the project relative to the perceived benefit.
2. Appropriateness of the budget relative to the level of effort.
3. Use of existing resources to conserve costs.

**Impact/Outcomes and Evaluation** (Relevance to policy and practice)—15%

1. Potential for significant advances in scientific or technical understanding of the problem.
2. Potential for significant advances in the field.
3. Relevance for improving the policy and practice of criminal justice and related agencies and improving public safety, security, and quality of life.
4. Affordability and cost-effectiveness of proposed end products, when applicable (e.g., purchase price and maintenance costs for a new technology or cost of training to use the technology).
5. Perceived potential for commercialization and/or implementation of a new technology (when applicable).

**Relevance of the project for policy and practice:**

Higher quality applications clearly explain the practical implications of the project. They connect technical expertise with criminal justice policy and practice. To ensure that the project has strong relevance for policy and practice, some researchers and technologists collaborate with practitioners and policymakers. You may include letters showing support from practitioners, but they carry less weight than clear evidence that you understand why policymakers and practitioners would benefit from your work and how they would use it. While a partnership may affect State or local activities, it should also have broader implications for others across the country.

**Dissemination Strategy**—5%

1. Well-defined plan for the grant recipient to disseminate results to appropriate audiences, including researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.
2. Suggestions for print and electronic products NIJ might develop for practitioners and policymakers.

## Review Process

OJP is committed to ensuring a standardized process for awarding grants. NIJ reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, achievable, and consistent with program or legislative requirements as stated in the solicitation.

Peer reviewers will be reviewing the applications submitted under this solicitation as well. NIJ may use either internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination of both to review the applications under this solicitation. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the field of the subject matter of a given solicitation who is NOT a current U.S. Department of Justice employee. An internal reviewer is an expert in the field of the subject matter of a given solicitation who is a current U.S. Department of Justice employee. Applications will be screened initially to determine whether the applicant meets all eligibility requirements. Only applications submitted by eligible applicants that meet all other requirements (such as timeliness, proper format, and responsiveness to the scope of the solicitation) will be evaluated, scored, and rated by a peer review panel. Peer reviewers' ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only. In addition to peer review ratings, considerations may include, but are not limited to, underserved populations, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding.

After the peer review is finalized, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), in consultation with NIJ, conducts a financial review of all potential discretionary awards and cooperative agreements to evaluate the fiscal integrity and financial capability of applicants; examines proposed costs to determine if the budget and budget narrative accurately explain project costs; and determines whether costs are reasonable, necessary, and allowable under applicable Federal cost principles and agency regulations. OCFO also reviews the award document and verifies the OJP Vendor Number.

**When awards will be made:** All applicants, whether they are accepted or rejected, will be notified. The review and approval process takes about 4 months. You should not propose to begin work until at least 4 months after the application deadline on the cover of this solicitation. Also, you should not expect to receive notification of a decision for at least 4 months after that date. Lists of awards are updated regularly on NIJ's Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding/welcome.htm>.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final grant award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General (AAG), who may also give consideration to factors including, but not limited to, underserved populations, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding when making awards.

## Additional Requirements

Successful applicants selected for an award must agree to comply with additional applicable requirements prior to receiving grant funding. We strongly encourage you to review the list below pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting your

application. Additional information for each can be found at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other\\_requirements.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm).

- Civil Rights Compliance
- Funding to Faith-Based Organizations
- Confidentiality and Human Subjects Protection
- Anti-Lobbying Act
- Financial and Government Audit Requirements
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- DOJ Information Technology Standards
- Single Point of Contact Review
- Nonsupplanting of State and Local Funds
- Criminal Penalty for False Statements
- Compliance with Office of Justice Programs Financial Guide <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/>
- Suspension or Termination of Funding
- Nonprofit Organizations
- For-Profit Organizations
- Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)
- Rights in Intellectual Property
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) of 2006

If your proposal is funded, you will be required to submit several reports and other materials, including:

**Final substantive report:** The final report should be a comprehensive overview of the project and should include, among other things, a detailed description of the project design, data, and methods; a full presentation of scientific findings; and a thorough discussion of the implications of the project findings for criminal justice practice and policy in the United States. It must contain an abstract of no more than 600 words and an executive summary of 2,500 to 4,000 words.

A draft of the final report, abstract, and executive summary must be submitted 90 days before the end date of the grant. The draft final report will be peer reviewed upon

submission. The reviews will be forwarded to the principal investigator with suggestions for revisions. The author must then submit the revised final report, abstract, and executive summary by the end date of the grant. The abstract, executive summary, and final report must be submitted in both paper and electronic formats.

For program evaluation studies, the final report should include a section on measuring program performance. This section should outline the measures used to evaluate program effectiveness, modifications made to those measures as a result of the evaluation, and recommendations regarding these and other potential performance measures for similar programs. (This information will be particularly valuable to NIJ and other Federal program agencies in implementing performance measures for federally funded criminal justice programs.)

**Interim reports:** Grantees must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, interim reports, a final progress report, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.

**Data sets:** NIJ requires submission of all data sets (original, intermediate, and final) produced or collected for the funded project, and any artifact associated with the project data. Included with the final sets of data should be the plan outlined in the Data Archiving Strategy section of the proposal.