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The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ) is seeking applications to establish a National Criminal Justice Technology Research, Test, and Evaluation (RT&E) Center within the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System. 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.

## **Establishing a National Criminal Justice Technology Research, Test, and Evaluation Center**

### **Eligibility**

In general, NIJ is authorized to make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, States (including territories), units of local government (including federally recognized Indian tribal governments as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), nonprofit and for-profit organizations (including tribal nonprofit and profit organizations), institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education), federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs), and certain qualified individuals. For-profit organizations must agree to forgo any profit or management fee. Foreign governments, foreign organizations, and foreign institutions of higher education are not eligible to apply.

NIJ may elect to make awards for applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

### **Deadline**

Applicants must register with [Grants.gov](#) prior to submitting an application. (See "How to Apply," page 22.) All applications are due by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on **April 25, 2013**. (See "Deadlines: Registration and Application," page 3.)

### **Contact Information**

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035, or via e-mail to [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)

**Note:** The [Grants.gov](#) Support Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, e-mail NIJ at [ST-Research@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:ST-Research@ojp.usdoj.gov). Additional information can be found at [www.nij.gov/nij/funding/welcome.htm](http://www.nij.gov/nij/funding/welcome.htm), and frequently asked questions that may assist with applying are posted at [www.nij.gov/funding/fags.htm](http://www.nij.gov/funding/fags.htm).

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# Establishing a National Criminal Justice Technology Research, Test, and Evaluation Center (CFDA No. 16.560)

## Overview

The purpose of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Research, Evaluation, and Development Project Grants program is to encourage and support research, development, and evaluation to improve criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.

With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals to establish a Criminal Justice Technology RT&E Center within the NIJ-funded NLECTC System. This Center will conduct focused RT&E activities to inform NIJ's non-forensic technology research and development (R&D) efforts. It will also conduct RT&E activities to support NIJ's efforts to inform practitioners, policymakers, and researchers ("the field") regarding technologies or technology-related issues for purposes of improving criminal justice policy and practice.

**Authorizing Legislation:** Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (sections 201 and 202) and Homeland Security Act of 2002 (section 232).

## Deadlines: Registration and Application

Applicants must register with Grants.gov in order to submit an application. OJP encourages applicants to **register several weeks before** the application submission deadline. In addition, OJP urges applicants to submit applications 72 hours prior to the application due date. The deadline to apply for funding under this announcement is 11:59 p.m. eastern time on **April 25, 2013**. See "How to Apply" on page 22 for details.

## Eligibility

Refer to the title page for eligibility under this program.

## Program-Specific Information

NIJ's Science and Technology (S&T) program sponsors research, development, test, and evaluation efforts to improve the safety and effectiveness of the tools and technologies used by criminal justice agencies. Although Federal agencies are part of its constituency, NIJ's primary focus is on the needs of State and local agencies.

NIJ is the national focal point for research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) to address criminal justice technology needs. This includes technology for law enforcement, courts, and corrections agencies as well as for forensic laboratories. NIJ conducts its technology RDT&E primarily through grants and agreements with for-profit, not for-profit, and public sector research organizations. NIJ's technology efforts are wide ranging requiring the application of diverse science and engineering expertise, including, but not limited to operations research;

material science and engineering; optical science and engineering; the life sciences; industrial, mechanical, electrical, electronic and telecommunications engineering; and computer science.

In 2007, NIJ established technology centers of excellence (COEs) within the NIJ-funded NLECTC System. These COEs conduct RT&E activities to inform NIJ's technology R&D efforts and supported NIJ's efforts to inform the field regarding technologies and related issues. At the beginning of 2012, there was one COE supporting NIJ's forensic technology efforts and six supporting NIJ's non-forensic efforts. Each COE was aligned with one or more of NIJ's technology investment portfolios, e.g., communications, biometrics, sensors and surveillance, less lethal devices, personal protective equipment, etc. (More information on these COEs can be found at [www.justnet.org/About\\_NLECTC.html](http://www.justnet.org/About_NLECTC.html).)

With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals to establish a single NLECTC Technology RT&E Center that will replace the six non-forensic centers. The successful applicant's proposal will demonstrate the capabilities and competencies to do the work described below in "**Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables**," to include ready access to the diverse staff with the requisite scientific and technical expertise to address the breadth of activities that will be undertaken by this Center to include evaluation research.

Applicants should note that demonstrating the "capabilities and competencies to do the work described below" does not simply refer to the nine specific tasks that NIJ expects would be initiated, but not necessarily completed, in 2013. Rather, it refers to the capabilities and competencies to conduct similar work across the breadth of NIJ's wide-ranging technology efforts. Applicants will be afforded the opportunity to address each of the nine tasks as appendices to the proposal. Those appendices will not count against the pages allotted to the program narrative. The program narrative should be devoted to demonstrating the applicant's capabilities and competencies more broadly in terms of the types of activities that it might be asked to undertake.

### **Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables**

The goal of this solicitation is to provide RT&E support to inform NIJ's non-forensic R&D efforts and its efforts to inform the field concerning technology and related issues in a more innovative, sustainable, efficient, and effective manner.

The activities of the NLECTC Technology RT&E Center will vary from year to year. NIJ expects that the period of performance for any award arising from this solicitation will be 5 years, with only the first 12-months of effort funded initially. Subsequent funding, if any, will be determined by the results of the initial phase of work, the availability of funding, and agency priorities, among other factors.

The Center's activities will be developed collaboratively between the successful applicant and NIJ. Those activities may involve secondary research, basic and applied scientific research, and evaluation research. They will not involve technology development. The Center's activities may also involve testing to determine the technical performance of developmental and commercial technologies for purposes of characterization and/or comparison. That testing will be conducted both in the field and in a laboratory, depending on the maturity of the technology. That testing may take the form of demonstrations.

In any given year, the Center's activities may involve:

- Assessing the progress of ongoing projects funded through separate solicitations and assisting NIJ to troubleshoot and to redirect those projects, if required.
- Testing the products arising from those projects to determine if they achieve their technical performance objectives.
- Conducting evaluation research to determine if those products have an impact on criminal justice policy and practice.
- Conducting testing and/or evaluation of different technologies, not necessarily arising from NIJ R&D projects, for purposes of characterization and comparison. These activities may be aimed at informing NIJ's technology R&D program and/or to informing the field.

Specific objectives and deliverables will vary with each project undertaken, but in general will involve development and publication of research reports, studies, and or guides. All studies published by this Center will be evidence based, will collect data in a comprehensive way, will be written in a fashion that is understood by all stakeholders, and will provide practical lessons that can be used by the criminal justice community. The principal consumers of the deliverables resulting from the Center's activities will be the members of the three criminal justice communities of practice: law enforcement, courts, and corrections.

The specific activities that NIJ expects will be initiated but not necessarily completed during the initial 12-month period of performance for any award arising from this solicitation are identified below. NIJ understands that supplemental funding beyond that provided for the initial period of performance may be required to complete these tasks.

- Conduct a market survey and technical assessment of the alternative location-based offender monitoring technologies for monitoring offenders under community supervision. This project is intended to result in a guide to inform purchasing decisions by State and local public safety agencies.
- Conduct a technical assessment of the NIJ-funded JANUS sensor fusion system being developed by the Viterbi School of Engineering at the University of Southern California under award 2011-IJ-CX-K054 to determine if the technology achieves its technical performance objectives. More information on this technology can be found at <http://viterbi.usc.edu/news/news/2012/janus-system-will.htm>. Work by the Viterbi School is expected to be completed by September 2013.
- Conduct a technical assessment of a handheld, laser-based system for detecting tripwires attached to improvised explosive devices to determine if the technology achieves its technical performance objectives. This technology is being developed by AMP Research under award 2011-MU-MU-K098. AMP is expected to complete this effort in March 2013.
- Conduct an operational evaluation of the utility of datacasting for law enforcement communications. (NIJ uses the term operational evaluation in the conventional sense. That is to say the test and assessment of a technology under the same conditions and circumstances that it would be used if adopted into practice, in so much as is practical, to determine its effectiveness compared to currently available technologies. Ideally, this would involve evaluation research.)
- Develop a plan for an operational evaluation of the impact of implementation of the public safety broadband network (FirstNet) on law enforcement operations in a specific TBD approved jurisdiction.

- Provide independent analytic and evaluation support to agencies and/or research organizations receiving awards under NIJ's FY 2013 "Evaluating the Efficacy of Lighting, Marking, and Painting Schemes in Reducing the incidence of Law Enforcement Vehicle Crashes" solicitation. The solicitation for this effort may be found at <https://ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sI001054.pdf>. That solicitation seeks proposals from law enforcement agencies teamed with research organizations or research organizations teamed with law enforcement agencies to conduct operational evaluations of the impact of alternative lighting, marking, and painting schemes for law enforcement vehicles on the incidence of traffic accidents involving those vehicles. The solicitation is also interested in determining how these schemes may otherwise affect law enforcement operations. The RT&E Center will serve as both a third party evaluator and a resource for guidance on evaluation research to the entities receiving awards under that solicitation. Applicants should plan on two awards being made. The actual number of awards may be different. Work is expected to begin by the end of January 2014.
- Conduct an operational evaluation of a geospatial toolkit for monitoring offenders under community supervision more effectively. This tool kit is being developed for NIJ by the University of Oklahoma under award # 2010-DE-BX-K005. The University of Oklahoma is expected to complete its work in September 2013. As part of that work, the tool kit will be beta tested with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. NIJ is interested in evaluating it with another correctional agency. More information on this technology can be found at [csa.ou.edu/content/track-analysis-location-based-offender-monitoring-system-odoc-use-cases](http://csa.ou.edu/content/track-analysis-location-based-offender-monitoring-system-odoc-use-cases).
- Conduct an operational evaluation of a 'smart' CCTV system. NIJ funded the University of Houston under award 2009-MU-MU-K004 and GE Global Research under awards 2007-RG-CX-K015, 2009-SQ-B9-K013, and 2011-IJ-CX-K004 to develop 'smart' CCTV systems. The GE effort will be completed in March 2013. The University of Houston effort is anticipated to be completed sometime in 2014. More information on these technologies can be found at [www.nij.gov/nij/topics/technology/detection-surveillance/enhanced-surveillance/video-analytics.htm](http://www.nij.gov/nij/topics/technology/detection-surveillance/enhanced-surveillance/video-analytics.htm) and [gil.uh.edu/gil/index.php/research/projects/video-analytics/wide-area-surveillance](http://gil.uh.edu/gil/index.php/research/projects/video-analytics/wide-area-surveillance). Applicants should plan to conduct an operational evaluation of only one of these two systems.
- Conduct an operational evaluation of a Personnel Management Information System (PMIS) for jailers being developed for NIJ by RAND Corporation under award 2011-IJ-CX-K052. This system will be implemented in the Broward County (FL) Sheriff's Office. Work by RAND on this effort is expected to be completed in March 2014. NIJ is interested in evaluating this technology in another correctional agency. More information on this technology can be found at [grants.ojp.usdoj.gov:85/selector2/awardDetail?awardNumber=2011-IJ-CX-K052&fiscalYear=2012&applicationNumber=2012-91353-CA-IJ&programOffice=NIJ](http://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov:85/selector2/awardDetail?awardNumber=2011-IJ-CX-K052&fiscalYear=2012&applicationNumber=2012-91353-CA-IJ&programOffice=NIJ).

Based on available information and the understanding of the specific activity provided by their experience, applicants will develop an abbreviated plan for accomplishing each of these nine tasks. Those plans should include a description of the proposed approach to accomplishing the task with relevant timelines and deliverables. Applicants should note the assumptions that they used in developing these plans. Each plan should not exceed 6 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font.

NIJ understands that these plans will not be complete, but rather best efforts. NIJ will work with the successful applicant to refine these plans after making the award.

The plans will be submitted as appendices to the program narrative. While they will not be counted against the program narrative's limit of 20 pages, they will be considered as part of the technical evaluation of the applicant's proposal.

### **Evidence-based Programs or Practices**

OJP places a strong emphasis on the use of data and evidence in policy making and program development in criminal justice. OJP is committed to:

- improving the quantity and quality of evidence OJP generates;
- integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions within OJP and the field; and
- improving the translation of evidence into practice.

OJP considers programs and practices to be evidence-based when their effectiveness has been demonstrated by causal evidence, generally obtained through one or more outcome evaluations. Causal evidence documents a relationship between an activity or intervention (including technology) and its intended outcome, including measuring the direction and size of a change, and the extent to which a change may be attributed to the activity or intervention. Causal evidence depends on the use of scientific methods to rule out, to the extent possible, alternative explanations for the documented change. The strength of causal evidence, based on the factors described above, will influence the degree to which OJP considers a program or practice to be evidence-based. OJP's [CrimeSolutions.gov](http://CrimeSolutions.gov) Web site is one resource that applicants may use to find information about evidence-based programs in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.

### **Amount and Length of Awards**

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

NIJ anticipates that it will make one award under this solicitation and that up to \$2,400,000 will be made available for an initial project period of up to 12 months. Subsequent funding, if any, will be determined by the results of the initial phase of work, the availability of funding, and agency priorities, among other factors.

While the total period of an award, including one that receives a project period extension, ordinarily will not exceed 3 years, NIJ expects that the award, if any, made under this solicitation will have a period of performance of 5 years.

**Evaluation Research:** Within applications proposing evaluation research, NIJ normally gives funding priority to experimental research designs that use random selection and assignment of participants to experimental and control conditions. When randomized designs are not feasible, priority is normally given to quasi-experimental designs that include contemporary procedures such as Propensity Score Matching or Regression Discontinuity Design to address selection bias in evaluating outcomes and impacts. Ultimately, however, the proposed research

methodology, and the fundability of the proposal, will be evaluated based on the methodology's applicability and utility to the research question and the circumstances.

**What will not be funded:**

1. Provision of training or direct service.
2. Proposals primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies. (The 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.
4. Proposals that do not contain a research component or do not respond to the specific goals of this solicitation.
5. Proposals that do not address the specific topics identified in this solicitation as they are described.

**Budget Information**

**Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver**

With respect to any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation, recipients may not use federal funds to pay total cash compensation (salary plus cash bonuses) to any employee of the award recipient at a rate that exceeds 110% 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 2012 salary table for SES employees is available at [www.opm.gov/oca/12tables/indexSES.asp](http://www.opm.gov/oca/12tables/indexSES.asp). Note: A recipient may compensate an employee at a greater rate, provided the amount in excess of this compensation limitation is paid with non-federal funds. (Any such additional compensation will not be considered matching funds where match requirements apply.)

The Director of the National Institute of Justice may exercise discretion to waive, on an individual basis, the limitation on compensation rates allowable under an award. An applicant requesting a waiver should include a detailed justification in the budget narrative of the application. Unless the applicant submits a waiver request and justification with the application, the applicant should anticipate that OJP will request the applicant to adjust and resubmit the budget.

The justification should include the particular qualifications and expertise of the individual, the uniqueness of the service the individual will provide, the individual's specific knowledge of the program or project being undertaken with award funds, and a statement explaining that the individual's salary is commensurate with the regular and customary rate for an individual with his/her qualifications and expertise, and for the work to be done.

**Minimization of Conference Costs**

OJP encourages applicants to review the OJP guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting that is available on the OJP Web site at [www.ojp.gov/funding/confcost.htm](http://www.ojp.gov/funding/confcost.htm). This guidance sets out the current OJP policy, which requires all funding recipients that propose to hold or sponsor conferences (including, meetings, trainings, and other similar events) to minimize costs, requires OJP review and prior written approval of most conference costs for cooperative agreement recipients (and certain costs for grant recipients), and generally prohibits

the use of OJP funding to provide food and beverages at conferences. The guidance also sets upper limits on many conference costs, including facility space, audio/visual services, logistical planning services, programmatic planning services, and food and beverages (in the rare cases where food and beverage costs are permitted at all).

Prior review and approval of conference costs can take time (see the guidance for specific deadlines), and applicants should take this into account when submitting proposals. Applicants also should understand that conference cost limits may change and that they should check the guidance for updates before incurring such costs.

Note on food and beverages: OJP may make exceptions to the general prohibition on using OJP funding for food and beverages, but will do so only in rare cases where food and beverages are not otherwise available (e.g., in extremely remote areas); the size of the event and capacity of nearby food and beverage vendors would make it impractical to not provide food and beverages; or a special presentation at a conference requires a plenary address where conference participants have no other time to obtain food and beverages. Any such exception requires OJP's prior written approval. The restriction on food and beverages does not apply to water provided at no cost, but does apply to any and all other refreshments, regardless of the size or nature of the meeting. Additionally, this restriction does not affect direct payment of per diem amounts to individuals in a travel status under your organization's travel policy.

### **Costs Associated With Language Assistance (if applicable)**

If an applicant proposes a program or activity that would deliver services or benefits to individuals, the costs of taking reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to those services or benefits for individuals with limited English proficiency may be allowable. Reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services or benefits may include interpretation or translation services where appropriate.

For additional information, see the "Civil Rights Compliance" section of the OJP "Other Requirements for OJP Applications" Web page at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other\\_requirements.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm).

### **Match Requirement**

See "Cofunding" paragraph under "What an Application Should Include" (below).

### **Performance Measures**

To assist the Department with fulfilling its responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), Public Law 103-62, and the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, Public Law 111-352, applicants that receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measure the results of their work done under this solicitation. OJP will require any award recipient, post award, to provide the data requested in the "Data Grantee Provides" column so that OJP can calculate values for the "Performance Measures" column. (Submission of performance measures data is not required for the application.) Performance measures for this solicitation are as follows:

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Data Grantee Provides
Provide safer, more effective tools and technologies for use by criminal justice agencies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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.</li> <li>2. Quality of the research as assessed by peer reviewers.</li> <li>3. Quality of management as measured by whether significant interim project milestones were achieved, final deadlines were met, and costs remained within approved limits.</li> <li>4. If applicable, number of fielded technologies.</li> <li>5. If applicable, number of NIJ final grant reports, NIJ research documents, and grantee research documents published.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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 in the United States.</li> <li>2. Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, and a final progress report.</li> <li>3. If applicable, each data set that was collected, acquired, or modified in conjunction with the project.</li> <li>4. If applicable, description of fielded technologies.</li> <li>5. If applicable, citation to report(s)/documents.</li> </ol>

OJP does not require applicants to submit performance measures data with their applications. Instead, applicants should discuss in their application their proposed methods for collecting data for performance measures. Refer to the section "What an Application Should Include" on page 11 for additional information.

**Note on Project Evaluations**

Applicants that propose to use funds awarded through this solicitation to conduct project evaluations should be aware that certain project evaluations (such as systematic investigations designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge) may constitute "research" for purposes of applicable DOJ human subjects protection regulations. However, project evaluations that are intended only to generate internal improvements to a program or service, or are conducted only to meet OJP's performance measure data reporting requirements likely do not constitute "research." Applicants should provide sufficient information for OJP to determine whether the particular project they propose would either intentionally or unintentionally collect and/or use information in such a way that it meets the DOJ regulatory definition of research.

Research, for the purposes of human subjects protections for OJP-funded programs, is defined as, "a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge" 28 C.F.R. § 46.102(d). For additional information on determining whether a proposed activity would constitute research, see the decision tree to assist applicants on the "Research and the Protection of Human Subjects" section of the OJP "Other Requirements for OJP Applications" Web page

([www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other\\_requirements.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm)). Applicants whose proposals may involve a research or statistical component also should review the "Confidentiality" section on that Web page.

## Notice of Post-Award FFATA Reporting Requirement

Applicants should anticipate that OJP will require all recipients (other than individuals) of awards of \$25,000 or more under this solicitation, consistent with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), to report award information on any first-tier subawards totaling \$25,000 or more, and, in certain cases, to report information on the names and total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of the recipient and first-tier subrecipients. Each applicant entity must ensure that it has the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should it receive funding. Reports regarding subawards will be made through the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS), found at [www.fsrs.gov](http://www.fsrs.gov).

Please note also that applicants should anticipate that no subaward of an award made under this solicitation may be made to a subrecipient (other than an individual) unless the potential subrecipient acquires and provides a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.

## What an Application Should Include

Applicants should anticipate that if they fail to submit an application that contains all of the specified elements, it may negatively affect the review of their application; and, should a decision be made to make an award, it may result in the inclusion of special conditions that preclude the recipient from accessing or using award funds pending satisfaction of the conditions.

Moreover, applicants should anticipate that applications that are determined to be nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation, or that do not include the application elements that NIJ has designated to be critical, will neither proceed to peer review nor receive further consideration. Under this solicitation, NIJ has designated the following application elements as critical: Program Narrative, Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative, and resumes/curriculum vitae of key personnel. Applicants may combine the Budget Narrative and the Budget Detail Worksheet in one document. However, if an applicant submits only one document, it must contain **both** narrative and detail information.

OJP strongly recommends that applicants use appropriately descriptive file names (e.g., "Program Narrative," "Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative," "Timelines," "Memoranda of Understanding," "Resumes") for all attachments. Also, OJP recommends that applicants include resumes in a single file.

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

The SF-424 is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. Grants.gov and GMS take information from the applicant's profile to populate the fields on this form. When selecting "type of applicant," if the applicant is a for-profit entity, select "For-Profit Organization" or "Small Business" (as applicable).

## 2. Abstract

Applications should include a high-quality “Project Abstract” that summarizes the proposed project in 250-400 words. Project abstracts should be—

- Written for a general public audience.
- Submitted as a separate attachment with <Project Abstract> as part of its file name.
- Single-spaced, using a standard 12-point font (Times New Roman) with 1-inch margins.

As a separate attachment, the project abstract will **not** count against the page limit for the program narrative.

All project abstracts should follow the detailed template available at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/Project\\_Abstract\\_Template.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/Project_Abstract_Template.pdf) and the supplemental instructions below.

The abstract is a critical part of your application, serving as an important introduction to your proposed study. NIJ uses the abstract for a number of purposes, including assignment to the appropriate independent review panel. If your proposal is funded, the abstract typically will become public information and be used to describe your proposed work. The abstract must be 250-400 words and describe the proposed work succinctly and accurately. The abstract does not count against the 20-page limit for program narrative, and should follow this format:

1. **Goals and Objectives:** State the purpose of the project, the problem to be investigated, and the anticipated relevance to criminal justice policy, practice, and theory.
2. **Subjects:** If applicable, include the number of subjects in your study and a description of their characteristics, such as age, gender, race/ethnicity, and other pertinent attributes.
3. **Research Design and Methods:** Summarize how the work will be organized and conducted by including one or more of the following:
  - Describe the methods proposed including a clear timeline, the type of data, collection strategies, instruments, study sites, and other methods or procedures. For an evaluation, clearly describe the type of evaluation (randomized control trial, quasi-experimental design, or process evaluation).
  - State the hypothesis and the innovative potential of the research; list and briefly describe the specific aims; and briefly describe the research rationale and the experiments that will be conducted to accomplish each aim.

- For technology development efforts, briefly describe how the technology is to be introduced into practice. If applicable, provide an overview of the anticipated commercialization strategy.
  - For technology research and development projects, briefly describe key technology challenges and how they will be overcome.
4. **Analysis:** Summarize the techniques proposed for data analysis. Summarize steps to be taken to strengthen the reliability and validity of the analysis.
  5. **Products, Reports, and Data Archiving:** Describe the expected products such as data sets, interim and final reports, and tools or technologies. If applicable, describe data to be archived under NIJ's Data Resource Program.

Permission to Share Project Abstract with the Public: It is unlikely that NIJ will be able to fund all promising applications submitted under this solicitation, but it may have the opportunity to share information with the public regarding promising but unfunded applications, for example, through a listing on a webpage available to the public. The intent of this public posting would be to allow other possible funders to become aware of such proposals.

In the project abstract template, applicants are asked to indicate whether they give OJP permission to share their project abstract (including contact information) with the public. Granting (or failing to grant) this permission will not affect OJP's funding decisions, and, if the application is not funded, granting permission will not guarantee that abstract information will be shared, nor will it guarantee funding from any other source.

Note: OJP may choose not to list a project that otherwise would have been included in a listing of promising but unfunded applications, should the abstract fail to meet the format and content requirements noted above and outlined in the project abstract template.

### 3. Program Narrative

The program narrative section of the application should not exceed 20 pages double-spaced pages in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Abstract, table of contents, charts, figures, appendices, and government forms do not count toward the 20-page limit for the narrative section.

If the program narrative fails to comply with these length-related restrictions, NIJ may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

The following sections should be included as part of the program narrative.

Program Narrative Guidelines:

- a. **Title Page** (not counted against the 20-page program narrative limit).  
The title page should include the title of the project, submission date, funding opportunity number, and the applicant's name and complete contact information (i.e., name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address).
- b. **Resubmit Response** (if applicable) (not counted against the 20-page program narrative limit). If an applicant is resubmitting a proposal that was 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 proposal, and (2) a brief summary of revisions to the proposal. This document should be inserted after the abstract.
- c. **Table of Contents and Figures** (not counted against the 20-page program narrative limit).
- d. **Main body.** The main body of the program narrative should describe the project in depth. The following sections should be included as part of the program narrative:
  - Statement of the Problem.
  - Project/Program Design and Implementation.
  - Capabilities/Competencies.
  - Impact/Outcomes and Evaluation.
  - Dissemination Strategy.Within these sections, the narrative should address:
  - Purpose, goals, and objectives.
  - Review of relevant literature.
  - Detailed description of research design and methods to include: research questions, hypotheses, description of sample, analysis plan, etc.
  - Implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.
  - Management plan and organization.
- e. **Appendices** (not counted against the 20-page program narrative limit) include:
  - Bibliography/references.
  - Any tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/charts/graphs, or maps pertaining to the proposed study.
  - Curriculum vitae, resumes or biographical sketches of key personnel.
  - Project timeline and research calendar with expected milestones.
  - Research independence and integrity (see "Selection Criteria," below).
  - Human Subjects Protection Paperwork including Institutional Review Board (IRB) documentation and forms (see [www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/humansubjects/human-subjects.htm](http://www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/humansubjects/human-subjects.htm)).

- Privacy Certificate (for further guidance go to [www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/humansubjects/privacy-certificate-guidance.htm](http://www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/humansubjects/privacy-certificate-guidance.htm)).
- List of previous and current NIJ awards to applicant organization and investigator(s).
- Letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements from organizations collaborating in the project, such as law enforcement and correctional agencies (if applicable).
- List of other agencies, organizations, or funding sources to which this proposal has been submitted (if applicable).
- Task plans for the nine tasks specified.

#### 4. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative

##### a. Budget Detail Worksheet

A sample Budget Detail Worksheet can be found at [www.ojp.gov/funding/forms/budget\\_detail.pdf](http://www.ojp.gov/funding/forms/budget_detail.pdf). Applicants that submit their budget in a different format should include the budget categories listed in the sample budget worksheet.

For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, see the OJP Financial Guide at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/index.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/index.htm).

##### b. Budget Narrative

The Budget Narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe every category of expense listed in the Budget Detail Worksheet. OJP expects proposed budgets to be complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

Applicants should demonstrate in their budget narratives how they will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget narratives should generally describe cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the goals of the project. For example, a budget narrative should detail why planned in-person meetings are necessary, or how technology and collaboration with outside organizations could be used to reduce costs, without compromising quality.

The narrative should be mathematically sound and correspond with the information and figures provided in the Budget Detail Worksheet. The narrative should explain how the applicant estimated and calculated all costs, and how they are relevant to the completion of the proposed project. The narrative may include tables for clarification purposes but need not be in a spreadsheet format. As with the Budget Detail Worksheet, the Budget Narrative should be broken down by year.

**Cofunding:** A grant 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.

If a successful application proposes a voluntary match amount, the match amount incorporated into the OJP-approved budget becomes mandatory and subject to audit.

**5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)**

Indirect costs are allowed only if the applicant has a federally approved indirect cost rate. (This requirement does not apply to units of local government.) Attach a copy of the federally approved indirect cost rate agreement to the application. Applicants that do not have an approved rate may request one through their cognizant federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant organization, or, if the applicant's accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct cost categories. If DOJ is the cognizant federal agency, obtain information needed to submit an indirect cost rate proposal at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/pdfs/indirect\\_costs.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/pdfs/indirect_costs.pdf).

**6. Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)**

Tribes, tribal organizations, or third parties proposing to provide direct services or assistance to residents on tribal lands should include in their applications a resolution, a letter, affidavit, or other documentation, as appropriate, that certifies that the applicant has the legal authority from the tribe(s) to implement the proposed project on tribal lands. In those instances when an organization or consortium of tribes applies for a grant on behalf of a tribe or multiple specific tribes, then the application should include appropriate legal documentation, as described above, from all tribes that would receive services/assistance under the grant. A consortium of tribes for which existing consortium bylaws allow action without support from all tribes in the consortium (i.e., without an authorizing resolution or comparable legal documentation from each tribal governing body) may submit, instead, a copy of its consortium bylaws with the application.

**7. Additional Attachments**

**a. Applicant disclosure of pending applications.**

Applicants are to disclose whether they have pending applications for federally funded assistance that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application under this solicitation. The disclosure should include both direct applications for federal funding (e.g., applications to federal agencies) and indirect applications for such funding (e.g., applications to State agencies that will be subawarding federal funds).

OJP seeks this information to help avoid any inappropriate duplication of funding. Leveraging multiple funding sources in a complementary manner to implement comprehensive programs or projects is encouraged and is not seen as inappropriate duplication.

Applicants that have pending applications as described above are to provide the following information about pending applications submitted within the last 12 months:

- the Federal or State funding agency
- the solicitation name/project name
- the point of contact information at the applicable funding agency

Federal or State Funding Agency	Solicitation Name/Project Name	Name/Phone/E-mail for Point of Contact at Funding Agency
DOJ/COPS	COPS Hiring Program	Jane Doe, 202/000-0000; jane.doe@usdoj.gov
HHS/ Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration	Drug Free Communities Mentoring Program/ North County Youth Mentoring Program	John Doe, 202/000-0000; john.doe@hhs.gov

Applicants should include the table as a separate attachment, with the file name “Disclosure of Pending Applications,” to their application. Applicants that do not have pending applications as described above are to include a statement to this effect in the separate attachment page. (e.g., “[Applicant Name] does not have pending applications submitted within the last 12 months for federally funded assistance that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application under this solicitation.”)

**b. Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity**

If a proposal involves research and/or evaluation, regardless of the proposal’s rating under the selection criteria, in order to receive funds, the applicant’s proposal must demonstrate research/evaluation independence, including appropriate safeguards to ensure research/evaluation objectivity and integrity.

For purposes of this solicitation, research and evaluation independence and integrity pertains to ensuring that the design, conduct, or reporting of research/evaluation funded by NIJ grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts will not be biased by any personal or financial conflict of interest on the part of the investigators responsible for the research/evaluation or on the part of the applicant organization. Conflicts can be either actual or apparent. Examples of potential investigator (or other personal) conflict situations may include where an investigator would be in a position to evaluate a spouse’s work product (actual conflict), or where an investigator would be in a position to evaluate the work of a former colleague (apparent conflict). With regard to potential organizational conflicts of interest, as one example, generally an organization could not be given a grant to evaluate a project if that organization had itself provided substantial prior technical assistance to that project, as the organization in such an instance would

appear to be evaluating the effectiveness of its own prior work. The key is whether a reasonable person understanding all of the facts would be able to have confidence that the results of any research/evaluation project are objective and reliable. Any outside personal or financial interest that casts doubt on that objectivity and reliability is a problem.

In the appendix dealing with research and evaluation independence and integrity, the applicant should explain the process and procedures that the applicant has put in place to identify and eliminate (or, at the very least, mitigate) potential personal or financial conflicts of interest on the part of its staff, consultants, and/or subrecipients. It should also identify any potential organizational conflicts of interest on the part of the applicant with regard to the proposed research/evaluation. If the applicant reasonably believes that no potential personal or organizational conflicts of interest exist, then the applicant should provide a brief narrative explanation of how and why it reached that conclusion.

Where potential personal or organizational conflicts of interest exist, in the appendix the applicant should identify the safeguards the applicant has or will put in place to eliminate, mitigate, explain, or otherwise address those conflicts of interest.

Considerations in assessing research and evaluation independence and integrity will include, but may not be limited to, the adequacy of the applicant's efforts to identify factors that could affect the objectivity/integrity of the proposed staff and/or the organization in carrying out the research, development, or evaluation activity; and the adequacy of the applicant's existing or proposed remedies to control any such factors.

#### 8. **Other Standard Forms**

Additional forms that OJP may require in connection with an award are available on OJP's funding page at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms.htm). For successful applicants, receipt of funds may be contingent upon submission of all necessary forms. Note in particular the following forms:

a. [Standard Assurances](#)\*

Applicants must read, certify, and submit this form in GMS prior to the receipt of any award funds.

b. [Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements](#)\*

Applicants must read, certify, and submit in GMS prior to the receipt of any award funds.

c. [Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire](#)

Any applicant (other than an individual) that is a non-governmental entity and that has not received any award from OJP within the past 3 years, must download, complete, and submit this form.

\*These OJP Standard Assurances and Certifications are forms which applicants accept in GMS. They are not additional forms to be uploaded at the time of application submission.

## Selection Criteria

### **Project/Program Design and Implementation** (Quality and technical merit)—40%

1. Awareness of the state of current research.
2. Soundness of methods 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)—30%

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**—5%

***NOTE:** The budget should be complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities.) Budget narratives should generally demonstrate how applicants will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget narratives should demonstrate cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the goals of the project.<sup>1</sup>*

1. Total cost of the project relative to the perceived benefit (cost effectiveness).
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)—20%

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 in the United States and improving public safety, security, and quality of life.
4. Affordability and cost-effectiveness of proposed products, when applicable (e.g., purchase price and maintenance costs for a new technology or cost of training to use the technology).

#### **Relevance of the project for policy and practice in the United States**

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. The application may include letters showing support from practitioners, but they carry less weight than clear evidence of the applicant's understanding of how policymakers and practitioners can best use and benefit from the

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<sup>1</sup> Generally speaking, a reasonable cost is a cost that, in its nature or amount, does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the costs.

proposed work. While a partnership may affect State or local activities, it should also have broader implications for other communities nationwide.

### **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 that NIJ should consider developing for practitioners and policymakers.
3. If applicable, a clear strategy leading to the adoption into practice of any equipment or software.

## **Review Process**

OJP is committed to ensuring a fair and open process for awarding grants. NIJ reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with the solicitation.

Peer reviewers will review the applications submitted under this solicitation that meet basic minimum requirements. NIJ may use either internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination, to review the applications under this solicitation. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the subject matter of a given solicitation who is NOT a current DOJ employee. An internal reviewer is a current DOJ employee who is well-versed or has expertise in the subject matter of this solicitation. Applications that meet basic minimum requirements 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 for award recommendations and decisions may include, but are not limited to, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding.

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), in consultation with NIJ, reviews applications for potential discretionary awards to evaluate the fiscal integrity and financial capability of applicants, examines proposed costs to determine if the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative accurately explain project costs, and determines whether costs are reasonable, necessary, and allowable under applicable federal cost principles and agency regulations.

All final award decisions will be made by the Director of the National Institute of Justice, who may consider factors including, but not limited to, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding when making awards.

## **Additional Requirements**

Applicants selected for awards must agree to comply with additional legal requirements upon acceptance of an award. OJP encourages applicants to review the information pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting an application. Additional information for each requirement can be found at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other\\_requirements.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm).

- Civil Rights Compliance
- Civil Rights Compliance Specific to State Administering Agencies

- Faith-Based and Other Community Organizations
- Confidentiality
- Research and the Protection of Human Subjects
- Anti-Lobbying Act
- Financial and Government Audit Requirements
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- DOJ Information Technology Standards (if applicable)
- Single Point of Contact Review
- Non-Supplanting of State or Local Funds
- Criminal Penalty for False Statements
- Compliance with [Office of Justice Programs Financial Guide](#)
- 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 of 2006 (FFATA)
- Awards in Excess of \$5,000,000 – Federal Taxes Certification Requirement
- Policy and Guidance for Conference Approval, Planning, and Reporting
- OJP Training Guiding Principles for Grantees and Subgrantees

If a proposal is funded, the award recipient 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 a detailed description of the project design, data, and methods; a full presentation of scientific findings, placed in the context of existing literature; a thorough discussion of the implications of the project findings for criminal justice practice and policy in the

United States; etc. 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 electronic format.

**Interim reports:** Grantees must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress 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. Semi-annual progress reports on each discrete RT&E task will be submitted in the National Science Foundation's Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) format ([www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rppr/](http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rppr/)).

**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 Plan section of the proposal.

## How to Apply

Applicants must submit applications through Grants.gov. Applicants must first register with Grants.gov in order to submit an application through Grants.gov, a "one-stop storefront" to find federal funding opportunities and apply for funding. Find complete instructions on how to register and submit an application at [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov). Applicants that experience technical difficulties during this process should call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at **800-518-4726** or **606-545-5035**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays. Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, **processing delays may occur, and it can take several weeks** for first-time registrants to receive confirmation and a user password. OJP encourages applicants to **register several weeks before** the application submission deadline. In addition, OJP urges applicants to submit applications 72 hours prior to the application due date to allow time to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

**Note:** NIJ encourages all prospective applicants to sign up for Grants.gov email notifications regarding this solicitation. If this solicitation is cancelled or modified, individuals who sign up with Grants.gov for email updates will be notified.

All applicants are required to complete the following steps:

1. **Acquire a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.** In general, the Office of Management and Budget requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal funds include a DUNS number in their applications for a new award or a supplement to an existing award. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and differentiating 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, one-time activity. Call Dun and Bradstreet at 866-705-5711 to obtain a DUNS number or apply online at [www.dnb.com](http://www.dnb.com). A DUNS number is usually received within 1-2 business days.

2. **Acquire registration with the System for Award Management (SAM). SAM replaces the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database** as the repository for standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. OJP requires all applicants (other than individuals) for federal financial assistance to maintain current registrations in the SAM database. Applicants must be registered in SAM to successfully register in Grants.gov. (Previously, organizations that had submitted applications via Grants.gov were registered with CCR, as it was a requirement for Grants.gov registration. SAM registration replaces CCR as a pre-requisite for Grants.gov registration.) Applicants must **update or renew their SAM registration annually** to maintain an active status.

Applicants that were previously registered in the CCR database must, at a minimum:

- Create a SAM account;
- Log in to SAM and migrate permissions to the SAM account (all the entity registrations and records should already have been migrated).

Applicants that were not previously registered in the CCR database must register in SAM prior to registering in Grants.gov. Information about SAM registration procedures can be accessed at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov).

3. **Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password.** Complete the AOR profile on Grants.gov and create a username and password. The applicant organization's DUNS number must be used to complete this step. For more information about the registration process, go to [www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp).
4. **Acquire confirmation for the AOR from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC).** The E-Biz POC at the applicant organization must log into Grants.gov to confirm the applicant organization's AOR. Note that an organization can have more than one AOR.
5. **Search for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov.** Use the following identifying information when searching for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov. 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" and the funding opportunity number is NIJ-2013-3386.
6. **Complete the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.** All applicants must complete this information. Applicants that expend any funds for lobbying activities must provide the detailed information requested on the form, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities* (SF-LLL). Applicants that do not expend any funds for lobbying activities should enter "N/A" in the required highlighted fields.

7. **Submit an application consistent with this solicitation by following the directions in Grants.gov.** Within 24–48 hours after submitting the electronic application, the applicant should receive an e-mail validation message from Grants.gov. The message will state whether the application has been received and validated, or rejected due to errors, with an explanation. **Important:** OJP urges applicants to submit applications **at least 72 hours prior** of the application due date to allow time to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

**Note: Grants.gov only permits the use of specific characters in names of attachment files. Valid file names may only include the following characters: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore ( \_ ), hyphen (-), space, and period. Grants.gov will forward the application to OJP's Grants Management System (GMS). 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.”

#### **Note: Duplicate Applications**

If an applicant submits multiple versions of an application, NIJ will review the most recent version submitted.

#### **Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues**

Applicants that experience unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must e-mail the NIJ contact identified in the Contact Information section on the title page **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. The e-mail must describe the technical difficulties, and include a timeline of the applicant's submission efforts, the complete grant application, the applicant's DUNS number, and any Grants.gov Help Desk or SAM tracking number(s). **Note: NIJ does not automatically approve requests.** After the program office reviews the submission, and contacts the Grants.gov or SAM Help Desks to validate the reported technical issues, OJP will inform the applicant whether the request to submit a late application has been approved or denied. If the technical issues reported cannot be validated, OJP will reject the application as untimely.

The following conditions are not valid reasons to permit late submissions: (1) failure to register in sufficient time, (2) failure to follow Grants.gov instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its Web site, (3) failure to follow each instruction in the OJP solicitation, and (4) technical issues with the applicant's computer or information technology environment, including firewalls.

Notifications regarding known technical problems with Grants.gov, if any, are posted at the top of the OJP funding Web page at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/solicitations.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/solicitations.htm).

#### **Provide Feedback to OJP on This Solicitation**

To assist OJP in improving its application and award processes, we encourage applicants to provide feedback on this solicitation, the application submission process, and/or the application review/peer review process. Feedback may be provided to

[OJPSolicitationFeedback@usdoj.gov](mailto:OJPSolicitationFeedback@usdoj.gov).

**IMPORTANT:** This email is for feedback and suggestions only. Replies are **not** sent from this mailbox. If you have specific questions on any program or technical aspect of the solicitation, **you must** directly contact the appropriate number or email listed on the front of this solicitation document. These contacts are provided to help ensure that you can directly reach an individual who can address your specific questions in a timely manner.

If you are interested in being a reviewer for other OJP grant applications, please email your resume to [ojpeerreview@lmbps.com](mailto:ojpeerreview@lmbps.com). The OJP Solicitation Feedback email account will not forward your resume. **Note:** Neither you nor anyone else from your organization can be a peer reviewer in a competition in which you or your organization has submitted an application.

# Application Checklist

## Establishing a National Criminal Justice Technology Research, Test, and Evaluation Center

This application checklist has been created to assist in developing an application.

### What an Application Should Include:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (see page 11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Abstract (see page 12)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Program Narrative (see page 13)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Appendices to the Program Narrative: (see page 14)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Bibliography/references.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Any tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/charts/graphs, or maps pertaining to the proposed study.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Curriculum vitae, resumes or biographical sketches of key personnel.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Project timeline and research calendar with expected milestones
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Research independence and integrity (see "Additional Attachments").
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Human Subjects Protection Paperwork including Institutional Review Board (IRB) documentation and forms (see [www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/humansubjects/human-subjects.htm](http://www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/humansubjects/human-subjects.htm)).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Privacy Certificate (for further guidance go to [www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/humansubjects/privacy-certificate-guidance.htm](http://www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/humansubjects/privacy-certificate-guidance.htm)).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ List of previous and current NIJ awards to applicant organization and investigator(s).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements from organizations collaborating in the project, such as law enforcement and correctional agencies (if applicable).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ List of other agencies, organizations, or funding sources to which this proposal has been submitted (if applicable).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Task plans for the nine tasks specified..
- \_\_\_\_\_ Budget Detail Worksheet (see page 15)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Budget Narrative (see page 15)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (see page 23)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see page 15)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) (see page 16)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Attachments (see page 16)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Disclosure of Pending Applications
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other Standard Forms as applicable (see page 18), including:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire (if applicable)