



The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ) is seeking applications for Research and Evaluation on Victims of Crime. This program furthers the Department's mission by sponsoring research to provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of victims of crime, particularly at the State and local levels.

NIJ FY15 Research and Evaluation on Victims of Crime

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 or for-profit organizations), institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education), 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 welcomes applications that involve two or more entities; however, one eligible entity must be the applicant and the other(s) must be proposed as subrecipient(s). The applicant must be the entity with primary responsibility for conducting and leading the research project. If successful, the applicant will be responsible for monitoring and appropriately managing any subrecipients or, as applicable, for administering any procurement subcontracts that would receive federal program funds from the applicant under the award.

An eligible applicant may submit more than one application, as long as each application proposes a different project in response to the solicitation. (Applicants should also review and consider the "Duplicate Applications" note under [How to Apply](#) in Section D. Application and Submission Information.) Subrecipients may be part of multiple proposals.

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.

For additional eligibility information, see Section [C. Eligibility Information](#).

Deadline

Applicants must register with [Grants.gov](#) prior to submitting an application. All applications are due to be submitted and in receipt of a successful validation message in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on **June 26, 2015**.

All applicants are encouraged to read this [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#).

For additional information, see [How to Apply](#) in Section D. Application and Submission Information.

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

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 below **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. Additional information on reporting technical issues is found under "Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues" in the [How to Apply](#) section.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Response Center: toll-free at 1-800-851-3420; via TTY at 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only); email responsecenter@ncjrs.gov; fax to 301-240-5830; or web chat at <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncichat/chat.jsp>. The NCJRS Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

General information on applying for NIJ awards can be found at www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/welcome.aspx. Answers to frequently asked questions that may assist applicants are posted at www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/faqs.aspx.

Grants.gov number assigned to this announcement: NIJ-2015-4180

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NIJ FY15 Research and Evaluation on Victims of Crime

(CFDA No. 16.560)

A. Program Description

Overview

The National Institute of Justice has a longstanding history of collaborating with and supporting the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) on research, evaluation, and programmatic projects. Over the years, the shared priorities of OVC and NIJ have resulted in a number of collective projects, workshops, and research. In 2013, OVC began *Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services* which called for the development of research to build a body of evidence-based knowledge on victims and victimization. With this solicitation, NIJ is collaborating with OVC to build on three areas of research that are of interest to both agencies. These topics include:

- 1. Studying the Victim-Offender Overlap.**
- 2. Understanding the Violent Victimization Experiences of Young Men of Color.**
- 3. Research on the Broader Impacts of School Shootings.**

Applicants should submit proposals that address one of the three topics.

Authorizing Legislation: Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (sections 201 and 202), and The Victims of Crime Act of 1984, 42 U.S.C. §10603(c)(1)(A) and (c)(4).

Program-Specific Information

Category 1: Studying the Victim-Offender Overlap.

Competition ID: NIJ-2015-4234.

It is well established that one of the most robust predictors of one's risk for criminal victimization is involvement in criminal or delinquent activity (and vice versa). This relationship holds across populations, methods, location, and type of crime.¹ However, there is limited understanding of the causal mechanisms involved; how victimization and offending interact over time; and variations in the relationship. Theory and evidence suggest that the overlap between violent victimization and offending is related to a combination of short-term reciprocal processes of aggressive interactions, shared individual predispositions, and retaliation and conflict sometimes associated with involvement in illegal transactions such as robbery, the drug trade, and other

¹ Lauritsen, J.L. and Laub, J.H. (2007). Understanding the link between victimization and offending: New reflections on an old idea. In M. Hough & M. Maxfield (Eds.), *Surveying Crime in the 2st Century: Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the British Crime Survey* (55-75). Monsey, NY: Criminal Justice Press.

property crimes.^{2,3} Research is needed to disentangle the complexity of the interactions between individual motivations and decision-making processes in combination with specific situational and social environmental contexts.

In efforts to further our knowledge and understanding of the complex dynamics involved in the relationship between victimization and offending with the goal of informing victim service provision, law enforcement intervention strategies, and prevention efforts, NIJ identified this as one of several key topic areas of focus at a technical working group meeting held in December, 2014. This meeting brought together researchers and practitioners to engage in a conversation about the notable gaps in our knowledge and to develop recommendations to move the research forward in ways that will be relevant to policy and practice. Notes and presentations from this meeting are available at nij.gov/publications/pages/publication-detail.aspx?ncjnumber=248746. In addition, a better understanding of the link between victimization and offending has been identified as a key component of the OVC Vision 21 agenda (see <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/vision21/>).

Building upon past efforts (including [one NIJ award funded in 2012](#);) as well as recommendations from this working group meeting, NIJ is seeking research and evaluation proposals in the following topic areas:

- a. **Conflicts and disputes** – Research is needed to understand how disputes unfold at the micro-behavioral level and how these dynamics are linked to contextual, structural and cultural issues unique to each event. The complex dynamics seen in these relationships and events are often related to issues of “saving face,” long-standing disputes, retaliation and “code of the street.” Examples of research areas include, but are not limited to:
 - Understanding key triggers that escalate a conflict or dispute, including the victim’s role.
 - Gender, cultural and other social contextual differences in the triggers that escalate/de-escalate conflicts.
 - The role of third parties and social networks in escalating/de-escalating conflicts.
 - Understanding the differences in dynamics between non-violent and violent disputes and how/when/why specific incidents result in violence or not.
 - The evolution of disputes over time and the understanding of temporal relationships between events that are related to conflicts and disputes.
- b. **The police perspective** – Despite their critical role as first responders, research is scarce on how the police respond to persons who are both victims and offenders. Examples of research areas include, but are not limited to:
 - The role of police perceptions and subsequent treatment in the justice system depending on whether or not an individual was identified as a victim first versus an offender first (and vice-versa).

² Loeber, R. and Farrington, D.P. (2011). *Young homicide offenders and victims: Risk factors, prediction, and prevention from childhood*. New York: Springer.

³ Jacobs, B.A. and Wright, R. (2008). Moralistic street robbery. *Crime and Delinquency*, 54: 4, 511-531.

- How service delivery is impacted by whether an individual was identified as a victim first versus an offender first (and vice-versa).
- The role that specific individual and/or situational/contextual factors (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity, neighborhood) may play in the likelihood of being identified by police as an offender or a victim in situations involving conflicts and disputes.

Funding under this solicitation area may support research that uses existing data, enhances ongoing research, or constitutes new research that has the potential to add significantly to the understanding of the victim/offender overlap and may provide direction for improving criminal justice and prevention policies and practices. For supplemental or new research, NIJ has a particular interest in the use of event-based or other methods or technologies that would allow the examination of causal sequencing of discrete victimization and offending experiences over short periods of time; qualitative methods that allow in-depth exploration of the role of victim/offender overlap in disputes and incidents; and community based participatory research or culturally specific ethnographic work that would allow closer examination of these processes.

NIJ encourages applicants to include a strong theoretical basis and a multidisciplinary approach to researching the relationship between victimization and offending. NIJ is primarily interested in examinations of these topics that involve adults, with a focus on young adults (age 18-24) as a group at highest risk for violent victimization. Applicants interested in examining similar issues among children and youth should consider [NIJ's solicitation for Research and Evaluation on Children Exposed to Violence](#).

Victim-Offender Overlap Goals, Objectives, Deliverables and Expected Scholarly Products

The goal of this research is to improve the field's understanding of violent victimization by teasing apart the complexity of the interactions between individuals that may escalate into disputes. A secondary goal is to inform victim service provision, law enforcement intervention strategies, and prevention efforts targeted at preventing disputes from escalating. In addition to required data sets, a draft and final summary overview of research results, interim and final progress and financial reports,⁴ NIJ expects scholarly products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of one or more published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, or similar scientific products.

Category 2: Understanding the Violent Victimization Experiences of Young Men of Color.

Competition ID: NIJ-2015-4235.

Previous research has found that young men of color are at higher risk of violent victimization, with African American young men continuously experiencing the highest rates of serious violent

⁴ See "Federal Award Administration Information" ("General Information About Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements") section of this solicitation, below, for additional information.

crime.⁵ Young African American males have the highest firearm homicide rate of any demographic group, at a rate 10 times higher than white males.⁶ Despite a two-decade decline in violent crime nationwide, pockets of sustained violence remain in many urban neighborhoods. There are various data collection efforts currently underway to assess victimization generally.⁷

As a result of recommendations from the same working group meeting referenced above, NIJ proposes a line of research that would investigate the victimization experiences of young men of color. The goal of this research is to take the knowledge gained from extant data collections and expand upon them to gain information that is not readily available in these data sources. This line of research solicits studies that focus on the following:

- a. **Instrument Development** – Through one cooperative agreement, NIJ solicits a research team to develop a measurement tool/instrument that captures data on the victimization experiences of young men of color (generally ages 18-24). This effort would be conducted in two phases. In the program narrative, applicants should submit a plan and budget for completing Phase One and a plan and budget for completing Phase Two. Funding for Phase Two will be contingent upon the successful completion of Phase One.
 - i. **Phase One** – The goal of this phase is to develop an instrument that assesses victimization experiences. The instrument should be theory-driven and culturally sensitive. It should be able to assess important questions about victimization experiences including but not limited to:
 - Direct and indirect victimization.
 - Multiple victimization experiences.
 - Personal costs related to crime victimization including medical and mental health costs.
 - Interactions with the criminal justice system.
 - Knowledge, use of and access to victim services.
 - Needs of crime victims.

⁵ For example see Truman, J. (2011) National Crime Victimization Survey Criminal Victimization, 2010. NCJ 235508. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv10.pdf. Also see Harrell, E. (2007) Black Victims of Violent Crime. BJS Special Report. NCJ 214258. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&id=400.

⁶ Harrell, E. (2007) Black Victims of Violent Crime. BJS Special Report. NCJ 214258. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&id=400.

⁷ For example, The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) enables the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to estimate the likelihood of victimization by rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, theft, household burglary, and motor vehicle theft for the population as a whole as well as for segments of the population. The National Survey of Victim Service Organizations (NSVSO) aims to produce estimates, such as the number of victims served by victim service organizations, the types and duration of services provided, the cost of providing services, the number of victims for whom services could not be provided, the types of organizations providing services, the funding sources for victim service organizations, the number and characteristics of staff in victim service organizations, and the policies and practices of these organizations as they relate to the provision of services to crime victims.

- Social supports for victims through the community and their own resources.
 - Coping mechanisms for victims.
- ii. **Phase Two** – Following the development of the measurement tool, qualitative and quantitative research using the tool to assess violent victimization experiences of young men of color in multiple neighborhoods with sustained high rates of violent victimization. Researchers should identify 5 to 10 persistently high-crime neighborhoods across urban, suburban and rural contexts. Researchers should also identify novel and innovative ways to reach victims of violent victimization. Household studies will be considered; however, other approaches to identifying victims are preferred. Deliverables for this phase may include but are not limited to: (1) detailed item analysis using the instrument developed in Phase One; (2) a final report based on results from the survey; and (3) recommendations on how to improve service delivery, and victim services for this hard-to-reach population based on survey findings.
- b. **Research on the social context of violent victimization of young men of color and how it varies by space and time** – Research is needed on the social context of violent victimization of young men of color and its implications for potential service use, including both traditional and nontraditional services. Examinations of social context may be conducted at various levels. At the individual level, factors such as race, ethnicity, perceived discrimination, interactions with the police, criminal involvement, distrust of the authoritarian systems (judicial/legal/law enforcement), lifestyle, marital status, socioeconomic status, and self-identification as a “victim” versus actual experiences of violent victimization may be examined. At the family level, factors such as family composition and structure, family violence, parenting, and family culture may be considered. At the community level, factors such as poverty and inequality, concentrated disadvantage, the culture of neighborhoods, community and historical trauma, social capital and neighborhood cohesion or disorder may have implications for victimization experiences of young men of color. NIJ is interested in a deeper understanding of these and other factors and how they may interact with one another and contribute to the victimization experiences of young men of color, and their implications for access and use of both formal/traditional and nontraditional/informal victim services. Applicants may propose the analysis of existing data, such as the NCVS,⁸ CDC’s National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)⁹ and the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System-All Injury Program (NEISS-AIP)¹⁰ in novel ways to investigate the topics listed above. Or applicants can propose qualitative/ethnographic, community-based participatory research, or mixed-methods investigations into these questions.

Understanding the Violent Victimization Experiences of Young Men of Color Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products

The goal of this funding opportunity is to better understand the victimization experiences of young men of color by taking the knowledge that is gained from data collections already in existence and expanding upon them to gain information that is not readily available in these

⁸ More information on the NCVS can be found here: <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245>.

⁹ More information on the NVDRS can be found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nvdrs/>.

¹⁰ More information on the NEISS-AIP can be found here: <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/data-source/national-electronic-injury-surveillance-system-all-injury-program>.

data sources. A secondary goal is to obtain information to better inform policy and practice regarding the criminal justice system's response to the violent victimization of young male racial and ethnic minorities.

Deliverables for the instrument development project should include, but are not limited to: (1) a paper examining other victimization instruments to determine the major concepts that have already been studied and articulating how those works will inform the present instrument; (2) a well-designed and cognitively tested instrument capturing the concepts identified above as well as any other concepts identified through the research paper; and (3) a pilot test of the instrument and the accompanying results.

In addition to required data sets, a draft and final summary overview of research results, interim and final progress and financial reports,¹¹ NIJ expects scholarly products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of one or more published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products.

Category 3: Research on the Broader Impacts of School Shootings.
Competition ID: NIJ-2015-4233.

NIJ is seeking multidisciplinary research proposals on the impact of school shootings at K-12 and institutes of higher education. Specifically, NIJ is interested in research that builds knowledge on this topic and examines trauma, coping, and resiliency among a broad range of individuals impacted by school shootings, such as students, teachers, school employees, family members of victims and survivors, community members, and first or crisis responders. Children may be included under this area. Applicants may propose research that includes K-12 schools and colleges/universities. Depending on when the event occurred, there could be a variety of ages included under this research area.

Incidents of targeted school violence have occurred in the United States for decades and appear to be occurring at greater frequency. Mass murder and shooting sprees are tragic and traumatizing events under any circumstances, but when they occur in school settings with child victims, they are particularly shocking and disruptive to our sense of security. In addition to shattering lives and families, such incidents have the potential to erode confidence in public institutions. The effects of children's exposure to violence are increasingly well known, and include a host of negative consequences when not properly addressed (e.g., problems with mental and physical health, school failure and drop out, substance abuse, delinquency, further victimization). High-profile incidents of school violence often result in services for immediate victims and survivors. But the experiences of family members, school employees, and community members that have lived through these incidents suggest that there is still much to learn about the direct and indirect effects of such mass victimization instances.

NIJ is soliciting research proposals to build knowledge in this area about the experiences of a broad range of individuals affected or potentially affected by school shootings. These include, but are not limited to: students, teachers, other school employees, family members, community members, and first responders. For the purposes of this solicitation, an instance of a school shooting is one that takes place in the school setting (i.e., in a school facility or on school

¹¹ See "Federal Award Administration Information" ("General Information About Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements") section of this solicitation, below, for additional information.

grounds during normal school hours or a school-sanctioned event), involves the use of one or more firearms by the attacker(s), and results in the death of more than one person (not including an attacker). Proposed studies should include no less than six instances of school shootings that have occurred in the United States within the previous five years. Applicants should include a combination of instances occurring within K-12 school settings and within higher education settings.

Research proposals should seek to identify: (1) moderating factors at the individual, familial, peer, and community level that influence experienced levels of trauma and duration of traumatic effects; (2) a range of coping mechanisms used over time; and (3) knowledge about, use of, and perceived benefits of victim services including crisis response, school-based services, and government and community-based services.¹² Dosage, such as types and amounts of services and supports sought and received over time, should be considered.

In addition, proposals should consider the various traumatic impacts of exposure to school violence (including the potential impact on memory for the event and subsequent experiences that can be impacted by symptoms of trauma) and how these might vary for different groups of survivors noted above, and how they might vary for survivors of violence in K-12 schools versus colleges and universities. Other variables that may be considered are whether the attacker was a student or someone known to the school community versus an individual from outside, and the final resolution for the attacker (e.g., suicide, killed during incident, criminal justice response). Survivors should also be asked about their exposure and reactions to media coverage of the incident and participation in criminal justice activities such as providing police reports, testimony at trial, attending trials, etc.

Proposed studies should include multiple methods including, but not limited to:

- Careful documentation of each incident and responses to incidents using both primary and secondary sources such as school officials, victim service providers, and first responders.
- Documentation and content analysis of media reaction and coverage of the incident.
- Mixed-method interviews¹³ with a wide range of survivors such as those who were injured in the violence, first responders, non-professionals with direct exposure to the violence (e.g., direct witnesses, those on the scene immediately following the violence), those without direct exposure to the violence who work in the affected school setting, live in the community and/or are family members of victims and survivors.

Please note: It is expected that applications will propose research teams that include practitioners with knowledge of mass victimization, trauma, and/or children's exposure to violence. It is highly suggested that applicants consider an advisory board of subject matter experts to assist in guiding this research and/or propose an investigative team that illustrates a partnership between researchers and practitioners.

¹² Victim services should be broadly defined and include immediate and long-term service needs and access to restitution and/or compensation; and include informal mechanisms of support.

¹³ Validated instruments to best measure symptoms of trauma and coping mechanisms should be considered.

Research on the Broader Impacts of School Shootings Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products

The goal of this solicitation area is to fund mixed-method research on the experiences of a broad range of individuals affected or potentially affected by school shootings that occurred in the past five years. Deliverables from this project should include one or more scholarly publications in relevant professional peer reviewed journals. In addition, at least two or more products designed to inform and influence practice and policy around victim services should be developed in conjunction with victim services practitioners. At least one product should be designed for victim service providers and at least one product should be designed for policymakers. The project team is required to make at least one professional presentation directed to a national audience of victim service practitioners and a separate presentation directed to relevant policymakers with national perspective (e.g., Congressional briefing). The project team may also be asked to present through one of NIJ's dissemination vehicles such as a webinar, onsite presentation, and/or NIJ publication.

In addition to required data sets, a draft and final summary overview of research results, interim and final progress and financial reports,¹⁴ NIJ expects scholarly products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of one or more published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products.

Evaluation Research

If an application includes an evaluation research component (or consists entirely of evaluation research), the application is expected to propose the use of random selection and assignment of participants to experimental and control conditions, if feasible. Applications that include evaluation research but do not propose the use of randomization should explain clearly why randomization is not feasible, and should propose a strong quasi-experimental design that can address the risk of selection bias.

Also, applications that include evaluation research are expected to consider seriously incorporation of cost/benefit analysis. NIJ views cost/benefit analysis as an effective way to communicate and disseminate findings from evaluation research and best serve our criminal justice constituents.

Please note: Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to comply with Department of Justice regulations on confidentiality and human subjects' protection. See "Other Requirements for OJP Applications" at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm.

B. Federal Award Information

For Studying the Victim-Offender Overlap it is anticipated that \$1.5 million will be available for multiple projects.

¹⁴ See "Federal Award Administration Information" ("General Information About Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements") section of this solicitation, below, for additional information.

For the Instrument Development section in Understanding the Violent Victimization Experiences of Young Men of Color up to \$1.5 million is available for both phases of the research. Release of Phase Two funds will be contingent upon the successful completion of Phase One.

For the Research on the Social Context of Violent Victimization of Young Men of Color and How It Varies by Space and Time, up to \$1.5 million is available for up to five awards.

For Research on the Broader Impacts of School Shootings, up to \$1.5 million is available for one to two awards.

Project periods should be commensurate with the time required to complete the proposed research and justified by the scope of work included in the program narrative.

To allow time for, among other things, any necessary post-award review, modification, and clearance by OJP of the proposed budget, applicants should propose an award start date of January 1, 2016.

If the applicant is proposing a project that reasonably could be conducted in discrete phases, with each phase resulting in completion of one or more significant, defined milestones, then NIJ strongly recommends that the applicant structure the application – specifically including the narrative, expected scholarly products, timelines/milestones, and budget detail worksheet and budget narrative – to clearly set out each phase. (This is particularly the case if the applicant proposes a project that will exceed – in cost or length of project period – the amount or length anticipated for an individual award (or awards) under this solicitation.) Given limitations on the availability to NIJ of funds for research, development, and evaluation awards, this information will assist NIJ in considering whether partial funding of proposals that would not receive full funding would be productive. (If NIJ elects to fund only certain phases of a proposed project in FY 2015, the expected scholarly products from the partial-funding award may, in some cases, vary from those described above.)

NIJ may, in certain cases, provide supplemental funding in future years to awards under its research, development, and evaluation solicitations. Important considerations in decisions regarding supplemental funding include, among other factors, the availability of funding, strategic priorities, NIJ's assessment of the quality of the management of the award (for example, timeliness and quality of progress reports), and NIJ's assessment of the progress of the work funded under the award.

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

Type of Award¹⁵

NIJ expects that it will make any award from this solicitation in the form of grants or cooperative agreements.

A cooperative agreement is a particular type of grant used if NIJ expects to have ongoing substantial involvement in award activities. Substantial involvement includes direct oversight and involvement with the grantee organization in implementation of the grant, but does not

¹⁵ See generally 31 U.S.C. §§ 6301-6305 (defines and describes various forms of federal assistance relationships, including grants and cooperative agreements (a type of grant)).

involve day-to-day project management. See [Administrative, National Policy, and other Legal Requirements](#), under Section [F. Federal Award Administration Information](#), for details regarding the federal involvement anticipated under an award from this solicitation.

Because NIJ may make awards under this solicitation in the form of cooperative agreements, applicants proposing to conduct surveys should factor in the time and effort that may be required to obtain clearance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as may be required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA).

As discussed [later in the solicitation](#), important rules (including limitations) apply to any conference/meeting/training costs under cooperative agreements.

Please note: Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to comply with Department of Justice regulations on confidentiality and human subjects' protection. See "Evidence, Research, and Evaluation Guidance and Requirements" under "Solicitation Requirements" in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls

If selected for funding, the award recipient must:

- a. Establish and maintain effective internal control over the federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the non-federal entity is managing the federal award in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in "Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government" issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the "Internal Control Integrated Framework", issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).
- b. Comply with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal awards.
- c. Evaluate and monitor the non-federal entity's compliance with statute, regulations and the terms and conditions of federal awards.
- d. Take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings.
- e. Take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity designates as sensitive or the non-federal entity considers sensitive consistent with applicable federal, State and local laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality.

In order to better understand administrative requirements and cost principles, award applicants are encouraged to enroll, at no charge, in the Department of Justice Grants Financial Management Online Training available [here](#).

Budget Information

What will not be funded:

- Proposals primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies. (A budget may include these items if they are necessary to conduct research, development, demonstration, evaluation, or analysis.)
- Research on children will not be funded under this award with the exception of proposals under the Research on the Broader Impacts of School Shootings section. Applicants interested in examining violent crime victimization (other than school shootings) among children and youth should consider NIJ's solicitation for [Research and Evaluation on Children Exposed to Violence](#).
- Proposals that are not responsive to this specific solicitation.

Cost Sharing or Match Requirement

See "Cofunding" paragraph under item 4 ("Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative") under [What an Application Should Include](#) in Section D. Application and Submission Information.

Pre-Agreement Cost Approvals

OJP does not typically approve pre-agreement costs; an applicant must request and obtain the prior written approval of OJP for all such costs. If approved, pre-agreement costs could be paid from grant funds consistent with a grantee's approved budget, and under applicable cost standards. However, all such costs prior to award and prior to approval of the costs are incurred at the sole risk of an applicant. Generally, no applicant should incur project costs *before* submitting an application requesting federal funding for those costs. Should there be extenuating circumstances that appear to be appropriate for OJP's consideration as pre-agreement costs, the applicant should contact the point of contact listed on the title page of this announcement for details on the requirements for submitting a written request for approval. See the section on Costs Requiring Prior Approval in the [Financial Guide](#), for more 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.¹⁶ The 2015 salary table for SES employees is available at the Office of Personnel Management [website](#). 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.)

¹⁶ This limitation on use of award funds does not apply to the non-profit organizations specifically named at Appendix VIII to 2 C.F.R. part 200.

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.

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

OJP strongly encourages applicants that propose to use award funds for any conference-, meeting-, or training-related activity to review carefully – before submitting an application – the OJP policy and guidance on “conference” approval, planning, and reporting available at www.ojp.gov/funding/confcost.htm. OJP policy and guidance (1) encourage minimization of conference, meeting, and training costs; (2) require prior written approval (which may affect project timelines) of most such costs for cooperative agreement recipients and of some such costs for grant recipients; and (3) set cost limits, including a general prohibition of all food and beverage costs.

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 under "Solicitation Requirements" in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

C. Eligibility Information

Eligibility

For additional eligibility information, see Title page.

Cost Sharing or Match Requirement

For additional information on cost sharing and match requirement, see Section [B. Federal Award Information](#).

Limit on Number of Application Submissions

If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, NIJ will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted. For more information on system-validated versions, see [How to Apply](#).

D. Application and Submission Information

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 affect negatively 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 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, Budget Narrative, and resumes/curriculum vitae of key personnel. For purposes of this solicitation, "key personnel" means the principal investigator, and any and all co-principal investigators. Please review the "Note on File Names and File Types" under [How to Apply](#) to be sure applications are submitted in permitted formats.

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 OJP's Grants Management System (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).

Intergovernmental Review: This funding opportunity (program) **is not** subject to [Executive Order 12372](#). (In completing the SF-424, applicants are to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 to indicate that the "Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.")

2. Project Abstract

The project abstract is a very important part of the application, and serves as an introduction to the proposed project. NIJ uses the project abstract for a number of purposes, including assignment of the application to an appropriate review panel. If the application is funded, the project abstract typically will become public information and be used to describe the project.

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.

Project abstracts should follow the detailed template (including the detailed instructions as to content) available at www.nij.gov/funding/documents/nij-project-abstract-template.pdf.

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 if NIJ does not fund the proposed project. 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 project 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 30 double-spaced pages in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. If included in the main body of the program narrative, tables, charts, figures, and other illustrations count toward the 30 page limit for the narrative section. The project abstract, table of contents, appendices, and government forms do not count toward the 30 page limit.

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.¹⁷

¹⁷ As noted earlier, if the proposed program or project reasonably could be conducted in discrete phases, with each phase resulting in completion of one or more significant, defined milestones, then NIJ strongly recommends that the applicant structure the application – specifically including the narrative, expected scholarly products, timelines/milestones, and budget detail worksheet and budget narrative – to set out each phase clearly. (In appropriate cases, the expected scholarly product(s) from a particular phase may vary from those described above.) See generally, “Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products” under “Program-Specific Information,” above.

Program Narrative Guidelines:

a. **Title Page** (not counted against the 30 page program narrative limit).

The title page should include the title of the project, submission date, funding opportunity number, and the name and complete contact information (that is, address, telephone number, and e-mail address) for both the applicant organization and the principal investigator.

b. **Resubmit Response** (if applicable) (not counted against the 30 page program narrative limit).

If an applicant is resubmitting a proposal 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, NIJ-assigned application number of the previous proposal, and (2) a brief summary of revisions to the proposal, including responses to previous feedback received from NIJ.

c. **Table of Contents and Figures** (not counted against the 30 page program narrative limit).

d. **Main Body.**

The main body of the program narrative should describe the proposed project in depth. The following sections should be included as part of the program narrative:

- Statement of the Problem.
- Project Design and Implementation.
- Potential Impact.
- Capabilities/Competencies.

Within these sections, the narrative should address:

- Purpose, goals, and objectives.
- Review of relevant literature.
- Detailed description of research design and methods, such as research questions, hypotheses, description of sample, and analysis plan.
- Planned Scholarly Products (See [Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products](#) under [Program-Specific Information](#), above, for a discussion of expected scholarly products).
- Implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.

- Management plan and organization.
- Plan for Dissemination to Broader Audiences (if applicable to the proposed project). Applicants should identify plans (if any) to produce or to make available to broader interested audiences – such as criminal/juvenile justice practitioners or policymakers – summary information from the planned scholarly products of the proposed project (such as summaries of articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals), in a form designed to be readily accessible and useful to those audiences. (Such dissemination might include, for example, trade press articles and webinars.)

e. Appendices (not counted against the 30 page program narrative limit) include:

- Bibliography/references.
- Any tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/charts/graphs, or maps pertaining to the proposed project that are supplemental to such items included in the main body of the narrative.
- Curriculum vitae or resumes of the principal investigator and any and all co-principal investigators. In addition, curriculum vitae, resumes, or biographical sketches of all other individuals (regardless of “investigator” status) who will be significantly involved in substantive aspects of the proposal (including, for example, individuals such as statisticians serving as consultants to conduct proposed data analysis).
- List (to the extent known) of all proposed project staff members, including those affiliated with the applicant organization or any proposed subrecipient organization(s), any proposed consultant(s) and contractors (whether individuals or organizations), and any proposed members of an advisory board for the project (if applicable). The list should include, for each individual and organization: name, title (if applicable), employer or other organizational affiliation, and roles and responsibilities proposed for the project. Applicants should use the “Proposed Project Staff, Affiliation, and Roles” form available at www.nij.gov/funding/documents/nij-project-staff-template.xlsx to provide this listing.
- Proposed project timeline and expected milestones.
- Human Subjects Protection paperwork (documentation and forms related to Institutional Review Board (IRB) review).
(See nij.gov/funding/humansubjects/Pages/welcome.aspx) NOTE: Final IRB approval is not required at the time an application is submitted.
- Privacy Certificate (for further guidance go to nij.gov/funding/humansubjects/pages/confidentiality.aspx).

- List of any previous and current NIJ awards to applicant organization and investigator(s), including the NIJ-assigned award numbers and a brief description of any scholarly products that resulted in whole or in part from work funded under the NIJ award(s). (See “Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products” under “Program-Specific Information,” above, for definition of “scholarly products.”)
- 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).
- Data archiving plan. Applicants should anticipate that NIJ will require (through special award conditions, including a partial withholding of award funds) that data sets resulting in whole or in part from projects funded under this solicitation be submitted for archiving with the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) (See www.nij.gov/funding/data-resources-program/applying/Pages/data-archiving-strategies.aspx).

Applications should include as an appendix a brief plan – labeled “Data Archiving Plan” – to comply with data archiving requirements. The plan should provide brief details about proposed data management and archiving, including submission to NIJ (through NACJD) of **all files and documentation** necessary to allow for future efforts by others to reproduce the project’s findings and/or to extend the scientific value of the data set through secondary analysis. Pertinent files and documentation include, among other things, qualitative and quantitative data produced, instrumentation and data collection forms, codebook(s), any specialized programming code necessary to reproduce all constructed measures and the original data analysis, description of necessary de-identification procedures, and (when required) a copy of the privacy certificate and informed consent protocols.

The plan should be one or two pages in length and include the level of effort associated with meeting archiving requirements.

Note that required data sets are to be submitted 90 days before the end of the project period.

4. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative

a. Budget Detail Worksheet

A sample Budget Detail Worksheet can be found at www.ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/BudgetDetailWorksheet.pdf. Applicants that submit their budget in a different format should include the budget categories listed in the sample budget worksheet. (Work associated with satisfying data archiving requirements should be reflected.) NIJ expects applicants to provide a thorough narrative to each section of the Budget Detail Worksheet.

For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, see the Financial Guide at www.ojp.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 sound mathematically, 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.

c. Cofunding

An award made by NIJ under this solicitation may account for up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project. The application should indicate whether it is feasible for the applicant to contribute cash, facilities, or services as non-federal support for the project. The application should identify generally any such contributions that the applicant expects to make and the proposed budget should indicate in detail which items, if any, will be supported with non-federal contributions.

For additional match information, see the [Cost Sharing or Match Requirement](#) section under [B. Federal Award Information](#).

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

d. Non-Competitive Procurement Contracts In Excess of Simplified Acquisition Threshold

If an applicant proposes to make one or more non-competitive procurements of products or services, where the non-competitive procurement will exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (also known as the small purchase threshold), which is currently set at \$150,000, the application should address the considerations outlined in the [Financial Guide](#).

e. Pre-Agreement Cost Approvals

For information on pre-agreement costs approvals, see Section [B. Federal Award Information](#).

5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Indirect costs are allowed only if the applicant has a current 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. For the definition of Cognizant Federal Agency, see the "Glossary of Terms" in the [Financial Guide](#). For assistance with identifying your cognizant agency, please contact the Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-0786 or at ask.ocfo@usdoj.gov. If DOJ is the cognizant federal agency, applicants may obtain information needed to submit an indirect cost rate proposal at www.ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/IndirectCosts.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, the application should include appropriate legal documentation, as described above, from all tribes that would receive services or 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.

Applicants unable to submit an application that includes a fully executed (i.e., signed) copy of appropriate legal documentation, as described above, consistent with the applicable tribe's governance structure, should submit, at a minimum, an unsigned, draft version of such legal documentation as part of its application (except for cases in which, with respect to a tribal consortium applicant, consortium bylaws allow action without the support of all consortium member tribes). If selected for funding, NIJ will make use of and access to funds contingent on receipt of the fully executed legal documentation.

7. Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status

Applicants are to disclose whether they are currently designated high risk by another federal grant making agency. This includes any status requiring additional oversight by the federal agency due to past programmatic or financial concerns. If an applicant is designated high risk by another federal grant making agency, you must email the following information to OJPComplianceReporting@usdoj.gov at the time of application submission:

- The federal agency that currently designated the applicant as high risk. Date the applicant was designated high risk.
- The high-risk point of contact name, phone number, and email address, from that federal agency.
- Reasons for the high-risk status.

OJP seeks this information to ensure appropriate federal oversight of any grant award. Unlike the Excluded Parties List, this high risk information does not disqualify any organization from receiving an OJP award. However, additional grant oversight may be included, if necessary, in award documentation.

8. Additional Attachments

a. Applicant disclosure of pending applications¹⁸

Applicants are to disclose whether they have pending applications for federally funded grants or subgrants (including cooperative agreements) 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 subaward 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.

¹⁸ Typically, the applicant is not the principal investigator; rather, the applicant, most frequently, is the institution, organization, or company in which the principal investigator is employed.

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 on SF-424] does not have pending applications submitted within the last 12 months for federally funded grants or subgrants (including cooperative agreements) 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 other merits, in order to receive funds, the applicant must demonstrate research/evaluation independence, including appropriate safeguards to ensure research/evaluation objectivity and integrity, both in this proposal and as it may relate to the applicant's other current or prior related projects. This documentation may be included as an attachment to the application which addresses BOTH i. and ii. below.

- i. For purposes of this solicitation, applicants must document research and evaluation independence and integrity by including, at a minimum, one of the following two items:
 - a. A specific assurance that the applicant has reviewed its proposal to identify any research integrity issues (including all principal investigators and sub-recipients) and it has concluded that the design, conduct, or reporting of research and 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 staff, consultants, and/or sub-recipients responsible for the research and evaluation or on the part of the applicant organization;

OR

- b. A specific listing of actual or perceived conflicts of interest that the applicant has identified in relation to this proposal. These conflicts could be either personal (related to specific staff, consultants, and/or sub-recipients) or

- organizational (related to the applicant or any subgrantee organization). Examples of potential investigator (or other personal) conflict situations may include, but are not limited to, those in which an investigator would be in a position to evaluate a spouse's work product (actual conflict), or an investigator would be in a position to evaluate the work of a former or current colleague (potential 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 specific project or a location implementing the project (whether funded by OJP or other sources), 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 or evaluation project are objective and reliable. Any outside personal or financial interest that casts doubt on that objectivity and reliability of an evaluation or research product is a problem and must be disclosed.
- ii. In addition, for purposes of this solicitation applicants must address the issue of possible mitigation of research integrity concerns by including, at a minimum, one of the following two items:
- If an 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. Applicants MUST also include an explanation of the specific processes and procedures that the applicant will 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 sub-recipients for this particular project, should that be necessary during the grant period. Documentation that may be helpful in this regard could include organizational codes of ethics/conduct or policies regarding organizational, personal, and financial conflicts of interest.
- OR
- If the applicant has identified specific personal or organizational conflicts of interest in its proposal during this review, the applicant must propose a specific and robust mitigation plan to address conflicts noted above. At a minimum, the plan must include specific processes and procedures that the applicant will put in place to eliminate (or, at the very least, mitigate) potential personal or financial conflicts of interest on the part of its staff, consultants, and/or sub-recipients for this particular project, should that be necessary during the grant period. Documentation that may be helpful in this regard could include organizational codes of ethics/conduct or policies regarding organizational, personal, and financial conflicts of interest. There is no guarantee that the plan, if any, will be accepted as proposed.

Considerations in assessing research and evaluation independence and integrity will include, but are not be limited to, the adequacy of the applicant's efforts to identify factors that could affect the objectivity or 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.

9. Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire

In accordance with [2 CFR 200.205](#), Federal agencies must have in place a framework for evaluating the risks posed by applicants before they receive a Federal award. To facilitate part of this risk evaluation, **all** applicants (other than an individual) are to download, complete, and submit this [form](#).

10. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

All applicants must complete this information. Applicants that expend any funds for lobbying activities are to provide the detailed information requested on the form Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL). Applicants that do not expend any funds for lobbying activities are to enter "N/A" in the text boxes for item 10 ("a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant" and "b. Individuals Performing Services").

How to Apply

Applicants must register in, and submit applications 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. 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.

NIJ strongly 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 updates will be automatically notified.

Note on File Names and File Types: Grants.gov only permits the use of certain specific characters in names of attachment files. Valid file names may include only the characters shown in the table below. Grants.gov is designed to reject any application that includes an attachment(s) with a file name that contains any characters not shown in the table below. Grants.gov is designed to forward successfully submitted applications to OJP's Grants Management System (GMS).

Characters	Special Characters		
Upper case (A – Z)	Parenthesis ()	Curly braces { }	Square brackets []
Lower case (a – z)	Ampersand (&)	Tilde (~)	Exclamation point (!)
Underscore (_)	Comma (,)	Semicolon (;)	Apostrophe (')
Hyphen (-)	At sign (@)	Number sign (#)	Dollar sign (\$)
Space	Percent sign (%)	Plus sign (+)	Equal sign (=)
Period (.)	When using the ampersand (&) in XML, applicants must use the "&amp;" format.		

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.” GMS may reject applications with files that use these extensions. It is important to allow time to change the type of file(s) if the application is rejected.

All applicants are required to complete the following steps

OJP may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the federal awarding agency is ready to make a federal award, the federal awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

- 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. A DUNS number is usually received within 1-2 business days.
- 2. Acquire registration with the System for Award Management (SAM).** SAM is 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. Applicants must **update or renew their SAM registration annually** to maintain an active status.

Applications cannot be successfully submitted in Grants.gov until Grants.gov receives the SAM registration information. The information transfer from SAM to Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours. OJP recommends that the applicant register or renew registration with SAM as early as possible.

Information about SAM registration procedures can be accessed at 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/web/grants/register.html.
- 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 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-2015-4180.
- 6. Select the correct Competition ID.** Some OJP solicitations posted to Grants.gov contain multiple purpose areas, denoted by the individual Competition ID. If applying to a solicitation with multiple Competition IDs, select the appropriate Competition ID for the intended purpose area of the application.
 - [Category 1: Studying the Victim-Offender Overlap. Competition ID: NIJ-2015-4234.](#)
 - [Category 2: Understanding the Violent Victimization Experiences of Young Men of Color. Competition ID: NIJ-2015-4235.](#)
 - [Category 3: Research on the Broader Impacts of School Shootings. Competition ID: NIJ-2015-4233.](#)
- 7. Submit a valid 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 two notifications from Grants.gov. The first will confirm the receipt of the application and the second will state whether the application has been successfully validated, or rejected due to errors, with an explanation. It is possible to first receive a message indicating that the application is received and then receive a rejection notice a few minutes or hours later. Submitting well ahead of the deadline provides time to correct the problem(s) that caused the rejection. **Important:** OJP urges applicants to submit applications **at least 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.

Click [here](#) for further details on DUNS, SAM, and Grants.gov registration steps and timeframes.

Note: Duplicate Applications

If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, NIJ will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted. See Note on File Names and File Types under [How To Apply](#).

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 contact the [Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline](#) or the [SAM Help Desk](#) to report the technical issue and receive a tracking number. Then applicant must e-mail the NIJ contact identified in the Contact Information section on page 2 **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 OJP determines that the applicant failed to follow all required procedures, which resulted in an untimely application submission, OJP will deny the applicant's request to submit their application.

The following conditions are generally insufficient to justify late submissions:

- Failure to register in SAM or Grants.gov in sufficient time.
- Failure to follow Grants.gov instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its website.
- Failure to follow each instruction in the OJP solicitation.
- 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.gov/funding/Explore/CurrentFundingOpportunities.htm.

E. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria

Applications that meet basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers using the following review criteria.

Statement of the Problem (Understanding of the problem and its importance) – 10%

1. Demonstrated understanding of the problem.
2. Demonstrated awareness of the state of current research.

Project Design and Implementation (Quality and technical merit) – 50%

1. Soundness of methods and analytic and technical approach to addressing the stated aim(s) of the proposed project.
2. Feasibility of proposed project.
3. Awareness of potential pitfalls of proposed project design and feasibility of proposed actions to minimize and/or mitigate them.

Potential Impact – 20%

Potential for a significant scientific or technical advance(s) that will improve criminal/juvenile justice in the United States, such as—

- Potential for significantly improved understanding of the stated criminal/juvenile justice problem.
- Potential for innovative solution to address (all or a significant part of) the stated criminal/juvenile justice problem.

Capabilities/Competencies (Capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of the applicant organization and proposed project staff) – 20%

1. Qualifications and experience of proposed project staff (that is, the principal investigator, any and all co-principal investigators, and all other individuals (and organizations) identified in the application (regardless of “investigator” status) who will be significantly involved in substantive aspects of the proposal).
2. Demonstrated ability of the applicant organization to manage the effort.
3. Relationship between the capabilities/competencies of the proposed project staff (including the applicant organization) and the scope of the proposed project.

Budget

Peer reviewers will consider and may comment on the following additional items in the context of scientific and technical merit.

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.
4. Proposed budget alignment with proposed project activities.

Plan for Dissemination to Broader Audiences (if applicable to the proposed project)

Peer reviewers may comment – in the context of scientific and technical merit – on the proposed plan (if any) to produce or to make available to broader interested audiences, such as criminal/juvenile justice practitioners or policymakers, summary information from the planned scholarly products of the project.

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. For purposes of assessing whether applicants have met basic minimum requirements, OJP screens applications for compliance with specified program requirements to help determine which applications should proceed to further consideration for award. Although

program requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all solicitations for funding under OJP grant programs:

- Applications must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- Applications must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- Applications must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- Applications must include all items designated as “critical elements.”
- Applicants will be checked against the General Services Administration’s Excluded Parties List.

For a list of critical elements, see “What an Application Should Include” under [Section D. Application and Submission Information](#).

NIJ may use internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination, to assess applications meeting basic minimum requirements on technical merit using the solicitation’s selection criteria. 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. A peer review panel will evaluate, score, and rate applications that meet basic minimum requirements.

OJP reviews applications for potential discretionary awards to evaluate the risks posed by applicants before they receive an award. This review may include but is not limited to the following:

1. Financial stability and fiscal integrity
2. Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in the Financial Guide
3. History of performance
4. Reports and findings from audits
5. The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities
6. Proposed costs to determine if the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative accurately explain project costs, and whether those 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. Peer reviewers’ ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only, although their views are considered carefully. In addition to peer review ratings, considerations for award recommendations and decisions may include, but are not limited to, planned scholarly products, proposed budgets, past performance (including scholarly products) under prior NIJ and OJP

awards, research independence and integrity, strategic priorities, and available funding when making awards.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

Federal Award Notices

OJP award notification will be sent from GMS. Recipients will be required to login; accept any outstanding assurances and certifications on the award; designate a financial point of contact; and review, sign, and accept the award. The award acceptance process involves physical signature of the award document by the authorized representative and the scanning of the fully-executed award document to OJP.

Administrative, National Policy, and other Legal Requirements

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the agency-approved project proposal and budget, the recipient must comply with award terms and conditions, and other legal requirements, that are included in the award, incorporated into the award by reference, or are otherwise applicable to the award. OJP strongly encourages prospective applicants to review the information pertaining to these requirements **prior** to submitting an application. To assist applicants and recipients in accessing and reviewing this information, OJP has placed it on its [Solicitation Requirements](#) page of the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

Please note in particular the following two forms, which applicants must submit in GMS prior to the receipt of any award funds, as each details legal requirements with which applicants must provide specific assurances and certifications of compliance. Applicants may view these forms in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#) and are strongly encouraged to review and consider them carefully prior to making an application for OJP grant funds.

- [Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements](#)
- [Standard Assurances](#)

Upon grant approval, OJP electronically transmits (via GMS) the award document to the prospective award recipient. In addition to other award information, the award document contains award terms and conditions that specify national policy requirements¹⁹ with which recipients of federal funding must comply; uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements; and program-specific terms and conditions required based on applicable program (statutory) authority or requirements set forth in OJP solicitations and program announcements. For example, certain efforts may call for special requirements, terms, or conditions relating to intellectual property, data/information-sharing or -access, or information security; or audit requirements, expenditures and milestones, or publications and/or press releases.

¹⁹ See generally 2 C.F.R. 200.300 (provides a general description of national policy requirements typically applicable to recipients of Federal awards, including the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA)).

OJP also may place additional terms and conditions on an award based on its risk assessment of the applicant, or for other reasons it determines necessary to fulfill the goals and objectives of the program.

Prospective applicants may access and review the text of mandatory conditions OJP includes in all OJP awards, as well as the text of certain other conditions, such as administrative conditions, via OJP's [Mandatory Award Terms and Conditions](#) page of the [Funding Resource Center](#).

As stated above, NIJ expects that it will make at least one award from this solicitation in the form of a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreement awards include standard "federal involvement" conditions that describe the general allocation of responsibility for execution of the funded program. Generally-stated, under cooperative agreement awards, responsibility for the day-to-day conduct of the funded project rests with the recipient in implementing the funded and approved proposal and budget, and the award terms and conditions. Responsibility for oversight and redirection of the project, if necessary, rests with NIJ.

In addition to any "federal involvement" condition(s), OJP cooperative agreement awards include a special condition specifying certain reporting requirements required in connection with conferences, meetings, retreats, seminars, symposium, training activities, or similar events funded under the award, consistent with OJP policy and guidance on "conference" approval, planning, and reporting.

General Information About Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements

Recipients must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, final financial and progress reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200. Applicants should anticipate that progress reports will be required to follow the non-budgetary components of the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) template/format. General information on RPPRs may be found at www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rppr/. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.

Special Reporting requirements may be required by OJP depending on the statutory, legislative or administrative requirements of the recipient or the program.

As indicated earlier in this solicitation, NIJ expects scholarly products to result from any award under this solicitation. Please review the [Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products](#) segment of the "Program-Specific Information" section of this solicitation, as well as the "Performance Measures" section.

In addition to the expectation of scholarly products, successful applicants under this solicitation will be required to submit the following deliverables regarding the work funded by the NIJ award.

Draft and Final Summary Overview of the Work Conducted under the Award

The overview is expected to provide an overall summary of the work under, and results of, the project funded by NIJ under this solicitation. Among other things, the summary overview should address the purpose of the project, project subjects (if applicable), project design and methods, data analysis, project findings, and implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.

A draft summary overview no longer than 10 pages long (double-spaced) is to be submitted 90 days prior to the end of the project period for NIJ review and comment.

Required Data Sets and Associated Files and Documentation

As discussed earlier, NIJ requires recipients of an award under this solicitation to submit to NACJD all data sets that result in whole or in part from the work funded by NIJ, along with associated files and any documentation necessary to allow for future efforts by others to reproduce the project's findings and/or to extend the scientific value of the data set through secondary analysis. All data sets and necessary documentation are to be submitted 90 days prior to the end of the project period. For more information, see the "Program Narrative" section of [What an Application Should Include](#).

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
Conduct research in social and behavioral sciences having clear implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Relevance to the needs of the field as measured by whether the project's substantive scope did not deviate from the funded proposal or any subsequent agency-approved modifications to the scope.2. Quality of the research as demonstrated by the scholarly products that result in whole or in part from work funded under the NIJ award (published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (as appropriate for the funded project) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products).3. Quality of management as measured by such factors as whether significant project milestones were achieved, reporting and other deadlines were met, and costs remained within approved limits.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual and final progress reports, and a draft and final summary overview of the work performed under the NIJ award.2. List of citation(s) to all scholarly products that resulted in whole or in part from work funded under the NIJ award.3. If applicable, each data set that resulted in whole or in part from work funded under the NIJ award.

NIJ does not require applicants to submit performance measures data with their application. Performance measures are included as an alert that NIJ will require successful applicants to submit specific data as part of their reporting requirements. For the application, applicants

should indicate an understanding of these requirements and discuss how they will gather the required data, should they receive funding.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For additional Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s), see the Title page.

For additional contact information for Grants.gov, see the Title page.

H. Other Information

Provide Feedback to OJP

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. Provide feedback to OJPSolicitationFeedback@usdoj.gov.

IMPORTANT: This e-mail 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 e-mail 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 e-mail your resume to ojppeerreview@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 have submitted an application.

Application Checklist

NIJ FY 15 Research and Evaluation on Victims of Crime

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

What an Applicant Should Do:

Prior to Registering in Grants.gov:

- Acquire a DUNS Number (see page 27)
- Acquire or renew registration with SAM (see page 27)

To Register with Grants.gov:

- Acquire AOR and Grants.gov username/password (see page 27)
- Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Biz POC (see page 27)

To Find Funding Opportunity:

- Search for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov (see page 28)
- Sign up for Grants.gov [email](#) notifications (optional) (see page 26)

[Read Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#)

After application submission, receive Grants.gov email notifications that:

- (1) Application has been received
- (2) Application has either been successfully validated or rejected with errors (see page 28)

If no Grants.gov receipt, and validation or error notifications are received:

- Contact NIJ regarding experiencing technical difficulties (see page 28)

General Requirements:

- Review the [Solicitation Requirements](#) in the OJP Funding Resource Center.

What an Application Should Include:

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (see page 16)
- Project Abstract (see page 16)
- Program Narrative (see page 17)
- Appendices (see page 19)
- Budget Detail Worksheet (see page 20)
- Budget Narrative (see page 21)
- Employee Compensation Waiver request and justification (if applicable) (see page 14)
- Read OJP policy and guidance on “conference” approval, planning, and reporting available at www.ojp.gov/financialguide/PostawardRequirements/chapter15page1.htm (see page 15)
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (see page 26)
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see page 21)
- Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) (see page 22)
- Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status (see page 22)
- Additional Attachments
- Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications (see page 22)

Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity (see page 24)
 Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (if applicable)
(see page 26)