

Notices regarding the solicitation “NIJ Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime, Fiscal Year 2020”

March 27, 2020: Many of our solicitations encourage research partnerships and require applicants to include a strong letter of support, signed by an appropriate decision-making authority from each proposed partnering entity.

NIJ continues to strongly encourage prospective applicants to submit executed agreements necessary to carrying out the work proposed with applications if they can be obtained, but with an understanding of the circumstances surrounding the pandemic, NIJ will accept applications without them.

Applicants selected for award will be required to submit completed agreements by January 1, 2021. Funds will be withheld until such agreements have been received.

The original solicitation document begins on the next page.



NIJ Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime, Fiscal Year 2020

FY 2020 Competitive Research Grant Solicitation

CFDA No. 16.560

Grants.gov Solicitation Number: NIJ-2020-17275

Solicitation Release Date: January 30, 2020

Application Deadline: 11:59 p.m. eastern time on April 20, 2020

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ) seeks applications for funding of rigorous applied research on evidence-based tools, protocols, and policies for state, tribal, and local law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies that address drug trafficking, drug markets, and drug-related violence. The focus of this research solicitation is narcotics-related criminal investigation, prosecution, drug intelligence, and community surveillance relevant to law enforcement and/or medicolegal death investigation. DOJ has identified the FY 2020 solicitation drug priorities as methamphetamine and other stimulants, including diverted pharmaceuticals, illicit drugs, and their analogues.

This solicitation incorporates the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) by reference. The OJP Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to applicants on how to prepare and submit applications for funding to OJP. If this solicitation expressly modifies any provision in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in this solicitation as to that provision.

Eligibility (Who may apply)

In general, NIJ is authorized to make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with eligible entities as listed below:

- States (including territories);
- Units of local government;
- Federally recognized Indian tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior);
- Nonprofit and for-profit organizations (including tribal nonprofit and for-profit organizations); and

- Institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education).

Foreign governments, foreign organizations, and foreign colleges and universities are not eligible to apply. Federal agencies are eligible to apply. (Any award made to a federal agency will be made as an inter-agency reimbursable agreement.)

All recipients and subrecipients (including any for-profit organization) must forgo any profit or management fee.

NIJ will consider applications under which two-or-more entities would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients (subgrantees). The applicant must be the entity that would have primary responsibility for carrying out the award, including administering the funding and managing the entire project. For additional information on subawards, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Under this solicitation, any particular applicant entity may submit more than one application, as long as each application proposes a different project in response to the solicitation. Also, an entity may be proposed as a subrecipient ("subgrantee") in more than one application.

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 1-800-518-4726 or 1-606-545-5035 (international), at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>, or at support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

An applicant that experiences unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond its control that prevent it from submitting its application by the deadline must email the NIJ contact identified below **within 24 hours after the application deadline** to request approval to submit its application after the deadline. Additional information on reporting technical issues appears under "Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues" in the "How To Apply (Grants.gov)" section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

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 grants@ncjrs.gov; fax to 301-240-5830; or web chat at <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/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 <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding>. Answers to frequently asked questions that may assist applicants are posted at <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/frequently-asked-questions-about-applying-grants-and-cooperative-agreements>.

Deadline Details

Applicants must register with Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html> prior to submitting an application. All applications are due by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on April 20, 2020.

To be considered timely, an application must be submitted by the application deadline using Grants.gov, and the applicant must have received a validation message from Grants.gov that indicates successful and timely submission. OJP urges applicants to submit applications at least 72 hours prior to the application due date, to allow time for the applicant 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.

An applicant must use the **Add Attachment** button to attach a file to its application. Do not click the paperclip icon to attach files. This action will not attach the files to the application. After adding an attachment, select the **View Attachment** button to confirm you attached the correct file. To remove the file, select the **Delete Attachment** button.

OJP encourages all applicants to read this [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#).

For additional information, see the “How to Apply (Grants.gov)” section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

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NIJ Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime, Fiscal Year 2020

CFDA No. 16.560

A. Program Description

Overview

NIJ's Drugs and Crime Research Program supports rigorous applied research on evidence-based tools, protocols, and policies for state, tribal, and local law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies that address drug trafficking, drug markets, and drug-related violence. The program furthers DOJ's mission to combat opioid and other drug abuse, support prosecutors in their efforts, and reduce violent and other drug-related crime. Research projects promote cost-efficient law enforcement, court, and corrections responses to illegal drug markets (including diversion of licit drugs). The focus of this research solicitation is narcotics-related criminal investigation, prosecution, drug intelligence, and community surveillance relevant to law enforcement and/or medicolegal death investigation. DOJ has identified the FY 2020 solicitation drug priorities as methamphetamine and other stimulants, including diverted pharmaceuticals, illicit drugs, and their analogues.

Methamphetamine is a Schedule II¹ stimulant drug that is widely available in high purity and potency, and at low prices across the U.S. The 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimates approximately 1.9 million people aged 12 or older used methamphetamine in the past year.² Methamphetamine continues to dominate West and Midwest drug markets (especially in rural and tribal communities), and is now expanding to other regions.³ Methamphetamine and other psychostimulant overdose deaths increased annually by 25 percent or more between 2015 and 2018;⁴ they exceed opioid-related fatal overdoses in some states, and the largest increase in death rates are observed in Appalachian states.⁵ With no naloxone equivalent to reverse overdoses, and no standard medication-assisted treatment to address addiction, supply reduction to prevent and reduce stimulant drug access is imperative. The potential danger in failing to address this long-standing and now growing problem is a crossover in the Nation's drug crisis from opioids to stimulants.

Methamphetamine is reemerging as a national problem aggravated by drug-related violence due to increased production by Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs). Border and other field office seizures have risen steadily since FY 2012;⁶ and in 2018, methamphetamine was the

¹ The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) defines Schedule II drugs as having a high potential for abuse, with use potentially leading to severe psychological or physical dependence; examples include cocaine and fentanyl (<https://www.dea.gov/drug-scheduling>).

² Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2018-nsduh-annual-national-report>.

³ 2020 Gulf Coast HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment, http://arc-associates.net/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/2020_GC_HIDTA_Drug_Threat_Assessment.17165012.pdf.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts, Overdose Death Counts, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>.

⁵ Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Cocaine and Psychostimulants with Abuse Potential — United States, 2003–2017, https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6817a3.htm?s_cid=mm6817a3_e.

⁶ Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Enforcement Statistics FY 2019, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>.

most frequently identified drug (followed by cannabis, cocaine, and heroin).⁷ Domestic clandestine methamphetamine lab seizures have declined, although labs persist primarily in the Midwest, including new recrystallization labs.⁸ Competition among wholesale trafficking organizations has led to lower methamphetamine prices, higher drug purity, and expanded drug-related violence concerns.⁹ As noted by the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program, “methamphetamine remains the greatest danger when considering its nexus to violence and other criminal activity used by traffickers to advance or protect their illegitimate trade.”¹⁰ In addition to systemic violence (e.g., DTO rivalries), methamphetamine is associated with pharmacological violence (crimes committed under the influence and long-term use effects) and economic-compulsive crime (strong-arm robberies, assaults with a weapon, burglaries, etc.). In 2017, law enforcement agencies nationwide identified methamphetamine as the drug that contributes most to violent crime,¹¹ and it remains a problem in Indian country where non-native DTOs traffic drugs for local and interstate distribution.¹² Furthermore, the direction of drug flow cannot be assumed. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) identified the bidirectional flow of illicit drugs along the northern border as a threat to public safety.¹³ Asian and other transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) and DTOs compete with domestic organized crime organizations to control drug production, distribution, consolidation of drug proceeds, and money laundering.

Methamphetamine and other stimulant use is fueled by both illicit and licit drugs trafficked and sold in U.S. markets. Methamphetamine is a synthetic drug (or novel psychoactive substance, [NPS]) derived from chemically engineered compounds with a capacity for rapid development of many newly emergent, high-purity, and high-potency analogues. Forensic laboratory analysis is complicated by the continuous emergence of new drugs, underscoring the need for information sharing with public health and public safety officials in making protocol, technology, and equipment investments.¹⁴ NPS are often adulterated with toxic substances during production or consumption and used in combination with other drugs. Illicit drug suppliers access precursor chemicals through illegal diversion, or unregulated foreign chemical manufacturing operations, and produce NPS and their analogues in clandestine labs. Similar to the epidemiology of opioid abuse, misuse of licit drugs and diverted pharmaceuticals also plays a role in the methamphetamine and other stimulant drug markets. In contrast to a recent reversal in opioid prescription trends, the largest annual increases in prescriptions are now among amphetamines.¹⁵

⁷ National Forensic Laboratory Information System: NFLIS-Drug 2018 Annual Report, <https://www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/DesktopModules/ReportDownloads/Reports/NFLIS-Drug-AR2018.pdf>.

⁸ 2018 National Drug Threat Assessment, <https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/DIR-032-18%202018%20NDTA%20final%20low%20resolution.pdf>; Methamphetamine Seizures Continue to Climb in the Midwest, <https://www.dea.gov/stories/2019/07/10/methamphetamine-seizures-continue-climb-midwest>.

⁹ 2017 Domestic Methamphetamine Threat Key Findings, <https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-07/2017%20Domestic%20Methamphetamine%20Threat%20Assessment%20Key%20Findings.pdf>.

¹⁰ 2018 Midwest HIDTA Threat Assessment (p. 3), <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27896/documents/2018MidwestHIDTAThreatAssessment.pdf>.

¹¹ 2017 National Drug Threat Survey (Figure A8), [unclassified in law enforcement sensitive report]; see National Drug Threat Survey Methodology and Key Findings in Appendix A of 2017 National Drug Threat Assessment, https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-07/DIR-040-17_2017-NDTA.pdf.

¹² Perception of Methamphetamine in Indian Country: Interviews with Service Providers in Ten Western Tribes, <https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/Publications/cops-p368-pub.pdf>.

¹³ Northern Border Threat Analysis Report, https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/17_0731_Public_Summary_NBSRA_0.pdf.

¹⁴ Needs Assessment of Forensic Laboratories and Medical Examiner/Coroner Offices: Report to Congress, 2019, <https://www.justice.gov/olp/page/file/1228306/download>.

¹⁵ 2017-2018 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Annual Report, http://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/e-forcse/health_care_practitioners/documents/2018-pdmp-annual-report.pdf.

With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals for rigorous applied research that examines the feasibility, impact, and cost efficiency of evidence-based tools, protocols, and policies for state, tribal, and local law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies that address drug trafficking, drug markets, and drug-related violence. The research focus is narcotics-related criminal investigation, prosecution, drug intelligence, and community surveillance relevant to law enforcement and/or medicolegal death investigation. All proposed projects should examine novel approaches to common problems, demonstrate methods to generate actionable information, add value to resources that can be sustained long-term and replicated by other jurisdictions for a national scale impact, and promote innovative partnerships between stakeholders. This solicitation's drug priorities are methamphetamine and other stimulants — including diverted pharmaceuticals, illicit drugs, and their analogues.

This solicitation supports **DOJ Strategic Objective 3.2:** Disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations to curb opioid and other illicit drug use in our nation. It also supports **DOJ Strategic Objective 3.1:** Combat violent crime, promote safe communities, and uphold the rights of victims of crime.

Statutory Authority: Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (sections 201 and 202).

Program-Specific Information

NIJ's drugs and crime research portfolio¹⁶ promotes cost-efficient law enforcement, court, and corrections responses to illegal drug markets (including diversion of legal drugs), and violent and other criminal behavior. Through the program, NIJ studies crime reduction using several approaches: epidemiology (patterns among drugs, violence, and crime to inform communities and service providers); prevention and intervention (policies and programs to prevent or reduce drug-related crime and violence); drug markets (drug production and distribution information to support law enforcement); market disruption (drug interdiction and other strategies to disrupt or deter markets); and forensic science (drug recognition and detection, and support of medicolegal death investigation).

Relevant to this solicitation are applied research on methamphetamine markets. NIJ supports research on policies, practices, and resources available to law enforcement to deter, investigate, and prosecute illegal methamphetamine and other drug crimes. Past NIJ methamphetamine research has documented its trends in use, trafficking, production, and other issues;¹⁷ and examined precursor control laws implementation (restricted access, retail sales, and criminalizing possession).^{18, 19} A Joint Initiative for Research on Retail Drug Markets with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) demonstrated innovative network and geographic analyses to explore methamphetamine markets.²⁰ A recent project assessed quantitative and qualitative information resources available for Mid/Western states and tribal nations to

¹⁶ NIJ's Drugs and Crime Research, <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/drugs>.

¹⁷ Methamphetamine Use: Lessons Learned, <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/209730.pdf>.

¹⁸ From Policy to Practice: State Methamphetamine Precursor Control Policies, <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/228133.pdf>.

¹⁹ The Relationship between State Methamphetamine Precursor Laws and Trends in Small Toxic Lab (STL) Seizures, <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/223467.pdf>.

²⁰ NIDA-NIJ Joint Initiative for Research on Retail Drug Markets, <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/252076.pdf>.

document the impact of methamphetamine trafficking and production on the criminal justice system.²¹

Also relevant to this solicitation is NIJ-supported research on opioids, marijuana, and other drug crimes, including FY 2012 Research on Illegal Prescription Drug Market Interventions,²² and research grants awarded under previous iterations of this NIJ solicitation. This FY 2020 funding opportunity excludes applications for research on those drug types — but the research questions, methods, and partnerships of past grants are informative. Those projects examine: intelligence-led policing collaboratives to build opioid drug intelligence networks in rural communities and port cities; darknet, clearnet, and cryptocurrency markets; evidence collection and preservation protocols for manslaughter prosecutions of drug dealers; and drug metric intelligence platforms that integrate data systems for information sharing.

This solicitation is unrelated to NIJ's Controlled Substances and Forensic Toxicology program, which funds the development of forensic science tools, methods, or technologies. That program supports more basic research and development to improve drug recognition and detection, and the work of crime laboratories in medicolegal death investigation. Applicants are encouraged to review information on NIJ's diverse drugs and crime research portfolio, and consider other, more suitable funding opportunities.²³ Applications for funding of basic research activities that focus on the development of tools or methods (in the laboratory or the field), are outside the scope of this solicitation.

Research Focus and Drug Priorities

Proposed research must focus on narcotics-related criminal investigation, prosecution, drug intelligence, and/or community surveillance relevant to law enforcement and/or medicolegal death investigation.

Proposed research must address drug trafficking, drug markets, and/or drug-related violence relevant to the drug priorities: methamphetamine and other stimulants including diverted pharmaceuticals, illicit drugs, and their analogues.

Applications must address at least one of the drug priorities as described above. Other drugs may only be addressed in addition to NIJ's drug priorities, with clear justification relating to research and practice, such as drugs produced, or used, in combination. Applications for funding research that fall outside of these priorities will not be considered.

A single application may address more than one drug priority — however, the rationale and approach to studying each drug type proposed must be made clear in the application. Applications that propose to research all drug priorities without clear justification for each will not be considered.

²¹ Measuring the Criminal Justice System Impacts of the Increased Presence of Methamphetamine in the Bakken Oil Formation, <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/253270.pdf>.

²² NIJ's Research on Illegal Prescription Drug Market Interventions, <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/research-illegal-prescription-drug-market-interventions>.

²³ See NIJ's FY 2020 solicitations, including "Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes," and "Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grants."

Potential Research Questions

Criminal Investigation and Prosecution – NIJ seeks proposals for research on criminal case investigation and prosecution related to narcotics, law enforcement, forensic science, and medicolegal death investigation.

Research questions of interest include, but are not limited to:

- How can new technologies (such as field-deployable drug detection/identification technologies) support investigation and prosecution?
- What is the relative utility of results from drug tests conducted in the field, in contrast to confirmatory lab tests, in terms of charging decisions and case outcomes?
- What is the value of information from cybercrime and darknet/clearnet websites in supporting investigation and prosecution, and how can that be optimized?
- How can information collected at clandestine labs, suspected drug crime and death scenes, or non-fatal drug overdose events be enhanced to support investigations and prosecution strategies?
- How can information sharing across agencies be improved to support investigations and prosecution strategies, such as whether to build the instant case or connect other potentially related cases?
- How can information sharing across agencies help prioritize evidence processing and investigative assignments as a given case evolves, in order to conserve resources?
- What effect do drug laws have on investigations and prosecution strategies? If they increase the number of cases or convictions, for what types of cases? If not, how can outstanding legal and resource challenges be addressed?

Drug Intelligence and Community Surveillance – NIJ seeks proposals for research on improvements to aggregate data collection, analysis, and dissemination that support drug intelligence and community surveillance goals.

Research questions of interest include, but are not limited to:

- How can new technologies (such as field deployable drug detection/identification technologies) inform intelligence, surveillance, and interdiction activities?
- What is the value of information from cybercrime and darknet/clearnet websites in supporting drug intelligence and interdiction, and how can that be optimized?
- How can provisional data address immediate information needs, and what means are available to assess validity and reliability of information? What are the actionable data, and how is the impact of actionable data measured in terms of public safety goals?

- How is information from interdictions used to estimate the flow of drugs? How do forensic laboratory results inform interdiction activities? What other information can be used to identify drug seizure targets efficiently?
- How best can public safety and public health stakeholders examine and project drug use trajectories in conjunction with drug markets?
- What is the impact of current drug intelligence and community surveillance efforts on drug deterrence, interdiction, and pursuit of organized crime targets? What metrics assess impact, and what are the demonstrable effects on crime prevention, drug market intervention, and other criminal justice outcomes?

Drug-Related Violent Crime – NIJ seeks proposals for research on violent crime associated with illegal drug markets.

Research questions of interest include, but are not limited, to:

- Is there any relationship between violent crime and specific drug markets (i.e., methamphetamine or other stimulant drugs) in the U.S.?
- If so, are there any trends or patterns specific to offense type, geographic region, or other variables?
- Are specific drug markets associated with different types of drug-related violence — pharmacological violence (crimes under the influence and long-term use effects), economic-compulsive crime (steal cash/property to buy drugs), and/or systemic violence (drug trafficking rivalry)?
- Is drug-related violence exacerbated or ameliorated by certain factors?
- Are there predictive factors that may be used to prevent or control drug-related violence?

Additional Guidance Applicable to All Research Categories

- NIJ is especially interested in supporting research relevant to small,²⁴ rural, tribal, and border jurisdictions.
- Applications must demonstrate cultural competence by addressing regional, racial/ethnic, language, and other diversity issues in proposed research protocol and team capabilities, as applicable.
- Each partnering agency must provide a letter of commitment clarifying information, staff, and other resource access.
- Applicant must confirm access to all necessary information resources for a successful project, without assistance from either NIJ or from any other federal agency, except as stipulated in that other federal agency's letter of commitment.

²⁴ The majority of local police departments serve jurisdictions with populations of less than 100,000 (see Local Police Departments, 2016: Personnel, https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/lpd16p_sum.pdf).

- Each research team member (staff, contractor, consultant, agency partner, etc.) must be identified, with a clearly specified role and projected level of effort, regardless of compensation.
- Any potential conflict of interest must be addressed if any research team member may benefit financially from, or is/was involved in the development of, what is being researched. (Also see [Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity](#).)
- The research proposed must result in knowledge and tools that have potential value to other jurisdictions for a national impact.
- Applications for research that leverage projects actively supported by federal, private, or other entities must clarify the proposed value added; how information collected and other resources funded by NIJ will remain separate; and plans for dissemination, including public archive of work products.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products

The goal of this program is to support DOJ's mission to combat opioid and other drug abuse, support prosecutors in their efforts, and reduce violent and other drug-related crime through research that promotes cost-efficient law enforcement, court, and corrections responses to illegal drug markets (including diversion of legal drugs), and violent and other criminal behavior. The objective of this solicitation is to support applied research that examines the feasibility, impact, and cost efficiency of evidence-based tools, protocols, and policies for state, tribal, and local law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies that address drug trafficking, drug markets, and drug-related violence. The research focus is narcotics-related criminal investigation, prosecution, drug intelligence, and community surveillance relevant to law enforcement and/or medicolegal death investigations. The FY 2020 solicitation drug priorities are methamphetamine or other stimulants including diverted pharmaceuticals, illicit drugs, and their analogues.

NIJ encourages researchers to seek guidance from, or partner with, various stakeholder groups. Key partners in law enforcement and prosecution efforts to combat drug-related crime are public safety and public health stakeholders, such as medical examiner and coroner offices, forensic science laboratories, emergency health services, and poison control centers, among others. Their multidisciplinary expertise and pooled resources can support effective information collection and analysis, as well as criminal investigation case building for successful prosecutions.

Such associations foster a greater understanding of the issues unique to their respective fields, and may strengthen the scope of the proposed research plan. Proposed projects should investigate novel approaches to common problems, demonstrate methods to generate actionable information, promote innovative partnerships between stakeholders, and add value to resources that can be sustained long-term and replicated by other jurisdictions for a national scale impact. Collaborative efforts can expand understanding of drug trafficking, drug markets, and drug-related violence for targeted interdiction; further the identification of drug deterrent and interdiction opportunities; examine non-fatal and fatal overdoses; and support strategies to pursue organized crime targets.

Expected Deliverables

Draft Research Report Outline. An annotated outline including preliminary findings with draft tables, figures, and other relevant graphics is required approximately sixty (60) days prior to the grant end date for NIJ to review.

Briefing. An NIJ briefing to be delivered in Washington, D.C. is required approximately thirty (30) days prior to the grant end date. Presentation materials, including a handout and PowerPoint slides, that summarize research methods and findings are due in draft form no later than ten (10) business days in advance of the briefing for NIJ to review.

Final Research Report. Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be expected to submit a final research report. Additional information on the final research report requirement for the solicitation is posted on the [Research, Development, and Evaluation Grant Award Requirements](#). The Final Research Report will undergo review for public archive on the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) (NCJRS).

Required Data Sets and Associated Files and Documentation. Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be expected to submit to the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) all data sets that result in whole or in part from the work funded by the award, along with associated files and any documentation necessary 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. For more information, see Program Narrative in [Section D. Application and Submission Information](#).

Technology Prototype. An exemplar of any algorithm, method, software development kit, and training data set resulting from research and development activities funded under this solicitation will be delivered to NIJ at the end of the award for third-party evaluation, along with detailed implementation instructions. Documentation must include descriptions of algorithmic development and approaches to data collection.

In addition to these deliverables (and the required reports and data on performance measures described in [Section F. Federal Award Administration Information](#)), 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.

NIJ expects that there will be an equal effort to make the research findings accessible to practitioner and policymaker audiences through articles in trade publications, the development of training manuals, policy briefs, conferences, webinars, and articles for newspapers or magazines.

The Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products are directly related to the performance measures that demonstrate the results of the work completed.

Performance Measures

OJP will require each successful applicant to submit regular performance data that demonstrate the results of the work carried out under the award (see [“General Information about Post-](#)

[Federal Award Reporting Requirements](#)” in [Section F. Federal Award Administration Information](#)).

Applicants should visit OJP’s performance measurement page at www.ojp.gov/performance for an overview of performance measurement activities at OJP.

The application should demonstrate the applicant’s understanding of the performance data reporting requirements for this grant program and detail how the applicant will gather the required data should it receive funding.

Please note that applicants are **not** required to submit performance data with the application. Performance measures information is included as an alert that successful applicants will be required to submit performance data as part of the reporting requirements under an award.

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Data Recipient Provides
<p>Conduct research in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics having clear implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.</p> <p>Conduct research in social and behavioral sciences having clear implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.</p>	<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 project 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, such as 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. 4. Number of technologies fielded as a result (in whole or in part) of work funded under the NIJ award. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual and final progress reports, and products of the work performed under the NIJ award (including, at minimum, a final research report). If applicable, an annual audit report. 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. 4. Description of all technologies fielded as a result (in whole or in part) of work funded under the NIJ award.

Evaluation Research

If an application includes an evaluation research component (or consists entirely of evaluation research), the application is expected to propose the most rigorous evaluation design appropriate for the research questions to be addressed. If the primary purpose of the evaluation is to determine the effectiveness or impact of an intervention (e.g., program, practice, or policy),

the most rigorous evaluation designs may include random selection and assignment of participants (or other appropriate units of analysis) to experimental and control conditions. In cases where randomization is not feasible, applicants should propose a strong quasi-experimental design that can address the risk of selection bias.

Applications that include evaluation research should consider the feasibility of including cost/benefit analysis. In cases where evaluations find that interventions have produced the intended benefit, cost/benefit analysis provides valuable and practical information for practitioners and policymakers that aids decision making.

Evaluation research projects may also address a wide range of research questions beyond those focused on the effectiveness or impact of an intervention. Different research designs may be more appropriate for different research questions and at different stages of program development. The intervention strategies, setting, other contextual factors, and resources should be taken into account when selecting an evaluation design. In all cases, applications are expected to propose the most rigorous evaluation design appropriate for the research questions to be addressed.

Applicants are encouraged to review evidence rating criteria at https://www.crimesolutions.gov/about_starttofinish.aspx for further information on high-quality evaluation design elements.

OJP Priority Areas

Applications proposing activities in the following areas may be given priority consideration:

- Addresses the specific challenges that rural communities face.
- Encouraging program investments in economically distressed communities (Qualified Opportunity Zones).

To receive priority consideration under the rural priority, applicants must describe what makes the geographic service area rural (using U.S. Census or other appropriate government data), how isolated the area is from needed services, and how they will address specific public safety challenges in rural communities.

To receive priority consideration under the Qualified Opportunity Zones priority, applicants must include information that specifies how the project will enhance public safety in the specified QOZs. For resources on QOZs, and for a current list of designated QOZs, see the U.S. Department of the Treasury's resource webpage, accessible at <https://www.cdfifund.gov/pages/opportunity-zones.aspx>.

B. Federal Award Information

Maximum number of awards NIJ expects to make:	NIJ anticipates funding approximately five (5) grants for research on multiple priorities, each ranging from \$250,000 to \$1 million.
Estimated <u>maximum</u> dollar amount for each award:	\$1,000,000
Total amount anticipated to be awarded under solicitation:	\$3,000,000
Period of performance start date:	January 1, 2021
Period of performance duration:	Awards will normally not exceed a three-year period of performance, and applications proposing shorter timelines are preferred.

To allow time for (among other things) any necessary post-award review and financial clearance by OJP of the proposed budget and for any associated responses or other action(s) that may be required of the recipient, applicants should propose an award start date of January 1, 2021. No period of performance, including any requested and NIJ-approved extension, will exceed a maximum of five years.

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 define each phase. (This is particularly the case if the applicant proposes a project that will exceed — in cost or the length of the period of performance — the amount or length of time anticipated for an individual award (or awards) under this solicitation.) Given limitations on the availability to NIJ of funds for awards for research, development, and evaluation, this information will assist NIJ in considering whether partial funding of applications would be productive. (If, in FY 2020, NIJ elects to fund only certain phases of a proposed project, the expected scholarly products from the partial-funding award may, in some cases, vary from those described above.)

NIJ may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this solicitation, through continuation awards. OJP will consider, among other factors, OJP's strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award, and progress of award funded work, when making continuation award decisions.

Under this solicitation, any particular applicant entity may submit more than one application, as long as each application proposes a different project in response to the solicitation. Also, an entity may be proposed as a subrecipient ("subgrantee") in more than one application.

NIJ may elect to fund applications submitted under this FY 2020 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

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 Award

NIJ expects to make awards under this solicitation as grants or cooperative agreements. A cooperative agreement provides for OJP to have substantial involvement in carrying out award activities. See the “Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements” section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Please note: Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to comply with DOJ regulations on confidentiality and protection of human subjects. See “Requirements related to Research” under “[Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements – FY 2020 Awards](#)” in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls

Award recipients and subrecipients (including recipients or subrecipients that are pass-through entities) must, as described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements²⁵ as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.303, comply with standards for financial and program management. See [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Budget Information

What will not be funded:

- Applications 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.)
- Applications that are not responsive to this specific solicitation.
- Applications that lack clear research targets, such as a single proposal to research multiple drug types without a clear rationale and approach to studying each drug type, and demonstrated relevance to the research goals.
- Applications to conduct national surveys, basic laboratory research, purely descriptive studies, or single-site evaluations without stated potential benefit to other jurisdictions.
- Applications to conduct research supported by other NIJ solicitations or other federal research programs without explanation including proposed value added.

²⁵ The “Part 200 Uniform Requirements” means the DOJ regulation at 2 C.F.R Part 2800, which adopts (with certain modifications) the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

- Funds may not be used to support biomedical or behavior control experimentation on individuals or any research involving such experimentation, especially involving juvenile populations.

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

See “Cofunding” paragraph under item 4 (“Budget Information and Associated Documentation”) under [“What an Application Should Include”](#) in [Section D. Application and Submission Information](#).

Please see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on the following:

- [Pre-agreement Costs \(also known as Pre-award Costs\)](#)
- [Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver](#)
- [Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs](#)
- [Costs Associated with Language Assistance](#) (if applicable)

C. Eligibility Information

For eligibility information, see title page.

For information on cost sharing or match requirements, see [“What an Application Should Include”](#) in [Section D. Application and Submission Information](#).

D. Application and Submission Information

This solicitation expressly modifies the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide by not incorporating the “Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation” provisions in the “Application Attachments” section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

What an Application Should Include

The following application elements **MUST** be included in the application submission for an application to meet the basic minimum requirements (BMR) to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding: Program Narrative, Budget Detail Worksheet (including 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.)

See the “Application Elements and Formatting Instructions” section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on what happens to an application that does not contain all the specified elements, or that is nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation.

1. Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form (SF)-424)

The SF-424 is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on completing the SF-424.

Intergovernmental Review: This solicitation ("funding opportunity") **is not** subject to [Executive Order 12372](#). (In completing the SF-424, an applicant is to answer question 19 by selecting the response 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 no more than 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 Times New Roman font 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 on the [NIJ webpage](#).

3. Program Narrative

The program narrative section of the application should not exceed 25 pages 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 25-page limit for the narrative section. The project abstract, table of contents, appendices, and government forms do not count toward the 25-page limit.

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

The following sections should be included as part of the program narrative.²⁶

²⁶ 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.)

Program Narrative Guidelines:

a. Title Page (not counted against the 25-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 and the principal investigator.

b. Resubmit Response (if applicable) (not counted against the 25-page program narrative limit)

If an applicant is resubmitting an application presented previously to NIJ, but not funded, the applicant should indicate this. A statement should be provided, no more than two pages, addressing: (1) the title, submission date, and NIJ-assigned application number of the previous application, and (2) a brief summary of revisions to the application, including responses to previous feedback received from NIJ.

c. Table of Contents and Figures (not counted against the 25-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 and Research Questions. The statement of the problem should address the need for research in this area. Applicants should discuss current gaps in data, research, and knowledge, including those for particular justice sectors, for certain populations, and to answer questions relevant to current policy and practice needs and public interests. As part of this discussion, applicants should present a review of previous literature and discuss previous research related to these problems.

This section should also identify the proposed research questions and discuss the purpose, goals, and objectives of the proposed project.

- Project Design and Implementation. Applicants should provide a detailed description of the strategies to implement this research project and address the research questions. Design elements should follow directly from the research project's goals and objectives and address the program-specific information noted on page 7. Applicants should describe the research methodology in detail and demonstrate the validity and usefulness of the data they will collect. Applicants should consider the rigor and soundness of the methodology and analytical and technical approaches for the proposed research and address the feasibility of the proposed project and potential challenges or problems in carrying out the activities.

See generally "Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products" under "Program-Specific Information," above.

- Capabilities/Competencies. This section should describe the experience and capability of the applicant organization, key staff, and any proposed subgrantees (including consultants) that the applicant will use to implement and manage this effort and the federal funds under this award, highlighting any previous experience implementing projects of similar scope, design, and magnitude. Applicants should address:
 - Experience and capacity to work with the proposed data sources in the conduct of similar research efforts.
 - Experience and capacity to design and implement rigorous research and data analysis projects.
 - Experience producing and disseminating meaningful deliverables.

Applicants should also outline the management plan and organization that connects to the goals and objectives of the project.

- Dissemination. This section should describe in detail plans for presentations, publications, and other media use for dissemination of information on the proposed research and its work products (see [Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products](#) on page 11). Applicants should identify plans to produce or make available to broader interested practitioners and policy makers in a form that is designed to be readily accessible and useful to them.

e. Appendices (not counted against the 25-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 resume of the principal investigator and any and all co-principal investigators. In addition, curriculum vitae, resume, or biographical sketches of all other individuals (regardless of “investigator” status) who will be significantly involved in substantive aspects of the proposed project (including, for example, individuals such as statisticians used to conduct proposed data analysis).
- To assist OJP in assessing actual or apparent conflicts of interest (including such conflicts on the part of prospective reviewers of the application, a complete list of the individuals named or otherwise identified anywhere in the application (including in the budget or in any other attachment) who will or may work (or advise or consult) on the proposed research, development, or evaluation project. This applies to all such individuals, including, for example, individuals who are or would be employees of the applicant or employees of any proposed subrecipient entity, any individuals who themselves may be a subrecipient, and individuals who may (or will) work without compensation (such as advisory board members). This appendix to the program narrative is to include, for each listed individual: name, title, employer, any other potentially-pertinent organizational affiliation(s), and the individual's proposed roles

and responsibilities in carrying out the proposed project. If the application identifies any specific entities or organizations (other than the applicant) that will or may work (or advise or consult) on the proposed project, without also naming any associated individuals, the name of each such organization also should be included on this list.

Applicants should use the “[Proposed Project Staff, Affiliation, and Roles](#)” form available on the NIJ webpage to prepare this list.

If the application (including the budget) identifies any proposed non-competitive agreements that are or may be considered procurement "contracts" (rather than subawards) for purposes of federal grants administrative requirements the applicant also must list the entities with which the applicant proposes to contract. Applicants should provide this list as a separate sheet entitled "Proposed non-competitive procurement contracts."

For information on distinctions — for purposes of federal grants administrative requirements — between subawards and procurement contracts under awards, see “Budget Information and Associated Documentation,” below.

- Proposed project timeline and expected milestones.
- Human Subjects Protection paperwork (documentation and forms related to Institutional Review Board [IRB] review). See <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/human-subjects-and-privacy-protection>. **Note:** Final IRB approval is not required at the time an application is submitted.
- Privacy Certificate (for further guidance go to <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/confidentiality-and-privacy-protections> and <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/model-privacy-certificate>).
- List of any previous and current NIJ awards to the applicant 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.”)
- List of other agencies, organizations, or funding sources to which this application has been submitted (if applicable).
- Applicants proposing to use incentives or stipends payments as part of their research project design, must submit an incentive or stipend approval request, as a separate document, according to the requirements set forth at <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/participant-support-costs-and-incentives-social-science-research>.
- Data archiving plan. Applicants should anticipate that NIJ will require (through special award conditions, that data sets resulting in whole or in part from projects funded under this solicitation be submitted for archiving with the NACJD. See <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/data-archiving-plans-nij-funding-applicants>.

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 recipients are strongly encouraged to submit required data sets at least 90 days before the end of the period of performance.

- Letters of commitment, letters of support, or administrative agreements from organizations collaborating in the project, such as law enforcement and correctional agencies (if applicable).

Please see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on the following:

4. [Budget Information and Associated Documentation](#) in the “Budget Preparation and Submission Information” section.

The following paragraph (on “Cofunding”) expressly modifies the “Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement” provisions in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide. The applicant is to follow the guidance in the following paragraph instead of the guidance stated under the “Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement” heading in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

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.

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.

5. [Indirect Cost Rate Agreement](#)
6. [Tribal Authorizing Resolution](#) (if applicable)
7. [Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire \(including applicant disclosure of high-risk status\)](#)

8. [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities](#)
9. [Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications](#)
10. [Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High-Risk Grantees](#)²⁷ (if applicable)
11. [Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity](#)
12. **Additional Attachments**

- a. **Documentation of Anticipated Benefit to Qualified Opportunity Zones (if applicable)**

As is mentioned above, OJP may, as appropriate, give priority consideration in award decisions to applications that propose projects that will generate information about enhancing public safety in the specified QOZs. Each applicant proposing a project it anticipates will generate information about enhancing public safety in the specified QOZs should provide a sufficient narrative explanation in order for OJP to identify clearly the public safety benefit the applicant anticipates that information generated under its project will have on a specified QOZ(s). The attachment(s) should be clearly labeled as addressing QOZs. The applicant may also include tables, charts, graphs, or other relevant illustrations that may be useful in comprehending the manner in which the proposed project is anticipated to benefit a QOZ(s).

- b. **Documentation of Rural Challenges (if applicable)**

As is mentioned above, OJP may give priority consideration in award decisions to applications that address the specific public safety challenges that rural communities face. Each applicant proposing a project under the rural priority, should provide a sufficient narrative to include what makes the geographic service area rural (using U.S. Census or other appropriate government data), how isolated the area is from needed services, and how they will address specific public safety challenges in rural communities. The narrative must be included as an attachment that is clearly labeled as addressing rural challenges.

How To Apply (Grants.gov)

Applicants must register in and submit applications through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), a primary source to find federal funding opportunities and apply for funding. Find information on how to apply in response to this solicitation in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Registration and Submission Steps

Applicants will need the following identifying information when searching for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov.

²⁷ A "DOJ High-Risk Grantee" is a recipient that has received a DOJ High-Risk designation based on a documented history of unsatisfactory performance, financial instability, management system or other internal control deficiencies, or noncompliance with award terms and conditions on prior awards, or that is otherwise not responsible.

- Assistance Listing 16.560, National Institute of Justice Research, Evaluation, and Development Project Grants.
- Funding Opportunity Number NIJ-2020-17275.

For information on each registration and submission step, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

E. Application Review Information

Review Criteria

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

Statement of the Problem and Research Questions (Understanding of the problem, research questions, and their importance) – 25%

1. Demonstrated understanding of the problem.
2. Demonstrated importance of research questions, goals and objectives, including alignment with the aims of the solicitation.
3. Demonstrated awareness of the state of current research.
4. Demonstrated awareness of relevant tools, protocols, practices, and/or policies.
5. Rationale for proposed topic, jurisdiction(s), and research proposed based on trends and other background information.
6. Potential relevance of findings to small, rural, tribal, and/or border jurisdictions.
7. Potential research to result in knowledge and tools that have value to other jurisdictions for a national impact.

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.
4. Feasibility of completing the deliverables noted in the solicitation.
5. Cultural competence in addressing regional, racial/ethnic, language, and other diversity issues in proposed research protocol, as relevant.

Capabilities/Competencies (Capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of the applicant organization and proposed project staff) – 25%

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 proposed project).
2. Demonstrated ability of the applicant organization to implement the proposed strategies and manage the effort.
3. Relationship between the capabilities/competencies of the proposed project staff (including the applicant organization) and the scope and strategies of the proposed project.
4. Necessary information, staff, and other resource access documented by a letter of commitment for each partnering agency.
5. Clearly specified role and projected level of effort for each research team member (staff, contractor, consultant, agency partner, etc.) regardless of compensation.
6. Potential conflict of interest clearly addressed if any research team member may benefit financially from, or is/was involved in the development of, what is being researched.

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 strength and feasibility 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.

Budget

In addition, 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. Alignment of the proposed budget with proposed project activities.

Review Process

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

The following five paragraphs in this solicitation expressly modify the “Application Review Information” provisions in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide. An applicant is to follow the guidance in these five paragraphs instead of the guidance stated under the “Application Review Information” heading in the Guide.

Peer reviewers will review the applications submitted under this solicitation that meet basic minimum requirements. For purposes of assessing whether an application meets basic minimum requirements and should proceed to further consideration, OJP screens applications for compliance with those requirements. Although specific requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all solicitations for funding under OJP programs:

- The application must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- The application must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- The application must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- The application must include all items necessary to meet the basic minimum requirements.
- The application, if submitted by an applicant that is a DOJ High Risk Grantee,²⁸ or is designated “high risk” by a federal grant-making agency outside of DOJ, must not have been determined by the Director to pose a substantial risk of program implementation failure, based on 1) the applicant’s lack of sufficient progress in addressing required corrective actions necessary for removal of the DOJ High Risk Grantee (or non-DOJ high risk) designation, 2) the nature and severity of the issues leading to or accompanying the DOJ High Risk Grantee (or non-DOJ high risk) designation, and/or 3) the applicant’s expected ability to manage grant funds and achieve grant goals and objectives.

For a list of the application elements that **MUST** be included in the application submission in order for an application to meet the basic minimum requirements, see [“What an Application Should Include”](#) under [Section D. Application and Submission Information](#).

Peer review panels will evaluate, score, and rate applications that meet basic minimum requirements. NIJ may use internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination, to assess applications on technical merit using the solicitation’s review criteria. An internal reviewer is a current DOJ employee who is well-versed or has expertise in the subject matter of this solicitation. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the subject matter of a given solicitation who is not a current DOJ employee. Peer reviewers’ ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only, but are considered carefully.

Other important considerations for NIJ include geographic diversity, strategic priorities (specifically including, but not limited to, addressing public safety challenges that rural communities face and/or demonstrable potential enhancement to public safety in one or more federally designated Qualified Opportunity Zones), available funding, the planned scholarly products, and the extent to which the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative accurately

²⁸ See “Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High-Risk Grantees” under “What an Application Should Include,” above, for a definition of “DOJ High-Risk Grantee.”

explain project costs that are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise allowable under federal law and applicable federal cost principles.

Pursuant to the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, before award decisions are made, OJP also reviews information related to the degree of risk posed by the applicant. Among other things to help assess whether an applicant that has one or more prior federal awards has a satisfactory record with respect to performance, integrity, and business ethics, OJP checks whether the applicant is listed in SAM as excluded from receiving a federal award.

In addition, if OJP anticipates that an award will exceed \$250,000 in federal funds, OJP also must review and consider any information above the applicant that appears in the non-public segment of the integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently, the Federal Awardee Performance Integrity Information System, FAPIIS).

Important note on FAPIIS: An applicant, at its option, may review and comment on any information about itself that currently appears in FAPIIS and was entered by a federal awarding agency. OJP will consider any such comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in its assessment of the risk posed by the applicant.

All final award decisions will be made by Director of the National Institute of Justice, who may take into account not only peer review ratings and NIJ recommendations, but also other factors as indicated in this section.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

Please see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on the following:

- [Federal Award Notices](#)
- [Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements](#)

OJP strongly encourages prospective applicants to review information on post-award legal requirements and common OJP award conditions **prior** to submitting an application.

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the OJP-approved application, the recipient must comply with all award conditions, and all applicable requirements of federal statutes and regulations (including applicable requirements referred to in the assurances and certifications executed in connection with award acceptance).

For additional information on these legal requirements, see the “Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements” section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

- [Information Technology \(IT\) Security Clauses](#)
- General Information about [Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements](#)

In addition to the deliverables described in [Section A. Program Description](#), any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to submit certain reports and data.

Required reports. Recipients typically must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, final financial and progress reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with the Part 200 Uniform Requirements or specific award conditions. 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. (In appropriate cases, OJP may require additional reports.)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measures data.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For questions directed to the Federal Awarding Agency, see NCJRS contact information on page 2.

For contact information for Grants.gov, see page 2.

H. Other Information

Please see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on the following:

- [Freedom of Information and Privacy Act \(5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a\)](#)
- [Provide Feedback to OJP](#)

Application Checklist

NIJ Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime FY 2020

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application.

What an Applicant Should Do:

Prior to Registering in Grants.gov:

- ☐ Acquire a DUNS Number (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- ☐ Acquire or renew registration with SAM (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

To Register with Grants.gov:

- ☐ Acquire AOR and Grants.gov username/password (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- ☐ Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Biz POC (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

To Find Funding Opportunity:

- ☐ Search for the Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov (see page 18)
- ☐ Access Funding Opportunity and Application Package (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- ☐ Sign up for Grants.gov email [notifications](#) (optional) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- ☐ Read [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#)
- ☐ Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at [ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm](#) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

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 [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

If No Grants.gov Receipt, and Validation or Error Notifications are Received:

- ☐ Contact NIJ regarding technical difficulties (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

Overview of Post-Award Legal Requirements:

- ☐ Review the “[Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2020 Awards](#)” in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

Scope Requirement:

- ☐ The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s).

Eligibility Requirement: See cover page.

What an Application Should Include:

The following items are critical application elements required to pass basic minimum requirements review. An application that OJP determines does not include the application elements that must be included in the application submission in order for the application to meet the basic minimum requirements, will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive further consideration.

- ☐ Program Narrative (see page 18)
 - ☐ Budget Detail Worksheet (including Budget Narrative)
(see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
 - ☐ Resumes/curriculum vitae of key personnel (see page 20)
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- ☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (see page 18)
 - ☐ Project Abstract (see page 18)
 - ☐ Program Narrative (see page 18)
 - ☐ Budget Detail Worksheet (including Narrative)
(see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
 - ☐ Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
 - ☐ Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
 - ☐ Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire
(see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
 - ☐ [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities \(SF-LLL\)](#) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
 - ☐ Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
 - ☐ Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High-Risk Grantees (if applicable)
(see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

Additional Attachments:

- ☐ Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity
(see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- ☐ Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable)
(see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- ☐ Documentation of Anticipated Benefit to federally designated
Qualified Opportunity Zones (if applicable) (see page 23)
- ☐ Documentation of rural challenges (if applicable) (see page 23)