

Notices regarding the solicitation “Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System, 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.



Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System, Fiscal Year 2020

FY 2020 Competitive Research Grant Solicitation

CFDA No. 16.560

Grants.gov Solicitation Number: NIJ-2020-17296

Solicitation Release Date: January 30, 2020

Application Deadline: 11:59 p.m. eastern time on April 29, 2020

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ) is seeking applications for funding for innovative, multidisciplinary research projects to develop knowledge and tools to promote the safety, health, and wellness of law enforcement and corrections officers.

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](#).

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 29 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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Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System, Fiscal Year 2020

CFDA No. 16.560

A. Program Description

Overview

With this solicitation, NIJ seeks applications for funding of multidisciplinary research projects addressing any of these five topics:

1. [Resiliency and Recovery of Law Enforcement Agencies from Singular, Extreme Traumatic Events](#)
2. [Impact of Organizational Stressors on Officer Health and Wellness](#)
3. [Effects of Pre-Career Interventions and Subsequent Reminders in Modulating Mental, Physical, and Social Responses to Stressors in Law Enforcement Officers](#)
4. [Community Hostility, Officer Health, and Effects on Policing](#)
5. [Understanding the Increased Rate of Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers](#)

All five topics, in varying degrees, lend themselves to a mixed-method approach involving a combination of the measurements of behavioral, psychological, biological, and physiological responses. Additionally, all five topics lend themselves to multidisciplinary research from behavioral science, neuroscience, operations research, and the social science communities.

This solicitation supports the U.S. Department of Justice's priority of protecting officers and other public safety personnel. This solicitation also supports the following five objectives of the NIJ [Safety, Health, and Wellness Strategic Research Plan 2016-2021](#) (August 2016):

- Objective I.2: Support development, and promote strategies, policies, practices, and technologies that enhance the safety of criminal justice personnel.
- Objective I.4: Develop policies, strategies, and technologies to promote safety in criminal justice interactions with the public.
- Objective II.1: Promote research to improve the physical and mental health of individuals working in the criminal justice system.
- Objective II.2: Study both trauma and suicide among criminal justice employees.
- Objective II.4: Promote science-based tools and strategies to monitor physical and mental health.

Research proposed on topics outside the five topics identified in this solicitation will not be considered. **Applications must specify which of the topics they are responding to in the title of their proposal.**

Applications proposing research involving partnerships with criminal justice or other agencies must include a strong letter of support, signed by an appropriate decision-making authority from each proposed partnering agency. A letter of support must include the partnering agency's acknowledgement that de-identified data provided through this project will be archived by the awardee in the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the conclusion of the award (please see "[Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products](#)," below). If selected for an award, applicants will be expected to have a formal agreement in place with partnering agencies by January 1, 2021. That agreement must include provisions to meet the data archiving requirements of the award.

In rare circumstances — for example where law prohibits the archiving of agency data — NIJ may agree to a successful applicant creating and archiving an appropriate synthetic dataset. Those circumstances will be rare, decided by NIJ on a case-by-case basis, and will require extensive documentation and justification for exceptions to be made.

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

Project-Specific Information

NIJ is committed to building a knowledge base focused on the safety, health, and wellness of individuals employed in criminal justice occupations, individuals under the supervision of the criminal justice system, and members of the public as they interact with the system.

Topic 1: Resiliency and Recovery of Law Enforcement Agencies from Singular, Extreme Traumatic Events

Competition ID: NIJ-2020-17299

Police officers constantly experience both personal and professional stressors. Examples of personal, or life-event stressors may include divorce, a death in the family, financial extremis, etc. Professional stressors include fluctuating work hours and shifts, and tense interactions with the public. These stressors may also include direct or indirect exposure to traumatic events, such as being physically assaulted, or learning of the death of a colleague.

In rare circumstances, officers are exposed to singular, extreme traumatic incidents that impact not only the officer, but their entire agency and the community that they serve. Such extreme traumatic events include mass-casualty events and natural disasters. (Natural disasters may or may not be a mass-casualty event.)

Recovering from extreme traumatic events is particularly challenging for police officers and their agencies as officers may simultaneously act as responders, be victimized by the traumatic event, and continually re-experience the trauma of the event. Recovery is also complicated by the fact that once the event is over, agencies cannot stand down, but must continue to conduct

policing operations. Officers will continue to be exposed to consequent professional stressors. In the event of a natural disaster, officers may continue to experience life-event stressors resulting from that disaster. Officers who are continuously exposed to such events may exhibit cognitive, behavioral, physical, or psychological symptoms of trauma.

NIJ is interested in proposals for research and evaluation projects to better understand how programs or strategies make officers: (1) more resilient to singular, extreme traumatic events; and (2) promote recovery from them while continuing police operations during the event and at its conclusion. Ideally, such programs or strategies would translate effectively across different types of trauma.

NIJ expects that applicants will propose the most rigorous and practical methods appropriate for the subject matter. Setting aside considerations of practicality, such methods, if possible, would involve randomized control trials (RCTs) with measurements of behavioral, psychological, biological, neurological, and/or physiological responses, including the use of biological markers.

Topic 2: Impact of Organizational Stressors on Officer Health and Wellness

Competition ID: NIJ-2020-17300

Research suggests that the stressors associated with the more routine aspects of law enforcement work, including organizational stressors, may be among the greatest sources of occupational stress that law enforcement officers face.^{1,2,3} Further, this routine work stress may be a stronger predictor of psychological distress and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in officers than the effects of exposure to traumatic events.^{4,5,6}

Organizational stressors may include — but are not limited to — fluctuating work hours and shifts; lack of resources to do the work; overburdening, pervasive administrative bureaucracy; lack of control over one's work and work environment, and ineffective communication. Interpersonal conflict with coworkers is another source of stress. Such conflicts may result from a number of different causes, including dysfunctional organizational politics.⁷

The effects of the actions of agency leaders, managers, and supervisors — particularly as it relates to establishing a supportive and positive work environment — are another source of

¹ Violanti, J. and Aron, F., Sources of police stressors, job attitudes, and psychological distress, [Psychol Rep.](#), 1993 Jun;72(3 Pt 1):899-904.

² Crank, J.P. and M. Caldero, "Production of Occupational Stress in Medium-Sized Police Agencies: A Survey of Line Officers in Eight Municipal Departments," *Journal of Criminal Justice*, Volume 19, issue 4, 1991, pp. 339-349.

³ Collins, P.A. and Gibbs, A.C.C., "Stress in police officers: a study of the origins, prevalence and severity of stress-related symptoms within a county police force," *Occupational Medicine* 2003; 53:256-264.

⁴ Liberman, A., et al, "Routine Occupational Stress and Psychological Distress in Police," *Policing: An Internal Journal of Police Strategies & Management*, Volume 25 Issue 2 Dated 2002 pp. 421-439.

⁵ Gershon, J., "National Institute of Justice Final Report 'Project Shields,'" in [Criminal Justice and Behavior](#) 36(3):275-289.March 2009.

⁶ Maguen, S., et al, "Routine Environment Stress and PTSD Symptoms in Police Officers", *Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases*, 2009, Oct. 197(10), pp. 754 -760.

⁷ Gove, T. (2011). "Perspective: Strategies for Curbing Organizational Politics." *Law Enforcement Bulletin*. Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation.

organizational stress noted in the literature.^{8,9,10} Indeed, in one study a participant was reported to have stated, “The stress caused by the work on the street is nothing compared to the stress caused by the administration in this department.”¹¹ Leadership actions (or lack thereof) are often manifested in other organizational stressors, such as poor communication, unchecked dysfunctional organizational politics, and microaggressions.

The behavioral, psychological, social, and physiological impacts on officers from stress resulting from leadership actions and interpersonal conflict, and the mechanisms underlying those impacts, are not well understood. To address this lack of knowledge, NIJ is interested in research proposals that examine these impacts and mechanisms, and how adverse impacts might be mitigated.

NIJ will accept proposals for research focused on police agencies, sheriff offices, and/or correctional agencies. Research findings should both illuminate the health and wellness impact of exposure to these types of stressors, and inform strategies that mitigate them. Successful applicants will propose innovative and relevant research, with robust and rigorous research designs.

Topic 3: Effects of Pre-Career Interventions and Subsequent Reminders in Modulating Mental, Physical, and Social Responses to Stressors in Law Enforcement Officers

Competition ID: NIJ-2020-17301

Psychological distress and trauma have long-term mental, emotional, social, and physical effects on law enforcement officers.^{12,13} Stressors include critical incidents, organizational stress, vicarious trauma, social and personal experiences, and a range of individualized events impacting an individual. It may be difficult to point to one incident in an officer’s career as the impetus for mental and physical disorders and disabilities that manifest later in life.

Stress has both short- and long-term effects, and can be categorized as eustress, defined as moderate or normal psychological stress which can be beneficial, or distress. The majority of the research on officer stress has prioritized the study of distress and its long-term consequences, including poor mental, physical, and physiological outcomes. Evaluation of long-term effects of stress is especially critical as cumulative stressors are correlated with poorer disease prognoses and more difficult treatment courses.¹⁴

⁸ Crank and Caldero.

⁹ Violanti, J. and Aron, F., Sources of police stressors, job attitudes, and psychological distress, [Psychol Rep.](#), 1993 Jun;72(3 Pt 1):899-904.

¹⁰ Blum, L. (2000). *Force Under Pressure. How cops live and why they die.* New York: Lantern. C.f. Johnson, R. (2015). “Police Organizational Commitment: The Influence of Supervisor Feedback and Support.” *Crime and Delinquency* 61:1155-1180.

¹¹ Crank and Caldero.

¹² Gu JK, Charles LE, Burchfiel CM, Andrew ME, Ma C, Bang KM, and Violanti JM. (2013). Associations between Psychological Distress and Body Mass Index among Law Enforcement Officers: The National Health Interview Survey 2004-2010. *Safety and Health at Work*, 4(1):52-62.

¹³ Hartley TA1, Violanti JM, Fekedulegn D, Andrew ME, Burchfiel CM. (2007). Associations between major life events, traumatic incidents, and depression among Buffalo police officers. *International Journal of Emergency Mental Health*, 9(1):25-35.

¹⁴ Young AT. (2012). The effectiveness of cumulative stress debriefings with law enforcement personnel. *International Journal of Emergency Mental Health*, 14(1):29-35.

Law enforcement trainees form a unique population for study in that they are exposed to aspects of policing during their training, but are not yet at risk for the stressors reported by more seasoned officers. This population provides an opportunity to gauge:

1. Stressor accumulation over the course of an officer's career that contribute to mental health diseases; and
2. Interventions or programs implemented during training's effect on the protection of officers from downstream susceptibility to such diseases.

Currently, there are limited longitudinal assessments of trainees' susceptibility and resilience to mental health disorders using validated physiological biomarkers. Few studies (at any career level) follow-up past the 12-month point, limiting available data about how long the effects of these interventions last.^{15,16}

Reminders have been demonstrated to potentiate memory and behavior in both human and animal models, as they reconsolidate and strengthen memories while delaying forgetting.^{17,18} Subjects are likely to remember and engage in behaviors more routinely when provided reminders post-training.¹⁹ Currently, there are no studies of officers that assess the efficacy of reminders on potentiating the benefits of mental and physical health interventions.

Under this topic area, NIJ seeks innovative research and/or evaluation proposals that address the following questions:

1. What types of training and/or interventions can be implemented during academy training to promote resilience to mental health disorders, and how may they be evaluated?
2. Do interventions during academy training promote immediate and future resilience to mental, emotional, social, and/or organizational trauma and stressors?
3. How long do the effects of these interventions last?
4. What is the effect of inserting reminders between assessments?

The applicant(s) selected for funding under this solicitation topic area will be responsible for assessing early- and late-stage outcomes of the proposed interventions. The proposed research should:

¹⁵ Kuehl KS1, Elliot DL, MacKinnon DP, O'Rourke HP, DeFrancesco C, Miočević M, Valente M, Sleight A, Garg B, McGinnis W, Kuehl H. The SHIELD (Safety & Health Improvement: Enhancing Law Enforcement Departments) Study: Mixed Methods Longitudinal Findings. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 58(5):492-8.

¹⁶ Wang Z1, Inslicht SS, Metzler TJ, Henn-Haase C, McCaslin SE, Tong H, Neylan TC, Marmar CR. (2010). A prospective study of predictors of depression symptoms in police. *Psychiatry Research*, 175(3):211-6.

¹⁷ Nieto, J., Uengoer, M., & Bernal-Gamboa, R. (2017). A reminder of extinction reduces relapse in an animal model of voluntary behavior. *Learning & memory* (Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.), 24(2), 76–80.

¹⁸ Kroes, M., Dunsmoor, J. E., Lin, Q., Evans, M., & Phelps, E. A. (2017). A reminder before extinction strengthens episodic memory via reconsolidation but fails to disrupt generalized threat responses. *Scientific reports*, 7(1), 10858.

¹⁹ Fenerty, S. D., West, C., Davis, S. A., Kaplan, S. G., & Feldman, S. R. (2012). The effect of reminder systems on patients' adherence to treatment. *Patient preference and adherence*, 6, 127–135.

1. Assess changes in validated and generalizable psychological, behavioral, physiological, and/or social markers of personal and professional performance — with an emphasis on physiological markers — that result from the intervention;
2. Indicate understanding of the significance and limitations of the markers they choose for the general and law enforcement populations; and
3. Identify substantively meaningful and measureable short- and long-term outcomes that are theoretically linked to the intervention. Measured outcomes should inform our understanding of how officers respond to stress, or how to prevent stress/trauma/suicide/etc. by offering support to law enforcement officers from the beginning of their careers.

Applicants under this topic area are encouraged, but not required to, propose a randomized-controlled and/or mixed-method approach involving a combination of the measurement of behavioral, psychological, biological, and physiological responses; as well as the application of social science and/or operations research techniques. If physiological markers are included in the research analysis, the applicant must provide literature review or research in order to demonstrate understanding of the application of those biomarkers to their research, as well as its limitations. Biomarkers to assess may include: imaging techniques, hormones, cortisol, chemokines and immune activation, receptor activation, epigenetic modifications including DNA, RNA, and micro-RNA, or telomeres.

Topic 4: Community Hostility, Officer Health, and Effects on Policing

Competition ID: NIJ-2020-17679

Recent findings from a nationally representative survey show that law enforcement officers have become increasingly concerned about their physical safety in the wake of highly publicized use-of-force incidents.²⁰ Correspondingly, the majority of officers report being subjected to verbal abuse from community members, increased tensions when interacting with minority citizens (especially in larger police departments). One-third report that they have physically struggled or fought with a suspect during an arrest in the past month.

Such experiences are associated with increased callousness, social isolation, or cynicism toward the public, and negative feelings about the job, which may result in officers favoring aggressive or physically coercive tactics within particular communities.²¹ On the other hand, these experiences might also result in officers choosing not to stop and question suspicious individuals, make them more reluctant to use force even in situations where it is appropriate, or to avoid proactive enforcement activities altogether through depolicing.^{22,23}

²⁰ Morin, R., Parker, K., Stepler, R., & Mercer, A. (2017). Behind the badge: Amid protests and calls for reform, how police view their jobs, key issues and recent fatal encounters between blacks and police. PEW Research Center.

²¹ Marier, C. J., & Moule, R. K. (2019). Feeling blue: Officer perceptions of public antipathy predict police occupational norms. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 44(5), 836-857.

²² Oliver, W. M. (2017). Depolicing: Rhetoric or reality? *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 28(5), 437-461.

²³ Nix, J., Wolfe, S. E., & Campbell, B. A. (2018). Command-level police officers' perceptions of the "war on cops" and de-policing. *Justice Quarterly*, 35(1), 33-54.

Similarly, whereas the majority of Americans believe they understand the risks and challenges of police work, most officers surveyed said that the public does not accurately comprehend this reality. Indeed, nearly all officers reported that they are regularly frustrated and too understaffed to police their community adequately. To that point, although line-of-duty deaths have declined over the last few decades, the nonfatal injury rate for police officers has now risen to three times that of the average U.S. worker — with the leading cause of injury for officers being an assault or violent act.²⁴ According to researchers, this “significant upward trend in assault injuries among U.S. law enforcement officers ... warrants further investigation.”²⁵

Recognizing these concerns, NIJ is interested in proposals for research that investigate how contrasting public sentiments or antagonism toward the police, and in particular anti-police rhetoric or efforts to delegitimize law enforcement, can affect officer stress, health (e.g., assaults, mental disorders, other injuries), and job performance. Projects that examine these issues within high-crime, socioeconomically disadvantaged communities are encouraged. Current research has shown that organizational support, police culture, and new technologies might also interact with, or augment, officer perceptions, and so should be taken into account during any evaluation.^{26,27}

Topic 5: Understanding the Increased Rate of Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers

Competition ID: NIJ-2020-17792

The FBI's [Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted \(LEOKA\) Program](#) annually collects data from agencies across the United States on the line-of-duty deaths of, and assaults on, sworn officers. (These data are archived in the Inter-University Consortium of Political and Social Research [[ICPSR](#)] data depository.) LEOKA data indicate that the annual rate of officers being reported feloniously killed has remained essentially constant at roughly .01 per 100 officers between 2000 and 2018 (excluding the officers who died at the World Trade Center). In contrast, LEOKA data indicate that the rate of reported assaults on officers during this period was not constant. It trended down from an annual rate of 12.9 per 100 in 2000 to 9.0 in 2014; with an accelerating rate of decline. That downward trend reversed in 2015 with assaults on officers now trending up. LEOKA data indicate a rate of 10.8 assaults per 100 officers in 2018. This is roughly the rate last reported in 2008. Moreover, it indicates that although this increase is neither uniform, nor constant from year-to-year, it is a broad-based trend.

Under this topic area, NIJ seeks investigator-initiated proposals for research projects to understand this increase in the rate of assaults on officers. NIJ is interested in understanding what variables may have the greatest correlation with these assaults. Moreover, NIJ is interested in understanding what underlies that association — why those particular variables and not others? Further, NIJ is interested in understanding how those variables may (or may not) vary between jurisdictions, and the factors effecting such variations. NIJ's objective under

²⁴ White, M. D., Dario, L. M., & Shjarback, J. A. (2019). Assessing dangerousness in policing: An analysis of officer deaths in the United States, 1970–2016. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 18(1), 11-35.

²⁵ Tiesman, H. M., Gwilliam, M., Konda, S., Rojek, J., & Marsh, S. (2018). Nonfatal injuries to law enforcement officers: A rise in assaults. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 54(4), 503-509.

²⁶ Adams, I., & Mastracci, S. (2019). Police body-worn cameras: Effects on officers' burnout and perceived organizational support. *Police Quarterly*, 22(1), 5-30.

²⁷ Ingram, J. R., Terrill, W., & Paoline, E. A. (2018). Police culture and officer behavior: Application of a multilevel framework. *Criminology*, 56(4), 780-811.

this topic area is to understand what changes in policy, practice, and/or training may serve to reverse this trend.

Randomized Controlled Trial

Randomized controlled trial (RCT) studies are a powerful, much-needed tool for building scientific evidence about what works. Therefore, where feasible and appropriate, studies employing RCT methods to assess the effectiveness of programs and practices will be given higher priority consideration. RCT applications with strong designs measuring outcomes of self-evident policy importance are strongly encouraged. A strong RCT design should include low sample attrition, sufficient sample size, close adherence to random assignment, valid outcome measures, and statistical analyses. Taking RCT costs into consideration, applicants may want to consider studies using privacy-protected administrative data that are already being collected, or implementing an intervention into a program already funded.

New Investigator/Early Career Opportunity

NIJ is interested in supporting researchers who are early in their careers and new to NIJ's research grant portfolios, specifically non-tenured assistant professors, or equivalent full-time staff scientist positions in a research institution, who propose research on topics relevant to NIJ's Office of Research, Evaluation and Technology (ORET). To that end, NIJ may, in appropriate circumstances, give special consideration in award decisions to applications proposing such researchers as principal investigators. To qualify, the proposed PI must at the time of application submission:

- Hold a non-tenured assistant professor appointment at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States or an equivalent full-time staff scientist position at a research institution; and
- Have completed a terminal degree or post-graduate clinical training within the ten (10) years prior to September 30, 2020, and
- Have never previously received NIJ funding as a PI on a research project with the exception of Graduate Research Fellows or Data Resources Program grantees.

If seeking to be considered for the New Investigator/Early Career Opportunity, the applicant should identify that they are submitting a New Investigator/Early Career proposal on the title page of the application.

Additional guidance

- Applications must specify which of the topics they are responding to in the title of their proposal.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to consider the benefit of collaborating with law enforcement agencies to provide a fuller understanding of the challenges and operational contexts within which their officers operate. Each partnering agency/organization/individual **must** provide a signed letter of commitment clarifying information, staff, and other resource access. NIJ anticipates that applicants will have, at

a minimum, letters of support from the collaborating police departments. If selected for an award, applicants will be expected to have a formal agreement in place with partnering agencies by January 1, 2021.

- Applicants should be thorough in describing their intended methodology to include, but not be limited to: the appropriateness of sample sizes and comparison groups; the usage of technology, if applicable, and its function within the study, and its impact on the results; and potential risks and risk mitigation strategies of the intended methodology.
- 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.
- Where possible, the research proposed must result in knowledge and tools that have potential value to other jurisdictions, to obtain a national impact.

Applications that propose incentives must be responsive to NIJ's policy on participant support costs (see page 22 for more information).

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products

The ultimate goal of this solicitation is to advance NIJ's efforts to better ensure the safety, health, and wellness of law enforcement and correctional officers, and all individuals that come into contact with the criminal justice system.

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 can be found on the [Research, Development, and Evaluation Grant Award Requirements](#) page on the NIJ website. 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](#).

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.

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.

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.

B. Federal Award Information

Maximum number of awards NIJ expects to make:	To be determined by the merit of applications submitted to this solicitation and advanced to peer review, and available funding.
Estimated maximum dollar amount for each award:	To be determined by the funding requested in awarded applications, and available funding.
Total amount anticipated to be awarded under solicitation:	\$4,000,000
Period of performance start date:	January 1, 2021
Period of performance duration:	To be determined by the period of performance of awarded applications. Successful applicants will be expected to complete the work proposed within a five-year period of performance.

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.

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. See the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information. Any funds provided to another federal agency will be made as an inter-agency reimbursable agreement.

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 Requirements²⁸ 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.

²⁸ 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.

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

What an Application Should Include

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](#).

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 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 negatively consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

The following sections should be included as part of the program narrative.²⁹

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 and the principal investigator.

b. Resubmit Response (if applicable) (not counted against the 30-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 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 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 6. 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

²⁹ 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.

the proposed research and address the feasibility of the proposed project and potential challenges or problems in carrying out the activities.

- **Potential Impact.** Applicants should describe the potential impact of the research and how it may inform or improve criminal or juvenile justice-related policy, practice, or theory in the United States.

The discussion of impact should include a discussion of the deliverables, including planned scholarly products indicated in the project-specific information on page 13 and a plan for dissemination to appropriate audiences. 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.

- **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.

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 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 cooperation/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.

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

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](#)³⁰ (if applicable)
11. [Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity](#)

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.

- Assistance Listing 16.560, National Institute of Justice Research, Evaluation, and Development Project Grants.
- Funding Opportunity Number NIJ-2020-17296.

If applying to a solicitation with multiple Competition IDs, select the appropriate Competition ID for the intended purpose area of the application.

- [Topic 1: Resiliency and Recovery of Law Enforcement Agencies from Singular, Extreme Traumatic Events](#)
 - Competition ID: NIJ-2020-17299
- [Topic 2: Impact of Organizational Stressors on Officer Health and Wellness](#)
 - Competition ID: NIJ-2020-17300
- [Topic 3: Effects of Pre-Career Interventions and Subsequent Reminders in Modulating Mental, Physical, and Social Responses to Stressors in Law Enforcement Officers](#)
 - Competition ID: NIJ-2020-17301
- [Topic 4: Community Hostility, Officer Health, and Effects on Policing](#)
 - Competition ID: NIJ-2020-17679

³⁰ 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.

- [Topic 5: Understanding the Increased Rate of Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers](#)
 - Competition ID: NIJ-2020-17792

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) – 10%

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.

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.

Potential Impact – 30%

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) – 10%

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.

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,³¹ 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, available funding, the planned scholarly products, and the extent to which the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative accurately 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

³¹ See “Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High-Risk Grantees” under “What an Application Should Include,” above, for a definition of “DOJ High-Risk Grantee.”

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

Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System, Fiscal Year 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 24)
- ☐ Select the correct Competition ID (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- ☐ 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 19)
 - ☐ Budget Detail Worksheet (including Budget Narrative) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
 - ☐ Resumes/curriculum vitae of key personnel (see page 21)
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- ☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (see page 18)
 - ☐ Project Abstract (see page 19)
 - ☐ Program Narrative (see page 19)
 - ☐ 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](#))