NIJ’s National Center for Enhancing Research Capacity at Minority Serving Institutions

October 18, 2023 | 3:30 PM ET

The webinar will begin shortly
NIJ’s FY23 Center for Enhancing Research Capacity (CERC) at Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)

Solicitation: O-NIJ-2023-171879
Solicitation Post Date: **September 18, 2023** | Solicitation Close Date: **December 18, 2023**
Grants.gov Deadline: **December 4, 2023**

**Webinar Presenters:**

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Office of the Director

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Office of Violence and Victimization Prevention
Office of Research, Evaluation, Forensics & Technology
Today’s Webinar

• Introduction (NIJ Director La Vigne)
• Overview of NIJ
• Solicitation Purpose and Goals
• The Application Process
• NIJ Review Process
• Support and Resources
• Q & A
National Institute of Justice

Who are we:
• NIJ is the research, development and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Our mission:
• Improve knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science.
Agency Structure

- Office of the Director
- Office of Communications
- Office of Operations
- Office of Grants Management
- Five Science Offices:
  - Crime Prevention and Youth Justice
  - Criminal Justice Systems
  - Investigative and Forensic Sciences
  - Technology and Standards
  - Violence and Victimization Prevention
Solicitation Purpose

- Build and enhance research infrastructure
- Encourage interdisciplinary collaborations
- Enable and support research and development
- Strengthen sustainability and continuity
Solicitation Goals

- Enhance competitiveness of MSI research institutions and organizations
- Increase long-term growth of research funding to investigators at MSIs
- Grow pool of MSI researchers using science to address challenges relevant to criminal and juvenile justice policy and practice in the US
Expected Deliverables

• Meetings
• Outreach Plan
• Needs Assessments of MSIs
• Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Capacity Building Strategy
• TTA Delivery and Performance Measures
• Standard Grant Reporting Requirements and Deliverables
Application Submission

Critical Application Elements:
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget Web-Based Form (budget details and narrative)
- Curriculum Vitae/Resumes for Key Personnel

Required Forms:
- SF-424
- SF-LLL
Two-Step Application Submission Process

1. Grants.gov
Submit SF-424 and SF-LLL forms ONLY
Deadline: **December 4, 2023, 11:59 PM ET**
Register at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html

2. JustGrants
Submit the FULL application, including all attachments
Deadline: **December 18, 2023, 8:59 PM ET**
Register at https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/getting-started
Submit: https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov
Application Review Process

• Basic Minimum Requirement Determination

• Federal Staff Expert Review
  ▪ Independent scores and comments

• Internal Review
  ▪ NIJ science staff, NIJ leadership and other federal subject matter experts

• All funding decisions made at discretion of NIJ Director
Possible Critiques of Proposals

• **Statement of the Problem**
  - Fails to succinctly discuss the issue(s) prompting the need for the Center
  - Does not describe how the Center will address these issues

• **Project Design and Implementation**
  - Proposed activities not linked to the Statement of the Problem
  - All required deliverables not included
  - Lacks awareness of potential pitfalls and proposed actions to mitigate them
  - Insufficient space allocated to this criteria
Possible Critiques of Proposals (cont.)

- **Capabilities and Competencies**
  - Relationship between qualifications, expertise, and experience of proposed staff and the scope and strategies of the Center not discussed

- **Potential Impact**
  - Does not demonstrate how Center will: (1) enhance research infrastructure of MSIs, (2) expand and diversify STEM and SBS workforce, (3) translate Center activities into actionable information to promote change in criminal and juvenile justice fields.

- **Budget**
  - Too low, too high, unallowable costs
**Tips**

- Proposal should be
  - Well-written
  - Complete
  - Feasible
  - Impactful
  - Submitted on time
- Letters of Support and Commitment
- Eligible and able to apply
What Will NOT be Funded

Unresponsive applications

Applications to **purchase** equipment/materials/supplies, etc., not relevant to Center

Training/direct services **unrelated** to Center
FAQs

• Number of awards
• Award amount + period of performance
• Timing of award and non-award notifications
• Foreign entities / subrecipients / co-investigators
• Filling and submitting forms / IRB / HSP
Support

• OJP Response Center
  • Phone: +1 (800) 851-3420
  • Email: grants@ncjrs.gov

• Grants.gov
  • Phone: +1 (800) 518-4726
  • Email: support@grants.gov

• JustGrants:
  • Phone: +1 (833) 872-5175
  • Email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov
Recommended Resources

OJP Funding Resource Center: https://www.ojp.gov/funding

DOJ Grants Financial Guide: https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguideojp/overview

NIJ Funding FAQs: https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/faqs
Questions?

Please enter your questions into the Q&A box

Send to All Panelists