

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

October 18, 2023 | 3:30 PM ET

The webinar will begin shortly



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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:

Angela Moore, Ph.D. (Senior Science Advisor)
Office of the Director

Christine "Tina" Crossland, M.A. (Senior Social Science Analyst)
Office of Violence and Victimization Prevention
Office of Research, Evaluation, Forensics & Technology



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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



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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.



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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



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Solicitation Purpose

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



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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



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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



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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



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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>



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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



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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



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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



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Tips

- Proposal should be
 - **Well-written**
 - Complete
 - Feasible
 - Impactful
 - **Submitted on time**
- Letters of Support and Commitment
- Eligible and able to apply



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What Will NOT be Funded

Unresponsive applications

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

Training/direct services unrelated to Center



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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



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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



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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>



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Questions?

Please enter your questions into the [Q&A box](#)

Send to [All Panelists](#)



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