

NIJ Fiscal Year 2024 Evaluation on Desistance Webinar

February 29, 2024 | 1:00 PM ET

The webinar will begin shortly



NIJ

NIJ's FY24 Evaluation on Desistance

Solicitation: O-NIJ-2024-171971

Solicitation Post Date: February 6, 2024 | Solicitation Close Date: May 7, 2024

Grants.gov Deadline: April 30, 2024

Webinar Presenter:

Kyleigh Clark-Moorman, Ph.D. (Social Science Research Analyst)

Office of Criminal Justice Systems

Office of Research, Evaluation & Technology



NIJ

Today's Webinar

- Introduction (NIJ Executive Science Advisor Dr. Janine Zweig)
- Solicitation Goal and Objective
- Specific Information
- Expected Deliverables
- The Application Process
- NIJ Review Process
- Support and Resources
- Q & A



NIJ

Solicitation Goal & Objective

- The goal of this solicitation is to advance understanding of strategies that might aid in the desistance process and identify innovative approaches to measure the desistance process.
- The objective of this solicitation is to support rigorous evaluation of desistance-focused interventions to generate and advance knowledge regarding strategies to effectively promote desistance from crime.



NIJ

Specific Information

- NIJ seeks applications to conduct rigorous evaluations of desistance-focused interventions to advance understanding of strategies that might aid in the desistance process and identify innovative approaches to measure the desistance process.
 - Applications that do not propose to conduct rigorous impact or outcome evaluations of desistance-focused strategies will not be considered responsive to this solicitation and will not be considered for funding; proposals for formative or process/implementation evaluations alone will not be considered for funding.



NIJ

Specific Information

- Applicants must:
 - Conceptualize desistance as a process that occurs over time and may entail continued criminal behavior.
 - Establish that the intervention to be evaluated is desistance-focused by demonstrating that it affects one or more of the key causal mechanisms of desistance.
 - Propose to measure both criminal and noncriminal desistance outcomes.
 - For proposed criminal measures (e.g., reoffending), applicants must demonstrate that the outcomes to be measured contribute to an understanding of the long-term process of desistance.
 - Specify their definition of desistance, the alignment with proposed measures, and the feasibility of obtaining and working with proposed data sources corresponding to these measures.



Evaluation Research

- The application is expected to propose the most rigorous evaluation design.
- Evaluation research should also include an implementation evaluation component to ensure that implementation fidelity metrics are collected and analyzed.
- NIJ also encourages applicants to consider the feasibility of including a cost/benefit analysis.



NIJ

Expected Deliverables

1. Standard grant reporting requirements
 - Semi-annual research performance progress reports
 - Quarterly financial reports
2. Final Research Report
3. Associated data sets or files
4. Scholarly products



NIJ

Application Submission

- Critical Application Elements:
 - Program Narrative
 - Budget Web-Based Form (budget details and narrative)
 - Curriculum vitae or resume for Key Personnel
- Required Forms:
 - SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance)
 - SF-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities)



NIJ

Two-Step Application Submission Protocol

1. Grants.gov

- Submit SF-424 and SF-LLL forms ONLY
- Deadline: **April 30, 2024**
- Register at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>

2. JustGrants

- Submit the FULL application, including all attachments
- Deadline: **May 7, 2024**
- Register at <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/getting-started>



NIJ

Application Review Process

- Basic Minimum Requirement Determination
- External Expert Review
 - Technical and practitioner reviewers
 - Independent scores and comments
- Internal Review
 - NIJ science staff, NIJ leadership and other federal subject matter experts
- All funding decisions are made at the discretion of the NIJ Director



NIJ

Common Critiques Raised During Peer Review Process

- **Statement of the Problem (10%)**
 - Fails to identify gaps in the current literature or understanding of current research
 - Literature review is insufficient
 - Scope of the proposed research is extremely limited or too ambitious
- **Project Design and Implementation (45%)**
 - Overall strategy is not well articulated
 - Design/methods approach does not logically flow/unclear
 - Proposed sample size is not supported by a power analysis
 - Project is not feasible



Common Critiques Raised During Peer Review Process

- **Capabilities and Competencies (20%)**

- Proposed staff does not demonstrate familiarity or proficiency with the proposed methods
- Project team does not include necessary and appropriate subject matter experts

- **Potential Impact (20%)**

- Dissemination plan lacks specificity and/or is not innovative
- No plan for reaching non-academic audiences

- **Budget (5%)**

- Insufficient budget or staff time for proposed activities
- Staff duties are not well articulated



Tips

- Proposals should be
 - Well-written
 - Innovative
 - Timely
 - Rigorous and well-designed
 - Feasible
 - Impactful
- Research/Evaluation Independence
- Letters of Support



NIJ

What Will **NOT** be Funded

- **Unresponsive** applications
 - Applications that do not propose rigorous evaluations of desistance-focused strategies
 - Applications that propose measuring criminality using only recidivism
- **Duplicative**/similar research
- Applications to **purchase** equipment/materials/supplies, etc.
- Training/direct services **unrelated** to project



NIJ

FAQs

- Award amount + period of performance
- Timing of award and non-award notifications
- Foreign entities / subrecipients / co-investigators
- Filing and submitting forms / IRB / HSP



NIJ

Support

- **OJP Response Center**
 - Phone: (800) 851-3420
 - Email: grants@ncjrs.gov
- **Grants.gov**
 - Phone: (800) 518-4726
 - Email: support@grants.gov
- **JustGrants:**
 - Toll-free: +1 (833) 872-5175
 - Email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov



NIJ

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>



NIJ

Questions?

Please enter your questions into the **Q&A Box**
Send to **All Panelists**



NIJ