Today's Webinar

- The Solicitation:
  - Purpose and goals of the solicitation
  - Explanation of Core Functions

- The Application Process:
  - General overview
  - Grants.gov → JustGrants
  - Eligibility requirements | Expected deliverables
  - Lessons learned: Tips for applicants

- NIJ Review Process
- Questions
- Resources

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THE SOLICITATION

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Program History

- Mandated by Congress in 2012 to carry out:
  - "research targeted toward developing a better understanding of the domestic radicalization phenomenon, and advancing evidence-based strategies for effective intervention and prevention."

- Twelve consecutive years

- Over 50 awards made

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Purpose & Goals

- Increase knowledge of radicalization in the U.S.

- Bolster evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies

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The Center of Excellence – A Shift

- Why a COE?

- How is this different from the usual NIJ solicitations?

- Broader scope?

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Core Functions

- Core Function 1: Conduct rigorous research, evaluation, and demonstration projects

- Core Function 2: Assess the research needs of the field

- Core Function 3: Translate and disseminate knowledge by developing a suite of evidence-driven best practices and guidelines

- Core Function 4: Support training, education and professional development of practitioners engaged in extremism prevention and intervention

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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

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SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

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Application Basic Minimum Requirements (BMR)
Starting on page 17 of the solicitation

- Critical Application Elements:
  - Program Narrative
  - Budget Web-Based Form (budget details and narrative)
  - Curriculum vitae or resume

- Required Forms:
  - SF-424
  - SF-LLL

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Additional Requirements
(see pages 18-25 for full checklist)

- Project Abstract

- Goals, Objectives, Deliverables and Timeline

- Letters of Support

- Bibliography/References

- Any tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/chart/graphs, or maps

And many others, as applicable:

- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- Financial Management Questionnaire
- Tribal Authorizing Resolution
- Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement
- Complete list of all individuals in the application
- Human Subjects Protection
- Privacy Certificates
- Request to use incentives or stipends
- Documentation of rural challenges
- Documentation of High-Poverty Areas or Persistent-Poverty Counties
- Documentation of Enhanced Public Safety in Qualified Opportunity Zones (if applicable)
- Documentation of "new investigator" status, if applicable
- Project Management Plan
- Consortium/Contractual Arrangements
- Data Archiving Plan
- Disclosures and Assurances
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
- Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurances
- Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items
- DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements
- Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable)
- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable)

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New (Two-Step) Application Submission Protocol

1. Grants.gov
   - Submit SF-424 and SF-LLL forms ONLY
   - Deadline: *February 15, 2024*
   - Register at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html

2. JustGrants
   - Submit the FULL application, including all attachments
   - Deadline: *February 29, 2024*
   - Register at https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/getting-started

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Application Issues

- Utilizing third party software to submit applications

- Submitting letters of support after the application deadline

- Extensions and exceptions

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Support

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

- **Grants.gov**
  - 1-800-518-4726
  - support@grants.gov

- **JustGrants:**
  - Toll-free: +1 (833) 872-5175
  - Email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov

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THE NIJ REVIEW PROCESS

Basic Minimum Requirements (BMR)

- Responsiveness
- Eligible applicant

- Four Critical Application Elements:
  - Program Narrative
  - Budget Detail Worksheet
  - Budget Narrative
  - Curriculum vitae or resume

- Required Forms:
  - SF-424
  - SF-LLL

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External Peer Review

- Panels of experts
- Technical and practitioner reviewers
- Independent scores and comments
- Returned to NIJ for review

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External Peer Review Selection Criteria

- **Statement of the Problem** 15%
  - Understanding of the problem, research questions, and awareness of the state of current research
- **Project Design and Implementation** 45%
  - Quality and technical merit
  - Feasibility of project and soundness of methods
  - Awareness of potential pitfalls and how to mitigate them
- **Potential Impact** – 20%
  - Ability of the project to contribute a significant scientific or technical advancement to the field
- **Capabilities/Competencies** – 15%
  - Demonstrated productivity and experience of the applicant organization and proposed project staff
  - Relationship between the capabilities/competencies of the proposed project staff and the scope/strategies of the project
- **Budget** 5%

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Internal Review

- Consists of NIJ scientific staff, NIJ leadership, and other subject matter experts

- Review external peer review scores and comments

- Formulate funding recommendations

All funding decisions are made at the discretion of the NIJ Director!

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Tips

Proposals should be:

– Well-written

– Innovative

– Timely

– Rigorous and well-designed

– Feasible

– Impactful

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What Will <u>NOT</u> be Funded

- Unresponsive applications
- Duplicative/similar research
- Applications to purchase equipment/materials/supplies, etc.
- Training/direct services unrelated to project
- Applications that don't respect data and privacy concerns
- Applications solely studying political views
- Projects designed to expose research participants to extremist content

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Specific Issues Related to Domestic Radicalization & Terrorism Applications

- Letters of support

- Politics vs. extremism

- Exposing research subjects to extremist recruitment materials

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General FAQs

- Award amount + period of performance
- Timing of award and non-award notifications
- Ph.D. Students
- Overhead Costs
- Filling and submitting forms / IRB / HSP / New Investigator

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FAQs Specific to the COE

- Research projects vs. COE structure
- COE and subrecipients
- Others

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Recommended Resources

- OJP Funding Resource Center: https://ojp.gov/funding/index.htm

- DOJ Grants Financial Guide: https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm

- NIJ Funding FAQs: https://www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/faqs.aspx

- NIJ Domestic Radicalization & Violent Extremism Portfolio: https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/domestic-radicalization-and-violent-extremism

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