



NIJ Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Research and Evaluation on Youth Justice Topics Webinar

March 15, 2024 | 1:30 PM ET

Welcome. The webinar will begin shortly.



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NIJ FY24 Research and Evaluation on Youth Justice Topics

Solicitation Post Date: March 7, 2024 | Solicitation Close Date: June 4, 2024
Grants.gov Deadline: May 21, 2024

Webinar Presenters:

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National Institute of Justice

Benjamin Adams, Director
Office of Crime Prevention and Youth Justice

Barbara Tatem Kelley, Senior Social Science Analyst
Office of Crime Prevention and Youth Justice



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Webinar Agenda

- **Overview of the Solicitation**
- **Application Process**
- **NIJ Review Process**
- **Common Issues and Critiques**
- **Tips**
- **FAQs**
- **Resources**
- **Q & A**



Overview of Solicitation Purpose

In collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), NIJ seeks proposals for rigorous research and evaluation projects that inform policy and practice in the field of youth justice and delinquency prevention.

Specifically, this solicitation seeks proposals for studies that advance knowledge and understanding in the following two categories:

Category 1: Youth Justice Reinvestment Studies

Category 2: Prevention and Intervention Program Effectiveness Studies

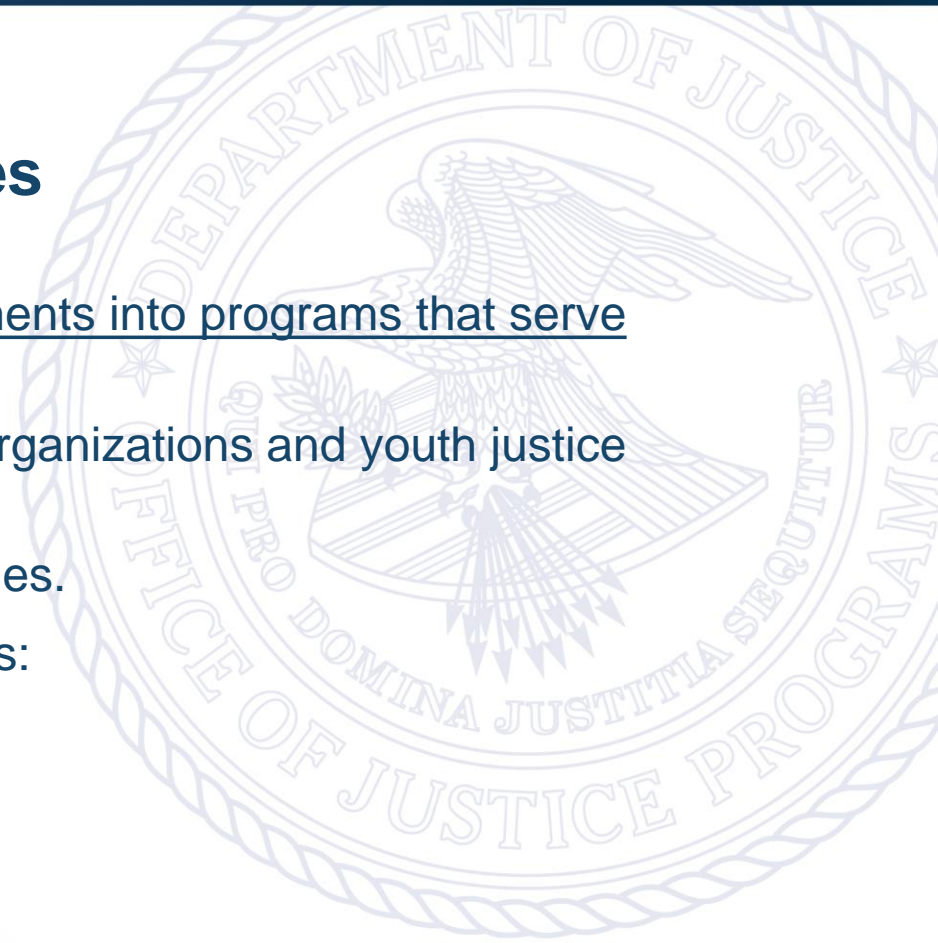
- In fiscal year (FY) 2024, applications proposing research outside of these two specified categories will not be considered.



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Category 1: Youth Justice Reinvestment Studies

- Evaluate youth justice system reforms and subsequent reinvestments into programs that serve youth in their communities.
- Prioritize collaborative partnerships between community-based organizations and youth justice systems.
- Incorporate assessment of both positive and negative life outcomes.
- **Category 1** applicants **must include ALL** the following components:
 - **Process evaluation**
 - **Outcome evaluation**
 - **Cost assessment**



Category 2: Prevention and Intervention Program Effectiveness Studies

Focus independent and rigorous evaluation on community and school-based programs in one of the following three priority areas:

- a) Prevention of the onset of delinquency
 - b) Intervention in the lives of youth engaged in delinquent behavior to support desistance
 - c) Intervention programs for youth who have been victimized by abuse and/or experienced trauma.
- **Category 2 applicants must include both of the following components:**
 - **Process evaluation**
 - **Outcome evaluation**
 - **Category 2 applicants are also encouraged to assess the costs associated with program delivery.**



May applicants apply under both Categories?

- Applicants may submit proposals to both of these Categories, but each proposal must be in a separate application.
- Applicants are expected to identify the Category to which a proposal is submitted on the title page of the Proposal Narrative.

What will not be funded?

- Unresponsive applications not directly addressing one of the two specified FY 2024 Categories.
- Applications to purchase equipment/materials/supplies, etc. or provide direct services. *However, a budget may include these items if they are necessary to conduct research, development, demonstration, evaluation, or analysis.*



Related Solicitation:

NIJ FY24 Research and Evaluation on School Safety

***If** planning to focus on the evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of school safety approaches implemented under the STOP School Violence Act*



***Then** applicants should consider the relevance of the goals and objectives of this solicitation.*



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Expected Deliverables

- Standard grant reporting requirements
- Final Research Report (submit draft 90 days before end of award)
- Required data sets and associated files and documentation
- Scholarly products



Key Application Submission Requirements *(begin on p. 20)*

Critical Application Elements (Basic Minimum Requirements)

- Forms: SF-424 and SF-LLL (in Grants.gov)
- Program Narrative
- Budget Web-Based Form (budget details and narrative)
- Curriculum vitae or resume for key personnel

Examples of Additional Requirements

- Project Abstract
- Letters of Support
- Financial Management and System of Internal Control Questionnaire
- Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline
- Any tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/charts/graphs, maps



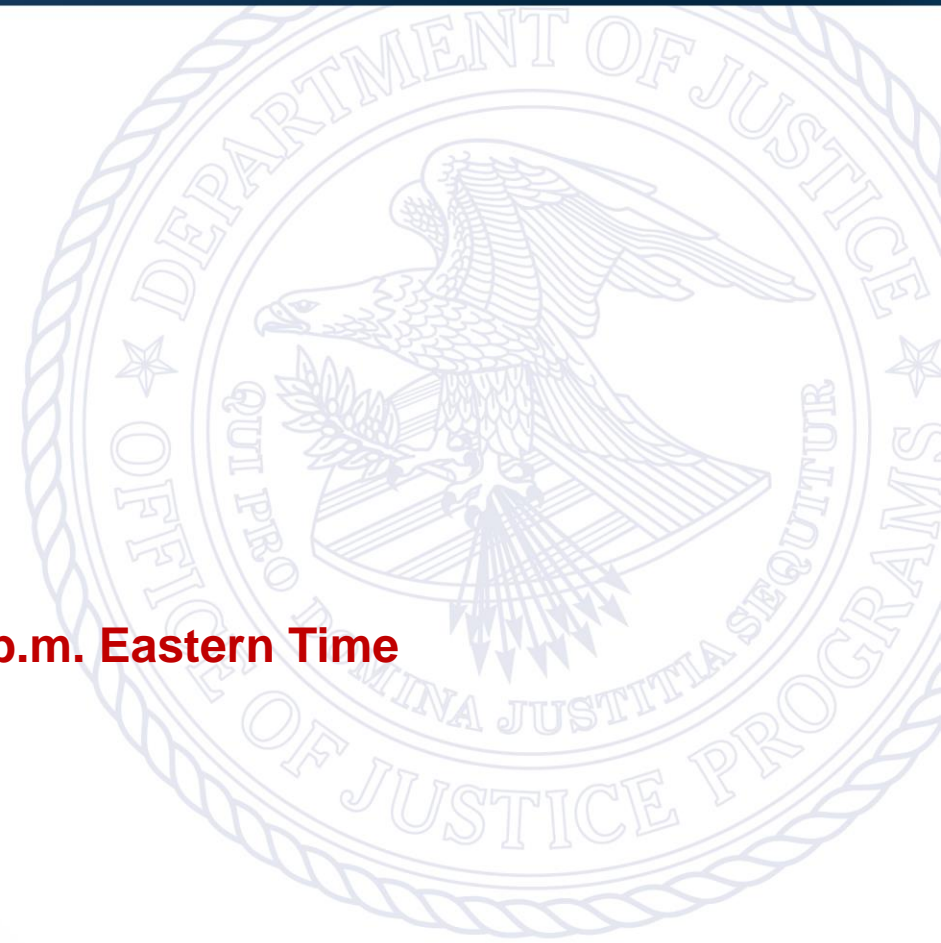
Two-Step Application Submission Protocol

Step 1: **Grants.gov**

- Register at <https://grants.gov/register>
- Submit:
 - Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF-424)
 - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities standard form (SF-LLL)
- **Deadline for Grants.gov submission: May 21, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time**

Step 2: **JustGrants**

- Register at <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/>
- Submit FULL application including ALL attachments
- **Deadline for JustGrants submission: June 4, 2024, at 8:59 p.m. Eastern Time**

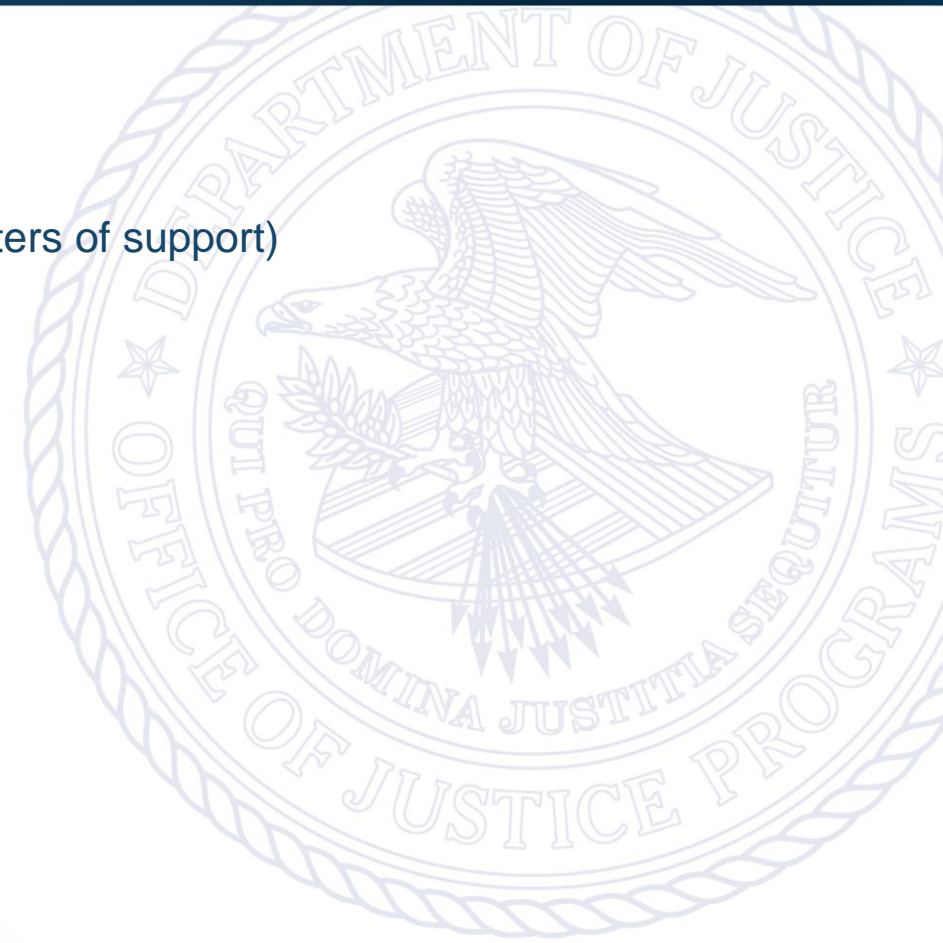


Deadlines are Hard

- Third party software failed to submit applications
- Deny requests to submit application materials after the deadlines (e.g., letters of support)
- No extensions
- No exceptions

Support

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



Application Review Process

- **Basic Minimum Review (BMR) Determination**
- **External Peer Review**
 - Technical and Practitioner Reviewers
 - Independent scores and comments
 - Review criteria (starting p. 31)
- **Internal Review**
 - NIJ science staff, NIJ leadership, other federal subject matter experts

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



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NIJ favors proposals that meet our funding priorities

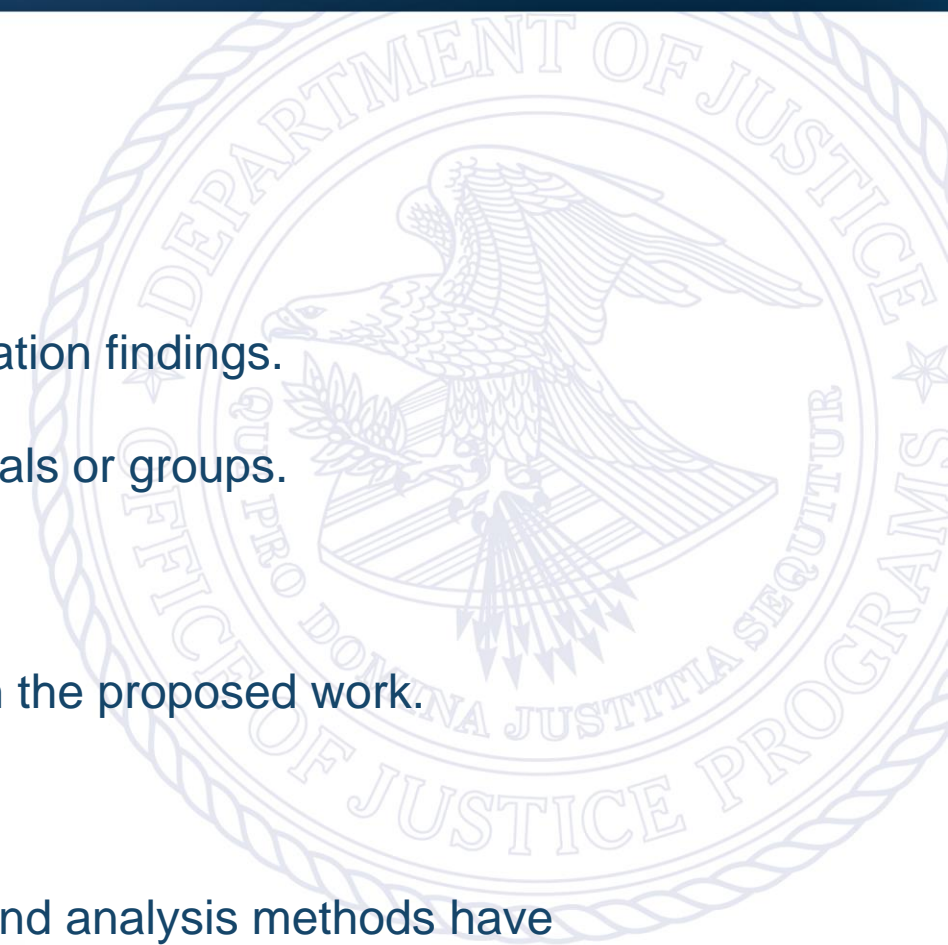
- Propose an inclusive research design.
- Address issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and other potential disparities in data sources, research methods, and outcomes.
- Propose a multi-disciplinary research team.
- Ensure rigorous measurement of implementation fidelity.
- Allocate ample resources for translation and dissemination of research findings.

Key Objectives

- Propose rigorous research that develops needed knowledge or tools to address the major challenges of safety and justice in the United States.
- Demonstrate that resulting products have potential to address those challenges.



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Other commonly missed opportunities :

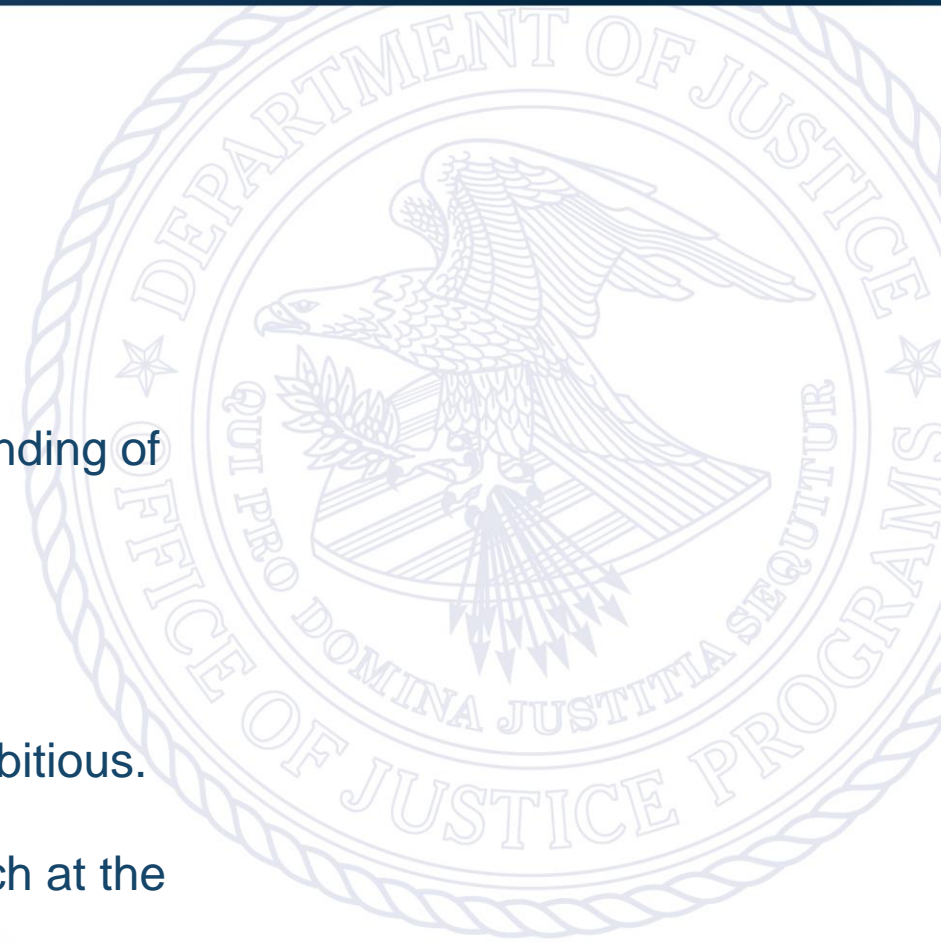
- Failure to describe research independence and integrity of evaluation findings.
- Insufficient discussion of the potential risks and harms to individuals or groups.
- Underdeveloped dissemination strategies.
- Timelines, staffing plans, and/or budgets that are not aligned with the proposed work.
- Inadequate specification of research questions.
- Failure to demonstrate that the most rigorous feasible research and analysis methods have been proposed.



Common Critiques Raised During Peer Review

Statement of the Problem

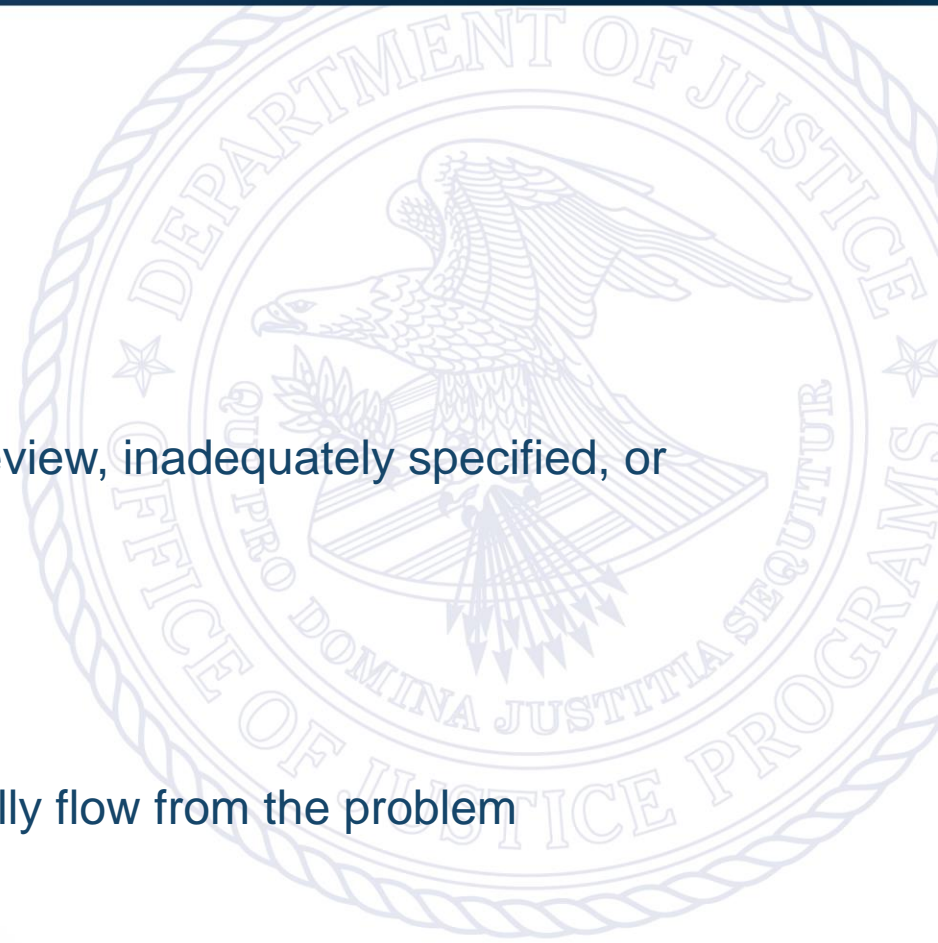
- Statement fails to identify gaps in the current literature or understanding of current research.
- The literature review is insufficient or dated.
- The scope of the proposed research is extremely limited or too ambitious.
- Too much focus is placed on the necessity of the proposed research at the expense of the research design.



Common Critiques Raised During Peer Review

Research Design

- Proposed research questions are not derived from the literature review, inadequately specified, or are not even explicitly stated.
- The overall research design is not well articulated.
- The proposed research design/methods approach does not logically flow from the problem statement, research questions and literature review.
- The research design is too ambitious and too complex.
- The research and analysis plan are not demonstrated to be the most rigorous feasible.



Common Critiques Raised During Peer Review

Research Design (continued)

- The proposed sampling strategy is flawed or too ambitious.
- Measurement of complex constructs and how they will be used in analyses is not clearly described.
- The proposed quantitative analyses is vague and unclear.
- The data collection and analysis plan is confusing or very brief.
- Research challenges and mitigation strategies are not discussed.
- Access and ability to utilize proposed data sources is not demonstrated.
- Timelines, staffing plans, and/or budgets do not support the proposed work.



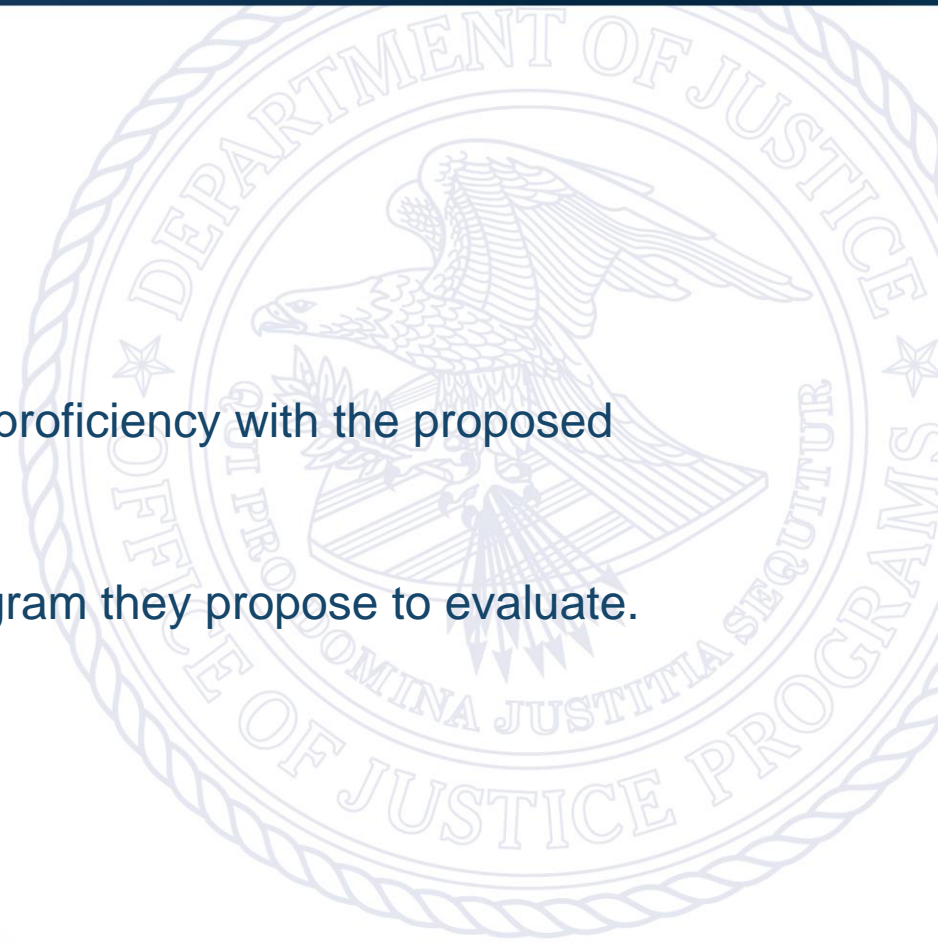
Common Critiques Raised During Peer Review

Capabilities and Competencies

- The Principal Investigator (PI) does not demonstrate familiarity or proficiency with the proposed quantitative analysis.
- The applicant organization or PI has direct involvement in the program they propose to evaluate.

Potential Impact

- The dissemination plan lacks specificity and/or is not innovative.
- There is no plan for reaching non-academic audiences.
- The dissemination plan fails to make the case that this research will lead to actionable changes in the field.



Tips

Proposals should be:

- Well-written
- Innovative
- Timely
- Rigorous and well-designed
- Feasible
- Impactful
- Include Letters of Support
- Consider Research/Evaluation Independence



FAQs

- Award amount + period of performance
- Timing of award and non-award notifications
- Foreign entities / subrecipients / co-investigators
- Filling and submitting forms / IRB / Human Subjects Protection / New Investigator

Support



- **OJP Response Center**
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Recommended Resources

- OJP Funding Resource Center:
<https://www.ojp.gov/funding>
- DOJ Grants Financial Guide:
<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedojo/overview>
- NIJ Funding FAQs:
<https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/frequently-asked-questions-about-applying-grants-and-cooperative-agreements>



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Questions?

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

Send to [All Panelists](#)



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