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Office of Justice Programs
National Institute of Justice



NIJ FY24 Research and Evaluation on Corrections

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Synopsis

Overview

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ) is seeking applications for funding.

OJP is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights and equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens community safety and protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.

With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals for rigorous applied research and evaluative studies on innovations, initiatives, and strategies in both institutional and community corrections.

This program furthers DOJ's mission to uphold the rule of law, to keep our country safe, and to protect civil rights.

Eligibility

- State governments
- Special district governments
- City or township governments
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- County governments
- Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education
- For-profit organizations other than small businesses
- Small businesses
- Independent school districts
- Other
 - Units of local government

An applicant may submit more than one application, if each application proposes a different project in response to the solicitation. Also, an entity may be proposed as a subrecipient (subgrantee) in more than one application.

NIJ will consider applications under which two or more entities (project partners) would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant for the solicitation. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients (subgrantees). See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on subawards.

NIJ may choose to fund applications submitted under this FY 2024 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and the availability of appropriations.

Agency Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact the OJP Response Center by phone at 800-851-3420 or 301-240-6310 (TTY for hearing-impaired callers only) or email grants@ncjrs.gov. The OJP Response Center operates from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) Monday-Friday and from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET on the solicitation closing date.

For procedures related to unforeseen technical issues beyond the control of the applicant that impact submission by the deadlines, see the “How To Apply” section, [Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues](#).

For assistance with submitting the [Application for Federal Assistance standard form \(SF-424\)](#) and a [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities \(SF-LLL\)](#) in Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, [Grants.gov Customer Support](#), or support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Support Hotline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

For technical assistance with submitting the **full application** in JustGrants, contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833-872-5175 or JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov. The JustGrants Service Desk operates from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET Monday-Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

Application Submission Information

Registration

Before submitting an application, an applicant must have a registration in the [System for Award Management \(SAM.gov\)](#).

The SAM.gov registration is required for a person applying on behalf of a small business (company). The business should obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) and not apply using a social security number: [IRS Apply for an Employer Identification Number \(EIN\) Online](#).

Submission

Applications must be submitted to DOJ electronically through a two-step process that begins in Grants.gov and is completed in JustGrants. See the solicitation [Submission Dates and Time](#) section for the Grants.gov and JustGrants application deadlines.

Step 1: The applicant must register for this opportunity in Grants.gov at <https://grants.gov/register> and submit by the Grants.gov deadline the required [Application for Federal Assistance standard form \(SF-424\)](#) and a [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities \(SF-LLL\)](#). See the solicitation [Submission Dates and Time](#) section for application deadlines.

Step 2: The applicant must submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at JustGrants.usdoj.gov by the JustGrants application deadline. See the solicitation [Submission Dates and Time](#) section for application deadlines.

Program Description

Program Description Overview

With this solicitation, NIJ requests proposals for rigorous applied research and evaluative studies on innovations, initiatives, and strategies in both institutional and community corrections. NIJ's FY2024 priority areas include:

- Interventions to enhance culture and climate;
- Programs to improve officer wellness;
- Technological innovations to promote safety and security; and
- Initiatives to improve outcomes for incarcerated individuals.

The primary goal of this solicitation is to support evaluative research on promising strategies, programs, interventions, and initiatives to enhance the management, operations, and positive impacts of both institutional and community corrections. For the purposes of this solicitation, applications that propose national scans or general research on the prevalence or diffusion of a particular program or technology would not be responsive. Proposals that include single- or multi-site evaluations of how an initiative or technology is deployed are preferred.

Successful applicants should propose the most rigorous design to answer their proposed research questions. NIJ will consider research designs that include qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods designs. Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and strong quasi-experimental designs are required for proposals to conduct outcome evaluations. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consider participatory research designs that include research partners and the subjects of the research in the implementation of the research.

NIJ will give special consideration to proposals with methods that include meaningful engagement with the people closest to the subject of study, including practitioners as well as community members representing crime victims, people under criminal justice supervision, and members of high-crime communities.

Applicants are encouraged to propose multidisciplinary research teams to build on the complementary strengths of different methods and areas of subject matter expertise. NIJ also seeks proposals that include consideration and measurement of issues of diversity, discrimination, and bias across age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation, as applicable.

Applications proposing research involving partnerships with juvenile justice criminal justice or other agencies should include a strong letter of support signed by an appropriate decision-making authority from each proposed partnering agency. A letter of support should include the partnering agency's acknowledgment that de-identified data derived from, provided to, or obtained through an award funded by NIJ will be archived by the grant recipient with the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the conclusion of the award. Applicants and their potential partners are encouraged to review [NIJ's data archiving guidance](#). If selected for an award, grantees will be expected to have a formal agreement in place with partnering agencies by January 1, 2025. That formal agreement must include a provision to meet the data archiving requirements of the award.

NIJ seeks proposals that include robust, creative, and multi-pronged dissemination strategies that include strategic partnerships with organizations and associations that are best equipped to ensure that research findings lead to changes in policies and practices. Special consideration will be given to proposals that dedicate at least 15% of the requested project award funding toward implementing such strategies, as demonstrated in the “Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative”.

In the case of partnerships that will involve the use of federal award funds by multiple partnering agencies to carry out the proposed project, only one entity/partnering agency may be the applicant (as is the case with any application submitted in response to this solicitation); any others must be proposed as subrecipients. The applicant is expected to conduct the preponderance of the work proposed.

Statutory Authority

Any awards under this solicitation would be made under statutory authority provided by a full-year appropriations act for FY 2024. As of the writing of this solicitation, the Department of Justice is operating under a short-term “Continuing Resolution”; no full-year appropriation for the Department has been enacted for FY 2024.

Specific Information

NIJ is seeking rigorous evaluations on promising strategies, programs, and interventions that improve correctional culture and climate; enhance officer wellness, reduce stress, and increase retention; deploy technologies designed to promote safety, security, and positive post-release and supervision outcomes for individuals; and other interventions that improve outcomes for incarcerated individuals. Proposals for research outside of these four topics **will not** be considered responsive to this solicitation. Applicants may submit proposals under more than one topic. However, only one topic may be submitted per proposal. Applicants are requested to identify the topic addressed in their application on the title page of the proposal narrative.

NIJ is particularly interested in applications with research designs that incorporate action-oriented research, where jurisdictions are an integral part of defining the program, implementing change, and revising practices based on ongoing assessment of and feedback on the change. Applicants may propose a phased implementation plan should the research design and questions warrant this approach.

Interventions to Enhance Culture and Climate

NIJ is interested in research examining initiatives to enhance correctional organizational culture and climate.¹ Organizational culture captures the collective values and beliefs of its members and climate refers to how these values translate into attitudes or reactions to the organizations policies and procedure, framing how these will be implemented.² Thus, organizational culture and climate’s impact permeates the entire correctional organization: its facilities, staff, residents and clients, and the agency as a whole. Culture and climate can help facilitate and promote staff recruitment and retention, security, and staff and resident wellness.

¹ The term organizational culture could refer to the culture of a specific institution or a correctional agency as a whole.

² Schneider, B., M. Ehrhart, & W. Macey (2013). Organizational Culture and Climate. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 64 (1), 361-388.

Although NIJ recently completed its first call for research on correctional culture, much remains unknown regarding effective strategies to change or enhance culture and climate to meet agency goals. More research is needed on how to address some of the most critical issues in corrections today, such as staffing shortages, staff morale, preventing violent incidents and resident self-harm, and the related issues of effectively responding to critical incidents with short and exhausted staff.³ Evaluative research on promising interventions in correctional culture and climate is needed to assist agencies as they recruit and retain quality staff, enhance the safety and wellness of staff, residents, and clients, and promote sustainable correctional management paradigms intended to limit violence and critical incidents given current staffing levels.

NIJ encourages the submission of applications that propose robust evaluations of one or more promising interventions to enhance correctional culture and climate. Specific interventions of interest include:

- Practices that promote front line supervisor leadership and accountability to make positive changes in culture and climate and encourage line officers to follow suit.
- Practices that empower and reward line staff to enhance correctional culture.
- Interventions that are designed to occur after a critical incident to mitigate the negative impact on climate.
- Alternative correctional management paradigms that promote a positive climate.
- Strategies that enhance relationships among community corrections officers and their clients.

Programs to Improve Officer Wellness

NIJ seeks proposals for evaluations of officer wellness programs. Correctional officers face a myriad of on-the-job stressors: from the exposure to trauma related to critical incidents to day-to-day organizational stress, including mandatory overtime and fraught workplace relationships.⁴ The relationship between staffing and organizational stress is a critical issue for corrections. This stress can negatively impact retention, which in turn can further exacerbate organizational stress. Also, NIJ funded research has found that stress can lead to difficulty concentrating on basic tasks,⁵ which can have implications for officer decision making, particularly in critical incidents and rapidly evolving threats. Wellness programs may mitigate negative cycles of staff stress, attrition, and problematic decision making.

However, there is little research to guide correctional policymakers on which wellness programs are particularly effective in reducing stress and promoting resiliency. Furthermore, the impact of these programs on critical issues, such as recruitment and retention and officer decision making, is unclear. Therefore, NIJ seeks rigorous program evaluations of wellness inventions that include, but are not limited to:

³ Please see [FY23 Research and Evaluation on Correctional Culture and Climate Awards](#) for the NIJ awards made under this solicitation.

⁴ See Frost, N. & C. Monteiro (2020). "The Interaction of Personal and Occupational Factors in the Suicide Deaths of Correction Officers." *Justice Quarterly* 37: 1277-1302; Wills, C. et al. (2021). "Barriers to Help-Seeking Among Correction Officers: Examining the Influence of Institutional Culture and Structure." *Criminal Justice Studies* 34: 423-440.

⁵ Kuehl, K. (2021). *Defining the Impact of Stress and Traumatic Events on Corrections Officers: Final Research Report*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice.

- Programs designed to reduce stigma in help seeking and increase officer access to mental health treatment and services.
- Programs that employ peers as counselors or facilitators of wellness access and program involvement.
- Initiatives to promote resiliency to chronic stress and enhance concentration and decision making.

Outcomes of interest in proposals seeking to evaluate such programs should include but would not be limited to: participation and completion, self-reported wellness and mental health measures, number of sick days, documented cases of officer misconduct, and other measures of officer behavior.

Technological Innovations to Promote Safety, Security, and Positive Outcomes for Incarcerated, Released, and Supervised Individuals

NIJ is interested in advancing technological innovations to promote safety and security in both institutional and community corrections. Technological innovations are rapidly proliferating among correctional agencies and can make institutions safer and maximize effective supervision and service delivery to those on probation and parole.⁶ Technology has the potential to help enhance security, especially given the current correctional staffing challenges, as well as to enable less-staff intensive alternative supervision models. Yet there are few evaluations of the real-world application and impact of technology as it relates to effective security, enhanced safety, more efficient and effective staffing, improved programmatic, treatment, and enhanced educational delivery.⁷ Applications proposing to develop new technological solutions **will not** be accepted, but evaluations of new technologies or applications of existing technologies that budget resources to support technology implementation for the purpose of evaluation are allowable.

While NIJ will consider any proposal that focuses on the evaluation of technological innovations to promote safety and security and/or alternative supervision and programming, specific areas of interest include implementation and evaluation of:

- Innovations to enhance facility security and reduce violence.
- Lawful solutions to counter-unmanned aircraft systems.
- Lawful strategies to eliminate introduction of contraband, items that incarcerated people and staff are prohibited from having in their possession, into correctional facilities. Contraband may refer to weapons, explosives or combustibles, drugs, money, electronics, including cell phones, tattoo instruments, and food, alcohol, or tobacco products.⁸
- Deployment of technologies to reduce recidivism risk (e.g., remote curfew and restriction zone enforcement, substance use detection).

⁶ Russo, J. et al. (2021), *Leveraging Technology to Support Prisoner Reentry*. Santa Monica: RAND.

⁷ Jack Harne (2016), "Identifying Technology Needs and Innovations to Advance Corrections," [nij.ojp.gov: https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/identifying-technology-needs-and-innovations-advance-corrections](https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/identifying-technology-needs-and-innovations-advance-corrections).

⁸ "Contraband Detection and Management Repots," Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium website, accessed December 1, 2023, <https://cjtec.org/technology-foraging/contraband-detection-management>.

- Innovations to enhance community supervision (e.g., apps to enable remote supervision and monitoring).

Initiatives to Improve Outcomes for Incarcerated Individuals

NIJ seeks evaluative research examining initiatives to improve outcomes for incarcerated individuals. One in forty-eight adult U.S. residents — over 5.4 million people — were under some form of correctional supervision (community supervision, prison, or jail) as of yearend 2021.⁹ Correctional agencies are tasked with effectively supervising and rehabilitating these individuals using various strategies to reduce misconduct and reoffending, ensure health and safety, and encourage productive lifestyles.¹⁰

Although improving outcomes for incarcerated people is crucial to institutional and public safety, there is a lack of rigorous studies that have evaluated the effectiveness of correctional programs and initiatives, and the body of research on what works to ensure success for individuals during and after supervision suffers from selection bias, small samples, and short follow-up periods.¹¹ Program evaluations often do not consider program integrity or the impact of timing and sequencing of activities. Outcomes are commonly measured as recidivism or readmission alone and do not include intermediate measures such as employment, education and skill building, abstinence from illicit substances, or cost avoidance. There is little practical guidance on implementation of research findings in a correctional setting. Thus, rigorous research is still needed to determine which initiatives are effective, why, and how to apply them in a correctional context.

NIJ encourages the submission of applications that propose robust evaluations of one or more promising interventions to improve outcomes for incarcerated individuals. Specific interventions of interest include:

- Educational programming and its impact on individual and system-level outcomes. This can include programs delivered in prison, jail, or in the community. NIJ is especially interested in studies that measure outcomes beyond misconduct and/or recidivism alone.
- Programs, services, and strategies to improve outcomes for specialized supervised populations (e.g., women, LGBTQI+ individuals, aging people, those with cognitive disabilities, etc.), including culturally specific programming.
- Policy and practice innovations to enhance access to programming, including institutional design or the provision of technology (e.g., electronic tablets, remote participation in programming, virtual reality systems).
- Initiatives designed to provide continuum of care from those being released from an institution into the community.

⁹ Carson, E.A., & R. Kluckow. (2023). Correctional Populations in the United States, 2021 – Statistical Tables. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/cpus21st.pdf>.

¹⁰ Silva, S. (2014). Correctional Mission Statements as Indicators of the Criminal Justice Policy Environment: A Research Note. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 26 (5), 1-12.

¹¹ Duwe, G. (2017). The Use and Impact of Correctional Programming for Inmates on Pre- and Post-Release Outcomes. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250476.pdf>.

An applicant's proposals must clearly indicate which strategic priority area the research proposal will address.

Additional Information

Applicants should discuss potential risks and harms to individuals or groups associated with the use and/or misuse of any practice or technology proposed as a part of the research and evaluation, as well as any ethical considerations that may factor into its use. In addition, applicants should be aware of all relevant statutes, regulations, and/or governing judicial decisions (e.g., established case law, prevailing court rulings) related to the practice or technology's proposed use. Any limitations that may impede the lawful use or implementation of any practice or technology proposed should be described, and a realistic approach to mitigate such limitations in the context of the proposed research should be discussed.

Evaluation Research

If an application includes an evaluation research component (or consists entirely of evaluation research), the application is expected to propose the most rigorous evaluation design appropriate for the research questions to be addressed. If the primary purpose of the evaluation is to determine the effectiveness or impact of an intervention (e.g., program, practice, or policy), the most rigorous evaluation designs may include random selection and assignment of participants (or other appropriate units of analysis) to experimental and control conditions. In cases where randomization is not feasible, applicants should propose a strong quasi-experimental design that can address the risk of selection bias.

Applications that propose evaluation research should also include an implementation evaluation component to ensure that implementation fidelity metrics are collected and analyzed. Applicants are encouraged to propose research methods that enable interim feedback on implementation fidelity to enable program providers to make ongoing improvements in program delivery.

If an application proposes an evaluation involving program staff, the applicant must demonstrate research/evaluation independence and provide a description of and justification for the roles of program staff as distinct from evaluation activities, a discussion of potential risks (if any) to independence and integrity, and a description of the safeguards that will be employed to ensure research independence.

NIJ also encourages applicants to consider the feasibility of including a cost/benefit analysis. In cases where evaluations find that interventions have produced the intended benefit, cost/benefit analysis provides valuable and practical information for practitioners and policymakers that helps with decision-making. Evaluation research projects may also address a wide range of research questions beyond those focused on the effectiveness or impact of an intervention. Different research designs may be more appropriate for different research questions and at different stages of program development. The intervention strategies, setting, other contextual factors, and resources should be considered when selecting an evaluation design.

In all cases, applications are expected to propose the most rigorous evaluation design appropriate for the research questions to be addressed. Applicants are encouraged to review evidence-rating criteria at <https://crimesolutions.ojp.gov/about/how-we-review-and-rate-program-start-finish> for further information on high-quality evaluation design elements.

New Investigator/Early Career Opportunity

NIJ is interested in supporting researchers who are early in their careers and new to NIJ's research grant portfolios, specifically non-tenured assistant professors, or equivalent full-time staff scientist positions in a research institution, who propose research on topics relevant to NIJ. To that end, NIJ may, in appropriate circumstances, give special consideration in award decisions to applications proposing such researchers as principal investigators (PIs). To qualify, the proposed PI must, at the time of application submission:

- Hold a non-tenured assistant professor appointment at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States or an equivalent full-time staff scientist position at a research institution in the United States.
- Have completed a terminal degree or post-graduate clinical training within the six (6) years prior to September 30, 2024.
- Have never previously received NIJ funding as a PI on a research project with the exception of Graduate Research Fellows.

If seeking to be considered for the New Investigator/Early Career Opportunity, the applicant should identify that it is submitting a New Investigator/Early Career proposal on the title page of the application.

Solicitation Goals and Objectives

Goals

To develop evidence to inform policy and practice to improve outcomes for corrections staff, the incarcerated and under supervision, and their communities.

Objectives

To promote and support rigorous research to:

- Interventions to enhance culture and climate;
- Programs to improve officer wellness;
- Technological innovations to promote safety and security; and
- Initiatives to improve outcomes for incarcerated individuals.

Deliverables

Research award recipients are expected to produce the following deliverables.

Final Research Report. Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be expected to submit a Final Research Report by the end of the award project period. Recipients will also be required to deliver a draft of their Final Research Report no later than 90 days or earlier prior to the end of the award project period. Additional information on the final research report requirement for the solicitation is posted on NIJ's [webpage](#).

Required Data Sets and Associated Files and Documentation. Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be expected to submit to the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) all data sets that result, in whole or in part, from the work funded by the award, along with associated files and any documentation necessary for future efforts by others to reproduce

the project's findings and/or to extend the scientific value of the data set through secondary analysis. Grant recipients are strongly encouraged to submit data sets no later than 90 days or earlier prior to the end of the award project period.

In addition to these deliverables, NIH expects scholarly products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of one or more published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products. NIH expects that there will be an equal effort to make the research findings accessible to practitioner and policymaker audiences.

For information about what the applicant needs to submit regarding Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables, please see the [How to Apply](#) section on the [Application Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline](#).

Priority Areas

NIH will give special consideration in award decisions to proposals for which a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) is the lead applicant.

Minority-Serving Institutions include:

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)
- Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSI)
- Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU)
- Alaska Native-serving Institutions or Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions (ANNH)
- Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI)
- Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions (AANAPISI)
- Native American-serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI)

Whether an institution is an MSI is based on the original purpose of its establishment or its current enrollment thresholds and is designated as such by the federal government for various purposes under specific statutes. For more information, please see the U.S. Department of Education's [definitions](#) and [lists of institutions](#). (The lists are provided for reference purposes only; MSI status is not an eligibility criterion for this solicitation.)

Note: Addressing this priority area is one of many factors that NIH considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration for one or more priority areas does not guarantee an award.

Federal Award Information

Awards, Amounts, and Durations

Anticipated Number of Awards: Total number of awards NIH expects to make to be determined by the number of applications received and their merit.

Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount per Award: Maximum dollar amount for each award to be determined by the requirements of the research proposed in grants selected for award.

Applicants are encouraged to propose budgets that match the research activities proposed, up to the full dollar amount anticipated to be awarded under this solicitation.

Period of Performance Start Date: 1/1/2025.

Period of Performance Duration (Months): To be determined by the period of performance of awarded applications. Successful applicants will be expected to complete the work proposed within a five-year (60 Months) period of performance.

Anticipated Total Amount To Be Awarded Under This Solicitation: \$3,000,000.

Additional Information: Grantees must clear all required award special conditions before incurring expenses, barring spending pre-approval, and, if applicable, confirm NIJ approval of new or modified IRB and privacy certificate documents before beginning research activities.

Continuation Funding Intent

NIJ may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this funding opportunity through continuation awards. NIJ will consider, among other factors, NIJ's strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award, and the progress of the work funded under the award, when making continuation award decisions.

Availability of Funds

This funding opportunity, and awards under this funding opportunity, are subject to the availability of funding and to any changes or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law. In addition, nothing in this solicitation is intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Type of Award

NIJ expects to make awards under this funding opportunity as grants. See the "[Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements](#)" section of the [Application Resource Guide](#) for a brief discussion of important statutes, regulations, and award conditions that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP grants.

Budget Information

If the applicant is proposing a project that reasonably could be conducted in discrete phases, with each phase resulting in completion of one or more significant, defined milestones, then NIJ strongly recommends that the applicant structure the application — specifically including the narrative, expected scholarly products, timelines/milestones, and budget detail worksheet and budget narrative — to clearly define each phase. (This is particularly the case if the applicant proposes a project that will exceed — in cost or the length of the period of performance — the amount or length of time anticipated for an individual award (or awards) under this solicitation.) Given limitations on the availability to NIJ of funds for awards for research, development, and evaluation, this information will assist NIJ in considering whether partial funding of applications would be productive. (If, in FY 2024, NIJ elects to fund only certain phases of a proposed

project, the expected scholarly products from the partial-funding award may, in some cases, vary from those described above.)

NIJ may elect to fund applications submitted under this FY 2024 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

What will not be funded:

- Applications primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies, or to provide direct services. (A budget may include these items if they are necessary to conduct research, development, demonstration, evaluation, or analysis.)
- Applications that are not responsive to the purposes of this specific solicitation.

The applicant should identify within their budget which items, services, etc., will/would be covered by matching sources and explain what type of match will be provided.

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

See “Cofunding” paragraph under “Budget and Associated Documentation” in the “Application and Submission Information” section.

Eligibility Information

For the purposes of this notice of funding opportunity, other units of local government include towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, or other general purpose political subdivisions of a State.

For eligibility information, [see the Synopsis section](#).

For the purposes of this notice of funding opportunity, “state” means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Foreign governments, foreign organizations, and foreign colleges and universities are not eligible to apply.

How To Apply

Application Resources

When preparing and submitting an application, the following resources may aid prospective applicants:

1. Grants.gov [“How to Apply for Grants”](#)
2. OJP [“How To Apply”](#) section in the [Application Resource Guide](#)
3. JustGrants [Application Submission Training](#)
4. NIJ [Guidance for Applicants and Awardees](#)

This solicitation (notice of funding opportunity) incorporates guidance provided in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) (Application Resource Guide), which provides additional

information for applicants to prepare and submit applications to OJP for funding. **If this solicitation requires something different from any guidance provided in the [Application Resource Guide](#), the difference will be noted in this solicitation and the applicant is to follow the guidelines in this solicitation, rather than the guidance in the [Application Resource Guide](#) that is in conflict.**

How To Apply

Registration

Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management (SAM.gov). An applicant must renew their registration every 12 months. If an applicant does not renew their SAM.gov registration, it will expire. An expired registration can delay or prevent application submission in Grants.gov and JustGrants. Applicants are encouraged to start the SAM.gov registration process at least 30 days prior to the application deadlines. Applicants who fail to begin the registration or renewal process at least 10 business days prior to the Grants.gov deadline may not complete the process in time and will not be considered for late submission.

A small business, in addition to obtaining the SAM.gov registration, should obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service. The person applying for an award will submit the EIN value as the Tax Identification Number (TIN). The applicant should not submit their social security numbers. For additional information, including the steps to obtain an EIN: <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>.

Submission

Applications must be submitted to DOJ electronically through a two-step process that begins in Grants.gov and is completed in JustGrants.

Step 1: After registering with SAM.gov, the applicant must submit the **SF-424** and **SF-LLL** in Grants.gov at <https://grants.gov/register> by the Grants.gov deadline. **To leave time to address any technical issues that may arise, an applicant should submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL as early as possible and recommended not later than 48 hours before the Grants.gov deadline.** If an applicant fails to submit in Grants.gov by the deadline, they will be unable to apply in JustGrants. Applicants can confirm Grants.gov submission by verifying their application status shows as “submitted” or “agency tracking number assigned.”

Step 2: The applicant must then submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://justgrants.usdoj.gov) by the JustGrants deadline.

OJP recommends that applicants submit the complete application package in JustGrants at least 48 hours prior to the JustGrants deadline. Some of the required sections of the application will be entered directly into JustGrants, and other sections will require documents to be uploaded and attached. Therefore, applicants should allow enough time before the JustGrants deadline to prepare all the requirements of the application. Applicants may save their progress in the system and add to or change the application as needed prior to hitting the “Submit” button at the end of the application in JustGrants.

An applicant will receive emails when successfully submitting in Grants.gov and JustGrants and should maintain all emails and other confirmations received from SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants systems.

For additional information, see the “[How To Apply](#)” section in the [Application Resource Guide](#) and the [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#).

Submission Dates and Time

The **SF-424 and the SF-LLL** must be submitted in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. ET on May 7, 2024.

The **full application** must be submitted in JustGrants by 8:59 p.m. ET on May 14, 2024.

To be considered timely, the **full application** must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline. Failure to begin the SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants registration and application process in sufficient time (i.e., waiting until the due dates identified in this solicitation for those systems to begin the application steps) is not an acceptable reason to request a technical waiver.

Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues Preventing Submission of an Application (Technical Waivers)

OJP will only consider requests to submit an application after the deadline when the applicant can document that a technical issue with a government system prevented submission of the application on time.

If an applicant misses a deadline due to unforeseen technical issues with SAM.gov, Grants.gov, or JustGrants, the applicant may request a waiver to submit an application after the deadline. However, the waiver request will not be considered unless it includes documentation of attempts to receive technical assistance to resolve the issue prior to the application deadline. A tracking number is the most typical documentation and is generated when the applicant contacts the applicable service desks to report technical difficulties. Tracking numbers are generated automatically when an applicant emails the applicable service desks, and for this reason, long call wait times for support do not relieve the applicant of the responsibility of getting a tracking number.

An applicant experiencing technical difficulties must contact the associated service desk indicated below to report the technical issue and receive a tracking number:

- SAM.gov: contact the [SAM.gov Help Desk \(Federal Service Desk\)](#), Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET at 866-606-8220.
- Grants.gov: contact the [Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline](#), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays, at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, or support@grants.gov.
- JustGrants: contact the JustGrants Service Desk at JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov or 833-872-5175, Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET and Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.

If an applicant has technical issues with SAM.gov or Grants.gov, the applicant must contact the OJP Response Center at grants@ncjrs.gov within **24 hours of the Grants.gov deadline** to request approval to submit after the deadline.

If an applicant has technical issues with JustGrants that prevent application submission by the deadline, the applicant must contact the OJP Response Center at grants@ncjrs.gov within **24 hours of the JustGrants deadline** to request approval to submit after the deadline.

Waiver requests sent to the OJP Response Center must:

- describe the technical difficulties experienced (provide screenshots if applicable);
- include a timeline of the applicant's submission efforts (e.g., date and time the error occurred, date and time of actions taken to resolve the issue and resubmit; and date and time support representatives responded);
- include an attachment of the complete grant application and all the required documentation and materials;
- include the applicant's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI); and
- include any SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants Service Desk tracking numbers documenting the technical issue.

OJP will review each waiver request and the required supporting documentation and notify the applicant whether the request for late submission has been approved or denied. An applicant that does not provide documentation of a technical issue (including all information listed above), or that does not submit a waiver request within the required time period, will be denied.

For more details on the waiver process, OJP encourages applicants to review the "Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues" section in the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Application and Submission Information

Content of Application Submission and Available Surveys

The following application elements **must** be included in the application to meet the basic minimum requirements to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding:

- SF-424 and SF-LLL (in Grants.gov).
- Proposal Narrative (in JustGrants).
- Budget Web-Based Form, which includes the budget details and the budget narrative (in JustGrants).
- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire, including applicant disclosure of high-risk status (in JustGrants).
- Curriculum Vitae/Resumes for Key Personnel (For purposes of this solicitation, "key personnel" means the principal investigator and any and all co-principal investigators.).

If NIJ determines that an application does not include these elements, it will not proceed to peer review and will not receive any further consideration.

Content of the SF-424 in Grants.gov

The SF-424 must be submitted in Grants.gov. It is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on completing the SF-424.

In Section 8F of the SF-424, please include the name and contact information of the individual **who will complete the application in JustGrants**. JustGrants will use this information (email address) to assign the application to this user in JustGrants.

Intergovernmental Review: This funding opportunity **is not** subject to [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 12372](#). In completing the SF-424, an applicant should answer question 19 by selecting “Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.”

Content of the JustGrants Application Submission

Entity and User Verification (First Time Applicant)

For first time JustGrants applicants, once the application is received from Grants.gov, DOJ will send an email (from DIAMD-NoReply@usdoj.gov) to the individual listed in Section 8F of the SF-424 with instructions on how to create a JustGrants account. This email should arrive within 24 hours after this individual receives confirmation from Grants.gov of their SF-424 and SF-LLL submissions. Register the Entity Administrator (the person who manages who can access JustGrants on behalf of the applicant), the Application Submitter, and Authorized Representative for the applicant with JustGrants as early as possible and (recommended) not later than 48-72 hours before the JustGrants deadline. Once registered in JustGrants, the Application Submitter will receive a link in an email to complete the rest of the application in JustGrants. Find additional information on JustGrants Application Submission in the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Standard Applicant Information

The “Standard Applicant Information” section of the JustGrants application is pre-populated with the SF-424 data submitted in Grants.gov. The applicant will need to review the Standard Applicant Information in JustGrants and make edits as needed. Within this section, the applicant will need to add ZIP codes for areas affected by the project; confirm their Authorized Representative; and verify and confirm the organization’s unique entity identifier, legal name, and address.

Proposal Abstract

A Proposal Abstract (no more than 400 words) summarizing the proposed project — including goals, objectives, research questions, research design and methods, work products, and dissemination plan — must be completed in the JustGrants web-based form. This abstract should be in paragraph form without bullets or tables, written in the third person, and exclude personally identifiable information. Abstracts will be made publicly available on the OJP and USASpending.gov websites if the project is awarded. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for an [example](#) of a proposal abstract.

Data Requested With Application

The following application elements should be submitted in the web-based forms in JustGrants.

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)

The Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire helps OJP assess the financial management and internal control systems and the associated potential risks of an applicant as part of the pre-award risk assessment process. Every OJP applicant (other than an individual applying in their personal capacity, not representing an applicant organization) is required to complete the web-based Questionnaire form in JustGrants. See the [Application Resource Guide: Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire \(including Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status\)](#) for additional guidance on how to complete the questionnaire.

Brief Applicant Entity Questionnaire

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is collecting the following information to help assess its efforts to attract a broader range of applicants. These questions apply to the applicant entity and its work and scope only, and not to the specific project(s) being proposed within the application. Responses to the questions will not be considered in the application review process. The questions included in the questionnaire are available in the [Standard Forms & Instructions: Brief Applicant Entity Questionnaire](#).

Principal Investigator Contact Information

To facilitate administrative processes associated with application review and post review activities, applicants are requested to enter the name of the Principal Investigator for the application project, as well as their contact information.

Proposal Narrative

The Proposal Narrative should be submitted as an attachment in JustGrants. The attached document should be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point size font; have no less than 1-inch margins; and should not exceed 30 numbered pages. If the Proposal Narrative fails to comply with these length restrictions, NIJ may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

The Proposal Narrative must include the following sections:

- a. Title Page (not counted against the proposal narrative page limit)

The title page should include:

- Project title.
- Submission date.
- Funding opportunity number.
- Principal Investigator (and any co-principal investigators).
- Unique author identifier (e.g., ORCID, ResearcherID, Scopus Author ID), if available.
- Requests for consideration under “new investigator” and/or “priority area of research.”
- Key words, including science focus areas.

- Contact information (that is, name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address) for both the applicant and the principal investigator.
- b. Resubmit Response (if applicable) (not counted against the proposal narrative page limit.)

If an applicant is resubmitting an application presented previously to NIJ, but not funded, the applicant should indicate this. A statement should be provided, no more than two pages, addressing: (1) the title, submission date, and NIJ-assigned application number of the previous application; and (2) a brief summary of revisions to the application, including responses to previous feedback received from NIJ.

- c. Table of Contents and Figures (not counted against the proposal narrative page limit)
- d. Main Body

1. Statement of the Problem

The statement of the problem should address the need for research in this area. Applicants should discuss current gaps in data, research, and knowledge, including those for particular justice sectors, for certain populations, and to answer questions relevant to current policy and practice needs and public interests. It is not uncommon for multiple problems to exist simultaneously (for example, there may be a criminal justice problem affecting public safety, a current technical challenge/need identified by forensic practitioners, as well as a scientific/technology gap between the current state of the art and a desired solution) and applicants should discuss each of these clearly and justify the importance of the separate issues. As part of this discussion, applicants should present a review of previous literature and discuss previous research related to these problems.

2. Project Design and Implementation

Applicants should provide a detailed description of the strategies to implement this research project and address the research questions. Design elements should follow directly from the research project's goals and objectives and address the program-specific information noted in the solicitation. Applicants should describe the research methodology and analysis plan in detail and demonstrate the validity and usefulness of the data they will collect. Applicants should consider the rigor and soundness of the methodology and analytical and technical approaches for the proposed research and address the feasibility of the proposed project and potential challenges or problems in carrying out the activities.

3. Potential Impact

Applicants should describe the potential impact of the research and how it may inform or improve criminal or juvenile justice-related policy, practice, or theory in the United States. The applicant should include a discussion of the proposed dissemination plan to produce scholarly products and to make information available to broader interested audiences, such as criminal justice practitioners or policymakers.

4. Capabilities and Competencies

This section should describe the experience and capabilities of the applicant organization, key staff, and any proposed subgrantees (including consultants) that the applicant will use to implement and manage this effort and the federal funds under this award, highlighting any previous experience implementing projects of similar scope, design, and magnitude. Applicants should address:

- Experience and capacity to work with the proposed data sources in the conduct of similar research efforts.
- Experience and capacity to design and implement rigorous research and data analysis projects.
- Experience producing and disseminating meaningful deliverables.

Applicants should also outline the management plan and organization that connects to the goals and objectives of the project. Among other factors, that plan should include a description of the anticipated level of effort of key personnel.

5. Appendices (not counted against the proposal narrative page limit) include:

- If the application (including the budget) identifies any proposed non-competitive agreements that are or may be considered procurement “contracts” (rather than subawards) for purposes of federal grants administrative requirements, the applicant also must list the entities with which the applicant proposes to contract.
- List of other agencies, organizations, or funding sources to which this application has been submitted (if applicable).
- Any table/charts/graphs supporting program narrative.

6. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for This Solicitation’s Performance Measures

Note: An applicant is **not** required to submit performance data with the application. Rather, performance measure information is included to provide notice that award recipients will be required to submit performance data as part of each award’s reporting requirements.

NIJ will require each award recipient to submit regular performance data that show the completed work’s results. The performance data directly relate to the solicitation goals and objectives identified in the [“Goals and Objectives”](#) section. Applicants can visit [OJP’s performance measurement page](#) at www.ojp.gov/performance for more information on performance measurement activities.

A list of performance measure questions for this program can be found in the [“Performance Measures”](#) section. Some measures are presented as examples, while others are the exact measures that every recipient will be expected to address.

NIJ will require award recipients to submit performance measure data in quarterly financial reports, semi-annual performance reports, and the final research report and separately submit a semi-annual performance report in JustGrants. NIJ will provide

further guidance on the post-award submission process if the applicant is selected for award.

Application Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

The applicant will submit the project's goals, objectives, deliverables, and timeline in JustGrants. This is a summary of the goals, objectives, deliverables, and timeline that relate to the proposal narrative. The applicant will also enter the projected fiscal year and quarter that each objective and deliverable will be completed. Please refer to the [Application Submission Job Aid](#) for step-by-step directions.

- **Goals:** The applicant should describe the project's intent to change, reduce, or eliminate the problem noted in the proposal narrative.
- **Program Objectives and Timeline:** The applicant should include objectives to accomplish its goals. Objectives are specific, measurable actions to reach the project's desired results. The included timelines should be clearly linked to the goal.
- **Deliverables and Timeline:** Project deliverables refer to outputs — tangible (for example, a report or a website) or intangible (for example, greater feelings of safety reported by the community) — that are documented and submitted within the scope of a project. Deliverables include timelines.

Deliverables Expected by Successful Applicants

Program objectives and deliverables should be included in one timeline.

Budget and Associated Documentation

Funding Restrictions

All recipients and subrecipients (including any for-profit organization) must forgo any profit or management fee.

Budget Detail and Narrative Web-Based Form

The applicant will complete the JustGrants web-based budget form, which includes both detailed calculations and budget narrative sections.

For additional information about how to prepare a budget for federal funding, see the [Application Resource Guide](#) section on [Budget Preparation and Submission Information](#) and the technical steps to complete the budget form in JustGrants in the [Complete the Application in JustGrants: Budget](#) training.

The following paragraph (on "Cofunding") expressly modifies the "[Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement](#)" provisions in the Application Resource Guide. The applicant is to follow the guidance in the following paragraph instead of the guidance stated under the "Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement" heading in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Cofunding: An award made by NIJ under this solicitation may account for up to 100% of the total cost of the project. The application should indicate whether it is feasible for the applicant to contribute cash, facilities, or services as non-federal support for the project. The application should identify generally any such contributions that the applicant expects to make and the

proposed budget should indicate in detail which items, if any, will be supported with non-federal contributions.

If a successful application proposes a voluntary match amount, and OJP approves the budget, the total match amount incorporated into the approved budget becomes mandatory and subject to audit.

Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs

OJP strongly encourages every applicant that proposes to use award funds for any conference, meeting, or training related activity (or similar event) to review carefully — before submitting an application — the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on prior approval, planning, and reporting of conference/meeting/training costs.

Costs Associated With Language Assistance (if applicable)

If an applicant proposes a program or activity that would deliver services or benefits to individuals, the costs of taking reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to those services or benefits for individuals with limited English proficiency may be allowable. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on costs associated with language assistance.

Budget/Financial Attachments

Pre-Agreement (Pre-Award) Costs (if applicable)

Pre-agreement costs are defined as costs requiring approval incurred by the applicant prior to the start date of the period of performance of the federal award. OJP does not typically approve pre-agreement costs. If a successful applicant, in anticipation of the federal award, but before the start date of the period of performance, incurs costs that are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the funded project, those costs may not be charged to the award. See the “Costs Requiring Prior Approval” section in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide Post-Award Requirements](#) for more information.

Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Indirect costs are costs of an organization that are not readily assignable to a particular project but are necessary to the operation of the organization and the performance of the project. Examples of costs usually treated as indirect include those incurred for facility operation and maintenance, depreciation, and administrative salaries. The requirements for the development and submission of indirect cost proposals and cost allocation plans are listed in Appendices III – VII of 2 C.F.R. Part 200. A non-federal applicant should follow the guidelines applicable to its type of organization. If applicable, an applicant with a current federally-approved indirect cost rate agreement will upload it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [DOJ Financial Guide](#) for additional information on [Indirect Cost Rate Agreement](#).

Consultant Rate (if applicable)

Costs for consultant services require prior approval from OJP. If the proposed project expects to fund consultant services, compensation for individual consultant services is to be reasonable and consistent with that paid for similar services in the marketplace. See the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) for information on the consultant rates, which require prior approval from OJP.

Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards Over \$250,000; Waiver (if applicable)

If an applicant proposes to hire employees with federal award funds, for any award of more than \$250,000 made under a funding opportunity, an award recipient may not use federal funds to pay total cash compensation (salary plus cash bonuses) to any employee of the recipient at a rate that exceeds 110% of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the federal government's Senior Executive Service (SES) at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on the "Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards over \$250,000; Waiver."

Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation (if applicable)

This notice of funding opportunity expressly modifies the Application Resource Guide by not incorporating its "Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation" provisions. Applicants to this funding opportunity are not required to provide this disclosure.

Additional Application Components

The applicant will attach the additional requested documentation in JustGrants.

Curriculum Vitae or Resumes

Provide curriculum vitae or resume of the principal investigator and any and all co-principal investigators. In addition, curriculum vitae, resumes, or biographical sketches of all other individuals (regardless of "investigator" status) who will be significantly involved in substantive aspects of the proposed project (including, for example, individuals such as statisticians used to conduct proposed data analysis).

Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of tribal authorizing documentation as an attachment. If applicable, the applicant will upload the tribal authorizing documentation as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on tribal authorizing resolutions.

Letters of Support

Applicants should include, for each named supporting entity, a signed letter of support that outlines the supporting entity's reasons for supporting for the project and the scope of work they are committing to. Applications submitted from two or more entities are encouraged to submit signed letters of support that provide a detailed description of why the proposed project should receive federal funding.

Each letter of support should include the following: (1) a description of the relationship between the applicant entity and the supporting entity; (2) a description of the need and what benefits would be gained from the project; (3) a description of the applicant's capacity to complete the proposed project; and (4) an understanding that final, de-identified project data will be archived with the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD). Letters of support should be signed

by the relevant decision-maker and then submitted as one separate attachment to the application.

Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement

If an application proposes research (including research and development) and/or evaluation, the applicant must demonstrate research/evaluation independence and integrity, including appropriate safeguards, before it may receive award funds. The applicant will upload documentation of its research and evaluation independence and integrity as an attachment in JustGrants. For additional information, see the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Bibliography/References

Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Proposal Narrative.

Any Tools/Instruments, Questionnaires, Tables/Charts/Graphs, or Maps

Any tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/charts/graphs, or maps pertaining to the proposed project that are supplemental to such items included in the main body of the narrative.

List of Individuals in the Application

To assist OJP in assessing actual or apparent conflicts of interest (including such conflicts on the part of prospective reviewers of the application), provide a complete list of the individuals named or otherwise identified anywhere in the application (including in the budget or in any other attachment) who will or may work (or advise or consult) on the proposed research, development, or evaluation project. Applicants should use the "[Proposed Project Staff, Affiliation, and Roles](#)" form available on the NIJ webpage to prepare this list.

Human Subjects Protection

Human Subjects Protection paperwork as a separate attachment (documentation and forms related to Institutional Review Board [IRB] review). See <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/human-subjects-protection>. **Note:** Final IRB approval is not required at the time an application is submitted.

Privacy Certificate

Privacy Certificate as a separate file (for further guidance go to <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/confidentiality-and-privacy-protections> and <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/privacy-certificate-guidance#model-privacy-certificate>).

Request to Use Incentives or Stipends

Applicants proposing to use incentives or stipends payments as part of their research project design must submit an incentive or stipend approval request as a separate document, according to the requirements set forth at <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/participant-support-costs-and-incentives>.

Documentation of "New Investigator" status (if applicable)

Documentation of “new investigator” status, if applicable.

Consortium/Contractual Agreements

Explain the programmatic, fiscal, and administrative arrangements to be made between the applicant organization and the consortium organization(s).

Data Archiving Plan

Applicants should anticipate that NIJ will require, through special award conditions, that data sets resulting in whole or in part from projects funded under this solicitation be submitted for archiving with the NACJD. See <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/data-archiving>.

Applications should include as a separate file a brief plan — labeled “Data Archiving Plan” — to comply with data archiving requirements. The plan should provide brief details about proposed data management and archiving, including submission to NIJ (through NACJD) of **all files and documentation** necessary to allow for future efforts by others to reproduce the project’s findings and/or to extend the scientific value of the data set through secondary analysis. Pertinent files and documentation include, among other things, **qualitative and quantitative** data produced, instrumentation and data collection forms, codebook(s), any specialized programming code necessary to reproduce all constructed measures and the original data analysis, description of necessary de-identification procedures, and (when required) a copy of the privacy certificate and informed consent protocols.

The plan should be one or two pages in length and include the level of effort associated with meeting archiving requirements.

Note that recipients are strongly encouraged to submit required data sets at least 90 days before the end of the period of performance.

Project Management Plan and Timeline

Applicants should also outline the management plan and organization that connects to the goals and objectives of the project, including the project management structure, approach, and strategies. Among other factors, that plan should include a description of the anticipated level of effort of key personnel. In addition, applicants should include a project management timeline documenting the timing for project tasks, management, milestones, and deliverables.

Disclosures and Assurances

The applicant will address the following disclosures and assurances.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

The SF-LLL attachment that was completed and submitted in Grants.gov is attached to this section.

Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items

To ensure funding coordination across grant making agencies, and to avoid unnecessary or inappropriate duplication among grant awards, the applicant will disclose if it has any pending

applications for federal funding, including pending applications for subawards of federal funds. Complete the JustGrants web-based Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items form. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

DOJ Certified Standard Assurances

Review and accept the DOJ Certified Standard Assurances in JustGrants. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Law Enforcement and Community Policing

Review and accept in JustGrants the DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Law Enforcement and Community Policing. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High-Risk Grantees

If applicable, submit the DOJ High-Risk Disclosure and Justification as an attachment in JustGrants. A DOJ High-Risk Grantee is an award recipient that has received a DOJ High-Risk designation based on a documented history of unsatisfactory performance; financial instability; management system or other internal control deficiencies; noncompliance with award terms and conditions on prior awards; or is otherwise not responsible. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Application Review Information

Review Criteria

Basic Minimum Review Criteria

OJP screens applications to ensure they meet the basic minimum requirements prior to conducting the peer review. Although specific requirements may vary, the following are requirements for all OJP solicitations:

- The application must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- The application must request funding within any stated programmatic funding limits or boundaries.
- The application must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- The application must include all items necessary to meet the basic minimum requirements.

Merit Review Criteria

Applications that meet the basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers on how the proposed project/program addresses the following criteria:

Statement of the Problem (understanding of the problem) (15%)

- Demonstrated understanding of the problem.
- Demonstrated importance of research questions, goals, and objectives, including alignment with the aims of the solicitation.
- Demonstrated awareness of the state of current research.

Project Design and Implementation (quality and technical merit) (45%)

- Feasibility of proposed project.
- Soundness of methods and analytic and technical approach to addressing the stated aim(s) of the proposed project.
- Awareness of potential pitfalls of proposed project design and feasibility of proposed actions to minimize and/or mitigate them.
- Feasibility of completing the deliverables noted in the solicitation.

Capabilities and Competencies (capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of the applicant organization and proposed project staff) (15%)

- Qualifications and experience of proposed project staff (that is, the principal investigator, any and all co-principal investigators, and all other individuals (and organizations) identified in the application (regardless of “investigator” status) who will be significantly involved in substantive aspects of the proposed project).
- Demonstrated ability of the applicant organization to implement the proposed strategies and manage the effort (applicants should briefly describe the management plan here; full details for the project management structure, approach, and strategies should be described in the project management plan).
- Relationship between the capabilities/competencies of the proposed project staff (including the applicant organization) and the scope and strategies of the proposed project.

Potential Impact (20%)

- Potential for a significant scientific or technical advance(s) that will improve criminal/juvenile justice in the United States.
- Potential for significantly improved understanding of the stated criminal/juvenile justice problem.
- Potential for innovative solution to address (all or a significant part of) the stated criminal/juvenile justice problem.
- Strength and feasibility of the proposed dissemination plan to produce scholarly products (such as published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, databases, standards or similar scientific products) as well as make summary information available to broader interested audiences, such as criminal justice practitioners or policymakers.

Budget (5%)

In addition, peer reviewers will consider and may comment on the following additional items in the context of scientific and technical merit.

- Alignment of the proposed budget with proposed project activities.

- Appropriateness of the budget relative to the level of effort.
- Use of existing resources to conserve costs.

Reviewers are not expected to conduct a detailed financial analysis and assessment of the budget, but rather to consider it from the perspective of their experience.

Other Review Criteria/Factors

Other important considerations for OJP include geographic diversity, strategic priorities (specifically including, but not limited to, those priority areas already mentioned, if applicable), available funding, past performance, and the extent to which the Budget web-based form accurately explains project costs that are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise allowable under federal law and applicable federal cost principles. Costs are allowable when they are reasonable, allocable to, and necessary for the performance of the federal award, and when they comply with the funding statute and agency requirements (to include the conditions of the award), including the cost principles set out in the [Uniform Requirements 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E](#).

Risk Criteria/Factors

Pursuant to the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, before award decisions are made, OJP also reviews information related to the degree of risk posed by the applicant. Among other things to help assess whether an applicant with one or more prior federal awards has a satisfactory record of performance, integrity, and business ethics, OJP checks whether the applicant is listed in SAM.gov as excluded from receiving a federal award.

In addition, if OJP anticipates that an award will exceed \$250,000 in federal funds, OJP also must review and consider any information about the applicant that appears in the non-public segment of the integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.gov (currently, the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System, FAPIIS).

Important note on FAPIIS: An applicant may review and comment on any information about its organization that currently appears in FAPIIS and was entered by a federal awarding agency. OJP will consider such comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in its assessment of the risk posed by the applicant.

Review Process

Applications submitted under this solicitation that meet the basic minimum requirements will be evaluated for technical merit by a peer review panel(s) in accordance with OJP peer review policy and procedures using the review criteria listed above.

All final award decisions will be made by the Director of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), who may take into account not only peer review ratings and NIJ staff recommendations, but also other factors as indicated in this section.

Federal Award Administration Information

Federal Award Notices

Generally, award notifications are made by the end of the current Federal fiscal year, September 30. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on award notifications and instructions.

Evidence-Based Programs or Practices

OJP strongly encourages the use of data and evidence in policymaking and program development for criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. For additional information and resources on evidence-based programs or practices (programs or practices that have been evaluated as effective), see the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities

OJP may conduct or support an evaluation of the projects and activities funded under this solicitation. For additional information on what should be included in the application, see the [Application Resource Guide](#) section entitled “Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities.”

Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the OJP-approved application, the recipient must comply with all award conditions and all applicable requirements of federal statutes and regulations, including the applicable requirements referred to in the assurances and certifications executed in connection with award acceptance. For additional information on these legal requirements, see the “Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements” section in the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Civil Rights Compliance

If a successful applicant accepts funding from OJP — as a recipient of OJP funding — that award recipient must comply with certain federal civil rights laws that prohibit it from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability in how the recipient delivers its program’s services or benefits and in its employment practices. The civil rights laws that may be applicable to the award include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), the nondiscrimination provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (Safe Streets Act), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These and other federal civil rights laws are discussed in greater detail here: [Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2024 Awards](#) under the “Civil Rights Requirements” section, and additional resources are available from the [OJP Office for Civil Rights](#).

Part of complying with civil rights laws that prohibit national origin discrimination includes recipients taking reasonable steps to ensure that people who are limited in their English proficiency (LEP) because of their national origin have meaningful access to a recipient’s program and activity. An LEP person is one whose first language is not English and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. To help recipients meet this obligation to serve LEP persons, DOJ has published a number of resources, including a language access assessment and planning tool, which are available at <https://www.lep.gov/language-access-planning>. Additional resources are available at <https://www.ojp.gov/program/civil-rights-office/limited-english-proficient-lep>. If the award recipient proposes a program or activity that would deliver services or benefits to LEP

individuals, the recipient may use grant funds to support the costs of taking reasonable steps (e.g., interpretation or translation services) to provide meaningful access. Similarly, recipients are responsible for ensuring that their programs and activities are readily accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities. Applicants for OJP funding must allocate grant funds or explain how other available resources will be used to ensure meaningful and full access to their programs. For example, grant funds can be used to support American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter services for deaf or hard of hearing individuals or the purchase of adaptive equipment for individuals with mobility or cognitive disabilities. For resources, see <http://www.ADA.gov> or contact OJP.

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls

Award recipients and subrecipients (including recipients or subrecipients that are pass-through entities) must, as described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements as set out at 2 C.F.R. § 200.303, comply with standards for financial and program management. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Information Technology Security Clauses

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of information related to information technology security. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for more information.

General Information About Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements

In addition to the deliverables described in the “[Program Description](#)” section, all award recipients under this solicitation will be required to submit certain reports and data.

Required reports. Award recipients must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual performance reports, final financial and performance reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with the Part 200 Uniform Requirements or specific award conditions. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent (in appropriate cases, OJP may require additional reports).

See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measure data.

Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For questions directed to the Federal Awarding Agency, see OJP Response Center contact information in the solicitation Synopsis.

For OJP contact(s), contact information for Grants.gov, and contact information for JustGrants, see the solicitation Synopsis.

Other Information

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 552 and 552a)

See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 552 and 552a).

Provide Feedback to OJP

See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on how to provide feedback to OJP.

Performance Measures

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Data Recipient Provides
<p>Conduct research in social and behavioral sciences that has clear implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.</p>	<p>1. Relevance to the needs of the field as measured by whether the project’s substantive scope did not deviate from the funded project or any subsequent agency-approved modifications to the scope.</p>	<p>1. Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual and final performance reports, and products of the work performed under the NIJ award (including, at minimum, a final research report). If applicable, an annual audit report.</p>
<p>Conduct research in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics that has clear implications for criminal or juvenile justice policy and practice in the United States.</p>	<p>2. Quality of the research as demonstrated by the scholarly products that result, in whole or in part, from work funded under the NIJ award, such as published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (as appropriate for the funded project) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products.</p>	<p>2. List of citation(s) to all scholarly products that resulted, in whole or in part, from work funded under the NIJ award.</p>
	<p>3. Quality of management as measured by such factors as whether significant project milestones were achieved, reporting and other deadlines were met, and costs remained within approved limits.</p>	<p>3. If applicable, each data set that resulted, in whole or in part, from work funded under the NIJ award.</p>

Application Checklist

NIJ FY24 Research and Evaluation on Corrections

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application. For more information, reference [The OJP Application Submission Steps in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) and the [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#).

Pre-Application

Before Registering in Grants.gov

- Confirm your entity's registration in the [System Award Management \(SAM.gov\)](#) is active through the solicitation period; submit a new or renewal registration in SAM.gov if needed (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

Register in Grants.gov

- Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

Find the Funding Opportunity

- Search for the funding opportunity in Grants.gov using the opportunity number, assistance listing number, or keyword(s).
- Access the funding opportunity and application package (see Step 7 in the [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- Sign up for Grants.gov email [notifications](#) (optional) (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- Read [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#) (about [browser compatibility and special characters in file names](#)).
- Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedoj/iii-postaward-requirements#6g3y8> (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

Review the Overview of Post-Award Legal Requirements

- Review the "[Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2024 Awards](#)" in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

Review the Scope Requirement

- The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of \$3,000,000.

Review Eligibility Requirement

- Review the "Eligibility" section in the Synopsis and "Eligibility Information" section in the solicitation.

Application Step 1

After registering with SAM.gov, submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov.

- In Section 8F of the SF-424, include the name and contact information of the individual who will complete the application in JustGrants and the SF-LLL in Grants.gov.

Within 48 hours after the SF-424 and SF-LLL submission in Grants.gov, receive four (4) Grants.gov email notifications:

- A submission receipt.
- A validation receipt.
- A grantor agency retrieval receipt.
- An agency tracking number assignment.

If no Grants.gov receipt and validation email is received, or if error notifications are received:

- Contact OJP Response Center at grants@ncjrs.gov or 800-851-3420 or TTY: 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only) or Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, [Grants.gov customer support](#), or support@grants.gov regarding technical difficulties (see [Application Resource Guide](#) section on [Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues](#)).

Within 24 hours after receipt of confirmation emails from Grants.gov, the individual in Section 8F of the SF-424 will receive an email from JustGrants with login instructions.

- Proceed to Application Step 2 and complete application in JustGrants.

Application Step 2

Submit the following information in JustGrants:

Application Components

- Entity and User Verification (First Time Applicant).
- Standard Applicant information (SF-424 information from Grants.gov).
- Proposal Abstract.
- **Proposal Narrative*** (Critical Component).
- Application Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline web-based form.

Budget and Associated Documentation

- **Budget Detail Narrative and web-based form*** (Critical Component).
- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

Additional Application Components

- **Curriculum Vitae or Resumes*** (Critical Component).
- Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- Letters of Support.
- Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- Bibliography/References.
- Any Tools/Instruments, Questionnaires, Tables/Charts/Graphs, or Maps.
- List of Individuals in the Application.
- Human Subjects Protection.

- Privacy Certificate.
- Request to Use Incentives or Stipends.
- Documentation of “New Investigator” Status (if applicable).
- Consortium/Contractual Arrangements.
- Data Archiving Plan.
- Project Management Plan and Timeline.
- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable) (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

Disclosures and Assurances

- [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities \(SF-LLL\)](#) (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurances (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Law Enforcement and Community Policing (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High-Risk Grantees (if applicable) (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

****Note: Items designated with an asterisk must be submitted for an application to meet the basic minimum requirements review. If OJP determines that an application does not include the designated items, it will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive further consideration.***

Review, Certify, and Submit Application in JustGrants

- Any validation errors will immediately display on screen after submission.
- Correct validation errors, if necessary, and then return to the “Certify and Submit” screen to submit the application. Access the [Application Submission Validation Errors Quick Reference Guide](#) for step-by-step instructions to resolve errors prior to submission.
- Once the application is submitted and validated, a confirmation message will appear at the top of the page. Users will also receive a notification in the “bell” alerts confirming submission.

If no JustGrants application submission confirmation email or validation is received, or if error notification is received:

- Contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833-872-5175 or JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov regarding technical difficulties. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

Standard Solicitation Resources

[Application Resource Guide](#) provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding.

[DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) serves as the primary reference manual to assist award recipients in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility to safeguard grant funds and to ensure funds are used for the purposes for which they were awarded. It compiles a variety of laws, rules, and regulations that affect the financial and administrative management of DOJ awards. This guide serves as a starting point for all award recipients and subrecipients of DOJ grants and cooperative agreements in ensuring the effective day-to-day management of awards.

[JustGrants Resources Website](#) is an entryway into information about JustGrants and the grants management system itself. Through this portal both award recipients and applicants can access training resources and user support options, find frequently asked questions, and sign up for the [JustGrants Update e-newsletter](#).

[JustGrants Application Submission Training page](#) offers helpful information and resources on the application process. This training page includes e-learning videos, reference guides, checklists, and other resources to help applicants complete an application.

[Virtual Q&A Sessions](#) are advertised here and provide opportunities for users to receive topic-specific training, direct technical assistance, and support on JustGrants system functionality.