

# Graduate Research Fellowship at the National Institute of Justice

February 8, 2023 | 11:00 AM ET

**The webinar will begin shortly**

# Graduate Research Fellowship Program at the National Institute of Justice

## Today's Presenters:

**Dr. Nancy La Vigne**, NIJ Director

**Dr. Gregory Dutton**, Program Manager

**Joseph Heaps**, Senior Physical Scientist

# Webinar Topics

1. Program Overview
2. Terms of the Fellowship
3. How to Apply



# GRF Program Page



[www.nij.gov/GRF](http://www.nij.gov/GRF)



# Graduate Research Fellowship Program

January 18, 2023

## **i** [Apply Now! FY 2023 Funding Opportunity Is Open](#)

The program is now accepting applications. See [the 2023 solicitation](#) for details.

A webinar discussing the program will take place on **February 8, 2023, from 11am - 12pm ET**. [Register here](#).

The NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) program supports doctoral students engaged in research that advances [NIJ's mission](#).

The goal of the GRF program is to increase the pool of scholars engaged in research that addresses the challenges of crime and justice in the United States, particularly at the state and local levels.

Previously, the GRF program had two separate tracks: **Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS)** and **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**. Beginning in 2020, NIJ welcomed eligible applicants in all fields to a single GRF funding opportunity, regardless of SBS/STEM distinction.

[Sign up for email alerts](#) when new funding opportunities are posted.

## **FAQs**

Read our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to learn more about the program and how to apply.

[Current Funding](#)

[Forthcoming Funding](#)

[Expired Funding](#)

[Awards: Listing of Funded Projects](#)

[Guidance for Applicants and Awardees](#)

**Fellowship & Student Programs**

**Graduate Research Fellowship Program**

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Past and Present Fellows](#)

[Research Assistantships](#)

[Visiting Fellows Program](#)

[W.E.B. Du Bois Program](#)

[Travel Scholarships](#)

# National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

## Who we are:

- NIJ is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice
- A science funding agency under the Office of Justice Programs (OJP)

## Our mission:

- Improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science

# NIJ's Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF)

## Program Goal:

- Support the development of new researchers addressing the challenges of crime and justice in the U.S.

## Previously two program tracks:

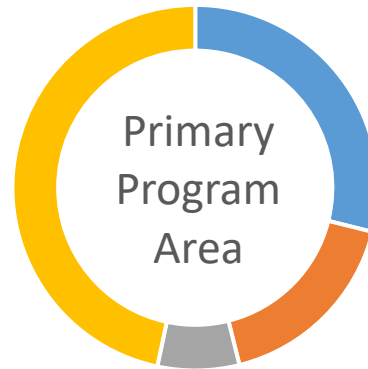
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS)
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)

**Now a single GRF program for everyone**

# Recent Program History

## GRF Fellows 2012 - 2020

**180 fellows**  
from over  
**60 institutions**  
since 2012



- Physical Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Engineering
- Social Sciences

About **24 new fellows** annually

# Past Fellows

**Mawia  
Khogali**

2017 Fellow

John Jay  
College



Dissertation:

*Officers' and Community Members'  
Evaluations of Police-Civilian  
Interactions*

*Currently:* Senior Director,  
Innovation & Incubation at nonprofit

**Elizabeth  
Webster**

2017 Fellow

Rutgers University-  
Newark



Dissertation:

*Post Conviction Mentality:  
Prosecutorial Assistance as a  
Pathway to Exoneration*

*Currently:* Assistant Professor



# Past Fellows

**Brent Klein**

2018 Fellow

Michigan State  
University



Dissertation:

*Pathways to School Shootings: An Integrated Developmental and Life Course Criminological Approach*

*Currently:* Assistant Professor

**Ieke De Vries**

2018 Fellow

Northeastern  
University



Dissertation:

*Crime in Public Space and Online Domains: Commercial Sex and Sex Trafficking in Massage Businesses*

*Currently:* Assistant Professor

# Past Fellows

**Caitlin  
Vogelsberg**

2017 Fellow

Michigan  
State  
University



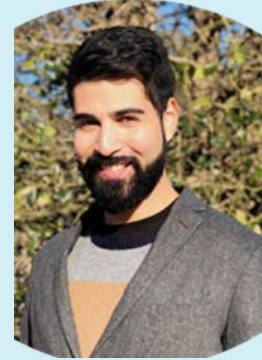
*Dissertation:* “Increasing identifications of deceased border crossers: investigating spatial and skeletal attributes of migrant deaths”

*Currently:* Postdoc at Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner

**Shady  
El Damaty**

2016 Fellow

Georgetown  
University



*Dissertation:* “Pattern Classification of Neurocognitive and Socio-Emotional Developmental Factors Underlying Violent Outcomes in Adolescents”

*Currently:* Entrepreneur, Founder

# Past Fellows

**Christy  
Mancuso**

2014 Fellow

University of  
Utah



Dissertation: “Fingernails as Recorders  
of Region-of-Origin and Travel History”

*Currently:* Postdoc and co-PI on  
NIJ grant

**Katherine  
Gettings**

2011 Fellow

George  
Washington  
University



Dissertation: “Ancestry/Phenotype SNP  
Analysis & Integration with Established  
Forensic Markers”

*Currently:* Staff Scientist at NIST

# Funding Opportunity: GRF Solicitation

About  
**20 new fellows**  
expected  
in 2023



OMB No. 1121-0329  
Expires 12/31/2023



U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
National Institute of Justice

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## NIJ FY23 Graduate Research Fellowship

**Assistance Listing Number #** 16.560

**Grants.gov Opportunity Number:** O-NIJ-2023-171521

**Solicitation Release Date:** January 25, 2023 2:00 PM ET

**Version:** 1

**Step 1: Application Grants.gov Deadline:** April 25, 2023 11:59 PM ET

**Step 2: Application JustGrants Deadline:** May 02, 2023 8:59 PM ET

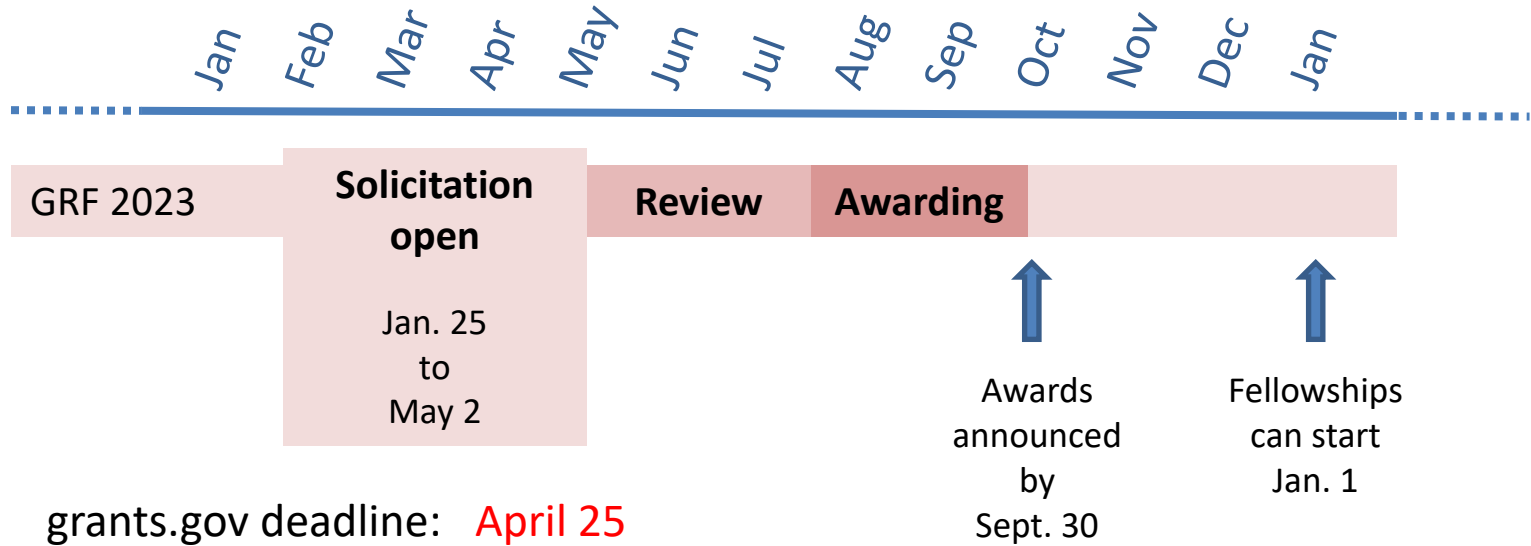
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### Overview

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ) seeks applications for funding doctoral dissertation research that is relevant to preventing and controlling crime, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of criminal and/or juvenile justice in the United States. This program furthers the DOJ's mission by increasing the pool of researchers who are engaged in providing science-based solutions to problems relevant to criminal and juvenile justice policy and practice in the United States.

This solicitation incorporates guidance provided in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) which provides additional information for applicants to prepare and submit applications to OJP for funding. **If this solicitation expressly modifies any provision in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in this solicitation as to that provision.**

# Timeline



grants.gov deadline: **April 25**  
JustGrants deadline: **May 2**

# Eligibility

## Student:

- Enrolled full-time in a PhD program in the sciences or engineering
- Dissertation topic is relevant to criminal or juvenile justice in the U.S.

## University:

- Accredited institution in the U.S. or its territories

**The university applies on behalf of the student**

# Application Elements

## **Six Critical Elements:**

1. Proposal Narrative
2. Budget webform
3. Verification of Current Enrollment
4. Undergraduate and Graduate Transcripts
5. Statement of Support
6. CV/Resume or Biosketch

# Application Elements

## Other Elements

- Personal Statement
- Project Timeline
- Current and Pending (Other) Support
- Human Subjects Protection form
- Privacy Certificate



# Other Issues

- Dissertation topic approval is not required at time of application
- IRB (Institutional Review Board) approval for human subjects research is not required at the time of application

**BUT— fellowship funds will become available only after these are completed and reviewed by NIJ**

# Additional Help

General guidance for  
all NIJ applicants

[https://nij.ojp.gov/  
funding/guidance-  
applicants-and-  
awardees](https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/guidance-applicants-and-awardees)



## Guidance for Applicants and Awardees

### Sample Applications [↗](#)

We have posted a selection of [sample applications](#) to aid you as you build our proposal.

What NIJ Funds



Find a Funding Opportunity



What to Do Before You Apply



Build Your Proposal



Submit Your Application



Application Review and Award Notification



If Your Proposal Is Funded



Current Funding

Forthcoming Funding

Expired Funding

Awards: Listing of Funded  
Projects

**Guidance for Applicants  
and Awardees**

FAQs

Human Subjects and Privacy  
Protection

National Environmental  
Policy Act

Data Archiving

# Fellowship Terms

Up to **\$55,500/year** for up to three (3) years of support usable within a five-year period:

- **\$40,500** annual student salary
- **\$12,000** annual cost of education allowance
- **\$3,000** annually for research expenses

# Programmatic Budget Categories

## 1. Salary and Fringe Benefits (\$40,500/yr.)

- Student salary
- Fringe benefits
- Health insurance

NIJ recommends that the full \$40,500 be requested

# Programmatic Budget Categories

## 2. Cost of Education Allowance (up to \$12,000/yr.)

- Tuition
- Student fees
- University administrative or indirect costs

# Programmatic Budget Categories

## 3. Research Expenses (up to \$3,000/yr.)

- Research supplies
- Instrument time
- Human subjects incentives
- **Undergraduate research assistants**
- Data collection site travel
- Conference travel
- Professional society membership fees
- Other reasonable, allowable costs

# Fellowship Terms

These are one-time awards:

- Total amount needed **must be requested up front**

Annual requirements:

- Progress report
- Verification of enrollment
- Committee chair statement of progress

Final Deliverables:

- Defended dissertation
- List of scholarly products

# How to Apply

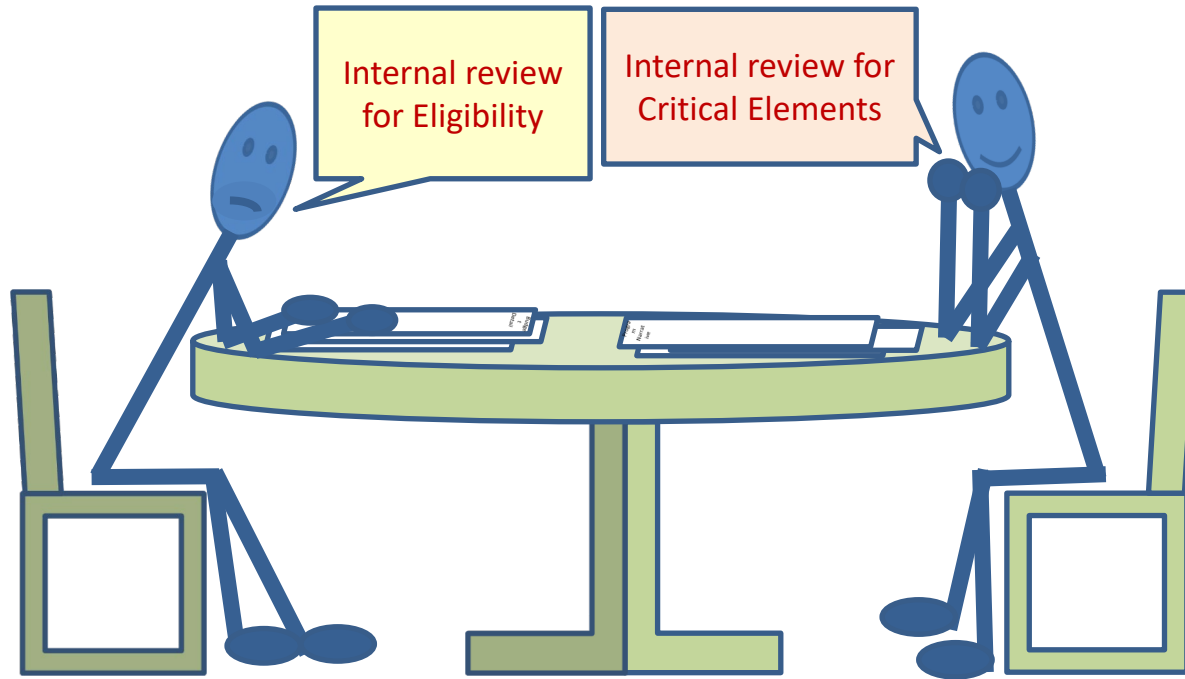
- 1. Review the solicitation for eligibility**
- 2. Contact your university grants office (e.g., Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP)) – NOW!**
- 3. Start assembling application materials**
  - Write the program narrative
  - Ask for letter of support
  - Obtain enrollment verification and transcripts



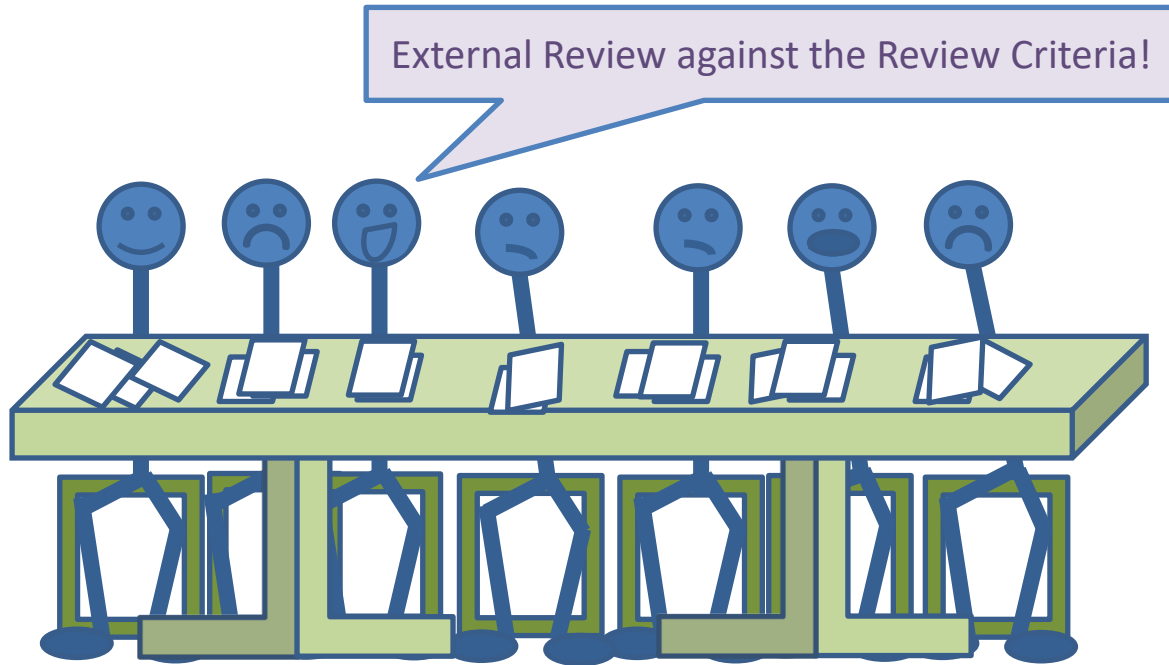
# Application Submission

- 1. The university submits on your behalf**
- 2. NIJ has a 2-step submission process**
  - 1) Grants.gov deadline for submitting SF-424
  - 2) JustGrants deadline for submitting complete application package
- 3. Your university OSP will have their own internal timeline**

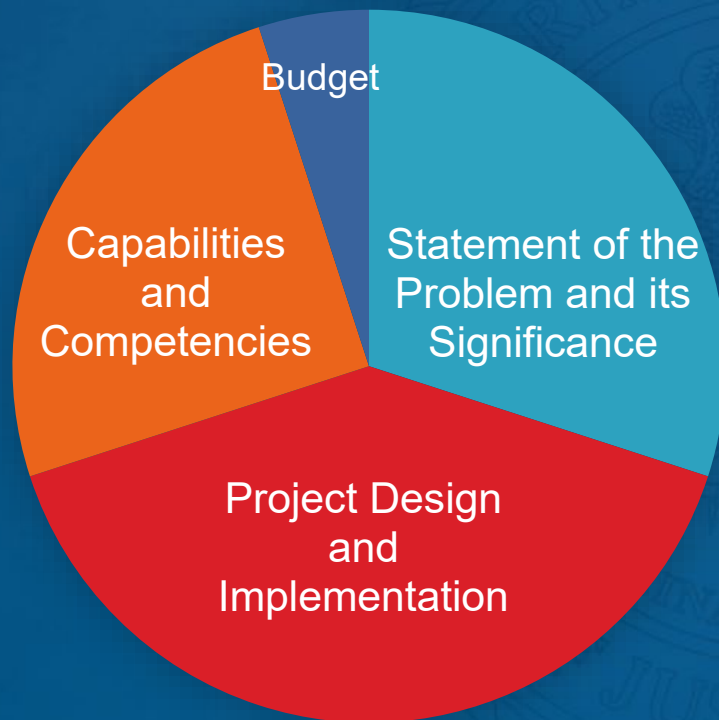
# Application Review – Initial Review



# Application Review – Peer Review



# What are the Review Criteria?



# Priority Areas

NIJ will give special consideration in award decisions to proposals from *Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)*. MSIs 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)

**Note: this is one of many factors that NIJ considers in making funding decisions.**

# Award Decisions

1. Peer review is the primary factor
2. Award decisions are made by the NIJ Director, who may take into account peer review ratings as well as other factors
3. Applicants are notified of outcome in September/October

# Helpful Tips

1. Browse past fellows' abstracts
2. Be sure to articulate the relevance to criminal justice
3. Include preliminary results, if available
4. Ask others (peers and advisors) to read and comment:
  - Concept
  - Experimental design
  - Proofread for errors
5. **Visit the program FAQs**

# Spread the News to potential applicants

Printable program flyer for interested audiences

<https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/grf-flyer>



U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
National Institute of Justice



## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP



Apply for NIJ's Graduate Research Fellowship. By supporting outstanding graduate research, NIJ is expanding the future pool of young investigators pursuing research with the potential to provide solutions to issues that affect crime and the fair and impartial administration of criminal and juvenile justice in the United States.

### Eligibility

Students must be (1) enrolled full time in a Ph.D. program in a science or engineering field and (2) propose dissertation research relevant to improving criminal or juvenile justice practice or policy in the United States.

Applications are submitted by the university, which must be an accredited academic institution in the United States or its territories.

### Benefits

- \$40,500 annual student salary
- \$12,000 annually for tuition, fees, and administrative costs.
- \$3,000 annually for research expenses.
- Up to three years of funding, usable over a five-year period.

To learn more and see profiles of past and present GRF fellows, visit [NIJ.ojp.gov/GRF](https://nij.ojp.gov/GRF).



National Institute of Justice • Strengthen Science • Advance Justice

### GRF is back in 2023!

There is again a single solicitation for NIJ's GRF program in 2023. Eligible applicants in all science and engineering fields are invited to apply.

Disciplines include, but are not limited to:

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ Anthropology           | ■ Information Sciences  |
| ■ Biology                | ■ Materials Science     |
| ■ Chemistry              | ■ Mathematics           |
| ■ Cognitive Science      | ■ Neuroscience          |
| ■ Computer Science       | ■ Pathology             |
| ■ Criminology            | ■ Physics               |
| ■ Criminal Justice       | ■ Political Science     |
| ■ Education              | ■ Psychology            |
| ■ Economics              | ■ Public Administration |
| ■ Electrical Engineering | ■ Public Health         |
| ■ Geosciences            | ■ Public Policy         |
| ■ GIS                    | ■ Sociology             |

**Grants.gov deadline: April 25, 2023**

**JustGrants deadline: May 2, 2023**

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# For More Information

Program page & FAQs: [www.nij.gov/GRF](http://www.nij.gov/GRF)



## **For questions while the solicitation is open, contact:**

OJP Response Center

1-800-851-3420 (TTY: 301-240-6310 for hearing impaired only)

Email: [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov)

Chat: <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>

# Learn about NIJ Funding

Subscribe for notices  
when funding  
opportunities post

[www.nij.gov/subscribe](http://www.nij.gov/subscribe)



## Funding & Awards

NIJ awards grants and cooperative agreements for various research, development, and evaluation projects; and fellowship programs through competitive solicitations.

What NIJ Funds +

Find Funding Opportunities -

- [Forthcoming funding opportunities](#) – typically in the late fall, we begin posting a list of forthcoming solicitations to allow potential applicants to learn our areas of interest in the coming solicitation season.
- [Current funding opportunities](#) – list of solicitations under which we are accepting applications; typically, most solicitations are released December through May (subject to appropriations availability).
- [Expired funding opportunities](#) – a complete list of solicitations from past years, dating back to fiscal year 2005. Each solicitation title links to a detail page that shows the total number and cumulative amount of the resulting awards and a list of those awards with links to detailed information on each.

Current Funding

Forthcoming Funding

Expired Funding

Awards: Listing of Funded  
Projects

Guidance for Applicants  
and Awardees

Fellowship & Student  
Programs

Travel Scholarships

NIJ Challenge Program

# Questions?

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

Send to [All Panelists](#)



**NIJ**