U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics



FY 2023 National Criminal History Improvement Program Supplemental Funding

Assistance Listing Number # 16.554

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Overview

The <u>U.S. Department of Justice</u> (DOJ), <u>Office of Justice Programs</u> (OJP), <u>Bureau of Justice Statistics</u> (BJS) seeks applications for funding for the fiscal years (FYs) 2022 and 2023 National Criminal History Improvement Program Supplemental Funding (NCHIP-SF). This program furthers the DOJ's mission to reduce violent crime and address gun violence by improving the accuracy, utility, and interstate accessibility of criminal-history and related records in support of national record systems and their use for name- and fingerprint-based criminal history record background checks. This program was developed to implement Title III, Division B (3) – Appropriations outlined in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (P.L. 117–159). The solicitations for FY 2023 National Criminal History Improvement Program and FY 2023 NICS Act Record Improvement Program will be released later in FY 2023.

This solicitation incorporates guidance provided in the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> 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.

Solicitation Categories

This solicitation does not include Solicitation Categories.

Eligible Applicants:

Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), State governments, Other

Other

-State courts

• The state central administrative office or similar entity designated by statute or regulation to administer federal grant funds on behalf of the jurisdiction's court system

An applicant entity 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.

BJS may elect to fund applications submitted under this FY 2023 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and the availability of appropriations.

Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact Devon B. Adams, Deputy Director, Policy Division, at 202-307-0765, or AskBJS@usdoj.gov, include "NCHIPSF23" in the subject line.

Submission Information

Registration: Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management (SAM). You must renew and validate your registration every 12 months. If you do not renew your SAM registration, it will expire. An expired registration can delay or prevent application submission in Grants.gov and JustGrants. Registration and renewal can take up to 10 business days to complete.

<u>Submission:</u> Applications must be submitted to DOJ electronically through a two-step process via Grants.gov and JustGrants.

<u>Step 1:</u> The applicant must submit by the Grants.gov deadline the required **Application for Federal Assistance** standard form (SF-424) and a **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities** (SF-LLL) form when they register in Grants.gov at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html. Submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL as early as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the Grants.gov deadline. If an applicant fails to submit in Grants.gov, they will be unable to apply in JustGrants.

For technical assistance with submitting the SF-424 and a 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 operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

<u>Step 2</u>: The applicant must submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at <u>JustGrants.usdoj.gov</u> by the JustGrants application deadline.

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 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday—Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET on Saturday, Sunday, and Federal holidays.

OJP encourages applicants to review the "<u>How To Apply</u>" section in the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> and the <u>JustGrants website</u> for more information, resources, and training. Applicants should maintain all receipts and confirmations received from SAM.gov, Grants.gov, JustGrants systems.

Contents

	Overview	1
С	ontact Information	2
	Submission Information	2
P	rogram Description	5
	Overview	5
	Statutory Authority	5
	Specific Information	5
	Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables	5
	Evidence-Based Programs or Practices	8
	Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities	8
F	ederal Award Information	8
	Awards, Amounts and Durations	8
	Continuation Funding Intent	8
	Availability of Funds	8
	Type of Award	9
	Financial Management and System Controls	9
	Budget Information	9
	Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement	9
	Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)	9
	Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation: Waiver	9
	Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs	9
	Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)	9
Ε	ligibility Information	9
4	pplication and Submission Information	10
	Content of Application Submission	10
	Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) in Grants.gov	10
	Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)	10
	Proposal Abstract	10
	Proposal Narrative	10
	Goal, Objective and Deliverables	13
	Budget and Associated Documentation	13
	Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)	13
	Pre-agreement Costs	13
	Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)	14
	Consultant Rate	14
	Employee Compensation Waiver	14
	Financial Management Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)	14
	Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation	14
	Additional Application Components	14
	Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)	14
	Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement	14
	Disclosure and Assurances	14
	Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	14
	DOJ Certified Standard Assurances	15
	Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items	15
	DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Law Enforcement and Community Policing	15
	INIGUOIS. DIGUTI ICC MUNICIDADE NEGUNICINENIO, LAW ENDIDENIONI AND CONTINUINIONIO FONCINO	10

Applicant Disclosure and Justification - DOJ High Risk Grantees	15
How to Apply	15
Submission Dates and Time	16
Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues Preventing Submission of an Application	16
Application Review Information	17
Review Criteria	17
Review Process	18
Federal Award Administration Information	18
Federal Award Notices	18
Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements	18
Information Technology (IT) Security Clauses	18
General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements	18
Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)	19
Other Information	19
Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a)	19
Provide Feedback to OJP	19
Performance Measures	20
Application Checklist	21
Standard Solicitation Resources	23

Program Description

Overview

OJP is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights and racial 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, BJS seeks to provide information on application requirements and identify priorities for NCHIP-SF in fiscal year (FY) 2023. In response to the enactment of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to expand access to records available to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) (P.L. 117–159), BJS is prioritizing the use of funds for the following purpose: to upgrade criminal and mental health records, including juvenile records that would prohibit the purchase or possession of firearms (under 18 U.S.C. 922 (g) or (n)), to be electronically available at the time of a NICS firearm-related background check.

Statutory Authority

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (P.L. 117-159) and 34 U.S.C. § 10132(c)(19)

Specific Information

BJS is authorized to "provide for improvements in the accuracy, quality, timeliness, immediate accessibility, and integration of State and tribal criminal history and related records, support the development and enhancement of national systems of criminal history and related records including the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, the National Incident-Based Reporting System [(NIBRS)], and the records of the National Crime Information Center [(NCIC)], facilitate State and tribal participation in national records and information systems, and support statistical research for critical analysis of the improvement and utilization of criminal history records." NCHIP and the NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) are means by which BJS provides for such improvements.

Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

Goals

This funding will assist state record repositories, state courts, and tribes with finding ways to make a greater share of eligible records available to NICS, including records in NCIC, criminal history record information available through the Interstate Identification Index (III), and records in the NICS Indices. Therefore, through the funded activities, BJS expects that more records (including improved quality, completeness, and timeliness) will become available in these systems.

Objectives

An applicant should address the objectives that are relevant to their proposed program/project in the Goals, Objectives, Deliverables and Timeline web-based form.

Ensure records of arrests are fingerprint-supported, linked to case outcomes, and accessible through the state record repository and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) record systems.

Ensure that accurate records are available for use by law enforcement, prosecutors, courts; and to protect public safety and national security.

Automate and electronically transmit records, including relevant juvenile records permitted under state or tribal law, to state and national systems.

Permit states to identify—

Ineligible firearm purchasers

Persons ineligible to hold positions involving children, the elderly, or the disabled

Persons subject to protection orders or wanted, arrested, or convicted of stalking and/or domestic violence

Persons ineligible to be employed or hold licenses for specified positions

Persons potentially presenting threats to public safety.

Automate processes for sealing and expunging criminal history information.

Deliverables

1. Improving Access and Reporting of Adult and Juvenile Dispositions and Mental Health Submissions to NICS

BJS invites applications from states and tribes that propose projects that specifically and directly address one or more of the areas identified below.

a. Updating and automating case outcomes from courts and prosecutors in state or tribal records and the FBI's Criminal History File.

Allowable costs may include activities such as—

- Implementing or upgrading state, local, or tribal court record systems that facilitate immediate identification
 of disposition records (including relevant juvenile records that would prohibit the purchase or possessing
 of firearms, where permissible under state or tribal law), provided that the records are made accessible for
 criminal history record inquiries at the state and national levels.
- Implementing improved procedures for capturing criminal history information, including complete arrest reporting and researching missing dispositions, provided that the captured data are subsequently included in relevant state and federal files.
- Converting juvenile records to the adult system. (Federal regulations allow the FBI to accept juvenile records if submitted by the state or local arresting agency.)
- Capturing complete data from prosecutors and courts on misdemeanor convictions of domestic violence, including individuals in a "dating relationship" as defined in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.
- Converting manual or other non-automated criminal history records to electronic records, provided they are available for criminal history inquiries at the state and national level.
- Ensuring, through data analysis on the completeness of criminal history records, that records of all criminal events (starting with an arrest or indictment) are included in background check files.
- Replacing or updating aging juvenile records systems to ensure the timely transfer of critical information for NICS reporting, where permissible under state or tribal law.
- Establishing automated interfaces between the record repository and prosecutors, courts, and corrections agencies (i.e., detention, prison, jail, and community supervision), including the development of relevant information exchange package documentation based on the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM).
- Capturing data on persons convicted of abusing children, elderly persons, or disabled persons; or stalking or domestic violence offenses (including protection orders and related violations).
- Submitting disposition information to the FBI via the III Message Key, Machine Readable Data process, or other methods of transmission accepted by the FBI.
- Reducing any backlog of missing court dispositions, provided that the dispositions are made available for criminal history inquiries at the state and national levels.
- Implementing the standardized RAP (record of arrest and prosecution) sheet format, which relies on NIEM, and assisting states in converting criminal history records to the standard interstate RAP sheet format or developing related electronic interchange capabilities.
- Establishing more effective controls over the accuracy and quality of information, including data analysis capabilities.
- Upgrading equipment to directly improve the availability of data where appropriate, given the level of data completeness and participation in national record systems. (The ongoing or maintenance costs associated with any such equipment are allowable only during the initial 12-month period.)
- Purchasing livescan equipment for local agencies (1) where the funds can be justified on the basis of geographic, population, traffic, or related factors, and (2) when the jurisdiction has established an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and either has implemented or is implementing procedures to ensure that the AFIS is compatible with FBI Next Generation Identification (NGI) standards. (The ongoing or maintenance costs associated with any such equipment are allowable only during the initial 12-month period.)

Ensuring compatibility with federal record systems, such as III, and implementing integrated system strategies that interface all components of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement,

prosecutors, courts, and corrections, to the extent that such expenditures improve the availability of criminal record data, at the national level. Any systems funded must be compatible with FBI standards for national data systems, such as NIBRS, NCIC, NICS, and NGI. However, NCHIP funds may not be used to support studies, analysis, design, or development of integrated system strategies. <u>Funds should not be used to primarily improve law enforcement investigative capabilities associated with NGI participation</u> (e.g., latent workstations, palm-print capture, facial recognition, and DNA capture).

- b. Improving access to information (including juvenile record information (under 18 U.S.C. 922 (g) or (n)), unless prohibited under state or tribal law) concerning persons prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm for mental health reasons and transmitting relevant records to NICS.

 Allowable costs may include activities such as—
 - Identifying and developing access to data on persons prohibited from firearm purchases under the Gun Control Act (18 U.S.C. § 922), as amended by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (P.L. 127–159).
 - Participating in the FBI's Identification for Firearms Sales program, which is a system for flagging III records for the immediate and accurate identification of convicted felons.
 - Enabling the state to serve as a point of contact (POC) under the NICS system (including related costs of
 equipment, software, personnel training, and development and implementation of related operating and
 administrative procedures). However, funds may not be used to cover ongoing costs of presale firearm
 background checks but may be used for costs associated with capturing dispositions in response to a
 specific NICS inquiry, provided that the captured data are entered into the automated state and FBI
 systems, thus serving to upgrade the permanent quality of the record systems.
 - Instituting programming or operational changes in records management necessary to comply with the requirements for NICS record keeping and for reporting the status of transactions.
 - Establishing electronic interfaces or information exchanges between criminal history records, sex offender
 registries, and civil protection order files to ensure that, consistent with state law, a complete data review is
 possible in connection with background checks for childcare or other authorized purposes. Funds may be
 used to develop software to establish protocols to permit interfaces between the criminal history record
 system, the state sex offender registry, and related protection order files (POF), including files of civil
 protection orders.
- c. Supporting efforts to seal and expunge criminal history information in accordance with state or tribal laws and policies.

Allowable costs may include activities such as—

- implementing or upgrading systems to automate processes for sealing and expunging criminal history information. (Note: States that have ratified or signed on to the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact (34 USC 40316) and wish to use these funds to automate processes for the sealing of records must ensure that such sealing occurs pursuant to a court order related to a particular subject or pursuant to a Federal or State statute that requires action on a sealing petition filed by a particular record subject.)
- paying reasonable costs to reduce or eliminate backlogs in processing expungements.
- 2. Supporting participation in the III and the National Fingerprint File (NFF), including adoption and implementation of the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact

Allowable costs may include activities such as-

- Paying reasonable costs associated with the adoption and implementation of the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact (Compact), including costs associated with state review and enactment of the Compact, and the development and implementation of procedures (including purchase of equipment and development of software) necessary to facilitate operations pursuant to Compact protocols, including those relating to participation in the FBI's NFF:
 - · automating criminal record databases
 - synchronizing records between the state and the FBI
 - developing software and hardware necessary to enable electronic access to state records on an intrastate or interstate basis.

The Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables are directly related to the performance measures that show the completed work's results, as discussed in the "Application and Submission Information" section.

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, see the OJP Grant 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 and applicable documentation to be included in the application, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide section entitled "Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities."

Federal Award Information

Solicitation Categories

This solicitation does not include Solicitation Categories.

Awards, Amounts and Durations

Period of Performance Start Date 5/1/23

Period of Performance Duration (Months) 24

Anticipated Total Amount to be Awarded Under Solicitation

\$80,000,000.00

Additional Information

BJS is unable to estimate the number of awards it will make or the maximum amount it will award per jurisdiction. The number and amount of awards depend on the extent to which the proposed projects address the program priority areas, demonstrated level of need, number of fundable applications, and amount of available funding. In FY 2022, BJS made 33 awards totaling approximately \$58.8 million under NCHIP. Projects may start as early as May 1, 2023, to as late as October 1, 2023.

Continuation Funding Intent

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

Availability of Funds

This solicitation, and awards under this solicitation, are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications 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

BJS expects to make awards under this solicitation as cooperative agreements, which provide for OJP to have substantial involvement in carrying out award activities. See the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section of the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

Financial Management and System 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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

Budget Information

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

This solicitation does not require a match.

Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on pre-agreement costs (also known as pre-award costs).

Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation: Waiver

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on the Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver.

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

See the <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u> for information on Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs.

Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on Costs Associated with Language Assistance.

Eligibility Information

For eligibility information, see the solicitation cover page.

For information on cost sharing or match requirements, see the "Federal Award Information" section.

For the purposes of this solicitation, "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.

Notice regarding law enforcement agencies: State, local, and university or college law enforcement agencies must be certified by an approved independent credentialing body or have started the certification process to be eligible for FY 2023 DOJ discretionary grant funding. To become certified, the law enforcement agency must meet two mandatory conditions: (1) the agency's use-of-force policies adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, and (2) the agency's use-of-force policies prohibit chokeholds except in situations where use of deadly force is allowed by law. The certification requirement also applies to law enforcement agencies receiving DOJ discretionary grant funding through a subaward. For detailed information on this certification requirement, please visit https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO to access the Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Safe Communities, the Implementation Fact Sheet, and the List of Designated Independent Credentialing Bodies.

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

Application and Submission Information

Content of Application Submission

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:

- Proposal Abstract
- · Proposal Narrative
- Budget Web-Based Form (The web-based form includes the budget details and the budget narrative.

If OJP determines that an application does not include these elements, it will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive further consideration.

Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (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 OJP Grant 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 solicitation ("funding opportunity") is subject to <u>Executive Order (E.O.) 12372.</u>. An applicant may find the names and addresses of State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) at the following website: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SPOC-4-13-20.pdf. If the applicant's State appears on the SPOC list, the applicant must contact its SPOC to find out about, and comply with, the State's process under E.O. 12372. On the SF-424, an applicant whose State appears on the SPOC list is to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19, once the applicant has complied with its State E.O. 12372 process. An applicant whose State does not appear on the SPOC list should answer question 19 by selecting "Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review."

Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency 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 Organization 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 its purpose, primary activities, expected outcomes, the service area, intended beneficiaries, and subrecipients (if known) — 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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for an example of a proposal abstract.

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 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, BJS may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decision.

The Proposal Narrative must include the following sections:

a. Description of the Issue OR Statement of the Problem if research is involved

Accomplishments and progress on record improvement goals. Applicants must summarize the major accomplishments achieved with funding under NCHIP, if applicable. This section should describe, in quantifiable terms if possible, results achieved and advances made in the last decade of NCHIP funding (2011–2021). Where relevant, reference surveys and data quality audits. This section should also include any evaluative efforts undertaken to identify the key areas of weakness in the state's criminal record system since submission of previous NCHIP applications. **Tribal applicants should discuss progress related to record automation and improvement funded by other federal sources that are applicable to the above areas**.

For applicants that have not historically received NCHIP funding, please discuss the current gaps in record reporting and challenges to reporting records.

<u>Current status in specific subject areas</u>. Describe the status of the applicant's participation in each of the following subject areas in your application and include the current number of records in each system where applicable:

Dispositions available to III (including felonies, and misdemeanor convictions of domestic violence, and relevant juvenile records). All applicants should discuss the percentage of state records with final dispositions or case outcomes linked to arrests and available at the time of a firearm background check. Applicants should provide information on efforts to improve reporting and availability at the national level. The application should also discuss the extent to which dispositions requested in connection with a NICS inquiry have not been provided within the required time frame and must identify any problems that are delaying instant responses to NICS inquiries and identify proposed solutions to these problems.

Applicants should provide the number and percentage of arrests (felonies and misdemeanors) available in the state criminal history repository that are missing final dispositions.

Applicants should report the percentage of arrests (felonies and misdemeanors,) missing final dispositions accessible to III.

NICS Indices and mental health record availability. All applications should discuss the extent to which the applicant provides information to the FBI's NICS Indices (including reporting of juvenile record information, state law permitting). Applicants that do not submit information to this file should describe the prohibiting factors, aside from state law, and any plans to overcome them. Additionally, all applicants should indicate whether mental health records are checked, either by the state POC or the FBI, during a NICS check. Where mental health records are accessible, include the number of records currently available and any plans to improve availability. If mental health records are not currently accessible at the time of a background check, describe factors that limit or prohibit exchange of mental health records. States that are not currently eligible for funding under NARIP should discuss plans, if any, to establish a relief from disabilities program and progress toward NARIP eligibility. If a state has no immediate plans to pursue development of a relief program, include a statement outlining the reasons for not pursuing one.

Applicants should provide the current number of submissions, by prohibitor, in the NICS Indices. Counts for the following prohibitors should be addressed in the application:

- · Felony conviction
- · Active felony indictment/information
- · Fugitive from justice
- · Controlled substance
- · Protection/restraining order
- MCDV
- State prohibitor

Protection order file. All applicants should indicate whether they submit information for inclusion in the

FBI's NCIC POF. Applicants that submit protection orders should indicate the number of active protection orders provided to the FBI. Applicants that do not submit all active protection orders to NCIC should describe the prohibiting factors and any plans to overcome them.

Applicants should provide the current number of records in the NCIC protection order file and a description of any known gaps in reporting.

Warrants/wanted person records. All applicants should indicate whether they submit records for inclusion in the FBI's NCIC Wanted Persons file. Applicants that submit such records should indicate the number provided to the FBI for the last full calendar year. Applicants that do not submit such records (or do not submit all qualifying records that are maintained at the state, tribal, or local level) should describe the prohibiting factors and any plans to overcome them.

Applicants should provide the current number of active warrants in the NCIC Wanted Persons File and a description of any known gaps in reporting.

b. Project Design and Implementation

Describe the activities proposed for funding and <u>specifically address</u> how to improve the quality and completeness of criminal history and related records at the state and national level."

Note that—

Dollar amounts should be included for each funded task.

Applicants should provide quantitative measures to assess or describe the impact each project will have on the quality, completeness, and availability of records at the national level.

Applicants should submit a detailed project period timeline covering all proposed activities.

c. Capabilities and Competencies

To encourage coordination and information-sharing among criminal justice systems, all OJP awards that support information technology development are subject to a special condition requiring that a description of the project be submitted to the state information technology POC, if one has been designated. A copy of the correspondence can be submitted as part of Additional Attachments or sent directly to BJS prior to fund drawdown.

There is no requirement that the POC agree with the information technology project. The intent of this condition is to facilitate communication within the state.

Recipients of funds under this solicitation should seek to ensure that any funded activities will be coordinated with related activities supported with OJP funding, including awards under OJP's Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Drug Court Program, or the Mentally III Offender Act Program. Of particular interest are awards under these programs that may involve reportable records that can be shared with state and national record systems. To the extent feasible under state law and regulations, such records should be made available to the state criminal history record repository and federal files managed by the FBI, including III, NCIC, and the NICS Indices.

Tribal applicants should provide documentation that activities proposed for funding will be coordinated with a tribal consortia, with the state, or directly with the FBI.

<u>Unexpended funds</u>. The application should describe the specific reasons that previously awarded NCHIP funds remain unexpended (if applicable) and include the current unexpended balance.

<u>Compatibility with other systems</u>. The application should describe the extent to which proposed activities are compatible with NIBRS, NCIC, NICS, NGI, and other applicable statewide or regional criminal justice information sharing standards or plans, including state anti-terrorism.

d. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures

Performance measures for this solicitation are listed in the Performance Measures Table.

Note: An applicant is **not** required to submit performance data with the application. Rather, performance measure information is included as a notification that award recipients will be required to submit performance data as part of each award's reporting requirements. Some measures are presented as examples, while others are the exact measures that every recipient will be expected to address.

OJP will require each award recipient to submit regular performance data that show the completed work's results. The performance data directly relate to the goals, objectives, and deliverables identified in the "Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables" discussion.

Applicants can visit OJP's performance measurement page at www.ojp.gov/performance for an overview of performance measurement activities at OJP.

BJS will require award recipients to submit performance measure data and performance reports in JustGrants. BJS will provide further guidance on the post-award submission process, if the applicant is selected for award.

Note on Project Evaluations

An applicant that proposes to use award funds through this solicitation to conduct project evaluations must follow the guidance in the "Note on Project Evaluations" section in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Goal, Objective and Deliverables

The applicant will submit the project's goals, objectives, deliverables and timeline in the JustGrants web-based form. The projected fiscal year and quarter the objectives and deliverables will be completed is also entered into the form. 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 previous section and outline the project's goals.

Program Objectives

The applicant should explain how the program will accomplish its goals. Objectives are specific, quantifiable statements of the project's desired results. They should be measurable and clearly linked to the goal.

Deliverables

Project deliverables refer to outputs—tangible or intangible—that are submitted within the scope of a project.

Budget and Associated Documentation

In addition to the required web-based budget, please attach a separate budget detail and narrative to the application.

Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)

The applicant will complete the JustGrants web-based budget form. For additional information, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide and the Complete the Application in JustGrants – Budget training.

Pre-agreement Costs

See the section on Costs Requiring Prior Approval in the <u>DOJ Grants Financial Guide Post Award Requirements</u> for more information.

Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

If applicable, the applicant will upload their indirect cost rate agreement as an attachment in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for more information on indirect costs.

Consultant Rate

See the <u>DOJ Grants Financial Guide</u> for information on the consultant rates which require prior approval from OJP.

Employee Compensation Waiver

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on the Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards over \$250,000; Waiver.

Financial Management Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)

The applicant will download the questionnaire, complete it, and upload it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for the link to the questionnaire and additional information.

Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation

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

Additional Application Components

The following documents should be submitted as separate attachments:

- · complete project timeline outlining each activity, completion time, and responsible party
- letter to the state information technology POC describing the current application request, as referenced above

The applicant will attach the additional requested documentation in JustGrants.

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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on tribal authorizing resolutions.

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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Disclosure and Assurances

The applicant will address the following disclosures and assurances.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Complete and submit the SF-LLL in Grants.gov. Once the applicant submits in Grants.gov, this information will

pre-pend into JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

DOJ Certified Standard Assurances

Review and accept the DOJ Certified Standard Assurances in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items

Complete the JustGrants web-based Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items form. See the OJP Grant 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 the DOJ Certified Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Law Enforcement and Community Policing. See the OJP Grant 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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

How to Apply

Registration: Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management (SAM). You must renew and validate your registration every 12 months. If you do not renew your SAM registration, it will expire. An expired registration can delay or prevent application submission in Grants.gov and JustGrants. Registration and renewal can take up to 10 business days to complete.

<u>Submission</u>: Applications must be submitted to DOJ electronically through a two-step process via Grants.gov and JustGrants.

Step 1: After registering with SAM, the applicant must submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html by the Grants.gov deadline. Submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL as early as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the Grants.gov deadline. If an applicant fails to submit in Grants.gov, they will be unable to apply in JustGrants.

Step 2: The applicant must then submit the **full application**, including attachments, in JustGrants at <u>JustGrants.usdoj.gov</u> by the JustGrants deadline.

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 DIAMD-NoReply@usdoj.gov with instructions on how to create a JustGrants account. Register the Entity Administrator and the Application Submitter with JustGrants as early as possible but no later than 48-72 hours before the JustGrants deadline. Once registered in JustGrants, the Application Submitter will receive an emailed link to complete the rest of the application in JustGrants. The Entity Administrator also will need to log into JustGrants to review and invite the applicant's Authorized Representative(s) before an application can be submitted.

Submit the complete application package in JustGrants at least 24 – 48 hours prior to the JustGrants deadline. Some of the application components will be entered directly into JustGrants, and others will require uploading attached documents. Therefore, applicants will need to allow ample time before the JustGrants deadline to prepare each component. Applicants may save their progress in the system and revise the application as needed prior to hitting the Submit button at the end of the application in JustGrants.

For additional information, see the "How to Apply" section in the OJP Grant 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 8:59 PM Eastern Time, February 21, 2024.

The full application must be submitted in JustGrants by 8:59 PM Eastern Time, February 28, 2024.

OJP urges applicants to submit their Grants.gov and JustGrants submissions prior to the due dates with sufficient time to correct any errors and resubmit by the submission deadlines if a rejection notification is received. 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 process in sufficient time (i.e., waiting until the date identified in this solicitation) is not an acceptable reason for late submission.

Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues Preventing Submission of an Application

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 application submission.

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 a tracking number 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 applicants are encouraged to email the appropriate service desk, even if they also intend to call the service desk for phone support. Experiencing wait times for phone support does 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 <u>SAM Help Desk (Federal Service Desk)</u>, Monday Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET at 866-606-8220.
- Grants.gov contact the <u>Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline</u>, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays, at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, or <u>support@grants.gov</u>.
- JustGrants contact the JustGrants Service Desk at <u>JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</u> or 833-872-5175, Monday - Friday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET and Saturday, Sunday, and Federal holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 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 theOJP Response Center at grants@ncjrs.gov within **24 hours of the Grants.gov** deadline to request approval to submit after the deadline.

Waiver requests sent to the OJP Response Center must—

- · describe the technical difficulties experienced
- 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)
- 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 who does not provide documentation of a technical issue or who 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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide

Application Review Information

Review Criteria

Merit Review Criteria

In making decisions to award funds under this program, BJS will determine whether the application meets program objectives and requirements. The amount of the award will be based on the strength of the justification for what the applicant it is seeking to do and accomplish during the award period. Applications that meet the basic minimum requirements will be evaluated on how the proposed project/program addresses the following criteria:

1. Statement of the Problem/Description of the Issue (25%) - evaluate the applicant's understanding of the program/issue to be addressed.

The extent to which the application—

- Includes a concise and well-organized description of progress and accomplishments of criminal history systems improvement.
- Proposes to directly address one or more of the priorities as identified in the solicitation.
- Addresses needs and identifies quantifiable measures to demonstrate how the funds will improve the quality, completeness, and accessibility of records at the national level, particularly with regard to NICS
- 2. Project Design and Implementation (30%)- evaluate the adequacy of the proposal, including the goals, objectives, timelines, milestones, and deliverables.
 - The proposed activities will result in the increased availability of records to systems queried by NICS, including through federal and state criminal history records, NCIC, and NICS Indices.
 - The application includes dollar amounts for each proposed project.
 - The application includes a detailed project period timeline covering all the proposed projects to demonstrate the technical feasibility of the proposed task(s) and details the specific implementation plan to achieve the intended deliverables.
- 3. Capabilities and Competencies (25%) evaluate the applicant's administrative and technical capacity to successfully accomplish the goals and objectives.
 - Evidence of applicant's progress in record quality improvement efforts as demonstrated by making
 relevant records available for national background checks and the reported number of records currently
 available in the national files.
 - The applicant's commitment to the national record system, as evidenced by membership in III and participation in the FBI's NFF, and the current status of development in the applicant's criminal records.
- 4. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (5%) evaluate the applicant's understanding of the performance data reporting requirements and the plan for collecting the required data.
 - · An expressed commitment to supply key performance measures for the award period.
 - The sufficiency of the plan for collecting and reporting these performance measures.
- 5. Budget (15%) evaluate for completeness, cost effectiveness, and allowability (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

Budget narratives should demonstrate generally how applicants will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget narratives should demonstrate cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the goals of the project, including—

 The reasonableness of the budget, including the basis of the estimates, nature of the proposed expenditures, and their relation to the priorities identified herein.

Other Review Criteria/Factors

Other important considerations for BJS include geographic diversity, 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.

Review Process

Applications submitted under this solicitation that meet the basic minimum requirements will be evaluated for technical merit by using the review criteria listed above. BJS reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, achievable, and consistent with the solicitation. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on the application review process for this solicitation.

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 common requirements applicable to all OJP solicitations:

- The application must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- The application must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- The application must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- The application must include all items necessary to meet the basic minimum requirements.

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 entity. 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 entity is listed in SAM 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 entity that appears in the non-public segment of the integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (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 entity.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, who may consider not only peer review ratings and 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 30th. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on award notifications and instructions.

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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Information Technology (IT) Security Clauses

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of information related to information technology security. See the OJP Grant 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 typically 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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measure data.

Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

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

Other Information

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

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a).

Provide Feedback to OJP

See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on how to provide feedback to OJP.

Performance Measures

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Data Recipient Provides
Improve criminal history record systems in the U.S. states and territories to support background checks for the purposes of identifying ineligible firearm	Percentage of state or tribal records that are automated.	Number of criminal history records, manual and automated, in the state's or tribe's criminal history file.
purchases and persons ineligible to hold positions involving children, the elderly, or the disabled.		Number of fully automated records (records for which the master name index and entire criminal history are automated) in the state's or tribe's criminal history database.
		Number of records available through the III system (including arrests linked to case outcomes).
	Percentage of records accessible through the III.	Number of arrests reported to the repository by mail, fax, electronic, and other means of submission; the number of these communicated by automated interface.
	Number of states and tribes submitting records to the FBI	Number of court dispositions reported to the repository by mail, fax, electronic, and other means of submission.
	NICS Indices.	Number of records submitted by states and tribes in the FBI NICS Indices.
Ensure the development of the infrastructure connects each state's and tribe's record systems to national records and to connect each state's background check databases to other states.	Number of states and tribes participating in the FBI's NGI fingerprint capture.	Number of 10-print records submitted to the FBI's NGI.
	Number of states and tribes participating in the FBI's POF.	Number of active records submitted by states and tribes to the FBI's POF.
	Number of states and tribes participating in the FBI's Wanted Persons File.	Number of active records submitted by states and tribes to the FBI's Wanted Persons File.

Application Checklist

FY 2023 National Criminal History Improvement Program Supplemental Funding

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:

• Acquire or renew your Entity's <u>System Award Management (SAM) Registration Information</u> (see <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u>)

Register in Grants.gov

- Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password (see <u>OJP Grant Application Resource Guide</u>)
- Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) (see OJP Grant 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 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Sign up for Grants.gov email notifications (optional) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Read Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov
- Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at
 https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedoj/iii-postaward-requirements#6g3y8 (see OJP Grant 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 2022 Awards" in the OJP Funding Resource Center.

Review the Scope Requirement

The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s)

Review Eligibility Requirement:

Review the Eligibility section on the cover page and Eligibility Information section in the solicitation.

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# Application Step 1

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
- Submit Intergovernmental Review (if applicable)

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 Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, <u>Grants.gov customer support</u>, or <u>support@grants.gov</u> regarding technical difficulties (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

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** 

- Standard Applicant information (SF-424 information from Grants.gov)
- Proposal Abstract\*
- Proposal Narrative\*

**Budget and Associated Documentation** 

- Budget Web-Based form\*
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Disclosure of Process related to Executive Compensation (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

Additional Application Components

- Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide
- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable) (see <u>OJP Grant Application</u> <u>Resource Guide</u>)
- Timeline

Disclosures and Assurances

- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurances (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (see <a href="OJP Grant Application">OJP Grant Application</a> Resource Guide)
- Applicant Disclosure and Justification DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable) (see <u>OJP Grant Application</u> <u>Resource Guide</u>)

\*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 following elements, 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 <u>Application Submission Validation Errors Quick Reference Guide</u> 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 <a href="JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov">JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov</a> regarding technical difficulties. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

#### Standard Solicitation Resources

OJP Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding.

<u>DOJ Grants Financial Guide</u> 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.

<u>JustGrants Resources Website</u> is an entryway into information about JustGrants and the grants management system itself. Through this portal both award recipients and applicants can access training resource and user support options, find frequently asked questions and sign-up for the <u>JustGrants Update e-newsletter</u>.

<u>JustGrants Application Submission Training Page</u> 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.

<u>Virtual Q&A Sessions</u> are advertised here and provide opportunities for users to receive topic-specific training, direct technical assistance and support on JustGrants system functionality.