Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

FY24 Rural, Small Violent Crime Reduction Solicitation Webinar

April 11, 2024

General

Q: Where can we find guidance on what numbers (total number of sworn) vs. population make you eligible as a small/rural SO?

> **A:** "Small" refers to agency size defined under this initiative, is any law enforcement agency with 250 or fewer sworn officers.
>
> "Rural agency," as defined under this initiative, is (a) an agency serving any area or community, no part of which is within an area designated as a standard metropolitan statistical area by the Office of Management and Budget or (b) any agency serving one or more rural census tracts.

Q: When determining Sworn numbers for our Sheriff's Office, does that only include Sworn Law Enforcement or are Sworn Detention officers included in this total number?

> **A:** You should factor in the total number of sworn law enforcement officers for the entire department; if that includes sworn corrections officers, that will go into the number of sworn officers for your total agency.

Budget

Q: For agencies with much less than 250 officers, for example my agency has 9 sworn. We would not utilize the full $300,000. Are there ways of getting reduced amounts for much smaller agencies?

> **A:** Absolutely. If your agency does not require the full $300,000 grant award ceiling, you can apply for funding you estimate will be needed to accomplish your project goals and activities.

Q: Is there an agency match requirement for this grant?

> **A:** No match is required for this grant program.

Q: Is this grant structured as a reimbursement grant? So, we would spend the money upfront and then receive reimbursement?

> **A:** Organizations should request funds based upon immediate disbursement or reimbursement requirements. Funds will not be paid in a lump sum, but rather disbursed over time as project costs are incurred or anticipated. [(DOJ Grants Financial Guide Section 3.1)](DOJ Grants Financial Guide Section 3.1)

Q: Can the technology go slightly above 30% (it looks like it may be around 37% in our case), and is installation considered tech or would that fall under consulting or another line item?

> **A:** Unfortunately, we are unable to fund tech beyond 30% of the program budget. Please note that any technology purchases should serve as part of a larger comprehensive violent crime reduction strategy.

Q: Can the researcher/subject matter expert be internal to the police department, and can the cost be built into the programmatic budget?

> **A:** Yes, the subject matter expert can be internal to the police department. Yes, you can build the cost into the budget.

Programmatic

Q: Does the focus have to be crime reduction strategies, or can the focus also be violent crime prevention strategies?

> **A:** Yes, efforts can focus on violent crime prevention efforts in addition to violent crime reduction strategies.

Q: If we have been awarded this grant before, can we apply again?

> **A:** Yes. You may apply again; however, you should make sure that you are looking to accomplish new goals and objectives through the subsequent funding.

Q: Is the TTA provider assistance for the entire length of the grant award period to make sure staying on track in the grant reporting?

> **A:** Yes, the TTA providers funded by BJA for this program will work with agencies throughout the life of their grant and can provide support with reporting. BJA staff are also available to assist and support with reporting, too.

Q: Is it acceptable to build in a position specific to the grant (example: a domestic violence detective)?

> **A:** Yes.

Q: Have there been any awards to District Attorney's offices with sworn investigators?

> **A:** Yes.

Q: Does JSS support agencies trying to apply for a grant in getting statistics and whatnot prepared to submit grants?

> **A:** No. However, we recommend NIBRS data for department statistics. It is easy to collect the data since agencies already report it and most violent crimes are reported in this manner.

Resources

Q: Are there templates or examples to see how others who have been successful in being funded under this grant?

> **A:** BJA does share samples of successful applications, located here: https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/successful-applications. None for this program are posted but should be soon.

Q: Where is the census rural tracts areas found?

> **A:** https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html

Q: I have the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide page open - what section is "prohibited & controlled equipment" in?

> **A:** https://www.ojp.gov/funding/explore/prohibited-and-controlled-equipment

Q: Where and how do we get the Violent Crime Reduction Operations Guide?

> **A:** The guide is linked in the solicitation. The VCROG is also located here: https://bja.ojp.gov/library/publications/violent-crime-reduction-operations-guide

Available Resources

- **OJP Grants Process Infographic:** https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-application-submission/onboarding-infographic.pdf
- **OJP Grant Application Resource Guide:** https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide#complete-application
- **JustGrants Weekly Training Webinars**, live sessions with dates continually updated. Look for the "Application Submission" tile to register: https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/weekly-training-webinars
- **DOJ Grants Financial Guide:** https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedoj/overview
- **Post-Award Requirements and Payments:** https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedoj/iii-postaward-requirements#2-0
- **ASAP system training:** https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/resources/asap
- **Prohibited and controlled equipment:** https://www.ojp.gov/funding/explore/prohibited-and-controlled-equipment
- **Current funding opportunities:** https://bja.ojp.gov/funding and https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/current
- **Grant Application Resource Guide:** https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide
- **OJP Response Center Email:** grants@ncjrs.gov or call toll free: 800–851–3420, TTY: 301–240–6310 (hearing impaired only). The Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday.
- **OJP Grants Process:** https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-application-submission/onboarding-infographic.pdf

- **OJP Grant Application Resource Guide:** https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide#complete-application
- **JustGrants Live Application Submission webinars:** https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/application-submission