FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: BJA FY 2024 CONNECT AND PROTECT LAW ENFORCEMENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPONSE PROGRAM (CONNECT & PROTECT)

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024
Presenters

- **Brooke Mount, PhD** – Senior Policy Advisor, BJA
- **NiKisha Love** – State Policy Advisor for JMHCP, BJA
- **Tammy Lovill** – State Policy Advisor for JMHCP, BJA
- **Mark Slater** – State Policy Advisor for JMHCP, BJA
- **Ernest Stevens** – Deputy Division Director, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center
- **Allison Upton, PsyD** – Deputy Program Director, Behavioral Health, CSG Justice Center
Agenda

Welcome and Introduction to OJP and BJA
Program Overview
Eligibility and Application Requirements
Application Resources
Q&A
SECTION 1

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
What is the Office of Justice Programs?

- The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides grant funding, training, research, and statistics to the criminal justice community.

- OJP is one of three grant-making components of the Department of Justice along with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).
**U.S. Department of Justice**
**Bureau of Justice Assistance**

**Mission:** BJA’s mission is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support state, local, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. BJA works with communities, governments, and nonprofit organizations to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system.

Karhlton F. Moore, BJA Director

https://bja.ojp.gov/
How BJA Supports the Field

**Investments**
Provide diverse funding to accomplish goals.

**Sharing Knowledge**
Research, develop, and deliver what works to build capacity and improve outcomes.

**Engagement**
Consult, connect, and convene.
BJA Grant Management
About The CSG Justice Center

The CSG Justice Center is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, serving state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.
How the CSG Justice Center Works

- Brings people together
- Drives the criminal justice field forward with original research
- Builds momentum for policy change
- Provides expert assistance
Poll Question
Has your organization been awarded federal grants in the past?

- Yes, my organization has extensive experience with federal grants.
- Yes, though my organization does not currently have any federal grants.
- My organization has limited experience with federal grants.
- My organization is new to federal grants and looking to learn more!
SECTION 2

CONNECT & PROTECT PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Program Description Overview

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is seeking applications for funding.

OJP is committed to advancing work that:
Program Description Overview (cont.)

With this solicitation, BJA seeks applications for the Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program (Connect & Protect).

BJA provides grant funding to help entities prepare, create, or expand comprehensive plans and then implement these collaborative projects to target people who qualify.

This program supports law enforcement–behavioral health cross-system collaboration to improve public health and public safety by improving responses to and outcomes for individuals with mental health disorders (MHDs) or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (MHSUDs).

This program furthers the DOJ’s mission to uphold the rule of law, to keep our country safe, and to protect civil rights.
## Connect & Protect Federal Award Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Anticipated Number of Awards:</strong></th>
<th>19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount per Award:</strong></td>
<td>$550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Period of Performance Start Date:</strong></td>
<td>October 1, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Period of Performance Duration (Months):</strong></td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anticipated Total Amount to Be Awarded Under This Solicitation:</strong></td>
<td>$10,450,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Information:** Applicants that are planning a program for shorter than 36 months must indicate the period of performance in the abstract with a corresponding budget.
Specific Information

The program is designed to support law enforcement and behavioral health collaboration to improve public health and public safety responses to and outcomes for individuals with mental health disorders (MHDs) or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (MHSUDs) who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

BJA is seeking applicants to develop new or enhance an existing law enforcement-behavioral health response.

For the purposes of this solicitation, the definition of someone with MHD includes individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
Specific Information (cont.)

The Connect and Protect Program is under the umbrella of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP).

Per the authorizing statute, JMHCP requires a two-phase process consisting of planning and then implementation activities.

Applicants must submit one application that proposes detailed activities for both a planning phase and an implementation phase.

To learn more about building comprehensive response systems, see: Police–Mental Health Collaborations: A Framework for Implementing Effective Law Enforcement Responses for People Who Have Mental Health Needs
Goal

The goal of the Connect and Protect Program is to improve law enforcement and mental health collaboration in order to improve responses to and outcomes for individuals with MHDs, co-occurring MHSUDs, and intellectual and developmental disabilities who come into contact with law enforcement.
Objectives

The Connect and Protect Program offers grants to eligible entities to plan, implement, or expand comprehensive collaborative response initiatives that target preliminarily qualified individuals with MHDs or MHSUDs and promote improved public health and public safety.

BJA will make site-based awards for grantees to pursue the following objectives:

- Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) or Co-Responder Teams
- Law Enforcement-Based Case Management Services
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)
- Mobile Crisis Teams
- Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment Teams
- EMS and Ambulance-Based Responses
- Community Responder Programs

Design and implement a crisis response program based on current best practice to assist law enforcement officers to improve encounters with individuals who have Mental Health Disorders (MHDs) or Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders (MHSUDs).
BJA will make site-based awards for grantees to pursue the following objectives:

- Plan and deliver a crisis response program.
- Enhance officer knowledge and skills in responding to community members with MHDs or co-occurring MHSUDs.
- Staff and train qualified staff to design and implement a police-mental health collaboration program (PMHC).
- Engage residents through outreach and education to improve public health and public safety.
- Connect with BJA’s 14 law enforcement-mental health learning sites.
BJA will make site-based awards for grantees to pursue the following objectives:

- Enhance knowledge and capacity to identify and provide veteran-specific services. For additional information, see: Veterans Response Team | VA Wilmington Health Care | Veterans Affairs.
- Plan for multidisciplinary stakeholder teams to support police officers and mental health co-response.
- Increase multi-layered approaches to meet the needs of people in crisis.
- Upgrade use of technology to support the ability to count calls for service.
- Increase public safety and public health agencies’ capacity to develop and sustain the program.
Deliverables Expected by Successful Applicants

**Planning Phase**
- Up to 12 months
- Access to $100,000

**Implementation Phase**
- Completed Planning and Implementation Guide
- Access to remaining funds

**Law Enforcement + Mental Health Partnership**
### Deliverables Expected by Successful Applicants, cont.

1. **Document the approach for implementing or enhancing law enforcement–behavioral health responses to individuals with MHDs or co-occurring MHSUDs who contact law enforcement.**

2. **Collect data on the program’s outcomes, effectiveness, and challenges.**

3. **Conduct an evaluation of the police-mental health collaboration (PMHC) and community satisfaction.**

4. **Develop common metrics and processes for tracking calls.**

5. **Include training and technical assistance and best practice guidance into the "Planning and Implementation Guide."**

6. **Outline and submit a plan at close out to sustain and continue the proposed collaboration program following the conclusion of federal support.**
Priority Areas

Priority 1A

- Meaningfully advance equity and remove barriers to accessing services and opportunities for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, adversely affected by inequality, and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization.
- Examples include improving:
  - Victim services
  - Justice responses
  - Prevention Initiatives
  - Reentry services
Priority Areas (cont.)

Priority 1B

- Applicants that demonstrate their capabilities or competencies for implementing are enhanced because they are a population specific organization that serves communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized or adversely affected by inequality.
- Population specific organizations include:
Programmatic Priority Areas

- Promote effective strategies by law enforcement to identify and reduce the risk of harm and improve public safety.

- Promote effective strategies for identification and treatment of women with MHDs or co-occurring MHSUDs who have been incarcerated.

- Propose interventions that have been shown to reduce recidivism. Use validated assessment tools.
Priority Area Consideration

To receive priority consideration under any of these areas, applicants must identify, in the proposal abstract, each area for which priority consideration is being sought and then describe, in the proposal narrative, how they will address each priority.

Note: Addressing these priority areas is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration for one or more priority areas does not guarantee an award.
Budget and Associated Documentation

Budget $100,000 to utilize during planning phase within 12 months of final approval.

Applicants are required to submit a budget for the entire 36-month program but may revise based on outcomes from the planning phase.

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

- Describe the process for measuring project performance.
- Identify who will collect the data, who is responsible for performance measurements, and how the information will be used to guide and evaluate the project’s impact.
- Describe the process to accurately report data.
Note on Data Collection

Applicants are 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.
I was awarded $550,000 from BJA. How much is the match?

Award Conditions: Match Requirement

Total Federal Award Amount = $550,000. Total years 1 & 2 federal expenditures = $200,000. Year 3 federal expenditures = $350,000

Federal Award Amount = $550,000
Non-Federal Amount (Match) $50,000 (years 1&2) + $233,334 (year 3) = $283,334
Total Project Cost (Federal + Match) = $833,334
Match Waiver

The grant-making component will waive any requirement for matching funds (including in-kind) under $200,000 for all awards made to American Samoa, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands unless otherwise required by law to be provided; and may waive any requirement for matching funds equal to or over $200,000 for all awards made to those territories, or to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The $200,000 amount is determined on a grant-by-grant basis, not by the aggregate total of all matching requirements applicable to an insular area (48 U.S.C. § 1469a [PDF - 116 K]).
SECTION 3

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
Eligibility

State governments, special district governments, city or township governments, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, county governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

Agencies with a different legal status (e.g., nonprofit or for-profit mental health agencies) must be designated by state mental health authority to provide services as a unit of state/local government
Application Information

- Proposal Abstract
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (web based)
- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424 & SF-LLL)
- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire
- Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)

Please refer to the Application Submission Job Aid for step-by-step directions.
Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Other Supportive Documents (if applicable)

For applications submitted from two or more entities, applicants are encouraged to develop and submit signed MOUs or signed letters of intent that provide a detailed description of how the agencies will work together to meet project requirements.

Each MOU or letter of intent should include the following:

1. Names of the organizations involved in the agreement.
2. What service(s) and other work will be performed under the agreement by what organization.
3. Duration of the agreement.
Applications that meet the basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers on:

- Description of the Issue (15%)
- Project Design and Implementation (40%)
- Capabilities and Competencies (30%)
- Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation’s Performance Measures (5%)
- Budget (10%)
How to Apply

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

OJP recommends that applicants submit the complete application package in JustGrants at least 48 hours prior to the JustGrants deadline.

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.
Submission Dates and Time

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.
SECTION 4

APPLICATION RESOURCES
OJP Grant Application Resource Guide

SA.gov Entity Validation Update

SAM.gov Entity Validation Update

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Grant Application Resource Guide ("Guide") provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding. It addresses a variety of policies, statutes, and regulations that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP program applicants, or to grants and cooperative agreements awarded in fiscal year (FY) 2023. Some OJP programs may have program solicitations that expressly modify a provision of this Guide; in such cases, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in the solicitation as to any such expressly modified provision.

https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide
Learn About the Department of Justice’s Grants and Payment Management Systems

The Justice Grants System (JustGrants) is the Department of Justice’s grants management system for the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

The JustGrants Resources website is an entryway into information about JustGrants and the system itself. Through this portal, both award recipients and applicants can access training resources and user support options; find answers to frequently asked questions; and sign up for the JustGrants Update newsletter.

Use’s can also log into JustGrants through the site.

News Flash

Feb 21: Register Now! March Dates Added for Virtual Q&A Sessions

Aug 10: Review New and Updated JustGrants FAQs

https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/
Application Assistance

Grants.gov

• Provides technical assistance with submitting the SF-424 and SF-LLL.
  o Customer Support Hotline
    ▪ 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035
    ▪ Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.
  o Web and Email
    ▪ [https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html)
    ▪ support@grants.gov

• Provides information on available federal funding opportunities for various federal agencies.

JustGrants Technical Assistance

Provides technical assistance with submitting the full application in DOJ’s Justice Grants System (JustGrants).

• Customer Support Hotline:
  o 833-872-5175
  o Monday–Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. ET
  o Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

• Web and Email
  o [https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/user-support](https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/user-support)
  o JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov
Email Updates
Text OJP [your email address] to 468-311 to subscribe.
(Message and data rates may apply.)

https://www.ojp.gov/subscribe
Stay Connected!

- **Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)
- **X:** [https://x.com/DOJBJA](https://x.com/DOJBJA)
- **YouTube:** [https://www.youtube.com/dojbja](https://www.youtube.com/dojbja)
- Use the QR code to subscribe to “Justice Matters” and “News From BJA” to receive the latest information from BJA and the field.
- For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit BJA’s [website: www.bja.ojp.gov](http://www.bja.ojp.gov).
Contact the OJP Response Center:

- Email: grants@ncjrs.gov
- 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.
Reminder: Dual Deadlines

Applications must be submitted in a two-step process, each with its own deadline:

- **Step 1:** Submit an SF-424 and an SF-LLL at [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov).
- **Step 2:** Submit the full application, with attachments, at [JusticeGrants.usdoj.gov](https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov).

**NOTE:** Submission deadline times for both Grants.gov and JustGrants are now 8:59 p.m. ET, not 11:59 p.m. ET as in past years.

Read the solicitation carefully for further guidance.
Quick Reference: Important Contacts

For technical assistance submitting the SF-424 and SF-LLL into Grants.gov, call: 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035, 24 hours a day, or email: support@grants.gov.

For technical assistance submitting the full application into JustGrants, call: 833-872-5175, 7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. ET, M–F, and 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET, weekends and holidays, or email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov.

For technical assistance with the programmatic requirements, call the OJP Response Center: 800-851-3420, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET, M–F, or email: grants@ncjrs.gov.
SECTION 5

Q&A
Questions?

Enter in the Q&A box and send to All Panelists.