

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: BJA FY 2024 SMART REENTRY – HOUSING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Date June 5, 2024



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Presenters



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Agenda

Welcome and Introduction to OJP and BJA

Program Overview

Eligibility and Application Requirements

Application Resources

Q&A

SECTION 1

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION



BJA
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U.S. Department of Justice

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)**.

BJA – Bureau of Justice Assistance



BJS – Bureau of Justice Statistics



NIJ – National Institute of Justice



OVC – Office for Victims of Crime



OJJDP – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

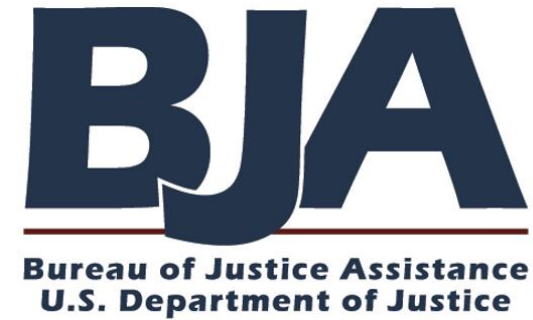


SMART – Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking



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.

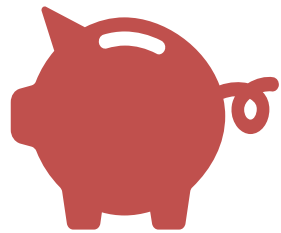


<https://bja.ojp.gov/>



Karhlton F. Moore, BJA Director

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.

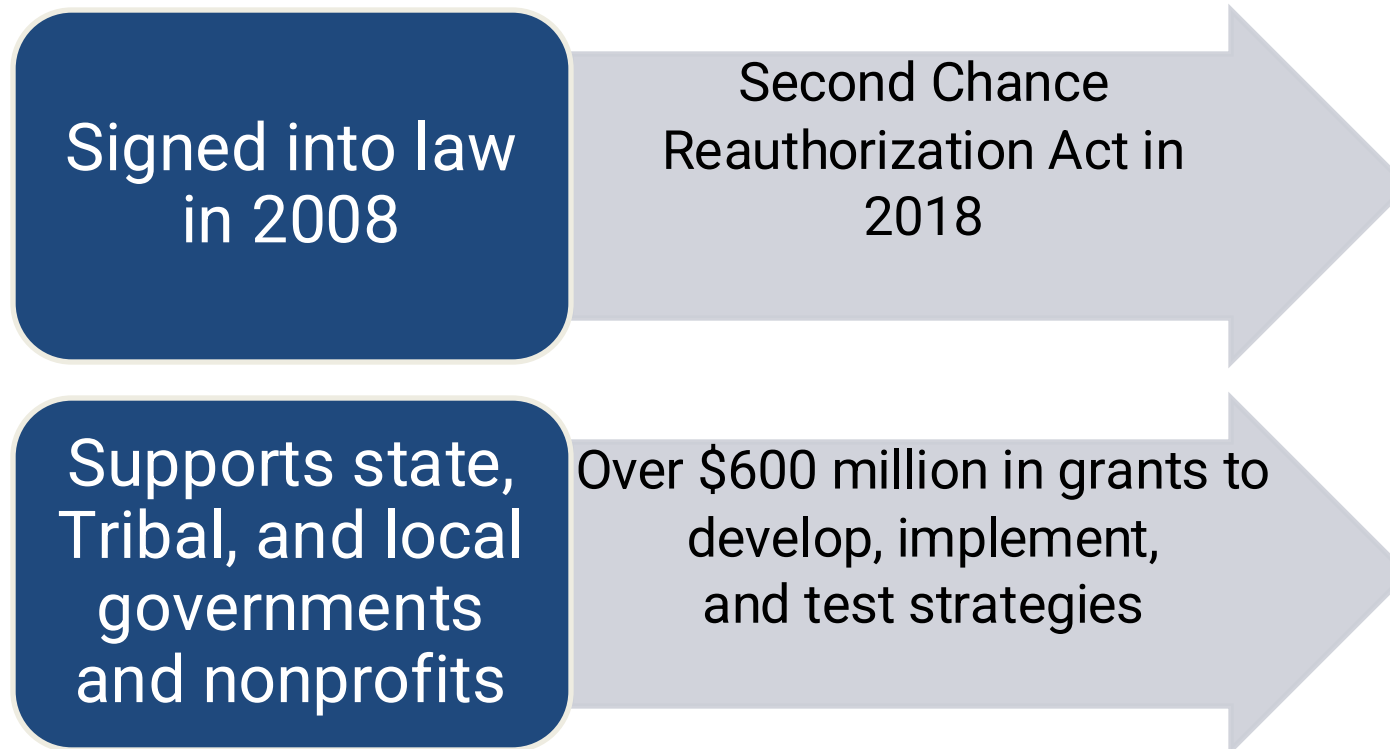


Engagement

Consult, connect, and convene.

The Second Chance Act (SCA)

Funding to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for youth and adults leaving detention and incarceration to return to their communities



Eight SCA Funding Opportunities

**Community-based
Reentry**

**Improving Adult and
Youth Crisis
Stabilization and
Community Reentry**

**Improving Adult
Reentry Education
and Employment
Outcomes**

**Improving Substance
Use Disorder
Treatment and
Recovery Outcomes
for Adults in Reentry**

**Pay for Success
Initiative**

Smart Supervision

**Smart Reentry:
Housing
Demonstration**

**Community Reentry
Incubator**

SCA Solicitations are available at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/current>

BJA's SCA Funding

Grant Funding

Seed money

Proof of concept

Expand or enhance

Training & Technical Assistance (TTA) to Grantees

With fidelity

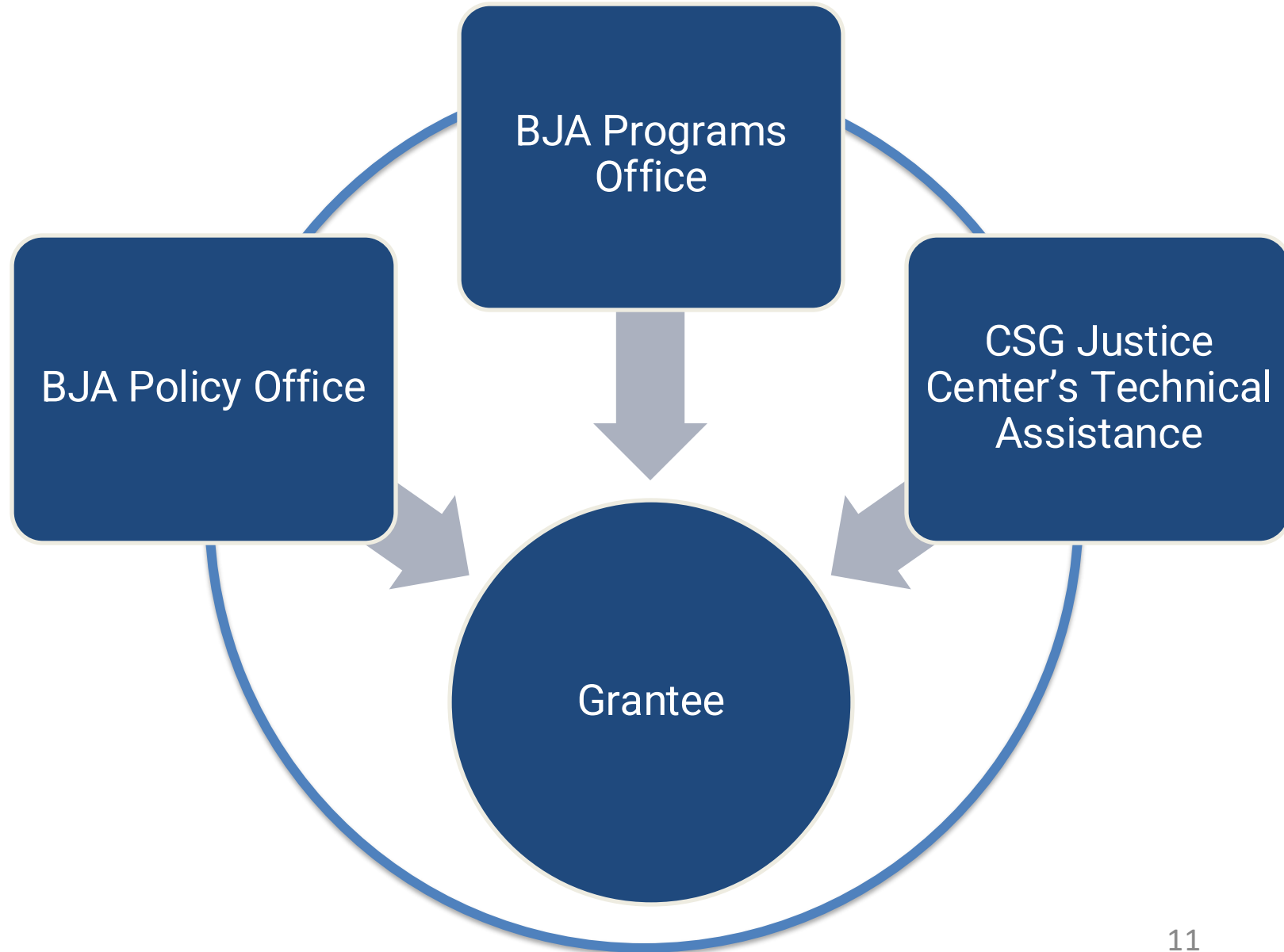
In line with research

With project management and content expertise



National Reentry Resource Center to support SCA TTA providers and the reentry field

BJA Grant Management



The National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC)

The CSG Justice Center operates the NRRC as a collaborative project of BJA and OJJDP.

The primary mission of the NRRC is to advance the knowledge base of the reentry field.

The NRRC serves as a convener and coordinator of SCA grantees.



SECTION 2

SMART REENTRY: HOUSING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM



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FY 2024 Smart Reentry: Housing Funding

Estimated number of awards: Up to 7

Maximum award amount: Up to \$1,000,000

Performance duration: 36 months

Purpose of the SCA Smart Reentry: Housing Demonstration Program

Support state, local, and Tribal governments to enhance or implement evidence-based activities or services to improve reentry and reduce recidivism by expanding and/or increasing access to housing for people who are currently or formerly involved in the criminal justice system. Prior to the release of incarceration, individuals will be screened, assessed, and identified for program participation. The program will help jurisdictions assess their reentry systems, identify strengths and gaps, and then build capacity for improving housing options for adults released from prison or jail.

Smart Reentry: Housing Demonstration Program: Goals

Increase safe, healthy, and affordable housing options for people in reentry **by**

Develop, implement, or test strategies to expand housing options, **including**

Working at the system level

Working at the individual level

Assessing and amending system-level policies and practices

Keeping the experience of the people impacted by the system in clear focus

Objectives

1. **Provide safe and affordable housing** for individuals involved in the criminal justice system.
2. **Provide** an adequate supply of stable short-term and/or permanent housing **services that appropriately meet the needs** of individuals returning from incarceration.
3. **Reduce barriers and promote access** to secure, safe, and stable housing opportunities for individuals involved and/or formerly involved in the criminal justice system.
4. **Provide wraparound services** (e.g., substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, intensive case management, money management, etc.) to individuals involved in or formerly involved in the criminal justice system to ensure continuity of care.

Focus Areas

- ✓ **Applicants may propose evidence-based or innovative reentry housing models.**
 - Stand up new or expand existing models of reentry housing.
 - Propose other projects that remove barriers and increase access to housing options for individuals returning to communities from prison or jail.
- ✓ **All approaches should contemplate access to wraparound services to address common needs of people in reentry** as well as policies and practices that take those needs into account to facilitate successful tenancy for participants.
 - Examples of wraparound services: substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, intensive case management, etc.
- ✓ **This program will promote greater equity in service delivery** by ensuring adults in reentry have access to providers who are culturally competent and accessible in their home communities.

Focus Areas (cont.)

- ✓ **Projects should consider best practices and models that ensure housing stability** for participants in reentry.
 - Example: **The Housing First approach prioritizes stable housing placement without preconditions** such as treatment engagement and completion, employment, case management, and other conditions.
- ✓ **Examples of housing models that may be explored:**
 - **Permanent Supportive Housing:** long-term rental assistance with supportive services.
 - **Rapid Re-Housing:** short- and medium-term rental assistance and supportive services.
 - **Transitional Housing:** temporary housing up to 24 months with supportive services.
- ✓ **Demonstration projects must include services that begin prior to release from incarceration** and continue into participants' return to the community.
 - **Pre-release services may include a reentry housing needs assessment** and the identification of suitable participants for this program.

Allowable Uses of Grant Funds (Examples)

Screening,
Assessment,
and In-Reach

Case Planning
and Case
Management

Housing
Stabilization

Evidence-based
Treatment and
Programming

Cross-System
Planning

Program
Evaluation

Housing
Subsidies

Care
Coordination

Examples of Potential Programs

Permanent supportive housing demonstration program to test and develop the partnerships and system necessary for people returning to their community from a state or local corrections agency

Rapid re-housing that quickly moves people returning from incarceration into housing, connecting them with employment, with services tapering as stability is achieved

Short-term rental assistance or transitional housing coupled with supportive services, acting as a bridge to permanent housing

Examples of Potential Programs

Partnership between state or local corrections agency and a state or local housing agency to align assessment, referral/in-reach, and funding resources for emerging or evidence-based housing interventions for people returning

Partnership between state or local corrections agency and a state or local housing agency to reduce barriers to existing housing options for people returning

SECTION 3

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS



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Eligible Applicants

State governments, city or township governments, county governments, other units of local government, such as towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, or other general purpose political subdivisions of a State, Native American Tribal governments (federally recognized)

Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities

Application Requirements

- Proposal Abstract
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)
- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire
- Mandatory Chief Executive Assurance to Comply with Statutory and Program Requirements

See the grant solicitation for more details.

Proposal Abstract

Include a summary of the purpose of the project, primary activities, expected outcomes, the service area, known intended beneficiaries, and subrecipients.

Write it in the third person for a public audience, as it will be publicly available on the OJP website if the project is awarded.

Proposal Narrative—Things to Note

Description of the issue

- The size and scope of the reentry housing challenges, their relation to recidivism and the target population, and response efforts to date
- A baseline recidivism-reduction goal

Project design and implementation

- Memorandums of understanding/agreements and a description of partnerships with one or more nonprofit, public, private or government funding agencies (e.g., HUD, Medicaid, etc.).
- Description of plan to engage reentry task force with key stakeholders (e.g., local housing authorities, private and government agencies) to explore funding opportunities and lower barriers to housing
- Description of requested priority consideration

Proposal Narrative (cont.)

Capabilities and competencies

Plan for collecting required data on performance measures

Timeline for project goals, objectives, and deliverables

Grantee Deliverables

- *Deliverable 1: Convene or Engage a Task Force*
 - Engage a reentry task force or similar body to examine policies and practices related to housing gaps and needs for the reentry population, and barriers to successful housing placements for formerly incarcerated people.



Grantee Deliverables

- *Deliverable 2: Action Plan*
 - Complete a Planning and Implementation Guide provided by BJA and the TTA provider that addresses gaps and deficits identified in the task force review and defines a reentry program focused on reducing recidivism and increasing housing placements among a target population.



Grantee Deliverables

- *Deliverable 3: Implementation*
 - Implement the proposed project and document outputs, including number of individuals served, in real time. Share progress with BJA-funded TTA provider at routine meetings.



Grantee Deliverables

- *Deliverable 4: Final Report Due at Grant Closeout*
 - Produce an evaluation that tracks recidivism, housing outcomes, and other outcomes to assess the effectiveness of their project. Recidivism measures must include arrest, conviction, and incarceration.



SCA Mandatory Requirements for Smart Reentry

1. A reentry strategic plan that describes the jurisdiction's long-term reentry housing strategy
2. A detailed reentry implementation schedule and sustainability plan for the program
3. The establishment and ongoing engagement of a reentry task force



See the grant solicitation for more details.

SCA Mandatory Requirements for Smart Reentry

4. An independent evaluation of grant activities that includes, to the extent possible, random assignment and controlled studies
5. Evidence of collaboration with state and local government agencies such as housing, homeless services, health, mental health, local law enforcement, etc.



See the grant solicitation for more details.

SCA Mandatory Requirements for Smart Reentry

6. Consideration of the role of state corrections departments, parole and probation agencies, and local jail corrections systems in ensuring successful reentry in their communities. Applications must include letters of support from corrections officials responsible for people who will be served through this program.



See the grant solicitation for more details.

SCA Mandatory Requirements for Smart Reentry

7. Explicit support of the chief executive officer of the applicant unit of government or Indian tribe and how this office will remain informed and connected to the activities of the program
8. Understanding of evidence-based methods and outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the program



See the grant solicitation for more details.

SCA Mandatory Requirements for Smart Reentry

9. Description of how the program or strategy could be scaled up or broadly replicated if demonstrated to be effective
10. A plan to analyze the statutory, regulatory, rules-based, and practice-based hurdles to reentry



See the grant solicitation for more details.

Additional Application Components

- *Letters of Support* - Applicants should include, for each named supporting entity, a signed letter of support that outlines the supporting entity's reasons for supporting for the project
- *Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)* - Applicants should include for each named partner, a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), letter of intent, or subcontract that confirms the partner's agreement to support the project



See the grant solicitation for more details.

Review Criteria

Applications that meet the basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers on:

Statement of the Problem/Description of the Issue (25%)

Project Design and Implementation (35%)

Capabilities and Competencies (15%)

Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (5%)

Budget (5%)

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, Sustainability (15%)

SECTION 4

APPLICATION RESOURCES



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[Home](#) / [Grants/Funding](#) / [Applicant Resources](#)

OJP Grant Application Resource Guide

SAM.gov Entity Validation Update [↗](#)

GSA implemented a new process to validate an entity's legal business name and physical address when requesting a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and for completing a SAM.gov entity registration. Due to a high volume of requests, entity validations are taking longer than expected to process. This validation process is now taking 7-10 business days, and in some cases longer.

OJP strongly recommends starting your SAM.gov registration process as soon as possible to allow the time necessary to process entity validations well in advance of the Grants.gov due date posted in the solicitation. Read [this FAQ](#) for more information.

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.

Contents [↗](#)

- [How To Apply](#)
- [Application Elements and Formatting Instructions](#)
 - [Complete the Application for Federal Assistance\(Standard Form \(SF\)-424\)](#)
 - [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities](#)
 - [Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#)
 - [Proposal Abstract](#)
 - [Budget Preparation and Submission Information](#)
 - [Detailed Computations and Allowable Costs](#)
 - [Narrative Justification for Every Cost](#)
 - [Consolidated Budget Summary](#)
 - [Information on Proposed Subawards \(if any\) and Proposed Procurement Contracts \(if any\)](#)
 - [Indirect Cost Rate Agreement \(if applicable\)](#)
 - [Tribal Authorizing Resolution \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Application Attachments](#)
 - [Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications \(Duplication in Cost Items\)](#)
 - [Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees](#)
 - [Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity](#)
 - [Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation](#)
- [Financial Information](#)
 - [Financial Management and System of Internal Controls](#)
 - [Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire \(including Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status\)](#)
 - [Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement](#)
 - [Pre-agreement Costs \(also known as Pre-award Costs\)](#)
 - [Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver](#)
 - [Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs](#)
 - [Costs Associated with Language Assistance \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Application Review Information](#)
- [Federal Award Administration Information](#)
 - [Federal Award Notices](#)
 - [Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements](#)
 - [Information Technology \(IT\) Security Clauses](#)
 - [General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements](#)
- [Programmatic Information](#)
 - [Evidence-Based Programs or Practices](#)
 - [Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities](#)
 - [Note on Project Evaluations](#)
- [Other Information](#)
 - [Freedom of Information and Privacy Act \(5 U.S.C. § 552 and 5 U.S.C. § 552a\)](#)
 - [Provide Feedback to OJP](#)
 - [To Become an OJP Peer Reviewer](#)



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 JusticeGrants Update e-newsletter](#).

Users can also [log in to 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](#) 



JustGrants Login

Select the access graphic above to log in to the Justice Grants System (JustGrants).



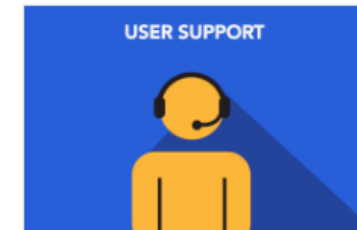
Training

Learn to navigate JustGrants effectively and complete various essential grants management tasks.



FAQs

Find answers to frequently asked questions regarding the Justice Grants System (JustGrants) and the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP).



User Support

Access self-service, topic-specific, and technical support options for assistance in using the JustGrants System.



Resources

Links to resource guides, financial and administrative resources for grant management, funding opportunities, and ASAP training and resources.



News & Updates

View the latest information and updates on DOJ's grants management and payment management systems and sign up for JusticeGrants Updates emails from the COPS Office, OJP, and OVW.

Application Assistance

Grants.gov

- Provides technical assistance with submitting the **SF-424** and **SF-LLL**.
 - **Customer Support Hotline**
 - 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035
 - Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.
 - **Web and Email**
 - <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>
 - support@grants.gov
- Provides information on available federal funding opportunities for various federal agencies.

JustGrants Technical Support

- Provides technical assistance with submitting the full application in DOJ's Justice Grants System (JustGrants).
- **Customer Support Hotline:**
 - 833-872-5175
 - Monday–Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. ET
 - Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET
 - **Web and Email**
 - <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/user-support>
 - JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov

Email Updates
Text OJP [your
email address] to
468-311 to
subscribe.
(Message and data
rates may apply.)



[Home](#)



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 - [JUSTINFO](#), a twice-monthly email newsletter
 - [Funding News](#), a weekly notice of new grant opportunities and application tips
 - [JusticeGrants Update e-newsletter](#) for the latest information and updates on JustGrants, DOJ's grants management system
 - [OJP email newsletters](#) and topical messages available from OJP program offices (BJA, BJS, NIJ, OJJDP, OVC, and SMART)
- Sign up for [U.S. Department of Justice Email Updates](#)

<https://www.ojp.gov/subscribe>

Stay Connected!

- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/DOJBJA>
- **YouTube:** <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.



Additional Questions?

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://www.Grants.gov).
- **Step 2:** Submit the full application, with attachments, at [JusticeGrants.usdoj.gov](https://www.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, 7–9 ET, M–F, and 9–5 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, 10–6 ET, M–F, or **email:** grants@ncjrs.gov.



Questions?

Please contact BJA for more information (see previous "Important Contacts" slide)