BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: FY24 SECOND CHANCE ACT IMPROVING REENTRY EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

July 8, 2024

Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

# Presenters

- **Andre Bethea -** Senior Policy Advisor, Bureau of Justice Assistance
- **Chidi Umez-Rowley -** Deputy Program Director, Corrections & Reentry, The Council of State Governments Justice Center

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction to OJP and BJA
- Program Overview
- TTA Provider
- Eligibility and Application Requirements
- Application Resources

SECTION 1

# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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# 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.

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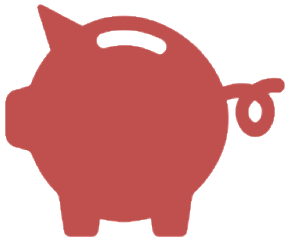
https://bja.ojp.gov/

## 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.

SECTION 2

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

# Purpose of the Improving Adult Education and Employment Outcomes Program

This program supports fair chance opportunities to **improve education and employment outcomes** for individuals currently incarcerated with 2 years or less before release into the community.

**Fair chance opportunities** refer to reentry services and programs designed to **increase access to in-demand jobs and meaningful careers** for justice-impacted people upon and following their release from incarceration.

# FY 2024 Funding Categories

- Category 1: Improving Reentry Education Outcomes
- Category 2: Improving Reentry Employment Outcomes

# FY 2024 Funding

- Estimated number of awards: Up to 10 in Category 1 and up to 12 in Category 2
- Maximum award amount: Up to $900,000
- Performance duration: 36 months

# Program Goal

- Establish and build a **Fair Chance Opportunity reentry service and program** that uses **evidence-based interventions** to **reduce recidivism** and **promote success** and well-being in individuals impacted by incarceration.

# Program Objectives

- ✓ **Implement strategies that will commit to the overall educational or employment success.**
- ✓ **Create a career pathway system or a workforce development network .**

**Note: Category 2 applicants must commit to ensuring public safety by restricting internet access within incarcerated settings as deemed appropriate by the respective correctional agency.**

# Priority Areas

## Category 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.

## Category 1B

- Demonstrate that their capabilities and competencies for implementing their proposed project(s) are enhanced because they (or at least one proposed subrecipient that will receive **at least 40 percent** of the requested award funding) are a *population specific organization* that serves communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, adversely affected by inequality, and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization.

# Priority Areas

## Category 2

- Provide an assessment of local demand for employees in the geographic areas to which incarcerated individuals are likely to return as well as provide job-training grants that look at the local labor/job markets in communities where individuals leaving incarceration are returning.
- Conduct individualized reentry career planning upon the start of incarceration or post release employment planning for each individual served under the grant.
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- Demonstrate connections to employers within the local community.
- Track and monitor employment outcomes.

# Examples of Potential Programs (Existing Grantees)

Use tablet-based technology platforms and services to increase educational and vocational programming capacity in a jail environment.

Incorporate reentry services and related skills-training in prison-based education programming.

Provide comprehensive reentry services to high-risk men to address trauma and improve employment and other outcomes.

# Allowable Uses of Award Funds

- Personnel Expenses
- Consultants
- Conferences & Workshops
- Travel
- Ownership & Facility Costs
- Publication & Printing
- Equipment & Capital Expenditures
- State & Local Taxes
- Software Development

# Unallowable Uses of Award Funds

- Prizes, rewards, entertainment, trinkets (or any type of monetary incentive)
- Client stipends
- Gift cards
- Vehicles
- Food and beverage

SECTION 3

# TTA PROVIDER

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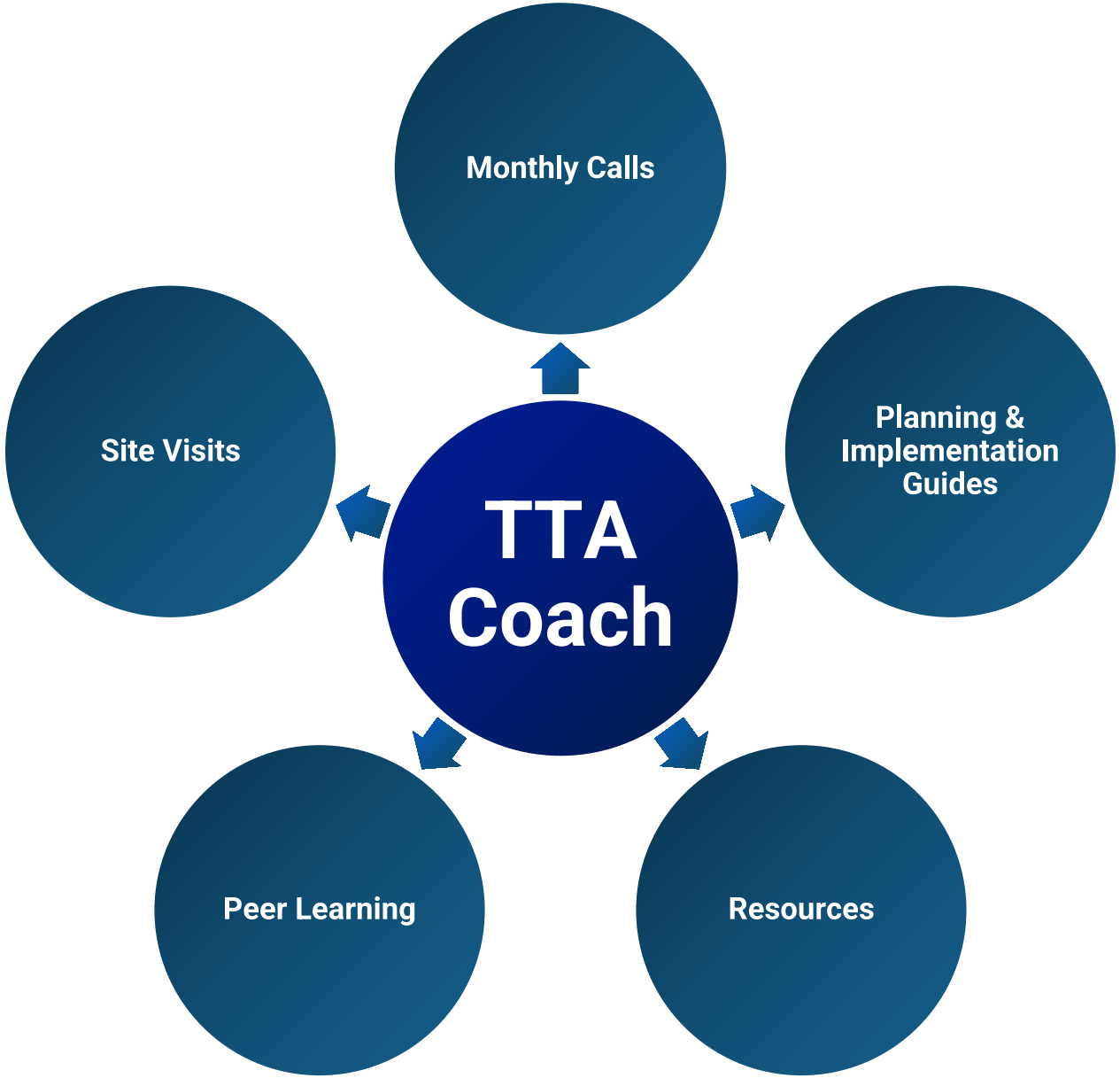
# The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center

Delivers training and technical assistance (TTA) for SCA grantees focused on behavioral health, housing, education, employment, and family supports. The CSG Justice Center offers

- Content expertise;
- Project management support; and
- Connections to peer networks and resources.

Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)
Coach
Resources and Tools
The CSG Justice Center
Peer Learning
Access to Experts


Monthly Calls
Site Visits
Planning & Implementation Guides
TTA Coach
Peer Learning
Resources

SECTION 4

# ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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# Eligible Applicants

State governments, special district governments, city or township governments, county governments, Native American Tribal governments (federally recognized)

Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.

# Application Requirements

- Proposal Abstract
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget Detail and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)
- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)

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
- Project design and implementation
- Capabilities and competencies
- Plan for collecting required data on performance measures
- Timeline for project goals, objectives, and deliverables

# Grantee Deliverables

- ✓ An **action plan** consisting of strategies and key indicators that would potentially revise milestones for this award. The assigned technical assistance provider will supply the action plan and assist grantees to complete it.
- ✓ A **final report** at the end of the project period.

# Review Criteria

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

- Statement of the Problem/Description of the Issue (15%)
- Project Design and Implementation (35%)
- Capabilities and Competencies (30%)
- Plan for Data Collection Required for Performance Measures (10%)
- Budget (10%)

SECTION 5

# APPLICATION RESOURCES

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OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

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# 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.

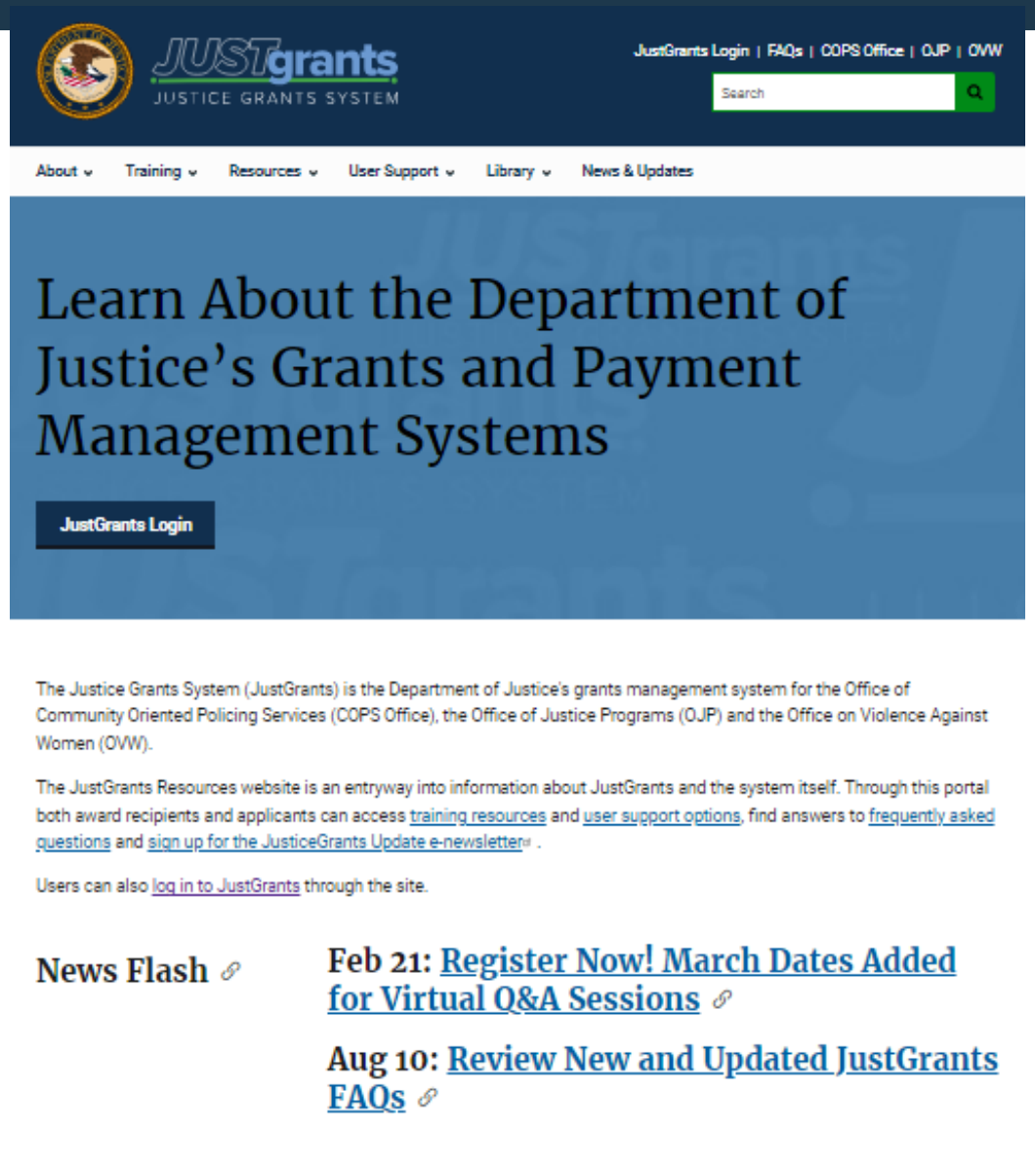
**OJP strongly recommends starting your SAM.gov registration process as soon as possible to allow the time necessary to process entity validations well in advance of the Grants.gov due date posted in the solicitation.** Read this FAQ for more information.

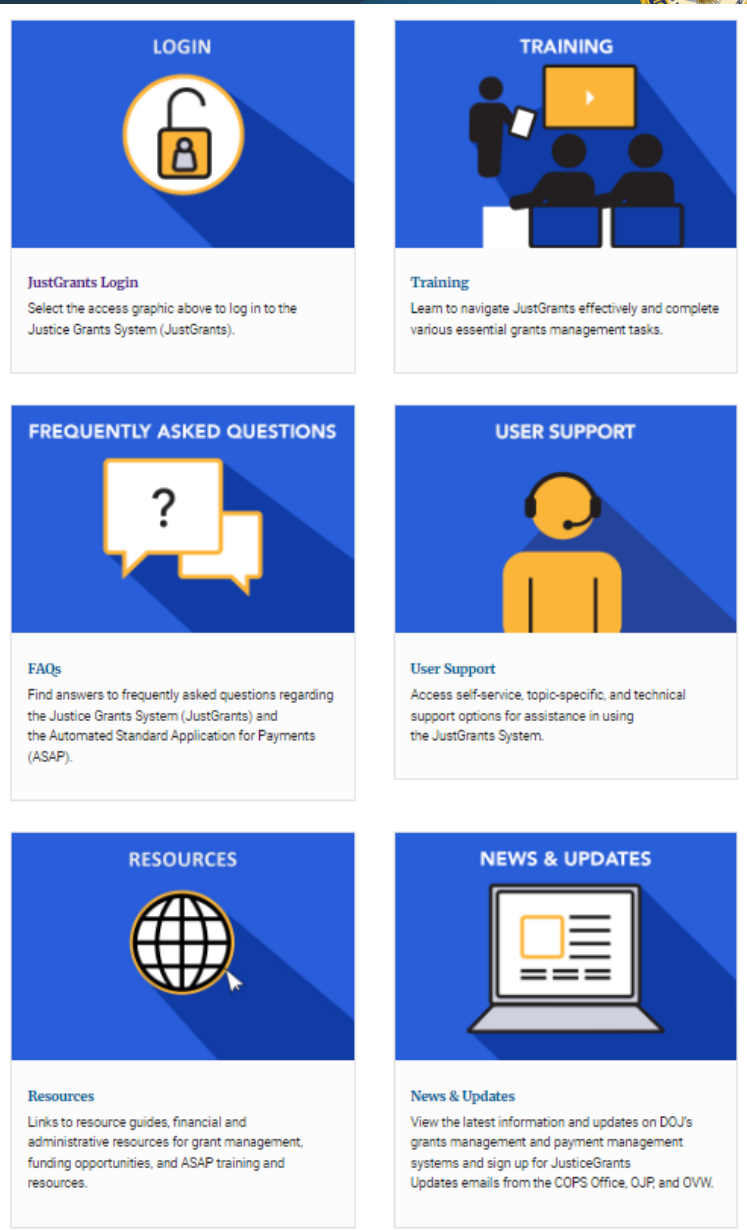
The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Grant Application Resource Guide ("Guide") provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding. It addresses a variety of policies, statutes, and regulations that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP program 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


**https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide**




https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/

# 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. – 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.)

### Stay Connected

- Subscribe to:
  - OJP News Releases for the latest OJP press releases and publication advisories
  - 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
- **X:** https://x.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 by **July 11, 2024 8:59 PM ET**

- **Step 2**: Submit the full application, with attachments, at JusticeGrants.usdoj.gov by **July 18, 2024 8:59 PM ET**

**NOTE: Submission deadline times for both Grants.gov and JustGrants are 8:59 p.m. ET**

**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.