BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

FY24 NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT INITIATIVE (SAKI) SOLICITATION WEBINAR

JULY 8, 2024

Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Presenters

- **Dr. Angela Williamson** – BJA Supervisor/FBI ViCAP Liaison, BJA Policy Office/Forensics Unit

- **Carey Hendricks** – Senior Policy Advisor, BJA Policy Office/Forensics Unit

Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction to OJP and BJA
- Program History and Overview
- Eligibility and Application Requirements
- Application Resources
- Q&A

SECTION 1

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
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.

Karhlton F. Moore, BJA Director

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U.S. Department of Justice

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.

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

PROGRAM HISTORY & OVERVIEW

BJA
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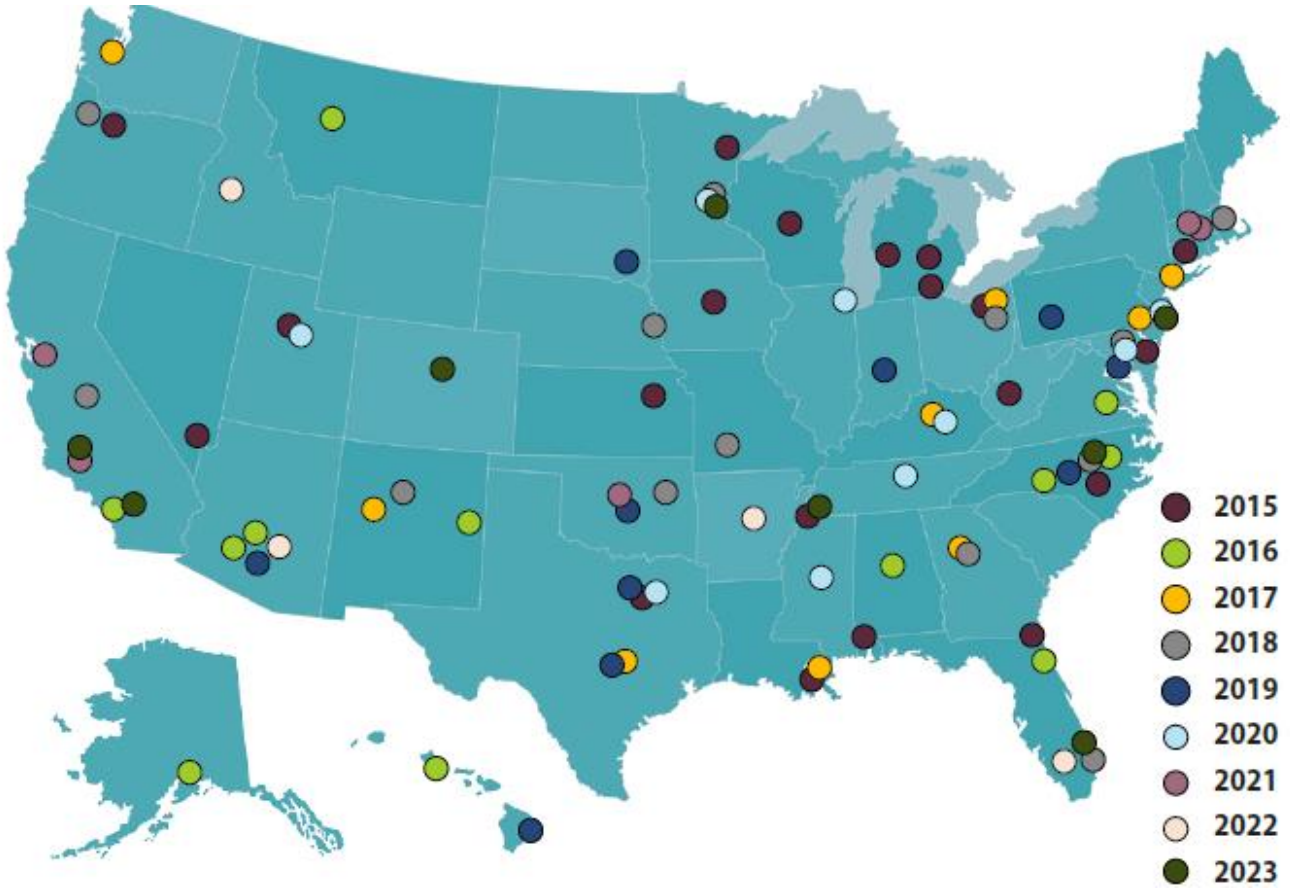
SAKI: Largest federally-funded cold case program

Provides jurisdictions with resources to address their cold case sexual assaults/homicides, including support to:

- Inventory, test, and track sexual assault kits (SAKs) and other crime scene evidence
- Crime Analysis and Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP) entry of criteria cases
- Advanced DNA testing including forensic genetic genealogy (FGG)
- Investigate and prosecute cases (including travel to interview victims, witnesses and suspects)
- Victim engagement and support
- Training and technical assistance (TTA)
- Increase collection of lawfully-owed offender DNA for CODIS upload purposes, that may lead to the identification of violent offenders

- SAKI launched in 2015 and funded annually.
- Currently 90 SAKI Grantee Sites across 43 states and the District of Columbia.
- ~$344 million awarded to date.



SAKI Accomplishments

As of March 2024*

SAKI Purpose Areas 1/2/4

Kits Inventoried	209,483
Kits Sent For Testing	98,874
Kits Tested for Completion	96,169
CODIS Uploads	38,428
CODIS Hits	18,528
CODIS Hits Serial Sex Offenders	2,733
CODIS Hits Serial Violent Offenders	9,941
Investigations	29,367
Cases Charged	2,734
Convictions (including Plea Bargins)	1,508
Forensic Samples subjected to FGG	336
Searchable profiles	192
New Arrests as a result of FGG	23
FGG Prosecutions	71
FGG Cases were closed/cleared by ex..	116

SAKI Purpose Area 3 – Lawfully Owed DNA

DNA Samples Inventoried	494,755
DNA Samples Collected	30,450
DNA Samples Sent for Testing	22,392
DNA Samples Tested to Completion	20,187
CODIS Uploads	18,871
CODIS Hits	374
CODISHits-SexOffender	137
CODISHits-SerialSexOffender	22
CODISHits-Homicide	14
CODISHits-Other	198
Cases-Charged	39
Cases-Resulted in a plea bargain	13
Cases-EndedW/ConvictionFollowingTrial	0

Will DNA solve every case?

Many of the cases tested under SAKI will not yield a DNA profile and/or hit to a known suspect in CODIS/FGG databases.

- It is estimated that **approximately 50% of cases will be solved with DNA**.

This means that tens of thousands of cases will need other investigative strategies in order to try and identify the suspects and provide long awaited answers for victims.

→ The SAKI-FBI ViCAP Partnership

FBI ViCAP

- ViCAP facilitates communication and coordination between law enforcement agencies that investigate, track, and apprehend violent serial offenders.
- VICAP maintains a nationwide database that collects, collates, and analyzes crimes of violence (i.e., homicide, attempted homicide, missing persons, child abductions, sexual assaults, and unidentified deceased persons).
- VICAP analysts examine crime data and patterns to identify potential similarities among crimes, create investigative matrices, develop time-lines, and identify homicide and sexual assault trends and patterns.

All eligible SAKI cases from Purpose Areas 1, 2, 4 and 6 must be entered into ViCAP

SAKI Purpose Areas and Available Funding

- Purpose Area 1: Comprehensive Approach to Unsubmitted Sexual Assault Kits
- Purpose Area 2: SAKI for small agencies
- Purpose Area 3: Collection of Lawfully Owed DNA
- Purpose Area 4: Investigation and Prosecution of Cold Case Sexual Assaults
- Purpose Area 5: Developing and Implementing a Sustainability Plan
- Purpose Area 6: National Cold Case Initiative

FY 2024 SAKI Funding Approximately $50 Million Available

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.

SAKI: Purpose Area 1

Implement a comprehensive approach to unsubmitted SAKs that includes all three elements of the BJA SAKI Model.

The SAKI Model:

1) Inventory/Track SAKs utilizing automated information technology system.
2) Create and continuously meet with a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT).
3) Hire and designate a site coordinator that will oversee the project and work on a regular basis with SAKI TTA.

Permissible costs:

- Testing of secondary evidence
- Y-STR testing and Surname Searches
- FGG
- Familial searching
- Crime Analysis
- Soft interview rooms

(full list found on pg. 16 of FY24 solicitation)

SAKI Purpose Area 2

SAKI for small agencies including Rural and Tribal

Applicants are expected to achieve SAKI's overall goals but do not require extensive funding to support the three elements of the BJA SAKI Model.

- Implement a comprehensive approach to unsubmitted SAKs that includes all three elements of the BJA SAKI Model.
  - BJA SAKI Model: Inventory/Track SAKs, multidisciplinary team, designate site coordinator.
- Track all SAKs utilizing automated information technology system.
- Create and continuously meet with a multidisciplinary team
- Hire and designate a site coordinator that will oversee the project and work on a regular basis with SAKI TTA.
- Enter criteria cases into ViCAP.
- Other allowable activities can include: testing of evidence, Y-STR testing, forensic genetic genealogy (FGG), familial searching, phenotyping/ancestry analysis, SAK tracking systems, and more (found on pg. 16 of FY24 solicitation).

Purpose Area 3

Addresses the identification, collections, and DNA profiling of samples from convicted offenders who should have samples in CODIS but from whom samples have never been collected or submitted to a lab for testing.

- Applicant *does not* have to be an existing SAKI award recipient- but must meet requirements outlined in the solicitation
- Funding is granted only after a jurisdiction has made significant progress in eliminating its backlog of unsubmitted SAKs and made other significant policy and programmatic improvements.

Proposal narrative must include the following elements:

- Census
  - Census details are covered in detail in of the solicitation, please review carefully.
  - Know your state's laws in qualifying offenses for collection
- DNA Collection Plan
  - This is a multidisciplinary effort
  - You need a method to track your samples.
- Designate a DNA collection coordinator

Allowable costs: Rapid DNA; collect, test, and upload to CODIS lawfully owed DNA samples from individuals who owe (who are not in CODIS); test autopsy samples and exhumations; personnel support directly related to project.

Purpose Area 4:

Investigation and Prosecution of Cold Case Sexual Assaults

Supports the investigation and prosecution of sexually motivated crimes that have not only resulted from testing large volumes of previously unsubmitted and/or partially tested SAKs but also other sexually motivated cold case crimes as well.

- Can fund investigators to interview and investigate convicted sexually motivated perpetrators in order to gather information on additional offenses committed.
- Applicants must establish partnerships where possible. Sites will need to establish:
  - a site coordinator
  - a small working group (prosecutor, investigator, lab rep, and advocate)
- Should strategically apply advanced DNA methodologies to identify and apprehend offenders associated with unknown DNA profiles in CODIS.
- All criteria cases must be entered into ViCAP.
- Applicants must submit a certification that an inventory has been completed and document the testing of previously unsubmitted and partially tested SAKs identified in their jurisdictions have been completed or is near completion.

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Purpose Area 5:

Developing and Implementing a Sustainability Plan

This purpose area solicits existing or previous SAKI grantees, which have addressed their unsubmitted kits and the downstream case activities for the majority of their cases, for one final SAKI project that is focused on sustainability.

Examples of permissible activities include the creation/enhancement of policies and procedures that:

- Require law enforcement agencies to submit all previously unsubmitted SAKs to a forensic crime lab to be tested.
- Strengthen biological evidence retention and storage policies.
- Require an annual statewide inventory of all SAKs in the possession of law enforcement and/or the state forensic crime lab.
- Adopt biological evidence retention policies/protocols that are victim centered and preserve evidence.
- Require a SAK tracking system that allows for survivors to check on that status of their kits throughout the process.
- Require trauma informed training for all law enforcement officers for sexually motivated crimes.

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National Cold Case Initiative – Purpose Area 6

- Across SAKI sites, investigators are finding that approximately 65% of offenders linked to SAKs have prior convictions for other non-sexual violent offenses.

- Over 78% of SAK DNA CODIS hits to serial offenders are attributed to violent serial offenders as opposed to convicted serial sex offenders.

Purpose Area 6

National Cold Case Initiative

- Encompasses all other violent cold case crimes that are *not* sexually motivated and
- Provides funding for DNA/FGG activities, as well as critical and labor intensive investigative, behavioral and crime analysis, and prosecutorial activities, as well as victim and family advocacy.
- Intended as enhancement funding for jurisdictions that have addressed their unsubmitted kits and have clearly demonstrated they have also addressed the downstream case activities for at least 75% of their cases.

BJA SAKI Model for PA6:

- Inventory all unresolved violent cold case crimes*
- Create a multidisciplinary working group
- Designate a site coordinator
- Permissible expenses: Testing of evidence; Y-STR testing; FGG; Familial DNA searches; Crime Analysis, investigative and prosecutorial support

DNA Analyses and Related Activities

- **Y-STR** testing
- DNA testing of **shell casings** – use ATF methodology
- **M-Vac** – granted on case-by-case basis
- **Familial DNA** searches – must partner with lab
- **Phenotyping/ancestral analysis** – granted on case-by-case basis

Forensic Genetic Genealogy

FGG is an allowable activity under purpose areas 1, 2, 4, and 6.

- If conducting in-house FGG (tree-building and subsequent steps in the process) the awardee is required to complete the BJA/FBI Archived FGG training and any future trainings that may occur during the lifespan of the grant.
- SAKI funds may be used to outsource the **testing portion of FGG only** (DNA extraction, Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) testing, reference sample and confirmation sample processing).
  - If outsourcing FGG work, the **vendor lab must perform their SNP testing in-house*.**
- SAKI funds ***may not*** be used for the tree building portion of FGG unless it is being conducted in-house.
  - Awardees must leverage the FBI's free resources for the tree building portion of FGG.
- Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis to the provisions outlined herein.

Advantages of working with the FBI Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) team

- The FBI IGG team is comprised of highly trained genetic genealogists with extensive investigative experience and knowledge regarding the investigative processes, legal considerations, and discovery obligations.
- Their members are mindful of downstream implications for activities associated with the methodology and they work regularly with prosecutors on warrants and discovery motions.
- It's a free resource allowing grantees to use their grant funds to submit more cases for FGG and there are no limits on hours for tree-building. Their team has access to law enforcement only resources and databases.
- The FBI can assist with reference collections/target tests and associated interviews, as well as surreptitious collections throughout the country.

Unidentified Human Remains (UHR)

- Forensic services related to the identification of Jane/John Doe sexually motivated homicide victims are available to all SAKI grantees, for **free**, via a SAKI TTA award with the Center for Human Identification located within the campus of University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.
  - STR and Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) profiles must be uploaded to CODIS before proceeding to FGG.
  - Per the DOJ Interim Policy on FGG, to proceed to FGG for an UHR, the cause of death must be ruled as 'homicide/suspected homicide.'
  - Prior approval from BJA will be required for cases ruled as 'undetermined cause of death.'
  - Exhumations are permissible.
  - It is permissible to send physical evidence (i.e., bone samples) to the FGG vendor laboratory.
  - These types of cases must be entered into ViCAP and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) as applicable.

SECTION 3

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility

The following entities are eligible for **Purpose Areas 1 and 3**:

- State law enforcement agencies
- Units of local government
- Governmental nonlaw enforcement agencies acting as their fiscal agents
- Prosecutor's Offices

The following entities are eligible for **Purpose Area 2:**

- Small law enforcement agencies or consortia of small law enforcement agencies = agencies that have fewer than 250 sworn officers or a consortia of small agencies.

The following entities are eligible for **Purpose Areas 3, 4, and 6:**

- Jurisdictions that have addressed their unsubmitted SAKs (including partially tested) and have clearly demonstrated they have also addressed downstream case activities (crime analysis, investigation, prosecution) for at least 75% of the associated cases under the jurisdiction's control/authority.
- Jurisdictions do not have to be an existing or previous SAKI grantee, but they must meet the criteria outlined in the solicitation.

The following entities are eligible for **Purpose Area 5:**

- Existing and/or previous SAKI grantees that have addressed their unsubmitted SAKs (including partially tested) and have demonstrated they have also addressed downstream case activities under SAKI (investigation, prosecution) for at least 75% of the associated cases under the jurisdiction's control/authority.

Deadlines

- Grants.gov Deadline: 8:59 p.m. Eastern Time on July 29, 2024 8:59 PM ET

- JustGrants Deadline: 8:59 p.m. Eastern Time on August 05, 2024 8:59 PM ET

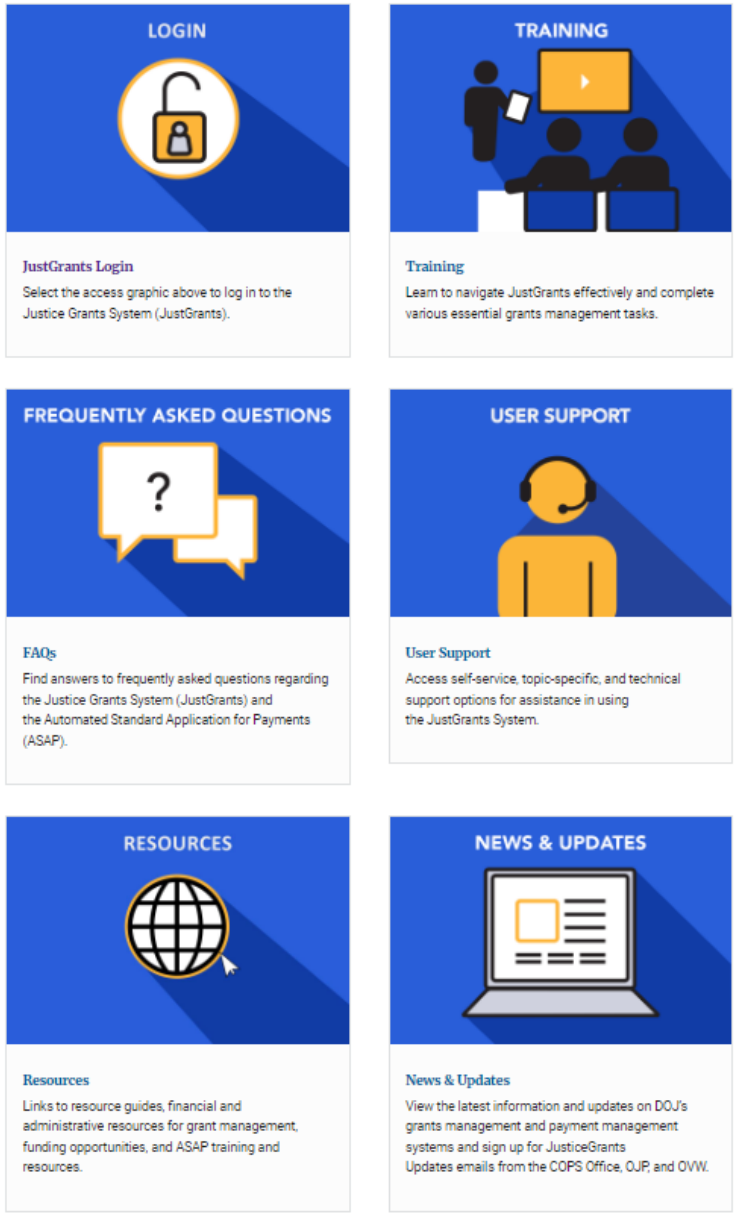
SECTION 4

APPLICATION RESOURCES

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

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Text OJP [your email address] to 468-311 to subscribe.

(Message and data rates may apply.)

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  - OJP email newsletters and topical messages available from OJP program offices (BJA, BJS, NIJ, OJJDP, OVC, and SMART)
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- 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.
- Step 2: Submit the full application, with attachments, at 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?

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