

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Assistance



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## BJA FY 21 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Responses

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### Overview

The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) is seeking applications for the Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program. This program furthers the Department's mission by supporting law enforcement-behavioral health cross-system collaboration to improve public safety responses and outcomes for individuals with mental illness (MI) and co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse (CMISA) issues.

This solicitation incorporates the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) by reference. The OJP Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to applicants for the preparation and submission to OJP of applications for funding. **If this solicitation expressly modifies any provision in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in this solicitation as to that provision.**

### Solicitation Categories

This solicitation does not include Solicitation Categories.

### Eligible Applicants:

City or township governments, County governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), Public and State controlled institutions of higher education, State governments, Other

### Other

- Other: Mental health agency

The term "mental health agency" means an agency of a state or local government or its contracted agency that is responsible for mental health and co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse services.

For purposes of this solicitation, "state" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Where a state agency is an applicant, this solicitation is intended to support law enforcement and its partnering mental health agency to plan a coordinated response in the field.

BJA will only accept applications that demonstrate the proposed program will be administered jointly by an agency with responsibility for criminal or juvenile justice activities, such as law enforcement, and a mental health agency.

To advance Executive Order 13929 Safe Policing for Safe Communities, as of October 28, 2020, the Attorney General determined that all state, local, and university or college law enforcement agencies must be certified by an approved independent credentialing body or have started the certification process to be allocated FY 2021 DOJ discretionary grant funding, as either a recipient or a subrecipient. For detailed information on this new certification requirement, please visit <https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO>.

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

## Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting the **SF-424 and SF- LLL** in Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, at [Grants.gov customer support webpage](#), or email at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

For technical assistance with submitting the **full application** in DOJ's Justice Grants System (JustGrants), contact the JustGrants Service Desk at [JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov](mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov) or at 833-872-5175. The JustGrants Service Desk operates 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

An applicant that experiences unforeseen Grants.gov or JustGrants technical issues beyond its control that prevent it from submitting its application by the deadline must email the National Criminal Justice Reference Service Response Center (Response Center) at [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov) **within 24 hours after the application deadline** to request approval to submit its application after the deadline.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact the Response Center by telephone at 800-851-3420 or TTY: 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only) or by email at [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov). Response Center hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. eastern time Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

## Submission Information

In FY 2021, applications will be submitted to DOJ in a **NEW** two-step process.

**Step 1:** Applicants will submit an **SF-424 and an SF-LLL** in Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>. To register in Grants.gov, applicants will need to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration or renewal.

**Step 2:** Applicants will submit the **full application** including attachments in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://www.justgrants.usdoj.gov).

To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline.

OJP encourages applicants to review, the "How to Apply" section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

# Contents

Contact Information	2
Program Description	5
Overview	5
Statutory Authority	5
Specific Information	5
Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline	5
Evidence-Based Programs or Practices	6
Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities	6
Priority Areas	7
Program-specific Priority Areas:	7
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 describe, in the proposal narrative, how they will address each priority.	7
Federal Award Information	7
Awards, Amounts and Durations	7
Continuation Funding Intent	8
Availability of Funds	8
Types of Awards	8
Financial Management and System of Internal Controls	8
Budget Information	8
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement	8
Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)	8
Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation: Waiver	8
Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs	9
Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)	9
Eligibility Information	9
Application and Submission Information	9
Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	9
Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)	9
Proposal Abstract	9
Proposal Narrative	10
Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline	11
Budget and Associated Documentation	11
Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)	11
Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)	11
Financial Management Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)	12
Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation	12
Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Other Supportive Documents	12
1. The roles and responsibilities of staff from both agencies involved in the program.	12
2. The proposed terms of access for preliminarily qualified offenders to the grant-funded program's services.	12
3. The proposed terms of access by program staff to program planning, stakeholder meetings, and cross training.	12
Additional Application Components	12
Tribal Authorizing Resolution	12
Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement	12
Documentation of Advancing DOJ Priorities (if applicable)	12

Documentation of High-Poverty Areas or Persistent-Poverty Counties (if applicable)	12
Disclosures and Assurances	12
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	12
DOJ Certified Standard Assurances	12
Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items	13
DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements	13
Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable)	13
Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding	13
How to Apply	13
Submission Dates and Time	13
Application Review Information	13
Review Criteria	13
Review Process	14
Federal Award Administration Information	14
Federal Award Notices	14
Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements	14
Information Technology (IT) Security Clauses	14
General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements	14
Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)	15
Other Information	15
Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a)	15
Provide Feedback to OJP	15
Application Checklist	15

# Program Description

## Overview

The Department of Justice is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights, increases access to justice, supports crime victims, protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.

The Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program is part of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHC). It is designated to support law enforcement-behavioral health cross-system collaboration and to improve public safety responses and outcomes for individuals with mental illness (MI) or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse (CMISA) who come into contact with the criminal justice system. BJA is seeking applicants to design or enhance a law enforcement-behavioral health response to people with MI and CMISA who come into contact with law enforcement due to their illness.

For applicants that are interested in JMHC that are not law enforcement but are seeking to partner with mental health from another part of the criminal justice system, access the solicitation [here](#).

## Statutory Authority

: This program is authorized by the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2004 (MIOTCRA) (Public Law 108-414) and the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-416), as amended by the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114-255), 34 U.S.C. 10651. Any awards under this solicitation would be made under statutory authority 34 U.S.C. 10651; Public Law 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182, 1259.

## Specific Information

The applicant must propose programming that is consistent with the goals of the authorizing legislation above. Specifically, grants shall be used to:

- Increase cooperative efforts by public safety officials and mental health agencies (at the earliest intercept points in the criminal justice system) to connect individuals with MI or CMISA with treatment and social services. See Sequential Intercept Model at: <https://www.congress.gov/114/plaws/publ255/PLAW-114publ255.pdf>.
- Improve officer and public safety through specialized training for public safety officers and mental health agencies in order to respond appropriately to individuals with MI or CMISA.
- Increase intergovernmental cooperation between state and local governments to address enhanced support to individuals with MI or CMISA.

All applicants should be aware that under federal law, OJP may not award grant funds to procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses "covered telecommunications equipment or services" as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. In general, with limited exceptions, "covered telecommunications equipment or services" includes telecommunications and video surveillance equipment or services produced by a foreign entity that is specifically designated by statute, or designated by the federal government pursuant to statute.

Applicants also should be aware that, in accordance with DOJ and OJP policy, and with few exceptions, OJP will prohibit use of award funds for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Unmanned Aircraft (UA), and/or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), absent advance submission of specific documentation of protections in place for privacy, civil liberties, and public safety, and of mitigation of cybersecurity risks. In addition, OJP will bar use of award funds for the purchase or use of UAS made by certain foreign entities designated by DOJ.

## Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline

### Goals

The Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health Response Program offers grants to help entities plan, create, or expand comprehensive collaboration response programs that target preliminarily qualified offenders and promote public safety and public health. The definition of "preliminarily qualified offender" is outlined in The 21st Century Cures Act and codified at 34 U.S.C. 10651(9)(A).

## Objectives

The objectives of the program are to:

- Design and adopt best practices in crisis response to assist law enforcement officers during encounters with people with MI and CMISA.
- Plan and deliver a law enforcement agency response program—in coordination with a mental health agency—advocacy, and services to improve or enhance the response.
- Pay salaries, as well as other expenses such as training (overtime) and coordination activities, to design and implement a police–mental health collaboration program (PMHC).
- Conduct an evaluation of the PMHC and community satisfaction.
- Engage citizens through officer outreach and education to improve public safety.
- Build positive community relations and trust through public communication strategies.
- Enhance officer knowledge and skills in responding to community members with MI and CMISA.
- Increase public safety agency capacity to develop and sustain the program by collecting data to inform practices, stakeholder groups, policy development, and ongoing professional development.

Examples of PMHC response models include: Embedded Clinicians/Social Workers in Law Enforcement Agencies, Co-responder Teams, Crisis Response Teams, Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams, Intensive Case Management Teams, and Law Enforcement/ Mental Health Integrated 911 Dispatch.

Potential applicants are encouraged to visit the [PMHC Self-Assessment tool](#) to begin the planning process. This tool provides applicants with the principles of a successful PMHC and contains resources to assist in the strategic implementation of a successful response program.

## Deliverables

Per the authorizing statute above (34 U.S.C. 10651; Public Law 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182, 1259), The Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program grant requires a two-phase process consisting of planning and implementation activities. Grantees will develop a coordinated approach to implementing or enhancing a response and services for individuals with MI and CMISA who have come into contact with the criminal justice system.

The planning phase is up to 12 months during which the grantee will have access to \$100,000 in award funds to complete it. The implementation phase will begin once the grantee has met the requirements of the planning phase, to include completion of the required “Planning and Implementation Guide,” and will continue for the remaining time of the grant.

Applicants must demonstrate that at least one public safety agency and one mental health agency will participate in the administration of the program by describing their established roles and responsibilities in an attached MOU.

Other deliverables and tasks include:

- Develop a coordinated and documented approach to implementing or enhancing law enforcement–behavioral health responses for individuals with MI and CMISA who are involved with the criminal justice system.
- Engage in regular training and technical assistance activities with the BJA training and technical assistance partner, to include completion of the planning and implementation guide.
- Outline plans for obtaining the necessary support to sustain and continue the proposed collaboration program following the conclusion of federal support.

The Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables are directly related to the performance measures that demonstrate the results of the work completed, as discussed under the Application and Submission Information section.

## Evidence-Based Programs or Practices

OJP strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policymaking and program development in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. For additional information and resources on evidence-based programs or practices, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

## Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities

OJP may conduct or support an evaluation of the programs and activities funded under this solicitation. For additional information, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) section entitled “Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities.”

## Priority Areas

The Department of Justice is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights, increases access to justice, supports crime victims, protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community. In FY 2021, OJP will give priority consideration in award decisions to applications that demonstrate ways in which their projects will advance one or more of these areas.

To receive priority consideration for advancing one or more of the Department's priorities, the applicant must provide a sufficient narrative explanation as an attachment, that specifies how the project will advance the promotion of civil rights, access to justice, support to crime victims, protecting the public from crime and evolving threats, or building trust between law enforcement and the community.

In addition, OJP will give priority consideration, if applicable, to applicants that demonstrate that the individuals who are intended to benefit from the requested grant reside in high-poverty areas or persistent-poverty counties.

To receive priority consideration under the poverty priority, the applicant must provide information to demonstrate that the individuals who are intended to benefit from the requested grant reside in high-poverty areas or persistent poverty counties. For purposes of this priority consideration, the term "high-poverty area" means any census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2013–2017 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Census Bureau (applicants may search by census tract at <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2017/>) and the term "persistent poverty counties" means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (applicants may search by county at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/dec/census-poverty.html> and at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html>).

Priority consideration is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions and is not a guarantee of an award.

### Program-specific Priority Areas:

In FY 2021, and in addition to the "Priority Areas" above, priority consideration will be given to applications that:

- Promote effective strategies by law enforcement to identify and reduce the risk of harm to individuals with MI or CMISA and to public safety.
- Promote effective strategies for identification and treatment of female offenders with MI or CMISA.
- Propose interventions that have been shown by empirical evidence to reduce recidivism.
- When appropriate, use validated assessment tools to target offenders with a moderate or high risk of recidivism and a need for treatment services.

**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 describe, in the proposal narrative, how they will address each priority.**

Priority consideration is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions and is not a guarantee of an award.

## Federal Award Information

### Awards, Amounts and Durations

#### Anticipated Number of Awards

36

#### Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount of Awards

\$550,000.00

#### Period of Performance Start Date

10/1/21 12:00 AM

#### Period of Performance Duration (Months)

36

#### Anticipated Total Amount to be Awarded Under Solicitation

\$20,000,000.00

### **Continuation Funding Intent**

BJA may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this solicitation, through continuation awards. OJP will consider, among other factors, OJP's strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award, and progress of award-funded work, when making continuation award decisions.

### **Availability of Funds**

This solicitation, and awards (if any are made) under this solicitation, are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law. In addition, nothing in this solicitation is intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

### **Types of Awards**

BJA expects to make awards under this solicitation as grants. See the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for a brief discussion of important statutes, regulations, and award conditions that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP grants (and cooperative agreements)

### **Financial Management and System of Internal Controls**

Award recipients and subrecipients (including recipients or subrecipients that are pass-through entities) must, as described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.303, comply with standards for financial and program management. The "Part 200 Uniform Requirements" means the DOJ regulation at 2 C.F.R. Part 2800, which adopts (with certain modifications) the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200. See [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

### **Budget Information**

Applicants should structure their budgets to allocate \$100,000 of the total grant award to complete the planning phase within 12 months. The applicant will need to clearly identify which budget line items are planning costs.

While applicants will be required to submit a budget for the entire 36-month program at the time of application submission, they may have the opportunity to revise their budget based on any outcomes from the planning phase.

Program budget approval and coordination with BJA and its technical assistance coordinator are required to complete the planning phase before implementation can begin.

In addition to unallowable costs identified in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), award funds may not be used for the following:

- Prizes, rewards, entertainment, trinkets, or any other monetary incentives
- Client stipends
- Gift cards
- vehicle purchases
- Food and beverages

### **Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement**

This solicitation requires a 20 percent **cash and/or in-kind match** in years 1 and 2, and a 40 percent **cash and/or in-kind match** in year 3. The applicant must identify the source of the 20 percent nonfederal portion of the total program costs for years 1 and 2 and describe how it will use match funds. In addition, applicants proposing a third program year must identify the source of the 40 percent nonfederal portion and describe how it will use match funds.

If a successful applicant's proposed match exceeds the required match amount, and OJP approves the budget, the total match amount incorporated into the approved budget becomes mandatory and subject to audit. ("Match" funds may be used only for purposes that would be allowable for the federal funds.) See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on this match requirement.

### **Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) information on Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs).

### **Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation: Waiver**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) information on Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver.

### **Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs.

### **Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on Costs Associated with Language Assistance.

## **Eligibility Information**

For eligibility information, see the solicitation cover page.

For information on cost sharing or match requirements, see Federal Award Information.

## **Application and Submission Information**

The following application elements **MUST** be included in the application submission for an application to meet the basic minimum requirements (BMR) to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding:

- Proposal Abstract
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (web-based form)
- MOU between a law enforcement agency and a mental health agency

See the “Application Elements and Formatting Instructions” section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on what happens to an application that does not contain all the specified elements or that is nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation.

### **Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)**

The SF-424 will be submitted in Grants.gov. The SF-424 is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on completing the SF-424.

In Section F of the SF-424, please include the name and contact information of the individual **who will complete application materials in JustGrants**. JustGrants will use this information (*email address*) to assign the application to this user in JustGrants.

**Intergovernmental Review:** This solicitation (“funding opportunity”) **is not** subject to [Executive Order 12372](#). (In completing the SF-424, an applicant is to answer question 19 by selecting the response that the “Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.”)

### **Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)**

The Standard Applicant Information section of the JustGrants application is pre-populated with the SF-424 data submitted in Grants.gov. Applicants will need to review the Standard Applicant Information in JustGrants and make edits as needed. Within this section, applicants will need to: add zip codes for areas affected by the project; confirm their Authorized Representative; and verify the organization's legal name and address.

### **Proposal Abstract**

A proposal abstract (no more than 400 words) summarizing the proposed program, including primary activities, products and deliverables, the service area, and who will benefit from the proposed program, will be completed in the JustGrants web-based form.

**As a separate attachment, the proposal abstract will not count against the page limit for the proposal narrative.**

In addition, the abstract must:

- In one sentence, identify if a program-specific priority area will be addressed in the application. (See the discussion about priority areas under Program Description.)

- Include the names of the lead applicant and the partner applicant (public safety and mental health agencies); if applicable, the target population and the proposed number of individuals the applicant plans to serve; the jurisdiction's population and demographic characteristics; a brief description of how the applicant plans to address the problem; and the amount of federal funding requested.
- Indicate whether the applicant is a previous recipient of JMHCP grant funds and include the award number.
- Include a list of proposed subcontractors, if applicable.

## Proposal Narrative

The proposal narrative should be submitted as an attachment in JustGrants. The attached document should be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point Times New Roman font; have no less than 1-inch margins; and should not exceed **15** pages. Pages should be numbered and submitted as an attachment. If the proposal narrative fails to comply with these length restrictions, BJA may negatively consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

The following sections must be included as part of the proposal narrative:

### a. Description of the Issue OR Statement of the Problem if research is involved:

- Identify or introduce the issue to be addressed by the grant and why this program/these proposed activities are necessary (significance/value).
- Describe and demonstrate understanding of the nature and scope of the problem to be addressed, using data and research as support.
- Describe successful efforts to date to address the needs identified.
- Describe the need for assistance and resources to address the problem.
- Briefly introduce how the applicant proposes to address the problem.

### b. Project Design and Implementation:

- Describe in detail the proposed deliverables during the planning and implementation phases. Address in detail how the applicant proposes to undertake and accomplish the objectives and deliverables.
- Describe the strategy to address the needs identified in the Description of the Issue/Statement of the Problem.
- Include a timeline/program plan that identifies the major tasks and deliverables of the proposed program and who is responsible for each activity.
- Address whether any of the program-specific priority areas have been met.
- Explain the applicant's inability to fund the collaboration program adequately without federal assistance.
- Specify how the federal support provided will be used to supplement, and not supplant, state, local, Indian tribe, or tribal organization sources of funding that would otherwise be available, including billing third-party resources for services already covered under other programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, and the State Children's Insurance Program.

### c. Capabilities and Competencies:

- Describe the capabilities and competencies of the applicant to manage the award.
- Provide a detailed description of the capacity of the partner(s) and the key personnel to deliver the required services and perform the key tasks described under Project Design.
- Include a letter of support from the joint applicants' agency executives demonstrating agency commitment to the program. Demonstration of the partners' commitment will contribute to scoring under this criterion.

Describe how the proposed management structure and staffing of the program will facilitate the delivery of the required services. The management and organizational structure described should match the staffing needs necessary to accomplish the tasks outlined in the timeline/program plan. Information regarding the

personnel assigned to these tasks and whether their résumés and role descriptions are included will contribute to the assignment of points relative to this criterion.

d. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures:

- Describe the manner in which the data required for this solicitation's performance measures will be collected, including the system(s) used and the person(s) responsible.
- Describe whether and how other relevant performance measures will be documented, monitored, and evaluated.
- Describe the process for measuring program 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 impact of the program.
- Describe the process to accurately report data.

Note: applicants are **not** required to submit performance data with the application. Rather, performance measures information is included as an alert that successful applicants will be required to submit performance data as part of the reporting requirements under an award.

OJP will require each successful applicant to submit regular performance data that demonstrate the results of the work carried out under the award. The performance data directly relate to the goals, objectives, and deliverables identified under "Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables."

Applicants can also visit OJP's performance measurement page at [www.ojp.gov/performance](http://www.ojp.gov/performance) for an overview of performance measurement activities at OJP.

Award recipients will be required to submit performance measurement data and performance reports in JustGrants. Examples of the performance measures questionnaire can be found at [here](#). Further guidance on the post-award submission process will be provided, if selected for award.

#### **Note on Project Evaluations**

An applicant that proposes to use award funds through this solicitation to conduct project evaluations must follow the guidance under "Note on Project Evaluations" in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

#### **Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline**

Applicants will submit their program goals, objectives, deliverables and timelines in the JustGrants web-based form, for comprehensive plans to implement collaboration programs to promote public safety and public health.

#### **Budget and Associated Documentation**

- Include a complete, cost-effective, and allowable budget (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for program activities).
- Budget narratives should demonstrate generally how applicants will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures.
- Budget narratives should demonstrate cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the objectives of the program.
- It is recommended that the budget clearly identify activities proposed in the planning and implementation phases.

Applicants applying for funding that includes the purchase of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Unmanned Aircraft (UA), and/or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) must receive written prior approval from BJA post-award through the submission and approval of a Grant Award Modification.

#### **Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (Web-based Form)**

Applicants will complete the JustGrants web-based budget form. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

#### **Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)**

Applicants will submit their indirect cost rate agreement by uploading the agreement as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

## **Financial Management Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)**

Applicants will download the questionnaire in JustGrants and submit by uploading the completed questionnaire as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

## **Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation**

If applicable, applicants will submit a description of the process used to determine compensation by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants. See the "Application Attachments" section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information.

## **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Other Supportive Documents**

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the applicant agency and mental health agency **is required to demonstrate partnership and must be attached to the application**. If awarded, a grantee will have limited access to funding until the MOU is finalized and signed. The MOU must include the following information, at minimum:

1. The roles and responsibilities of staff from both agencies involved in the program.
2. The proposed terms of access for preliminarily qualified offenders to the grant-funded program's services.
3. The proposed terms of access by program staff to program planning, stakeholder meetings, and cross training.

## **Additional Application Components**

Applicants will attach the additional requested documentation in JustGrants.

## **Tribal Authorizing Resolution**

If applicable, applicants will submit the Tribal Authorizing Resolution by uploading the resolution as an attachment in JustGrants. An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of information related to a tribal authorizing resolution as an attachment. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on tribal authorizing resolutions.

## **Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement**

If an application proposes research (including research and development) and/or evaluation, the applicant must demonstrate research/evaluation independence and integrity, including appropriate safeguards, before it may receive award funds. Applicants will submit a description of their research and evaluation independence and integrity by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants. For additional information regarding demonstrating research/evaluation independence and integrity, including appropriate safeguards, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

## **Documentation of Advancing DOJ Priorities (if applicable)**

As is mentioned above, OJP will give priority consideration in award decisions to applications that specify how the project will advance one or more of the following DOJ priorities: the promotion of civil rights, access to justice, support to crime victims, protecting the public from crime and evolving threats, or building trust between law enforcement and the community.

## **Documentation of High-Poverty Areas or Persistent-Poverty Counties (if applicable)**

As mentioned above, OJP will give priority consideration in award decisions to applications that demonstrate that the individuals who will benefit from the requested grant reside in high-poverty areas or persistent-poverty counties as defined above. Each applicant proposing to receive consideration under the High-Poverty Areas or Persistent Poverty Counties priority must provide a sufficient narrative explanation to identify each specific High-Poverty Area (by census tract number (s)) and/or each specific Persistent-Poverty County where individuals are intended to benefit from the requested grant and how the requested grant will address specific challenges in each such identified area and/or county.

## **Disclosures and Assurances**

Applicants will complete the following disclosures and assurances.

### **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

Applicants will complete and submit the SF-LLL in Grants.gov. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

### **DOJ Certified Standard Assurances**

See the DOJ Certified Standard Assurances in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

## **Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items**

Applicants will complete the JustGrants web-based Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items form. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

## **DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements**

Applicants will review and accept the DOJ Certified Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements. See [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

## **Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable)**

If applicable, applicants will submit as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information. A DOJ High Risk Grantee is a recipient that has received a DOJ High Risk designation based on a documented history of unsatisfactory performance, financial instability, management system or other internal control deficiencies, or noncompliance with award terms and conditions on prior awards, or that is otherwise not responsible.

## **Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding**

Applicants must submit an MOU between a law enforcement agency and a mental health agency, as required, to demonstrate partnership.

## **How to Apply**

Applicants will submit an **SF-424** and an **SF-LLL** in Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>.

Applicants will submit the **full application** including attachments in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://JustGrants.usdoj.gov).

For additional information, see the “How to Apply” section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) and the [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#).

## **Submission Dates and Time**

The **SF-424** and the **SF-LLL** will be submitted in Grants.gov by 11:59 PM EST on July 6, 2021. OJP urges applicants to submit applications at least 72 hours prior to the application due date to allow time for the applicant to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

The **full application** will be submitted in JustGrants by 11:59 PM EST on July 20, 2021.

To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline.

## **Application Review Information**

### **Review Criteria**

#### **a. Merit Review Criteria**

Applications that meet basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers. Applications will be evaluated on how the proposed project/program addresses the following criteria:

1. Statement of the Problem/Description of the Issue (15%) - evaluate the applicant's understanding of the program/issue to be addressed.
2. Project Design and Implementation (40%) - evaluate the adequacy of the proposal, including the goals, objectives, timelines, milestones, and deliverables.
3. Capabilities and Competencies (30%) - evaluate administrative and technical capacity of the applicant to successfully accomplish the goals and objectives.
4. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (5%) - evaluate the applicant's understanding of the performance data reporting requirements and the plan for collecting the required data.
5. Budget (10%) - evaluate for completeness, cost effectiveness, and allowability (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

#### **b. Other Review Criteria/Factors**

Other important considerations for BJA include geographic diversity, strategic priorities (specifically including, but not limited to, those mentioned above relating to priority areas), available funding, past performance, program-specific priorities, and the extent to which the Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (web-based form) accurately explain project costs that are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise allowable under federal law and applicable federal cost principles.

## Review Process

Applications submitted under this solicitation that meet basic minimum requirements, will be evaluated for technical merit by a peer review panel(s) in accordance with OJP peer review policy and procedures using the stated review criteria above.

OJP screens applications to ensure they meet the basic minimum requirements prior to conducting peer review. Although specific requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all solicitations for funding under OJP programs:

- The application must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- The application must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- The application must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- The application must include all items necessary to meet the basic minimum requirements.

Pursuant to the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, before award decisions are made, OJP also reviews information related to the degree of risk posed by the applicant. Among other things to help assess whether an applicant that has one or more prior federal awards has a satisfactory record with respect to performance, integrity, and business ethics, OJP checks whether the applicant is listed in SAM as excluded from receiving a federal award.

In addition, if OJP anticipates that an award will exceed \$250,000 in federal funds, OJP also must review and consider any information about the applicant that appears in the non-public segment of the integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently, the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System, FAPIIS).

**Important note on FAPIIS:** An applicant, may review and comment on any information about itself that currently appears in FAPIIS and was entered by a federal awarding agency. OJP will consider any such comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in its assessment of the risk posed by the applicant.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General, who may take into account not only peer review ratings and BJA's recommendations, but also other factors as indicated in this section.

## Federal Award Administration Information

### Federal Award Notices

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on award notifications and instructions.

### Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the OJP-approved application, the recipient must comply with all award conditions, and all applicable requirements of federal statutes and regulations (including applicable requirements referred to in the assurances and certifications executed in connection with award acceptance).

For additional information on these legal requirements, see the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

### Information Technology (IT) Security Clauses

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of information related to information technology security. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on information technology security.

### General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements

In addition to the deliverables described in the Program Description section, any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to submit certain reports and data.

**Required reports.** Recipients typically must submit quarterly financial reports, progress reports, final financial and progress reports, programmatic certifications and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with the Part 200 Uniform Requirements or specific award conditions. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.

(In appropriate cases, OJP may require additional reports.)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measures data.

## Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For OJP contact(s), see solicitation cover page.

For contact information for Grants.gov and JustGrants, see solicitation cover page.

## Other Information

### Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a).

### Provide Feedback to OJP

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on how to provide feedback to OJP.

## Application Checklist

Appendix A: Application Checklist

### Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application. The [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#) is another resource.

#### What an Applicant Must Do:

*Prior to Registering in Grants.gov:*

- Acquire a DUNS Number (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Acquire or renew registration with SAM (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

*To Register with Grants.gov:*

- Acquire AOR and Grants.gov username/password (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Biz POC (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

*To Find Funding Opportunity:*

- Search for the Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov
- Access Funding Opportunity and Application Package (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Sign up for Grants.gov email [notifications](#) (optional) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Read [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#)
- Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting

available at [ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm](http://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm)  
(see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

#### Overview of Post-Award Legal Requirements:

- Review the [“Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2021 Awards”](#) in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

**Scope Requirement:**

- The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit of \$550,000

**Eligibility Requirement:**

- Eligible applicants are states, units of local government, mental health agencies partnering with law enforcement, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior). **BJA will only accept applications that demonstrate the proposed program will be administered jointly by an agency with responsibility for public safety and a mental health agency.**
- Submit **SF-424** and **SF-LLL** in Grants.gov

*After SF-424 and SF-LLL submission in Grants.gov, Receive Grants.gov Email Notifications That:*

- Submission has been received in Grants.gov
- Submission has either been successfully validated or rejected with errors (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

*If No Grants.gov Receipt, and Validation or Error Notifications are Received:*

- Contact the Response Center by telephone at 800-851-3420 or TTY: 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only) or by email at [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov). Response Center hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. eastern time Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

Receive email notification to complete application in JustGrants

- *Complete Application Sections Listed Below in JustGrants:*

**Content of Application Submission:**

The following items are critical application elements required to pass Basic Minimum Requirements review. An application that OJP determines does not include the application elements that must be included in the application submission in order for the application to meet the basic minimum requirements, will neither proceed to peer review, nor receive further consideration.

- **Proposal Abstract**
- **Proposal Narrative**
  - **Explain the need for federal assistance, how funds will supplement and not supplant, and, plans to sustain the collaboration program.**
  - **Description of the problem**
  - **Project Design**
  - **Capabilities and Competencies**
  - **Plan for the collection of data**
- **Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (match budget amount with requested amount on 424; web-based form)**
  - **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between law enforcement agency and mental health agency to demonstrate partnership**
  - Standard Applicant Information (SF-424 information from Grants.gov)

**Budget and Associated Documentation**

- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Disclosure of Process related to Executive Compensation

#### Additional Application Components

- Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity [page 13] (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Documentation of high poverty areas or persistent poverty counties (if applicable)
- Documentation of Advancing DOJ Priorities (if applicable)
- Subrecipient information
- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

#### Disclosures and Assurances

- [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities \(SF-LLL\)](#) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurance (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))
- Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable) (see [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#))

#### *Submit Application in JustGrants:*

- Application has been successfully submitted in JustGrants

#### *If No JustGrants Application Submission, Validation, or Error Notifications are Received:*

- Contact JustGrants Service Desk at [JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov](mailto:JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov) or 833-872-5175 regarding technical difficulties.