

2022 Solicitation - Q&A

Table of Contents

BJA Solicitation	3
Can public school districts apply?	3
Is there a difference between the use of the terms "Independent School Districts" and "Public K-12 School Districts" relative to the grants?	3
Public K-12 would be Category 2, correct?	3
If a school district is a department of a city/town, should it apply as a city government or independent school district?	3
Can a local police department that partners with our high school to deal with school violence apply with a letter of support from the school?	4
If I don't represent an ISD, can I apply as part of a public school district in Virginia that receives its funding through municipal taxes?	4
As a public IHE, must we complete the work on a K-12 school, rather than our own school?	4
Can a community college serve as a fiscal agent if the principal investigator is a faculty member and all the work will occur in a local K-12?	4
Can grants support out-of-school programs, such as Boys and Girls Club or YMCA?	4
Does the program have to already have strong empirical evidence to support it, or can the application be to implement a program with promising evidence and track outcomes for effectiveness?	4
What is the total funding possible for a partnership between a state, public schools, and nonprofit agencies?	4
Is there a requirement for a certain grade level or target age for funding?	5
Does law enforcement have to be part of a BJA-funded program?	5
Is there a specific research partner that grantees must work with?	5
You noted that a match is not required. Is a match viewed favorably during scoring?	5
Are security or video surveillance systems included in eligible proposals?	5
Will hiring an external evaluator, full-time employee, or program manager qualify for funding?	5
If the applicant is going to use category 5 and hire personnel, is there an expectation that the personnel hired will be sustained? Or do we outline what steps we will take to hopefully sustain the position?	5
Could we hire a school resource officer through our sheriff's office that works with all schools in the county?	5
Can SROs be hired as part of this application?	5

Would we be able to use the funding to pay SRO salaries?	6
For developing and operating technology solutions, can some of the work be subcontracted out to a for-profit business?	6
What is the definition of School Violence?	6
Is preventing human trafficking and dating violence in this definition through this program?	6
Would a virtual training simulator machine specifically dealing with school safety/de-escalation for officers be covered?	6
Can applicants apply for Mental Health First Aid training for students and/or teachers under BJA's STOP School Violence grant program?	6
Will informal youth educational programs held outside of the classroom qualify for funding?	6
If we have a current OJP/STOP grant that includes the funding of an anonymous reporting system. We will be able to partially implement and fund that part of the grant but not for all of our school districts. Can we apply for an ARS in this current grant?	6
Can applicants apply for Mental Health First Aid training for students and/or teachers under BJA's STOP School Violence grant program?	7
What might "Developing and operating technology solutions" include?	7
Can applicants choose to follow as many of the 5 eligible proposals as possible or should they choose to focus on one specific area?	7
If the application is for training, can we include the equipment used to create the training?	7
Is it acceptable for an applicant to use year 1 of the grant period as a planning year?	7
What were the three requirements by BJA for grant submission?	7
Is there technology you would recommend schools use for anonymous reporting?	7
Can a state law enforcement agency apply for the BJA STOP grant?	8

COPS Solicitation **8**

Does the SVPP require matching funds?	8
Does the COPS grant pay for indirect costs?	8
Does a school district receive \$500,000 each year or is it split up into 3 years?	8
Can we use funds to purchase equipment, etc?	8
Do you have any recommendations for an application from a private, nonprofit K-12 school? We realize we aren't eligible as a primary applicant. How could we submit an application?	8
As a university police department, would we apply as the school or as a police department?	9
Where should the letters of support come from?	9

Are we allowed to submit two separate SVPP proposals to meet two different needs/projects? 9

JustGrants 9

When will the application be posted on Just Grants? 9

Does the budget amount on the SF424 need to match exactly with the JustGrants budget? 9

Can you change your request amount between the time you submit on Grants.gov and the time you submit on JustGrants? 9

Does the budget amount submitted in Grants.gov have to match the budget submitted in JustGrants? 9

Can we change the budget on the 424 once it is in just grants? 9

Where can I get training beyond technical support on JustGrants? 9

Other 10

Can we submit proposals to all three solicitations? 10

BJA Solicitation

Can public school districts apply?

Yes.

Is there a difference between the use of the terms "Independent School Districts" and "Public K-12 School Districts" relative to the grants?

Independent School Districts typically are identified by their local government, for example, as in Texas (ie. Garland ISD). Some school districts are units of their county or city government so the applicant may end up being the county or city, but in many cases, the school district can be the applicant. Check with your local government to determine if you are eligible to apply or if the County/City must be the fiscal agent.

Public K-12 would be Category 2, correct?

Yes, only state/state agencies apply under category 1.

If a school district is a department of a city/town, should it apply as a city government or independent school district?

That depends on the individual locality. Check with the appropriate individual in your local government to determine if you can be the fiscal agent of a grant or if the County/City must apply.

Can a local police department that partners with our high school to deal with school violence apply with a letter of support from the school?

Yes, the police department may apply.

If I don't represent an ISD, can I apply as part of a public school district in Virginia that receives its funding through municipal taxes?

Yes, BJA made an award to a Virginia School District last year. Check with your local government, however, to make sure they allow your agency to administer grants, or if the county/city government must administer it and be the fiscal agent.

As a public IHE, must we complete the work on a K-12 school, rather than our own school?

Correct, STOP funds are only appropriated to serve K-12 schools.

Can a community college serve as a fiscal agent if the principal investigator is a faculty member and all the work will occur in a local K-12?

As long as the project serves K-12 school(s), a community college can apply. The community college would be the fiscal agent. Community colleges are typically state agencies so the college would apply under category 1, but if the community college is a private institution, you would apply under category 2.

Can grants support out-of-school programs, such as Boys and Girls Club or YMCA?

The Program is intended for providing training programs in a school setting where you have a captive audience, but there is no statutory prohibition. The Project Narrative would have to make a strong case for how such a program supports the overall school safety strategy. This may be a project more appropriate for the OJJDP solicitation that was discussed.

Does the program have to already have strong empirical evidence to support it, or can the application be to implement a program with promising evidence and track outcomes for effectiveness?

The program should be "evidenced-based." If you are proposing to use a program that has "promising evidence" the narrative needs to be clear about what facts exist to say there is "promising evidence."

What is the total funding possible for a partnership between a state, public schools, and nonprofit agencies?

The maximum allowable award for a category 1 application (state/state agency) is \$2 million. The maximum allowable award for a Category 2 application (all other eligible applicants) is \$1 million. How the applicant divides that between their partners is up to them but the application total cannot exceed those amounts.

Is there a requirement for a certain grade level or target age for funding?

As long as the target audience is K-12, is it up to the applicant to determine which age group/grade level has the greatest need in their area.

Does law enforcement have to be part of a BJA-funded program?

No. However, if you are implementing Behavioral Threat Assessment teams, best practices indicate that local law enforcement should have a role on those teams.

Is there a specific research partner that grantees must work with?

There are instances (i.e. where the applicant is an IHE) when the applicant has the capability to also be the research partner. A school district may have that capability or a state agency may also have that capability but the applicant must be clear about who the research/evaluation partner is and their capability to carry out the requirements related to the Behavioral Threat Assessment project. Those are the only projects that require a research partner.

You noted that a match is not required. Is a match viewed favorably during scoring?

An applicant does not get priority consideration for including a match and it should be noted that if an applicant proposes a match and receives an award, you can't change your mind about the match after you receive an award.

Are security or video surveillance systems included in eligible proposals?

No; however, you could apply to the COPS solicitation for this type of system.

Will hiring an external evaluator, full-time employee, or program manager qualify for funding?

Typically, an applicant would use part of the award as a sub-award or contract for the evaluation/research piece of the project (remember this is only required for projects implementing a Behavioral Threat Assessment Team.

If the applicant is going to use category 5 and hire personnel, is there an expectation that the personnel hired will be sustained? Or do we outline what steps we will take to hopefully sustain the position?

You should outline in the sustainment section of your project narrative what steps you will take after the award ends.

Could we hire a school resource officer through our sheriff's office that works with all schools in the county?

No.

Can SROs be hired as part of this application?

No.

Would we be able to use the funding to pay SRO salaries?

Only for overtime for existing SROs that are part of the project for things that are not part of their regular duties.

For developing and operating technology solutions, can some of the work be subcontracted out to a for-profit business?

Yes, but the organization has to agree to not make a profit (must basically provide the service at their cost).

What is the definition of School Violence?

The purpose of the STOP Program is to prevent violence against others or themselves.

Is preventing human trafficking and dating violence in this definition through this program?

Dating violence prevention is allowable. OJP has an anti-human trafficking program where training related to that in a school setting would be more appropriate. An applicant would have to make a strong case in their narrative about how anti-human trafficking training fits their overall school safety strategy.

Would a virtual training simulator machine specifically dealing with school safety/de-escalation for officers be covered?

The BJA STOP program is not an equipment purchase program. You may want to apply to the COPS STOP program however for this type of expenditure.

Can applicants apply for Mental Health First Aid training for students and/or teachers under BJA's STOP School Violence grant program?

Yes.

Will informal youth educational programs held outside of the classroom qualify for funding?

The BJA STOP Program is intended for classroom-based training because there is a captive audience. While there is no statutory prohibition on out-of-classroom programs, the program narrative would need to make a strong case for how this plays into the overall school safety strategy and how you would maximize the number of students served. This may be something more appropriate for the OJJDP solicitation.

If we have a current OJP/STOP grant that includes the funding of an anonymous reporting system. We will be able to partially implement and fund that part of the grant but not for all of our school districts. Can we apply for an ARS in this current grant?

If you are implementing the ARS in schools not covered by your current award, this would be allowable, but you must be very clear in your narrative about which schools were

included in the original implementation and which schools are being included in the proposed implementation to ensure there is no duplication of effort. You also cannot use funding in the new proposal to pay for any licensing requirements related to the first implementation.

Can applicants apply for Mental Health First Aid training for students and/or teachers under BJA's STOP School Violence grant program?

Yes.

What might "Developing and operating technology solutions" include?

Anonymous Tip/Reporting Systems (ARS), which can include apps, websites, etc. Digital Threat Assessment systems are what we typically see in applications. BJA cannot fund security cameras or other target hardening/deterrent measures.

Can applicants choose to follow as many of the 5 eligible proposals as possible or should they choose to focus on one specific area?

Applicants can apply to implement one or more. As was mentioned during the webinar, applicants should carefully consider just what capacity they have to implement multiple areas in one project.

If the application is for training, can we include the equipment used to create the training?

BJA would need to know exactly what equipment is being considered. The BJA STOP Program is not an equipment purchase program so it should not be considered an opportunity to purchase equipment on a Wishlist that the applicant currently does not have the ability to purchase.

Is it acceptable for an applicant to use year 1 of the grant period as a planning year?

Applicants are encouraged to include a period in the timeline to allow for start-up, but peer review panels are looking for well-thought-out project proposals that are ready or almost ready to hit the ground running once funding is received and accessible.

What were the three requirements by BJA for grant submission?

In order to move to peer review, an applicant must ensure the application includes the Abstract, Project Narrative, and the Budget Detail Worksheet that include a budget narrative (this is a web form that is part of the application process). There are other attachments that are required as part of the complete applications but those three must be present to move to peer review.

Is there technology you would recommend schools use for anonymous reporting?

BJA cannot recommend specific vendors for ARS.

Can a state law enforcement agency apply for the BJA STOP grant?

Yes.

COPS Solicitation

Does the SVPP require matching funds?

Yes. 75% of the requested amount would be funded and 25% must come from the participating agencies. The awarded agency is responsible for the local match of funds. A list of the possible sources for the local match may be found in the SVPP solicitation or the program-specific FAQs on the COPS Office website:

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2022ProgramDocs/svpp/faqs.pdf>

An applicant may apply for a waiver in the web-based budget forms of the JustGrants application. Waivers are not guaranteed, so all applicants should plan for at least a 25% match based on their total project costs.

The local match must be a cash match. Please see the solicitation guide and the resource guide for more information on the local match requirements.

Does the COPS grant pay for indirect costs?

Indirect costs are not an allowable cost under the SVPP grant.

Does a school district receive \$500,000 each year or is it split up into 3 years?

The total award is a maximum of \$500,000. It would fund the entire award period.

Can we use funds to purchase equipment, etc?

All budget requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Provided the items are within the scope of COPS SVPP funding and are fully linked and justified within the narrative and budget details, the COPS Office will review those items.

Do you have any recommendations for an application from a private, nonprofit K-12 school? We realize we aren't eligible as a primary applicant. How could we submit an application?

Private schools may partner with their local law enforcement to receive the services and benefits (equipment, technology, etc.) of SVPP for their school and students. The law enforcement applicant would be the responsible party for the award (purchases, reimbursements, reports, etc), and the school would be a partner.

As a university police department, would we apply as the school or as a police department?

University police departments are not eligible for SVPP funding. Funding must be for K-12 schools and school grounds.

Where should the letters of support come from?

Letters of support should be from relevant stakeholders. For example, a police department or sheriff's department submitting an application would have a letter from the school district or school (s) in which the SVPP project will be implemented.

Are we allowed to submit two separate SVPP proposals to meet two different needs/projects?

Only one application may be submitted per applicant. An applicant may request the items above (for example) and write a narrative that provides a comprehensive plan for how both projects will be implemented and beneficial to the safety and security of the students in schools and on school grounds.

JustGrants

When will the application be posted on Just Grants?

See <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-application-submission>

Does the budget amount on the SF424 need to match exactly with the JustGrants budget?

Yes.

Can you change your request amount between the time you submit on Grants.gov and the time you submit on JustGrants?

No.

Does the budget amount submitted in Grants.gov have to match the budget submitted in JustGrants?

Yes.

Can we change the budget on the 424 once it is in just grants?

No.

Where can I get training beyond technical support on JustGrants?

<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training>

Other

Can we submit proposals to all three solicitations?

Yes, as long as they are not duplicate applications. Applicants applying for funding under BJA must submit under the BJA solicitation. Applicants applying for funding under the COPS Program must apply to the COPS Program, and applicants applying for funding from OJJDP must apply to OJJDP.