

# FY 2023 Solicitation Q&A

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## All Solicitations

***Can I apply for this grant to expand the work being done under my current grant? For example, to increase the scope of our program to help more schools.***

BJA requires that current grantees applying for a new award request funding to implement at schools not currently being served by an open award, or a strategy not currently being funded. The same holds true for OJJDP. For COPS, applicants who are previously funded may apply in FY23 to enhance or expand a current project.

***Are there minimal amounts for any of these grants? Could a program be too small to qualify?***

BJA would need more information before a full response can be provided. Please contact david.adams@usdoj.gov.

Same for OJJDP as above with scott.pestridge@usdoj.gov.

COPS: Please see the [COPS SVPP solicitation](#) for information on microgrant funding for projects \$100,000 or less.

## BJA Solicitation

***Does the BTAM evaluator have to be from a separate entity or can it be an in-house person with a background in evaluation?***

This should be a "Research Partner" and this is typically an outside entity however, depending on the type of entity that is the applicant, this "Research Partner/Evaluator" may be internal as long as that is the function that this entity/person normally serves. The applicant should must identify this individual(s) and what their experience is that qualifies them to complete this activity. If the applicant is proposing to create new BTA teams, the research partner is required. If the applicant is only proposing to implement training for existing BTA teams, research partners are not required for training purposes. It is only required for applicants proposing to use taxpayer funds (grant awards) to establish new BTA teams.

***Can you clarify what an evaluator is? Who qualifies as an evaluator? How can we find an evaluator?***

The purpose of this evaluator/research partner is to use the data you collect from any behavioral threat assessment conducted during the award period. There are organizations that do this type of work as well as certain universities. Applicants may want to begin by reaching out to universities that do research in the area where the applicant is located (i.e. the applicant is in Mississippi so reach out to colleges/universities in Mississippi. The budget would include the cost of this activity as a contract or subaward to the research partner, in this case the university).

***For training school personnel (Category 3), can coaching sessions for school personnel and threat assessment teams in an evidence-based model (CSTAG) apply to training of school personnel?***

Yes.

***Can a 501C3 choose its LEA a charter school that is not yet authorized? The authorization would come in the summer of 2023.***

More information is needed to fully respond to this question. Please contact david.adams@usdoj.gov.

***Can a University Cooperative Extension office apply?***

You would need to check with the university to see if the university needs to be the fiscal agent. More information may be needed to fully answer this question. You may contact david.adams@usdoj.gov.

***Can a single application include multiple purposes areas under the BJA solicitation?***

Yes, but be sure that you have the capacity to complete the work you are proposing. Don't "bite off more than you can chew."

***What if our technology solution integrates physical security items, like the ability to operate locks and utilize video data?***

BJA would have to know more about the specific technology. Contact BJA.

***Can you provide examples of what the other communications systems are under the term, "other communication systems accessible throughout the school"?***

I'm not sure where you found that quote in the solicitation. The technology purpose area in the BJA solicitation reads: "Develop and operate technology solutions such as anonymous reporting systems (ARS) for threats of school violence, including mobile telephone applications, hotlines, websites, or other school safety technology solutions, for accurate identification of danger (without resorting to discriminatory stereotypes or violating privacy) or other technology solutions shown to improve school safety. Applicants will demonstrate in their applications or with attached letters of support or memorandums of understanding (MOUs) that they have the support of relevant team partners, including local law enforcement. Applicants should also discuss how this system will not duplicate but complement existing ARS systems in the jurisdiction or state. Applicants will need to detail how the data collected through this system is handled, secured, and shared and review data to ensure there is no disparate impact based on race, ethnicity, or disability in outcomes."

If you mean "other technology solutions shown to improve school safety", an example of that could also be digital threat assessment technology.

***Can these grant dollars go to a law school, or would the law school need to team up with partners from the criminal justice system such as a division of a State Supreme Court?***

Law schools are typically part of a university so would be eligible to apply. You would need to check with the university of which you are a part of to determine how your specific status would allow you to apply. Your proposal must serve the K-12 school community. You cannot apply to implement a campus safety project serving the law school.

***The solicitation does not include the Plan for Sustainability in the Proposal Narrative section. Are we to include it as described here?***

Page 29 does list the Plan for sustainability as part of the review process and counts for 10% of the application score. It should be included as part of the narrative after the discussion of the Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures.

***Can travel cost for the trainer be included in the price as a line item?***

Yes. Be sure to fully describe the cost in the narrative part of the budget too.

***Our planned program covers more ages than the k-12 age group. Since this award is specific to k-12 grades, are we not eligible since our program will benefit more ages than those in k-12?***

Some schools may have Pre-K so if you are referring to that population and it is part of the school/school district, it would be eligible.

## **OJJDP Solicitation**

***Can you clarify which performance measures will be required for the preventive/whole school climate-focused work and which will be required for the intervention/intensive case management portion of the grant project?***

All performance measures for this solicitation can be found at <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/performance-measures/performance-measures-children-exposed-violence-program.pdf>. The applicant, if successful, will report on measures as applicable to their particular project design.

***Does OJJDP envision a grantee serving just 1-2 campuses or several campuses during the grant period?***

The project design that you endeavor could serve any of the above. The important factor is identifying the service gaps and allocating the resources to support "service backpacks" in the targeted community/communities. One element to consider is how to fully support efforts with the funding offered under the solicitation, as this may limit the number of campuses served.

***Can you confirm if we have separate projects, with different partners for each project based on location, it is acceptable to submit one application for each project.***

The solicitation aims to coordinate resources across providers within a particular project/location. Given the limited number of awards that will be made, coupled with the interest from the field, it is suggested that partners working in a particular community align resources and submit as a collaborative.

***Does it have to be a new program or can this funding enhance the capacity of a current program aimed at stopping school violence?***

A proposed project can be a new initiative or an enhancement to a current program. If you are proposing an enhancement, the application must clearly state how the proposed project would supplement an existing program in a non-duplicative manner.

***MOUs are not required at time of application but if awarded, are required in order to begin spending funds, is that correct?***

An MOU is required at the time of application. However, a signed MOU is not required at the time of application. If awarded, a signed MOU is required before access to funds will be made available. As noted on pp. 24-25 of the solicitation “Applicants should include, for each named partner, a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Letter of Intent, or subcontract that confirms the partner’s agreement to support the project through commitments of staff time, space, services, or other project needs.” It further states that given that “the completion of an MOU may take longer than the application period, a draft MOU may be submitted that includes the names and titles of all parties that will be signing the document. A special condition will be added if an award is made that will require the signed document before funds will be made available. Applicants will submit the MOU by uploading the document as an attachment in JustGrants.”

***Can organizations apply for separate projects that can enhance each other?***

The solicitation aims to coordinate resources across providers within a particular project/location. Given the limited number of awards that will be made, coupled with the interest from the field, it is suggested that partners working in a particular community align resources and submit as a collaborative.

***Knowing there are only 22 awards- can you speak to the likelihood of grassroots CBVI agencies receiving funds. Knowing resources and time are limited, we want to ensure we’re focusing on what’s possible.***

Community Based Violence Intervention (CBVI) agencies focus on strategies that align with the goals and objectives articulated under this solicitation. As noted in the solicitation, applications must include an MOU or Letter of Intent that “should include the following: (1) names of the organizations involved in the agreement, (2) scope of the direct service(s) and other work to be performed under the agreement, and (3) duration of the agreement. Subcontracts, MOUs, or Letters of Intent should be submitted as one separate attachment to the application. The MOU should include representatives from the multidisciplinary team supporting elements of the project design, as they will be involved in planning and guiding the proposed project. Specifically, the MOU should be signed and dated by both the local education agency leadership (i.e., board of education chairperson, superintendent, or school principal) and the community-based organization representative(s) who will be providing “backpack” supports for the project.”

## **COPS Solicitation**

***Is there a restriction on the source for local matching funds?***

Please review the [solicitation guide](#) found on the [SVPP webpage](#) for more information regarding acceptable sources for the local match/cost share. Additionally, please review the requirements of the source match to determine if the funding may be used for the local match of federal funds.

***Can you go over the process for waivers for the match funds?***

Applicants may request a waiver in the budget section of the application. Waivers are determined based on a number of factors including the financial need as demonstrated by responses to the questions in

the application. Waivers are not guaranteed and are made at time of award. All applicants should plan for the match requirement.

***Can vendors assist school districts in preparing and submitting applications for the school district?***

The COPS Office defers to applicants regarding the writing and submission of the application.

***How can we get feedback on the application we submitted last year that was not funded?***

Application feedback is not provided after the opening of the solicitation.

***Are private training groups considered consultants (meaning there's a daily/hourly cap)?***

Please see the COPS Office [Consultant/Contractor Fact Sheet](#) for guidance.

***Are MOUs required to be submitted for partnerships listed in the COPS SVPP grant application?***

MOUs are not required at time of application; however, one may be required post-award. Please review the SVPP terms and conditions for more information.

***There are two questions in the SVPP application asking if we are also applying for the BJA STOP and OJJJD STOP programs. If we answer "yes," would that impact scoring/review in any way?***

Applications are screened for duplication across all three programs. Scoring is not affected by this process.

***Can this funding enhance the capacity of a current program aimed at stopping school violence?***

SVPP does not have a non-supplanting requirement, so funding may be used to support current school safety initiatives and programs provided the project and associated costs are authorized under the STOP Act COPS Office purpose areas.

***With equipment costs rising more than they did years ago is there an allowable percentage over today's cost for the increase of the project over the 3 years?***

Under SVPP, the federal share is a maximum of \$500,000 total for the 3 years/36 months. Applicants just submit a budget that is reasonable and plans for the costs of equipment and technology over the life of the award. Please note: no additional funding will be awarded post-award.

***Is there a different application for the "micro project" funding that was discussed?***

The COPS Office SVPP microgrant requires the same application as the general SVPP program. For SVPP purposes, microgrants are projects for \$100,000 or less. Please note, that applying for a microgrant does not exclude an application from the overall SVPP pool of funding.

***If 10/1/23 also, can we do the project over the summer and reimburse ourselves if awarded?***

Only costs on or after the award start date are eligible to be included for SVPP. Projects submitted prior are ineligible.

## ***Do you have a link for the self assessment resources (i.e. the site walk checklist)?***

Please see the [solicitation guide](#) under Additional Resources.

## ***Can any of the funding be used to help write your grant if you don't have an internal grant writing position?***

All requested items must support the safety and security of the schools and school grounds. All costs are reviewed case-by-case; however, in general grant writer costs are not authorized under the COPS Office purpose areas as defined by the STOP Act.

## **JustGrants**

### ***Does the budget in JustGrants have to exactly match the budget in the SF424?***

Prior to submission, the numbers must match. However, the JustGrants application will allow for editing of the SF-424 budget figures.

### ***At this time, for the BJA STOP application in JustGrants, it says that you must upload your budget in word, PDF, or excel format. Will this change?***

Just Grants has had a web-based form since it was launched. At the time you begin to upload your full application you should be able to fill in the form. You may also upload a document as an attachment in addition to completing the web based form.

### ***How do I make the transition from Grants.gov to JustGrants?***

It is seamless. You upload the two required documents to Grants.gov and you will be notified by email that you can begin the full upload of the application in JustGrants.

### ***How do I get help with the application submission process (grants.gov or justgrants)***

[OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding.

[JustGrants Application Submission Training Page](#) offers helpful information and resources on the application process. This training page includes e-learning videos, reference guides, checklists and other resources to help applicants complete an application

## **Other**

### ***Is the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form only required for applicants who engage in lobbying? What if we are not doing any lobbying? I don't see any option for "not applicable."***

Each applicant must complete and submit this information. An applicant that expends any funds for lobbying activities to influence or attempt to influence a covered Federal action, such as the making of a grant (or the entering into of a cooperative agreement), is to provide all of the information requested on the form Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) which is completed in Grants.gov as part of initiating your application submission. See 31 U.S.C. § 1352.



An applicant that does not expend any funds for such lobbying activities is to enter "N/A" in the text boxes for item 10 ("a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant" and "b. Individuals Performing Services").

***Is there a way to get questions addressed if they are not answered during this webinar?***

If you need assistance with the BJA Solicitation, contact David Adams at [david.adams@usdoj.gov](mailto:david.adams@usdoj.gov).

COPS: please send an email to [AskCOPSRC@usdoj.gov](mailto:AskCOPSRC@usdoj.gov) to speak with someone in our office.

***How many applications were received last year?***

BJA received approximately 225 applications in 2022.

The COPS Office received 405 eligible applications in FY 2022. The COPS Office funded 235 applications which was 58% of the applications received.