

FY 2024 STOP School Violence Act Solicitation Q&A

This document was curated and organized by the National Center for School Safety and provides information shared during the STOP School Violence Program FY2024 Solicitation webinar. The questions were answered by policy representatives from each funding agency.

The National Center for School Safety serves as the BJA STOP School Violence TTA Center. Learn more at [nc2s.org](https://www.nc2s.org).

Additional resources:

- More information about each solicitation is available at the following link:
<https://www.nc2s.org/resource/2024-stop-solicitation/>
- The solicitation webinar recording can be viewed at the following link:
https://umich.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1rxJeaXcSLOlwSuJtyH_Xw#/registration
- The webinar slides are available at the following link:
<https://www.nc2s.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/FY-24-BJA-STOP-School-Violence-Solicitation-Webinar-Slides.pdf>

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All Solicitations

What are the anticipated award dates?

BJA expects to make awards October 1. Applicants may not have access to funds until budget clearance is complete.

OJJDP: This is the same for OJJDP.

COPS: We anticipate making all awards in the fall.

I'm struggling to decide on which program to apply to. Which grant is right for me? What should our first steps be? What advice would you give? Is there a side-by-side comparison to help us decide?

BJA's STOP program is best for applicants who are seeking to implement Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams, technology solutions other than target hardening technology, or training for school faculty and staff to improve school climate to include PBIS, Social Emotional Learning (SEL), anti-bullying strategies, suicide prevention, or other training that improves school climate.

OJJDP's Enhancing School Capacity to Address Youth Violence solicitation seeks to support targeted efforts to address youth violence in a school-based setting (K-12th grade only). OJJDP seeks to increase school safety through the development and expansion of evidence-based and promising violence prevention and reduction programs and strategies to support school climate. Through this initiative, OJJDP expects applicants to utilize a collaborative approach between schools and community-based organizations (CBOs) to develop and implement these strategies.

Where can I find examples of earlier successful awardees' proposals/abstracts?

The link for BJA abstracts is in the solicitation:

<https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2023-171666>

OJJDP began the Enhancing School Capacity To Address Youth Violence solicitation, which is funded under STOP, in FY 2022. Awards made under the OJJDP FY 2022 Enhancing School Capacity To Address Youth Violence solicitation, to include abstracts, can be found at:

<https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-ojjdp-2022-171274> Awards made under the OJJDP FY 2023 Enhancing School Capacity To Address Youth Violence solicitation, to include abstracts, can be found at <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-ojjdp-2023-171658>

Is there any way to see our scoring and what needs to be changed from a prior submission? We were unsuccessful last year.

BJA: Contact David Adams at david.adams@usdoj.gov and he can forward a copy of the letter your agency received in December 2023 that included peer review comments.

For unsuccessful prior OJJDP applicants, contact Scott Pestridge at scott.pestridge@usdoj.gov and he can assist with getting peer review comments.

Are international institutions of higher education allowed to apply if they work with US school districts?

No.

May we apply to all three solicitations so long as our applications are not exactly the same?

COPS: Applicants may submit an application to COPS as well as OJJDP and BJA. Any items requested under SVPP must fall under the purpose areas authorized to the COPS Office. Items requested under BJA purpose areas will not be funded.

What factors would make a sustainability plan competitive?

Sustainability is only one component of the application. Competitive applications are those that fully describe the proposed project, have a complete program design and implementation plan, a credible and cost-effective budget, competent individuals implementing the program, and a reasonable discussion of how the strategy will continue to be implemented after federal funding is exhausted.

Are these funds to be spent first and then reimbursed?

These are reimbursement grants so funds are spent and then reimbursed by drawdown.

Can your project duration be for 2 years instead of 3 years?

These are three-year grants.

Is there a sample web-based budget form that we can see ahead of time so we know what it looks like and to be prepared for?

See the OJP Application Resource Guide at <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide#information-proposed-subwards>

Is Vaping Detection Technology Eligible for any of these grants? If not, what grant programs are you aware of that might help?

BJA: An applicant must make the case for how such technology fits with the overall school district or individual school safety strategy.

Vaping Detection Technology would not be eligible under the OJJDP Enhancing School Capacity to Address Youth Violence solicitation.

COPS vape detection technology is not an allowable cost.

Are there other grants that support institutions of higher education? My college would greatly benefit!

BJA: There are no DOJ grants for IHE's campus safety at this time.

OJJDP: Please sign up for JuvJust, OJJDP's Listserv, where new funding opportunities are communicated when released. The link to subscribe is <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/subscribe-juvjust>. You can look at each solicitation to see if you fit under the eligibility criteria. A list of current open funding opportunities for OJJDP can be found at <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/current>

Can funding from the grant be used to retain current staff members who will perform services connected with the priorities of the grant? Alternatively, can part-time staff be transformed to full-time staff using funds made available through the grant?

Grant funds cannot be used to supplant agency funds that are already being spent. Funds can be used to pay the portion of a staff salary that is not currently being funded by other sources.

Is there a cap for admin costs in the budget portion of the proposal or can we use our Federally Approved Indirect rate?

Organizations must have an "indirect cost rate" agreement. See <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide#indirect-cost>

Can these grants support activities for families and children in preschool?

No, unless they are in a Pre-K program at a K-12 school.

BJA STOP School Violence Solicitation

Is the local law enforcement to be an expected partner with an MOU or letter of support for the grant application?

BJA does not require MOUs for STOP grants. If local law enforcement is participating in the proposed project, there should be a letter of support or a positive statement in the project narrative that ensures that all partners listed have agreed to participate in the project.

Are you able to apply for the BJA STOP grant if you are in Year 2 of a COPS SVPP grant? How about if you are currently funded by another BJA STOP grant?

Yes as long as you are applying for something that is eligible to be funded under the BJA STOP program

Can you elaborate on the responsibilities of the research partner and give an example of who should fulfill this role? What qualifications are necessary? Could that be an individual from within the school district or should it be someone from a separate institution (such as a university or private entity)?

Research partners are only required for projects that are implementing new behavioral threat assessment teams. The research partner is not conducting research or evaluating your project but collecting and analyzing data to ensure that any threat assessments conducted do not discriminate against or stereotype students based on race, national origin, disability, religion, or sex.

What is the specific outcome you are looking for with the researcher/ evaluator? What has this looked like in past implementations?

The research partner is collecting and analyzing data from any behavioral threat assessments that are completed on a student to ensure that any threat assessments conducted do not discriminate against or stereotype students based on race, national origin, disability, religion, or sex.

For priority area 1a, do rural areas and those with low socioeconomic status count as underserved?

Yes, but applicants should concentrate on developing a complete and full project design and implementation plan. Priority considerations are only a small part of the funding decision process. BJA is looking for well-developed and complete project design and implementation plans regardless of whether they have requested priority considerations and those applications are more likely to be funded than those that have priority considerations but a weak project plan.

Can you talk a little about what proposing activities that address cultural needs might look like?

Priority considerations are only a small part of the funding decision process. BJA is looking for well-developed and complete project design and implementation plans regardless of whether they have requested priority considerations and those applications are more likely to be funded than those that have priority considerations but a weak project plan.

Can funding be used to pay for a training conference? (For example, rooms, speakers, materials, and light food and drink?)

Food and drink are unallowable expenditures. While conference activities are allowable, an applicant including that in an application would need to describe how that plays into the school or school district's overall school safety plan.

The RFP says you can train teachers and students. Are we allowed to train parents as well?

That is an allowable use of funds but the applicant would need to fully describe how they would get participation from parents since there is nothing that would require them to participate.

Is a logic model required in the application/submission?

A logic model is not required but is encouraged. An applicant will not lose peer review points if they do not include a logic model. Timelines are required. Both can be uploaded as separate attachments and will not count against the 15-page limit.

Of the eligible strategies listed for the STOP School Violence Program (developing/operating technology solutions, developing/implementing behavioral threat assessments, etc.), can applicants combine more than one strategy in their proposal?

Absolutely.

What type of relationship (subrecipient, procurement contract, partnership without any exchange of funds) would require the MOU documents to be submitted in the proposal (outlined in the RFP)?

There is no required MOU for BJA STOP grants. Applicants, however, have to demonstrate in either the project narrative or by including letters of support that they have a commitment to participate by any partners listed in the application.

Can you give more clarification on the use of incentives, stipends, or food? It was stated that food was not allowable; however, on page 23 it states that under the nature of this grant it would be allowable with prior approval. So can you clarify the inclusion of food and stipends in your budget?

Food is rarely if ever approved under the STOP program. If you are including compensation to staff to attend training outside of normal work hours, they should be listed as "compensation" rather than a "stipend".

OJJDP Enhancing School Capacity Solicitation

Page 4 of NOFO O-OJJDP-2024-172084 indicates, "OJJDP will consider applications under which two or more entities (project partners) would carry out the federal award; however only one entity may be the applicant for the solicitation." Based on this, does this funding opportunity require a partner? Or is this statement only to state that IF the applicant wants to include a partner in their application, only one will be the applicant/awardee?

The language on p. 4 of the solicitation is meant to clarify that if you have two or more entities carrying out the federal award, only one can be the applicant. In fact, the solicitation requires a partnership between a CBO and a school. With this in mind, only the CBO or the school can apply, not both. While both can be supported under the project design, one entity must be the applicant. It may be that your project design includes multiple CBOs supporting a school district. In this case, if the school is not the applicant, there would need to be a determination from the submitting team as to which CBO would be the applicant (with the other CBO as a subgrantee).

For Priority 1B, if the population-specific organization receiving at least 40% of funds subcontracts with another community-based organization, is that community-based organization subject to federal audits, reporting requirements, etc., or does it stop with the primary subcontracted population-specific organization? Many of our smaller culturally specific partners are not set up for that, so in planning conversations we want to make sure we are clear on expectations.

Priority 1B is meant to for a population-specific organization that serves communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, adversely affected by inequality, and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization. To receive this additional priority consideration, applicants must describe how being a population-specific organization (or funding the population-specific subrecipient organization(s)) will enhance their ability to implement the proposed project(s) and should also specify which historically underserved populations are intended or expected to be served or have their needs addressed under the proposed project(s).

Priority 1B, for purposes of this solicitation, refers to population-specific organizations that are nonprofit, nongovernmental, or Tribal organizations that primarily serve members of a specific underserved population and have demonstrated experience and expertise in providing targeted services to members of that specific underserved population. There is no reporting or audit requirement associated with this priority. Rather, it is a priority that should be lifted up, if applicable, by the applicant in their application.

The instructions indicate that tables may be attached outside of the 15-page narrative limit. Where should these tables be attached? May they use single spacing? May they use fonts smaller than 12 points so long as they are readable? If tables or figures are included WITHIN the 15-page narrative, are they required to have double spacing and 12-point font?

The proposal narrative should be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point size font; have no less than 1-inch margins; and should not exceed 15 numbered pages. Additional attachments can be uploaded as part of your application submission and can use fonts smaller than 12 points so long as they are readable. If tables or figures are included within the 15-page narrative, it is not required that those specific elements have double spacing and 12-point font. However, given the fact that the narrative is limited to 15 pages, it is encouraged to include supplemental tables and figures as separate attachments and upload them as part of your application submission.

Does the local coordinator need to be from the community-based organization?

A local coordinator must be designated to lead the project, support the development of any needed memorandums of understanding (MOUs), host regular meetings, and ensure that each involved agency and school identifies a dedicated liaison to the initiative. The placement of that local coordinator is to be determined as part of your specific project design.

Can the local coordinator be an in-house employee or does it need to be a new hire?

The local coordinator can be an in-house employee, with the understanding that grant funds cannot be used to supplant agency funds that are already being spent. OJJDP funds can be used to pay the portion of a staff salary that is not currently being funded by other sources.

Can the supports/activities take place at the community-based organization location to support K-12 youth rather than taking place at the school locations? What about just at select schools within multiple districts?

Yes, supports/activities can take place at the community-based organization location to support K-12 youth rather than taking place at a school location. However, there needs to be a nexus with the school/district regarding the activities being implemented as articulated in the MOU. Select schools within multiple districts can be the focus of a proposed initiative.

Is partnering with just one community-based organization acceptable rather than a "network"?

If a school identifies a particular community-based organization to partner with to implement a proposed project, this is acceptable.

Can a community-based organization be under a national program? Or, are they always "home grown"?

A community-based organization can be under a national program. However, there needs to be a clear connection with the CBO and the school/community where services are to be implemented.

Is there a minimum number of students that need to be served? We work primarily with small rural/remote schools.

There is not a minimum number of students that need to be served.

We estimate the total project to cost about \$100,000. You mentioned funding a number of grants for \$1,000,000 each—are we ineligible to apply since our cost is lower?

You would not be ineligible, as the solicitation supports up to 23 sites at up to \$1,000,000.00 per award. The solicitation further states that “while the maximum allowable funding amount is \$1,000,000, OJP encourages applicants, including those that are new or that have never before received a federal award, to submit a proposed budget that best supports their project objectives and organizational capabilities, even if the proposed budget is at a lower amount than the maximum allowable funding level.”

As a line item in the budget, can funds be included to cover transportation for students and families on the weekend?

Should weekend activities be aligned with the project design, this could be a cost that could be included in your application for consideration.

COPS School Violence Prevention Program Solicitation

Where can I find examples of what can be used as match funding?

The [SVPP solicitation document](#) contains information on acceptable sources of the cost share/local match.

Is the 25% match due at the beginning of our grant or is it spread across the three years of the grant?

Awardees may spread the local match over the 3 years/36 months. Please note that the match is required to be fully paid at the end of the award as a condition of compliance.

Can staff labor to install equipment count as part of the match funding?

Current employees may be paid under the grant only for the portions of their salaries that involve the SVPP project.

Can you use grant funding from another source as funds for the match?

The [SVPP solicitation document](#) contains information on acceptable sources of the cost share/local match.

Can our county sheriff's department apply? Can our county health department apply? Could they apply together?

Only one applicant is allowed. The applicant should have jurisdiction and authority to implement SVPP projects in the schools.

If a grant application request is for more than \$100,000, can you still check the box to be considered for a microgrant (would a microgrant be considered for a partial reward of a larger initial request)?

The total project costs for microgrants may not exceed \$100,000. Any projects that exceed \$100,000 and that do not fit the criteria for microgrants will be eligible for the overall SVPP funding. No partial awards are funded via microgrants.

Are we eligible to apply for this year's COPS grant if we are on our third year of an existing COPS grant?

Current and past SVPP awardees may apply. Please note that past performance is a factor in the review process.

Are bus stops considered school grounds?

Bus stops that are owned by the school are considered school grounds. City/town/county stops are not considered school grounds.

Can this grant be used to hire security on the bus? There is a lot of bullying resulting from fights in the neighborhood where I work. The fights are in the neighborhood but start at school.

Security officers or monitors are not an allowable cost under SVPP.

Can we see what the data requested is before we submit the budget?

Application materials may be previewed by reviewing the solicitation document and the repository questions found on the [COPS SVPP page](#) under Solicitation Documents

Will fire alarms be allowed to be part of our award package?

Any items requested under SVPP will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and must demonstrate a clear link to an overall school safety plan.