

BJA Visiting Fellows Program FY 2015 Competitive Announcement

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I access the webinar on the BJA Visiting Fellows Program presented on February 20, 2015?

The webinar can be accessed at www.bjatrainning.org/media/webinar/bja-visiting-fellows-program-solicitation-webinar.

2. Does the provision stating that BJA Fellows may not be registered lobbyists at the time the fellowship is made or during the period of the fellowship apply to both federal and state level lobbying?

Yes this applies to both the federal and state level.

3. Are there any specific prior convictions that will bar an applicant from consideration for the Second Chance Fellowship?

Because Fellows are required to be onsite at BJA, all applicants for all fellowships will be required to go through a background investigation. For the Second Chance Act Fellow decisions will be made on the totality of the individual applicant, therefore a past criminal history will not necessarily preclude an applicant from being approved as a Fellow. Once decisions on Fellow candidates are made, BJA will work closely with the Office of Justice Programs Human Resources Division and the applicant to process the appropriate paperwork.

4. Are both fellows under the Reentry and Corrections priority areas expected to be former offenders?

No, only the Second Chance Act Fellow requires that the applicant be a formerly incarcerated individual.

5. How will the "formerly incarcerated" criterion be substantiated?

Applicants should state whether they have been formerly incarcerated when applying for the Second Chance Act Fellow priority area. However, when candidates are chosen, their criminal record will be verified through the DOJ background investigation process.

6. If DOJ has recently completed a background search for the DOJ PREA auditor certification would it shorten the time frame for the required DOJ background check associated with the Fellowship?

No. The DOJ background investigation is a separate background investigation process and will be conducted through the Office of Justice Programs Human Resources Division.

7. Can costs associated with the in residency requirement (temporary housing in Washington) be included as part of the budget?

Yes. Please see the solicitation for more details on the budget requirements.

8. Can an individual applicant apply for more than one Fellowship?

Yes, there is nothing preventing an applicant from submitting two different priority area applications.

9. Do applicant who wish to submit to more than one priority area need to submit separate applications?

Yes, the applicant would need to submit separate application and indicate the appropriate priority area.