

**Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program
FY 2009 Competitive Grant Announcement
Frequently Asked Questions**

Eligibility

1. Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants under this initiative are limited to states, units of local government, federally recognized Indian tribes, and tribal organizations. A unit of local government is a town; township; village; parish; city; county; or other general purpose political subdivision of a state; or a federally recognized Indian tribe (see "Eligibility," page 2).

2. Are U.S. Territories eligible to apply?

Yes, U.S. territories are eligible applicants.

3. The solicitation states that BJA will only accept joint applications. Can you clarify that statement?

BJA is seeking a single application that demonstrates that the proposed project will be planned or implemented collaboratively by a unit of government with responsibility for criminal justice activities in partnership with a mental health agency.

4. How is a unit of government with responsibility for criminal justice activities defined?

A criminal or juvenile justice agency is an agency of state or local government or its contracted agency that is responsible for detection, arrest, enforcement, prosecution, defense, adjudication, incarceration, probation, or parole relating to the violation of the criminal laws of that state or local government.

5. How is a mental health agency defined?

A mental health agency is an agency of a state or local government or its contracted agency that is responsible for mental health services or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse services. A substance abuse agency is considered an eligible applicant if that agency provides services to individuals suffering from co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

6. Can a state or local jurisdiction submit more than one application for funding?

The solicitation does not prohibit a jurisdiction from submitting more than one application. Given the limited amount of resources; however, it is unlikely that any jurisdiction will receive more than one award as geographic and programmatic diversity will be considered in making a final selection.

7. My understanding is that this grant is intended to serve people with nonviolent charges (in accordance with the language included in Public Law 108-414). Does this hold true for all types of proposals (e.g., reentry)?

Yes, the identified population to receive the services is the nonviolent offender. Grant funds must be used to serve a target population that includes an adult or juvenile accused of a nonviolent offense who:

- Has been diagnosed as having a mental illness or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorder.
- Has faced, is facing, or could face criminal charges for a misdemeanor or nonviolent offense.

8. What is meant by the term “nonviolent offense?”

The term “nonviolent offense” means an offense that does not have as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another or is not a felony that by its nature involves a substantial risk that physical force against the person or property of another may be used in the course of committing the offense.

Budget

1. Is the award amount per year or for the entire grant period?

The award amount is for the entire grant period, not per year. For example, for jurisdictions awarded a Category II Planning and Implementation grant, the award amount will be \$250,000 for the entire three-year period, not \$250,000 per year.

2. When is the funding start date?

Applicants should plan for their proposed project dates on or after October 1, 2009.

3. What is the match requirement for this program?

A grant made under this program may not cover more than 80 percent of the total costs of the project being funded during the first two years of the grant. For Category II (Planning and Implementation), the grant can cover no more than 60 percent of the total costs of the project during the third year. The applicant must identify the source of the non-federal portion of the budget and how match funds will be used. Applicants may satisfy this match requirement with either cash or in-kind services.

Example: For a federal award amount of \$200,000, match would be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\$200,000}{80\%} = \$250,000 \times 20\% = \$50,000 \text{ match}$$

For Category II applicants, calculate the match by year. For example:

Year 1 Budget: \$100,000

$$\frac{\$100,000}{80\%} = \$125,000 \times 20\% = \$25,000 \text{ match}$$

Year 2 Budget: \$75,000

$$\frac{\$75,000}{80\%} = \$93,750 \times 20\% = \$18,750 \text{ match}$$

Year 3 Budget: \$75,000

$$\frac{\$75,000}{60\%} = \$125,000 \times 40\% = \$50,000 \text{ match}$$

4. What sources of funding can be used for match to this grant?

Match may be cash or in-kind.

5. How should the budget be presented?

The budget worksheet and narrative must be submitted as one document; a sample is found through the hyperlink listed on page 10 of the solicitation. The form provided can be copied and saved into a WordPerfect or Word document, and narrative can be added after the work sheet information. A budget can also be created in Excel, but it must follow a similar format

to what is included in the sample budget worksheet. Recognize also that the Budget Detail Worksheet is used as a guide to assist the reviewers in comparing activities proposed with budget items requested. BJA also recommends that applicants review the OJP *Financial Guide* (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/index.htm) for additional assistance related to the budget.

Performance Measures

1. May the applicant designate which of the performance measures listed apply to the program the applicant is proposing, or does BJA expect that a proposed program address all performance measures?

BJA understands that given a focus on one area of activity or another that applicants may be better able to respond to some measures more than others, and will review the responses in this context. However, all applicants must demonstrate in their proposal the ability, through a formal process, to collect information related to the performance measures listed in the solicitation. Upon selection of the applicants to receive awards, BJA will review these measures for more direction regarding final reporting requirements.

Models of Intervention for Individuals with Mental Illnesses

1. What are some models for intervention for individuals with mental illnesses?

BJA supports an intervention model proposed by the [National GAINS Center](#) and the [Ohio Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence](#). The [Sequential Intercept Model](#) identifies “points of interception” where an intervention can be made to keep an individual with mental illness from entering or moving further into the justice system.

BJA also supports a comprehensive model for system-involved youth, [A Blueprint for Change: Improving the System Response to Youth with Mental Health Needs Involved with the Juvenile Justice System](#).

Technical Assistance

1. What type of technical assistance (TA) will be available?

BJA will provide information on current mental health partnerships, key elements of these approaches, support assessment of needs and resources, and building collaboration. Specific, intensive technical assistance will also provided. Upon selection of sites, a specific TA strategy will be developed to address the unique needs of the grantees.

Examples of Law Enforcement Response Programs

1. What are examples of allowable uses of law enforcement-based response programs?

The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act was reauthorized for FYs 2009 through 2014. The reauthorization includes additional priorities for the program as well as an expansion of the options for programs that focus on law enforcement responses to system-involved individuals with mental illnesses. Additional allowable uses for programs focused on law enforcement responses to people with mental illnesses can include the planning and implementation of:

- Training programs that offer law enforcement personnel specialized and comprehensive training in procedures to identify and respond appropriately to incidents in which the unique needs of individuals with mental illnesses are involved.
- Specialized receiving centers for individuals in custody of law enforcement to assess for suicide risk and mental health and substance abuse treatment needs and refer to or provide appropriate treatment services.
- Computerized information systems to provide timely information to law enforcement personnel and criminal justice system personnel to improve the response to incidents involving people with mental illnesses.
- Campus security personnel training in procedures to identify and respond appropriately to incidents involving people with mental illnesses.

Additional Information

1. What is the anticipated number of awards?

Approximately 25-30 total awards will be made.

2. Does the 20-page limit include Attachments 1, 2, and 3 or only Attachment 1?

This includes only Attachment 1, the Program Narrative, and should include responses to Selection Criteria 1, 2, 3, and 5. See page 10 of the solicitation for further details.

3. Are the additional requirements (page 12 of announcement) required at the time of application or at time of award, if funded?

In the application process in Grants.gov, applicants will be required to acknowledge and agree to several of these requirements. However, no paperwork will need to be completed unless an award is made.

Please note:

- All applicants should review Public Law 108-414 and Public Law 110-416 as it defines terms used in this solicitation.
- The application must be submitted through Grants.gov. Please register with Grants.gov as soon as possible as the registration process can take some time.
- OJP's Grants Management System does not support Microsoft Vista or Microsoft 2007. Please refer to page 9 of the solicitation for more information on allowable formats.