

**Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) Program
FY 2012 Competitive Grant Announcement
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Last updated on 5/18/2012

1. During the planning phase of the BCJI grant, what portion of the overall funding may Category 2 Enhancement Grantees access, \$75,000, or \$90,000?

There was an inconsistency in the solicitation and BJA has updated this information in the solicitation. Pages 12, 14, and 22 all now reflect that the level of funding for the initial planning period will be limited to up to **\$150,000** for implementation sites and **\$90,000** for enhancement sites.

2. Are territories eligible to apply for a BCJI grant?

Territories are eligible to apply for a grant. Like all applicants, they must also satisfy the other eligibility criteria as is outlined on the first page of the solicitation including that the applicant or “fiscal agent” must represent a consortium of partners that will work together to design a strategy addressing a targeted crime problem that impedes broader neighborhood development goals.

3. Does BCJI require a match?

The application states that core program funding will be covered 100 percent for the first 18 months of implementation. After that 18-month period, federal funding is limited to 50 percent of the overall budget costs. Does this imply that a match is required?

The BCJI program does not require an applicant / grantee to match their BCJI grant funds. BCJI will, however, BCJI will cover all expenses during the initial planning phase of the project period **and** during the first 18 months of implementation of projects. During any remaining months, grantees must implement their sustainability plan by funding no more than 50 percent of the overall program funds. BJA will not require, like a match, that the grantee proactively report this information to BJA, but would have to maintain records of the funding contributions consistent with the OJP Financial Guide. *(See page 29 of the BCJI solicitation for additional information and requirements on a sustainability plan.)*

This means that **Category 1: Planning and Implementation applicants/grantees** may use/allocate BCJI grant funds to cover 100 percent of their overall budget costs for up to 12 months of the initial planning period plus up to 18 months during the implementation period for no more than a total of 30 months. **Category 2: Enhancement applicants/grantees** may use/allocate BCJI grant funds to cover 100 percent of their overall budget costs for up to 6 months during the initial planning period plus up to 24 months during the implementation period for no more than a total of 30 months.

Grantees should plan for this period, designing and implementing a sustainment plan during which additional private or public dollars are leveraged in order to continue and advance the BCJI strategy.

4. May rural jurisdictions apply for BCJI funding?

Yes, rural jurisdictions are eligible for BCJI grant funds.

5. Should this proposal be a state-wide initiative or should states be assisting the local governments with submitting grants?

The focus on this solicitation is on focusing small locations with significant proportions of crime, developing targeted, place based strategies with a cross-sector partnership that is comprised of local partners, leaders, and community residents. BJA is open to ideas from the field as to how to best approach this.

- 6. Can a BCJI application propose to address crime issues in more than one neighborhood?**
See the answer to question 5. It is anticipated that it would be difficult to focus this level of resources on more than one neighborhood to have a significant impact. However, BJA is open to create strategies that address the core BCJI program elements, particularly if the applicant partnership leveraged significant resources to support the strategy.
- 7. What is the threshold for crime hot spots? How much crime compared to the overall jurisdiction warrants a high-crime area or hot spot?**
There is not a set or base proportion in the selection criteria. As noted in the solicitation, less than 10 percent of all city blocks can drive large proportions of calls for service and crime incidents (as much as 30 to 80 percent). The statement of need reflects other indicators of distress that will also be considered. The application will be scored based upon consideration of all applications against the selection criteria in the solicitation.
- 8. What constitutes a “broader neighborhood revitalizations initiative or redevelopment initiative?”**
A neighborhood revitalization initiative or redevelopment plan is one that builds partnerships to align and coordinate strategies, programs and resources to achieve a bigger impact than any one agency or organization or program could achieve alone. To qualify as a neighborhood revitalization initiative or redevelopment plan, there should be people and programs within an identified place that are employing an integrated neighborhood-level approach to identifying improvements to resident and community quality of life over time. The solicitation offers strategies for a continuum of approaches to address the drivers of crime, including potentially, enforcement, prevention, intervention, and revitalization strategies.
- 9. With regard to describing the nature and scope of the crime problem in the program narrative, how much data is required now as opposed to during the planning period when working with a research partner?**
The applicant should provide all of the information that they have available to support their need statement, particularly community level, police beat or census tract data. BJA recognizes that the applicant will not have all data needed and during the planning phase should work with the research partner to assess and validate data using new or other data sources and community input. Once the issue is refined and finalized, the grantees will also be expected to continue to collect data about crime and programmatic efforts and to aggregate and consistently analyze the program to make needed program refinements and changes. It for this reason, that BJA will expect the proposed strategy and budget to be revised to address these enhancements.
- 10. May police departments or research partners serve as fiscal agents?**
Yes. A local law enforcement agency or a research partner may serve as the fiscal agent.
- 11. If the law enforcement agency or the research partner serves as the fiscal agent, must they still submit a letter of support as requested on page 24 of the BCJI solicitation?**
Yes. A complete application must include the 5 letters of support requested on page 24 of the solicitation.
- 12. May an applicant submit additional letters of support?**
Yes, the applicant may submit additional letters that are clearly tied to the strategy.

13. May Public Safety Enhancement (PSE) grantees apply for BCJI funding?

Yes, PSE grantees are eligible to apply to BCJI. However, PSE grantees must not propose to implement the same strategies/programs that were outlined in their PSE applications. These strategies can complement the PSE effort and these applicants are encouraged to discuss how they relate. PSE grantees must be sure to propose comprehensive justice strategies that satisfy the requirements of the BCJI program and would have to make a strong case of need as to why they should receive these additional resources.

14. Page 24 of the BCJI solicitation requests a letter of support from “one community leader.” What is a community leader?

A community leader is a person, not an agency or organization. This is a person who has a recognized formal or informal leadership role in the target community and will have an established role in the proposed program, which should be clearly stated in the application. This person will likely be instrumental in the grantees efforts to engage community residence and get “buy-in” from design to implementation of the BCJI strategy.