



Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program

FY 2014 Competitive Grant Announcement

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated March 26, 2014

Is BCJI appropriate for rural areas or small cities, in addition to larger cities?

The BCJI program is intended for any area that can show need for the program and meet programmatic requirements, as stated on page 11 of the solicitation. Funding decisions are based upon a variety of factors including, but not limited to peer review ratings, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities including the White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (Promise, Choice, Community Health Centers), sustainability, past performance and available funding.

We are asked in the solicitation to examine hot spots but the entire target area is a high crime area. Is identifying small hot spots required?

Applicants should describe the nature and scope of crime in the target neighborhood. This should include discussion of specific city blocks or other hot spots if a large proportion of crime or types of crime occur in small areas. If data suggests crime is spread more evenly throughout the target area, the narrative should describe that. During the planning phase, funded sites will verify information about hot spots through analysis with the researcher, community and other partners. That analysis may yield a narrowing or expansion of BCJI program focus, to be proposed in the Implementation Plan. Further information on crime hot spots can be found [here](#).

Are there limitations on which populations (such as youth) that can be served by the grant?

The BCJI program is focused on reducing crime in specific places; there are not limitations on the types of populations that can be served by the BCJI program.

Does the BCJI research partner have to be local? Can the research partner be from another city or part of the country?

Although research partners do not need to be based in the same city or region as the BCJI target neighborhood, it is preferred that they are to ensure that the research partner can be a regular and active participant in the local BCJI partnership without expending significant resources on travel. If your researcher is from another city or part of the country, the applicant should describe how s/he will

participate fully in the BCJI process, including contributing actionable information during the planning and (for Category 2 applicants) in the implementation phases. That information should likely include data on community perceptions about crime and the justice system, as well as data from local institutions like the police department.

Can a BCJI partnership work with multiple researchers?

Yes, BCJI partnerships may work with one or more researchers. In some cases, this might be appropriate given the diversity of neighborhood problems that a BCJI partnership may wish to examine to gain a clear picture of crime drivers. If multiple researchers are involved, the applicant should clearly describe their contributions and how their work will be coordinated to serve BCJI program goals.

If the planning phase of the BCJI program involves researching the drivers of crime in my target area, how can I know now what implementation strategies and activities to propose, as required of Category 2 applicants?

It is expected that an applicant has conducted an initial investigation into the crime problems and possible causes in a proposed target area, such that the applicant can propose a thoughtful plan for reducing crime and criminogenic factors. If a robust planning process yields findings that steer the BCJI cross-sector partnership in a different direction, grantees can and should articulate those findings and new proposed strategies in their [Implementation Plan](#). The process of submitting the Implementation Plan package and securing approval from BJA allows for appropriate revisions to the project timeline and budget that might accompany such strategy changes.

Do we have to provide national statistics as a comparison for local crime statistics in our Statement of Need?

Applicants should use data that paints a clear picture of the nature and scope of crime and its drivers in the target area with, at a minimum, comparisons to the overall jurisdiction.

How many Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Letters of Support are required? Can all of the entities listed on page 21 of the solicitation sign one joint Memorandum of Understanding?

The application requires that the fiscal agent, local law enforcement agency, one cross-sector partner and one community leader sign a MOU articulating their commitment to the proposed BCJI program. Applicants may submit one single MOU signed by all parties or separate MOUs. A separate letter of participation is required from the research partner as described on page 22. Additional letters of support from any other key members of the cross sector partnership team are welcome but not required.