

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Justice Programs  
*Bureau of Justice Assistance*



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The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP) [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) is seeking applications for the Second Chance Act Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Plan Implementation Program. This program furthers the Department's mission by reducing recidivism and therefore reduces crime as part of a comprehensive violence reduction strategy.

# **Second Chance Act Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Plan Implementation Program FY 2018 Competitive Grant Announcement Applications Due: July 5, 2018**

## **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants are limited to the five state/jurisdictional recipients of BJA's fiscal year (FY) 2017 Second Chance Act (SCA) Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Planning Program awards. These five state/jurisdictional recipients are: Alaska, Utah, Louisiana, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

All recipients and subrecipients (including any for-profit organization) must forgo any profit or management fee.

BJA welcomes applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients (subgrantees).<sup>1</sup> The applicant must be the entity that would have primary responsibility for carrying out the award, including administering the funding and managing the entire project.

BJA may elect to fund applications submitted under this FY 2018 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

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<sup>1</sup> For additional information on subawards, see "Budget and Associated Documentation" under [Section D. Application and Submission Information](#).

## Deadline

Applicants must register with Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html> prior to submitting an application. All applications are due by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on July 5, 2018.

To be considered timely, an application must be submitted by the application deadline using Grants.gov, and the applicant must have received a validation message from Grants.gov that indicates successful and timely submission. OJP urges applicants to submit applications at least 72 hours prior to the application due date, to allow time for the applicant to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

OJP encourages all applicants to read this [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#).

For additional information, see [How To Apply](#) in Section D. Application and Submission Information.

## Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>, or at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

An applicant that experiences unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond its control that prevent it from submitting its application by the deadline must email the contact identified below **within 24 hours after the application deadline** to request approval to submit its application after the deadline. Additional information on reporting technical issues appears under “Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues” in the [How To Apply](#) section.

For assistance with any unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond an applicant’s control that prevent it from submitting its application by the deadline, or any other requirement of this solicitation, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Response Center: toll-free at 800-851-3420; via TTY at 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only); email [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov); fax to 301-240-5830; or web chat at <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>. The NCJRS Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

Grants.gov number assigned to this solicitation: BJA-2018-13636

Release date: June 4, 2018

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# Second Chance Act Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Plan Implementation Program (CFDA #16.812)

## A. Program Description

### Overview

The purpose of the FY 2018 Second Chance Act Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Plan Implementation Program (SRR Implementation Program) is to provide state agencies with resources and technical assistance to implement previously developed strategic plans that will result in improved reentry systems and reduced recidivism among populations released from incarceration.

**Statutory Authority:** Funding is authorized under the Second Chance Act Demonstration Programs, 34 U.S.C. § 10631. Additional authority for awards under this solicitation is provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, 132 Stat. 348, 421.

### Program-specific Information

Over 2.1 million individuals are incarcerated in federal and state prisons, and millions of people cycle through local jails every year.<sup>2</sup> Ninety-five percent of all offenders incarcerated in state prisons will eventually be released.<sup>3</sup>

SCA programs are designed to help communities develop and implement comprehensive and collaborative strategies that improve public safety and address the challenges posed by reentry and recidivism reduction.

Developing a comprehensive approach for reducing recidivism is challenging, requiring access to data, service delivery changes, coordination of multiple systems, and strategic planning. As such, in FY 2017, BJA competitively awarded funds to five states to develop comprehensive strategic plans. These five states are now invited to apply to this FY 2018 competitive grant announcement, to implement these previously developed comprehensive strategic plans.

These strategic plans are informed by a data-driven assessment of the needs of the target population, drivers of recidivism in the state, and system limitations (including both policy barriers and resource gaps). They are also focused on system-level reforms related to: (1) risk- and need-driven case planning and resource allocation; (2) delivery of quality programming targeting criminogenic needs; and (3) effective supervision practices. Last, the plans include strong evaluation and sustainability components.

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<sup>2</sup> Danielle Kaeble and Lauren Glaze, *Correctional Populations in the United States*, 2015 (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2016), available at <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus15.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Timothy Hughes and Doris James Wilson, *Reentry Trends in the United States* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2002), available at [bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/reentry.pdf](https://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/reentry.pdf).

In addition to implementing the strategic plans, the FY 2018 selected grantees will serve as learning sites for implementing a comprehensive state-level recidivism reduction plan. Pending grantee performance and availability of future appropriations, two supplemental awards for additional 12-month periods are anticipated.

### ***Recidivism Definition***

For purposes of this solicitation, recidivism is defined as a return to incarceration within one year of release. BJA also collects other recidivism indicator data, including arrests resulting in booking for a new charge, conviction for a new charge, and revocations of the terms of supervised release. The applicant agency must document its capacity to continue to collect and maintain relevant data to track the recidivism rate, according to the definition provided, during the length of the project period and beyond.

### **Objectives and Deliverables**

BJA will select up to three states to deliver on the following objectives, focused on reducing recidivism and violent crime:

- Align agency practices with best and evidence-based practices to:
  - Focus on the offenders most likely to recidivate.
  - Use risk and needs assessments to inform resource-allocation decisions and individual case responses.
  - Establish and scale up evidence-based programs and practices that reduce recidivism and ensure they are implemented with fidelity.
  - Implement community supervision policies and practices that promote successful reentry.
- Assess and document the process and outcomes of implementing recidivism and violent crime reduction strategies to serve as models for other agencies throughout the nation.
- Promote and increase collaboration among agencies and officials who work in prisons, probation, parole, law enforcement, treatment, housing, workforce development, reentry, and related fields.

Funds can be used to support capacity-building activities, including staff training to meet the rehabilitative and supervision needs of the supervision population; assessing and addressing gaps and/or quality of service provision; standardizing new or existing strategies to promote replication and scaling; and developing and implementing performance metrics. (See [Appendix D](#) for additional information on allowable uses of funds.)

The objectives and deliverables are directly related to the performance measures that demonstrate the results of the work completed, as discussed in [Section D. Application and Submission Information](#), under Program Narrative.

### ***Second Chance Act Statutory Requirements***

Section 101 of the Second Chance Act outlines the following Mandatory Requirements that **must be satisfied by the applicant in order to be eligible** for funding a comprehensive strategic planning implementation program:

1. A reentry strategic plan that describes the jurisdiction's long-term reentry strategy, including measurable annual and 5-year performance outcomes, relating to the long-term objectives

of increasing public safety and reducing recidivism. The reentry strategic plan must reflect input from nonprofit organizations, as appropriate and available. One objective of the plan must be a 50 percent decrease in recidivism over a 5-year period for offenders served by a program funded through this program. Contributing to this objective, the plan must attain a 10-percent reduction in recidivism in the first 2 years. And this plan must include performance measures to assess the plan's progress.

2. A detailed reentry implementation schedule and sustainability plan for the program.
3. Documentation that reflects the establishment and ongoing engagement of a reentry task force or reentry council composed of relevant state, tribal, territorial, or local leaders and representatives of relevant agencies, service providers, nonprofit organizations, and other key stakeholders.
4. The task force should examine ways to pool resources and funding streams and collect data and best practices in reentry from stakeholder agencies and organizations.
5. The task force and the strategic planning requirement above should provide a key opportunity for local policymakers to work together to identify and address local barriers to effective reentry, including barriers that are policy or procedural in nature. (See Mandatory Requirement 10 below.)
6. Discussion of the role of local governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, Continuums of Care, state or local interagency councils on homelessness, and community stakeholders that will coordinate and collaborate during the planning and implementation of the reentry strategy. The applicant will provide certification of the involvement of such agencies and organizations. These partners and participants in the creation of the reentry strategy should include representatives from the fields of public safety, prisons and jails, housing (including partnerships with public housing authorities), homeless services providers, health, education, substance abuse, children and families, victims' services, employment, and business.
7. Extensive evidence of collaboration with state and local government agencies overseeing health, mental health, housing, homeless services, child welfare, education, substance abuse, victims services, state child support, and employment services, and with local law enforcement agencies.
8. An extensive discussion of the role of state corrections departments, probation and parole, and local jail corrections systems in ensuring successful reentry in their communities. Applications must include letters of support from officials responsible for facilities or offenders to be served through this project (see "What an Application Should Include," on page 21).
9. Documentation that reflects explicit support by the chief executive officer of the applicant state, unit of local government, territory, or Indian tribe and how this office will remain informed and connected to the activities of the project. (See "What an Application Should Include," on page 21.)
10. A description of the evidence-based methodology and outcome measures that will be used to evaluate the program and a discussion of how such measurements will provide a valid

assessment of the impact of the program.

11. A description of how the project could be scaled up or broadly replicated if demonstrated to be effective.
12. A plan for the analysis of the statutory, regulatory, rules-based, and practice-based hurdles that returning prisoners face when reintegrating into the community.

### ***Program Implementation Requirements***

The selected three states will engage in a comprehensive implementation process that will span a 12-month period and will be driven by the Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Plan completed for the FY 2017 SRR planning grant. Each plan must clearly describe the policy and procedural changes, capacity-building activities, and programmatic investments the state will undertake to achieve its desired reduction in overall recidivism.

All applicants **must** demonstrate the state's commitment to undertake the following activities in the implementation process:

- In addition to the documentation of **explicit support provided from the state's chief executive** (see Mandatory Requirement #9 above), applications must include a **written letter of support** for the project from the state commissioner/director/secretary of corrections.
- Establish a collaborative implementation steering team to guide and oversee the implementation process. The team should include a representative cross section of state policymakers, agency directors and managers, community partners, and line staff that will be directly affected by the plan.
  - BJA recommends that this team be the same as, or builds upon, the planning team established for the FY 2017 SRR Planning grant, although some changes in membership are to be expected.
- Develop a comprehensive implementation work plan, within **6 months** of receiving final OJP budget approval, based on a [Planning and Implementation \(P&I\) Guide](#) provided by BJA's technical assistance provider. The P&I Guide will include:
  - A strategy to engage key stakeholders and educate them about the plan to promote participation.
  - An evaluation plan that details what data need to be collected as the project is rolled out to ensure an evaluation can be completed (included in the SSR Strategic Plan).
  - Indication of what intermediate data will be tracked to monitor implementation progress, progress toward meeting the state recidivism reduction objective, and how that information will be reported to key stakeholders.
  - An updated assessment of the characteristics of the target population that will be affected by the plan.

- An ongoing plan to review and change agency policies or procedures, and establish any memoranda of understanding (MOUs) or letters of agreement (LOAs), as needed, in order to develop a sound organizational infrastructure to support targeted interventions.
- An ongoing training, coaching, and supervision plan for staff implementing, supervising, or directly affected by any new programs or policies on how to implement those changes and the importance of evidence-based practices.
- An ongoing oversight/quality assurance process to ensure the evidence-based practices supported by the grant are being implemented appropriately and a corresponding plan for how to respond to shortcomings and successes.
- A strategy for engaging policymakers throughout the grant period to promote support for the project (this should be included in the SSR Strategic Plan).
- Hire an experienced full-time project director to staff the implementation steering team and facilitate the development and execution of the implementation work plan.
- Build capacity with non-traditional community-based organizations that have specifically focused on providing reentry services for the target population and their families.
- Develop process to collect data at the beginning of the grant period to inform evaluation planning and conduct both a process and impact evaluation.
- Share data and work closely with BJA's technical assistance provider, the National Reentry Resource Center, during the implementation phase.
- Describe what, if any, types of intensive technical assistance (which is available to grantees in addition to the funding support they receive) would be of particular value to the state during the implementation process.

### **Evidence-based Programs or Practices**

OJP strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policy making and program development in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. OJP is committed to:

- Improving the quantity and quality of evidence OJP generates.
- Integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions within OJP and the field.
- Improving the translation of evidence into practice.

OJP considers programs and practices to be evidence-based when their effectiveness has been demonstrated by causal evidence, generally obtained through one or more outcome evaluations. Causal evidence documents a relationship between an activity or intervention (including technology) and its intended outcome, including measuring the direction and size of a change, and the extent to which a change may be attributed to the activity or intervention. Causal evidence depends on the use of scientific methods to rule out, to the extent possible, alternative explanations for the documented change. The strength of causal evidence,

based on the factors described above, will influence the degree to which OJP considers a program or practice to be evidence-based.

The OJP CrimeSolutions.gov website at <https://www.crimesolutions.gov> is one resource that applicants may use to find information about evidence-based programs in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.

Action research plans between researchers and practitioners have great potential to improve practice and policy. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) published findings of the Research-Practitioner Partnerships Study, which documents, synthesizes, and shares what makes partnerships between researchers and practitioners successful. See "[Recommendations for Collaborating Successfully With Academic Researchers, Findings from the Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships Study \(RPPS\)](#)."

For information related to implementation science, applicants may wish to refer to the [National Implementation Research Network](#) website.

### **Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities**

The Department of Justice has prioritized the use of evidence-based programming and deems it critical to continue to build and expand the evidence informing criminal and juvenile justice programs to reach the highest level of rigor possible. Therefore, applicants should note that OJP may conduct or support an evaluation of the programs and activities funded under this solicitation. Recipients and sub-recipients will be expected to cooperate with program-related assessments or evaluation efforts, including through the collection and provision of information or data requested by OJP (or its designee) for the assessment or evaluation of any activities and/or outcomes of those activities funded under this solicitation. The information or data requested may be in addition to any other financial or performance data already required under this program.

## **B. Federal Award Information**

BJA expects to make up to three awards of up to \$1,000,000, with an estimated total amount awarded of up to \$3,000,000. BJA expects to make awards for a 24-month period of performance, to begin on October 1, 2018.

BJA may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this solicitation, through continuation awards. In making decisions regarding continuation awards, OJP will consider, among other factors, the availability of appropriations, when the program or project was last competed, OJP's strategic priorities, and OJP's assessment of both the management of the award (for example, timeliness and quality of progress reports), and the progress of the work funded under the award.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

### **Type of Award**

BJA expects to make any award under this solicitation in the form of a grant. See [Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements](#), under [Section F. Federal Award](#)

[Administration Information](#), for a brief discussion of important statutes, regulations, and award conditions that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP grants.

**Financial Management and System of Internal Controls** Award recipients and subrecipients (including recipients or subrecipients that are pass-through entities<sup>4</sup>) must, as described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements<sup>5</sup> as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.303:

- (a) Establish and maintain effective internal control over the Federal award that provides reasonable assurance that [the recipient (and any subrecipient)] is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in “Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government” issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the “Internal Control Integrated Framework”, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).
- (b) Comply with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal awards.
- (c) Evaluate and monitor [the recipient’s (and any subrecipient’s)] compliance with statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of Federal awards.
- (d) Take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings.
- (e) Take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity designates as sensitive or [the recipient (or any subrecipient)] considers sensitive consistent with applicable Federal, state, local, and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality.

To help ensure that applicants understand the applicable administrative requirements and cost principles, OJP encourages prospective applicants to enroll, at no charge, in the DOJ Grants Financial Management Online Training, available at <https://ojpfgm.webfirst.com/>. (This training is required for all OJP award recipients.)

Also, applicants should be aware that OJP collects information from applicants on their financial management and systems of internal controls (among other information) which is used to make award decisions. Under [Section D. Application and Submission Information](#), applicants may access and review a questionnaire—the [OJP Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire](#)—that OJP requires **all** applicants to download, complete, and submit as part of the application.

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<sup>4</sup> For purposes of this solicitation, the phrase “pass-through entity” includes any recipient or subrecipient that provides a subaward (“subgrant”) to a subrecipient (subgrantee) to carry out part of the funded award or program. Additional information on proposed subawards is listed under [What an Application Should Include](#), Section 4c of this solicitation.

<sup>5</sup> The “Part 200 Uniform Requirements” means the DOJ regulation at 2 C.F.R Part 2800, which adopts (with certain modifications) the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

## Budget Information

### Matching Requirement (cash or in-kind)

Federal funds awarded under this solicitation may not cover more than 50 percent of the total costs of the project, and 50 percent of the match needs to be cash match. The remaining 50 percent of the match can be in-kind. An applicant must identify the source of the 50 percent non-federal portion<sup>6</sup> of the total project costs and how it will use match funds.

If a successful applicant's proposed match exceeds the required match amount, and OJP approves the budget, the total match amount incorporated into the approved budget becomes mandatory and subject to audit. ("Match" funds may be used only for purposes that would be allowable for the federal funds.) Recipients may satisfy this match requirement with either cash or in-kind services. See the DOJ Grants Financial Guide at <https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.3b.htm> for examples of "in-kind" services. The formula for calculating the match is:

$$\frac{\text{Federal Award Amount}}{\text{Federal Share Percentage}} = \text{Adjusted (Total) Project Costs}$$

$$\text{Required Recipient's Share Percentage} \times \text{Adjusted Project Cost} = \text{Required Match}$$

**Example:** 50% match requirement: for a federal award amount of \$350,000, calculate match as follows:

$$\frac{\$350,000}{50\%} = \$700,000 \quad 50\% \times \$700,000 = \$350,000 \text{ match}$$

**Note:** The budget detail should distinguish cash from in-kind matched funds using an asterisk to show what percentage of the budget is cash.

### Match Waiver

The Attorney General may waive the match requirement upon a determination of fiscal hardship. To be considered for a waiver of match, a letter of request signed by the Authorized Representative must be submitted with the application defining the fiscal hardship. Fiscal hardship may be defined in terms related to reductions in overall budgets, furloughing or reductions in force of staff, or other similar documented actions which have resulted in severe budget reductions. Detailed information must be provided with match waiver requests.

***A match waiver request must be submitted as a separate attachment to the application and titled as the "Match Waiver."***

### ***Award Special Condition – Withholding of Funds for BJA Planning and Implementation Guide***

Once awarded, each grant award will have in place a special condition withholding all but \$200,000, which will allow grantees to establish an implementation work plan within 180 days of receiving final approval of the project's budget from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO). The recipient will not be authorized to obligate, expend, or draw down funds in excess

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<sup>6</sup> Indian tribes and tribal organizations that otherwise are eligible for an award may be able to apply certain types of funds received from the federal government (for example, certain funds received under an Indian "self-determination contract") to satisfy all or part of a required "non-federal" match.

of \$200,000 until BJA has reviewed and approved the plan and a Grant Adjustment Notice has been issued and approved to remove the special condition. The comprehensive implementation work plan should be based on the [Planning and Implementation \(P&I\) Guide](#) provided by BJA's technical assistance provider, the National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC).

### **Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)**

Pre-agreement costs are costs incurred by the applicant prior to the start date of the period of performance of the federal award.

OJP does **not** typically approve pre-agreement costs; an applicant must request and obtain the prior written approval of OJP for all such costs. All such costs incurred prior to award and prior to approval of the costs are incurred at the sole risk of the applicant. (Generally, no applicant should incur project costs *before* submitting an application requesting federal funding for those costs.) Should there be extenuating circumstances that make it appropriate for OJP to consider approving pre-agreement costs, the applicant may contact the point of contact listed on the title page of this solicitation for the requirements concerning written requests for approval. If approved in advance by OJP, award funds may be used for pre-agreement costs, consistent with the recipient's approved budget and applicable cost principles. See the section on Costs Requiring Prior Approval in the DOJ Grants Financial Guide at <https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm> for more information.

### **Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver**

With respect to any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation, a recipient may not use federal funds to pay total cash compensation (salary plus cash bonuses) to any employee of the recipient at a rate that exceeds 110 percent of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the federal government's Senior Executive Service (SES) at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year.<sup>7</sup> The 2018 salary table for SES employees is available on the Office of Personnel Management website at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/18Tables/exec/html/ES.aspx>. Note: A recipient may compensate an employee at a greater rate, provided the amount in excess of this compensation limitation is paid with non-federal funds. (Non-federal funds used for any such additional compensation will not be considered matching funds, where match requirements apply.) If only a portion of an employee's time is charged to an OJP award, the maximum allowable compensation is equal to the percentage of time worked times the maximum salary limitation.

The Assistant Attorney General for OJP may exercise discretion to waive, on an individual basis, this limitation on compensation rates allowable under an award. An applicant that requests a waiver should include a detailed justification in the Budget Narrative of its application. An applicant that does not submit a waiver request and justification with its application should anticipate that OJP will require the applicant to adjust and resubmit the budget.

The justification should address, in the context of the work the individual would do under the award, the particular qualifications and expertise of the individual, the uniqueness of a service the individual will provide, the individual's specific knowledge of the proposed program or project, and a statement that explains whether and how the individual's salary under the award

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<sup>7</sup> OJP does not apply this limitation on the use of award funds to the nonprofit organizations listed in Appendix VIII to 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

would be commensurate with the regular and customary rate for an individual with his/her qualifications and expertise, and for the work he/she would do under the award.

### **Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs**

OJP strongly encourages every applicant that proposes to use award funds for any conference-, meeting-, or training-related activity (or similar event) to review carefully—before submitting an application—the OJP and DOJ policy and guidance on approval, planning, and reporting of such events, available at

<https://www.ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm>. OJP policy and guidance (1) encourage minimization of conference, meeting, and training costs; (2) require prior written approval (which may affect project timelines) of most conference, meeting, and training costs for cooperative agreement recipients, as well as some conference, meeting, and training costs for grant recipients; and (3) set cost limits, which include a general prohibition of all food and beverage costs.

### **Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)**

If an applicant proposes a program or activity that would deliver services or benefits to individuals, the costs of taking reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to those services or benefits for individuals with limited English proficiency may be allowable. Reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services or benefits may include interpretation or translation services, where appropriate.

For additional information, see the "Civil Rights Compliance" section under "[Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2018 Awards](#)" in the OJP Funding Resource Center at <https://ojp.gov/funding/index.htm>.

## **C. Eligibility Information**

For eligibility information, see title page.

For information on cost sharing or match requirements, see [Section B. Federal Award Information](#).

## **D. Application and Submission Information**

### **What an Application Should Include**

This section describes in detail what an application should include. An applicant should anticipate that if it fails to submit an application that contains all of the specified elements, it may negatively affect the review of its application; and, should a decision be made to make an award, it may result in the inclusion of award conditions that preclude the recipient from accessing or using award funds until the recipient satisfies the conditions and OJP makes the funds available.

Moreover, applicants should anticipate that applications that are determined to be nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation, or that do not include the application elements that BJA has designated to be critical, will neither proceed to peer review nor receive further consideration. Under this solicitation, BJA has designated the following application elements as

critical: Abstract, Program Narrative, Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative, and the Assurance to collect and submit participant recidivism indicator data.

**NOTE:** OJP has combined the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative in a single document collectively referred to as the Budget Detail Worksheet. See “Budget Information and Associated Documentation” below for more information about the Budget Detail Worksheet and where it can be accessed.

*OJP strongly recommends that applicants use appropriately descriptive file names (e.g., “Program Narrative,” “Budget Detail Worksheet,” “Timelines,” “Memoranda of Understanding,” “Résumés”) for all attachments. Also, OJP recommends that applicants include résumés in a single file.*

Please review the “Note on File Names and File Types” under [How To Apply](#) to be sure applications are submitted in permitted formats.

### **1. Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)**

The SF-424 is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. Grants.gov and the OJP Grants Management System (GMS) take information from the applicant’s profile to populate the fields on this form. When selecting “type of applicant,” if the applicant is a for-profit entity, select “For-Profit Organization” or “Small Business” (as applicable).

To avoid processing delays, an applicant must include an accurate legal name on its SF-424. On the SF-424, current OJP award recipients, when completing the field for “Legal Name” (box 8a), should use the same legal name that appears on the prior year award document (which is also the legal name stored in OJP’s financial system.) Also, these recipients should enter the Employer Identification Number (EIN) in box 8b exactly as it appears on the prior year award document. An applicant with a current, active award(s) must ensure that its GMS profile is current. If the profile is not current, the applicant should submit a Grant Adjustment Notice updating the information on its GMS profile prior to applying under this solicitation.

A new applicant entity should enter its official legal name in box 8a, its address in box 8d, its EIN in box 8b, and its Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number in box 8c of the SF-424. A new applicant entity should attach official legal documents to its application (e.g., articles of incorporation, 501(c)(3) status documentation, organizational letterhead) to confirm the legal name, address, and EIN entered into the SF-424. OJP will use the System for Award Management (SAM) to confirm the legal name and DUNS number entered in the SF-424; therefore, an applicant should ensure that the information entered in the SF-424 matches its current registration in SAM. See the [How To Apply](#) section for more information on SAM and DUNS numbers.

**Intergovernmental Review:** This solicitation (“funding opportunity”) is **not** subject to [Executive Order 12372](#). (In completing the SF-424, an applicant is to answer question 19 by selecting the response that the “Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.”)

## 2. Project Abstract

Applications should include a high quality project abstract that summarizes the proposed project in 400 words or less. Project abstracts should be:

- Written for a general public audience.
- Submitted as a separate attachment with “Project Abstract” as part of its file name.
- Single-spaced, using a standard 12-point font (such as Times New Roman) with 1-inch margins.
- **Clearly labeled, including the following information:**
  - Legal name of the grant recipient and the title of the project
  - Project’s objectives and deliverables
  - Program design elements, including the allowable uses of funds that will be incorporated into the project
  - Mandatory Second Chance Act requirements
  - Identify the project evaluator (if applicable)
  - Projected number of participants to be serviced through the project and target population characteristics
  - Baseline recidivism rate
  - Name of the validated risk assessment tool used.

As a separate attachment, the project abstract will **not** count against the page limit for the program narrative.

## 3. Program Narrative

The program narrative should be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point font (Times New Roman preferred); have 1-inch margins; and should not exceed 15 pages. Pages should be numbered “1 of 15,” “2 of 15,” etc. If the program narrative fails to comply with these length-related restrictions, BJA may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

The following sections should be included as part of the program narrative<sup>8</sup>:

- a. Statement of the Problem
- b. Project Design and Implementation
- c. Capabilities and Competencies
- d. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation’s Performance Measures

OJP will require each successful applicant to submit regular performance data that demonstrate the results of the work carried out under the award (see [“General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements”](#) in [Section F. Federal Award Administration Information](#)). The performance data directly relate to the objectives and deliverables identified under “Objectives and Deliverables” in [Section A. Program Description](#).

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<sup>8</sup> For information on subawards (including the details on proposed subawards that should be included in the application), see “Budget and Associated Documentation” under [Section D. Application and Submission Information](#).

Applicants should visit OJP's performance measurement page at [www.ojp.gov/performance](http://www.ojp.gov/performance) for an overview of performance measurement activities at OJP.

The application should demonstrate the applicant's understanding of the performance data reporting requirements for this grant program and detail how the applicant will gather the required data should it receive funding.

Please note that applicants are **not** required to submit performance data with the application. Performance measures information is included as an alert that successful applicants will be required to submit performance data as part of the reporting requirements under an award.

Award recipients will be required to provide the relevant data by submitting quarterly performance metrics through BJA's online Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) located at [bjapmt.ojp.gov](http://bjapmt.ojp.gov). Applicants should review the complete list of the performance measures at: <https://bjapmt.ojp.gov/help/scareentryquestionnaire.pdf>.

### **Note on Project Evaluations**

An applicant that proposes to use award funds through this solicitation to conduct project evaluations should be aware that certain project evaluations (such as systematic investigations designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge) may constitute "research" for purposes of applicable DOJ human subjects protection regulations. However, project evaluations that are intended only to generate internal improvements to a program or service, or are conducted only to meet OJP's performance measure data reporting requirements, likely do not constitute "research." Each applicant should provide sufficient information for OJP to determine whether the particular project it proposes would either intentionally or unintentionally collect and/or use information in such a way that it meets the DOJ definition of research that appears at 28 C.F.R. Part 46 ("Protection of Human Subjects").

"Research," for purposes of human subjects protection for OJP-funded programs, is defined as "a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge." 28 C.F.R. 46.102(d).

For additional information on determining whether a proposed activity would constitute research for purposes of human subjects protection, applicants should consult the decision tree in the "Research and the protection of human subjects" section of the "[Requirements related to Research](#)" webpage of the "[Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2018 Awards](#)," available through the OJP Funding Resource Center at <https://ojp.gov/funding/index.htm>.

Every prospective applicant whose application may propose a research or statistical component also should review the "Data Privacy and Confidentiality Requirements" section on that webpage.

- e. Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainment

#### 4. Budget and Associated Documentation

The Budget Detail Worksheet and the Budget Narrative are now combined in a single document collectively referred to as the Budget Detail Worksheet. The Budget Detail Worksheet is a user-friendly, fillable, Microsoft Excel-based document designed to calculate totals. Additionally, the Excel workbook contains worksheets for multiple budget years that can be completed as necessary. **All applicants should use the Excel version when completing the proposed budget in an application, except in cases where the applicant does not have access to Microsoft Excel or experiences technical difficulties.** If an applicant does not have access to Microsoft Excel or experiences technical difficulties with the Excel version, then the applicant should use the 508-compliant accessible Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) version.

Both versions of the Budget Detail Worksheet can be accessed at <https://ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Forms/BudgetDetailWorksheet.htm>.

##### a. Budget Detail Worksheet

The Budget Detail Worksheet should provide the detailed computation for each budget line item, listing the total cost of each and showing how it was calculated by the applicant. For example, costs for personnel should show the annual salary rate and the percentage of time devoted to the project for each employee paid with grant funds. The Budget Detail Worksheet should present a complete itemization of all proposed costs.

##### Unallowable Uses for Award Funds

In addition to the unallowable costs identified in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), award funds may not be used for the following:

- Prizes, rewards, entertainment, trinkets (or any type of monetary incentive)
- Client stipends
- Gift cards
- Vehicles
- Food and beverage

For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, see the DOJ Grants Financial Guide at <https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm>.

##### b. Budget Narrative

The Budget Narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe **every** category of expense listed in the Budget Detail Worksheet. OJP expects proposed budgets to be complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

An applicant should demonstrate in its budget narrative how it will maximize cost effectiveness of award expenditures. Budget narratives should generally describe cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the objectives of the project. For example, a budget narrative should detail why planned in-person meetings are necessary, or how technology and collaboration with outside organizations could be used to reduce costs, without compromising quality.

The Budget Narrative should be mathematically sound and correspond clearly with the information and figures provided in the Budget Detail Worksheet. The narrative should explain how the applicant estimated and calculated **all** costs, and how those costs are

necessary to the completion of the proposed project. The narrative may include tables for clarification purposes, but need not be in a spreadsheet format. As with the Budget Detail Worksheet, the Budget Narrative should describe costs by year.

**c. Information on Proposed Subawards (if any), as well as on Proposed Procurement Contracts (if any)**

Applicants for OJP awards typically may propose to make *subawards*. Applicants also may propose to enter into procurement *contracts* under the award.

Whether an action—for federal grants administrative purposes—is a subaward or procurement contract is a critical distinction as significantly different rules apply to subawards and procurement contracts. If a recipient enters into an agreement that is a subaward of an OJP award, specific rules apply—many of which are set by federal statutes and DOJ regulations; others by award conditions. These rules place particular responsibilities on an OJP recipient for any subawards the OJP recipient may make. The rules determine much of what the written subaward agreement itself must require or provide. The rules also determine much of what an OJP recipient must do both before and after it makes a subaward. If a recipient enters into an agreement that is a procurement contract under an OJP award, a substantially different set of federal rules applies.

OJP has developed the following guidance documents to help clarify the differences between subawards and procurement contracts under an OJP award and outline the compliance and reporting requirements for each. This information can be accessed online at <https://ojp.gov/training/training.htm>.

- [Subawards under OJP Awards and Procurement Contracts under Awards: A Toolkit for OJP Recipients.](#)
- [Checklist to Determine Subrecipient or Contractor Classification.](#)
- [Sole Source Justification Fact Sheet and Sole Source Review Checklist.](#)

In general, the central question is the relationship between what the third-party will do under its agreement with the recipient and what the recipient has committed (to OJP) to do under its award to further a public purpose (e.g., services the recipient will provide, products it will develop or modify, research or evaluation it will conduct). If a third party will provide some of the services the recipient has committed (to OJP) to provide, will develop or modify all or part of a product the recipient has committed (to OJP) to develop or modify, or will conduct part of the research or evaluation the recipient has committed (to OJP) to conduct, OJP will consider the agreement with the third party a *subaward* for purposes of federal grants administrative requirements.

This will be true **even if** the recipient, for internal or other non-federal purposes, labels or treats its agreement as a procurement, a contract, or a procurement contract. Neither the title nor the structure of an agreement determines whether the agreement—for purposes of federal grants administrative requirements—is a *subaward* or is instead a procurement *contract* under an award. The substance of the relationship should be given greater consideration than the form of agreement between the recipient and the outside entity.

## **1. Information on proposed subawards**

A recipient of an OJP award may not make subawards ("subgrants") unless the recipient has specific federal authorization to do so. Unless an applicable statute or DOJ regulation specifically authorizes (or requires) subawards, a recipient must have authorization from OJP before it may make a subaward.

A particular subaward may be authorized by OJP because the recipient included a sufficiently-detailed description and justification of the proposed subaward in the Program Narrative, Budget Detail Worksheet, and Budget Narrative as approved by OJP. If, however, a particular subaward is not authorized by federal statute or regulation, and is not approved by OJP, the recipient will be required, post-award, to request and obtain written authorization from OJP before it may make the subaward.

If an applicant proposes to make one or more subawards to carry out the federal award and program, the applicant should: (1) identify (if known) the proposed subrecipient(s), (2) describe in detail what each subrecipient will do to carry out the federal award and federal program, and (3) provide a justification for the subaward(s), with details on pertinent matters such as special qualifications and areas of expertise. Pertinent information on subawards should appear not only in the Program Narrative, but also in the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative.

## **2. Information on proposed procurement contracts (with specific justification for proposed noncompetitive contracts over \$150,000)**

Unlike a recipient contemplating a subaward, a recipient of an OJP award generally does not need specific prior federal authorization to enter into an agreement that—for purposes of federal grants administrative requirements—is considered a procurement contract, **provided that** (1) the recipient uses its own documented procurement procedures and (2) those procedures conform to applicable federal law, including the Procurement Standards of the (DOJ) Part 200 Uniform Requirements (as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.317 - 200.326). The Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative should identify proposed procurement contracts. (As discussed above, subawards must be identified and described separately from procurement contracts.)

The Procurement Standards in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, however, reflect a general expectation that agreements that (for purposes of federal grants administrative requirements) constitute procurement "contracts" under awards will be entered into on the basis of full and open competition. All noncompetitive (sole source) procurement contracts must meet the OJP requirements outlined at <https://ojp.gov/training/subawards-procurement.htm>. If a proposed procurement contract would exceed the simplified acquisition threshold—currently, \$150,000—a recipient of an OJP award may not proceed without competition unless and until the recipient receives specific advance authorization from OJP to use a non-competitive approach for the procurement. An applicant that (at the time of its application) intends—without competition—to enter into a procurement contract that would exceed \$150,000 should include a detailed justification that explains to OJP why, in the particular circumstances, it is appropriate to proceed without competition.

If the applicant receives an award, sole source procurements that do not exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (currently \$150,000) must have written justification for the noncompetitive procurement action maintained in the procurement file. If a procurement file does not have the documentation that meets the criteria outlined in 2

C.F.R. 200, the procurement expenditures may not be allowable. Sole source procurement over the \$150,000 Simplified Acquisition Threshold must have prior approval from OJP using a Sole Source Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN). Written documentation justifying the noncompetitive procurement must be submitted with the GAN and maintained in the procurement file.

**d. Pre-Agreement Costs**

For information on pre-agreement costs, see [Section B. Federal Award Information](#).

**5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)**

Indirect costs may be charged to an award only if:

- (a) The recipient has a current (unexpired), federally approved indirect cost rate; or
- (b) The recipient is eligible to use, and elects to use, the “de minimis” indirect cost rate described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.414(f).

An applicant with a current (unexpired) federally approved indirect cost rate is to attach a copy of the indirect cost rate agreement to the application. An applicant that does not have a current federally approved rate may request one through its cognizant federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant entity, or, if the applicant’s accounting system permits, applicants may propose to allocate costs in the direct cost categories.

For assistance with identifying the appropriate cognizant federal agency for indirect costs, please contact the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-0786 or at [ask.ocfo@usdoj.gov](mailto:ask.ocfo@usdoj.gov). If DOJ is the cognizant federal agency, applicants may obtain information needed to submit an indirect cost rate proposal at <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/IndirectCosts.pdf>.

Certain OJP recipients have the option of electing to use the “de minimis” indirect cost rate. An applicant that is eligible to use the “de minimis” rate that wishes to use the “de minimis” rate should attach written documentation to the application that advises OJP of both—(1) the applicant’s eligibility to use the “de minimis” rate, and (2) its election to do so. If an eligible applicant elects the “de minimis” rate, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. The “de minimis” rate may no longer be used once an approved federally negotiated indirect cost rate is in place. (No entity that ever has had a federally approved negotiated indirect cost rate is eligible to use the “de minimis” rate.) For the “de minimis” rate requirements (including information on eligibility to elect to use the rate), see the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, at 2 C.F.R. 200.414(f).

**6. Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high risk status)**

Every OJP applicant is required to download, complete, and submit the OJP Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (Questionnaire) at <https://ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/FinancialCapability.pdf> as part of its application. The Questionnaire helps OJP assess the financial management and internal control systems, and the associated potential risks of an applicant as part of the pre-award risk assessment process.

The Questionnaire should only be completed by financial staff most familiar with the applicant's systems, policies, and procedures in order to ensure that the correct responses are recorded and submitted to OJP. The responses on the Questionnaire directly impact the pre-award risk assessment and should accurately reflect the applicant's financial management and internal control system at the time of the application. The pre-award risk assessment is only one of multiple factors and criteria used in determining funding. However, a pre-award risk assessment that indicates that an applicant poses a higher risk to OJP may affect the funding decision and/or result in additional reporting requirements, monitoring, special conditions, withholding of award funds, or other additional award requirements.

Among other things, the form requires each applicant to disclose whether it currently is designated "high risk" by a federal grant-making agency outside of DOJ. For purposes of this disclosure, high risk includes any status under which a federal awarding agency provides additional oversight due to the applicant's past performance, or other programmatic or financial concerns with the applicant. If an applicant is designated high risk by another federal awarding agency, the applicant must provide the following information:

- The federal awarding agency that currently designates the applicant high risk
- The date the applicant was designated high risk
- The high risk point of contact at that federal awarding agency (name, phone number, and email address)
- The reasons for the high risk status, as set out by the federal awarding agency

OJP seeks this information to help ensure appropriate federal oversight of OJP awards. An applicant that is considered "high risk" by another federal awarding agency is not automatically disqualified from receiving an OJP award. OJP may, however, consider the information in award decisions, and may impose additional OJP oversight of any award under this solicitation (including through the conditions that accompany the award document).

## **7. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

Each applicant must complete and submit this information. An applicant that expends any funds for lobbying activities is to provide all of the information requested on the form Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) posted at <https://ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/Disclosure.pdf>. An applicant that does not expend any funds for lobbying activities is to enter "N/A" in the text boxes for item 10 ("a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant" and "b. Individuals Performing Services").

## **8. Additional Attachments**

- a. Letter from Applicant Agency Executive** demonstrating agency commitment to the project and to the collection of project-related data. (Note that the executive must also sign the Assurance in Appendix C that aggregate recidivism indicator data will be submitted as required.)
- b. Letter from the Evaluation Partner**, if applicable, demonstrating commitment to the project.
- c. Project Timeline** that includes each project objective and deliverable, expected

completion date, and responsible person or organization.

**d. Position Descriptions** for key positions and **résumés** for personnel in those positions, including research partner position(s), if applicable.

**e. Reentry Strategic Plan**

**f. Letters of Support/ Memoranda of Agreement (MOA)** from all key partners, detailing the commitment to work with reentry initiative partners to promote the mission of the project. The letter of support from the lead organization responsible for the operational aspects of the project must include:

(1) Certification that the lead agency has consulted with other local parties.

(2) The following statement: "The agency agrees to provide individual criminal history information for all participants to evaluators, unless prohibited by law. These data will be provided in response to periodic requests from the grantees and evaluator throughout the period of performance of this project to capture both criminal history prior to the program enrollment and subsequent recidivism."

**g. Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications**

Each applicant is to disclose whether it has (or is proposed as a subrecipient under) any pending applications for federally funded grants or cooperative agreements that (1) include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed in the application under this solicitation, **and** (2) would cover any identical cost items outlined in the budget submitted to OJP as part of the application under this solicitation. The applicant is to disclose applications made directly to federal awarding agencies, and also applications for subawards of federal funds (e.g., applications to state agencies that will subaward ("subgrant") federal funds).

OJP seeks this information to help avoid inappropriate duplication of funding. Leveraging multiple funding sources in a complementary manner to implement comprehensive programs or projects is encouraged and is not seen as inappropriate duplication.

Each applicant that has one or more pending applications as described above is to provide the following information about pending applications submitted within the last 12 months:

- The federal or state funding agency
- The solicitation name/project name
- The point of contact information at the applicable federal or state funding agency

Federal or State Funding Agency	Solicitation Name/Project Name	Name/Phone/Email for Point of Contact at Federal or State Funding Agency
DOJ/Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)	COPS Hiring Program	Jane Doe, 202/000-0000; jane.doe@usdoj.gov
Health and Human Services/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	Drug-Free Communities Mentoring Program/ North County Youth Mentoring Program	John Doe, 202/000-0000; john.doe@hhs.gov

Each applicant should include the table as a separate attachment to its application. The file should be named “Disclosure of Pending Applications.” The applicant’s Legal Name on the application must match the entity named on the disclosure of pending applications statement.

Any applicant that does not have any pending applications as described above is to submit, as a separate attachment, a statement to this effect: “[Applicant Name on SF-424] does not have (and is not proposed as a subrecipient under) any pending applications submitted within the last 12 months for federally funded grants or cooperative agreements (or for subawards under federal grants or cooperative agreements) that request funding to support the same project being proposed in this application to OJP and that would cover any identical cost items outlined in the budget submitted as part of this application.”

**h. Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity**

If an application proposes research (including research and development) and/or evaluation, the applicant must demonstrate research/evaluation independence and integrity, including appropriate safeguards, before it may receive award funds. The applicant must demonstrate independence and integrity regarding both this proposed research and/or evaluation, and any current or prior related projects.

Each application should include an attachment that addresses **both** i. and ii. below:

- i. For purposes of this solicitation, each applicant is to document research and evaluation independence and integrity by including one of the following two items:
  - a. A specific assurance that the applicant has reviewed its application to identify any actual or potential apparent conflicts of interest (including through review of pertinent information on the principal investigator, any co-principal investigators, and any subrecipients), and that the applicant has identified no such conflicts of interest—whether personal or financial or organizational (including on the part of the applicant entity or on the part of staff, investigators, or subrecipients)—that could affect the independence or integrity of the research, including the design, conduct, and reporting of the research.

OR

- b. A specific description of actual or potential apparent conflicts of interest that the applicant has identified—including through review of pertinent information on the principal investigator, any co-principal investigators, and any subrecipients—that could affect the independence or integrity of the research, including the design, conduct, or reporting of the research. These conflicts may be personal (e.g., on the part of investigators or other staff), financial, or organizational (related to the applicant or any subrecipient entity). Some examples of potential investigator (or other personal) conflict situations are those in which an investigator would be in a position to evaluate a spouse's work product (actual conflict), or an investigator would be in a position to evaluate the work of a former or current colleague (potential apparent conflict). With regard to potential organizational conflicts of interest, as one example, generally an organization would not be given an award to evaluate a project, if that organization had itself provided substantial prior technical assistance to that specific project or a location implementing the project (whether funded by OJP or other sources), because the organization in such an instance might appear to be evaluating the effectiveness of its own prior work. The key is whether a reasonable person understanding all of the facts would be able to have confidence that the results of any research or evaluation project are objective and reliable. Any outside personal or financial interest that casts doubt on that objectivity and reliability of an evaluation or research product is a problem and must be disclosed.
- ii. In addition, for purposes of this solicitation, each applicant is to address possible mitigation of research integrity concerns by including, at a minimum, one of the following two items:
    - a. If an applicant reasonably believes that no actual or potential apparent conflicts of interest (personal, financial, or organizational) exist, then the applicant should provide a brief narrative explanation of how and why it reached that conclusion. The applicant also is to include an explanation of the specific processes and procedures that the applicant has in place, or will put in place, to identify and prevent (or, at the very least, mitigate) any such conflicts of interest pertinent to the funded project during the period of performance. Documentation that may be helpful in this regard may include organizational codes of ethics/conduct and policies regarding organizational, personal, and financial conflicts of interest. There is no guarantee that the plan, if any, will be accepted as proposed.

OR

- b. If the applicant has identified actual or potential apparent conflicts of interest (personal, financial, or organizational) that could affect the independence and integrity of the research, including the design, conduct, or reporting of the research, the applicant is to provide a specific and robust mitigation plan to address each of those conflicts. At a minimum, the applicant is expected to explain the specific processes and procedures that the applicant has in place,

or will put in place, to identify and eliminate (or, at the very least, mitigate) any such conflicts of interest pertinent to the funded project during the period of performance. Documentation that may be helpful in this regard may include organizational codes of ethics/conduct and policies regarding organizational, personal, and financial conflicts of interest. There is no guarantee that the plan, if any, will be accepted as proposed.

OJP will assess research and evaluation independence and integrity based on considerations such as the adequacy of the applicant's efforts to identify factors that could affect the objectivity or integrity of the proposed staff and/or the applicant entity (and any subrecipients) in carrying out the research, development, or evaluation activity; and the adequacy of the applicant's existing or proposed remedies to control any such factors.

### **How To Apply**

Applicants must register in and submit applications through Grants.gov, a primary source to find federal funding opportunities and apply for funding. Find complete instructions on how to register and submit an application at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>. Applicants that experience technical difficulties during this process should call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at **800-518-4726** or **606-545-5035**, which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

**Important Grants.gov update.** Grants.gov has updated its application tool. The legacy PDF application package was retired on December 31, 2017. Grants.gov Workspace is now the standard application method for applying for grants. OJP applicants should familiarize themselves with the Workspace option now. For complete information and instructions on using Workspace (and other changes), go to the Workspace Overview page at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html>.

Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, **processing delays may occur, and it can take several weeks** for first-time registrants to receive confirmation of registration and a user password. OJP encourages applicants to **register several weeks before** the application submission deadline. In addition, OJP urges applicants to submit applications at least 72 hours prior to the application due date, in order to allow time for the applicant to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

OJP strongly encourages all prospective applicants to sign up for Grants.gov email notifications regarding this solicitation at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/manage-subscriptions.html>. If this solicitation is cancelled or modified, individuals who sign up with Grants.gov for updates will be automatically notified.

**Browser Information:** Grants.gov was built to be compatible with Internet Explorer. For technical assistance with Google Chrome, or another browser, contact Grants.gov Customer Support.

**Note on Attachments:** Grants.gov has two categories of files for attachments: "mandatory" and "optional." OJP receives all files attached in both categories. Attachments are also labeled to describe the file being attached (e.g., Project Narrative, Budget Narrative, Other, etc.) Please ensure that all required documents are attached in the correct Grants.gov category and are

labeled correctly. Do not embed “mandatory” attachments within another file.

**Note on File Names and File Types:** Grants.gov only permits the use of certain specific characters in the file names of attachments. Valid file names may include only the characters shown in the table below. Grants.gov rejects any application that includes an attachment(s) with a file name that contains any characters not shown in the table below. Grants.gov forwards successfully submitted applications to the OJP Grants Management System (GMS).

Characters
Upper case (A – Z)
Lower case (a – z)
Underscore ( _ )
Hyphen ( - )
Space
Period ( . )

Special Characters		
Parenthesis ( )	Curly braces { }	Square brackets [ ]
Ampersand (&)*	Tilde (~)	Exclamation point (!)
Comma ( , )	Semicolon ( ; )	Apostrophe ( ' )
At sign (@)	Number sign (#)	Dollar sign (\$)
Percent sign (%)	Plus sign (+)	Equal sign (=)

**\*When using the ampersand (&) in XML, applicants must use the “&amp;” format.**

**GMS does not accept executable file types as application attachments.** These disallowed file types include, but are not limited to, the following extensions: “.com,” “.bat,” “.exe,” “.vbs,” “.cfg,” “.dat,” “.db,” “.dbf,” “.dll,” “.ini,” “.log,” “.ora,” “.sys,” and “.zip.” GMS may reject applications with files that use these extensions. It is important to allow time to change the type of file(s) if the application is rejected.

All applicants are required to complete the following steps:

**Unique Entity Identifier (DUNS Number) and System for Award Management (SAM)**

Every applicant entity must comply with all applicable System for Award Management (SAM) and unique entity identifier (currently, a Data Universal Numbering System [DUNS] number) requirements. SAM is the repository for certain standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit identification number provided by the commercial company Dun and Bradstreet. More detailed information about SAM and the DUNS number is in the numbered sections below.

If an applicant entity has not fully complied with the applicable SAM and unique identifier requirements by the time OJP makes award decisions, OJP may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and may use that determination as a basis for making the award to a different applicant.

**Registration and Submission Steps**

- 1. Acquire a unique entity identifier (currently, a DUNS number).** In general, the Office of Management and Budget requires every applicant for a federal award (other than an individual) to include a "unique entity identifier" in each application, including an application for a supplemental award. Currently, a DUNS number is the required unique entity identifier.

This unique entity identifier is used for tracking purposes, and to validate address and point of contact information for applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. It will be used throughout the life cycle of an OJP award. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, one-time activity. Call

Dun and Bradstreet at 866–705–5711 to obtain a DUNS number or apply online at <https://www.dnb.com/>. A DUNS number is usually received within 2 business days.

- 2. Acquire or maintain registration with SAM.** Any applicant for OJP awards creating a **new** entity registration in SAM.gov must provide an original, signed notarized letter stating that the applicant is the authorized Entity Administrator before the registration will be activated. To learn more about this process change, read the FAQs at <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/office-of-systems-management/integrated-award-environment-iae/sam-update>. Information about the notarized letter is posted at [https://www.fsd.gov/fsd-gov/answer.do?sysparm\\_kbid=d2e67885db0d5f00b3257d321f96194b&sysparm\\_search=kb0013183](https://www.fsd.gov/fsd-gov/answer.do?sysparm_kbid=d2e67885db0d5f00b3257d321f96194b&sysparm_search=kb0013183).

All applicants for OJP awards (other than individuals) must maintain current registrations in the SAM database. Applicants will need the authorizing official of the organization and an Employer Identification Number (EIN). An applicant must be registered in SAM to successfully register in Grants.gov. Each applicant must **update or renew its SAM registration at least annually** to maintain an active status. SAM registration and renewal can take as long as 10 business days to complete (2 more weeks to acquire an EIN).

An application cannot be successfully submitted in Grants.gov until Grants.gov receives the SAM registration information. Once the SAM registration/renewal is complete, **the information transfer from SAM to Grants.gov can take as long as 48 hours**. OJP recommends that the applicant register or renew registration with SAM as early as possible.

Information about SAM registration procedures can be accessed at [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov).

- 3. Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password.** Complete the AOR profile on Grants.gov and create a username and password. An applicant entity's "unique entity identifier" (DUNS number) must be used to complete this step. For more information about the registration process for organizations and other entities, go to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>.
- 4. Acquire confirmation for the AOR from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC).** The E-Biz POC at the applicant organization must log into Grants.gov to confirm the applicant organization's AOR. The E-Biz POC will need the Marketing Partner Identification Number (MPIN) password obtained when registering with SAM to complete this step. Note that an organization can have more than one AOR.
- 5. Search for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov.** Use the following identifying information when searching for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this solicitation is **CFDA #16.812**, titled **FY 18 Second Chance Act Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Plan Implementation Program**, and the funding opportunity number is BJA-2018-13636.
- 6. Access Funding Opportunity and Application Package from Grants.gov.** Select "Apply for Grants" under the "Applicants" column. Enter your email address to be notified of any changes to the opportunity package before the closing date. Click the Workspace icon to use Grants.gov Workspace.

**7. Submit a valid application consistent with this solicitation by following the directions in Grants.gov.** Within 24–48 hours after submitting the electronic application, the applicant should receive two notifications from Grants.gov. The first will confirm the receipt of the application. The second will state whether the application has been validated and successfully submitted, or whether it has been rejected due to errors, with an explanation. It is possible to first receive a message indicating that the application is received, and then receive a rejection notice a few minutes or hours later. Submitting an application well ahead of the deadline provides time to correct the problem(s) that caused the rejection. **Important:** OJP urges each applicant to submit its application **at least 72 hours prior** to the application due date, to allow time to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification. Applications must be successfully submitted through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on July 5, 2018.

Go to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html> for further details on DUNS numbers, SAM, and Grants.gov registration steps and timeframes.

#### **Note: Application Versions**

If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, OJP will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted.

#### **Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues**

An applicant that experiences unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond its control that prevent it from submitting its application by the deadline must contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html> or the SAM Help Desk (Federal Service Desk) at <https://www.fsd.gov/fsd-gov/home.do> to report the technical issue and receive a tracking number. The applicant must email the contact identified in the Contact Information section on the title page **within 24 hours after the application deadline** to request approval to submit its application after the deadline. The applicant's email must describe the technical difficulties, and must include a timeline of the applicant's submission efforts, the complete grant application, the applicant's DUNS number, and any Grants.gov Help Desk or SAM tracking number(s).

**Note: OJP does not automatically approve requests to submit a late application.** After OJP reviews the applicant's request, and contacts the Grants.gov or SAM Help Desks to verify the reported technical issues, OJP will inform the applicant whether the request to submit a late application has been approved or denied. If OJP determines that the untimely application submission was due to the applicant's failure to follow all required procedures, OJP will deny the applicant's request to submit its application.

The following conditions generally are insufficient to justify late submissions:

- Failure to register in SAM or Grants.gov in sufficient time (SAM registration and renewal can take as long as 10 business days to complete. The information transfer from SAM to Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours.)
- Failure to follow Grants.gov instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its website
- Failure to follow each instruction in the OJP solicitation

- Technical issues with the applicant’s computer or information technology environment, such as issues with firewalls or browser incompatibility

**Notifications regarding known technical problems with Grants.gov, if any, are posted at the top of the OJP Funding Resource Center at <https://ojp.gov/funding/index.htm>.**

## **E. Application Review Information**

### **Review Criteria**

Applications that meet basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers using the following review criteria. The following selection criteria will be used to evaluate each application, with the different weight given to each based on the percentage value listed below after each individual criteria. For example, the first criterion, “Statement of the Problem,” is worth 15 percent of the entire application in the review process.

#### **1. Statement of the Problem (15 percent)**

- Describe and demonstrate understanding of the nature and scope of the problem to be addressed, using data and research as support.
- Describe the need for assistance and resources to address the problem.
- Describe successful efforts to date to address the needs identified.
- Briefly introduce how the applicant proposes to address the problem.

#### **2. Project Design and Implementation (40 percent)**

- Address in detail how the applicant proposes to undertake and accomplish each of the objectives and tasks.
- Inclusion of a timeline/project plan that identifies the major tasks and deliverables of the proposed project and who is responsible for each activity (see page 21) will contribute to scoring under this criterion.

#### **3. Capabilities and Competencies (30 percent)**

- Provide a detailed description of the capacity of the organization and the key personnel to deliver the required services and perform the key tasks described on pages 5-8.
- Describe how the proposed management structure and staffing of the project will facilitate the delivery of the required services. The management and organizational structure described should match the staffing needs necessary to accomplish the tasks outlined in the timeline/project plan. Information regarding the personnel assigned to these tasks and whether their résumés and role descriptions are included (see page 22) will contribute to the assignment of points relative to this criterion.

#### **4. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation’s Performance Measures (5 percent)**

- Describe the manner in which the data required for this solicitation’s performance measures will be collected, including the system(s) used and the person(s) responsible.
- Describe whether and how other relevant performance metrics will be documented, monitored, and evaluated.

## 5. Budget (10 percent):

- Submit a budget that is complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).
- Budget narratives should demonstrate generally how applicants will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget narratives should demonstrate cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the objectives of the project.<sup>9</sup>

### Review Process

OJP is committed to ensuring a fair and open process for making awards. BJA reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with the solicitation.

Peer reviewers will review the applications submitted under this solicitation that meet basic minimum requirements. For purposes of assessing whether an application meets basic minimum requirements and should proceed to further consideration, OJP screens applications for compliance with those requirements. Although specific requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all solicitations for funding under OJP programs:

- The application must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- The application must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- The application must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- The application must include all items designated as “critical elements.”
- The applicant must not be identified in SAM as excluded from receiving federal awards.

For a list of the critical elements for this solicitation, see “What an Application Should Include” under [Section D. Application and Submission Information](#).

Peer review panels will evaluate, score, and rate applications that meet basic minimum requirements. BJA may use internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination, to assess applications on technical merit using the solicitation’s review criteria. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the subject of a given solicitation who is not a current DOJ employee. An internal reviewer is a current DOJ employee who is well-versed or has expertise in the subject of this solicitation. Peer reviewers’ ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only, although reviewer views are considered carefully. Other important considerations for BJA include geographic diversity, strategic priorities, and available funding, as well as the extent to which the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative accurately explain project costs that are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise allowable under federal law and applicable federal cost principles.

Pursuant to the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, before award decisions are made, OJP also reviews information related to the degree of risk posed by the applicant. Among other things to help assess whether an applicant that has one or more prior federal awards has a satisfactory

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<sup>9</sup> Generally speaking, a reasonable cost is a cost that, in its nature or amount, does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the costs.

record with respect to performance, integrity, and business ethics, OJP checks whether the applicant is listed in SAM as excluded from receiving a federal award.

In addition, if OJP anticipates that an award will exceed \$150,000 in federal funds, OJP also must review and consider any information about the applicant that appears in the non-public segment of the integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently, the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System, (FAPIS)).

**Important note on FAPIS:** An applicant, at its option, may review and comment on any information about itself that currently appears in FAPIS and was entered by a federal awarding agency. OJP will consider any such comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIS, in its assessment of the risk posed by the applicant.

The evaluation of risks goes beyond information in SAM, however. OJP itself has in place a framework for evaluating risks posed by applicants for competitive awards. OJP takes into account information pertinent to matters such as:

1. Applicant financial stability and fiscal integrity
2. Quality of the applicant's management systems, and the applicant's ability to meet prescribed management standards, including those outlined in the DOJ Grants Financial Guide
3. Applicant's history of performance under OJP and other DOJ awards (including compliance with reporting requirements and award conditions), as well as awards from other federal agencies
4. Reports and findings from audits of the applicant, including audits under the Part 200 Uniform Requirements
5. Applicant's ability to comply with statutory and regulatory requirements, and to effectively implement other award requirements.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General, who may take into account not only peer review ratings and BJA recommendations, but also other factors as indicated in this section.

## **F. Federal Award Administration Information**

### **Federal Award Notices**

Award notifications will be made by September 30, 2018. OJP sends award notifications by email through GMS to the individuals listed in the application as the point of contact and the authorizing official (E-Biz POC and AOR). The email notification includes detailed instructions on how to access and view the award documents, and steps to take in GMS to start the award acceptance process. GMS automatically issues the notifications at 9:00 p.m. eastern time on the award date.

For each successful applicant, an individual with the necessary authority to bind the applicant will be required to log in; execute a set of legal certifications and a set of legal assurances; designate a financial point of contact; thoroughly review the award, including all award conditions; and sign and accept the award. The award acceptance process requires physical

signature of the award document by the authorized representative and the scanning and submission of the fully executed award document to OJP.

### **Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements**

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the OJP-approved application, the recipient must comply with all award conditions, as well as all applicable requirements of federal statutes and regulations (including applicable requirements referred to in the assurances and certifications executed in connection with award acceptance). OJP strongly encourages prospective applicants to review information on post-award legal requirements and common OJP award conditions **prior** to submitting an application.

Applicants should consult the “[Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2018 Awards](#),” available in the OJP Funding Resource Center at <https://ojp.gov/funding/index.htm>. In addition, applicants should examine the following two legal documents, as each successful applicant must execute both documents before it may receive any award funds. (An applicant is not required to submit these documents as part of an application.)

- [Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements](#)
- [Certified Standard Assurances](#)

The webpages accessible through the “[Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2018 Awards](#)” are intended to give applicants for OJP awards a general overview of important statutes, regulations, and award conditions that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP grants and cooperative agreements awarded in FY 2018. Individual OJP awards typically also will include additional award conditions. Those additional conditions may relate to the particular statute, program, or solicitation under which the award is made; to the substance of the funded application; to the recipient’s performance under other federal awards; to the recipient’s legal status (e.g., as a for-profit entity); or to other pertinent considerations.

### **General Information about Post-federal Award Reporting Requirements**

In addition to the deliverables described in [Section A. Program Description](#), any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to submit the following reports and data.

Required reports. Recipients typically must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, final financial and progress reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with the Part 200 Uniform Requirements or specific award conditions. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent. (In appropriate cases, OJP may require additional reports.)

Awards that exceed \$500,000 will include an additional condition that, under specific circumstances, will require the recipient to report (to FAPIIS) information on civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings connected with (or connected to the performance of) either the OJP award or any other grant, cooperative agreement, or procurement contract from the federal government. Additional information on this reporting requirement appears in the text of the award condition posted on the OJP webpage at <https://ojp.gov/funding/FAPIIS.htm>.

Data on performance measures. In addition to required reports, each award recipient also must provide data that measure the results of the work done under the award. To demonstrate program progress and success, as well as to assist DOJ in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), Public Law 103–62, and the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, Public Law 111–352, OJP will require any award recipient, post award, to provide performance data as part of regular progress reporting. Successful applicants will be required to access OJP’s performance measurement page at [www.ojp.gov/performance](http://www.ojp.gov/performance) for an overview of performance measurement activities at OJP.

## **G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

For OJP contact(s), see the title page.

For contact information for Grants.gov, see the title page.

## **H. Other Information**

### **Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a)**

All applications submitted to OJP (including all attachments to applications) are subject to the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and to the Privacy Act. By law, DOJ may withhold information that is responsive to a request pursuant to FOIA if DOJ determines that the responsive information either is protected under the Privacy Act or falls within the scope of one of nine statutory exemptions under FOIA. DOJ cannot agree in advance of a request pursuant to FOIA not to release some or all portions of an application.

In its review of records that are responsive to a FOIA request, OJP will withhold information in those records that plainly falls within the scope of the Privacy Act or one of the statutory exemptions under FOIA. (Some examples include certain types of information in budgets, and names and contact information for project staff other than certain key personnel.) In appropriate circumstances, OJP will request the views of the applicant/recipient that submitted a responsive document.

For example, if OJP receives a request pursuant to FOIA for an application submitted by a nonprofit or for-profit organization or an institution of higher education, or for an application that involves research, OJP typically will contact the applicant/recipient that submitted the application and ask it to identify—quite precisely—any particular information in the application that the applicant/recipient believes falls under a FOIA exemption, the specific exemption it believes applies, and why. After considering the submission by the applicant/recipient, OJP makes an independent assessment regarding withholding information. OJP generally follows a similar process for requests pursuant to FOIA for applications that may contain law-enforcement sensitive information.

### **Provide Feedback to OJP**

To assist OJP in improving its application and award processes, OJP encourages applicants to provide feedback on this solicitation, the application submission process, and/or the application review process. Provide feedback to [OJPSolicitationFeedback@usdoj.gov](mailto:OJPSolicitationFeedback@usdoj.gov).

**IMPORTANT:** This email is for feedback and suggestions only. OJP does **not** reply from this mailbox to messages it receives in this mailbox. Any prospective applicant that has specific questions on any program or technical aspect of the solicitation **must** use the appropriate telephone number or email listed on the front of this document to obtain information. These contacts are provided to help ensure that prospective applicants can directly reach an individual who can address specific questions in a timely manner.

If you are interested in being a reviewer for other OJP grant applications, please email your résumé to [ojprsupport@usdoj.gov](mailto:ojprsupport@usdoj.gov). (Do not send your résumé to the OJP Solicitation Feedback email account.) **Note:** Neither you nor anyone else from your organization or entity can be a peer reviewer in a competition in which you or your organization/entity has submitted an application.

## Appendix A: References

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**Appendix B: Application Checklist**  
**FY 18 Second Chance Act Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Plan**  
**Implementation Program**

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application.

**What an Applicant Should Do:**

*Prior to Registering in Grants.gov:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Acquire a DUNS Number (see page 26)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Acquire or renew registration with SAM (see page 27)

*To Register with Grants.gov:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Acquire AOR and Grants.gov username/password (see page 27)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Biz POC (see page 27)

*To Find Funding Opportunity:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Search for the Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov (see page 27)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Access Funding Opportunity and Application Package (see page 27)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sign up for Grants.gov email [notifications](#) (optional) (see page 25)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Read [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at [ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm](http://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm) (see page 13)

*After Application Submission, Receive Grants.gov Email Notifications That:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) application has been received,
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) application has either been successfully validated or rejected with errors (see page 28)

*If No Grants.gov Receipt, and Validation or Error Notifications are Received:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ contact NCJRS regarding experiencing technical difficulties (see page 28)

**Overview of Post-Award Legal Requirements:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Review the "[Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2018 Awards](#)" in the OJP Funding Resource Center at <https://ojp.gov/funding/index.htm>.

**Scope Requirement:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ The federal amount requested is within the allowable limits of \$1,000,000.

**Eligibility Requirement:** Eligible applicants are limited to the five state recipients of FY 2017 BJA Statewide Recidivism Reduction Strategic Planning awards.

**What an Application Should Include:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (see page 14)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Project Abstract (see page 13)

_____	*Program Narrative	(see page 15)
_____	*Budget Detail Worksheet	(see page 17)
_____	*Budget Narrative	(see page 17)
_____	Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)	(see page 20)
_____	Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire	(see page 20)
_____	<a href="#">Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)</a>	(see page 21)
_____	Additional Attachments	
_____	Letter from Applicant Agency Executive	(see page 21)
_____	Letter from the Evaluation Partner, if applicable	(see page 21)
_____	Position Descriptions/Résumés	(see page 22)
_____	Reentry Strategic Plan	(see page 22)
_____	Letters of Support/ Memoranda of Agreement (MOA)	(see page 22)
_____	Match Waiver, if applicable	(see page 11)
_____	Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications	(see page 22)
_____	Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity	(see page 23)
_____	Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable)	(see page 12)

\*These elements are the basic minimum requirements for applications. Applications that do not include these elements shall neither proceed to peer review nor receive further consideration by BJA.

**Appendix C:**

**Mandatory Chief Executive Assurance to Collect and Report Recidivism Indicator Data**

I hereby assure that, if awarded grant funds under the Second Chance Act **Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Plan Implementation**, my organization will collect unique identifiers and recidivism indicator performance data for each program participant, and will aggregate all such data and submit it via the Bureau of Justice Assistance Performance Measurement Tool as required upon grant closeout. I understand that the inability or refusal to submit such data after an award is made may impact this project, as well as my organization's ability to receive future Bureau of Justice Assistance competitive grant funding.

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Signature

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Title

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Date

## Appendix D: Allowable Uses of Award Funds

Following are optional, allowable uses of funds under this funding opportunity.

**Staff and/or consultants.** In addition to hiring the required full-time project director, applicants may use the funds to support **policy staff positions or consultants** to advise on large-scale policy reforms and changes. These positions or consultants should have expertise in evidence-based practices and navigating via cross-system reform efforts.

**Use of actuarial-based assessment instruments for reentry planning.** Research shows that offenders returning from incarceration should be assessed to determine criminogenic risk and needs factors, and determine supervision levels and services, so that appropriate interventions can be delivered. The use of assessment instruments that are reliable, validated, and normed for a specific population increases the chances that offenders will be matched with the appropriate type of treatment and reentry services.

- Applicants may use grant funds to **invest in assessment tools, conduct a validation study of an existing tool, train staff or conduct quality assurance** around the completion and use of assessment tools.

**Targeting criminogenic needs that affect recidivism.** While offenders reentering the community have a variety of treatment and behavioral needs, which are themselves risk factors for future offending, criminogenic needs are the dynamic risk factors most closely associated with offending behavior. Criminogenic risk and needs factors include a history of anti-social behavior; anti-social personality pattern; anti-social cognition; anti-social associates; family and/or marital status; school and/or work; leisure and/or recreation; and substance abuse. Behavioral change is possible if offenders returning from incarceration are provided with tailored, sequential programming that addresses individual criminogenic needs that affect the risk of recidivism.

- Applicants may **provide or contract for program interventions that target criminogenic risk factors**, especially for higher risk offenders. Any direct services funded through the grant should be tied to larger scale systems reforms and be sustainable (e.g., increasing treatment slots for a cognitive-behavioral program by adjusting workload for existing staff).

**Promoting the use of evidence-based programs and strategies by third-party service providers that provide substance abuse, mental health, and behavioral health treatment; aftercare; and reentry services.** As agencies seek strategically and systematically to increase community-based services for offenders for whom such placement is safe and appropriate, it is vital to ensure that these services align with the principles of effective intervention, implement evidence-based principles with fidelity, meet the needs of the target populations, and achieve performance and outcome expectations. Accordingly, applicants may propose strategies that enable them to hold community-based services accountable for providing high quality, effective services. Funds may be used to:

- **Assess and/or enhance** the extent to which service providers are using validated risk and needs assessment tools, ensuring appropriate treatment or programming dosage and responsiveness, and implementing evidence-based programs and strategies with fidelity.

- Provide **training** in evidence-based practices to contracted service providers.
- Plan for and implement a **performance-based contracting system**.

**Providing sustained case planning/management from prison to the community.** Reentry programs should ideally begin when the offender is first incarcerated and continue when the offender is released to the community. Since most offenders returning from incarceration are at the highest risk of re-arrest the first few months after release, services should be most intensive at the time of release to the community.

- Applicants are strongly urged to use consistent pre- and post- release case management and supervision that is sustained over a period of at least 6 months and is especially responsive to the offender's transition from incarceration to the community.

**Enhance probation and paroling authorities' evidence-based policy, practice, and decisionmaking.** Applicants may use grant funds to **enhance parole decisionmaking** in a comprehensive fashion, including the use of empirically based tools to assess offenders' risk and criminogenic needs; **decisionmaking guidelines** that provide structure and consistency to parole decisionmaking; **training on evidence-based practices**, including engagement skills of parole board members; and collaborative partnerships with prisons and jails and community supervision agencies and others to facilitate a safe transition to the community.

**Implementing intermediate and graduated responses, including swift and certain sanctions.** Applicants may propose funding to:

- **Implement intermediate and graduated responses** that may incorporate positive reinforcements and swift and certain sanctions, in one or more jurisdictions.
- Scale up existing pilots to take these initiatives to a greater number of jurisdictions or statewide.

**Analyzing and implementing changes to policies and practices that guide community supervision conditions and revocation procedures.** Applicants may use funds to work with judicial and prosecutorial counterparts to identify policies and practices in place that determine supervision conditions, incentives and sanctions, and revocation of supervision.

- Applicants should consider basing supervision conditions on risk and criminogenic needs assessments and the use of a range of administrative sanction options.

**Staff training.** Implemented reentry programs should provide adequate staff training to appropriately use cognitive-behavioral interventions and strategies on the utilization of evidence-based programs and practices, including booster trainings and ongoing coaching.

**Quality assurance.** Based on comprehensive system and procedural change, applicants are encouraged to address quality assurance (QA). Implementation of QA can include tools from the field, trainings for staff involved in the QA process, developing audit measures, and incorporating QA into human resources policies, practices, and staff performance evaluation.

**Reviewing and modifying staffing policies.** Applicants may use funds to review and update staff job descriptions, workload distribution, and performance evaluations to ensure they are aligned with and support the implementation of evidence-based practices.

- This may involve updating expectations for how staff interact with clients, adjusting caseload sizes and contact standards to reflect different criminogenic risk levels, and

modifying performance evaluations to promote compliance with evidence-based practices.

**Data collection and information-sharing capacity:** Applicants may use funds to implement technology solutions and changes to policy that advance data collection, interagency information sharing, and performance measurement and evaluation. These technology solutions should:

- Help improve and automate the flow of information between agencies to enhance reentry programming and rehabilitation and support an effective continuity of care for offenders.
- Improve the ability to track aggregate performance measures related to recidivism and other important performance outcomes.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to develop methods for translating data to policymakers, administrators, staff, and service providers.

**Process and Outcome Evaluation:** Contract with a third-party evaluator to inform evaluation planning and conduct both a process and impact evaluation.