

NIJ FY 2026 State and Local Collection and Reporting of Crime Data

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: **O-NIJ-2026-172645**

Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

1. Complete SF-424 and submit in Grants.gov: **July 30, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. ET**
 2. Submit full application in JustGrants: **August 6, 2026, by 8:59 p.m. ET**
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1. BASIC INFORMATION

Purpose of the Funding

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is committed to advancing work that furthers the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) mission to keep our country safe and secure and uphold the rule of law and protect the rights of American citizens. OJP provides federal leadership, funding, and other critical resources to directly support law enforcement, combat violent crime, protect American children, provide services to American crime victims, and address public safety challenges, including human trafficking and the opioid crisis.

This is a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the **NIJ FY 2026 State and Local Collection and Reporting of Crime Data** program. This opportunity seeks proposals for rigorous research that examines the accuracy of crime data collection and reporting practices across state and local jurisdictions. The goal is to identify common challenges and develop scalable and widely adoptable best practices to improve data quality and integrity. Of particular interest are studies that examine how agencies collect information regarding offenses to ensure fidelity between reported data and actual events and to strengthen broader data governance practices.

Importantly, recent research highlights persistent inaccuracies in offender race and ethnicity data collected by local law enforcement agencies. These inaccuracies stem from inconsistent categorizations and definitions, officer misidentification, and other systemic factors, limiting the utility of such data for research and policy development. Proposed research should address this issue.

The accurate collection and reporting of crime data is foundational to police operations and the development, implementation, and evaluation of effective programs and practices aimed at preventing and reducing crime. High-quality crime statistics provide critical insight into crime patterns, trends, and changes over time and serve as an essential tool for evidence-based decision-making across the criminal justice system.

Crime statistics support a wide range of operational, administrative, and strategic functions. Law enforcement agencies use these data to track crime, inform budget formulation and resource allocation, assess police operations, deploy officers and task forces effectively, and evaluate the impact of law enforcement initiatives at the local, state, and national levels. Agencies may also rely on crime data to justify staffing levels and operational needs. While comparisons across jurisdictions should be approached with caution, some agencies examine relative crime trends to support requests for additional funding, personnel, or equipment.

Despite their importance, the reliability of crime statistics varies substantially across jurisdictions. Many crimes go unreported, and agency reporting standards and practices are not uniform. Data from the 2024 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) demonstrate that victimization estimates and police-reported crime levels differ widely

across communities, reflecting significant variation in the likelihood that victims report crimes to law enforcement. Research indicates that rates of unreported crime fluctuate based on a combination of victim characteristics, community context, and law enforcement practices.

Further research shows that the accuracy of reported crime data can be affected by multiple factors including:

- Differences in how jurisdictions define and classify criminal offenses.
- Variations in agency reporting practices and officer discretion.
- Disparities in data collection systems and methods, often linked to resource constraints.
- The level of officer training and experience.
- Internal and external political pressures that may incentivize data manipulation to meet performance targets.

Finally, public access to local agency crime data—through online data dashboards, for example—can be another quality check for agencies to ensure reported data matches actual events.

[Evaluation Research](#). Applicants proposing evaluation research are encouraged to review the information found here [Applications Proposing Evaluation Research](#). See the [Eligible Applicants](#) section for eligibility details.

Funding Details

Announcement Type	Initial
Assistance Listing Number	16.560
Statutory Authority	Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (sections 201 and 202); the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (sections 231-233, 235); 28 U.S.C. 530C.
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-NIJ-2026-172645
Expected Total Amount of Funding	\$2,000,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	1
Award Type(s)	Grant or Cooperative Agreement
Anticipated Award Amount	To be determined by the requirements of the research proposed in applications selected for award up to the full dollar amount anticipated under this NOFO.

Expected Award Period(s)	Awards are anticipated by October 1, 2026, with an up to 24-month performance period, including a maximum 12-month active research component. (Award clearing takes roughly three months, during which research may be prohibited or significantly constrained.)
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Key Dates and Times

NOFO Release Date	June 22, 2026
SAM.gov Registration/Renewal	Begin the process as soon as possible and no later than July 17, 2026
Step 1: Grants.gov Deadline	11:59 p.m. ET on July 30, 2026
Step 2: JustGrants Deadline	8:59 p.m. ET on August 6, 2026
Anticipated Notification Date	By September 30, 2026

See [Questions?](#) at the end of this NOFO for agency contact information.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

The types of entities that are eligible to apply are:

Government Entities

- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Native American Tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Native American Tribal governments (other than federally recognized)

Educational Organizations

- Independent school districts
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education

Nonprofit Organizations

- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

For-Profit Organizations

- Organizations other than small businesses

- Small businesses

Other

- Other units of local government

“Other” Entities Definition:

- **Other units of local government:** For the purposes of this notice of funding opportunity, other units of local government include towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, or other general purpose political subdivisions of a state.

Cost Sharing (Match) Requirement: Match is not required but see details regarding “Cofunding” here: [Guidance for Applicants and Awardees](#).

Limit on Number of Applications: You may submit more than one application if each application proposes a different project.

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Statutory Authority

Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (sections 201 and 202); the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (sections 231-233, 235); 28 U.S.C. 530C.

Agency Funding Priorities

To help meet its mission, NIJ may give priority consideration to applications proposing (as applicable within the scope of this NOFO) projects designed to advance the goals listed below:

- Directly supporting law enforcement operations (including immigration law enforcement operations);
- Combatting violent crime;
- Supporting services to American citizens;
- Protecting American children; and
- Supporting American victims of trafficking and sexual assault.

Note: Addressing these priorities is one of many factors that NIJ considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

Unallowable Activities: The following are certain unallowable costs and certain activities that are out of the program scope and will not be funded.

1. Out of program scope is any program or activity, at any tier that, directly or indirectly, violates (or promotes or facilitates the violation of) federal immigration law (including 8 U.S.C. § 1373) or impedes or hinders the enforcement of federal immigration law—including by failing to comply with 8 U.S.C. § 1373, give access to DHS agents, or honor DHS requests and provide requested notice to DHS agents.

2. Out of program scope is any program or activity at any tier that violates any applicable Federal civil rights or nondiscrimination law. This includes violations that—(1) indirectly violate the law, including by promoting or facilitating violations; or (2) unlawfully favor individuals in any race or protected group, including on a majority or minority, or privileged or unprivileged, basis, within a given area, population, or sector.
3. As specified in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), in Chapter 3.13 “Unallowable Costs” (“Legal Services for Aliens”), any obligations of funds, at any tier, under this award to provide (or to support the provision of) legal services to any removable alien or any alien otherwise unlawfully present in the United States shall be unallowable costs for purposes any award made under this notice, but the foregoing shall not be understood to apply—(1) to legal services to obtain protection orders for victims of crime; or (2) to immigration-related legal services that may be expressly authorized or required by any law, or any judicial ruling, governing or applicable to the award.

Goals and Objectives of This Funding Opportunity

Goal 1: Identify common challenges with crime data collection and reporting practices.

- **Objective 1:** Document crime data collection processes at multiple jurisdictions that vary by size, population served, urbanization, and other meaningful characteristics.
- **Objective 2:** Estimate the accuracy of incident-level crime data that is collected, including offender data.
- **Objective 3:** Document crime data reporting practices regarding offenders, offense incidents, and other key elements.
- **Objective 4:** Compare the accuracy of crime estimates reported by jurisdictions with crime estimates from other sources.
- **Objective 5:** Identify internal or external factors impacting the accuracy of crime data.

Goal 2: Develop scalable, widely adoptable best practices to improve data quality and integrity.

- **Objective 1:** Analyze information gathered from multiple jurisdictions (from Goal 1).
- **Objective 2:** Convene experts to discuss common challenges with crime data collection and reporting practices.
- **Objective 3:** Synthesize information into a guide and other knowledge products for crime data practitioners.

The awards funded through this NOFO will support a comprehensive assessment of crime data collection and reporting at multiple jurisdictions, followed by the development

of actionable best practices that can be implemented by state and local agencies responsible for collecting and reporting crime data.

For a description of how awards under this NOFO will contribute to achieving these goals and objectives, see the [Performance Reports](#) section below.

Expected Outcomes

NIJ expects recipients to submit deliverables and performance reports, as described below. Read the [Application Resource Guide](#) for more information. NIJ will measure success by reviewing a recipient's submission of performance reports and data and the extent to which project implementation reflects progress toward the goals and objectives of this NOFO.

Deliverables

Recipients will be expected to deliver the following:

- **Scholarly Products:** NIJ expects awardees to produce scholarly products, including a final research report, as described here: [Post-Award Requirements for Research, Development, and Evaluation Grants](#).

NIJ expects the dissemination of such products throughout the period of performance to the extent possible. Development and delivery of interim products should be built into the Project Timeline. NIJ expects awardees to deposit author accepted manuscripts for peer reviewed publications derived from research funded by the award in a publication repository designated by NIJ.

- **Research Dissemination Products:** NIJ expects awardees to produce dissemination products that translate the research into actionable information for policymakers and practitioners to promote change in the field, including more accurate collection of offender and offense information. NIJ expects that grantees will devote equal effort to development of these products as they do scholarly products. These products are expected to include a Best Practices Guide(s) that describes scalable, widely adoptable best practices to improve data quality and integrity for crime data collection and reporting.
- **Data Sets and Associated Files and Documentation:** NIJ expects awardees to archive each data set resulting in whole or in part from their funded research and the associated files and documentation to ensure the preservation, availability, and transparency of data collected through the awards it funds. For more information on this requirement, please review [Data Archiving](#).

Performance Reports

OJP requires recipients to submit regular performance reports that communicate progress toward achieving [Program Goals and Objectives](#). Read information on [performance reporting](#). For NIJ's post award reporting requirements, please review [Post-Award Requirements for Research, Development, and Evaluation Grants](#).

A list of performance measure questions for this funding opportunity can be found at [Performance Measures for Award Recipients](#).

Substantial Involvement of Federal Agency: OJP expects to make some or all awards under this NOFO as cooperative agreements, which allows OJP to have substantial involvement in carrying out the project. Read the [Application Resource Guide](#) for a discussion of this involvement and related award conditions.

4. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

Application Contents List

NIJ will only consider applications that contain all required parts, which are marked ***Required*** below. Refer to the [DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist](#) for application instructions.

Application Item	Submission Type
Step 1: Grants.gov	
Application for Federal Assistance: SF-424 *Required*	Online Form
Step 2: JustGrants	
Standard Applicant Information *Required*	Online Form
Proposal Abstract	Text Box
Data Requested With Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status) Agency Funding Priorities Inventory Principal Investigator Contact Information 	Online Form
Proposal Narrative *Required*	Attachment
Budget *Required*	Online Form
Other Budget/Financial Attachments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) Consultant Rate (if applicable) 	Attachment

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards Over \$250,000; Waiver (if applicable) 	
<p><u>Additional Application Components</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold Standard Science • Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support Common Forms *Required* • Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) • Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement • Letters of Support (if applicable) • Bibliography/References • Tools/Instruments, Questionnaires, Tables/Charts/Graphs, or Maps • List of Individuals in the Application • Human Subjects Protection • Privacy Certificate • Request to Use Incentives or Stipends • Project Management Plan and Timeline • Consortium/Contractual Agreements • Data Management, Sharing, and Archiving Plan (DMSAP) 	<p>Attachment</p>

In addition to the items marked ***Required*** in the table above, the following are considered basic minimum requirement elements that are considered in the responsiveness review:

- The application is submitted by an eligible applicant.
- The application is responsive to the scope of the NOFO.

Standard Applicant Information ***Required***

Review and edit as needed the information imported from the SF-424 submitted in Grants.gov. Add ZIP codes for areas affected by the project.

Proposal Abstract

In JustGrants (Web-Based Form), enter a proposal abstract (limited to 2,000 characters) summarizing the proposed project. As abstracts for funded projects are public, do not include any personally identifying information (e.g., staff names). The abstract should include the following information:

- The name of the applicant’s proposed project.
- The goals, objectives, and research questions to be addressed.
- The research design and methods.

- Work products to be produced and the dissemination plan.

Data Requested With Application

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status)

Review information on this [questionnaire](#).

Agency Funding Priorities Inventory

Applicants seeking priority consideration under the [Agency Funding Priorities](#) section should answer the inventory questions in their entirety in the web-based form in JustGrants.

Principal Investigator Contact Information

To facilitate administrative processes associated with application review and post review activities, applicants are requested to enter the name of the Principal Investigator for the application project, as well as their contact information.

Proposal Narrative ***Required***

Format of the Proposal Narrative

Submit the narrative as an attachment in JustGrants. The document should:

- Be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point size font
- Have no less than 1-inch margins
- Have numbered pages
- Not exceeding 30 pages

If the Proposal Narrative does not follow this format, NIJ may reduce the score/ranking of the application.

Sections of the Proposal Narrative

The Proposal Narrative should include the seven sections listed below. If you want priority consideration, the Proposal Narrative must state which [priority\(ies\)](#) your project will advance and describe how it will do so.

1. Title Page (not counted against the proposal narrative page limit): The title page should include:

- Project Title.
- Submission date.
- Funding opportunity number.
- Principal Investigator (and any co-principal investigators).
- Unique author identifier (e.g., ORCID, Researcher ID, Scopus Author ID), if available.
- Requests for consideration under “agency funding priorities.”
- Key words, including science focus areas.

2. Table of Contents and Figures (not counted against the proposal narrative page limit).

3. Statement of the Problem (5% of application score): The applicant should clearly articulate the research problem concerning criminal-offense data completeness and accuracy, its significance to the criminal justice field, and demonstrate a thorough understanding of existing knowledge gaps. The statement should establish why this research is needed now and how it addresses a critical issue.

4. Project Design and Implementation (40% of application score): The strength of how the applicant will implement activities, including the soundness of the project design, and how the activities align to the stated goals and objectives. The proposal should present a rigorous research methodology, realistic timeline, and clear connection between proposed activities and expected outcomes.

5. Capabilities and Competencies (15% of application score): The applicant's administrative and scientific technical capacity to successfully complete the project. The proposal should demonstrate the research team's relevant expertise, institutional resources, and track record of completing similar projects successfully.

6. Potential impact (25% of application score): The applicant should describe how the research findings will provide actionable knowledge to criminal justice practitioners and policymakers. The proposal should articulate clear dissemination strategies and explain how the research will advance the field or inform practice and policy.

7. Appendices (not counted against the proposal narrative page limit) include:

- If the application (including the budget) identifies any proposed noncompetitive agreements that are or may be considered procurement "contracts" (rather than subawards), for purposes of federal grants administrative requirements, the applicant also must list the entities with which the applicant proposes to contract.
- List of other agencies, organizations, or funding sources to which this application has been submitted (if applicable).
- Any table/charts/graphs supporting the program narrative.

Budget and Associated Documentation

Budget (15%) ***Required***

Use the Budget Detail Worksheet (Web-Based Form) to submit the budget. Read information on [budget preparation](#) and [JustGrants Application Submission Training](#).

Completeness and cost effectiveness. The budget should be detailed, reasonable, and clearly justified, with all costs directly supporting the proposed research activities and demonstrating efficient use of federal funds.

- List each cost needed to implement the project under the appropriate cost category.
- Clearly name and describe each cost.

- Show the computation of each cost (e.g., cost per unit, number of units, and total cost).
- Enter narrative, as needed, to explain the cost calculations and connection to your project goals, objectives, and activities.
- Include only costs that are reasonable, allocable, and necessary to implement the project. They must be allowable under the funding statute and agency requirements.¹

Budget/Financial Attachments

- **Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable):** If the budget includes indirect costs calculated using a current, federally approved indirect cost rate, upload your indirect cost rate agreement. Read information about [indirect costs](#).
- **Consultant Rate (if applicable):** Read information on [limits to consultant rates](#) and whether you need to request approval to exceed those limits.
- **Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards Over \$250,000; Waiver (if applicable):** Read information on this [limitation](#) and to determine whether you need to submit a waiver.
- **Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation (if applicable):** Applicants to this funding opportunity are not required to provide this disclosure.

Additional Application Components

Applications to NIJ NOFOs are expected to include 14 additional research-related components (as applicable), attached in JustGrants. One of these is a required application component:

- **Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support Common Forms *Required*:** Submit the required *Biographical Sketch* and *Current and Pending (Other) Support* forms for the principal and co-principal investigators and other key personnel (e.g., project directors). Read details and access the forms here: [NSPM-33 Implementation Guidance](#).

A description of the other 13 components is found here: [Guidance for Applicants and Awardees | National Institute of Justice](#).

Disclosures and Assurances

Read the [disclosures and assurances](#) and complete them in JustGrants:

- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.
- Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items (if applicable).
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurances.
- DOJ Certifications.
- Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High-Risk Grantees (if applicable).

¹ See [2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E](#) and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#). Read information on [unallowable costs](#) that apply to all funding opportunities.

5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

The [DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist](#) provides instructions for how to submit your application by the [deadlines](#). [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 12372](#) (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs) does not apply to this funding opportunity: Read the [Application Resource Guide](#) for details. Read OJP's policy for applicants to [request late submission](#) due to technical difficulties, severe weather, or natural or manmade disasters.

6. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

The [Application Resource Guide](#) explains the responsiveness review, review criteria, and review and selection process, including risk review, and deciding official. Refer to the [Application Contents List](#) for all required application components and other basic minimum requirement elements that are considered in the responsiveness review. The [Proposal Narrative](#) and [Budget](#) sections of this NOFO indicates the weight of peer review criteria. Also see [Grant Application Review Process | National Institute of Justice](#).

7. AWARD NOTICES

Read about the [award notification](#) process.

8. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS & ADMINISTRATION

Read the [Application Resource Guide](#) for more information about standard award terms and conditions, administrative and national policy requirements, and post-award reporting requirements.

9. QUESTIONS?

NOFO Contact	Name: OJP Response Center Phone: 800-851-3420 or 202-353-5556 (TTY for hearing-impaired callers only) Email: OJP.ResponseCenter@usdoj.gov Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday
SAM.gov Help Desk	Website: sam.gov/help Hours: 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday (closed federal holidays)
Grants.gov Help Desk	Phone: 800-518-4726 Email: support@grants.gov Website: grants.gov/support Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed federal holidays)
JustGrants Help Desk	Phone: 833-872-5175 Email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov Hours: 7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday and 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.