

BJA FY 25 Invited to Apply for Transforming Prison Cultures, Climates, and Spaces

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: O-BJA-2025-172588

Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

1. Complete SF-424 and submit in Grants.gov: **May 6, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. ET**
 2. Submit full application in JustGrants: **May 8, 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 BJA FY 2025 Invited to Apply for Transforming Prison Cultures, Climates, and Spaces. Originally released in FY23, BJA's Transforming Prison Cultures, Climates, and Spaces program funded the development and initial implementation of the Safe Inside Initiative, which supports state departments of corrections (DOC) in their efforts to improve safety, security, and reduce recidivism, particularly among prisons facing acute workforce challenges. Through the Safe Inside Initiative funded via this program, state DOCs will receive highly specialized and technical training to help them effectively recruit, train, and retain qualified staff, and streamline operations in response to workforce trends.

See the [Eligible Applicants](#) section for eligibility details.

Funding Details

Announcement Type	Initial
Assistance Listing Number	16.812
Statutory Authority	Pub. L. No. 90-351, Title I, Sec. 2976 (codified at 34 U.S.C. 10631); Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (Pub. L. No. 119-4, Div. A, Secs. 1101(a)(2) and 1301(4), 139 Stat. 9, 10-11, 17; see Pub. L. No. 118-42, 138 Stat. 25, 148, para. 14)
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-BJA-2025-172588
Expected Total Amount of Funding	\$1,000,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	1
Award Type(s)	Cooperative Agreement
Anticipated Award Amount	Up to \$1,000,000
Expected Award Period(s)	10/1/2023-9/30/2027

Key Dates and Times

NOFO Release Date	April 23, 2026
SAM.gov Registration/Renewal	Recommend beginning process as soon as possible.
Step 1: Grants.gov Deadline	11:59 p.m. ET on May 6, 2026
Step 2: JustGrants Deadline	8:59 p.m. ET on May 8, 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:

Other: Only applicants that received an official invitation letter from BJA are able and eligible to apply. Applications will only be accepted from the following:

- Keystone Restituere Justice Center, Inc.

Cost Sharing (Match) Requirement: This NOFO does **not** require cost sharing (match).

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Statutory Authority

Pub. L. No. 90-351, Title I, Sec. 2976 (codified at 34 U.S.C. 10631); Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (Pub. L. No. 119-4, Div. A, Secs. 1101(a)(2) and 1301(4), 139 Stat. 9, 10-11, 17; see Pub. L. No. 118-42, 138 Stat. 25, 148, para. 14).

Agency Funding Priorities

In order to advance public safety and help meet its mission, OJP's priorities include:

- 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.

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: Support state DOCs in their efforts to improve safety, security, and reduce recidivism, particularly among prisons facing acute workforce challenges.

- **Objective 1:** Define a spectrum of key data points and operational strategies or practices that can assist DOCs in addressing acute staff shortages, workforce trends, and related operational challenges.
- **Objective 2:** Support DOCs in assessing where they are on the spectrum and determining their incremental or comprehensive targets for change and implement plans to achieve them. Incremental changes can include a focus on assessing the extent, nature, and drivers of current challenges and developing action plans in response. Comprehensive change may consist of assessing and amending the policies, procedures, programming, scheduling, staffing considerations (such as hiring protocols, post assignments and orders, and initial or recurring training), and other factors that impact operational safety, security, and efficiency within prison facilities.
- **Objective 3:** Engage with and assist DOC leaders in making deliberate and measurable changes that improve staff recruitment, retention, training, and other factors that enhance the capability and impact of the agency’s workforce.

- **Objective 4:** Identify DOCs that have begun implementing innovative or highly promising approaches to improving staff recruitment, retention, safety, culture, and other aspects of the corrections workforce and sharing this information as a resource for other DOCs.
- **Objective 5:** Establish learning communities for DOCs based on where they are on the spectrum of understanding and addressing their workforce challenges.
- **Objective 6:** Develop tools and resources such as checklists, agency- or facility-level surveys, curricula, cultural assessment tools, and technology to advance the field's understanding of key topics/issues and to advance practices around or in response to them.

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

OJP expects recipients to submit deliverables and performance reports, as described below. Read the [Application Resource Guide](#) for more information. OJP 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 do not need to submit any deliverables other than the standard items in the [Post-Award Requirements and Administration](#) section.

Performance Reports

OJP requires recipients to submit regular performance reports that communicate progress toward achieving [Program Goals and Objectives](#). Read information on [performance reporting](#).

A list of performance measure questions for this funding opportunity can be found at the Training and Technical Assistance [Performance Measures Questionnaire](#).

Substantial Involvement of Federal Agency: OJP expects to make the award under this NOFO as a cooperative agreement, 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

The table below lists the contents for your application. 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 	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) Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards Over \$250,000; Waiver (if applicable) Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation (if applicable) 	Attachment
Memorandum of Understanding	Attachment
Additional Application Components <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement (if applicable) Curriculum Vitae or Resumes 	Attachment

Standard Applicant Information

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, 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 purpose of the proposed project (*i.e.*, what the project will do and why it is necessary).
- Where the project will take place (*i.e.*, the service area, if applicable).
- Who will be served by the project (*i.e.*, who will be helped or have their needs addressed by the project).
- What activities will be carried out to complete the project.
- The subrecipient(s)/partner organizations or entities, if known.
- Deliverables and expected outcomes (*i.e.*, what the project will achieve).

View an example of a [proposal abstract](#).

Data Requested With Application

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

Review information on this [questionnaire](#).

Proposal Narrative

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 exceed 20 pages

Sections of the Proposal Narrative

The Proposal Narrative must include the four sections listed below.

1. Description of the Need: What critical issue or problem do you propose to address with this project? Please include:

- A brief explanation of the need, gap, or issue to be addressed by the proposed project.
- Supporting information, data, or evidence to demonstrate the need's existence, size, and impact on the target population and community.
- How the need relates to the purpose of the NOFO.

2. Project Goals and Objectives: How will the proposed project address the need identified and address the purpose of the NOFO? Please include:

- Project goals (goals are broad, visionary statements on what you hope to accomplish).
- Project objectives (objectives are specific outcomes you plan to achieve through project activities).
- How your project goals and objectives relate to the [goals and objectives of the funding opportunity](#).

3. Project Design and Implementation: How will you implement project activities that meet the project goals and objectives? Please include:

- What activities you will conduct to achieve the proposed goals and objectives.
- How you will deliver or complete those activities.
- When the activities will take place.
- Who in your organization will staff the activities, including key staff.
- Who will participate in and benefit from the activity.
- What deliverables, reports, and other items will be produced as part of the project.
- If you plan to use subrecipients to help conduct the project, please name them (if they are known) or describe how you will identify them. Please describe their role in conducting project activities.

4. Capabilities and Competencies: What administrative and technical capacity and expertise do you bring to successfully complete this project? Please include:

- A short description of your capacity to deliver the proposed project and meet the post-award requirements, if funded.
- A description of projects or activities your organization has conducted, or is currently conducting, that demonstrates your ability to undertake the proposed project activities.
- A summary of relevant experience of team members with key responsibilities for implementing the project.

Project Evaluations: An applicant that proposes to use award funds to conduct project evaluations must follow the guidance on [project evaluations](#).

Budget and Associated Documentation

Budget

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

- 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):** An applicant that is a nonprofit organization may be required to make certain disclosures relating to the processes it uses to determine the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees. Read information about this [disclosure and documentation](#) to upload.

Applicants to this funding opportunity are not required to provide this disclosure.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Supporting Documents

Attach a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or letter of intent between the applicant and each of the project partner(s). Read information on what to include in an [MOU/letter of intent](#).

MOUs should be submitted as one separate attachment to the application. Unsigned draft MOUs may be submitted with the application, but you should describe in a cover page to the attachment why they are unsigned.

Additional Application Components

Attach these in JustGrants:

- **Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement (if applicable):** Read information whether you may need to submit this [statement](#).

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.

- **Curriculum Vitae or Resumes:** Include resumes for key staff working on the project.

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)

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

OJP will review applications to ensure the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, achievable, and consistent with the goals of the funding opportunity. In addition, OJP reviews invited applications for consistency with the invitation letter and invited applicant guidance. See the [Application Resource Guide](#) for information on the application review process, including risk review, and the deciding official.

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	<p>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</p>
SAM.gov Help Desk	<p>Website: sam.gov/help Hours: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday (closed federal holidays)</p>
Grants.gov Help Desk	<p>Phone: 800-518-4726 Email: support@grants.gov Website: grants.gov/support Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed federal holidays)</p>
JustGrants Help Desk	<p>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.</p>