

# BJA FY 25 Invited to Apply- Tribal Civil and Criminal Legal Assistance Program

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Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: O-BJA-2025-172590

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## 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 25 Invited to Apply- Tribal Civil and Criminal Legal Assistance Program. This opportunity seeks to support legal assistance to eligible tribal members, federally recognized Indian tribes, and tribal justice systems that provide legal aid and indigent defense services to tribal communities located in rural and remote regions throughout the United States where legal services are sparse.

- **Category 1: Civil Legal Assistance (Anticipated Award Amount: \$765,000)**

Category 1 will support civil legal assistance to eligible tribal members, federally recognized Indian tribes, and tribal justice systems that provide legal aid and indigent defense services to tribal communities located in rural and remote regions throughout the United States where legal services are sparse.

- **Category 2: Criminal Legal Assistance (Anticipated Award Amount: \$765,000)**

Category 2 will support criminal legal assistance to eligible tribal members, federally recognized Indian tribes, and tribal justice systems that provide legal aid and indigent defense services to tribal communities located in rural and remote regions throughout the United States where legal services are sparse.

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

## Funding Details

<b>Announcement Type</b>	Initial
<b>Assistance Listing Number</b>	16.815
<b>Statutory Authority</b>	Pub. L. No. 106-559, Title I (codified at 25 U.S.C. 3661 – 3666); 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. 13)
<b>Grants.gov Opportunity Number</b>	O-BJA-2025-172590
<b>Competition ID Number</b>	C-BJA-2025-00120-PROD Category 1: Civil Legal Assistance  C-BJA-2025-00121-PROD Category 2: Criminal Legal Assistance
<b>Expected Total Amount of Funding</b>	Up to \$1,530,000
<b>Anticipated Number of Awards</b>	Category 1: 1 Category 2: 1
<b>Award Type(s)</b>	Grants
<b>Anticipated Award Amount</b>	Category 1: Up to \$765,000 Category 2: Up to \$765,000
<b>Expected Award Period(s)</b>	10/1/2023-9/30/2027

## Key Dates and Times

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

- Montana Legal Services Association

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

## 3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### Statutory Authority

Pub. L. No. 106-559, Title I (codified at 25 U.S.C. 3661 – 3666); 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. 13)

### Agency Funding Priorities

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

- a. Directly supporting law enforcement operations (including immigration law enforcement operations);
- b. Combatting violent crime;
- c. Supporting services to American citizens;
- d. Protecting American children; and
- e. 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

### Category 1: Civil Legal Assistance

**Goal: Build and enhance capacity and improve the delivery of civil legal assistance to individuals and tribes and to develop policies that improve access to justice systems.**

- **Objective 1:** Expand and improve the quality of civil legal assistance for eligible tribal members, other eligible individuals, federally recognized Indian tribes, and tribal justice systems.
- **Objective 2:** Expand and improve the quality of other civil legal assistance to support tribes enhancing their capacity, operations, or legal infrastructure.

### Category 2: Criminal Legal Assistance

**Goal: Build and enhance capacity and improve the delivery of criminal legal assistance to individuals and tribes and to develop policies that improve access to justice systems.**

- **Objective 1:** Expand and improve the quality of criminal defense representation in criminal proceedings for eligible tribal members, other eligible individuals, federally recognized Indian tribes, and tribal justice systems.
- **Objective 2:** Enhance the amount and quality of other legal assistance to support tribes enhancing their criminal legal capacity, operations, or legal infrastructure.

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](#).

Performance measure reporting requirements will be communicated to award recipients prior to their first report.

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards Over \$250,000; Waiver (if applicable)</li> </ul>	
<a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding</a>	Attachment
<a href="#">Additional Application Components</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement (if applicable)</li> </ul>	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.<sup>1</sup>

### 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## 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:

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

## 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?

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