OMB No. 1121-0329
Approval Expires 02/28/2027

OJP FY 2026 Special Attorneys Program: Round 9

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: **O-BJA-2026-172762**

Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

1: Complete SF-424 and Submit in Grants.gov: **October 8, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET**

2: Submit full application in JustGrants: **October 13, 2026 by 8:59 p.m. ET**

Contents

1. BASIC INFORMATION

Purpose of the Funding

This is a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the OJP FY 2026 Special Attorneys Program. This program will support state, local, Tribal, and territorial prosecuting agencies to assign or hire qualified prosecutors to serve full-time or part-time (on a case-by-case basis) as Special Attorneys under the direction of the National Fraud Enforcement Division or the Criminal Division, or to serve as Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSAs) within a United States Attorney's Office. Funds under this program can also be used to hire criminal investigators, as well as analysts, forensic accountants, and other staff who help with collection or analysis of law enforcement investigative information, to provide further investigative support.

These "cross-designated" prosecutors, criminal investigators, and other investigative support staff will remain employees of their home agencies but will investigate and prosecute assigned fraud and other crimes committed by aliens within the United States (hereafter referred to as "criminal aliens") for the duration of their appointment under this program. Cross-designated prosecutors, criminal investigators, and other investigative support staff may also be assigned cases involving drug or human trafficking committed within the United States. The National Fraud Enforcement Division, Criminal Division, and United States Attorney's Offices will coordinate with selected prosecutor offices on a case-by-case basis to address logistics and any unique local circumstances.

This grant program, authorized under Public Law 119-21, Title X, Subtitle A, Part II, Section 100055 (codified at 34 U.S.C. § 61101), is intended to improve the collection and analysis of law enforcement investigative information, strengthen investigative and prosecutorial capacity, expand intergovernmental coordination, and enhance the ability of jurisdictions to counter gang or other criminal activity, investigate and prosecute fraud and other crimes committed by aliens within the United States, as well as investigate and prosecute drug and human trafficking crimes. The program is also intended to increase the availability of cross-designated prosecutorial personnel who can pursue these matters in coordination with federal authorities and contribute to the effective enforcement of applicable criminal laws.

Funding under this program can be used to pay 100 percent of salary and fringe benefits for assigned Special Attorneys, SAUSAs, criminal investigators, and other investigative support staff. To support participating jurisdictions, up to 20 percent in *additional* funding (beyond salary and benefits) may be requested for the following allowable uses:

- Justice System Staffing and Capacity: Support hiring, retention, and training of critical personnel across the full continuum of criminal justice operations to ensure that jurisdictions have the personnel and operational capacity necessary to investigate and prosecute crimes committed by criminal aliens, detain offenders, and carry out related public safety functions in coordination with federal authorities.

- Equipment and Technology Purchase: Purchase and support multiyear implementation, ongoing subscriptions, training, and maintenance of equipment and advanced technology to enhance capacity to locate and apprehend criminal illegal aliens; investigate and prosecute crimes committed by illegal aliens; counter gang and criminal activity, including drug and human trafficking operations; coordinate with federal immigration enforcement partners; and strengthen multijurisdictional responses to transnational criminal organizations threatening American communities.

Applicants will need to describe in their narrative if and how they plan to use a percentage of their award funding (up to the maximum 20 percent allowable) for the purposes listed above.

See the Eligible Applicants section for eligibility details.

Funding Details

Announcement Type	Initial
Assistance Listing Number	16.076
Statutory Authority	Pub. L. No. 119-21, Sec. 100055 (codified at 34 U.S.C. 61101)
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-BJA-2026-172762
Expected Total Amount of Funding	$300,000,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	Number of awards will be based on quantity and viability of applications received.
Award Type(s)	Cooperative Agreement
Anticipated Award Amount	Award amounts will be based on approved costs requested by applicants.
Expected Award Period(s)	36 months starting on June 1, 2026

Award amounts are estimates and subject to change based on the availability of appropriated funds and programmatic priorities.

Key Dates and Times

NOFO Release Dates and Deadlines	This NOFO will be released in multiple rounds. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are no longer available. See below for the dates when each round will be released and the deadlines for application submission. Rounds may be added. Round 9 Release Date: September 24, 2026 Grants.gov Deadline: October 8, 2026 JustGrants Deadline: October 13, 2026
SAM.gov Registration/Renewal	Recommend beginning the process as soon as possible.
Anticipated Notification Date	Awards will be made on a rolling basis.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are government entities with the legal, operational, and managerial capacity to employ prosecutors serving in cross-designated capacities as Special Attorneys within the National Fraud Enforcement Division or Criminal Division or as Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSAs) within a United States Attorney's Office. Eligible applicant types include:

Government Entities
- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Native American Tribal governments (federally recognized)

State Government Entities: For the purposes of this NOFO, "state" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Other" Entities Definition:

- **Other Units of Local Government:** For the purposes of this NOFO, other units of local government include towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, or other general purpose political subdivisions of a state.

Additional Eligibility Factors

To be eligible to apply, any government entity must be willing to enter into and be bound by the terms of an appropriate memorandum of understanding provided by the National Fraud Enforcement Division or Criminal Division or the relevant U.S. Attorney's Office.

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

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Statutory Authority

Statutory Authority: Pub. L. No. 119-21, Sec. 100055 (codified at 34 U.S.C. § 61101)

Unallowable Uses of Funds

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 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.
2. 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: Improve the collection and analysis of law enforcement investigative information and strengthen prosecutorial capacity to counter gang or other criminal activity, investigate and prosecute fraud and other crimes committed by aliens, and investigate and prosecute drug and human trafficking crimes.

- **Objective 1:** Support state, local, Tribal, and territorial prosecuting agencies in assigning or hiring qualified prosecutors to serve in cross-designated capacities as Special Attorneys within the National Fraud Enforcement Division or the Criminal Division, or as Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSAs) within a United States Attorney's Office. Funds under this program can also be used to hire criminal investigators, as well as analysts, forensic accountants, and other staff who help with collection or analysis of law enforcement investigative information, to provide further investigative support.

- **Objective 2:** Increase the ability of participating jurisdictions to counter gang or other criminal activity, pursue fraud and other crimes committed by criminal aliens, and pursue drug and human trafficking crimes through dedicated prosecutorial staffing, case development, and litigation support.

Goal 2: Enhance coordination between federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement authorities, including Homeland Security Task Force operations.

- **Objective 1:** Promote coordinated case identification, referral, and prosecution through cross-designated prosecutorial assignments that support more effective and efficient collaboration among prosecuting agencies, law enforcement agencies, and relevant federal partners of eligible fraud matters.

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 the Application Resource Guide for more information on performance reporting.

The recipient of this award will be required to submit performance measure data and performance reports in JustGrants on a semi-annual basis. The recipient will receive further guidance on post-award reporting processes.

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

OJP 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 • Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire	Online Form
Proposal Narrative ***Required***	Attachment
Budget ***Required***	Online Form
Other Budget/Financial Attachments • 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)	Attachment
Statutory or Other Authority Supporting Document ***Required***	Attachment
Additional Application Components • Letter of support from the National Fraud Enforcement Division, the Criminal Division, or a U.S. Attorney's Office • Resumes • Proof of Active Bar Admission • Certificate of Good Standing • Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) • Timeline	Attachment

Standard Applicant Information *Required*

Review and edit as needed the information imported from the SF-424 submitted in Grants.gov and 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 you have or plan to have procurement contracts if known.
- Deliverables and expected outcomes (i.e., what the project will achieve).

See the Application Resource Guide for 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)

See the Application Resource Guide for guidance on completing this questionnaire.

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
- Have no more than 15 pages.

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

Sections of the Proposal Narrative

The Proposal Narrative must include the three sections listed below.

1. **Project Goals and Objectives (20% of application score):**

- A description of what the applicant intends to accomplish, including specific outcomes that will be achieved, through the assignment or hiring of prosecutors, criminal investigators, and other investigative support staff to serve in cross-designated capacities in support of the collection and analysis of law enforcement investigative information to counter gang or other criminal activity, investigation and prosecution of fraud and other crimes committed by aliens, and in support of the investigation and prosecution of drug and human trafficking crimes.

2. **Project Design and Implementation (35% of application score):**

- A description of the activities the applicant will carry out to support the assignment or hiring of qualified prosecutors to serve in cross-designated capacities as Special Attorneys within the National Fraud Enforcement Division or Criminal Division, or as Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSAs) within a United States Attorney's Office. A description of activities that applicant will carry out to support the hiring of criminal investigators and other investigative support staff, if applicable.
- An explanation of how those activities will be carried out, including how the applicant will support prosecutorial casework, coordination with DOJ and relevant federal partners, case referral and review processes, information sharing, supervision, and other operational steps necessary to investigate and prosecute crimes.
- If requesting part-time positions (which may be considered on a case-by-case basis), a detailed justification as to why part-time should be allowed is required (i.e. geography, lack of prosecutors in the area).
- If applicable, a description of how the applicant plans to use up to 20 percent of their award funding for other purposes, including Justice System Staffing and Capacity and/or Equipment and Technology Purchase.
- A description of the proposed implementation timeline, including key phases of the project such as hiring or assignment, onboarding, cross-designation, case intake, prosecution activities, coordination efforts, and reporting.
- A description of the personnel who will implement the project, including key staff, supervisory personnel, and the prosecutors, criminal investigators, and other investigative support staff who will carry out the proposed activities.
- A description of who will participate in and benefit from the project, including the prosecuting agency, partner law enforcement agencies, and the communities and public systems intended to benefit from stronger fraud enforcement and protection of public resources.
- A description of the anticipated project outputs and deliverables, which may include assigned or hired prosecutorial personnel, cross-designation arrangements, case coordination activities, prosecution-related outputs, required program reports, and other items necessary to demonstrate project implementation and progress.

3. **Capabilities and Competencies (30% of application score):** What administrative and technical capacity and expertise do you bring to successfully complete this project? Please include:
    - A description of the applicant's capacity to carry out the proposed project and to meet all post-award administrative, financial, performance reporting, and programmatic requirements, if funded.
    - A description of the applicant's experience conducting criminal investigation and prosecution, interagency coordination, or other related activities that demonstrate its ability to support prosecutors serving in cross-designated capacities in connection with the investigation and prosecution of fraud and other crimes committed by aliens and in support of the investigation and prosecution of drug and human trafficking crimes.
    - A summary of the relevant experience, qualifications, and roles of key personnel who will implement or oversee the project, including prosecutorial staff, supervisory staff, grant management staff, and any other personnel with significant responsibility for project execution.
    - A statement that the applicant and all attorneys to be cross-designated are willing to coordinate with federal immigration authorities and to investigate and prosecute crimes committed by aliens, including federal immigration offenses.
    - A statement that the applicant understands, with respect to all attorneys participating in this program, the following: an attorney's appointment as a Special Attorney or a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney is conditioned upon a satisfactory pre-appointment adjudication. This includes, among other things, a review and approval of the applicant's completed security form, drug testing, fingerprinting, a tax compliance report and a credit check. Attorney appointments may be denied based on information received during the pre-appointment process (e.g., failure to timely file and pay income taxes, serious credit problems, abuse of alcohol, history of usage of controlled substances, or misrepresentations on the security form). In addition, continued appointment is subject to a favorable adjudication of a background investigation.

Budget and Associated Documentation

Budget (15% of application score) *Required*

- Use the Budget Detail Worksheet (Web-Based Form) or Budget Narrative (attach file in JustGrants) to submit the budget. Read information on budget preparation and JustGrants Application Submission Training.
- List each cost needed to implement the proposed project, including costs associated with the assignment or hiring of qualified prosecutors and other direct project needs, under the appropriate cost category.
- Clearly name and describe each cost and its purpose in supporting investigation and prosecution.

- 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 how the requested costs support the project's goals, objectives, and proposed activities.
- Include only costs that are reasonable, allocable, and necessary to carry out the proposed project. All costs must be allowable under the funding statute and applicable agency requirements.[1]

Read the Application Resource Guide and Complete the Application in JustGrants: Budget for more information on how to prepare and submit a budget.

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 the Application Resource Guide for 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 the Application Resource Guide for information on this limitation and to determine whether you need to submit a waiver.

Supporting Documents *Required*

Attach a document that describes the applicant's statutory or other authority for the purposes as stated in 34 U.S.C. § 61101 (b)(3)(A) and (B) and to enter into a cross-designation arrangement to do so. This document must explicitly affirm that the applicant is authorized by (or, at least, not by prohibited by) state and local law to coordinate with federal immigration authorities.

Additional Application Components

Attach these in JustGrants:

- **Letter of Support** from the National Fraud Enforcement Division, Criminal Division, or a U.S. Attorney's Office
- **Resumes:** Provide resumes for each of the individuals the applicant is planning to assign or hire to serve in cross-designated capacities.
- **Proof of Active Bar Admission:** Provide proof of bar admission and active status for each of the individuals the applicant is planning to assign or hire to serve in cross-designated capacities.

[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.

- **Certificate of Good Standing:** Provide a certificate of good standing for each of the individuals the applicant is planning to assign or hire to serve in cross-designated capacities. If the applicant is unable to provide the official certificate because of external administrative processing delays, they must at least provide documentation indicating that the certificate has been requested and will be provided as soon as it is obtained.
- **Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable):** Read information on whether you may need to submit a Tribal Authorizing Resolution.
- **Timeline:** Provide a timeline listing key activities and milestones, and the months during which they will take place.

Note: If the applicant has not yet identified the potential Special Attorney/SAUSA at the time of application, they may submit an application then post for hiring and subsequently select an attorney to designate as the Special Attorney/SAUSA. If selected for award, the applicant must provide the resume(s), proof of active bar admission, and certificates of good standing once in order to receive access to funds.

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

This NOFO contains everything needed to apply. Refer to Key Dates and Times for submission dates and times. The DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist provides submission instructions. Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs) does not apply to this funding opportunity. The Application Resource Guide has a policy for applicants to request late submission due to technical difficulties, severe weather, or natural or manmade disaster.

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.

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.

Applicants should anticipate that awards under this NOFO will include an award condition requiring the award recipient to enter into an appropriate memorandum of understanding with the National Fraud Enforcement Division, the Criminal Division, or the relevant U.S. Attorney's Office that includes the parameters of the agreement and responsibilities between the parties to the MOU.

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 a.m.–8 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.