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

BJS FY 2026 National Incident-Based Reporting System Estimation Program

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: O-BJS-2026-172683

Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

1. Complete SF-424 and submit in Grants.gov: **September 21, by 11:59 PM ET**
2. Submit full application in JustGrants: **September 28, 2026, by 8:59 PM 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 **FY2026 National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Estimation Program**. This opportunity is for continued maintenance and development of statistical protocols and procedures required to produce national estimates of crime and arrest based on data from the FBI's NIBRS collection. The NIBRS Estimation Program is a multiphase, large-scale data quality, nonresponse, and estimation project through which BJS develops and tests statistical procedures that assess the quality and completeness of the submitted NIBRS data, adjust for item and unit nonresponse, and generate national incident-based statistics from the reported data. For additional information on the NIBRS estimation methodology, see *NIBRS Estimation and Extract File Creation Methodology Report* (NCJ 310516, BJS, December 2025).

See the Eligible Applicants section for eligibility details.

Funding Details

Announcement Type	Initial
Assistance Listing Number	16.734 - Special Data Collections and Statistical Studies
Statutory Authority	Under Section 302 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, BJS is authorized to "make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with public agencies, institutions of higher education, private organizations, or private individuals" for purposes of collecting and analyzing criminal justice statistics. Under 34 U.S.C. § 10132(c)(19), BJS is authorized to "support the development and enhancement of criminal history and related records including the . . . National Incident-Based Reporting System . . . ." Title 28 U.S.C. § 530C authorizes the FBI to provide funds to BJS to make grants under this solicitation.

	Under Title 28 U.S.C. § 534 and 28 C.F.R. § 0.85, the FBI is authorized to support activities related to the transfer and sharing of criminal justice information across and between law enforcement and related agencies. Title 34 U.S.C. section 30507, known as the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, subsection (d)(1)(A) authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to assist States and units of local government "in implementing the National Incident-Based Reporting System, including to train employees in identifying and classifying hate crimes in" NIBRS.
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-BJS-2026-172683
Expected Total Amount of Funding	$5,300,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	1
Award Type(s)	Cooperative Agreement
Anticipated Award Amount	Up to $5,300,000
Expected Award Period(s)	36 months starting on November 1, 2026

Key Dates and Times

NOFO Release Date	August 13, 2026
SAM.gov Registration/Renewal	Begin the process by as soon as possible
Step 1: Grants.gov Deadline	11:59 p.m. ET on September 21, 2026
Step 2: JustGrants Deadline	8:59 p.m. ET on September 28, 2026
Anticipated Notification Date	By December 1, 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:

Educational Organizations

- 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

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

Limit on Number of Applications: If a project will be carried out by two or more entities (project partners), only one entity may submit the application. The other entities (project partners) must be proposed as subrecipients rather than co-applicants. An entity may be proposed as a subrecipient in more than one application. For additional information regarding subawards, see the Application Resource Guide.

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

BJS, in partnership with the FBI and with statistical and technical support from RTI International, established a new set of statistical procedures to estimate crime, based on data provided by law enforcement agencies that contribute to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). BJS developed and tested statistical procedures that assessed the quality and completeness of the submitted NIBRS data, adjusted for item and unit nonresponse, and generated national incident-based statistics from the reported data. The team produced the first prototype of an automated system that calculated national estimates of crime and arrest based on the NIBRS data (including variance estimates).

The next phase of work focuses on enhancing the technical capacity and efficiency of the NIBRS Estimation System, improving the timeliness of crime and arrest estimates, refining measurement methodologies and supporting state UCR program work.

National estimates produced under this program can be accessed in two ways:

1. The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) National Estimates API provides a subset of the NIBRS Estimates for analysis. The NIBRS National Estimates include nationally representative estimates at the incident, offense,

and victim level for crime reported by law enforcement in the year indicated in the files. Codebooks for these datasets are also accessible via the API.
2. Complete versions of the NIBRS Estimates can be found on the FBI's Crime Data Explorer under NIBRS Estimation Tables.

Additional information on the NIBRS program and past work can be found on the BJS website: National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

Statutory Authority

Under Section 302 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, BJS is authorized to "make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with public agencies, institutions of higher education, private organizations, or private individuals" for purposes of collecting and analyzing criminal justice statistics. Also, under 34 U.S.C. § 10132(c)(19), BJS is authorized to "support the development and enhancement of criminal history and related records including the . . . National Incident-Based Reporting System . . . ." Title 28 U.S.C. § 530C authorizes the FBI to provide funds to BJS to make grants under this solicitation. Under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 534 and 28 C.F.R. § 0.85, the FBI is authorized to support activities related to the transfer and sharing of criminal justice information across and between law enforcement and related agencies.

Agency Funding Priorities

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

(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.

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

Unallowable Activities: OJP has identified activities that are unallowable and will not be funded: read the Application Resource Guide for details. 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.

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: Enhance the technical capacity and efficiency of the NIBRS Estimation System
- **Objective 1.1:** Optimize the estimation system architecture to improve processing speed and accommodate expanded crime indicators
- **Objective 1.2:** Develop and integrate automated validation programs throughout the estimation system process
- **Objective 1.3:** Generate NIBRS Extract Files
- **Objective 1.4:** Conduct research on topical and methodological issues as directed

Goal 2: Improve the timeliness of crime and arrest estimates
- **Objective 2.1:** Develop and refine monthly estimation methodology for timely crime reporting

Goal 3: Refine how uncertainty measures are generated and weights are calibrated for the NIBRS Estimation Program
- **Objective 3.1:** Develop alternative approaches for estimating uncertainty
- **Objective 3.2:** Refine weight calibration models

Goal 4: Strengthen support and assistance for state UCR programs and local law enforcement agencies
- **Objective 4.1**: Develop products that identify key gaps in NIBRS implementation and reporting related to hate-crime identification and other areas as specified
- **Objective 4.2:** Develop and disseminate modernized tools, training materials, and user guides

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 will be expected to submit the following deliverables over the course of the award period. Deliverables below correspond with the Goals and Objectives identified above.

Deliverable 1.1.1: Technical assessment report evaluating alternative reporting database formats with recommendations
Deliverable 1.1.2: Updated estimation output with new data year enhancements
Deliverable 1.2.1: Integrated validation module embedded within the estimation system workflow
Deliverable 1.2.2: Updated validation programs compatible with any methodology changes, as applicable
Deliverable 1.3.1: Extract files for each new data year at the victim-, incident-, offender-, and arrestee-levels
Deliverable 1.3.2: Firearm victimization extract file
Deliverable 1.3.3: Updated extract files codebook and data documentation, as needed
Deliverable 1.4.1: Summary of analysis and findings as directed by the grant manager
Deliverable 1.4.2: System programs, documentation, and extract files
Deliverable 1.4.3: Briefing and related materials as directed by the grant manager
Deliverable 2.1.1: Refined methodology document for producing monthly estimates
Deliverable 2.1.2: Enhanced estimation system that produces monthly estimates of crime and arrest
Deliverable 3.1.1: Technical report documenting alternative uncertainty estimation approaches and comparative analysis with current copula imputation method
Deliverable 3.1.2: Updated system programs accounting for latest variance methodology
Deliverable 3.2.1: Refined weight calibration models at national and sub-national levels with documentation of alignment to population control totals by major offense types
Deliverable 3.2.2: Assessment report on a timeframe for when bottom-up approach (single weight) can be used to produce weights

Deliverable 4.1.1: Analytic product identifying patterns of missing data across NIBRS elements (demographic and incident information) by state and for large cities over 250,000 population (or as directed by the grant manager)
Deliverable 4.1.2: State-specific gap analysis reports highlighting critical non-reporting agencies and their impact on state and national estimation capability, to assist BJS in identifying where training and support should be prioritized
Deliverable 4.1.3: Analytic product on hate crime identification and classification practices across jurisdictions, to assist BJS in identifying gaps requiring technical assistance
Deliverable 4.2.1: Modernized reporting tool for disseminating NIBRS data and findings to state UCR programs and local LE agencies
Deliverable 4.2.2: Interactive web-based data quality reports
Deliverable 4.2.3: Training materials and user guides for state UCR programs and others on working with NIBRS Estimation Project outputs
Deliverable 4.2.4: Summary materials highlighting key findings related to NIBRS implementation and expansion for dissemination to state UCR programs and local law enforcement agencies
Deliverable 4.2.5: NIBRS data documentation (updated or augmented) for state UCR programs and local LE agencies

Data Management Plan: Recipients are required to develop and maintain a BJS-approved data management plan (DMP). The DMP will provide general program information and describe the specific procedures and controls that will be used during the award period for data collected or acquired, received, handled, processed, stored, transferred, and/or disposed of under BJS's authority.

For programs including information identifiable to a private person or personally identifiable information (PII), the DMP should complement the information provided in the Privacy Certificate (28 C.F.R. § 22.23) to describe data security and confidentiality controls.

The recipient will complete the DMP in collaboration with the BJS Program Manager and must submit it to BJS for review and approval **no later than 60 days** after the award start date. The recipient must receive written BJS approval before changing the approved plan. The recipient must submit, as applicable, an updated copy of the DMP for review with its semi-annual performance reports and at any time upon BJS's request. A model DMP template is available on the BJS website at Human Subjects Protection, Confidentiality, and Data Management Plan Requirements.

Performance Reports

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

Award recipients will receive further guidance on post award reporting requirements.

Substantial Involvement of Federal Agency: OJP expects to make 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 (including Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status) • Agency Funding Priorities Inventory	Online Form
Proposal Narrative ***Required***	Attachment
Budget ***Required***	Attachment
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
Additional Application Components	Attachment

• Privacy Certificate • Certification of Human Subjects Protection Certification of Compliance Form	

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, 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 and objectives to be addressed.
- 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.

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.

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 exceed 25 pages.

- Additional sections, such as the cover page and appendices for resumes, may be included and do not count toward the page limit.
- Tables, charts, and graphs that illustrate components of the proposal should be included in the main proposal narrative (not as appendices) and will count toward the 25-page application limit.

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 four (4) 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. Description of the Need (5% of application score): 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 (15% of application score): How will the proposed project address the need identified and 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 (30% of application score): 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 (35% of application score): 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.
- A brief statement confirming that your organization can meet the information system security and privacy requirements and standards for providing information technology and publishing support to BJS as described in Guidance for Applicants and Award Recipients.

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 (15%) *Required*

Use the 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 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]

[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.

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 determine whether you need to submit a waiver.

Additional Application Components

Attach these in JustGrants:

- **Privacy Certification:** Read information about BJS's confidentiality requirements on the BJS website, Human Subjects Protection, Confidentiality, and Data Management Plan Requirements.
- **Human Subjects Protection Certification of Compliance Form:** Read information about the requirements on the BJS website, Human Subjects Protection, Confidentiality, and Data Management Plan Requirements.

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

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.

9. QUESTIONS?

NOFO Contact	Name: Lizabeth Remrey, Statistician Phone: 202-307-0765 Email: AskBJS@usdoj.gov (include “FY26 NIBRS EP” in the subject line)
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.