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

BJS FY 2026 Criminal History Record Assessment and Research Program (CHRARP)

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: O-BJS-2026-172685

Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

1. Complete SF-424 and submit in Grants.gov: **October 6, 2026 by 11:59 PM ET**
2. Submit full application in JustGrants: **October 13, 2026, by 8:59 PM ET**

Contents

1. Basic Information 3
2. Eligibility 5
3. Program Description 6
4. Application Contents and Format 9
5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines 16
6. Application Review Information 16
7. Award Notices 16
8. Post-Award Requirements & Administration 16
9. Questions? 16

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 notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is for the **Criminal History Record Assessment and Research Program (CHRARP)**. Funds will be used to convert state- and federal-specific fields in criminal history records into research datasets with standardized codes that support statistical analysis and provide support with multiple recidivism statistics and research projects.

Under the 2026 CHRARP the recipient will:

- convert state- and federal-specific data fields into a uniform coding structure and account for variations in administrative records when analyzing multistate data.
- thoroughly examine the content and attributes of the criminal history data, identifying and documenting differences in the composition of the arrest, prosecution, court, and supervision information within and across jurisdictions.
- identify potential data quality issues and obtain feedback from federal, state, and tribal agencies as needed about these issues.
- develop methods to successfully transform 100% of the data fields found in the parsed rap sheet datasets into BJS's standardized values.
- transform each standardized dataset into a set of research extracts, including a research dataset and criminal history summary file, according to BJS's specifications.
- assist BJS in using criminal history data and other data sources to examine criminal offending patterns among at least two new cohorts. One cohort includes persons who served time in federal prisons and a second cohort is not defined. The undefined cohort may focus on persons who served time in prison, convicted offenders on community supervision, or updated criminal history analyses on previous studies lengthening the original recidivism follow-up periods. Each parsed dataset is expected to

include criminal history data on a sample of approximately 90,000 to 100,000 offenders.

- work with BJS to develop these new studies, explore specialized topics on criminal offending and recidivism patterns, and assess alternative sources of data that can support the research. The recipient will assist with developing the sample designs and weights for the studies.

Applicants are encouraged to propose cost-efficient methods and innovative solutions to carry out these tasks.

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	34 U.S.C. § 10132
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-BJS-2026-172685
Expected Total Amount of Funding	$1,750,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	1
Award Type(s)	Cooperative Agreement
Anticipated Award Amount	Up to $1,750,000
Expected Award Period(s)	36 months starting on January 1, 2027

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 October 6, 2026
Step 2: JustGrants Deadline	8:59 p.m. ET on October 13, 2026
Anticipated Notification Date	By December 1, 2026

See Questions? at the end of this NOFO for agency contact information. Please review the CHRARP Supplemental Questions and Answers.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

The types of entities that are eligible to apply are:

Educational Organizations

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

Nonprofit Organizations

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

For-Profit Organizations

- Organizations other than small businesses
- Small businesses

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

Limit on Number of Applications: Applications under which two or more entities (project partners) would carry out the federal award will be considered. However, only one entity may be the applicant for the NOFO; any others must be proposed as subrecipients.

Additional Eligibility Factors

Certifications: You must submit the following certifications. See Additional Application Components for how to submit.

- **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.

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Statutory Authority

BJS is authorized to issue this solicitation under 34 U.S.C. § 10132.

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: 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 Chapter 3.13 of the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, "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 and expand BJS's capabilities to process rap sheet datasets to support research on crime, criminal offenders, and the operation of justice systems.

- **Objective 1:** Update classifications of rap sheet data and crosswalk tables with standardized numeric codes for use in research.
- **Objective 2:** Update and enhance computer programs to create high-quality research files.
- **Objective 3:** Create and implement quality control checks at each data processing stage.
- **Objective 4:** Create documentation on computer programs and rules developed to update and process rap sheet data.

Goal 2: Assist BJS with at least two research studies.

- **Objective 1:** Assist BJS with cohort sample selection, weighting, and sample matching as needed.
- **Objective 2:** Provides support to BJS with statistical analysis and report writing for research studies.
- **Objective 3:** Assist BJS with producing the necessary data and information to upload study results to the Recidivism Patterns Explorer.

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:

- **Overall project management**: The recipient will be expected to develop and submit: (1) kickoff meeting summary memo and detailed timeline; (2) semiannual reports; (3) quarterly financial reports; (4) monthly progress reports; (5) completed criminal background checks for all project personnel

with access to the project data; (6) agendas for project meetings; and (7) summaries of project meetings.

- **Develop new studies on criminal offending and recidivism patterns with BJS**: The recipient will assist BJS in developing and conducting at least two research studies. The recipient will submit sampling plans and written recommendations on statistical methods to adjust sampling weights to account for each study subject for whom a complete criminal history record was not obtained through the FBI and state repositories.
- **Examine the content and attributes of criminal history data for each study and document differences**: The recipient will submit a report that documents differences in the composition of arrest, prosecution, court, and supervision information within and across jurisdictions, including statistical tables on state-level variation on key indicators and recommendations for analytic options to account for the variations.
- **Convert the parsed rap sheet datasets into standardized datasets that include BJS's uniform coding structure and provide technical reports**: The recipient will updated crosswalk tables and programs to account for changes to the coding rules identified during the study period; provide a brief report summarizing how well the current coding rules standardize the parsed rap sheet data; and submit preliminary and full standardized versions of each dataset for each study (provided at varying points in time).
- **Prepare research extracts from each standardized dataset according to BJS specifications**: The recipient will provide BJS with: (1) computer programs developed to create research extracts; (2) codebook(s) that includes information about the data variables, coding values, and recodes implemented during the data processing stage; (3) written recommendations on statistical methods to adjust sampling weights to account for missing or partial criminal history records; (4) datasets that contain the variables needed to populate recidivism estimates and standard errors in electronic data analysis tools; (5) generalized variance functions to support computation of standard errors for the estimates provided by the data tools; (6) research extracts for both studies (delivered at varying points in time), along with accompanying statistical tables containing criminal history and recidivism estimates and corresponding standard errors; (7) the programming code, crosswalk tables, and databases used to process each parsed rap sheet dataset and produce each standardized dataset and research extract; (8) detailed documentation describing the methods used to produce the research extracts; and (9) detailed instructions documenting how to use the computer programs to reproduce the standardized datasets and research extracts and process additional parsed datasets.

- **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.

A list of performance measure questions for this funding opportunity can be found at Data Collection Performance Measures.

Substantial Involvement of Federal Agency: OJP expects to make 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 (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 • 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 • Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement ***Required*** • Privacy Certificate ***Required*** • Human Subjects Protection Certification of Compliance Form ***Required*** • Curriculum Vitae or Resumes ***Required*** • Bibliography • Timeline ***Required*** • Letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements (if applicable)	Attachment

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 requested award amount does not exceed the award ceiling.
- 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 purpose of the proposed project (*i.e.*, what the project will do and why it is necessary).
- 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.

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 30 pages.
- If included in the main body of the program narrative, tables, charts, figures, and other illustrations count toward the 30-page limit for the narrative section.
- Include a title page, project abstract, table of contents, appendices, additional attachments, and any government forms.
    - The title page, project abstract, table of contents, appendices, additional attachments, and government forms do not count toward the 30-page 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 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 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 (35% 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 (30% 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% of application score) *Required*

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]

The following information specific to this funding opportunity will help you develop your project budget:

- **Costs Associated With a Conference/Meeting/Training:** An applicant that proposes to use award funds for activities related to a conference, meeting, training, or similar event should review the Guidance for Applicants and Award Recipients for information on prior approval, planning, and reporting costs for a conference/meeting/training.
- **Costs Associated With Language Assistance and Access:** If an applicant proposes a program or activity that would deliver services or benefits to individuals, the costs of taking reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to those services or benefits for individuals with limited English proficiency may be allowable in specific grant programs. Costs to provide reasonable accommodation and facilitate language access for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may also be allowable in specific grant programs. See the Guidance for Applicants and Award Recipients for information on costs associated with language assistance.

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.
- **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.

[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.

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 *Required*:** Read information whether you may need to submit this statement.
- **Privacy Certification *Required*:** 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 *Required*:** Read information about the requirements on the BJS website, Human Subjects Protection, Confidentiality, and Data Management Plan Requirements.
- **Curriculum Vitae or Resumes *Required*:** Provide resumes of key personnel who will work on the proposed project or a description of the experience and skills of key personnel necessary to implement the project. Required for key personnel only.
- **Bibliography:** Provide a list of articles or references cited in the application.
- **Timeline *Required*:** Provide a timeline listing key activities and milestones, and the months during which they will take place.
- **Letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements (if applicable):** Attach any letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements from organizations collaborating in the program, such as universities or other membership groups.

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: Lindsay Bostwick, Statistician Phone: 202-307-0765 Email: AskBJS@usdoj.gov (include "FY26 CHRARP" 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.