

BJS FY 2026 National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) Training and Technical Assistance Program

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: O-BJS-2026-172689

Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

1. Complete SF-424 and submit in Grants.gov: **September 28, by 11:59 PM ET**
 2. Submit full application in JustGrants: **October 5, 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 **BJS FY 2026 National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) Training and Technical Assistance Program**. This opportunity funds training and technical assistance to support activities under the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP), the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP), and portions of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (P.L. 117–159). Direct technical assistance is provided to states, territories, and tribal jurisdictions to ensure that record systems are developed and managed to conform to FBI standards, ensure jurisdictions are using the most appropriate technologies, and adhere to the highest standards of practice with respect to privacy and confidentiality. Funds are also used to routinely collect and evaluate performance measures to assess the level of improvement of state and national records holdings and information sharing and exchanges.

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

Funding Details

Announcement Type	Initial
Assistance Listing Number	16.554
Statutory Authority	34 U.S.C. § 10132(c)(19) and The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (P.L. 117–159).
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-BJS-2026-172689
Expected Total Amount of Funding	\$1,500,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	1
Award Type(s)	Cooperative Agreement
Anticipated Award Amount	Up to \$1,500,000
Expected Award Period(s)	18 months starting no earlier than October 1, 2026, but no later than January 1, 2027.

Key Dates and Times

NOFO Release Date	August 18, 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 28, 2026
Step 2: JustGrants Deadline	8:59 p.m. ET on October 5, 2026
Anticipated Notification Date	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

Statutory Authority

BJS is authorized to issue this solicitation under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (P.L. 117-159) and 34 U.S.C. § 10132(c)(19).

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 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: Deliver technical assistance and training to state, local, and tribal justice agencies, including courts, as needed in the development, management, improvement, acquisition, and integration of their automated criminal history and related information systems.

- **Objective 1:** Assist multidisciplinary groups of justice agencies in developing and implementing integrated information systems at state, local, and regional/tribal levels.
- **Objective 2:** Help identify and work toward solving information management problems of state, local, and tribal justice agencies confronted with the need to exchange information with other state, local, or tribal agencies; agencies in other states; or with the federal government.
- **Objective 3:** Improve the quality and completeness of criminal history record information to support effective criminal history background checks and initiatives, including automated record expungement and sealing policies and practices at the state and federal levels.
- **Objective 4:** Identify the types of records that qualify for entry into the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).
- **Objective 5:** Use the Interstate Identification Index (III), a name-based system, to conduct background checks for noncriminal justice purposes on persons seeking positions of responsibility involving national security, employment with vulnerable populations, money handling, and other activities.
- **Objective 6:** Use knowledge and experience in working with courts, including juvenile justice courts, to tailor technical assistance and training needs.
- **Objective 7:** Ensure information-sharing systems and strategies abide by existing laws and public expectations for handling personally identifiable information (PII).

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 accomplish the following:

- Virtual or direct on-site visits. Provide technical assistance to states, territories, and tribes as needed to help respond to increasing demands at the federal and state level for access to complete, accurate, and timely criminal history record information.
- Telephone and web service. Provide in-house technical assistance via phone and web in response to requests for information about issues related to the collection, maintenance, use, dissemination, quality, and protection of criminal history and related record information.
- Virtual workshops. Develop, organize, and implement at least two virtual workshops focused on one or more issues of importance to criminal record repositories and other relevant criminal justice agencies that affect the quality and completeness of the nation's

criminal history record information. Workshop topics will derive from an organized effort to solicit input from repository officials and other key stakeholders. Possible issues include:

- development and successful implementation of the provisions outlined in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.
- data quality auditing and analysis practices to support repository operations and effective planning for the use of federal record improvement grant programs.
- effective outreach and training programs to maintain the accuracy and completeness of criminal history records.
- recommended practices for reporting/recording important criminal history events, such as:
 - relevant juvenile records (under 18 U.S.C. 922 (g) or (n)), as permitted under state law
 - arrests on warrants
 - violations of community supervision, probation, parole, etc.
 - cite and release, notifications to appear in court, etc.
- revisiting the utility of the criminal history record and evaluating if the needs of users/consumers are effectively met.

Such work may result in one or more reports to BJS.

- Data collection and publication of criminal history-related surveys and materials. Collect and analyze complete, comprehensive, and relevant data on the number and status of state maintained- criminal history records and on the expanding operations and services provided by state repositories. This includes administering the biennial survey of state record repositories, collaborating with BJS, the FBI, and state agencies to assess progress and improvements in criminal history record systems, and producing updated analyses that help federal partners evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives aimed at improving criminal history records for both criminal justice and noncriminal justice purposes. Data from this survey help BJS gauge the efficacy of initiatives designed to improve criminal history records for criminal justice and noncriminal justice purposes.

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 [training-technical-assistance-provider-pm.pdf](#).

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

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 *Required*	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 Curriculum Vitae or Resumes	Attachment

Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity Statement	
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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 ***Required***

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](#).

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 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.
- What method(s) will be used to carry out each activity.
- What successful method(s) of training and technical assistance will be used to engage the field more broadly.
- 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 and manage complex national-in-scope activities.
- A summary of relevant experience of team members with key responsibilities for implementing the project.

The recipient of funds must have significant demonstrable expertise in the creation, maintenance, and transmission of criminal history record information to and between repositories at the federal, state, and local levels of government. Specifically, the recipient of funds should have demonstrated knowledge and experience in the following areas:

- state and federal criminal history record repositories, including record expungement and sealing practices;
- the NICS and criminal history background check processes;
- the Interstate Identification Index (III);
- court systems, structure, and records relevant to NICS checks, including criminal, civil, and juvenile court systems;
- integration planning and requirements;
- the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM), Justice Reference Architecture (JRA), and Web Services; and
- privacy and information quality policy development and implementation.

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:

- Provide details on individual tasks for each personnel position.
- Travel is allowed to attend program-specific meetings.
- A breakdown of budget categories per subaward/subgrant MUST be provided as additional documentation.
- A vendor's quote is required for equipment costs and contractual services.

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.

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.

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.

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](#).
- **Additional Application Component Name:** Curriculum Vitae or Resumes of key personnel

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: Stephanie Burroughs Phone: 202-307-0765 Email: AskBJS@usdoj.gov
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.