

:010 16.607 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program

:030 FEDERAL AGENCY: BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

:040 AUTHORIZATION: Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998, Public Law 105-181, June 16, 1998. REAUTHORIZATION: Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000, Public Law 106-517, November 13, 2000.

:050 OBJECTIVES: To protect the lives of law enforcement officers by helping state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies provide officers with armored vests.

:060 TYPES OF ASSISTANCE: Direct Payments for Specific Use.

:070 USES AND USE RESTRICTIONS: On the basis of a yearly appropriation and sufficient funds, the program pays 50% of the total cost of each qualifying vest purchase for jurisdictions with less than 100,000 population. Any remaining funds are available to jurisdictions at or over 100,000 in population to pay up to 50% of the total cost of each vest purchase. Total cost includes the cost of the vest, vest carrier, attachments, inserts, and covers considered integral or essential for its proper care, use, and wearability, shipping, handling, fitting charges, and applicable taxes. The total invoiced price, after all vendor and prompt payment discounts are deducted, is what the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) uses to determine the amount of each federal payment. This program only supports the purchase of body armor that has been tested and found to comply with the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) Ballistic or Stab Standards.

:080 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

:081 Applicant Eligibility: Only chief executives of jurisdictions (or their authorized representatives) may apply for funds. Jurisdictions are defined as general purpose units of local government (e.g. cities, towns, townships, boroughs, counties, etc.), Federally-recognized Indian tribes, the 50 state governments, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The chief executive of the jurisdiction registers online, submits the jurisdiction application, and requests payments for completed vest purchases.

:082 Beneficiary Eligibility: Only law enforcement officers may receive vests purchased through this program. According to the Act, "law enforcement officer" means any officer, agent, or employee of a State, unit of local government, or an Indian tribe authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, or investigation of any violation of criminal law, or authorized by law to supervise sentenced criminal offenders. Eligible officers may be full-time, part-time, paid or volunteer.

:083 Credentials/Documentation: Eligible jurisdictions must be general purpose units of local government, Federally-recognized Indian tribes, the 50 state governments, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The validity of the online registration process is verified through independent reviews which may include certification by the banking institutions serving the jurisdiction, the U.S. Census Bureau, and agencies within the U.S. Department of Justice.

:090 APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESS:

:091 Pre-application Coordination: This is an Internet-based program. The jurisdiction is required to complete and submit an online registration form, providing information about the jurisdiction's chief executive officer, program contact person, and electronic banking information. The registration process is handled through the program's web site <http://vests.ojp.gov>. For jurisdictions without Internet capability, other means of registration are available. Only those jurisdictions with approved registrations are permitted to apply.

:092 Application Procedure: The jurisdiction submits the application to BJA via the Internet web site <http://vests.ojp.gov>. Online instructions guide the jurisdiction through the application process. Law enforcement agencies or agencies with law enforcement functions that meet the Act's definition will assist in completing the jurisdiction's online application by indicating the types, numbers, and costs of vests for which they seek funding. For jurisdictions and/or agencies without Internet capability, other means of application are available. Only those jurisdictions that complete and submit applications are eligible for funds from BJA.

:093 Award Procedure: Applications received by BJA are reviewed for completeness, accuracy, and compliance with all program and statutory requirements. Each application is then checked against the availability of funds to cover a portion of the application's total cost, in keeping with established funds allocation criteria and statutory set-asides. Once funding decisions are made, Congress is notified, followed by an electronic (email) message to individual applicants. At this point in the award process, additional work is necessary by DOJ to create or update each jurisdiction's financial account in the Office of the Comptroller. Actual drawdown of funds starts no earlier than 30 working days after the application period closes. Jurisdictions will be notified when electronic drawdown is accessible.

:094 Deadlines: Jurisdictions are permitted to apply only once per federal program year, during the announced open application period. This period normally runs for 90 calendar days from January through April of each year. Jurisdictions may apply for additional vest funds during subsequent federal fiscal years, even when prior fiscal year vest purchases or payments are still pending.

:095 Range of Approval/Disapproval Times: A minimum of fifteen working days may be required for complete registration validation, although jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies will have immediate access to certain online program components during this validation process. A minimum of twenty working days may be required after the program closes for approval of the jurisdiction's application for funding. A minimum of twenty-five working days may be required for the electronic transfer of funds from the U.S. Treasury to the jurisdiction's bank account, once the request for funds has been received, reviewed, and approved by the Office of Justice Programs.

:096 Appeals: Not applicable.

:097 Renewals: Not applicable.

:100 ASSISTANCE CONSIDERATIONS:

:101 Formula and Matching Requirements: The program requires that each applicant jurisdiction be responsible for providing at least 50 percent of the cost of each qualifying vest purchased. Tribal governments may use other federally-appropriated funds to provide their portion of the total cost; all other jurisdictions must use non-federal funds. Non-federal fund sources include state and/or local jurisdiction revenues, private or personal funds, and contributions from insurance or workman's compensation consortiums. Asset forfeiture funds may also be used to meet the jurisdiction's financial requirement. If the submission of the application for funding is in conjunction with transactions for the purchase of vests, jurisdictions must certify that they understand and agree to abide by the following: "Funding availability, levels, and percentages are uncertain. There is no guaranteed funding level associated with any application submitted to the BVP program. Jurisdictions agree to meet their financial and contractual obligations associated with any purchase transactions, regardless of the level of funding received through this application."

:102 Length and Time Phasing of Assistance: Jurisdictions with approved applications must request all federal payments no later than September 30th of the fourth federal fiscal year following the end of the federal fiscal year in which their application was approved. In other words, the jurisdiction has four years beyond the year of their application to request payments for vests contained in that application. Payments of federal funds will be made whenever the jurisdiction indicates that one or more qualifying vests have been purchased.

:110 POST ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS:

:111 Reports: Non required.

:112 Audits: Payments and transactions are subject to audits by the General Accounting Office, Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General, state or local government auditors, and auditors from

independent public accounting firms. Jurisdictions must follow their local procurement policies and procedures, including maintenance of reliable and accurate accounting systems, record keeping, and systems of internal control.

:113 Records: Recipients of federal funds are expected to retain documentation supporting all program transactions for at least three years after the closure of audit reports related to such funding. If any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, or other action involving records has been started before the expiration of the three year period, the records must be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all related issues, or until the end of the regular three year period, whichever is later.

:120 FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

:121 Account Identification: 15-0404-0-1-754

:122 Obligations: FY 98 \$0; FY 99 \$25,000,000; FY 00 \$25,000,000; FY 01 \$25,444,000; FY 02 \$25,444,000.

:123 Range and Average of Financial Assistance: Not applicable.

:130 PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS: To date, the program has received and approved over 11,500 online applications valued in excess of \$260 million. Over 7,200 unique municipalities, states, and tribal governments have successfully applied. On average, all applications have received 27% out of the maximum 50% funding requested. System design, technology and hardware adequately supported the program. Each year, the technical support help desk successfully fields thousands of calls and e-mail inquiries from participants. Less than 1% of the participating jurisdictions needed support because they lacked basic Internet access.

:140 REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES, AND LITERATURE: Interim Final Rule, Federal Register, September 23, 1998 (Volume 63, Number 184), Internet web site <http://vests.ojp.gov>.

:150 INFORMATION CONTACTS:

:151 Regional or Local Office: None.

:152 Headquarters Office: Justice Response Center, 1-800-421-6770. Vest Technical Support Help Desk at 1-877-758-3787. Robert T. Watkins, Program Manager, Office of Benefits, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 4th floor, 810 7th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20531. Telephone: (202) 514-3447, fax (202) 616-0314, E-mail "watkinsr@ojp.usdoj.gov".

:160 RELATED PROGRAMS: None.

:170 EXAMPLES OF FUNDED PROJECTS: Not applicable.

:180 CRITERIA FOR SELECTING PROPOSALS: Not applicable.

:320 APPLICANTS: 1450

:330 BENEFICIARIES: 14

:340 FUNCTIONS: PK

:350 CIRCULARS:

:500 PUBLIC LAWS: 105*181

:510 STATUTES:

:520 U.S. CODES:

:530 MATCHING REQTS:

:540 GRANTS: 0;25000;0

:550 LOANS: NA;NA;NA

:560 OTHER: NA;NA;NA

:570 DEADLINE DATE:

:600 SUBJECT TERMS: Law enforcement education, training, protective equipment