



NOV. 04

NIJ

Solicitation for Concept Papers

**Violence Against Women
Research and Evaluation**

Notice:

You *must* submit your application using the Office of Justice Programs' automated Grants Management System. Paper applications will not be accepted. We suggest you begin the process as soon as possible. To start the process, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm>.

**Deadline for Concept
Papers:**

January 5, 2005

8 p.m. eastern time

SL 000690

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
810 Seventh Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20531

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Office of Justice Programs
Partnerships for Safer Communities
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Violence Against Women Research and Evaluation

I. Introduction

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice and a component of the Office of Justice Programs. NIJ provides objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to enhance the administration of justice and public safety. NIJ seeks research to inform its search for the knowledge and tools to guide policy and practice.

NIJ is soliciting concept papers for research and evaluation on violence against women in three areas: sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking. Proposed research should have the potential to reduce the level of violence against women, increase the safety of women, and improve criminal justice policy and practice.

Due date: The due date for this concept paper is listed on the cover of this announcement and on the NIJ Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>. Extensions to the deadlines are generally not granted.

Page limit: The program narrative section of your concept paper must not exceed 12 double-spaced pages in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Abstract, table of contents, charts, figures, appendixes, and government forms do not count toward the 12-page limit for the narrative section. (Full proposals, for applicants who will be invited to submit them, are usually limited to 25 to 30 pages.)

Reasons for rejection: NIJ may reject applications that are incomplete, do not respond to the scope of the solicitation, do not comply with format requirements, or are submitted after the deadline. No additions to the original submission are allowed.

How to submit applications to NIJ: Funding applications instructions are in “Guidelines: How to Submit Applications,” available on the NIJ Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.

II. Concept Paper Topics

With this solicitation, NIJ is seeking concept papers for research and evaluation on violence against women (defined as females age 12 and older). Violence against women, including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking, continues to be a major problem affecting the health and safety of many women across the country. The large number of domestic and sexual

assaults of women and the early age at which violence starts suggests that such violence is widespread and must be addressed more effectively in all jurisdictions.

Applicants should be familiar with key documents that form the foundation for NIJ's research program on violence against women. These include:

- Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-322, Title IV).
- Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (Public Law. No. 106-386, Division B).
- Current NIJ research program on Violence Against Women (summarized at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/vawprog/welcome.html).
- The National Academy of Sciences reports *Understanding Violence Against Women* and *Violence in Families: Assessing Prevention and Treatment Programs*.

Priority research issues are categorized into three major program areas for this solicitation:

Program A: Sexual Violence.

Program B: Justice System Responses to Intimate Partner Violence: Increasing Safety and Accountability.

Program C: Stalking.

Program A: Sexual Violence. NIJ is soliciting concept papers for research and evaluation on sexual violence. The goal is to increase women's safety by informing and improving policy and practice in the criminal justice system. Proposed research may address stranger or nonstranger sexual violence against women. For the purposes of this solicitation, sexual violence includes crimes identified by State and Federal statutes as rape, attempted rape, sexual assault, and attempted sexual assault. Concept papers for research on the sexual abuse of children will not be supported under this solicitation.

Crimes of sexual violence are not uncommon, although they are frequently unreported. Such crimes are often committed by acquaintances, friends, or intimates of the victim and with increasing frequency, are facilitated by the use of drugs and alcohol. Sexual victimization extracts an enormous personal toll on victims and those who care for them. In addition, victimization has economic costs for individuals, their families (e.g. lost wages, cost of medical and mental health care, and lifelong effects on quality of life and productivity), and for communities. Community costs include resources devoted to programs for victims; public safety and criminal justice efforts to prevent sexual violence; and the detection, identification, apprehension, treatment, and confinement of perpetrators. Therefore, NIJ seeks concept papers that address the cost effectiveness of forensic investigative methods and the effectiveness of interventions in crimes of sexual violence.

NIJ welcomes research on all aspects of sexual assault. However, concept papers on the following priority areas are specifically encouraged:

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1. Economic analysis of the use of forensic methods in sexual assault cases. This may include studies of the cost effectiveness of using DNA or other forensic methods to identify, apprehend, and prosecute sexual offenders.
 2. Evaluation of system responses to sexual assault. This may include the evaluation of law enforcement, public safety, advocacy, medico-forensic (SANE/SART), and the criminal and civil justice systems' responses to crimes of sexual violence. Studies that specifically examine the impact of implementation of formal sexual assault forensic examination protocols on practice and case outcomes are encouraged. In addition, NIJ is interested in studies that explore communities' use of anonymous victim reporting options.
 3. Evaluation of sexual assault prevention programs. This may include the evaluation of both criminal justice and community-based prevention efforts. You are encouraged to examine the effectiveness of programs that are based in educational systems or curricula. Educational systems may include primary and secondary school systems, colleges, universities, and military academies. Concept papers to evaluate the impact of Federally-sponsored higher education sexual assault prevention programs are especially encouraged.
 4. Effective strategies for the successful prosecution of sexual assault cases. This may include studies of the forensic, investigative, prosecutorial, or other practices that may contribute to the successful prosecution of sexual assault cases. Studies that examine effective techniques for addressing complex victim or perpetrator dynamics while prosecuting cases (i.e. the use of alcohol or drugs by the victim or perpetrator; instances where the victim and perpetrator have been/are intimates; or status of the victim as a sex worker) are especially encouraged. Studies that examine prosecution office management strategies are also encouraged.
 5. Sex offender registries and civil commitment statutes. This may include studies of the use of sex offender registries by local communities and law enforcement, as well as coordination efforts among jurisdictions that may result. Studies that perform cost-benefit analysis of these initiatives are also encouraged. In addition, NIJ is interested in proposals that examine the implementation and effect of sex offender civil commitment statutes nationwide, as well as at the local and State levels. Studies may focus on their implementation and extent of use, and on their impact on victims, offenders, responding systems, and the community. Cost-benefit analysis studies of these policies are also encouraged.
 6. The nature and prevalence of drug-facilitated sexual assault, including obstacles to reporting, investigating, and prosecuting these crimes. Studies may explore the contexts in which drug-facilitated sexual assault is most likely perpetrated. Studies that evaluate the use of interventions to reduce drug-facilitated sexual assault are also encouraged.

7. Further exploration of the nature, incidence, and prevalence of sexual victimization and perpetration, and exploration of more effective prevention strategies and system and social responses to victims and perpetrators. This might include situational and event analyses; cultural analyses; and the role of social or economic inequality in sexual assault perpetration, victimization, and system response. Studies of the role of sexual assault within the context of multiple forms of victimization are also encouraged.

8. Studies of sexual violence in diverse communities. Two studies currently underway focus on understanding the needs of victims of sexual violence in the deaf and hard of hearing community, and the experience of African-American women victims of sexual assault in Maryland. Studies solicited include examinations of sexual violence as experienced by vulnerable populations. These may include studies that focus on ethnic, racial, and language minority groups; Native American women; women who live in rural areas; women in depressed urban areas; women of alternative sexual orientations; women with cognitive or physical disabilities; adolescents and elderly women; women living in institutional settings; women who are migrant workers; and women who are involved in prostitution. Studies that examine the social, economic, and cultural contexts in which sexual violence occurs, as well as how the criminal justice and victim service systems respond to these communities, are also encouraged.

Program B: Justice System Responses to Intimate Partner Violence: Increasing Safety and Accountability. NIJ is soliciting concept papers for research and evaluation to improve justice system responses to intimate partner violence against women by enhancing victim safety and offender accountability.

Over the past several decades, as intimate partner violence has become more accurately documented, many jurisdictions have begun to coordinate the responses of justice and other agencies involved in addressing these crimes. Such coordination has enabled jurisdictions to focus on victim safety and offender accountability by more effectively processing intimate partner violence cases. Despite such progress, intimate partner violence remains a significant problem in most communities and for most agencies responding to these crimes.

Concept papers under this announcement should be based on explicit theory and should build on the existing body of relevant research and evaluation. Close collaborations between researchers and practitioners are strongly encouraged. Applicants must operationalize concepts such as “safety” and “accountability” in their proposals. Applicants are strongly encouraged to develop innovative methods of assessing these concepts (both qualitative and quantitative), and to explore how these operationalizations of measurements relate to and enhance those currently used in the field. Applicants must discuss anticipated problems with their proposed methods and how those problems can be avoided or managed.

NIJ welcomes research on all aspects of justice system responses to intimate partner violence against women. However, concept papers on the following priority areas are specifically encouraged:

1. Examination of various types of criminal and civil justice system responses designed to enhance victim safety and prevent witness intimidation during the pretrial/predisposition period in cases of intimate partner violence. Research that examines pretrial bail/release practices that help stabilize offenders through increased supervision, drug or alcohol treatment, and mental health or family services is strongly encouraged.
2. Evaluation of innovative justice system interventions with clear and obtainable safety and accountability outcome measures. The focus of evaluations can be on law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, probation, and batterer programs, or a coordinated community response; and include a cost-benefit component as part of the overall evaluation.
3. Examination of discretionary processes and practices in the criminal and civil justice systems with safety and accountability as the focus.
4. Examination of criminal and civil justice system responses to patterns of battering, including serial battering by those victimizing more than one victim.
5. Increasing our understanding of the processing of felony domestic violence cases, including issues in charging and downgrading, and comparisons to similar assaults in stranger cases.
6. Assessing the effects of statewide intervention, policy, legislation, and training aimed at promoting efficiency, effectiveness, and equity in processing intimate partner violence cases and also enhancing safety or preventing further victimization of women.
7. Research and evaluation on justice system response to reports of intimate partner violence and the management of intimate partner violence cases in diverse communities. This may include studies that focus on ethnic, racial, and language minority groups; Native American women; women who live in rural areas; women in depressed urban areas; women of alternative sexual orientations; women with cognitive or physical disabilities; elderly women; and women who are migrant workers. Studies that examine how the justice and victim service systems respond to these communities are encouraged. This research may also address community-based responses including restorative justice models, faith-based initiatives, and other culturally based interventions. It may also address qualitative studies describing the experiences and needs of women from diverse communities who are victims of intimate partner violence, particularly as these needs relate to justice system responses.

Program C: Stalking. NIJ is soliciting concept papers for research and evaluation to improve justice system responses to the stalking of women. Research that advances the scientific knowledge about the scope, nature, and consequences of stalking is of particular interest. Research is sought that will result in improved practice, justice administration, and policy.

For the purpose of this solicitation, stalking refers to a pattern of criminal and/or apparently innocent behavior that has the effect of inducing fear in victims for themselves or their loved ones. Stalking entails repeat victimization of a person through a series of acts, and it is partly defined by its impact on the victim. Stalking is more prevalent than was previously thought. It is estimated that approximately 1 million women and 371,000 men are stalked annually in the United States.

NIJ welcomes research on all aspects of stalking of women. However, concept papers on the following priority areas are specifically encouraged:

1. Incidence and prevalence. Research is sought that builds upon existing knowledge of the incidence, prevalence, and nature of stalking. Studies that investigate the methods used by stalkers and identify opportunities for prevention and intervention are encouraged.
2. Onset, duration, and desistance of stalking behavior. Concept papers that examine a comprehensive analysis of the process of stalking as experienced by both the victim and perpetrator are encouraged.
3. Increasing our understanding of stalking victim-offender relationships and the demographic characteristics of stalkers. Studies may also include examination of risk and protective factors for stalking perpetration and victimization.
4. Development of appropriate, valid, and reliable measures for capturing data on stalking. Research is encouraged that reflects the importance of systematically documenting stalking data for single- and multi-jurisdictional use.
5. Evaluation of justice system responses to stalking. Evaluations may assess policies or initiatives that facilitate the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of stalking offenders across jurisdictional boundaries. Attention to the effectiveness of coordinated community responses to stalking is encouraged. Evaluation of police and community outreach and education about stalking will also be considered.

III. General Requirements and Guidance

NIJ is asking you to submit a concept paper that captures the essence of a full proposal. The main difference between a concept paper and a proposal is that concept papers are much shorter and do not contain detailed budgets.

Your concept paper should state the problem under investigation (including goals and objectives of the proposed project) and the relevance of the project to public policy, practice, or theory. The narrative program section should state the research question and objectives and explain how the work will contribute to knowledge and practice. It should describe in sufficient detail the research methods and analytic strategy.

While the concept paper should not include a detailed budget or management plan, it should include a staffing plan and an estimate of the funding required, summarized by task, and a general timeframe for completion of those tasks and the project as a whole.

The format your concept paper is as follows:

1. Abstract of no more than 400 words.
2. Program area designation form (in the appendix on page 15)
3. Program narrative.
 - a. Research question or problem.
 - b. Research goals and objectives.
 - c. Research design and methods.
 - d. Implications for knowledge and practice.
 - e. Dissemination plan for project deliverables.
 - f. Description of estimated costs.
 - g. Staffing plan.
 - h. Timeline.
4. Tables, figures, charts, and appendixes (if applicable).

Peer reviewers will evaluate each concept paper and based on their recommendations, NIJ will invite authors of selected concept papers to submit full applications.

Instructions for submitting concept papers can be found in “Guidelines: How to Submit Applications,” (available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>) and the Office of Justice Programs Grants Management System Handbook (available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm>).

A. Submit applications online: Paper applications are not accepted. Applications must be submitted through the Office of Justice Programs’ online Grants Management System. NIJ suggests you begin the process early, especially if this is the first time you have used the

system. To begin, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm>. There are three types of documents that can be uploaded to an application package: PDFs, Word documents, and text documents. The Grants Management System does not consider an application complete until three files are uploaded: (1) "Program Narrative," (2) "Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative," and (3) "Other Program Attachments." Upload your concept paper into the "Program Narrative" box. Concept papers do not have "Budget Detail Worksheets and Narratives" and do not have "Other Program Attachments." Therefore, you should upload blank files into those boxes in the Grants Management System.

- B. Relevance of the project for policy and practice:** Higher quality concept papers clearly explain the practical implications of the project. They connect technical expertise with policy and practice. To ensure that the project has strong relevance for policy and practice, some researchers and technologists collaborate with practitioners and policymakers. You may include letters showing support from practitioners, but they carry less weight than clear evidence that you understand why policymakers and practitioners would benefit from your work and how they would use it. While a partnership may affect State or local activities, it should also have broader implications for others across the country.
- C. Equal opportunity for all applicants:** It is OJP's policy that faith-based and community organizations that statutorily qualify as eligible applicants under OJP programs are invited and encouraged to apply for awards. Faith-based and community organizations will be considered for an award on the same basis as any other eligible applicants and, if they receive an award, will be treated on an equal basis with non-faith-based and community organization grantees in the administration of such awards. No eligible applicant or grantee will be discriminated against on the basis of its religious character or affiliation, religious name, or the religious composition of its board of directors or persons working in the organization.
- D. Cofunding:** A grant made by NIJ under this solicitation may account for up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project. You must indicate whether you believe it is feasible for you to contribute cash, facilities, or services as non-Federal support for the project. Your concept paper should identify generally any such contributions that you propose to make. If you are asked to submit a full proposal, your proposed budget should indicate in detail which items, if any, will be supported with non-Federal contributions.
- E. Number of grants to be awarded:** NIJ's grant award process is highly competitive. The number of awards to be made is subject to the availability of funds and the number and quality of applications received.
- F. When awards will be made:** All applicants, whether they are accepted or rejected, will be notified. The review and approval process for concept papers takes about 8 weeks. The

review and approval process for full proposals takes about 6 months. You should not propose to begin work until at least 8 months after the concept paper deadline on the cover of this solicitation. Also, you should not expect to receive notification of a decision for at least 8 months after that date. Lists of awards are updated regularly on NIJ's Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.

- G. Financial audits are required:** If your organization spends \$500,000 or more of Federal funds during the fiscal year, you may be asked to submit an organization-wide financial and compliance audit report before any award is made. The audit must be performed in accordance with the U.S. Government Accountability Office Government Accounting Standards and must conform to Chapter 19 ("Audit Requirements") of the Office of Justice Programs' Financial Guide (available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/FinGuide>). You may include the costs of complying with these audits in the proposed budget submitted as part of your application. Detailed information regarding the independent audit is available in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133 (available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars>).
- H. An environmental assessment may be required:** All award recipients must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To ensure NEPA compliance, NIJ may require some award recipients to submit additional information.
- I. Protection of confidentiality:** Federal regulations require applicants for NIJ funding to outline specific procedures for protecting private information about individuals as part of the Privacy Certificate submitted with the application package. For additional information, see "Guidelines: How to Submit Applications," <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.
- J. A DUNS number is required:** The Office of Management and Budget requires that all businesses and nonprofit applicants for Federal funds include a DUNS (Data Universal Numeric System) number in their application for a new award or renewal of an award. Applications without a DUNS number are incomplete. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving Federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information. NIJ will use the DUNS number throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, one-time activity. Obtain one by calling 1-866-705-5711 or by applying online at <http://www.dunandbradstreet.com>. Individuals are exempt from this requirement.
- K. Funds cannot be used to lobby:** Under the Anti-Lobbying Act (18 U.S.C. § 1913), grantees generally may not use funds to support the enactment, repeal, or modification of any law, regulation, or policy at any level of government. For additional information on rules and regulations, see "Guidelines: How to Submit Applications" at

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm> and OJP's Financial Guide at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/FinGuide>.

L. What will *not* be funded:

1. Concept papers for research on the sexual abuse of children.
2. Concept papers seeking primarily to purchase equipment, materials or supplies. (Your budget may include these items if they are necessary to conduct applied research, development, demonstration, evaluation, or analysis.)

M. Cost of proposed work: NIJ anticipates that up to \$4 million may become available for awards made through this solicitation. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds. NIJ may make up to 15 awards depending on funds available and number of high-quality applications. If you propose a project that exceeds the amount of money that may be available for this solicitation, we recommend that you divide the project into phases, stages, or tasks so that NIJ can consider making an award for a specific portion of the work. NIJ cannot guarantee that subsequent phases, stages, or tasks will be funded. Such additional funding depends on NIJ's resources and your satisfactory completions of each phase, stage, or task. Note: Deliverables (e.g., a final report) will be required at the end of each phase, stage, or task.

N. Call for assistance:

1. For technical guidance about using the Grants Management System, call the hotline at 1-888-549-9901.
2. For questions about this solicitation, the research being solicited, or other NIJ funding opportunities, contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770.

IV. Selection Criteria

NIJ is firmly committed to the competitive process in awarding grants. All concept papers and proposals are subjected to an independent peer-review panel evaluation. External peer-review panelists consider both technical and programmatic merits. Panelists are selected based on their expertise in subject areas pertinent to the proposals.

Peer-review panelists will evaluate concept papers and full proposals using the criteria listed below. Following this assessment, NIJ will then invite selected applicants to submit full proposals. Full proposals will also be peer reviewed. NIJ staff then make recommendations to the NIJ Director. The Director makes final award decisions.

Successful applicants must demonstrate the following:

A. Understanding of the problem and its importance.

B. Quality and technical merit.

1. Awareness of the state of current research or technology.
2. Soundness of methodology and analytic and technical approach.
3. Feasibility of proposed project and awareness of pitfalls.
4. Innovation and creativity (when appropriate).

C. Impact of the proposed project.

1. Potential for significant advances in scientific or technical understanding of the problem.
2. Potential for significant advances in the field.
3. Relevance for improving the policy and practice of criminal justice and related agencies and improving public safety, security, and quality of life.
4. Affordability and cost-effectiveness of proposed end products, when applicable (e.g., purchase price and maintenance costs for a new technology or cost of training to use the technology).
5. Perceived potential for commercialization and/or implementation of a new technology (when applicable).

D. Capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of applicants.

1. Qualifications and experience of proposed staff.
2. Demonstrated ability of proposed staff and organization to manage the effort.
3. Adequacy of the plan to manage the project, including how various tasks are subdivided and resources are used.
4. Successful past performance on NIJ grants and contracts (when applicable).

E. Budget.

1. Total cost of the project relative to the perceived benefit.
2. Appropriateness of the budget relative to the level of effort.
3. Use of existing resources to conserve costs.

F. Dissemination strategy.

1. Well-defined plan for the grant recipient to disseminate results to appropriate audiences, including researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.
2. Suggestions for print and electronic products NIJ might develop for practitioners and policymakers.

V. Requirements for Successful Applicants

If you are invited to submit a proposal and your proposal is funded, you will be required to submit several reports and other materials as follows:

- A. Final report:** The final report should be a comprehensive overview of the project and should include a detailed description of the project design, data, and methods; a full presentation of scientific findings; and a thorough discussion of the implications of the project findings for criminal justice practice and policy. It must contain an abstract of no more than 400 words and an executive summary of no more than 2,500 words.

A draft of the final report, abstract, and executive summary must be submitted 90 days before the end date of the grant. The draft final report will be peer reviewed upon submission. The reviews will be forwarded to the author with suggestions for revisions. The author must then submit the revised final report, abstract, and executive summary by the end date of the grant. The abstract, executive summary, and final report must be submitted in both paper and electronic formats.

For evaluation studies, the final report should include a section on measuring program performance. This section should outline the measures used to evaluate program effectiveness, modifications made to those measures as a result of the evaluation, and recommendations regarding these and other potential performance measures for similar programs. (This information will be particularly valuable to NIJ and other Federal program agencies in implementing performance measures for federally funded criminal justice programs.)

- B. Interim reports:** Grantees must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, and a final progress report. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent. Post-award reporting requirements are described in “Guidelines: How to Submit Applications,” available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.

- C. Materials concerning protection of confidential information and human subjects:** Recipients of NIJ research funds must comply with Federal regulations concerning the protection of private information about individuals. Recipients also must comply with Federal regulations concerning protection of human subjects. In general, all research involving human subjects that is conducted or supported by NIJ funds must be reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board before Federal funds are expended for that research. NIJ may also ask grant recipients for additional information related to privacy and human subjects testing.

Additional general information regarding NIJ’s requirements for privacy and protection of human subjects appears in “Guidelines: How to Submit Applications,” available at

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>. Complete information about NIJ's requirements can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/humansubjects>.

- D. Electronic data:** Some grant recipients will be required to submit electronic data and supporting documentation, such as a codebook or dictionary, capable of being re-analyzed and used by other researchers. The materials must be submitted by the end date of the grant. Grant applicants should ensure that the proposed timeline and budget accommodate these requirements.
- E. Performance guidelines:** As part of government-wide efforts to measure the performance of Federal funding, in May 2002, the White House issued guidance on how to evaluate the performance of Federal research programs. Research should be: (1) relevant—that is, important and appropriate for meeting the needs of the field, (2) of high quality, and (3) well-managed by grantees and well-monitored by the Federal agency. Therefore, in addition to the reporting requirements discussed above, a grantee's performance on an award made under this solicitation will be evaluated on whether the final research report was (1) relevant to the needs of the field as measured by whether the grantee's substantive scope did not deviate from the funded proposal or any subsequent agency modifications to the scope; (2) of high quality as assessed by peer reviewers; and (3) well-managed as measured by whether significant interim project milestones were achieved, final deadlines were met, and costs remained within approved limits. For more information see "Guidelines: How to Submit Applications," available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.

Tips for Submitting Your Application

1. Begin the application process early—especially if you have never used the online Grants Management System before. NIJ will not accept applications received after the closing date and time listed on the cover. To start the process, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm>.
2. Review “Guidelines: How to Submit Applications” for complete instructions, available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.
3. Although your proposal may budget for the purchase of equipment if the equipment is necessary to conduct the project, NIJ will not fund applications that are primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies.
4. Call for help:
 - For technical guidance about the Grants Management System, call the hotline at 1-888-549-9901.
 - For questions about this solicitation, the research being solicited, or other NIJ funding opportunities, contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770.

View or print a copy of this document from the NIJ Web site (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>) or request one by calling NCJRS at 1-800-851-3420 or e-mailing askncjrs@ncjrs.org.

Appendix

Program Area Designation Form

- Program A: Sexual Violence
- Program B: Justice System Responses to Intimate Partner Violence: Increasing Safety and Accountability
- Program C: Stalking

The National Institute of Justice is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice.

NIJ provides objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to enhance the administration of justice and public safety.

NIJ is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.