



Helping To Pay for Body Armor

Law enforcement agencies can buy body armor for half the price by taking advantage of the U.S. Department of Justice's Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Act of 1998, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

Law Enforcement Eligibility

According to the Act, the term "Law Enforcement Officer" means any officer, agent, or employee of a State, unit of local government, or 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. This includes full-time, part-time, and auxiliary personnel, whether paid or volunteer. States, units of local government, or recognized tribal governments with officers that meet this definition are eligible to participate.

Application Authority

In order to participate, law enforcement personnel and agencies cannot apply on their own; they must work through their respective "jurisdiction." Jurisdictions are considered the most basic level of government recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau. This includes towns, cities, villages, boroughs, parishes, counties, or States. Applications must be submitted by, or on behalf of, the jurisdiction's chief executive. The chief executive is the highest ranking executive officer (e.g., mayor, city manager, county executive, governor). The chief executive/designee is responsible for certifying the accuracy of the application, requesting payments, disbursing funds, and ensuring compliance with applicable program standards and requirements. Federal payments are sent

electronically to the jurisdiction's bank account, as identified during the registration process.

Funding Limitations

The program is designed to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of NIJ-approved vests contained in a jurisdiction's application. Given the projected number of eligible jurisdictions and the limited funds available, the BVP may not have sufficient funds to provide 50 percent for all applications. It is strongly recommended that jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies not order vests contained in their application until it is approved by BJA, unless they have sufficient resources to cover initial costs and any potential shortfall that may result if less than 50 percent is provided.

For more information, access www.vests.ojp.gov on the World Wide Web or contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 800-421-6770. The Response Center also has information available on State programs and nonprofit organizations that have grant or other funding programs available. This information can be located through the above Web site under the "Program Resources" page.



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