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The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is seeking applications for funding to develop new and innovative electronic investigative/forensic and digital evidence recovery technology solutions for law enforcement agencies. This program furthers the Department's mission by sponsoring research to provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of crime and justice, particularly at the State and local levels.

# Solicitation: Electronic Crime and Digital Evidence Recovery

## Eligibility

In general, NIJ is authorized to make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, States (including territories), local governments (including federally-recognized Indian tribal governments as determined by the Secretary of the Interior and published in the Federal Register), nonprofit and profit organizations (including tribal nonprofit and profit organizations), institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education), and certain qualified individuals. Foreign governments, foreign organizations, and foreign institutions of higher education are not eligible to apply.

## Deadline

Registration with [OJP's Grant Management System \(GMS\)](#) is required prior to application submission. (See "How to Apply," page 7.)

All applications are due by **11:45 p.m. eastern time on April 2, 2010.**  
(See "Deadlines: Registration and Application," page 3.)

## Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting the application, contact the Grants Management System Support Hotline at 1-888-549-9901, option 3 or via e-mail to [GMSHelpDesk@usdoj.gov](mailto:GMSHelpDesk@usdoj.gov).

**Note:** The [GMS](#) Support Hotline hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 6:00 a.m. to midnight eastern time, except for Federal holidays.

For assistance with any other requirement of this solicitation, contact Martin Novak, Physical Scientist, at 202-616-0630 or by e-mail to [martin.novak@usdoj.gov](mailto:martin.novak@usdoj.gov).

SL# 000901

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# Electronic Crime and Digital Evidence Recovery

## CFDA No. 16.560

### Overview

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

NIJ is seeking applications for funding to develop emerging electronic crime and digital evidence recovery technology solutions for law enforcement agencies. The specific areas of interest under this solicitation are:

- Faster and more efficient data acquisition technology.
- Cell phone forensic acquisition and analysis tools and technologies including boot loaders.
- Forensic and investigative tools and technologies to investigate criminal use of Internet anonymizers.
- Damaged hard drive data recovery and forensic examination tools.
- Macintosh forensic tools.

In addition to applications proposing to develop new solutions, NIJ will also consider applications proposing to demonstrate, test, or evaluate existing cutting edge solutions in these areas of interest that have not yet been adopted into practice.

In addition to considering proposals from all eligible applicants in the areas of interest described above, on an invitational basis, NIJ may consider applications requesting supplemental funding to continue work on prior-year competitively awarded grants in the areas of: peer-to-peer forensic technologies; data hiding and encryption; live computer system capture and triage tools; data carving tools; and imaging tools for networks and network-attached devices.

**Authorizing Legislation:** Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (sections 201 and 202); Homeland Security Act of 2002 (section 232).

### Deadline: Registration and Application

Registration is required prior to submission. The deadline to register in GMS is **11:45 p.m. eastern time on April 2, 2010** and the deadline for applying for funding under this announcement is **11:45 p.m. eastern time on April 2, 2010**. Please see the "How to Apply" section, page 7, for more details.

## Eligibility

Please refer to the title page for eligibility information under this program.

## Specific Information—Electronic Crime and Digital Evidence Recovery

NIJ is seeking applications for funding research and development of electronic crime and digital evidence recovery tools and technologies to address the following specific need(s) of State and local criminal justice agencies:

Faster and more efficient data acquisition technology—Solutions to increase digital evidence acquisition speeds and initiate data analysis functions in conjunction with the acquisition process to further improve the performance and efficiency of State and local law enforcement digital evidence examination units.

The acquisition of large digital evidence data sets using existing technologies can require hours of a practitioner's time resulting in reduced productivity in digital evidence examinations resulting in pending case backlogs of 3 to 6 months on average. Estimates indicate that the amount of stored data doubles every 18 months. As the amount of digital evidence per investigation continues to grow, it will become operationally and economically unfeasible for law enforcement agencies to commit the human, financial, and data processing resources necessary to acquire large data sets without tools and technologies to reduce the acquisition time and initiate the digital evidence analysis processes during the acquisition.

Cell phone forensic acquisition and analysis tools and technologies—Solutions to expand the number of cell phone models from which law enforcement can acquire full physical data image files for examination and analysis.

Automated data acquisition and analysis technologies have yet to be developed for a large percentage of mobile devices in use in the United States. Estimates indicate an average of 470 mobile device models are available to consumers at any time, and an average of 16 new models are introduced each month. These estimates, combined with the number of mobile devices no longer available on the retail market but still in use, indicate an enormous number and variety of devices that could be seized as evidence in investigations, each requiring unique tools, technologies, and cables. However, only a percentage of these devices can currently be thoroughly examined for digital evidence.

Forensic and investigative tools and technologies to investigate criminal use of Internet anonymizers—Solutions to identify perpetrators using Internet anonymizers to hide their identities while conducting criminal activity.

Internet anonymizers enable users to protect their identity while online and to have confidence that their personal information and computer are not compromised. This technology can also be used to commit and facilitate criminal activity while masking the identity of the perpetrators from law enforcement. Currently, State and local law enforcement have no forensic tools or investigative technologies to investigate crimes committed through the use of Internet anonymizers.

Damaged hard drive recovery and forensic examination tools—Solutions that enable data recovery from damaged hard drives in a cost effective manner and which protect the chain of custody.

State and local law enforcement are encountering failures of hard drives seized as digital evidence at an increasing rate. The data on these drives is generally unaffected but inaccessible because the hard drive will not operate, prohibiting recovery of the data or digital evidence. Hard drives that have been stored as evidence with archives of completed forensic examinations pending adjudication are also susceptible to failure. Commercial data recovery options are expensive and may compromise the integrity and chain of custody of the digital evidence. State and local law enforcement need comprehensive tools and technologies to overcome the obstacle failed hard drives present.

Macintosh forensic tools—Solutions that enable the same level of forensic examination from both Windows and Macintosh Operating Systems workstation environments.

Apple Macintosh computers are becoming more common and are gaining a larger computer market share. State and local law enforcement are seizing Macintosh computers and devices as digital evidence in investigations more frequently. Many State and local law enforcement personnel are unfamiliar with these types of computers, the operating system and the directory structures and are unprepared to acquire the data from these devices and conduct forensic examinations on these devices.

State and local law enforcement need forensic tools to acquire and analyze data from Apple Macintosh computer systems that are compatible with and will run on forensic examination platforms running the Windows Operating System.

NIJ's science and technology efforts focus on addressing the needs of State and local law enforcement. Consequently, a successful application will include technology solutions for State and local law enforcement in one of the specific research topic areas listed. Applicants must address the following issues in their application:

1. Describe how State and local law enforcement will play an active role in the development and testing of any technologies proposed in response to this solicitation.
2. Demonstrate how the particular solution would increase the efficiency of work already being done by State and local law enforcement or how it will complement existing methods and solutions.
3. Clearly define the deliverable that will result from the research and development of the solution described in the applicant's proposal.
4. Describe how the solution or tool would be distributed to law enforcement.

**Please note:** All applicants under this solicitation must comply with Department of Justice regulations on confidentiality and human subjects protection. See "Other Requirements for OJP Applications" at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other\\_requirements.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm).

**What will *not* be funded:**

1. Provision of training or direct service.

2. Proposals 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.)
3. Work that will be funded under another specific solicitation.

**Amount and length of awards:** Total funding for this solicitation and the number of awards made will depend on the availability of funds, the quality of the applications, and other pertinent factors. NIJ anticipates up to \$1.25 million may become available to fund awards made under this solicitation, and that up to nine awards will be made. **All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.**

Applicants should be aware that the total period for an award, including one that receives additional funding, ordinarily will not exceed 3 years.

A grant made by NIJ under this solicitation may account for up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project. See "Cofunding" under "What an Application Must Include."

## **Budget Information**

**Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver:** No portion of any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation may be used to pay total cash compensation (salary plus bonuses) to any employee of the award recipient at a rate that exceeds 110% of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service (SES) at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year. (The 2010 salary table for SES employees is available at <http://www.opm.gov/oca/10tables/indexSES.asp>.) Note: A recipient may compensate an employee at a higher rate, provided the amount in excess of this compensation limitation is paid with non-Federal funds. (Any such additional compensation will not be considered matching funds where match requirements apply.)

The limitation on compensation rates allowable under an award may be waived on an individual basis at the discretion of the Director of the National Institute of Justice. An applicant that wishes to request a waiver must include a detailed justification in the budget narrative of its application. Unless the applicant submits a waiver request and justification with the application, the applicant should anticipate that OJP will request that the applicant adjust and resubmit its budget.

The justification should include: the particular qualifications and expertise of the individual, the uniqueness of the service being provided, the individual's specific knowledge of the program or project being undertaken with award funds, and a statement explaining that the individual's salary is commensurate with the regular and customary rate for an individual with his/her qualifications and expertise, and for the work that is to be done.

## **Performance Measures**

To assist in fulfilling the Department's responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), P.L. 103-62, applicants who receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measure the results of their work. Performance measures for this solicitation are as follows:

Objective	Performance Measures	Data Grantee Provides
Provide safer, more effective tools and technologies for use by criminal justice agencies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Relevance 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.</li> <li>2. Quality of the research as assessed by peer reviewers.</li> <li>3. Quality of management as measured by whether significant interim project milestones were achieved, final deadlines were met, and costs remained within approved limits.</li> <li>4. If applicable, number of fielded technologies.</li> <li>5. If applicable, number of NIJ final grant reports, NIJ research documents, and grantee research documents published.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A final report providing a comprehensive overview of the project and 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 in the United States.</li> <li>2. Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, and a final progress report.</li> <li>3. If applicable, each data set that was collected, acquired, or modified in conjunction with the project.</li> <li>4. If applicable, description of fielded technologies.</li> <li>5. If applicable, citation to report(s)/document(s).</li> </ol>

## How to Apply

Applications will be submitted through OJP's Grants Management System ([GMS](#)). [GMS](#) is a Web-based, data-driven computer application that provides cradle to grave support for the application, award and management of grants at OJP. Applicants should begin the process immediately to meet the GMS registration deadline, especially if this is the first time they have used the system. Complete instructions on how to register and submit an application in GMS can be found at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/gmscbt/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/gmscbt/). If you experience technical difficulties at any point during this process, please e-mail [GMSHelpDesk@usdoj.gov](mailto:GMSHelpDesk@usdoj.gov), or call 1-888-549-9901 (option 3), Monday-Friday from 6:00 a.m. to midnight eastern time, except for Federal holidays. OJP highly recommends starting the registration process as early as possible to prevent delays in the application submission by the specified deadline.

All applicants are required to complete the following steps.

1. **Acquire a DUNS Number.** A DUNS number is required to submit an application in GMS. The Office of Management and Budget requires that all businesses and nonprofit applicants for Federal funds include a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number in their application for a new award or renewal of an existing award. 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 for Federal assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, one-time activity.

Obtain a DUNS number by calling 1-866-705-5711 or by applying online at [www.dunandbradstreet.com](http://www.dunandbradstreet.com). Individuals are exempt from this requirement.

2. **Acquire or Renew Registration with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) Database.** CCR registration is required to receive funding. OJP requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for Federal financial assistance maintain current registrations in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database. The CCR database is the repository for standard information about Federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. Organizations that have previously submitted applications via Grants.gov are already registered with CCR, as it is a requirement for Grants.gov registration. Please note, however, that applicants must update or renew their CCR registration at least once per year to maintain an active status. Information about CCR registration procedures can be accessed at [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov).
3. **Acquire a GMS Username and Password.** If you are a new user, please create a GMS profile by selecting the first time user link under the sign-in box of the [GMS](#) home page. For more information on how to register in GMS, go to [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/gmscbt/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/gmscbt/).
4. **Search for the Funding Opportunity on GMS.** After you log in to GMS or complete your GMS profile for your username and password, go to the Funding Opportunities link on the left hand side of the page. Please select "National Institute of Justice" and then "NIJ FY 10 Electronic Crime and Digital Evidence Recovery."
5. **Select the Apply Online Button Associated with the Solicitation Title.** The search results from step 4 will display the solicitation title along with the Registration and Application Deadlines for this funding opportunity. Please select the Apply Online button in the Action Column to create an application in the system.
6. **Submit an Application Addressing All of the Requirements Outlined in this Solicitation by Following the Directions in GMS.** Once submitted, GMS will display a confirmation screen stating your submission was successful. **Important:** You are urged to submit your application at least 72 hours prior to the due date of the application.

**Note: OJP's Grants Management System (GMS) does not accept executable file types as application attachments.** These disallowed file types include, but are not limited to, the following extensions: ".com," ".bat," ".exe," ".vbs," ".cfg," ".dat," ".db," ".dbf," ".dll," ".ini," ".log," ".ora," ".sys," and ".zip."

### **Experiencing Unforeseen GMS Technical Issues**

If you experience unforeseen GMS technical issues beyond your control which prevent you from submitting your application by the deadline, you must contact the NIJ staff member listed on the title page **within 24 hours after the deadline** and request approval to submit your application. At that time, NIJ staff will require you to e-mail the complete grant application, your DUNS number, and provide a GMS Help Desk tracking number(s). After the program office reviews all of the information submitted, and contacts the GMS Helpdesk to validate the technical issues you reported, OJP will contact you to either approve or deny your request to submit a late application. If the technical issues you reported cannot be validated, your application will be rejected as untimely.



To ensure a fair competition for limited discretionary funds, the following conditions are not valid reasons to permit late submissions: (1) failure to begin the registration process in sufficient time; (2) failure to follow GMS instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its Web site; (3) failure to follow all of the instructions in the OJP solicitation; and (4) technical issues experienced with the applicant's computer or information technology (IT) environment.

Notifications regarding known technical problems with GMS are posted on the OJP funding Web page, [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/solicitations.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/solicitations.htm).

## What an Application Must Include

OJP strongly recommends use of appropriately descriptive file names (e.g., "Program Narrative," "Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative," "Timelines," "Memoranda of Understanding," "Resumes") for all required attachments. Where resumes are required, OJP recommends that all resumes be included in a single file.

### Standard Form 424

Please see [www07.grants.gov/assets/SF424Instructions.pdf](http://www07.grants.gov/assets/SF424Instructions.pdf) for instructions on how to complete your SF424. When selecting "type of applicant," if the applicant is a for-profit entity, please select "For-Profit Organization" or "Small Business" (as applicable) in the "Type of Applicant" data field. For-profit applicants also may select additional applicable categories (e.g., "Private Institution of Higher Education").

### Program Narrative

The Program Narrative includes:

- a. Cover page
- b. Abstract (not to exceed 600 words).
- c. Table of contents.
- d. Main body, which includes:
  - Purpose, goals, and objectives.
  - Review of relevant literature.
  - Research design and methods including the plan for data analysis, if applicable.
  - Research independence and integrity (see "Selection Criteria," below).
  - Implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.
  - Management plan and organization.
  - Dissemination strategy.
- d. Appendices (not counted against program narrative page limit) include:
  - Bibliography/References (if applicable).
  - List of key personnel (required).
  - Resumes of key personnel (required).
  - List of previous and current NIJ awards to applicant organization and investigator(s) (required).
  - Letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements from organizations collaborating in the project (if applicable).
  - Chart for timeline, research calendar, or milestones (required).
  - Human Subjects Protection Paperwork including Institutional Review Board (IRB) documentation and forms (see <http://www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/humansubjects/human-subjects.htm>).

- Privacy Certificate (for further guidance go to <http://www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/humansubjects/privacy-certificate-guidance.htm>).
- List of other agencies, organizations, or funding sources to which you have submitted this proposal (if applicable).
- Other materials required by the solicitation.

The program narrative section of your application must not exceed 25 double-spaced pages in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Abstract, table of contents, charts, figures, appendices, and government forms do not count toward the 25-page limit for the narrative section.

### **Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative**

A sample Budget Detail Worksheet can be found at [www.ojp.gov/funding/forms/budget\\_detail.pdf](http://www.ojp.gov/funding/forms/budget_detail.pdf). If you submit a different format, you must include the budget categories as listed in the sample budget worksheet.

For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, please see the OJP Financial Guide at [www.ojp.gov/financialguide/index.htm](http://www.ojp.gov/financialguide/index.htm).

The Budget Narrative is a plain-language description of each of the proposed expenditures listed in the Budget Detail Worksheet. It should clearly explain the purpose and reason for all expenditures in the budget. There should be no ambiguities about any budget item. The narrative also should include details for calculated rates or other figures. As with the Budget Detail Worksheet, the Budget Narrative must be broken down on a year-by-year basis.

**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 application should identify generally any such contributions that you expect to make and your proposed budget should indicate in detail which items, if any, will be supported with non-Federal contributions.

### **Indirect Rate Agreement (if applicable)**

Applicants that do not have a federally negotiated indirect cost rate and wish to establish one can submit a proposal to their “cognizant” Federal agency. Generally, the cognizant Federal agency is the agency that provides the preponderance of direct Federal funding. This can be determined by reviewing an organization’s schedule of Federal financial assistance. If DOJ is your cognizant Federal agency, obtain information needed to submit an indirect cost rate proposal at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/part3/part3chap17.htm>.

### **Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)**

If an application is being submitted by either (1) a tribe or tribal organization, or (2) by a third party proposing to provide direct services or assistance to residents on tribal lands, then a current authorizing resolution of the governing body of the tribal entity or other enactment of the tribal council or comparable governing body authorizing the inclusion of the tribe or tribal organization and its residents must be included with the application. In

those instances when an organization or consortium of tribes proposes to apply for a grant on behalf of a tribe or multiple specific tribes, then the application must include a resolution from all tribes that will be included as a part of the services/assistance provided under the grant.

If an applicant is unable to obtain a signed copy of a tribal resolution documenting support for its application, then, at a minimum, the applicant must submit an unsigned, draft tribal resolution as part of its application. If an applicant fails to submit either a signed or an unsigned copy of a tribal resolution as part of its application, then it will be eliminated from funding consideration. If selected for funding, any applicant that has submitted an unsigned tribal resolution must submit the signed copy of the tribal resolution to OJP within 30 days of acceptance of the award. In all such cases, use of and access to funds will be contingent on receipt of the signed tribal resolution.

### **Other Standard Forms**

Additional forms that may be required are available on OJP's funding page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms.htm>. Please note in particular the following forms.

1. [Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements](#) (required of all applicants as part of the GMS application process)
2. [Disclosure of Lobbying Activities](#) (required for any applicant that expends any funds for lobbying activities)
3. [Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire](#) (required for any applicant that is a nongovernmental entity and that has not received any award from OJP within the past 3 years)
4. [Standard Assurances](#) (required of all applicants as part of the GMS application process)

**Note:** Attachments to the application should be included in one of the following four categories: 1) Program Narrative; 2) Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative; 3) Appendices; and 4) Other Requirements.

## **Selection Criteria**

**Statement of the Problem** (Understanding of the problem and its importance)—15%

**Project/Program Design and Implementation** (Quality and technical merit)—30%

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).

**Capabilities/Competencies** (Capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of applicants)— 20%

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).

**Budget**—15%

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.

**Impact/Outcomes and Evaluation** (Relevance to policy and practice)—15%

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 in the United States 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).

#### **Relevance of the project for policy and practice in the United States**

Higher quality applications clearly explain the practical implications of the project. They connect technical expertise with criminal justice 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.

**Dissemination/Distribution Strategy**—5%

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.
3. Well-defined plan for how the particular technology solution will be distributed at low, or no-cost to State and local law enforcement.
4. Preference will be given to applicants who budget for attendance at and dissemination of results at one or more NIJ or NIJ-directed conferences per year.

#### **Research Independence and Integrity**

Regardless of a proposal's rating under the criteria outlined above, in order to receive funds, the applicant's proposal must demonstrate research independence, including appropriate safeguards to ensure research objectivity and integrity.

Considerations in evaluating research independence and integrity will include, but may not be limited to, the adequacy of the applicant's efforts to identify factors that could affect the objectivity/integrity of the proposed staff and/or the organization in carrying out the research, development, or evaluation activity; and the adequacy of the applicant's existing or proposed remedies to control any such factors.

## **Review Process**

OJP is committed to ensuring a standardized process for awarding grants. NIJ reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, achievable, and consistent with program or legislative requirements as stated in the solicitation including, but not limited to, requirements as to timeliness, proper format, and responsiveness to the scope of the solicitation.

Peer reviewers will be reviewing the applications submitted under this solicitation that meet basic minimum requirements. NIJ may use either internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination to review the applications under this solicitation. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the field of the subject matter of a given solicitation who is NOT a current U.S. Department of Justice employee. An internal reviewer is a current U.S. Department of Justice employee who is well-versed or has expertise in the subject matter of this solicitation. Eligible applications will be evaluated, scored, and rated by a peer review panel. Peer reviewers' ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only. In addition to peer review ratings, considerations for award recommendations and decisions may include, but are not limited to, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding.

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), in consultation with NIJ, conducts a financial review of applications for potential discretionary awards and cooperative agreements to evaluate the fiscal integrity and financial capability of applicants; examines proposed costs to determine if the budget and budget narrative accurately explain project costs; and determines whether costs are reasonable, necessary, and allowable under applicable Federal cost principles and agency regulations.

All final award decisions will be made by the Director of the National Institute of Justice, who also may give consideration to factors including, but not limited to, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding when making awards.

## **Additional Requirements**

Applicants selected for awards must agree to comply with additional legal requirements upon acceptance of an award. We strongly encourage you to review the information pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting your application. Additional information for each can be found at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other\\_requirements.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm).

- Civil Rights Compliance
- Funding to Faith-Based Organizations

- Confidentiality and Human Subjects Protection (if applicable)
- Anti-Lobbying Act
- Financial and Government Audit Requirements
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (if applicable)
- DOJ Information Technology Standards (if applicable)
- Single Point of Contact Review
- Nonsupplanting of State and Local Funds
- Criminal Penalty for False Statements
- Compliance with [Office of Justice Programs Financial Guide](#)
- Suspension or Termination of Funding
- Nonprofit Organizations
- For-Profit Organizations
- Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)
- Rights in Intellectual Property
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) of 2006
- Awards in excess of \$5,000,000 – Federal taxes certification requirement

If your proposal is funded, you will be required to submit several reports and other materials, including:

**Final substantive 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; a thorough discussion of the implications of the project findings for criminal justice practice and policy in the United States; etc. It must contain an abstract of no more than 600 words and an executive summary of 2,500 to 4,000 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 principal investigator 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 program 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.)

**Interim reports:** Grantees must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, a final progress report, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.

# Application Checklist

## Electronic Crime and Digital Evidence Recovery

The application checklist has been created to aid you in developing your application.

### Eligibility

Tribal authorizing resolution (if applicable)

### Application Components:

Program Narrative (see pages 9–10 and “Selection Criteria,” pages 11–12)

Appendices to the Program Narrative

Bibliography/References (if applicable)

List of key personnel (required)

Resumes of key personnel (required)

List of previous and current NIJ awards to applicant organization and investigators (required)

Letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements from organizations collaborating in the project (if applicable)

Chart for timeline, research calendar, or milestones (required)

Human Subjects Protection Paperwork

Privacy Certificate

List of other agencies, organizations, or funding sources to which you have submitted this proposal (if applicable)

Budget Narrative

Budget Detail Worksheet

Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

### Program Narrative/Abstract Format:

Double-spaced

12-point standard font

1" standard margins

Narrative is 25 pages or less

### Other Requirements:

Standard Form 424

DUNS number

Other standard forms as applicable (see page 11), including

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)

Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire (if applicable)