



The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for funding the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence within the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center System (the "NLECTC System"). The Center will provide testing, evaluation, technology assistance, and other services with regard to forensic technologies intended for use by crime laboratories, forensic service providers (supporting criminal justice applications), law enforcement, and other criminal justice agencies to combat crime. This program furthers the Department's mission by improving the safety and effectiveness of criminal justice technology and the access of these law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies to that technology.

Solicitation: Forensic Technology Center of Excellence 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 9.)

All applications are due by **11:45 p.m. eastern time on April 15, 2010.**
(See "Deadlines: Registration and Application," page 3.)

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting the application, the Grants Management System Support Hotline at 1-888-549-9901, option 3 or via e-mail to GMS.HelpDesk@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 Charles Heurich, Program Manager, at 202-616-9264 or by e-mail to charles.heurich@usdoj.gov.

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CONTENTS

Overview	3
Deadlines: Registration and Application	3
Eligibility	3
Specific Information	3
Performance Measures.....	8
How to Apply.....	9
What an Application Must Include.....	10
Standard Form 424	10
Program Narrative	11
Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative	11
Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)	12
Plan for Collecting the Data Required for Performance Measures	12
Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable).....	12
Other Standard Forms	13
Selection Criteria.....	13
Review Process	14
Additional Requirements.....	15
Application Checklist.....	17

Forensic Technology Center of Excellence

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 seeks qualified applicants to establish and operate a Forensic Technology Center of Excellence ("the Center") within the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center System ("the NLECTC System") to support its research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E) process in all areas of forensic science for criminal justice application. The Center will support the NIJ RDT&E process by providing scientific and technical support to NIJ's research and development efforts; supporting the demonstration, transfer, and adoption of appropriate forensic technology into practice by crime laboratories, forensic service providers (supporting criminal justice applications), law enforcement, and other criminal justice agencies; assisting in the development and dissemination of technology guidelines and standards; and providing technology assistance, information, and support to the above law enforcement and other appropriate criminal justice agencies.

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

Deadlines: Registration and Application

Registration is required prior to submission. The deadline to register in GMS is **11:45 p.m. eastern time on April 15, 2010**, and the deadline for applying for funding under this announcement is **11:45 p.m. eastern time on April 15, 2010**. Please see the "How to Apply" section, page 9, for more details.

Eligibility

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

Specific Information—Forensic Technology Center of Excellence

NIJ, through its Office of Science and Technology (OST), is the national focal point for work on law enforcement technologies, including corrections, investigative, and forensic technologies, as well as technologies that support the judicial process. NIJ administers programs that improve the safety and effectiveness of, and criminal justice agency access to, these technologies. NIJ seeks applications to establish and operate, within the existing NLECTC System, a Forensic Technology Center of Excellence for all forensic science disciplines that support criminal justice.

The NLECTC System is an integral part of NIJ's Science and Technology program. It provides scientific and technical support to NIJ's research and development efforts; supports the demonstration, transfer, and adoption of technology into practice by law enforcement and corrections agencies, courts, and crime laboratories; assists in the development and dissemination of technology guidelines and standards; and provides technology assistance, information, and support to law enforcement and corrections agencies, courts, and crime laboratories. NLECTC components are expected to collaborate on a daily basis with NIJ's program management staff, other NLECTC centers, and the full range of the Nation's criminal justice practitioner community.

The Centers of Excellence work with the NLECTC National and Regional Centers and the Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLES) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology as part of an integrated NLECTC System. The National Center serves as the clearinghouse for technology information and executes NIJ's compliance testing program. The Regional Centers serve as the initial point of entry for law enforcement practitioners to the NLECTC System and provide generalized technology assistance to law enforcement and corrections agencies, public crime laboratories, and judicial agencies in their regions. They also forward requests for specialized assistance to the appropriate Center of Excellence, and, as necessary, coordinate technology demonstrations and evaluations sponsored by a Center of Excellence with agencies within their regions.

The Centers of Excellence are the authoritative resource within the NLECTC System for both practitioners and developers in their technology area(s) of focus. Their primary role is to assist in the transition of law enforcement technology from the laboratory into practice by first adopters within the criminal justice community. To that end, applicants must be knowledgeable of both practitioner requirements and potential technology solutions, including those developed by NIJ and other sources. Each Center of Excellence must provide a high level of knowledge and skills necessary to support NIJ's RDT&E process in the relevant technology investment portfolio area.

Forensic Science is a multidisciplinary field that incorporates the investigation, analysis, prevention, and prosecution of crime involving not only crimes against persons but also property crimes. It also involves the methods and tools for collecting, preserving, and examining evidence and the related educational/training programs that build capacity within criminal justice agencies to address forensic science and its use. The Center will coordinate and facilitate all NIJ projects and programs in these fields in order to leverage resources and provide comprehensive forensic technology support to State and local criminal justice agencies. Through these efforts, the Center will increase the capacity of State and local law enforcement to effectively and professionally serve the public in matters involving forensic science and crime.

Specific tasks that the Center will be expected to perform include:

- **Identifying technology requirements.** The Center will accomplish this principally by hosting and supporting the General Forensics and DNA Technology Working Group (TWG) activities. The Center will also be expected to conduct relevant, focused studies to support program development, and participate in relevant technical conferences and symposia.

TWGs typically consist of 20 expert practitioners knowledgeable in the operational employment of the technology addressed in a particular portfolio. They assist NIJ in identifying technology gaps in a portfolio area in terms of operational requirements and desired outcomes. They also assist NIJ in the review of ongoing efforts, facilitate

outreach, and coordinate demonstration opportunities. The Center provides general logistics in support of its TWG. The Center is expected to capture and disseminate technology needs, including assessment metrics for each identified gap.

TWGs normally meet twice a year. A three-day meeting, exclusive of travel time, is representative. Venues will vary, but sites in the Washington, DC area are preferred.

In supporting these TWGs, the Center will, in close coordination with the relevant NIJ program manager:

- Identify the key agencies, professional organizations, and individual practitioners that should participate in a particular TWG;
 - Schedule TWG meetings;
 - Develop meeting agendas;
 - Secure a venue and required logistic services, including audiovisual support;
 - Pay the travel and per diem expenses, but not the salaries, of the non-Federal participants;
 - Moderate the meetings; and
 - Record and publish the proceedings.
- **Supporting NIJ's research and development programs.** The Center is expected to help NIJ program managers define program objectives, assess ongoing research and development projects, find relevant technology efforts for NIJ collaboration, and participate in national and regional groups that support the adoption of technology.
 - **Testing, evaluating, and demonstrating technologies.** The Center will be expected to focus its efforts primarily on the demonstration of new technologies in field environments. Demonstrations must be designed to determine whether a technology meets all of the assessment criteria for a technology need area and develop guidelines for the adoption of the technology by other practitioners. To the greatest extent feasible, demonstrations should also be designed to determine criminal justice outcomes through evaluation research in collaboration with the NIJ program manager and with NIJ's Office of Research and Evaluation. Technology demonstrations may range from 2 hours to 12 months. Findings will be disseminated through reports, conferences, standards, and technology assistance activities.
 - **Supporting the adoption of new technology.** The Center's efforts will focus on facilitating the effective transfer into practice of new tools and technologies, including those funded by NIJ and others. Efforts are to include introducing new tools and technologies to the practitioner, introducing practitioner requirements to developers, and assisting developers in the commercialization of their products. Commercialization activities are to include providing feedback to technology developers in the criminal justice marketplace; describing criminal justice requirements and practices; providing opportunities for the demonstration of technologies; and presenting strategies for the commercialization of developers' technologies. In this assistance to commercialization, the Center is expected to play a vital role in providing practitioner agencies access to new technologies and improved capabilities. NIJ will not provide direct financial assistance to companies to commercialize products. NIJ may, however, support pilot programs for first adopters of new technology, particularly those that evaluate the effectiveness of a technology or develop best practices for the use of a technology.

- **Developing and/or updating technology guidelines.** The Center's efforts will include the development of comprehensive guides for crime laboratories, forensic service practitioners, law enforcement, and other appropriate criminal justice practitioners that describe how to plan for, select, and implement technology solutions based on actual experience with application of the technology in practice. Examples of existing guides include: *Crime Scene Investigation: A Guide for Law Enforcement* and *Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator*. Topics for additional guides may be discussed with NIJ and initiated with their approval.
- **Providing technology assistance and support to criminal justice agencies on a national basis.** The Center is expected to provide specialized technology assistance within its particular technology areas of responsibility. These efforts will focus on providing science and engineering advice and support to assist first-adopter law enforcement, crime laboratory, forensic service provider, corrections, and other criminal justice agencies with the use of new technologies or the adaptation of existing technologies to enhance their effectiveness, efficiency, and safety. The Center will be expected to provide national expertise for the criminal justice community's ongoing efforts to continuously improve operations through the adoption of new tools and methods. (**Note:** The Center will not fund or provide assistance to agencies that are adopting technologies that are well established in practice.) Appropriate assistance will be provided to all facets of the criminal justice community, including small and rural law enforcement, corrections, forensic service providers, school resource officers, or other State and local practitioner communities.

While the Center will, to a certain extent, perform ongoing work related to responding to calls for assistance forwarded from the Regional Technology Centers, the Center should expect that the majority of its work will be on projects specifically defined by NIJ in support of the specific technology investment portfolio areas. For this reason and others (such as the possibility of establishment, modification, or elimination of particular technology investment portfolios by NIJ; changes in the availability of funds; or the desire to capitalize on technology opportunities), applicants should expect that the level of effort may vary significantly during the project period (or from year to year, should supplemental funding be made available). The successful applicant therefore must demonstrate the ability to readily add or reduce capacity in relevant areas without adversely affecting the ability to provide services or incurring unacceptable additional costs. In this connection, NIJ is very interested in entertaining applications that propose to leverage existing programs, facilities, and personnel.

The Forensic Technology Center of Excellence will be specifically tasked with the implementation, in coordination with NIJ, of the DNA Quality Assurance audit programs and the Grant Progress Assessment (GPA) program, and for submitting to NIJ the appropriate documentation developed as a result of these audit- and assessment-related activities. The applicant may wish to consider partnering with established forensic science organizations, agencies, and/or institutions with complementary abilities, as appropriate, in order to carry out these tasks as well as those listed above.

DNA Audit program auditors visit and review publicly-funded DNA laboratories using the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Quality Assurance Standards. Laboratories that receive NIJ funding must have their laboratories audited every two years, in accordance with NIJ program requirements. The Forensic Technology Center of Excellence provides these external DNA Audit services at no cost to the laboratories.

Grant Progress Assessments (GPA) may be conducted at the same time for those laboratories and agencies choosing to participate in the External DNA Audit program. As part of the GPA program, the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence assists NIJ in assessing project progress for grantees receiving funds from the Convicted Offender and/or Arrestee and Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction grant programs, the Paul E. Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program, and the Using DNA to Solve Cold Cases grant program. The GPA program supports NIJ in its efforts to assess forensic laboratory grantee progress in meeting grant program goals and objectives, identify challenges faced by forensic laboratory grantees in achieving these goals and objectives, identify successful or model programs, and assess the impact of federal funding for forensic laboratories on the capacity and effectiveness of the nation's forensic laboratories. GPA assessments are also provided at **no cost** to NIJ grantees, are performed on a biennial basis, and, to the extent feasible, are conducted during the same time period for all grantees within a given state.

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.

Budget Information

What will not be funded:

1. Provision of training or direct service, except as otherwise noted.
2. Proposals primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies. (Your budget may include these items if they are necessary to conduct applied research.)
3. Work that will be funded under another specific solicitation.
4. Applications that do not demonstrate the capability to perform the work proposed.
5. Applications to provide general technology assistance on a regional basis or to rural law enforcement agencies. This work will be supported within the existing structure of the NLETC System.
6. Applications that propose the execution of research and development

Amount and length of awards: NIJ anticipates that up to a total of \$6,200,000 may become available for one (1) award made through this solicitation. **All NIJ awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.** NIJ expects to make one award for fiscal year 2010, depending on funds available, the number of high-quality applications, and other pertinent factors.

Subject to the availability of future funds, between \$6 million and \$9 million may be made available on an annual basis for a 12-month supplement to an award made from this solicitation. NIJ cannot guarantee, however, that any such supplements will be funded. Such additional funding depends on, among other things, NIJ resources, strategic priorities, and your satisfactory completion of each phase, stage, or task.

Applicants should be aware that the total period of 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."

Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver: With respect to any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation, Federal funds may not 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 measures the results of their work. Additionally, applicants must discuss in their application their methods for collecting data for performance measures. Please refer to "What An Application Must Include" (below), for additional information on applicant responsibilities for collecting and reporting data. Performance measures for this solicitation are as follows:

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Data Grantee Provides
To facilitate the adoption of new forensic tools and technologies into practice by appropriate criminal justice agencies through testing, evaluation, and the provision of technology assistance.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality of the research/work performed as assessed by a peer review process involving relevant technical and practitioner experts and the NIJ program manager. 2. Quality of the management as measured by whether significant interim project milestones were achieved, final deadlines were met, and costs remained within approved limits. 3. If applicable, number of NIJ final grant reports, NIJ research documents, and grantee research documents published. 4. If applicable, number of evaluated technologies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Individual project reports responding to the requirements of a specific project detailing the Center's activities including: the number of research, testing and evaluation, and demonstration activities conducted; the number of technologies successfully adopted into service; the number of technology guides published; and the number of calls for assistance responded to. 2. Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, and a final technical progress report providing a comprehensive overview of the Center's activities during the period of performance. 3. If applicable, citation to reports(s)/documents. 4. If applicable, description of evaluated technologies.

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/. If you experience technical difficulties at any point during this process, please e-mail 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. 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.
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/.
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 Forensic Technology Center of Excellence."
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.

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 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

Applicants should structure their narrative around a core program that addresses the needs of the forensic science community using the mission and programs of NIJ for a 12-month project period commencing November 1, 2010. The program narrative should also address the applicant's ability to scale during the project period to provide services in the six areas identified under "Specific Information," above (e.g., identifying technology requirements, supporting NIJ's research and development program).

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.
 - Approach to achieving goals and objectives (program design and implementation).
 - 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.
- e. 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 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. 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.

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 Cost 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>.

Plan for Collecting the Data Required for Performance Measures. (See "Performance Measures," above.)

The Data Collection Plan is a description of the applicant's plan for collecting the data required for performance measures. Applicants must discuss this plan in their applications. The plan must describe how the performance measures data will be derived, state who will be responsible for collecting the data, and state that the data will be available for review 3 years post award, as required. The data collection plan should be rigorous to ensure that the performance measure data provided are accurate, auditable, and correctly measure the impact of the Federal funds provided.

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)—25%

1. Understanding of the unique challenges of criminal justice agencies and the role of forensic technology in meeting those challenges.
2. Relevance of the proposed work to accomplishing the objectives of this solicitation.
3. Soundness of the approach to accomplishing the proposed work.
4. Innovation and creativity (when appropriate).

Capabilities/Competencies (Capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of applicants)—25%

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. Ability to add or reduce capacity without incurring unacceptable costs.
5. 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/Plan for Collecting Data for Performance Measures
(Relevance to policy and practice)—10%

This section should include a description of the applicant's plan for the collection of the data required for performance measures.

Relevance of the project for policy and practice in the United States:

Higher quality applications clearly explain the practical implications of the projects. They connect technical expertise with criminal justice policy and practice. To ensure that the projects have 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 Strategy—10%

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. 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).
4. Perceived potential for commercialization and/or implementation of a new technology (when applicable).

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 fair and open process for awarding grants. NIJ reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable,

measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with basic minimum 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.

- Civil Rights Compliance
- Faith-Based and Other Community 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 or 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 grantee 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

Forensic Technology Center of Excellence

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

Eligibility

_____ Tribal authorizing resolution (if applicable)

Application Components:

_____ Program Narrative (see page 11 and "Selection Criteria," pages 13–14)

_____ 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 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)

_____ Plan for Collecting Data for Performance Measures

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 13), including

_____ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)

_____ Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire (if applicable)