



The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice is seeking applications for funding research to improve the understanding of the accuracy, reliability, and measurement validity of forensic science disciplines. Research studies should focus on expanding the scientific basis of forensic methods, development of quantifiable measures of the reliability and accuracy of forensic analyses, and development of an understanding of human factors that may affect forensic analyses. 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: Fundamental Research to Improve Understanding of the Accuracy, Reliability, and Measurement Validity of Forensic Science Disciplines

Eligibility

(See "Eligibility," page 5)

Deadline

Registration with the Office of Justice Programs' Grant Management System (GMS) is required prior to application submission.

(See "Registration," page 4)

All applications are due **June 22, 2009, 11:45 p.m. eastern time.**

Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact **Chris Tillery, Associate Deputy Director for Science and Technology**, at **202-305-9829** or george.tillery@usdoj.gov.

This application must be submitted through the Office of Justice Programs' Grants Management System (GMS). For technical assistance with submitting the application, call the Grants Management System Support Hotline at 1-888-549-9901, option 3.

Note: The GMS Support Hotline hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. eastern time.

SL# 000878

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Fundamental Research to Improve Understanding of the Accuracy, Reliability, and Measurement Validity of Forensic Science Disciplines

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 conduct research to improve the understanding of the accuracy, reliability, and measurement validity in the forensic science disciplines. In this solicitation, the term “validity” refers to the extent of the truth of an inference based upon scientific measurement. In other words, what is the extent to which relevant scientific evidence supports an inference as being true or correct?¹ This solicitation does not address subjective, qualitative, or legal analyses of validity.

In February of 2009, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) released its NIJ-funded report, *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*.² Among other recommendations, NAS outlined the need to improve the scientific foundations of the forensic disciplines, particularly those that are dependent on qualitative analyses and expert interpretation of observed patterns. In recent years, NIJ and other agencies have funded scientific studies in every major forensic discipline, including research to improve the scientific foundations of specific analytical techniques (see <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/awards/welcome.htm>). Some of these research projects have examined accuracy and reliability associated with qualitative disciplines, such as toolmark analysis (e.g., see “Statistical Validation of the Individuality of Guns Using 3D Images of Bullets,” NCJ 213674, Benjamin Bachrach, March 2006), document examination (e.g., see “On the Discriminability of the Handwriting of Twins,” NCJ 222357, Sargur Srihari Ph.D.; Chen Huang M.S.; Harish Srinivasan M.S., *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 53, 2, March 2008, 430–446), and latent print examination (e.g., see “Computation of Likelihood Ratios in Fingerprint Identification for Configurations of Three Minutiae,” NCJ 216796, Cedric Neumann M.Sc.; Christophe Champod Ph.D.; Roberto

¹ See Shadish, W. R., Cook, T. D., and Campbell, D. T., *Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Generalized Causal Inference*, New York: Houghton-Mifflin, 2002. See also Kerlinger, F. N. and Lee, H. B., *Foundations of Behavioral Research* (Fourth Edition), New York: Wadsworth, Thomson Learning, 2000.

² As with other NIJ-funded research, and as indicated in the NAS report, the opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the NAS report are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of NIJ or the Department of Justice.

Puch-Solis Ph.D.; Nicole Egli M.Sc.; Alexandre Anthonioz M.Sc.; Didier Meuwly Ph.D.; Andie Bromage-Griffiths Bs.C., *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51, 6, November 2006, 1255–1266). With respect to impression evidence, NIJ has funded a wide variety of research programs, including studies to examine the permanence of fingerprints, the quantitation of latent print matching, and faster, more accurate capture of ten-print data. In addition, NIJ has funded research to improve the use of forensic and other techniques in the criminal justice system. These studies include an empirical examination of the use of DNA evidence in solving high-volume crimes (see <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/forensics/dna/property-crime/welcome.htm>). Similar efforts include a study of the accuracy of voice-stress analysis for deception detection (see <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/journals/259/voice-stress-analysis.htm>). In addition, many researchers have performed relevant studies to address the scientific foundations of forensic disciplines.

With this solicitation, NIJ intends to extend this prior work to examine the methods used by forensic scientists so that a more complete understanding of the scientific basis of physical, chemical, biological, digital, or other forensic evidence can be achieved. Studies are also needed to develop quantifiable measures of the reliability and accuracy of forensic analyses. Such studies should examine various processes within forensic methods, from initial acceptance and examination of evidence for probative value and quality to final assessment of forensic results. NIJ encourages applicants to propose new approaches to these problems, including quantitation of methods that are currently qualitative in nature.

Researchers may also examine potential systemic errors in forensic practice. Similar to professionals in other fields, forensic scientists may be subject to human observer bias, whether it is related to contextual bias, perceptual errors, or other factors. NIJ encourages applicants to propose studies that examine potential human or systemic errors in forensic practice, including studies that propose to examine the interaction between forensic practitioners and other criminal justice practitioners.

To the greatest extent feasible, NIJ seeks a full understanding of quantifiable measures of uncertainty in the conclusions of forensic analyses, regardless of the sources of uncertainty. Studies should also establish limits of reliability and accuracy that forensic methods can achieve due to varying conditions of forensic evidence. With this solicitation, NIJ does not seek proposals that automate or otherwise improve the efficiency of forensic methods, except when improvements to the understanding or practice of forensic methods may result from the fundamental research programs that are the subject of this solicitation. Applicants are encouraged to review prior research work and improve the breadth and methodology of those studies, if necessary, to develop a full understanding of the reliability and accuracy of forensic techniques.

Deadline: Registration

Applicants must register with GMS prior to applying. The deadline to register is **11:45 p.m. eastern time on June 22, 2009.**

Deadline: Application

The due date for applying for funding under this announcement is **June 22, 2009, 11:45 p.m. eastern time.**

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 that perform law enforcement functions), 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.

Federal agencies are eligible to apply for funding under this solicitation. If an award is made to a Federal agency, it will be through an Interagency Agreement (IAA) with the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Faith-Based and Other Community Organizations: Consistent with Executive Order 13279, dated December 12, 2002, and 28 C.F.R. Part 38, faith-based and other community organizations that statutorily qualify as eligible applicants under DOJ programs are invited and encouraged to apply for assistance awards to fund eligible grant activities. Faith-based and other community organizations will be considered for awards on the same basis as other eligible applicants and, if they receive assistance awards, will be treated on an equal basis with all other grantees in the administration of such awards. No eligible applicant or grantee will be discriminated for or 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.

Faith-based organizations receiving DOJ assistance awards retain their independence and do not lose or have to modify their religious identity (e.g., remove religious symbols) to receive assistance awards. DOJ grant funds, however, may not be used to fund any inherently religious activity, such as prayer or worship. Inherently religious activity is permissible, although it cannot occur during an activity funded with DOJ grant funds; rather, such religious activity must be separate in time or place from the DOJ-funded program. Further, participation in such activity by individuals receiving services must be voluntary. Programs funded by DOJ are not permitted to discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of a beneficiary's religion.

If your organization is a faith-based organization that makes hiring decisions on the basis of religious belief, it may be entitled, under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb, to receive Federal funds and yet maintain that hiring practice, even if the law creating the funding program contains a general ban on religious discrimination in employment. For the circumstances under which this may occur, and the certifications that may be required, please see the section titled "Funding to Faith-Based Organizations" on the "Other Requirements for OJP Applications" Web page at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm.

Applicants are also encouraged to review the “Civil Rights Compliance” section of the “Other Requirements for OJP Applications” Web page, which also can be found at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm.

American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Tribes and/or Tribal Organizations: If a grant application is being submitted on behalf of a tribe or tribal organization, a current authorizing resolution of the governing body of the tribal entity or other enactment of the tribal council or comparable government body authorizing the inclusion of the tribe or tribal organization named in the application must be included with the application.

Specific Information—Research to Improve Understanding of the Accuracy, Reliability, and Measurement Validity of Forensic Science Disciplines

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 through research, development, testing, and evaluation. NIJ seeks qualified applicants to conduct research to improve the understanding of the accuracy, reliability, and measurement validity in the forensic science disciplines within the context of their criminal justice applications. Through this solicitation, NIJ seeks qualified applicants to conduct validation studies and research to improve the scientific foundation of individual disciplines across the following categories:

1. Firearms and toolmark identification.
2. Questioned documents.
3. Trace evidence, with emphasis on microscopic examination techniques.
4. Fire debris analysis and arson scene investigations.
5. Latent print and other pattern/impression evidence.
6. Blood pattern analysis.
7. Digital evidence.

The most competitive proposals under this solicitation will address the following:

- Strengths and limitations of each procedure.
- Sources of bias and variation.
- Quantification of uncertainties created by these sources.
- Measures of performance.
- Procedural steps in the process of analyzing forensic evidence.
- Methods to continuously monitor and improve the steps in the forensic evidence analysis process.

Applicants may propose any one of these specific issues for study, or ideally, a combination of these issues. Areas of interest include:

1. Studies that examine the degree of accuracy and reliability of methods used by forensic scientists so that a more complete understanding of the scientific basis of physical, chemical, biological, digital, or other forensic evidence can be

achieved. Validation studies provide statistical characterization of specific methods with respect to issues such as rates of false positives. Such studies can examine the system of a forensic discipline, such as the ACE-V method employed by latent print examiners. Such studies can also examine various processes within forensic methods, from initial acceptance and examination of evidence for probative value and quality to final assessment of forensic results. Applicants may refer to the NAS study to examine its view of methods of validation and gaps in understanding in particular cases. NIJ encourages studies to examine current practice to provide error rates, especially studies that are based on error rates in actual forensic practice and not on certification tests. This solicitation does not cover routine validation of accepted laboratory methods for use in a particular laboratory.

2. Research designed to further a full understanding of quantifiable measures of uncertainty in the conclusions of forensic analyses, regardless of the sources of uncertainty. Studies should also establish limits of reliability and accuracy that forensic methods can achieve due to varying conditions of forensic evidence. NIJ is particularly interested in proposals for fundamental research that will advance the forensic science disciplines in criminal justice by answering basic research questions of measurement validity, accuracy, reliability, and error. NIJ does not seek proposals with the primary goal of automating or otherwise improving forensic methods, although it is expected that these fundamental studies will improve the throughput of forensic methods and may examine the interaction of the forensic examiner with automated tools.
3. Research designed to develop new approaches to forensic analysis, including quantitation of analyses that are currently qualitative in nature. For example, in the development of quantitative studies related to friction ridge analysis and other impression evidence, applicants should review NIJ's previous solicitation, "Quantitative Research on Friction Ridge Patterns" (see <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sl000698.pdf>). NIJ encourages studies that leverage prior work in this area.
4. Research to examine human factors affecting forensic practice, including potential systemic errors. This area also includes studies that examine the interaction between forensic practitioners and other criminal justice practitioners. Errors may have many origins, such as simple measurement errors. In forensic practice, it may be more important to understand error rates associated with systemic issues, such as the likelihood that a particular piece of evidence will be correctly associated (or not associated) with a particular source instead of all other possible sources. Similar to professionals in other fields, forensic scientists may be subject to human observer bias, whether it is related to contextual bias, perceptual errors, or other factors. It is expected that a fuller understanding of human factors will lead to practices that improve the speed and accuracy of forensic analyses through improved practices, management, and professional development.
5. Other fundamental research to improve and expand the scientific basis for determining the measurement validity of forensic disciplines; i.e., does a method provide results that correspond with a particular scientific hypothesis? What are the underlying phenomena or signatures that may be used by forensic scientists?

These studies should examine the methods currently used by forensic scientists so that a more complete understanding of the scientific basis of physical, chemical, biological, digital, or other forensic evidence can be achieved.

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.

What will *not* be funded:

1. Proposals that automate or otherwise improve the efficiency of forensic methods, except when improvements to the understanding or practice of forensic methods may result from the fundamental research programs that are the subject of this solicitation.
2. Provision of training or direct service.
3. 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.)
4. Work that will be funded under another specific solicitation.

Cost of proposed work: 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. **All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.** NIJ anticipates making up to \$10 million available in fiscal year 2009 for grants under this solicitation, subject to funding availability. In recent years, approximately 8 percent of applications to NIJ's annual Science and Technology solicitations have been funded. NIJ funding for an individual research or development project rarely exceeds \$500,000 annually, though total funding for projects requiring multiple years to complete has exceeded \$1 million in some cases. If feasible, NIJ recommends that applicants divide the proposed work into discrete phases, with each phase resulting in the delivery of a measurable deliverable. Applicants should try to structure the phases so that the funding required in any fiscal year will not exceed \$500,000. Although NIJ cannot guarantee that subsequent phases, stages, or tasks will be funded, this approach will enable NIJ to fund the proposed work incrementally, depending on, among other things, the quality of the deliverable at the end of each phase, strategic priorities, and the availability of funds. However, applicants should not divide their work if it is not feasible to do so without impairing the technical and programmatic soundness of their approach. Note: Deliverables (e.g., technical reports, proof-of-concept demonstrations, prototypes, etc.) will be required at the end of each phase to enable NIJ to assess the progress of the work and assist NIJ in making reasoned determinations as to the suitability of funding the next phase of the work.

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: No portion of any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation may be used to pay any portion of the total cash compensation (salary plus bonuses) of any employee of the

award recipient whose total cash compensation exceeds 110 percent 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 salary table for SES employees is available at <http://www.opm.gov>.)

This prohibition may be waived at the discretion of the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs. An applicant that wishes to request a waiver should include a detailed justification in the budget narrative for the application. The justification should include: the particular qualification and expertise of the individual, the uniqueness of the service being provided, the individual’s specific knowledge of the program or project undertaken with the grant funds and a statement explaining that the individual’s salary is commensurate with the regular and customary rate for an individual with her/his 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
<p>Research that improves understanding of the accuracy, reliability, and measurement validity in the forensic science disciplines.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. Quality of the research as assessed by peer reviewers. 3. Quality of management as measured by whether significant interim project milestones were achieved, final deadlines were met, and costs remained within approved limits. 4. If applicable, number of NIJ final grant reports, NIJ research documents, and grantee research documents published. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, and a final progress report. 3. If applicable, each data set that was collected, acquired, or modified in conjunction with the project. 4. If applicable, citation to report(s)/document(s).

How to Apply

Grants Management System Instructions. Applications must be submitted through OJP's online Grants Management System (GMS). To access the system, go to <https://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov>. Applicants should begin the process a few weeks prior to the GMS registration deadline, especially if this is the first time they have used the system. Each application requires a separate GMS registration. For a step-by-step guide, visit <http://www.ojp.gov/gmscbt/> and refer to the section entitled "External Overview: Locating & Applying for Funding Opportunities." For additional assistance, call the GMS Help Desk at 1-888-549-9901 Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. eastern time.

Note: OJP will not review any application whose attachments are in Microsoft Vista or Microsoft 2007 format. Applications submitted via GMS must be in the following formats: Microsoft Word (*.doc), Word Perfect (*.wpd), PDF files (*.pdf), or Text Documents (*.txt), and may include Microsoft Excel (*.xls) files. GMS is not yet compatible with Vista and cannot yet process Microsoft Word 2007 documents saved in the new default format with the extension ".docx." Please ensure that Word documents you are submitting are saved using "Word 97-2003 Document (*.doc)" format. Additionally, 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."

CFDA Number: The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this solicitation is 16.560, titled "National Institute of Justice Research, Evaluation, and Development Project Grants."

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 Numbering 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 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, simple, one-time activity. Obtain one by calling 1-866-705-5711 or by applying online at <http://www.dnb.com/us>. Individuals are exempt from this requirement.

Central Contractor Registration (CCR) is required: In addition to the DUNS number requirement, 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 at least once per year to maintain an active status. Information about registration procedures can be accessed at www.ccr.gov.

What an Application Must Include

Applications should include the following:

Standard Form 424

Program Narrative

The Program Narrative includes:

- a. Abstract (not to exceed 600 words).
- b. Table of contents.
- c. Main body, which includes:
 - Purpose, goals, and objectives.
 - Review of relevant literature.
 - Research design and methods.
 - Implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.
 - Management plan and organization.
 - Dissemination strategy.
- d. Appendixes (not counted against program narrative page limit) include:
 - Bibliography/References (if applicable).
 - List of key personnel (required).
 - Résumés of key personnel (required).
 - List of previous and current NIJ awards (required).
 - Letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements from organizations collaborating in the project (if applicable).
 - Chart for timeline, research calendar, or milestones (required).
 - Other materials required by the solicitation.

Budget Detail Worksheet

The Budget Detail Worksheet should address the full scope, duration, and cost of the project. It should include a breakdown of costs associated with each budget category, including itemizations and calculations where necessary.

The budget must be broken down on a year-by-year basis over the length of the project. That is, if the proposed project is 3 years, then there should be separate budgets for year one, year two, and year three.

Templates for filling out the Budget Detail Worksheet may be found online at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms/budget_detail.pdf, OJP Standard Forms & Instructions. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Chief Financial Officer's Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-0786.

Budget Narrative

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 should also 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.

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>.

Other Program Attachments

These include several forms, available on OJP’s funding page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms.htm>.

Page limit: 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, appendixes, and government forms do not count toward the 25-page limit for the narrative section.

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.

Selection Criteria

Successful applicants must demonstrate the following:

Statement of the Problem (Understanding of the problem and its importance)—10%

Project/Program Design and Implementation (Quality and technical merit)—40%

1. Understanding of the issues of accuracy, reliability, and/or measurement validity in the forensic science disciplines within the context of their criminal justice applications as it relates to the proposed work.
2. Relevance of the proposed work for accomplishing the objectives of this solicitation.
3. Soundness of the approach for accomplishing the proposed work.
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—10%

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)—20%

1. Potential for significant advances in scientific or technical understanding of the area of research.
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).

Relevance of the project for policy and practice:

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.

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, as well as consistent with program or legislative requirements as stated in the solicitation.

Peer reviewers will be reviewing the applications submitted under this solicitation as well. NIJ may use either internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination of both 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 an expert in the field of the subject matter of a given solicitation who is a current U.S. Department of Justice employee. Applications will be screened initially to determine whether the applicant meets all eligibility requirements. Only applications submitted by eligible applicants that meet all other requirements (such as timeliness, proper format, and responsiveness to the scope of the solicitation) 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 may include, but are not limited to, underserved populations, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding.

After the peer review is finalized, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), in consultation with NIJ, conducts a financial review of all 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. OCFO also reviews the award document and verifies the OJP Vendor Number.

When awards will be made: All applicants, whether they are accepted or rejected, will be notified. The review and approval process takes about 6 months. You should not propose to begin work until at least 6 months after the application deadline on the cover of this solicitation. Also, you should not expect to receive notification of a decision for at least 6 months after that date. Lists of awards are updated regularly on NIJ's Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding/welcome.htm>.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final grant award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General (AAG), who may also give consideration to factors including, but not limited to, underserved populations, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding when making awards.

Additional Requirements

Successful applicants selected for an award must agree to comply with additional applicable requirements prior to receiving grant funding. We strongly encourage you to review the list below 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
- Funding to Faith-Based Organizations
- Confidentiality and Human Subjects Protection
- Anti-Lobbying Act
- Financial and Government Audit Requirements
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- DOJ Information Technology Standards
- Single Point of Contact Review

- Nonsupplanting of State and Local Funds
- Criminal Penalty for False Statements
- Compliance With Office of Justice Programs Financial Guide
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/>
- 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

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, among other things, 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 600 words and an executive summary of no more than 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.

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.