

Questions and Answers

OJJDP FY23 Building Continuums of Care to Support Youth Success Solicitation Webinar

Webinar Date: August 30, 2023

[Solicitation Link](#)

Eligibility Questions

Q: Can IHEs (Institutions of Higher Education) that are state universities partner with a state government agency and apply for Category 1?

A: Please refer to the Eligibility criteria on page 2; for this solicitation, only the following entities are listed as eligible for their respective category. Please also note that page 3 states the following: "OJJDP will consider applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients (subgrantees)". For additional information on subawards, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

The lead applicant must be an eligible applicant per the solicitation.

Category 1: State Agency Planning and Assessment Sites

- State governments

Category 2: Local Planning and Assessment Sites

- Special district governments
- City or township governments
- County governments

Category 3: Training and Technical Assistance

- Nonprofit organizations and for-profit organizations (including Tribal nonprofit and for-profit organizations)
- Institutions of higher education (including Tribal institutions of higher education)

Q: So, are you saying that nonprofits can't submit for Category 1 and 2?

A: Not as the lead applicant; Per page 2 of the solicitation, the following entities are listed as eligible for categories 1 and 2:

Category 1: State Agency Planning and Assessment Sites

- State governments

Category 2: Local Planning and Assessment Sites

- Special district governments

- City or township governments
- County governments

Please also note page 3 states the following: OJJDP will consider applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients (subgrantees). For additional information on subawards, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Q: Can local sistering cities and jurisdictions apply together as a coalition?

A: Please refer to the Eligibility criteria on page 2; for purposes of this solicitation, only the following entities are listed as eligible for their respective category. Please also note that page 3 states that OJJDP will consider applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients (subgrantees). For additional information on subawards, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

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Q: Are awards considered for organizations founded and managed by employees who have actually experienced the DJJ system itself?

A: Nothing in the solicitation would prevent an applicant with lived experience of the juvenile justice system from applying if their organization fits the eligibility criteria referenced for the specific category they are interested in applying to. All applications that meet eligibility and content requirements as described in the solicitation will undergo an external peer review process.

Q: Can local sites that are already implementing apply?

A: Applicants responding to this solicitation should focus on the planning and assessment process.

Q: Is there a requirement on how long the CBOs have been in existence to apply for this grant?

A: The solicitation does not stipulate a length of time Community Based Organizations (CBOs) must have existed. However, applicants should refer to page 24 of the solicitation, under the Capabilities and Competencies section of the Proposal Narrative, which states: "Applicants should describe the experience and capability they and any contractors, or subgrantees that the applicant will use to implement and manage this effort and its associated federal funding, highlighting any previous experience implementing projects of similar design or magnitude."

Use of Funds Questions

Q: Will the grant pay for actual services to youth?

A: This solicitation supports a planning and assessment process that will identify gaps and assist in achieving cost savings through reforms. These savings can ultimately be reinvested in the development and implementation of promising practices and evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies as part of a community-based continuum of care for youth at risk of or already involved in the juvenile justice system. However, this solicitation is specifically focused on planning and assessment, with the goal of informing future implementation efforts within a community/jurisdiction.

Q: For local sites that are already planning and assessing for continuums of care to prevent youth detention, can these funds also be used for implementation?

A: Applicants responding to this solicitation should focus on the planning and assessment process.

Q: Is the grant able to fund the 100% full-time coordinator position?

A: Yes, funding may be used for this purpose, per page 12 under the Deliverables section of the solicitation. Please refer to the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, Allowable Costs section (3.9), [Compensation for Personal Services](#) for how to address personnel costs within your budget. Also, please review the [Supplanting section](#) of the DOJ Grants Financial Guide.

Q: Can this funding be used for programming costs?

A: This solicitation supports planning and assessment. We recommend a review of the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, [Allowable Costs section](#) and the [Unallowable Costs section](#). This should assist you in

assessing the appropriateness of such costs within your programmatic budget.

Q: Can the grant be used to fund personnel/administration involved in the planning?

A: Please refer to the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, Allowable Costs section (3.9), [Compensation for Personal Services](#) for how to address personnel costs within your budget. Additionally, please be sure to review the [Supplanting section](#) of the DOJ Grants Financial Guide as well.

Q: Could a contractor fulfill the full-time continuum coordinator requirement?

A: Please refer to the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, [Information on Proposed Procurement Contracts section](#), which states:

"Applicants typically may propose to make subawards as well as to enter into procurement contracts under the award.

OJP has developed the following guidance documents to help clarify the differences between subawards and procurement contracts under an OJP award and outline the compliance and reporting requirements for each.

Subawards under OJP Awards and Procurement Contracts under Awards: A Toolkit for OJP Recipients.

Checklist to Determine Subrecipient or Contractor Classification.

Sole Source Justification Fact Sheet and Sole Source Review Checklist."

Q: Can the continuum coordinator position be shared between two people that sum to 1 FTE?

A: This is up to the applicant agency. We recommend a review of the solicitation, with special attention to the "Category Specific" section, as well as the "Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables" section. This should assist you in assessing whether your concept for the proposal is appropriate for submission to this solicitation. The applicant agency must determine the appropriateness of the scope of their proposal. To maintain fair and open competition, OJJDP staff does not provide guidance on research scope, or design. All submitted applications that meet eligibility and content requirements as described in the solicitation will undergo an external peer review process.

Q: Will there be future implementation funds available for local jurisdictions?

A: Please refer to page 3 of the solicitation, which states: "OJJDP may elect to fund applications submitted under this FY 2023 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and the availability of appropriations."

Q: Is there a follow-up funding source to be able to help implement the plans (where there are gaps)?

A: The purpose of this solicitation is to support those interested in the planning and assessment process. There are many resources contained in the solicitation that may be helpful for sites interested in implementation (see pages 14-17).

Clarification Questions

Q: To be clear, awardees of Cat. 1 and 2 will only spend the grant period planning their continuum of care (not actually implementing it), right?

A: Planning and assessing, but not implementing.

Q: Is a youth in juvenile detention center considered "incarcerated?" If you could please clarify that for me?

A: Youth incarceration could include youth housed in juvenile detention facilities and juvenile correctional facilities. Central to this solicitation, as stated on page 11 of the solicitation, is to create alternative pathways to deeper system involvement and incarceration for justice-involved youth, as well as investing in supportive and effective youth-serving systems, no matter where a youth sits on the continuum.

Q: The grant mentions and the presenter has stated the grant is for "high rates of youth incarceration." What signifies a high rate? Will areas with higher rates be more likely to be awarded than areas with lower rates?

A: One of the primary goals of the solicitation is to work to reduce/eliminate an overreliance on incarceration. The applicant must clearly identify the proposed jurisdictions' utilization of incarceration to include data on juvenile arrests, diversion, juvenile detention, and juvenile secure correctional facilities, as outlined on page 13 of the solicitation.

Q: "Describe population, include the specific communities to be targeted with funded interventions" - This is a planning grant. Is the planning the intervention? Or is this speaking to actual interventions (services, programs) that may be implemented after the planning process?

A: The focus is on planning, which will ultimately inform intervention priorities and strategies.

Q: "Sustainability beyond the grant period" - is this to sustain implementation of services/programs based on the information discovered in the planning?

A: Correct.

Q: If we applied for the previous solicitation of OJJDP FY 2023 Community-Based Alternatives to Youth Incarceration Initiative and have not heard about funding decisions, should we note that as a pending funding decision?

A: Yes, all applicants are required to provide the Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items attachment per page 29 of the solicitation. For more information please review the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

Q: Regarding the youth and family input component - can the recipient leverage existing advisory groups to meet the goal, or is a completely new group required for creation?

A: Existing partnerships can be utilized, provided that they meet the requirements outlined in the solicitation and have the capacity to fully support this effort in addition to their existing duties/roles.

Q: Should Category 3 applicants provide the same data about the problem, since they won't be providing those same services, or should the data they provide look different for TA purposes?

A: The data would look different for Category 3 applicants.

Miscellaneous Questions

Q: What are some examples of state-level support?

A: This will be determined by the partners and strategies developed as part of your response to the solicitation.

Q: If we need to demonstrate the size of the problem, will rural states be at a disadvantage?

A: Data will reflect proportionally utilization of diversion and alternatives to detention vs. juvenile detention and juvenile secure correctional facilities, so there isn't a disadvantage in a rural community applying, as it is about overutilization.

Q: Can you use an evaluation company rather than a local college for data collection and assessment?

A: While Category 1 and 2 applicants are encouraged to include local training and technical assistance as part of their project design to include utilization of a local university to gather and analyze pertinent data, this is not a requirement. Proposed subawards and/or procurement contracts should be clearly outlined in the budget narrative and budget detail worksheet.

Q: Would school-based programming in Category 3 be considered?

A: Please refer to the Category 3 Specific Information which begins on page 9 of the solicitation. "This category will support a training and technical assistance provider to help states and local communities build the capacity of their service networks for youth through asset mapping, gap analysis, and service delivery planning, including strategic financing information, education, and sustainability planning across the continuum of care for youth. This will include assistance in identifying strategies to identify and achieve any potential cost savings and reinvest those savings into effective delinquency prevention and intervention programming. Training and technical assistance will be delivered nationally with intensive priority support to program sites funded in Categories 1 and 2. The training and technical assistance provider will also develop tools, resources, and best-practice information and guidelines on developing and sustaining a community-based continuum of care to support the larger youth-serving field."

Q: Has this solicitation been offered in prior FYs, if yes, where can I find previous projects/organizations funded?

A: This is the first year this funding opportunity has been offered by OJJDP.

Q: Do we submit to both grants.gov AND JustGrants?

A: Beginning in FY 2021, Office of Justice Programs (OJP) funding applicants will have two deadlines to meet when submitting their applications.

The first deadline will be to submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov. The second deadline covers the submission of the full application, including attachments, in the new Justice Grants System (JustGrants).

Both deadlines can be found on the OJP and respective program office websites, as well as the first page of the solicitation. The dates are further explained in the "Submission Information" section of the solicitation.

Funding applicants are encouraged to review the "How to Apply" section in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide (<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide#apply>) for an overview of the steps necessary to submit an application.

Q: Will proposals be reviewed/scored by OJJDP staff or external reviewers?

A: All submitted applications that meet eligibility and content requirements as described in the solicitation will undergo an **external peer review process**.

Q: Is the scoring weight the same for Category 3?

A: Please refer to page 32-33 of the solicitation under the Merit Review Criteria section, Other Review Criteria/Factors, and the Review Process sections.

Q: Will each question in the webinar chat be answered?

A: We attempted to capture all questions and have included a response in this document. If a question remains unanswered, please submit your question via email to grants@ncjrs.gov with "Continuum of Care Solicitation Question" in the subject line.

Q: Will you be sending out the slides after the presentation is over?

A: Yes. You can contact OJJDP's NTTAC at ojjdptta@usdoj.gov to request a copy of the slides or transcript. There is also a recording available at <https://ojjp.ojp.gov/media/video/37181>.