

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

STRATEGIES FOR POLICING INNOVATION

2020 Competitive Grant Program

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BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Overview of Today's Webinar

- What is SPI?
- What has SPI achieved?
- What types of agencies may apply?
- What can funds support?
- What are the 2020 SPI Solicitation Purpose Areas?
- What should competitive applicants demonstrate?
- What are OJP's priority areas?
- What are the steps in the application process?
- Where can I go for guidance and assistance?
- Q&A

Since 2009, the Strategies for Policing Innovation Program (SPI) has provided grant funding and assistance to law enforcement organizations to support their efforts to identify and test innovative, evidence-based solutions to policing challenges and chronic crime problems in their jurisdictions.

SPI's goals are to enable law enforcement agencies to test, establish, or expand innovative ideas and evidence-based programming in police agencies; establish sustainable practitioner-researcher partnerships; foster effective collaborations to increase public safety; and use technology, intelligence, and data in innovative ways.

SPI has helped 65 law enforcement agencies change the way they do business.



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What is the SPI Site Based Program?

- Law enforcement agencies competitively receive funding support innovative initiatives meant to improve their crime fighting capacity
- Target a pressing operational, technology implementation, or crime reduction issue for innovative, intensive intervention or implementation
- Often partner with expert evaluators to document their progress and results
- Issues addressed include:
 - Violent crime reduction
 - Technology implementation
 - Crime analysis
 - Prolific offenders and hot spots
 - Innovative responses to individuals in mental health or drug related crisis
- Receive intensive training and technical assistance (TTA)
- See www.strategiesforpolicinginnovation.com for valuable information on SPI's ongoing work

SPI Results

Boston, MA: The Boston Police Department engaged in a problem-oriented policing process to improve its homicide investigation processes and practices that resulted in a significant increase in its homicide clearance rate.

Chicago, IL: The Chicago Police Department (CPD) implemented Strategic Decision and Support Centers (SDSCs), a real-time crime center approach, in select districts across the city to focus on hot spot crime corridors and chronic violent offenders. In 2017, SDSC districts saw a 33 percent reduction in shooting incidents, compared to a 14 percent reduction in shooting incidents in non-SDSC districts. Given the success, CPD is expanding the SDSC approach to all CPD districts.

Rochester, NY: The Rochester Police Department (RPD) developed and validated a risk assessment tool as an effective predictive device in retaliatory gun violent disputes. Trends in aggravated assaults and murders in Rochester have continued to decline in the year and a half since the RPD implemented its SPI intervention.

Commerce City, CO: The Commerce City Police Department implemented a Sexual Assault Task Force that enabled the police department to absorb a 46% increase in sexual assault investigations. With 225 cases investigated and 471 primary and secondary victims served, victim and citizen satisfaction with the investigatory process has improved. The project received Agencies Sean May Leadership Award for its groundbreaking work on sexual assault investigations and victim support in 2019.

Who Can Apply?

- ✓ State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies
 - ✓ Governmental non-law enforcement agencies acting as their fiscal agent
 - ✓ Federally recognized Indian tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions
 - ✓ Tribal consortia consisting of two or more federally recognized Indian tribes (including
 - ✓ tribal consortia operated as nonprofit organizations) acting as a fiscal agent for one or
 - ✓ more tribal law enforcement agencies
-
- ❖ Two or more entities may carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant
 - ❖ All recipients and subrecipients (including any for-profit organization) must forgo any profit or management fee

What Can Funds Support?

To address a specific crime problem or organizational challenge identified by the applicant, funds can be used to support:

- ✓ New personnel
- ✓ Overtime
- ✓ Software and/or hardware technology purchases
- ✓ Data analysis support
- ❖ Grant award amounts will be capped at \$700,000 for both purpose areas

The SPI FY 2020 Competitive Solicitation Purpose Areas

- **Two Separate Purpose Areas**
 - **Purpose Area 1** supports projects that implement and test innovative approaches to operational challenges and violent crime reduction in police departments.
 - **Purpose Area 2** supports projects that implement technology-driven justice information-sharing solutions that enable police departments to promote public safety by responding to a precipitous increase in crime.
- ❖ Can you apply to both? Yes, but each application must focus on a different project

The SPI FY 2020 Competitive Solicitation: Purpose Area 1

Focused on developing and implementing innovative evidence-based policing practices

Applicants are expected to:

- Describe the innovative, data-driven approach to be implemented
- Identify a specific crime problem to address
- Develop a prevention, mitigation, or response strategy to address the problem
- Assess and report the results to BJA, which will make the results publicly available

Examples available at www.strategiesforpolicinginnovation.com/spi-sites: Los Angeles (2018); Tempe, AZ (2017); Detroit, MI (2016); Chicago, IL (2015); Portland, OR (2014); Brooklyn Park, MN (2013)

The SPI FY 2020 Competitive Solicitation:

Purpose Area 2

Focused on helping police agencies respond to precipitous increases in crime through implementation of technology or information sharing initiatives.

Applicants are expected to:

- Identify a crime that has dramatically increased within the jurisdiction, as well as supporting data and the timeframe for the increase
- Describe the law enforcement and/or justice information-sharing solution or technology to be implemented that will address the identified crime increase and drive its reduction
- Describe how they will determine the effectiveness of the technology/information-sharing solution
- Describe how they will develop a comprehensive implementation strategy to reduce and prevent the identified crime(s)
- Describe how they will assess and report the results to BJA, which will make the results publicly available

Examples available at www.strategiesforpolicinginnovation.com/spi-sites: Houston, TX (2019); Metropolitan Police Department, DC (2019); City of Roanoke (2019); City of Salisbury, NC; Anniston (AL) Police Department (2019)

Competitive applicants will have.....

- Strong executive support for the project within the law enforcement agency
 - A practical plan for problem and data analysis
 - The willingness to examine standard operating procedures and business practices of the agency to identify opportunities for improvement that optimize the agency's capacity to respond to crime
 - A commitment to making the changes necessary to sustain the strategies found to be successful, as measured by the project's outcome assessment.
- ❖ Be sure to check the Review Criteria for the Purpose Areas on pp. 13-15 of the Solicitation

Specific Application Information for BJA Submissions:

- Proposed project periods may be up to 36 months
- Applications for funding amounts: up to \$700,000
- Submissions will use evidence-based strategies and programs
- A match is not required
- Awards will be made in the form of a grant
- Project start date should be October 1, 2020 or later
- ❖ **Applications Due on May 12, 2020 at 11:59 pm (Eastern)**

New This Year: OJP Priority Areas

In FY 2020, priority consideration will be given to applications that:

- Are submitted by federally recognized tribes
- Are proposing to reduce criminal gang activity in rural communities
- Are proposing a nexus with, and support of, Project Guardian
 - Applicants must submit a letter of interest from the relevant US Attorney to claim this priority
- Indicate agreement to comply with one or more law enforcement-related award conditions stated on page 7 of the solicitation
 - Please see certifications included in appendices B, C, and D to claim this priority
 - Priority points will be awarded for each accepted condition

BJA Application Process

- Applications must be submitted to Grants.gov by **May 12, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. ET**
- Applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the Basic Minimum Requirements (BMR) as stated in the solicitations
- All applications meeting BMR are moved forward for peer review
- Applications are peer reviewed by a panel of three (3) reviewers
- Peer review scores are presented to BJA staff overseeing process
- BJA staff provide the results to the BJA Acting Director with recommendations for funding
- BJA Director makes final decision and submits recommended applications to the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) AAG
- Upon approval awards to be issued to successful candidates no later than 9/30/2020

Application Assistance and Support



National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Response Center

<https://www.ncjrs.gov>

- Provides solicitation support and general assistance
- Links to all current OJP funding opportunities
- Funding Notices - subscribe to receive email notifications of new opportunities
 - Sign-up to receive the bi-weekly JUSTINFO newsletter as well as the weekly Funding News From NCJRS email.
 - Be sure to select “Grants/funding” as an area of interest in your NCJRS registration profile when you subscribe.
- **email** - grants@ncjrs.gov
- **web chat** - <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>
- **toll free** at 800-851-3420;
- **TTY** at 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only)

The NCJRS Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Application Assistance

Grants.gov

- Provides technical assistance with submitting an application
 - **Customer Support Hotline** – 800-518-4726 or 606—545-5035
 - The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.
 - **Email**
 - <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>
 - support@grants.gov
- Provides information on available federal funding opportunities for various federal agencies

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Social Media

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DOJBJA>
- RSS: <https://www.bja.gov/Connect.aspx>

For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit

BJA's website – <https://www.bja.gov>

Recommended Resources

BJA Grant Applicant Education Series

A series of four previously recorded webinars designed to assist potential applicants interested in applying for BJA funding opportunities.

- Funding Opportunities for Your Community in 2019: An Overview of What's Ahead
- The First Steps to Applying, Prepare Now
- The Federal Funding Process: What New and Seasoned Applicants Should Consider
- Submitting Your Application: Avoid These Common Mistakes
- <https://www.bja.gov/funding/webinars.html>



Recommended Resources

SPI Solicitation

- <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-17028>

SPI Website

- www.strategiesforpolicinginnovation.com

OJP Funding Resource Center

- <https://ojp.gov/funding/index.htm>

DOJ Grants Financial Guide

- <https://ojp.gov/financilaiguide/DOJ/index.htm>

DOJ Grants Financial Management Online Training

- <https://ojpfgm.webfirst.com/>

2019 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide

- <https://ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/Grant-App-Resource-Guide.htm>

NIJ's CrimeSolutions.gov

- <https://www.CrimeSolutions.gov>

Thank you

Bureau of Justice Assistance

<https://www.bja.gov>

BJA Contact Information

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Questions?