

Writing a Successful Grant Application for the 2023 SJS Program

Presented by
Justice Research and Statistics Association

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Introductions

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JRSA staff

- Susan Howley, Program Manager
- Mark Myrent, Research Associate
- Brad Brick, Research Associate

BJS staff

- Stephanie Burroughs, Justice Statistics Policy Analyst
- Ron Planty, Justice Statistics Policy Analyst

SJS Program Goals & Objectives

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- Build the core capacities of state SACs and improve the sharing of state-level information nationally
 - Enhance SAC capacity to collect, analyze, and publish statistical data that support the states' strategic criminal justice planning needs and BJS and the national priorities
 - Collaboration strongly recommended

Core Capacity-Building Projects

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- ❑ Enhancing or building access to new sources of data
- ❑ Improving capability to collect, analyze, and interpret data on criminal justice issues
- ❑ SJS funds **cannot** be used to support:
 - Maintenance of existing efforts
 - Updates of annual or re-occurring reports unless new methods/data sources are used



Core-Capacity Building Projects

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Up to \$75,000/year (12-36 months)

- Final deliverables must be submitted to BJS as part of the final performance report that includes performance measures and any other reports, evaluations, or website enhancements
- Must describe current capabilities, how project will enhance them, and how enhancements will be sustained.
- May include travel funds for up to 2 people to attend up to 2 BJS-approved SJS–focused conferences/meetings.

NIBRS-related

Criminal Justice Process-related

Increasing Data Access

Other priority

Core Capacity: NIBRS/IBR

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A. Conduct research and analysis of **NIBRS-compatible incident-based data** that will reflect the utility of these data for studying criminal justice issues



Projects proposed under this area should include:

- An assessment and review of data quality
- Publication quality final report to be disseminated nationally that includes a thorough discussion of data quality

Results of the analysis may help the state's crime reporting program focus training/outreach activities to improve data quality.

Core Capacity: NIBRS/IBR

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TOPICAL AREAS OF INTEREST TO BJS

- Hate crimes
- Crimes committed on tribal lands
- Human trafficking
- Drug-related arrests, especially those involving methamphetamine, opioid, cocaine, or marijuana possession, trafficking, and/or distribution
- Citizenship or legal status of arrestees
- Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on crime patterns

Core Capacity: NIBRS/IBR

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One NCS-X goal is to assess the quality and completeness of incident-based crime data reported by local law enforcement agencies.

To support this goal, BJS is particularly interested in analyses that—

examine how LEAs have recorded the **relationship(s)** between victim(s) and offender(s) for violent offenses

analyze and evaluate state IBR and/or NIBRS data on **property crimes**

examine the **reporting** of simple and aggravated assaults to the state IBR program and/or NIBRS

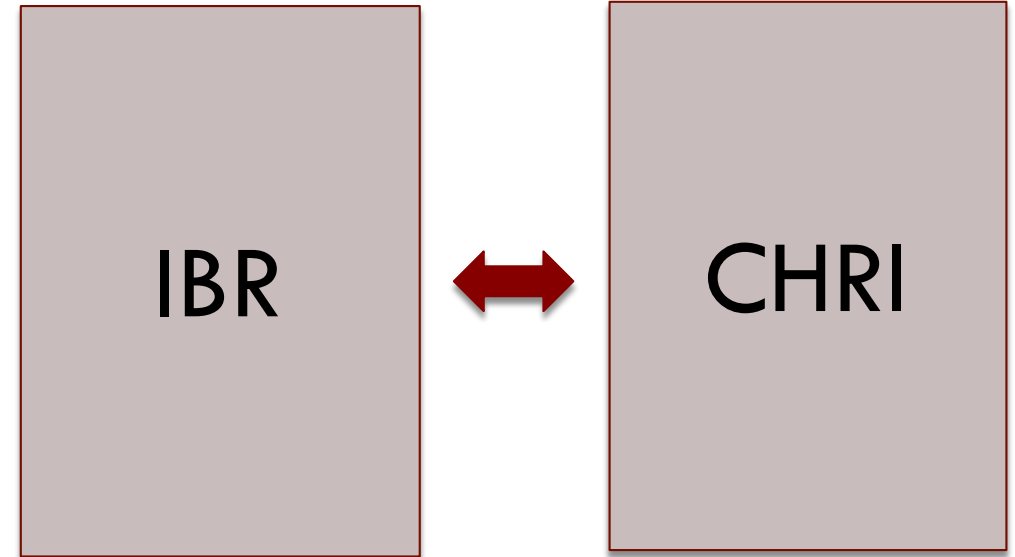
compare IBR **practices across reporting units** in the state over time

Core Capacity: NIBRS/IBR

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Proposals can also include projects examining utility of linking incident-based crime reports to criminal history records

- Must partner with the state's criminal history record repository
- Must include an assessment and review of the quality of the criminal history record information



Other Core Capacity Building Projects

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B. Collecting and analyzing data on criminal justice system processes

C. Increasing access to statistical data

- Electronic infrastructure development, enhancements, and linkages
- Building or enhancing a website
- Preparing reports for on-line dissemination

D. Other capacity-building projects

- Research examining another topic, provided the project builds the SAC's capacity
- Application must include documentation that the subject is a top priority for the state's governor or senior criminal justice policy officials

Special-Emphasis Projects

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SACs may also apply for funding for special-emphasis projects that support BJS interests or national priorities in the following areas:

- A. Use of administrative or operational criminal justice data.
- B. Analysis of state criminal history records

- Up to \$150,000/year (12-36 months)



Special Emphasis Projects

- A. Use of administrative or operational criminal justice data
 - Implement new or enhance existing interfaces or data exchange technologies that improve access to data and systems maintained by other state or local entities
 - SJS funds may be used to establish data exchange capacity and/or use that capacity for targeted research
 - Proposed projects must include:
 - A systematic data quality assessment as a project deliverable
 - Letter of cooperation or support from the operational agency or agencies involved

Special-Emphasis Projects

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- B. Analyses using state criminal history records to examine:
 - Patterns of criminal behavior (sex offending, stalking, DV)
 - Arrests, prosecutions, and convictions for firearms related offenses
 - Recidivism; linkage of CHRI to other data sources to explore factors that affect offending/recidivism patterns

- Collaboration between states or a multi-SAC approach is encouraged

Analyses Using State Criminal History Records

- BJS is particularly interested in analyses that will—
 - Assess the accuracy and completeness of CHRI to identify record-improvement strategies
 - Explore the feasibility of using the state's CHRI as a source of statewide arrest or booking statistics
 - Explore the quality of court and sentencing data to examine felony case filings
 - Examine recidivism patterns of convicted offenders using longer observation periods than the traditional 3- or 5-year studies

Special Emphasis Projects

- Application must include an impact statement specifying how the project will support BJS and national priorities
- Areas that may be addressed include how project will:
 - Support the sharing of state-level information nationally
 - Enhance state capability to collect/analyze/interpret data on issues relevant to the states and the nation
 - Support or enhance specific BJS data collections
 - Influence state criminal justice policy and practice
 - Include descriptions of who is interested and how project results will be shared with other entities, SACs, and public

Special Emphasis Projects

- BJS encourages collaboration among the SACs (i.e., multi-SAC projects), particularly in projects that may leverage one SAC's expertise in another SAC's proposed project to help build capacity.
- At the end of the special-emphasis project period, final deliverables must be submitted to BJS as part of the final progress report that includes performance measures and any final reports, evaluations, and website enhancements.

Performance Measures

- Performance measures shown in the SJS Solicitation (pp. 27-28) are examples for guidance purposes and may not fit each project proposal.
- Each SJS proposal should describe the performance measures that can be ascertained at the time of submission, and specify:
 - ▣ How the measurement data will be collected, and by whom
 - ▣ How the data will be reported
- Performance measures can be enumerated in a template format similar to the example in the solicitation, or simply described in a narrative.

SJS Solicitation Recap

- Maximum number of awards BJS expects to make: 40 (up to 15 under Special Emphasis).
- Maximum dollar amount for each award:
 - Core Capacity: up to \$75,000 annually (timeframe of 12 to 36 months based on the nature of the proposed project(s) and the quality of the supporting strategic plan)
 - Special Emphasis: up to \$150,000 annually (timeframe of 12 to 36 months based on the nature of the proposed project(s) and quality of the supporting justification, although funding may not be available for the full duration of the project in FY 2023)
- Projects shall assume a start date between October 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024.

Two-Step Application Process: Deadlines

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- Grants.gov Application Deadline:
8:59 pm Eastern time, April 24, 2023
- JustGrants Application Deadline:
8:59 p.m. Eastern time, May 1, 2023

NOTE: The federal government has transitioned from the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) to Unique Entity Identifiers (UEI). You will need your UEI for Grants.gov.

Preparing to Apply

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JustGrants training opportunities:

- A set of short videos on the application process
- Application Mechanics: Submitting an Application Training, offered every Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. ET

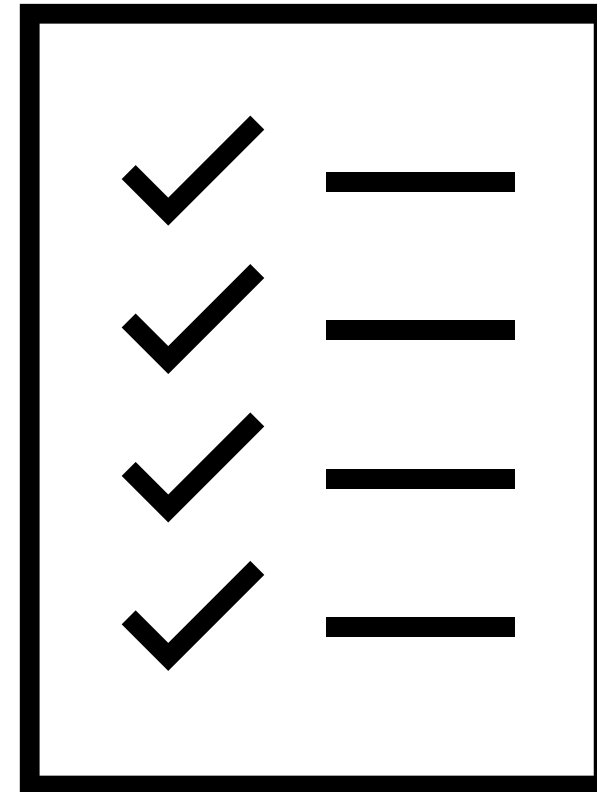
<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training>

OJP also encourages applicants to review the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide>.

NEW(ish) – JRSA Review of Proposal Narratives

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- JRSA staff and a group of former SAC directors can review your proposals in advance.
 - ▣ Assess adherence to the basic intent of SJS projects, and
 - ▣ Confirm inclusion of required sections of SJS grant proposal
- Narratives must be received by JRSA **no later than April 7th**. They will be reviewed and returned with comments within one week.
- JRSA will not be part of the funding determination. Will share with BJS a list of SACs who participated in this pre-submission review.



SJS Grants and JRSA

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- In addition to proposal narrative review, JRSA can help by:
 - Facilitating collaboration among SACs, setting up meetings and discussions;
 - Identifying examples of SJS work in the library database

NOTE: proposals can include travel for up to two people to attend to up to two BJS-approved events.

QUESTIONS: Contact Susan Howley, showley@jrsa.org.

SJS NIBRS Priority Areas and Past Funded Projects

- 2023 SJS NIBRS Priority Areas
 - Changes in how LEAs recorded the victim-offender relationships in violent offenses
 - Analyze and evaluate state IBR/NIBRS data on commercial and personal property crimes
 - Examine the reporting of simple and aggravated assaults in the state IBR or NIBRS
 - Compare IBR practice across reporting units in the state over time
- NIBRS SJS projects funded in 2022
 - Analyzing pre/post COVID pandemic responses to crime and the effect on crime rates
 - Improving NIBRS coverage, data quality, and usability
 - Comparing or combining with other measures of crime to assess the utility of NIBRS to measure crime in unique ways

BJS SJS Program Managers by State

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Arkansas	District of Columbia	California
Colorado	Florida	Connecticut
Delaware	Georgia	Iowa
American Samoa	Idaho	Maine
Hawaii	Illinois	Minnesota
Indiana	Kansas	Missouri
Kentucky	Maryland	New Hampshire
Louisiana	Massachusetts	New York
Michigan	Montana	North Carolina
Mississippi	Nebraska	North Dakota
New Jersey	Nevada	Northern Mariana Islands
New Mexico	Ohio	Oregon
Oklahoma	Rhode Island	Pennsylvania
Puerto Rico	South Carolina	South Dakota
Tennessee	Vermont	Virgin Islands
Texas	Guam	Virginia
Utah	West Virginia	Wisconsin
	Washington	Wyoming

Questions?