



# Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative for Law Enforcement Grant Solicitation

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Program/Application Website: [www.RuralVCRI.org](http://www.RuralVCRI.org)

Release Date: January 2023

Submission Deadline: March 31, 2023

## OVERVIEW

The National Policing Institute (the Institute) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice, are seeking applications for a federal grant program that supports the development and implementation of problem-solving strategies that specifically address violent crime occurring in and affecting rural populations.

Individual grant awards are expected to be between \$25,000 and \$150,000. The grant term will cover a maximum 24-month period. Funding amounts should be commensurate with the scope of the underlying problem to be addressed and the proposed solutions. All proposed expenses should have a reasonable nexus to one or more specific rural violent crime problems.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The following agencies are invited to apply for this grant program:

- Publicly funded rural law enforcement agencies;
- Local or county law enforcement agencies serving rural populations;
- Federally recognized tribal law enforcement agencies; and
- Rural county prosecutor's offices.

To qualify as rural for this solicitation, an applicant must provide services in a rural area, but the jurisdiction's service area need not be exclusively rural. While the agency does not solely need to serve a rural area, the violent crime problem addressed must have a **rural focus** that allows for trackable impact. This definition holds for sheriff's and prosecutors' offices. For any municipality (e.g., town, village, or borough), the area must be considered rural, and the population must not exceed 15,000. The population should be based on the latest U.S. Census enumeration (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045221>).



The Institute and BJA will use the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) designation of rurality to help determine rurality scoring/qualification. To see if your agency is designated as rural, you can find the HRSA Tool at: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health>. If you believe that your agency or the problem your agency is trying to address qualifies as rural, but the HRSA tool does not indicate that you are rural, please contact us at [RuralVCRI@policinginstitute.org](mailto:RuralVCRI@policinginstitute.org).

The Institute and BJA may elect to fund applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on, among other considerations, the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations. If funded, grant recipients will be required to work with the Institute TTA team and comply with all reporting and grant deliverables and requirements.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions on the Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative (RVCRI) program or the grant application process, please contact us at [RuralVCRI@policinginstitute.org](mailto:RuralVCRI@policinginstitute.org).

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants are invited to apply for this grant program through an online application, which can be accessed through the following link: [www.RuralVCRI.org](http://www.RuralVCRI.org).

***We anticipate that there will be a high volume of applications, and applicants are strongly encouraged to apply and submit before the targeted deadline. Once the application window has closed, all applications will be reviewed by the Institute and BJA.***

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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### OVERVIEW

The Institute and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), are committed to supporting rural agencies in meeting the public safety needs of their communities – especially in this time of rising violent crime. The Institute and BJA support leveraging best practices informed or supported by research that result in safe, healthy, economically thriving, and mutually trusting communities.

The purpose of this grant program is to support the development and implementation of problem-solving strategies that specifically address violent crime occurring in and affecting rural populations. The Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative (RVCRI) is committed to community collaboration, criminal justice partner cooperation, victim-centered approaches, evidence-based strategies, and measuring crime reduction outcomes. The RVCRI is supported by the Institute on behalf of BJA to assist rural grantees in receiving, managing, and implementing grants provided by the Institute to introduce rural agencies to managing federal funds in a simplified manner.

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Agencies are encouraged to see this funding opportunity as a means to support a cross-sector team engaged in problem-solving methodologies (e.g., the SARA model<sup>1</sup> – Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment) to address local crime challenges. The ability of applicants to articulate the nature of the crime problem to be addressed will be critical to a successful application. Funding proposals and requests may include, but are not limited to:

- Improve training and deploy technology;
- Improve communication and collaboration between state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve; and
- Expand community-based crime prevention programs and partnerships with victim services providers.

### SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Funds may be used for various purposes to support the implementation of a site's violence reduction plans. Examples of allowable costs for equipment, personnel, and services include, but are not limited, to:

- Programs that support victims' services and community engagement
- Salary or overtime expenditures for personnel integral to violent crime reduction operations
- Crime analysis software or personnel
- Consultation services related to program design, implementation, and assessment

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<sup>1</sup> More information on the SARA model and Problem Oriented Policing (POP) can be found here: <https://popcenter.asu.edu/>

- Development or acquisition of offender-based risk assessment tools to better target investigation, intervention, or enforcement
- Development or acquisition of software, assessment tools, or services to better serve, protect, and communicate with victims and populations vulnerable to victimization
- Strategies to more effectively serve and address populations in remote areas, including ways to enhance orders of protection and improve access to services and shelter for remote populations
- Strategies and services to mitigate the risk for violent behavior in individuals dealing with mental health and/or substance use disorders, including crisis intervention programs and services
- Forensic evidence tools and services for identifying suspects or enhancing evidence, testimony, and outreach to victims
- Strategies, personnel, services, and tools to improve intragovernmental collaboration in effectively addressing rural violence problems

Unallowable costs include:

- Pre-award costs and expenditures
- Land acquisition
- Construction projects
- Firearms /ammunition
- Armored vehicles
- Other tactical equipment used strictly for enforcement purposes

As such, a hypothetical grant project budget may include the following:

- \$30,000.00 – Partial Salary & Fringe for Two Police Officers & One Sergeant
- \$10,000.00 – Software Purchase
- \$5,000.00 - Consultant Agreement
- \$5,000.00 - Contract to Community-Based Organization

**Total:** \$50,000.00

## **GOALS, OBJECTIVES, DELIVERABLES, AND TIMELINE**

The goals of this program are to support the development of plans to address rural violent crime problems. This opportunity should allow grantees to launch new programming or further implement existing efforts to address specific crime problems in their respective jurisdictions. Applicants should



seek comprehensive approaches by engaging community members and developing cross-sector leadership of the project.

### *Goals*

- Establish a working relationship with the funder and its training and technical assistance (TTA) partners to ensure that a comprehensive and appropriate violent reduction plan is developed.
- Develop a planned and phased approach to project implementation that allows for successful implementation and collaborative partnerships among the community and stakeholders.
- In partnership with TTA partners, seek additional opportunities for project support through both public and private sources and plan for sustainability of efforts beyond the grant term.

### *Objectives*

- Deploy agency resources such as personnel, services, or analytical tools that are identified in proposals;
- Document how personnel and resources (e.g., services, software, or equipment) will be used in furtherance of an area's crime reduction strategies; and
- Track project outcomes to determine if the violent crime reduction strategy (or strategies) have had an impact once implemented.

### *Deliverables*

- Completion and submission of semi-annual online form reporting and requests for reimbursement of costs. See Reimbursement and Invoicing Guidelines for additional information.
- Provision of identified metrics during monthly standing calls and pre- and post-implementation.
- Procurement of equipment or services in a manner compliant with both federal and local procurement guidelines.
- At the conclusion of the grant term, completion and submission of a final report to the Institute. If awarded, additional details will be provided on final report expectations but at a minimum, the final report should document the problems addressed, discuss strategies implemented, and describe notable impacts and opportunities to sustain the work when the grant ends.

## **ABOUT US**

[The Institute](#), formerly known as the National Police Foundation, was established in 1970 as a non-partisan, non-profit research and policy organization dedicated to advancing policing through innovation and scientific research. The Institute envisions police and communities working together to implement best practices informed or supported by research, resulting in safe, healthy, economically thriving, and mutually trusting communities. In support of its mission, The Institute is committed to conducting research, training, and technical assistance in three strategic priority areas: violence and force, community trust and legitimacy of policing, and safety and wellness.



The Institute delivers training and technical assistance (TTA) to state and local police and criminal justice agencies on diverse topics. The Institute's team works with agencies to identify training needs and collaborates with experts and organizations to deliver primary and advanced training to audiences. The Institute has provided agency and strategy assessments, reviews of evidence-based practices in critical areas, interpretation and translation of research and other scientific evidence, and program design and implementation support. In addition to supporting individual agencies, the Institute currently serves as a national technical assistance provider for nine federally funded initiatives.

## STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Any awards under this solicitation would be made under statutory authority provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Pub. L. No. 116-93, 133 Stat 2317, 2408.

## SUBAWARD INFORMATION

### AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

This solicitation, and subawards under this solicitation, are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law. In addition, nothing in this solicitation is intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the Institute or the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

### TYPES OF AWARDS

BJA and the Institute expect to make subawards under this solicitation. Subawardees will be required to follow all applicable prime award federal requirements. For more information, please see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide | Office of Justice Programs](#).

### COST SHARING OR MATCHING REQUIREMENT

This solicitation does not require a dollar-for-dollar cash or in-kind match.

### ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The following agencies are invited to apply for this grant program:

- Publicly funded rural law enforcement agencies;
- Local or county law enforcement agencies serving rural population;
- Federally recognized tribal law enforcement agencies; and
- Rural county prosecutors' offices.

To qualify as rural for this solicitation, an applicant must provide services in a rural area, but the jurisdiction's service area need not be exclusively rural. While the agency does not solely need to serve





a rural area, the violent crime problem addressed must have a rural focus that allows for trackable impact. This definition holds for sheriff's and prosecutors' offices. For any municipality (e.g., town, village, or borough), the area must be considered rural, and the population must not exceed 15,000. The population should be based on the latest U.S. Census enumeration (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045221>).

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If you believe that your agency or the problem your agency is trying to address qualifies as rural, but the HRSA tool does not indicate that you are rural, please contact us at [RuralVCRI@policinginstitute.org](mailto:RuralVCRI@policinginstitute.org).

## APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### OVERVIEW

The application for this grant program is designed to be user-friendly and web-based. It consists of approximately 20 questions requiring yes/no responses, multiple choice answers with check boxes and brief narratives, a detailed project narrative component (via Word document upload), and a budget.

Each required question must be answered to submit the application and meet the minimum requirements to advance to review and receive consideration for funding.

As part of the application, agencies will be asked to address questions related to the following key areas for their proposal and the RVCRI project:

- Description of the Issue
- Project Design and Implementation
- Plan for Measuring Success and Outcomes and Program Sustainability
- Budget and Budget Description

### HOW TO APPLY

To access the RVCRI grant program, please go to: [www.RuralVCRI.org](http://www.RuralVCRI.org) and complete the simple application process.

Please note the requirement of a program narrative by uploading a Word document in the provided [template](#). The narrative must be no longer than four to six pages.

A successful narrative will include the following:

- Clear articulation of the rural violent crime problem(s) you seek to address.



- Use of crime and other data sets to clearly explain the nature and concentration of the specific problem you wish to address. Your application should demonstrate an ability and commitment to gathering crime and other data throughout the grant term.
- Clear explanation of plans to involve community members and other stakeholders outside the department in problem analysis, strategy selection, and/or implementation.
- A list of project partners, including criminal justice partners, community organizations, social\medical service providers, and private businesses who will be involved in program implementation.
- Identification of individual(s) responsible for implementing the grant and individual(s) administrating the grant (i.e., financial responsibility).
- Discussion of opportunities to sustain the project beyond the grant period.

The narrative document can be uploaded directly through the application portal using the "Choose File" function found in the program narrative section of the application. Please save the Word document as "Department/Agency Name\_RVCRI Grant."

If you have any technical issues completing the application or uploading documents, please contact us at [RuralVCRI@policinginstitute.org](mailto:RuralVCRI@policinginstitute.org).

***We anticipate that there will be a high volume of applications, and applicants are strongly encouraged to apply and submit before the targeted deadline. Once the application window has closed, all applications will be reviewed by the Institute and BJA.***

Please note that the Institute and BJA may ask for additional information at any time from the applicant.

## APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### REVIEW CRITERIA

#### *Merit Review Criteria*

Applications that meet basic minimum requirements will be evaluated based on a vigorous scoring system. The questions in the application are designed to obtain critical information in the below listed core areas. Applications will be evaluated on how the proposed program addresses the following criteria:

- Description of the Issue
- Project Design and Implementation
- Plan for Measuring Success and Outcomes and Program Sustainability
- Budget and Budget Description



### *Other Review Criteria*

Other important considerations for the Institute and BJA include geographic diversity, strategic priorities, available funding, past performance, and the extent to which the budget portions accurately explain project costs that are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise allowable under federal law and applicable federal cost principles.

## **REVIEW PROCESS**

All applications that meet eligibility and basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by the Institute and BJA. Although specific requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all solicitations for funding under OJP programs:

- The application must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- The application must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- The application must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- The application must include all items necessary to meet the minimum requirements.

Pursuant to the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, before award decisions are made, BJA and the Institute also review information related to the degree of risk posed by the applicant.

## **SUBAWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE, NATIONAL POLICY, AND OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

If selected for funding, the Subawardee must comply with all Administrative, National Policy, Subaward, and other Legal requirements as required by BJA and the Institute. For additional information, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACT (5 U.S.C. 552 AND 5 U.S.C. 552A)**

See [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552 and 5 U.S.C. 552a).