

**Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program
FY 2008 Competitive Grant Announcement
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

1. Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants under this initiative are limited to states, units of local government, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations; a unit of local government is a town; township; village; parish; city; county; or other general purpose political subdivision of a state; or a federally recognized Indian tribe (see “Who is Eligible to Apply,” page 1).

2. Are territories eligible to apply?

Yes, territories are eligible applicants.

3. The solicitation states that BJA will only accept joint applications. Can you clarify that statement?

BJA is seeking a single application that demonstrates that the proposed project will be planned or implemented collaboratively by a unit of government with responsibility for criminal justice activities in partnership with a mental health agency.

4. Would a county, which is the local unit of government responsible for the local jail, plus the mental health agency serving the county, suffice as the joint applicants for this funding?

Yes, the county agency that is responsible agency for operation of the jail, would be an eligible applicant if applying with the mental health agency.

5. What is meant by the term “mental health agency?”

The term “mental health agency” means an agency of a state or local government or its contracted agency that is responsible for mental health services or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse services.

6. Can a state or local jurisdiction submit more than one application for funding?

The solicitation does not prohibit a jurisdiction from submitting more than one application. Given the limited amount of resources, it is unlikely that any jurisdiction will receive more than one award as geographic and programmatic diversity will be considered in making a final selection.

7. Is the funding provided under Categories II and III intended to cover the entire period of implementation, or will the amount provided be awarded annually?

BJA does not plan to make reoccurring annual awards. Funding available for each category is for the amount and length of time specified in Award Categories section of the solicitation (page 2).

8. When is the funding start date?

Applicants may begin their proposed project dates on or after October 1, 2008, when the funding is awarded.

9. May the applicant designate which of the performance measures listed apply to the program the applicant is proposing, or are you expecting that a proposed program address all performance measures?

BJA understands that given a focus on one area of activity or another that applicants may be better able to respond to some measures more than others, and will review the responses in

this context. However, all applicants must demonstrate in their proposal the ability, through a formal process, to collect information related to the performance measures listed in the solicitation. Upon selection of the applicants to receive awards, BJA will review these measures for more direction regarding final reporting requirements. For planning grants, applicants should demonstrate their willingness to collect these data sets and to develop a process for this as part of development of their plan.

10. My understanding is that this grant is intended to serve people with nonviolent charges (in accordance with the language included in Public Law 108-414). Does this hold true for all types of proposals (e.g., reentry)?

Yes, the identified population to receive the services is the nonviolent offender.

11. What is meant by the term “nonviolent offense?”

The term “nonviolent offense” means an offense that does not have as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another or is not a felony that by its nature involves a substantial risk that physical force against the person or property of another may be used in the course of committing the offense.

12. What type of technical assistance (TA) will be available?

BJA will provide information on current mental health partnerships, key elements of these approaches, support assessment of needs and resources, and building collaborations. Specific, intensive technical assistance will also be provided. Upon selection of sites, a specific TA strategy will be developed to address the unique needs of the grantees.

13. The award announcement did not list available funding or anticipated number of awards. Is this known?

Approximately 25 awards will be made in the three categories.

14. Are the additional requirements (page 10 of announcement) required at the time of application or at time of award, if funded?

In the application process in Grants.gov, applicants will be required to acknowledge and agree to these requirements. However, no paperwork will need to be completed unless an award is made.

15. What sources of funding can be used for match to this grant?

Match may be cash or in-kind.

16. Does the 20-page limit include Attachments 1, 2, and 3 or only Attachment 1?

This includes only Attachment 1, the Program Narrative. See page 8 of the solicitation for further details.

17. Where is the national meeting that is referenced in the solicitation going to be held and for how many days?

Please prepare a budget for four people to attend two 2-day meetings at some location in the United States and an average of at least \$500 per person for airfare.

18. If we receive this award, would we have to conduct a formal evaluation of our program?

The evaluation process listed in the solicitation refers to the applicant's ability to describe their formal process for collecting information related to the performance measures listed in the solicitation, including assessments of implementation and outcomes. That information would be collected through categorical progress reports submitted to our agency twice per year.

19. How should our budget be presented?

The budget worksheet and narrative must be submitted as one document; a sample is found through the hyperlink listed on page 8 of the solicitation. The form provided can be copied and saved into a WordPerfect or Word document, and narrative can be added after the work sheet information. Recognize also that the Budget Detail Worksheet is used as a guide to assist the reviewers in comparing activities proposed with budget items requested. We also recommend that you visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms.htm for additional assistance related to your budget.

20. Is expansion/continuation funding expected later?

We do not have information at this time about future funding availability.