



The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice is seeking applications for funding of research on gang crime prevention and control. This program furthers the Department's mission by sponsoring research to provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of crime and justice, particularly at the State and local levels.

Research on Crime Prevention and Control: Focus on Gangs

Eligibility

(See "Eligibility," page 4)

Deadline

All applications are due **February 20, 2008, 11:59 p.m. eastern time.**

Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact Phelan Wyrick, Senior Social Science Analyst, at 202-353-9254 or phelan.wyrick@usdoj.gov.

This application must be submitted through Grants.gov. For technical assistance with submitting the application, call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 1-800-518-4726.

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity No. 2008-NIJ-1736

SL# 000815

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Research on Crime Prevention and Control: Focus on Gangs CFDA No. 16.560

Overview

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice and a component of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). NIJ provides objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to enhance the administration of justice and public safety. NIJ solicits applications to inform its search for the knowledge and tools to guide policy and practice.

NIJ is soliciting applications for research and evaluation projects that advance the understanding and practice of gang prevention, intervention, and enforcement. At the group level, gangs vary from small local “crews” that are active for only a short period, to multigenerational gangs with local subgroups across multiple States or nations. Gangs also vary widely in terms of organizational sophistication. Across these group-level variations, gang membership continues to be one of the strongest independent predictors of serious offending at the individual level. Yet policymakers, practitioners, and researchers continue to grapple with fundamental questions about how best to prevent the onset of gang membership, assist gang-involved individuals who wish to leave the gang lifestyle, and generate lasting reductions in gang activity through enforcement or a combination of antigang strategies. Given the ongoing challenges that gangs present to States and localities across the Nation, it is especially important to provide practical knowledge to support improved antigang efforts.

Deadline: Registration

Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, if you are a first-time registrant, it could take up to several weeks to have your registration validated and confirmed and to receive your user password. Start the registration process early to prevent delays that may cause you to miss the application deadline. You must complete these three steps before you are able to register: 1) Register with Central Contractor Registry (CCR), 2) Register yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), and 3) Be authorized as an AOR by your organization. For more information, visit <http://www.grants.gov>. **Note: Your CCR Registration must be renewed once a year. Failure to renew your CCR registration may prohibit submission of a grant application through Grants.gov.**

Deadline: Application

The due date for applying for funding under this announcement is **February 20, 2008, 11:59 p.m. eastern time.**

Eligibility

In general, NIJ is authorized to make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, States (including territories), local governments (including federally recognized Indian tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions), nonprofit and profit organizations (including tribal nonprofit and profit organizations), institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education), and certain qualified individuals. Foreign governments, foreign organizations, and foreign institutions of higher education are not eligible to apply.

Faith-Based and Other Community Organizations: Consistent with President George W. Bush's Executive Order 13279, dated December 12, 2002, and 28 C.F.R. Part 38, it is DOJ policy that faith-based and other community organizations that statutorily qualify as eligible applicants under DOJ programs are invited and encouraged to apply for assistance awards to fund eligible grant activities. Faith-based and other community organizations will be considered for awards on the same basis as other eligible applicants and, if they receive assistance awards, will be treated on an equal basis with all other grantees in the administration of such awards. No eligible applicant or grantee will be discriminated for or against on the basis of its religious character or affiliation, religious name, or the religious composition of its board of directors or persons working in the organization.

Faith-based organizations receiving DOJ assistance awards retain their independence and do not lose or have to modify their religious identity (e.g., removing religious symbols) to receive assistance awards. DOJ grant funds, however, may not be used to fund any inherently religious activity, such as prayer or worship. Inherently religious activity is permissible, although it cannot occur during an activity funded with DOJ grant funds; rather, such religious activity must be separate in time or place from the DOJ-funded program. Further, participation in such activity by individuals receiving services must be voluntary. Programs funded by DOJ are not permitted to discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of a beneficiary's religion.

If your organization is a faith-based organization that makes hiring decisions on the basis of religious belief, it may be entitled, under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb, to receive Federal funds and yet maintain that hiring practice, even if the law creating the funding program contains a general ban on religious discrimination in employment. For the circumstances under which this may occur, and the certifications that may be required, please see "Other Requirements for OJP Applications" at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/otherrequirements.htm>.

Applicants are encouraged to review the Civil Rights Compliance section under "Additional Requirements" in this announcement.

American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Tribes and/or Tribal Organizations: If a grant application is being submitted on behalf of a tribe or tribal organization, a letter or similar document authorizing the inclusion of the tribe or tribal organization named in the application must be included.

Specific Information—Research on Crime Prevention and Control: Focus on Gangs

NIJ seeks to advance gang crime prevention and control through research and evaluation that helps practitioners and policymakers answer pressing questions and respond to challenges posed by street gangs. Although the Nation's antigang efforts now involve Federal, State, and local entities, most of the work is done at the local level. In localities across the country—from urban centers to rural and tribal communities—criminal justice agencies, schools, community-based and faith-based organizations, and other community members are working to reduce gang crime through strategies that include prevention, intervention, and suppression/enforcement. NIJ is particularly interested in research and evaluation that provides useful tools or clear guidance for practitioners and policymakers in these areas. NIJ is also very interested in research or evaluation projects that develop or extend data sets designed to be available and ready for use by other researchers.

Prevention. For the purpose of this solicitation, NIJ is interested in supporting research and evaluation in the areas of gang membership prevention or situational gang crime prevention. Gang membership prevention refers to services, programs, or activities that are designed to prevent young people from joining gangs. In this case, NIJ is most interested in those activities that target youth determined to be “high risk” for gang membership. Examples of projects that might be considered in this area include, but are not limited to, studies that:

- Evaluate gang membership prevention programs that have shown promising results in more limited previous studies.
- Develop and validate individual-level gang membership risk assessment instruments.
- Collect information on gang-involved and high-risk youth to generate recommendations for prevention and intervention programming.

Situational gang crime prevention focuses on the situational causes of crime and less on the dispositional traits of specific potential offenders. Interventions may focus on a particular type of gang crime, on a situational crime prevention technique, or on a particular location. These interventions are often seen as addressing the environmental and opportunistic factors that influence offender decisionmaking. Applicants are especially encouraged to include the following elements as part of their proposed evaluations:

- Analyses of displacement and diffusion.
- A cost analysis component.
- Methods or techniques to better understand how situational crime prevention principles are understood and utilized by law enforcement practitioners.
- Longer followup periods.

Proposals for evaluations of technology to prevent gang crime should be submitted under NIJ's solicitation titled, “Criminal Justice Technology Evaluation.”

Gang intervention. Gang members often spend years in the community committing various offenses before ending up in confinement, becoming a fatality of gang violence, or desisting from gang membership. Programs and activities designed to draw gang members and close associates away from the gang lifestyle exist in localities around the country. These programs often involve law enforcement coordination with city-, community-, or faith-based organizations to identify gang members and offer education, job training, and community service opportunities as incentives to quit the gang lifestyle. Many programs are coordinated with law enforcement to assure that those who receive services are held accountable if they should continue delinquent or criminal activities. Evaluations of such programs are frequently inconclusive because the programs themselves lack specificity in program design, the evaluation does not include adequate measurement of program dosage, or it lacks appropriate control or comparison groups. Applicants seeking to evaluate gang intervention programs must provide convincing evidence that the program design and evaluation design are rigorous enough to overcome these challenges.

Gang suppression/enforcement. The most common antigang strategy is suppression or gang crime enforcement. These terms encompass a broad range of criminal justice activities in which law enforcement, prosecution, probation and parole work to limit and assure accountability for the criminal activity of gangs and gang members. Examples of common gang suppression tactics include gang intelligence sharing; multiagency targeting and apprehension of serious and chronic gang crime offenders; use of gang injunctions or civil ordinances to prevent association among known gang members; and prosecution of gang offenders using tactics such as vertical prosecution, enhanced sentencing, and Federal RICO statutes. Examples of research and evaluation projects that might be considered include, but are not limited to, studies that:

- Develop and validate community-level gang problem assessment and tracking tools.
- Develop and evaluate analytical approaches for targeting gang offenders or directing law enforcement tactical operations.
- Evaluate gang enforcement efforts that are aimed at disrupting gangs based on group-level factors such as organizational features.

Gang definition. There is no universal consensus on a definition for a street gang. For the purpose of this solicitation, the following characteristics common to many operational definitions will apply: a gang is a self-formed group of three or more individuals, with a common sense of group identity, and an ongoing involvement in delinquent or criminal activity. Motorcycle gangs and ideological hate groups are not included for the purpose of this solicitation.

Evaluation research. Within applications proposing evaluation research, funding priority will be given to experimental research designs that use random selection and assignment of participants to experimental and control conditions. When randomized designs are not feasible, priority will be given to quasi-experimental designs that include contemporary procedures like propensity score matching and regression discontinuity design to address selection bias in evaluating outcomes and impacts.

Evaluations which also include measurements of program fidelity and implementation as part of a thorough process assessment are desirable. Measurements of program fidelity should be included as part of an assessment of program processes and operations to

assure that policies, programs, and technologies are implemented as designed. As one aspect of a comprehensive evaluation, assessments of program processes should include objective measurements and qualitative observations of programs as they are actually implemented and services are delivered. These may include assessment of such aspects as adherence to program content and protocol, quantity and duration, quality of delivery, and participant responsiveness.

Proposed evaluation research designs with multiple units of analysis and multiple measurements will also be given priority. Design aspects that contribute to the validity of results are necessary to effectively address issues of generalizability and representativeness of findings.

Finally, applications that include additional cost/benefit analysis will be given priority. Cost/benefit analysis is viewed by NIJ as an effective way to communicate and disseminate findings from evaluation research.

Please note: All applicants under this solicitation must comply with Department of Justice regulations on confidentiality and human subjects protection. See the Confidentiality and Human Subjects Protection Compliance section under "Additional Requirements" in this announcement.

What will *not* be funded:

1. Provision of training or direct service.
2. Proposals primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies. (Your budget may include these items if they are necessary to conduct applied research, development, demonstration, evaluation, or analysis, but NIJ does not fund proposals that are primarily to purchase equipment.)
3. Work that will be funded under another specific solicitation.
4. Formative program evaluations.

Cost of proposed work: NIJ anticipates that up to \$1,000,000 may become available for awards made through this solicitation. All NIJ awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law. NIJ expects to make up to one to four awards depending on funds available and number of high-quality applications. If you propose a project that exceeds the amount of money that may be available for awards under this solicitation, we recommend that you divide the project into phases, stages, or tasks so that NIJ can consider making an award for a specific portion of the work. NIJ cannot guarantee that subsequent phases, stages, or tasks will be funded. Such additional funding depends on NIJ's resources and your satisfactory completion of each phase, stage, or task. Note: Deliverables (e.g., a final report) will be required at the end of each phase, stage, or task.

A grant made by NIJ under this solicitation may account for up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project. See "Cofunding," under "What an Application Must Include."

Limitation on use of award funds for employee compensation; waiver: No portion of any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation may be used to pay any portion of the total cash compensation (salary plus bonuses) of any employee of the award recipient whose total cash compensation exceeds 110 percent of the maximum

annual salary payable to a member of the Federal Government’s Senior Executive Service (SES) at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year. (The salary table for SES employees is available at <http://www.opm.gov>.)

This prohibition may be waived at the discretion of the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs. An applicant that wishes to request a waiver should include a detailed justification in the budget narrative for the application.

Performance Measures

To assist in fulfilling the Department’s responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), P.L. 103–62, applicants who receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measures the results of their work. Performance measures for this solicitation are as follows:

Objective	Performance Measures	Data Grantee Provides
<p>Develop and analyze information and data having clear implications for criminal justice policy and practice.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relevance to the needs of the field as measured by whether the grantee’s substantive scope did not deviate from the funded proposal or any subsequent agency modifications to the scope. 2. Quality of the research as assessed by peer reviewers. 3. Quality of management as measured by whether significant interim project milestones were achieved, final deadlines were met, and costs remained within approved limits. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A final report providing a comprehensive overview of the project and a detailed description of the project design, data, and methods; a full presentation of scientific findings; and a thorough discussion of the implications of the project findings for criminal justice practice and policy. 2. Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, and a final progress report.

How to Apply

DOJ is participating in the e-Government initiative, one of 25 initiatives included in the President’s Management Agenda. Part of this initiative—Grants.gov—is a “one-stop storefront” that provides a unified process for all customers of Federal grants to find funding opportunities and apply for funding.

Grants.gov Instructions: Complete instructions can be found at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp. If you experience difficulties at any point during this process, please call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 1–800–518–4726.

Note: Grants.gov does not support the Microsoft Vista operating system. The PureEdge software used by Grants.gov for forms is not compatible with Vista. Also,

Grants.gov cannot yet process Microsoft Word 2007 documents saved in the new default format with the extension ".DOCX." Please ensure the document is saved using "Word 97–2003 Document (*.doc)" format.

Please also note: OJP’s Grants Management System (GMS) does not accept executable file types as application attachments. OJP’s Grants Management System (GMS) downloads applications from Grants.gov and is the system in which OJP reviews applications and manages awarded grants. These disallowed file types include, but are not limited to, the following extensions: ".com", ".bat", ".exe", ".vbs", ".cfg", ".dat", ".db", ".dbf", ".dll", ".ini", ".log", ".ora", ".sys", and ".zip".

CFDA Number: The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this solicitation is 16.560, titled “Research on Crime Prevention and Control: Focus on Gangs,” and the Grants.gov funding opportunity number is **2008–NIJ–1736**.

A DUNS number is required: The Office of Management and Budget requires that all businesses and nonprofit applicants for Federal funds include a DUNS (Data Universal Numeric System) number in their application for a new award or renewal of an award. Applications without a DUNS number are incomplete. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving Federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point-of-contact information. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, simple, one-time activity. Obtain one by calling 1–866–705–5711 or by applying online at <http://www.dnb.com/us>. Individuals are exempt from this requirement.

What an Application Must Include

Standard Form 424

Program Narrative

The Program Narrative includes:

- a. Abstract (not to exceed 400 words).
- b. Table of contents.
- c. Main body, which includes:
 - Purpose, goals, and objectives.
 - Review of relevant literature.
 - Research design and methods.
 - Implications for criminal justice policy and practice.
 - Management plan and organization.
 - Dissemination strategy.
- d. Appendixes (not counted against program narrative page limit) include:
 - Bibliography/References (if applicable).
 - Data Archiving Strategy (see “Other Program Attachments” below).
 - List of key personnel (required).
 - Résumés of key personnel (required).
 - List of previous and current NIJ awards (required).
 - Letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements from organizations collaborating in the project (if applicable).

- Chart for timeline, research calendar, or milestones (required).
- Other materials required by the solicitation.

Budget Detail Worksheet

Templates for filling out the Budget Detail Worksheet may be found online at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/Forms/budget_fillable.pdf, OJP Standard Forms & Instructions. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Chief Financial Officer's Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-0786.

Budget Narrative

Indirect Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Applicants that do not have a federally negotiated indirect cost rate and wish to establish one can submit a proposal to their “cognizant” Federal agency. Generally, the cognizant Federal agency is the agency that provides the preponderance of direct Federal funding. This can be determined by reviewing an organization’s schedule of Federal financial assistance. If DOJ is your cognizant Federal agency, obtain information needed to submit an indirect cost rate proposal at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/oc/indirectcosts.htm>.

Other Program Attachments

These include several forms, available on OJP’s funding page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/forms.htm>.

Data Archiving Strategy: NIJ requires that each data set resulting from funded research be submitted as a grant product or deliverable for archiving with the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. (Data sets are to be submitted 90 days before the end of the project period.) Applications for NIJ research grants must include a brief (one- or two-page) data archiving strategy. For purposes of research replication and extension, the inclusion of only the final data set often prevents other researchers from replicating or extending the study because there is no original data, intermediate data, or documentation detailing how the data changed throughout the project. This data archiving strategy therefore must briefly describe the—

- Anticipated manipulations of original, intermediate, and final data sets (as applicable).
- Methods of documentation of such manipulations.
- Preparation of original, intermediate, and final data sets for archive submission.

The data archiving strategy should be submitted as an appendix to the application and will NOT count toward the 30-page limit. Please label this appendix “Data Archiving Strategy.”

Page limit: The program narrative section of your application must not exceed 30 double-spaced pages in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Abstract, table of contents, charts, figures, appendixes, and government forms do not count toward the 30-page limit for the narrative section.

Cofunding: A grant made by NIJ under this solicitation may account for up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project. You must indicate whether you believe it is feasible for you to contribute cash, facilities, or services as non-Federal support for the

project. Your application should identify generally any such contributions that you expect to make and your proposed budget should indicate in detail which items, if any, will be supported with non-Federal contributions.

Selection Criteria

Successful applicants must demonstrate the following:

Understanding of the problem and its importance.

1. Clarity of problem statement.
2. Awareness of relevant research.
3. Connection between proposed research and problem.

Quality and technical merit.

1. Awareness of the state of current research or technology.
2. Soundness of methodology and analytic and technical approach.
3. Feasibility of proposed project and awareness of pitfalls.
4. Innovation and creativity (when appropriate).

Impact of the proposed project.

1. Potential for significant advances in scientific or technical understanding of the problem.
2. Potential for significant advances in the field.
3. Relevance for improving the policy and practice of criminal justice and related agencies and improving public safety, security, and quality of life.
4. Affordability and cost-effectiveness of proposed end products, when applicable (e.g., purchase price and maintenance costs for a new technology or cost of training to use the technology).
5. Perceived potential for commercialization and/or implementation of a new technology (when applicable).

Capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of applicants.

1. Qualifications and experience of proposed staff.
2. Demonstrated ability of proposed staff and organization to manage the effort.
3. Adequacy of the plan to manage the project, including how various tasks are subdivided and resources are used.
4. Successful past performance on NIJ grants and contracts (when applicable).

Budget.

1. Total cost of the project relative to the perceived benefit.
2. Appropriateness of the budget relative to the level of effort.
3. Use of existing resources to conserve costs.

Dissemination strategy.

1. Well-defined plan for the grant recipient to disseminate results to appropriate audiences, including researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.
2. Suggestions for print and electronic products NIJ might develop for practitioners and policymakers.

Relevance of the project for policy and practice.

Higher quality proposals clearly explain the practical implications of the project. They connect technical expertise with criminal justice policy and practice. To ensure that the project has strong relevance for policy and practice, some researchers and technologists collaborate with practitioners and policymakers. You may include letters showing support from practitioners, but they carry less weight than clear evidence that you understand why policymakers and practitioners would benefit from your work and how they would use it. While a partnership may affect State or local activities, it should also have broader implications for others across the country.

Review Process

NIJ is firmly committed to the competitive process in awarding grants. All applications under this solicitation will be subjected to independent peer-review panel evaluations. External peer-review panelists consider both technical and programmatic merits. Panelists are selected based on their expertise in subject areas pertinent to the proposals.

Peer-review panelists will evaluate applications using the criteria listed above. NIJ staff then make recommendations to the NIJ Director. The Director makes award decisions.

Reasons for rejection: NIJ may reject applications that are incomplete, do not respond to the scope of the solicitation, do not comply with format requirements, or are submitted after the deadline. No additions to the original submission are allowed.

When awards will be made: All applicants, whether they are accepted or rejected, will be notified. The review and approval process takes about 6 months. You should not propose to begin work until at least 6 months after the application deadline on the cover of this solicitation. Also, you should not expect to receive notification of a decision for at least 6 months after that date. Lists of awards are updated regularly on NIJ's Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.

Additional Requirements

- Civil Rights Compliance
- Confidentiality and Human Subjects Protection Compliance
- Anti-Lobbying Act
- Financial and Government Audit Requirements
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance
- DOJ Information Technology Standards
- Single Point of Contact Review

- Nonsupplanting of State or Local Funds
- Criminal Penalty for False Statements
- Compliance with Office of the Comptroller Financial Guide
- Suspension or Termination of Funding
- Funding to Faith-Based and Community Organizations
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)
- Rights in Intellectual Property
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)

We strongly encourage you to review the information pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting your application. Additional information for each can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/otherrequirements.htm>.

If your proposal is funded, you will be required to submit several reports and other materials, including:

Final substantive report: The final report should be a comprehensive overview of the project and should include a detailed description of the project design, data, and methods; a full presentation of scientific findings; and a thorough discussion of the implications of the project findings for criminal justice practice and policy. It must contain an abstract of no more than 400 words and an executive summary of no more than 2,500 words.

A draft of the final report, abstract, and executive summary must be submitted 90 days before the end date of the grant. The draft final report will be peer reviewed upon submission. The reviews will be forwarded to the principal investigator with suggestions for revisions. The author must then submit the revised final report, abstract, and executive summary by the end date of the grant. The abstract, executive summary, and final report must be submitted in both paper and electronic formats.

For program evaluation studies, the final report should include a section on measuring program performance. This section should outline the measures used to evaluate program effectiveness, modifications made to those measures as a result of the evaluation, and recommendations regarding these and other potential performance measures for similar programs. (This information will be particularly valuable to NIJ and other Federal program agencies in implementing performance measures for federally funded criminal justice programs.)

Interim reports: Grantees must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, a final progress report, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.