

**Recovery Act  
Assistance to Rural Law Enforcement to Combat Crime and Drugs**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**1. What is the deadline for applications?**

All applications are due by 8:00 p.m. est. on April 22, 2009.

**2. Who is eligible to apply for this grant program?**

For Categories I-IV, applicants are limited to local (including county) and tribal law enforcement agencies that are located in rural areas. State law enforcement agencies that are from “rural states” or that provide assistance to one or more “rural areas” are eligible to apply.

For Category V only, applications are solicited from national, regional, state, and local public and private entities, including for-profit (commercial) and nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, faith-based and community organizations, tribal jurisdictions, and units of local government to provide training and technical assistance across the nation to qualifying rural areas and rural states.

**3. What is the definition of rural areas or rural states for purposes of this solicitation?**

**(A) “Rural areas”**— The term “rural area” means either: (I) a jurisdiction that is not located in a metropolitan statistical area (MSA), as defined by the Office of Management and Budget ([www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/fy2009/09-01.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/fy2009/09-01.pdf)); or (II) any jurisdiction located in an MSA, but in a county or tribal jurisdiction that has a population less than 50,000.

Special rules apply for independent cities and townships. See Question 4 below for details.

**(B) “Rural states”**—The term “rural state” means a state that has a population density of 52 or fewer persons per square mile or a state in which the largest county has fewer than 150,000 people based on the most recent decennial census.

**4. My agency is in an independent city or township that is in an MSA. How do I know if I am in a “rural area”?**

Because independent cities and townships are not located within any county, special treatment is necessary to ensure that our definition of “rural areas” is not overly restrictive.

As such, independent cities and townships are considered to be “rural areas” if the independent city or township itself has a population of less than 50,000 AND the county or counties surrounding it also has/have a total population of less than 50,000.

**5. What is an independent city or township?**

An independent city or township is a city or township that is not a part of any county (or parish) and is not included in the population base of any county (or parish).

If you are eligible to apply based on the special rules for independent cities and townships, please clearly articulate this in your application, and provide justification as necessary.

**6. Are prosecutors, parole and probation, and community corrections agencies considered to be law enforcement agencies?**

For purposes of this solicitation, state and local law enforcement agencies include state and local prosecutors, parole, probation, and community corrections agencies.

**7. Are tribes eligible to apply?**

Eligible applicants for Categories I–IV include tribal law enforcement agencies that serve federally-recognized Indian tribes, including Alaska Native villages and corporations, and authorized intertribal consortia. However, in Alaska, funds awarded through this program to the tribes listed below may not be used for courts or law enforcement officers for a tribe or village, pursuant to Public Law 108-199, division B, Title I, § 112(a)(1) (118 Stat. 62): (1) tribes in which fewer than 25 Native members live in the village year round; and (2) tribes that are located within the boundaries of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Matanuska Susitna Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City and Borough of Juneau, the Sitka Borough, or the Ketchikan Borough.

Tribal applicants are also eligible to apply for Category V, to provide training and technical assistance across the nation to qualifying rural areas and rural states.

**8. Is my agency located outside a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)?**

To see the complete listing of MSAs and the areas that comprise them, please visit OMB's Statistical Area Definitions: [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/fy2009/09-01.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/fy2009/09-01.pdf).

**Scenario 1:**

My agency is not located in a MSA. Is my agency eligible to apply?

Answer: YES

**Scenario 2:**

My agency is in a county that is located WITHIN a MSA. Is my agency eligible to apply?

Answer: Possibly. See Question 9 (below) for a determination.

**9. If my agency is located within a MSA, am I eligible to apply?**

If your agency is in a county located within a MSA that has a population of less than 50,000, you are eligible to apply. If your agency is located within county within a MSA and the county has a population of more than 50,000, you are not eligible to apply. Louisiana should consider parish population rather than county population. Independent cities and townships should follow the guidance in Question 4 above.

**Scenario 1:**

My agency is in a county that is located within a MSA AND the county's population is 30,000. Is my agency eligible to apply? YES, because the county in which your agency is located with is within a MSA and the county population is less than 50,000.

**Scenario 2:**

My agency is in a county that is located within a MSA AND the county's population is 100,000. Am I eligible to apply? NO, because the county in which your agency is located is within a MSA and the county population is more than 50,000.

**10. For purposes of this grant program, what data do I use to determine the population of my county?**

BJA does not require the use of a particular source of data for determining county population, but applicants should not use data that was collected prior to the most recent decennial census. Applicants must state, within their abstract, the reason(s) why they are eligible to apply as a "rural state" or "rural area." Applicants who are relying on population figures to demonstrate eligibility (i.e., agencies that are inside an MSA) should include the source of the data used,

**11. My law enforcement agency is a small agency with few officers. Am I qualified to apply?**

The agency size is not relevant to whether the agency is considered rural. Each agency, regardless of size, must be in a location that meets the criteria specified for rural areas or rural states.

**12. How can I tell if my state qualifies as rural based on the definition provided in the solicitation?**

States should determine their eligibility based on the most recent decennial census. Census data can be found at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

**13. Are state law enforcement agencies that are located in non-rural states (as defined in this solicitation) eligible to apply?**

State law enforcement agencies that provide assistance to one or more "rural areas" in their state are eligible to apply. Applicants must clearly state the reason(s) why they are eligible in the application abstract. Applicants' proposed activities must be to provide assistance to the rural area. Applicants should document the data used to determine eligibility.

**14. The solicitation states that "priority consideration will be given to local law enforcement agencies in rural areas where the unit of local government is not eligible to receive a direct allocation from the Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program OR received a direct allocation that was \$50,000 or less." How can I find out if my local unit of government is eligible for direct JAG assistance?**

Applicants can find a complete list of the units of local government who are eligible for Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants Program and award amounts on BJA's web site: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryJAG/recoveryallocations.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryJAG/recoveryallocations.html).

**15. Is there a maximum or minimum dollar amount that can be requested?**

This solicitation does impose a minimum request amount. **Applications for less than \$50,000 will not be considered.** There is no maximum dollar amount. Peer reviewers will take into consideration cost-effectiveness when reviewing applications.

**16. Can an applicant submit more than one proposal?**

An applicant may submit more than one proposal as long as the applications are different projects. Applicants should not submit duplicate proposals under multiple categories.

**17. What are data-driven strategies?**

Data-driven strategies are defined as criminal justice interventions that are informed by analyses of the factors believed to be generating the particular crime problem in a community, and that link the crime problem to evidence-based practice. The goal is to use the problem analysis to produce highly focused interventions on the people, places, and contexts generating the specific crime problem.

**18. What is an evidence-based program and/or practice?**

An evidence-based program or practice is defined as: Programs and practices that have been shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to be effective at accomplishing goals and achieving criminal justice-related priorities (e.g., preventing or reducing crime, disrupting criminal activity, reducing victimization, etc). Where sufficient evidence is not available for a program or practice to be recognized as "evidenced-based," the applicant should use the research literature and a clear, well-articulated theory or conceptual framework to develop their program or practice.

**19. What if my project encompasses elements of activities outlined in more than one category?**

Should a proposal span multiple categories or encompass elements from different categories, identify one category that best describes the project. Applicants should not submit duplicate proposals to multiple categories. **Applicants must clearly indicate in the abstract and on the first page of the program narrative which category they are applying under.**

**20. If I have additional questions regarding this solicitation, whom should I contact?**

For specific questions regarding the content of this solicitation, e-mail is the preferred method of communication. Please contact the following BJA staff directly based on the category for which you are applying. E-mail is the preferred method for questions on this solicitation.

| Category   | BJA Contact           | E-mail Address   | Phone Number |
|--|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| I: Combating Rural Crime   | Alissa Huntoon        | <a href="mailto:Alissa.Huntoon@usdoj.gov">Alissa.Huntoon@usdoj.gov</a>               | 202-305-1661 |
| II: Improving Rural Law Enforcement Investigations               | Linda Hammond-Deckard | <a href="mailto:Linda.Hammond-Deckard@usdoj.gov">Linda.Hammond-Deckard@usdoj.gov</a> | 202-514-6015 |
| III: Enhancing Rural Corrections, Detention, and Jail Operations | Gary Dennis           | <a href="mailto:Gary.Dennis@usdoj.gov">Gary.Dennis@usdoj.gov</a>                     | 202-305-9059 |
| IV: Facilitating Rural Justice Information Sharing               | David Lewis           | <a href="mailto:David.P.Lewis@usdoj.gov">David.P.Lewis@usdoj.gov</a>                 | 202-616-7829 |
| V: Training and Technical Assistance                             | Lon McDougal          | <a href="mailto:Lonnie.R.McDougal@usdoj.gov">Lonnie.R.McDougal@usdoj.gov</a>         | 202-307-3678 |

**21. The solicitation discusses national information sharing programs, such as the Regional Information Sharing System (RISS), Fusion Centers, and N-DEx (a national data exchange hosted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation). Where can I find more information on these entities?**

You can visit BJA's web site on Justice Information Sharing to find more out about these initiatives and others: <http://it.ojp.gov/default.aspx>.

**22. When developing my application, are there guidelines that must be followed?**

Applicants should pay close attention to the criteria outlined in the solicitation under the "What an Application Must Include" section and the "Selection Criteria." BJA will review applications closely to ensure they meet the specified requirements.

**23. What is the length of the project period?**

The length of project period will depend on the amount of time you need to accomplish your project objectives, however, it may not exceed 2 years (24 months).

**24. What date should I use as my project start date?**

The project start date should be on or after August 1, 2009. The project period for awards is up to 24 months.

**25. Is a match required?**

There is no match requirement for this application.

**26. Do my attachment files submitted as part of my application need to be named something specific?**

It is strongly suggested that you name your files by the attachment category suggested in the solicitation (i.e., Program Abstract, Narrative, Budget, Project Timeline and PDs, Certifications); however, this is not mandatory.

**27. May I purchase equipment with this grant funding?**

The purpose of this solicitation is to promote hiring through the implementation of strategies designed to prevent and deter crime in rural states and rural areas. The solicitation states that "applicants are strongly encouraged to avoid unsubstantiated requests for equipment purchases". While the purchase of equipment is an allowable expense, the requested equipment must be essential to accomplishing the goals outlined in the applicant's comprehensive strategy. Peer reviewers will take into consideration whether proposed equipment is essential to the overall success of the project.

**28. In my application, do I need to address all performance measures listed in the specific solicitation?**

In the applications, applicants must address all of the "Recovery Act performance measures" (as listed in the solicitation). In addition, applicants must address every additional performance measure (as listed in the solicitation) that is specifically applicable to the category of funding for which they are applying. In order to comply with these requirements, the applicant must address the performance measures included in the application by providing the following detailed information as to each: data to be collected, the process by which the data will be collected, how the data will be assessed/analyzed, and the process for reporting the findings and outcomes. Please review carefully the section on Performance Measures in the specific solicitation under which you are applying. Also note the section on "Impact/Outcomes, Evaluations, Sustainment and Description of the Applicant's Plan for the Collection of the Data Required for Performance Measures," as this section provides what an application must contain for each performance measure that you are required to address."

**29. Once awarded, will I be required to report on all performance measures listed in the solicitation?**

Answering the Recovery Act performance measures is mandatory for all those grantees receiving Recovery Act funding, even if the measures aren't applicable. If the Recovery Act measures do not apply, answering 0 for those questions is appropriate. Creating and saving jobs is encouraged under the Recovery Act funding, but it is not mandatory. In addition, grantees will be required to report on those performance measures that are applicable to the solicitation and category of funding under which they were awarded.