

Recovery Act State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program: Combating Criminal Narcotics Activity Stemming from the Southern Border of the United States

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the best way to address questions regarding the Southern Border solicitation?

Because of high call volumes expected with Recovery Act solicitations, e-mailing the Points of Contact listed below is the preferred method.

- **Category I, Combating Criminal Narcotics Activity**
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- **Category II, Enhancing Southern Border Jails, Community Corrections, and Detention Operations**
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- **Category IV, National Training and Technical Assistance**
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2. What is the deadline for submitting the application?

All applications are due by 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on April 17, 2009.

3. What is the project period for the program?

The project period should be for no more than 24 months with a projected start date on or after August 1, 2009.

4. Who is eligible to apply?

For Categories I, II, and III, applicants are limited to: **(A)** state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies located in the Southern border region as defined in the solicitation, or **(B)** authorized state, local or tribal law enforcement agencies applying on behalf of High-

Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) combating criminal narcotics activity stemming from the Southern border (see also “HIDTA Eligibility”).

For Category IV only, applicants are limited to: **(A)** state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies located in the Southern border region as defined in the solicitation; and national organizations; institutions of higher education; faith-based, community, and regional organizations that provide assistance and equipment to local law enforcement located in the Southern border region, or **(B)** authorized state, local or tribal law enforcement agencies applying on behalf of High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) combating criminal narcotics activity stemming from the Southern border.

5. For the purposes of this solicitation, what is the definition of a HIDTA and what are the requirements a HIDTA must meet in order to apply for funding?

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 and the ONDCP Reauthorization Act of 1998 authorizes the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to designate areas within the United States that exhibit serious drug trafficking problems and harmfully impact other areas of the country as High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA). Law enforcement organizations within HIDTAs assess drug trafficking problems and design specific initiatives to reduce or eliminate the production, manufacture, transportation, distribution and chronic use of illegal drugs, and money laundering. The HIDTA Program helps improve the effectiveness and efficiency of drug control efforts by facilitating cooperation between drug control organizations through resource and information sharing, co-locating, and implementing joint initiatives.

For additional background information on HIDTAs, please visit:
www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/index.html.

HIDTA Eligibility:

HIDTAs nationwide that are combating criminal narcotics activity stemming from the Southern border are eligible to apply. The Director of the applicant HIDTA must authorize a member state or local law enforcement agency (designee) to apply on behalf of the HIDTA. BJA will consider applications from multiple law enforcement agencies located within the same HIDTA. The designee must then attach to the application a signed statement from the Director which provides express authorization of the designee to apply on behalf of the HIDTA. The designee must also state in the Program Abstract which HIDTA they are applying on behalf of, and the name of the Director who has provided authorization for the designee to apply. The applicant must also provide an explanation in the Program Narrative detailing how their problem with criminal narcotic activity stems from the Southern border region.

6. Is the HIDTA limited to selecting a single designee to apply on its behalf or are multiple agencies within a HIDTA area eligible to apply?

HIDTAs may have multiple projects that fall under more than one category of this solicitation. HIDTAs may submit multiple applications through multiple agencies situated within the HIDTA area. However, each application must be accompanied by an authorization, signed by the Director of the HIDTA region in which the designated agency is situated. Such authorization must establish that the Director authorizes the designated agency to act on behalf of the HIDTA.

7. May my jurisdiction/agency/program submit the same proposal in more than one category?

No. Applicants must submit their proposal under one of the categories. Should a proposal span multiple categories or encompass elements from different categories, identify the one category which best describes the project. An applicant may submit more than one proposal as long as the proposals are for different projects. Applicants must clearly indicate in the abstract and on the first page of the program narrative which category they are applying under.

8. According to the solicitation, there are four category areas. In submitting my application in GMS, in which category do I submit my application?

This solicitation, "Combating Criminal Narcotics Activity Stemming from the Southern Border of the United States," contains multiple categories, denoted by the individual solicitation title referencing the category. You must select the appropriate solicitation title for the intended category of your application. The application will be peer reviewed according to the requirements of the category under which it is submitted. Unless proposing to provide training and technical assistance to a broad range of other agencies, state and local applicants generally should avoid submitting applications under Category IV. Category IV is for organizations proposing to provide training and technical assistance to many agencies in the areas targeted by the solicitation.

9. For the purpose of eligibility, does a prosecutor, probation, parole, or correctional agency fit under the definition of state and local law enforcement?

Yes, state and local law enforcement agencies include state and local prosecutors, parole, probation, and community correctional agencies.

10. The solicitation states that approximately \$30 million is available under this initiative. Does that mean that a total of \$120 million is available for the 4 categories?

No. Approximately \$30 million is available to fund all applications submitted in the four categories.

11. What are the minimum and maximum award amounts?

There are no minimum or maximum award amounts for this application.

12. Is a match required?

There is no match requirement for this solicitation. However, applicants are required to submit a sustainability plan to show how they will sustain law enforcement efforts after this funding has ended, which may include sustainable personnel hirings, collaborative efforts or other activity. This plan should be uploaded in Attachment 3.

13. Does the 8-page limit include Attachments 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, or only Attachment 2?

The 8-page limit pertains only to the Program Narrative, Attachment 2. Attachment 3 with the budget and budget narrative has no page limit. The timeline and any supporting documentation should be uploaded in Attachment 4, and certifications should be uploaded in Attachment 5.

14. I currently am working on an agreement to collaborate with various agencies to address narcotics activity. I do not see a place in the application to list such agreements in the application.

Any agreements in the form of Inter-Agency Agreements or Memorandums of Understanding with partnering agencies should be highlighted in the application's Program Narrative, Attachment 2, and can be uploaded with Attachment 4.

15. The solicitation states BJA will be making awards to combat criminal narcotics activity. For the purposes of the solicitation, how does BJA define criminal narcotic activity?

For the purpose of this solicitation, the term "criminal narcotics activity" includes criminal activity that involves narcotic drugs listed in the Controlled Substance Act 21 USC §801 et seq. and criminal activity directly related to these substances. See also www.deadiversio.n.usdoj.gov/21cfr/cfr/2108cfrt.htm. In further defining the term, all criminal narcotic drug activity stemming from areas south of the southern geographic land border of the United States (i.e., Mexico, Central and South America) are included as origination points. Consequently, HIDTAs within the distribution chain for drugs stemming from these areas are also included.

16. Where can I find out more information about Intelligence-Led Policing?

Information on Intelligence-Led Policing can be viewed at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/topics/ilp.html.

17. What are evidenced-based programs/practices and data-driven strategies?

Evidence-based program and/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.

Data-driven strategies is 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. May the applicant designate which of the performance measures listed applies to its project, or is the applicant expected to address all performance measures?

Applicants are expected to address all relevant performance measures for the category of funding for which they are applying. This is clearly denoted on page 11 of the solicitation. They must describe their ability, through a formal process, to collect information related to the performance measures listed in the solicitation.

19. 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.”

20. 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.