



The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice is seeking applications for funding under the NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship program. 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.

Solicitation: NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship 2009

Eligibility

(See "Eligibility," page 3)

Deadlines

All applications are due **November 21, 2008, 11:59 p.m. eastern time.**

Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact Christine R. Crossland, Graduate Research Fellowship program manager, at 202-616-5166 or christine.crossland@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-1883

SL# 000836

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NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship 2009

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 (DOJ) 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's Graduate Research Fellowship Program is an annual program that provides assistance to universities for dissertation research support to outstanding doctoral students undertaking independent research on issues related to crime and justice. Students from any academic discipline may propose original research that has direct implications for criminal justice in the United States. NIJ encourages a variety of approaches and perspectives in its research programs. NIJ awards these fellowships in an effort to encourage promising doctoral students in the application of critical and innovative thinking to pressing criminal justice problems.

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 **November 21, 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.

For this solicitation, NIJ seeks applications from accredited universities in the United States for support of students who have completed, or are near completion of, all doctoral degree requirements except the research, writing, and final defense of a dissertation. Although it is not necessary to have formally defended the dissertation prospectus at the time of application, the student's dissertation chair or advisor must submit a statement of support with the application that evaluates the student's proposed project, describes the current status of the proposed work, outlines any other outstanding work toward completion of the degree, and states the student's potential to successfully complete the dissertation. The statement must also describe the advisor's role in monitoring the project and present evidence of both the department's and the advisor's track record with respect to Ph.D. candidates' completion of their degrees. The statement should also verify that the dissertation research has begun or is about to begin, that the student has the full support of the dissertation committee, that the advisor will review and approve all progress reports, and that the final product will be submitted by the student to NIJ.

Applicant universities must also submit a statement regarding the student's progress in the current doctoral program of study and the student's current academic transcript (uploaded with the application) that document current matriculation toward a doctoral degree. The fellowship recipient is eligible for funding only during months of enrollment in a full-time program leading to the doctoral degree.

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 and 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/other_requirements.htm. Applicants are also encouraged to review the Civil Rights Compliance section on this Web page.

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—NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship 2009

The subject of the proposed doctoral dissertation should constitute the research for this fellowship. Research must focus on a topic relevant to filling key gaps in scientific knowledge relevant to criminal justice policy and practice in the United States and to the concerns of criminal justice agencies and related agencies focusing on crime and justice problems in the United States.

Students will not receive awards directly. Grant awards will be made only to degree-granting educational institutions in the United States. To be eligible to receive and administer a Graduate Research Fellowship grant on behalf of a doctoral candidate, an institution must be fully accredited by one of the regional institutional accreditation commissions recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. At the conclusion of the grant period, the dissertation must be completed and submitted as a final product.

The official applicant to the Graduate Research Fellowship Program is the sponsoring academic institution; students must contact and seek the assistance of their university office of sponsored research or office of research, grants, and contracts. The university or college office of sponsored research or research office must complete the application and submit it electronically using Grants.gov. The university applicant must also complete and submit with the application all required accompanying forms such as Assurances, Certifications, Disclosures, and the Privacy Certificate. The applicant university ultimately has the responsibility of administering the funds and for making periodic payments to the fellowship recipient.

NIJ's current priority topic areas: NIJ's specific research and evaluation interests are established and changed in response to the needs of the field. Successful applicants should demonstrate how the proposed research advances basic criminal justice knowledge, practice, and/or policy in the United States. Both quantitative and qualitative studies are encouraged. Special consideration will be given to applicants who use the most rigorous research methods applicable to their proposed research topic—in particular, experimental or randomized designs—to maximize the validity and reliability of findings.

- **Biometrics:** Research on or evaluation of biometrics technologies or novel applications of biometrics technologies.
- **Corrections.**

- **Criminal justice courts, prosecution, and defense.**
- **Crime prevention/causes of crime.**
- **Drugs, alcohol, and crime.**
- **Evaluation research:** In addition to basic and applied research and program evaluation, NIJ is also interested in improving the quality and use of evaluations through methodological research on cost-benefit analysis, evaluability assessment, and evaluation design pertinent to criminal justice problems. These advances may be proposed as methodology research or as integral parts of an empirical evaluation.
- **Forensic DNA.**
- **General forensics:** Research and development to enhance methods and tools used to conduct forensic analyses in crime laboratories.
- **Transnational crime and justice.**
- **Criminal or juvenile justice systems.**
- **Law enforcement/policing.**
- **Less lethal technologies.**
- **Offender programs and treatment:** Research on or evaluation of corrections-based treatment/intervention strategies, their effectiveness in influencing offender behaviors, and their impact on operations.
- **Operations research:** Research and development designed to improve the operating efficiency of a criminal justice organization or agency, increase the effectiveness of existing operations, or improve the safety of the personnel involved.
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE):** Research and development designed to enhance the safety of law enforcement officers and other criminal justice practitioners, with special consideration regarding body armor and PPE development, research, and evaluation, including environmental conditioning, ballistic deformation research, new materials research, and functional fabrics/textiles for body armor ballistic panel covers.
- **Pursuit management technologies:** Research and development of vehicle computer systems network vulnerabilities and vehicle-stopping technologies and techniques.
- **Violence and victimization, including violent crimes.**

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 that 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 as 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 costs-benefits analysis will be given priority. Costs-benefits 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 section of “Other Requirements for OJP Applications” at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm.

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.)
3. Work that may be funded under another specific solicitation.
4. Direct or indirect administrative expenses of the applicant university.
5. Research that lacks clear implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.

Cost of proposed work: A research grant of up to \$20,000 will be awarded to successful applicants toward costs associated with the fellowship recipient’s dissertation research. It is anticipated that up to 10 awards will be made during the year, depending upon the availability of funds and the number of high-quality applications. All NIJ awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

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

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 measure 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 in the United States.</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 (doctoral student's dissertation) 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 in the United States. 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 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 "National Institute of Justice Research, Evaluation, and Development Project Grants," and the Grants.gov funding opportunity number is 2008–NIJ–1883.

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 600 words).

The abstract should state the problem under investigation (including goals and objectives of the proposed project) and the anticipated relevance of the project to criminal justice public policy, practice, or theory applicable to the United States. It should describe the proposed method and/or research design, including data to be used in addressing research questions, data collection procedures and instrumentation, access to data, and other methods or procedures of the proposed study. It should also describe procedures for data analysis and all expected products, including interim and final reports, instrumentation, and devices. If applicable, it should describe the subjects who will be involved in the proposed project, including the number of participants; participants' age, gender, and race/ethnicity; and other pertinent characteristics, such as methods used to gain access to subjects.
- b. Resubmit response (if applicable).

If you are resubmitting a proposal that was submitted, but not funded, under a previous solicitation, you must provide a response indicating that your proposal is a revision and that it was submitted before. You should prepare a two-page response to the earlier panel review that includes (1) the title, submission date, and NIJ-assigned application number of the

previous proposal, and (2) a brief summary of responses to the review and/or revisions to the proposal. Insert the response after the abstract.

c. Table of contents.

d. Main body.

The main body of the Program Narrative should describe the project in depth and include the following sections:

- Purpose, goals, and objectives.
- Review of relevant literature.
- Research design and methods.
- Implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.
- Management plan and organization.
- Dissemination strategy.

e. Appendixes (not counted against program narrative page limit).

- Bibliography/references (if applicable).
- List of names of the student's dissertation committee (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.
- Curriculum vitae/résumés of student and advisor (required).
- Dissertation chair or advisor's statement of support (required).
- List of student's dissertation committee members (required).
- University statement of student progress in the current program of study (required).
- A copy of the student's current academic transcripts (required).

Budget Detail Worksheet

Templates for filling out the Budget Detail Worksheet may be found online at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms/budget_detail.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

Every budget category of expense listed in the budget detail worksheet must be explained in detail and be in compliance with the OJP Financial Guide found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/finguide06/index.htm>

Other Program Attachments

These include several forms, available on OJP's Standard Forms & Instructions page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms.htm>.

Page limit: The program narrative section of your application must not exceed 15 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 15-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 fellowship recipient's research 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 in the United States.

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

OJP is committed to ensuring a standardized process for awarding grants. NIJ reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, and achievable as well as consistent with program or legislative requirements as stated in the solicitation.

Peer reviewers will be reviewing the applications submitted under this solicitation as well. NIJ may use either internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination of both to review the applications under this solicitation. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the field of the subject matter of a given solicitation who is NOT a current U.S. Department of Justice employee. An internal reviewer is an expert in the field of the subject matter of a given solicitation who is a current U.S. Department of Justice employee. Applications will be screened initially to determine whether the applicant meets all eligibility requirements. Only applications submitted by eligible applicants that meet all other requirements will be evaluated, scored, and rated by a peer review panel. Peer reviewers' ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only. In addition to peer review ratings, considerations may include, but are not limited to, underserved populations, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding.

After the peer review is finalized, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), in consultation with NIJ, conducts a financial review of all potential discretionary awards and cooperative agreements to evaluate the fiscal integrity and financial capability of applicants; examines proposed costs to determine if the budget and budget narrative accurately explain project costs; and determines whether costs are reasonable, necessary, and allowable under applicable Federal cost principles and agency regulations. OCFO also reviews the award document and verifies the OJP Vendor Number.

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.

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/welcome.htm>.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final grant award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General (AAG), who may also give consideration to factors including, but not limited to, underserved populations, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding when making awards.

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 and Local Funds
- Criminal Penalty for False Statements
- Compliance with Office of Justice Programs Financial Guide
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/>
- 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/other_requirements.htm.

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

Final substantive report: At the conclusion of the grant period, the final report (i.e., the doctoral dissertation) must be completed and submitted as a final product. It should be a comprehensive overview of the project and should include, among other things, 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 in the United States.

For program evaluation studies, the final report (doctoral dissertation) 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.