



---

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice is seeking applications for funding research on the criminal justice system's response to sexual violence. 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: The Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Violence: From Adolescence to Late Adulthood**

## **Eligibility**

(See "Eligibility," page 3)

## **Deadline**

All applications are due **January 30, 2007, 11:59 p.m. eastern time.**

## **Contact Information**

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact Catherine C. McNamee, Social Science Analyst, 202-514-7936, [Catherine.Mcnamee@usdoj.gov](mailto:Catherine.Mcnamee@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. 2007-NIJ-1420  
SL# 000768**

# CONTENTS

Overview.....	3
Deadline: Registration.....	3
Deadline: Application.....	3
Eligibility.....	3
Faith-Based and Other Community Organizations.....	3
Specific Information.....	4
Performance Measures.....	6
How to Apply.....	7
What an Application Must Include.....	7
Selection Criteria.....	8
Review Process.....	10
Additional Requirements.....	10

# **The Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Violence: From Adolescence to Late Adulthood 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 proposals to inform its search for the knowledge and tools to guide policy and practice.

NIJ is soliciting proposals for research on sexual violence to increase women's safety by informing and improving policy and practice in the criminal justice system. Proposed research may address the criminal justice response to stranger or nonstranger sexual violence against adult women and adolescent girls.

## **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 [www.grants.gov](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 January 30, 2007, 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 organizations, profit organizations, institutions of higher education, and qualified individuals. Foreign governments or organizations 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.

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

## **Specific Information—The Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Violence: From Adolescence to Late Adulthood**

Sexual violence poses a significant threat to the safety and long-term well-being of women in the United States. For the purposes of this solicitation, sexual violence includes crimes identified by Federal and State statutes for rape, sexual assault, and sexual battery, including attempts of these offenses. Nonstranger sexual assault is defined in this solicitation as any act of sexual violence perpetrated by an individual or individuals who are known by or related to the victim (e.g., acquaintance, neighbor, co-worker, friend, family member, intimate partner, spouse, etc.). The National Crime Victimization Survey indicates that crimes of sexual violence commonly go unreported, and existing data also suggest that they are committed frequently and are more often perpetrated by acquaintances, friends, or intimate partners than by strangers to the victim. According to the National Violence Against Women Survey, 1 in 6 American women has been the victim of a completed or attempted sexual assault during her lifetime.

Victims of sexual violence suffer both physical and emotional effects of these crimes. The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that between 1992 and 2000, almost all victims of rape suffered an injury during their assault, though the majority did not receive treatment for these injuries. Victims also suffer through lost wages, the cost of mental health care, and the adverse emotional and psychological trauma that sexual violence introduces into their lives.

Significant Federal, State, and local resources are required to adequately respond to, investigate, and prosecute these crimes, as well as to provide coordinated, sensitive, and affirming care to victims. In addition, the past 30 years have produced new policies

and statutes designed to ensure appropriate institutional response to sexual violence, new technological advances in the field of forensics that aid law enforcement's investigative efforts, and the concept of the multisystem sexual assault response model.

To date, there has been limited research on the effectiveness of the criminal justice system's response to sexual violence, including its response to these crimes as they often occur in diverse or underserved communities. To address this gap in the literature, and to assist policymakers and practitioners in improving this response, NIJ welcomes research on all aspects of the criminal justice system's response to sexual violence. Both rigorous quantitative studies and qualitative investigations are encouraged, as well as studies that incorporate spatial analysis. Priority will be given to proposals that include experimental or randomized designs. Proposals in the following priority areas are specifically encouraged:

**Research examining rape prosecution and factors influencing victim perception of the judicial process.** Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that examine the experience of rape victims who choose to report and participate in prosecution efforts. These might include, but are not limited to, studies that explore how the legal process is explained to victims prior to their participation in trials, how factors such as victim or offender characteristics and intoxicant use are presented by defense and prosecuting attorneys during trials, and factors that influence the juror decisionmaking process in acquaintance rape cases. NIJ is also interested in how exceptions to rape shield laws affect victim participation, trial outcomes, current reporting rates, and the conviction rate for acquaintance rape cases.

**Evaluation of multisystem responses to sexual violence.** Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals to evaluate the response of law enforcement, public safety, advocacy, medico-forensic, and the criminal court system to crimes of sexual violence. Applications that specifically focus on the impact of formal Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) on the investigation, prosecution, and outcome of sexual assault cases are especially encouraged. In addition, NIJ will accept proposals to examine barriers to reporting posed by the criminal justice system and to evaluate innovative, multi-disciplinary initiatives that attempt to reduce or remove such barriers.

**Research on the use of forensic science to respond to sexual violence in stranger and nonstranger sexual assault cases.** Proposals that examine the cost effectiveness and outcomes associated with the use of forensic techniques and analysis to address crimes of sexual violence are encouraged. Forensic analysis techniques can include, but are not limited to, DNA analysis, serology, toxicology, and hair or trace evidence analysis. Projects that propose to identify effective evidence collection methods and techniques, forensic markers of sexual assault, and the impact of this evidence on case outcomes in both stranger and nonstranger sexual assault cases are also desired.

Across these priority areas, applicants may submit proposals that examine the criminal justice response to sexual violence as it occurs within diverse populations. This might include, but is not limited to, studies that focus on ethnic, racial, and language minority groups, including immigrants; Native American women; women who live in rural areas; women with cognitive, developmental, or physical disabilities; women with vision impairments; elderly women; women living in institutional settings; women who are migrant workers; women involved in prostitution; and homeless women.

**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.

**Cost of proposed work:** NIJ anticipates that up to \$750,000 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 two to three 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 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."

## 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
Develop and analyze information and data having clear implications for criminal justice policy and practice.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>2. Quality of the research as assessed by peer reviewers.</li><li>3. Quality of management as measured by whether significant interim project milestones were achieved, final deadlines were met, and costs remained within approved limits.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>2. Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, and a final progress report.</li></ol>

## 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](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.

**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 2007-NIJ-1420.

**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 policy and practice.
  - Management plan and organization.
  - Dissemination strategy.
- d. Appendixes (not counted against program narrative page limit) include:
  - Bibliography/References (if applicable).
  - 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 [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/Forms/budget\\_fillable.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/Forms/budget_fillable.pdf), OJP Standard Forms & Instructions. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Comptroller'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 [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/forms.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/forms.htm).

**Page limit:** The program narrative section of your proposal 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 proposal 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.**

Within the program narrative of the proposal, applicants are expected to provide a thorough literature review that illustrates their comprehensive knowledge of the proposed study subject, identifies the field’s past empirical work that contributes to the theoretical foundation of the proposal; and demonstrates the contextual contribution of the proposed project to criminal justice research, policy, and practice.



**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 proposals 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 proposals 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 proposal 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 [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm).

## Additional Requirements

- Civil Rights Compliance
- Confidentiality and Human Subjects Protections regulations
- Anti-Lobbying Act
- Financial and Government Audit Requirements
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance
- DOJ Information Technology Standards
- Single Point of Contact Review
- Non-supplanting of State or Local Funds
- Criminal Penalty for False Statements
- Compliance with Office of the Comptroller Financial Guide
- Suspension or Termination of Funding
- Non-profit Organizations
- Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)
- Rights in Intellectual Property

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 [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/otherrequirements.htm](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.