

# Concept Paper Evaluation Criteria for Peer Review

The criteria for evaluating concept papers are described in detail in each solicitation. For some concept papers (identified on the [NIJ Funding page](#)), peer reviewers answer the following questions, distilled from that detailed list, as they evaluate each concept paper.

**Eligibility:** Is the concept paper responsive to the goals of the solicitation?

**Problem importance:** Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of, or make a case for, the problem and its importance?

**Quality and technical merit:** Is the applicant aware of the state of current knowledge? Are the proposed methods of research and analysis sound?

**Impact of the proposed project:** Does the proposed research have the potential to significantly advance the policy and practice of criminal justice and related agencies?

**Capabilities, demonstrated productivity, and experience of applicant:** Do the applicants have the skills, resources, and access to complete the proposed research? Does the management plan seem reasonable?

**Budget:** Is the cost consistent with the level of effort required? Is the cost reasonable given the perceived benefit?

**Dissemination strategy:** Does the applicant propose to disseminate results to appropriate researchers, practitioners, and policymakers?

**Conclusion:** Should the applicant be invited to submit a full proposal?