

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

FY2025 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) – Competitive Grants Program Notice of Funding Opportunity

September 24, 2025



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Webinar Housekeeping

- If you encounter any technical difficulties, please inform us through the meeting chat.
- For any questions during the presentation, post them in the Q&A pod and we will respond during the Q&A session at the conclusion.
- This webinar is being recorded and will be accessible on the BJA website within a few days.



Captions

- Navigate to the meeting controls, which are usually at the top of your screen.
- Click the **More** button, represented by three dots 
- Go to **Language and speech**.
- Select **Turn on live captions** or **Show live captions**.
- The captions will appear in real-time at the bottom of the webinar window.



Presenter

Andrea Borchardt

Policy Chief

Forensics Unit



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Agenda

- OJP Overview
- Program Overview
- NOFO Information
- OJP Funding Process Overview
- Application Resources
- Q&A





BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

OJP Overview

What is the Office of Justice Programs?

- The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides grant funding, training, research, and statistics to the criminal justice community.
- OJP is one of three grant-making components of the Department of Justice along with the **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)** and the **Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)**.

BJA – Bureau of Justice Assistance



BJS – Bureau of Justice Statistics



NIJ – National Institute of Justice



OVC – Office for Victims of Crime



OJJDP – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

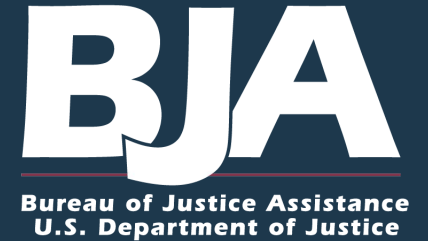


SMART – Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking



Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance

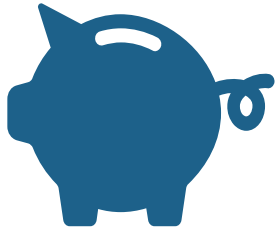
BJA strengthens the Nation's criminal justice system and helps America's state, local, and tribal jurisdictions reduce and prevent crime, reduce recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system.



<https://bja.ojp.gov/>

Tammie M. Gregg
Acting Director

How BJA Supports the Field



Investments

Provide funding to accomplish goals.



Sharing Knowledge

Research, develop, and deliver what works to build capacity and improve outcomes.



Engagement

Connect with the field.





Poll Question

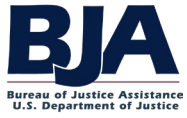
Has your organization applied for OJP grants before?

My organization has applied for and received OJP grants.

My organization has applied for but not been awarded an OJP grant.

My organization has not applied for an OJP grant, but we've had other federal grants.

My organization is new to OJP grants and looking to learn more!



Program Overview

Support states and units of local government with existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis to solve crimes and protect public safety by maximizing the effective utilization of DNA technology to process DNA samples for entry into CODIS.



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Funding Purpose

- Maximize the effective utilization of DNA technology to strengthen evidence-based criminal justice responses.
- CEBR Competitive Program goals
 - 1) Increase capacity and/or efficiency of publicly funded forensic DNA laboratories to conduct analysis of crime scene samples for entry into CODIS.
 - 2) Implement Rapid DNA in booking station(s) in eligible jurisdictions.



NOFO Information

Eligibility

- State governments
- County governments
- City or townships governments
- Special district governments
- Other units of local government
- Public- and state-controlled institutions of higher education

Applicants must submit signed and completed [DNA](#)

[Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction \(CEBR\) Program Eligibility Certification](#)



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Funding Categories

Category 1: Implement DNA technology in forensic laboratories to increase the number of CODIS-eligible crime scene samples processed.

- Increase capacity and/or efficiency of laboratories to process CODIS-eligible crime scene samples in accredited, publicly funded forensic DNA laboratories using DNA technology.

Category 2: Implement Rapid DNA at the booking station.

- Increase number of qualifying arrestee DNA samples uploaded to CODIS in the booking environment.
- Reduce the time between DNA collection and disposition of arrestee-related CODIS hits.



Category 1

- Directly reduce casework backlogs, improve turnaround times, and increase the number of eligible profiles uploaded to CODIS.
- May support a wide range of strategies tailored to a laboratory's unique needs, including but not limited to:
 - personnel
 - instrumentation
 - workflow modernization
 - method validation



Category 2

- Implement or expand Rapid DNA technology in booking stations to generate CODIS-eligible DNA profiles from arrestees.
- Funding may be used for a variety of activities necessary to establish or enhance Rapid DNA workflows, including but not limited to:
 - acquisition, validation, and integration of Rapid DNA instruments
 - training of booking personnel
 - development of secure data systems
 - other infrastructure needed to support timely and compliant CODIS submissions.

ipuwadol/shutterstock.com



Definition: DNA Analysis/Analyses



Activities conducted to facilitate processing and entry of forensic DNA samples into CODIS once the sample has been collected from a crime scene or a known individual.

- Screening (the location, assessment, identification, and characterization of body fluid(s) and other biological areas of interest)
- Laboratory processing
 - Extraction
 - Quantitation
 - Amplification
- Issuing reports
 - fragment/sequence analysis
 - DNA profile evaluation and comparison
 - report writing and associated technical/administrative reviews of DNA reports



Definition: Rapid DNA in the Booking Station



The use of Rapid DNA on buccal (inner cheek) swabs collected from certain arrested individuals that are legally required to provide such samples at the time of arrest for the purposes of entering and searching the resulting DNA profiles in CODIS.

To use funding for Booking Station Rapid DNA a state must adhere to:

- *Standards for the Operation of Rapid DNA Booking Systems by Law Enforcement Booking Agencies*
- *National Rapid DNA Booking Operational Procedures Manual*



Federal Award Information

Anticipated amount of funding:

- \$3,000,000

Anticipated number of awards to be funded:

- 2 in Category 1
- 1 in Category 2

Period of performance start date:

- October 1, 2025

Period of performance duration:

- 24 months

Anticipated maximum dollar amount per award:

- Up to \$1,000,000 in Category 1 and 2



Previous Year Application Data

FY 2023		FY 2024	
\$4,998,000 Available		\$3,439,851 Available	
Applications	Awards	Applications	Awards
16	12	25	6
75%		24%	



Agency Funding Priorities

- (a) Directly supporting law enforcement operations (including immigration law enforcement operations)
- (b) Combatting violent crime
- (c) Supporting services to American citizens
- (d) Protecting American children
- (e) Supporting American victims of trafficking and sexual assault



Program Priority Considerations

- Category 1 Applicants
 - Highest percentiles of performance measures (e.g., longest turnaround times) reported by CEBR laboratories in the preceding year
<https://bja.ojp.gov/program/dna-cebr/performance-measures>
- Baseline Measures - Casework Laboratories
 - Total forensic biology/DNA cases completed in 2024
 - Number of untested/not completed forensic biology/DNA cases more than 30 days old (backlogged) on December 31, 2024
 - The average number of days needed to complete (including peer review and report) forensic DNA cases for calendar year 2024



Unallowable Uses of Funds

NOFO

Note: Addressing these priority areas is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration for one or more priority areas does not guarantee a funding award.

Unallowable Uses of Funds

The following are certain unallowable costs and certain activities that are out of the program scope and will not be funded.

1. Out of program scope is any program or activity, at any tier that, directly or indirectly, violates (or promotes or facilitates the violation of) federal immigration law (including 8 U.S.C. § 1373) or impedes or hinders the enforcement of federal immigration law—including by failing to comply with 8 U.S.C. § 1373, give access to DHS agents, or honor DHS requests and provide requested notice to DHS agents.
2. Out of program scope is any program or activity, at any tier that violates any applicable Federal civil rights or nondiscrimination law. This includes violations that— (1) indirectly violate the law, including by promoting or facilitating violations; or (2) unlawfully favor individuals in any race or protected group, including on a majority or minority, or privileged or unprivileged, basis, within a given area, population, or sector.
3. As specified in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), in Chapter 3.13 “Unallowable Costs” (“Legal Services for Aliens”), any obligations of funds, at any tier, under this award to provide (or to support the provision of) legal services to any removable alien or any alien otherwise unlawfully present in the United States shall be unallowable costs for purposes any award made under this notice, but the foregoing shall not be understood to apply— (1) to legal services to obtain protection orders for victims of crime; or (2) to immigration-related legal services that may be expressly authorized or required by any law, or any judicial ruling, governing or applicable to the award.

Program Goals and Objectives

DOJ Grants Financial Guide

Legal Services for Aliens

Except as indicated in the following sentence, costs of providing legal services (that is, professional services of the kind lawfully provided only by individuals licensed to practice law) to any removable alien (see 8 U.S.C. § 1229a(e)(2)) or any alien otherwise unlawfully present in the United States are disallowed and may not be charged against the award.

Costs for legal services disallowed under the preceding sentence do not include costs for legal services— (1) to obtain protection orders for victims of crime (including associated or related orders (e.g., custody orders), arising from the victimization); (2) that are associated with or relate to actions under 18 U.S.C. ch. 77 (peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons); (3) to obtain T-visas, U-visas, or “continued presence” immigration status (see, e.g., 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(T) & (U); 22 U.S.C. § 7105(c)(3)(A)); or (4) as to which such disallowance would contravene any express requirement of any law, or of any judicial ruling, governing or applicable to the award.

<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedoij>



Application Review Process

- Must be submitted by an **eligible type of applicant**.
- Must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- Must be **responsive to the scope** of the solicitation.
- Must include all items necessary to meet the **basic minimum requirements**.



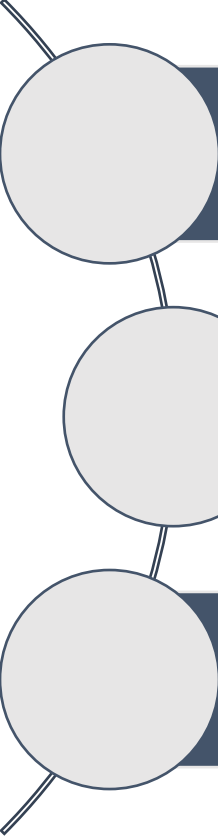
Application Submission

Application must include:

- SF-424 and SF-LLL
- Proposal abstract
- Proposal narrative
- Budget web-based form
 - budget details
 - budget narrative



Eligibility Certification



Outlines the requirements for a state or unit of local government to be eligible to receive a grant under the CEBR Competitive Program.

Must be signed, completed and submitted for the application to advance to peer review.

Must be submitted on the provided template.



Memorandum of Understanding or Letter(s) of Support (Category 2)

If the applicant is not the entity that will operate the Rapid DNA instrument, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Letter of Support from the agency that will operate the instrument must be provided.



[ipuwadol/shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/ipuwadol)



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Merit Review Criteria

- Statement of the Problem/Description of the Issue (25%)
- Project Goals and Objectives (15%)
- Project Design and Implementation (40%)
- Capabilities and Competencies (10%)
- Plan for Collecting the Data Required for This NOFO's Performance Measures (5%)
- Budget (5%)



Each criteria is divided by Category 1 and Category 2



Project Goals and Objectives

Project goals: broad, visionary statements on what the applicant hopes to accomplish.

Project objectives: specific outcomes the applicant plans to achieve through project activities.

How goals and objectives relate to the goals and objectives of the NOFO.



Project Goals and Objectives

Category 1

- Describe direct correlation between implementation of the proposed DNA technology to an improvement in laboratory turnaround time and/or ratio of backlog/cases completed per month.
- Describe how funding supplied through the CEBR Formula Program is insufficient to complete the project proposed.

Category 2

- Describe the direct correlation between implementation of Rapid DNA in the Booking Station and improvement in criminal justice outcomes.
- Discuss the DNA Index of Special Concern (DISC) and provide an estimate of how many DISC profiles are enabled in their jurisdiction.



Application Checklist



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

BJA FY25 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) – Competitive Grants Program

This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application. For more information, reference the [“OJP Application Submission Steps”](#) in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) and the [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#).

SAM.gov Registration/Renewal

- Confirm that your entity’s registration in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) is active through the NOFO period. Submit a new or renewal registration in SAM.gov, if needed (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

Grants.gov Registration

- Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

Grants.gov Opportunity Search

- Search for the funding opportunity in Grants.gov using the opportunity number, assistance listing number, or keyword(s).
- Select the correct Competition ID.
- Access the funding opportunity and application package (see Step 7 under [“OJP Application Submission Steps”](#) in the [Application Resource Guide](#)).
- Sign up for Grants.gov email notifications (optional) (see [Application Resource Guide](#)).

Funding Opportunity Review and Project Planning

- Review all sections of the NOFO.
- Confirm your entity is eligible to receive funding (see [Eligibility: Eligible Applicants](#)).
- Confirm your proposed budget is within the allowable limits (see [Basic Information: Funding Details](#)), includes only allowable costs (see [Application Contents, Submission Requirements, and Deadlines: Budget Detail Form](#)), and includes cost sharing if applicable (see [Eligibility: Cost Sharing/Match Requirements](#)).
- Review the performance measures for this funding opportunity and confirm you will be prepared to collect and report on this data (see [Program Description: Performance Measures](#)).
- Review the [“Legal Overview—FY 2025 Awards”](#) in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#) and confirm you are prepared to follow the requirements.
- Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting under “Listing of Costs Requiring Prior Approval” in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) or see the [Application Resource Guide](#).

Submission Step 1: Grants.gov

After registering with SAM.gov submit the SF-424 in Grants.gov.

- Complete and submit the SF-424 by the deadline.



BJA

Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

OJP Funding Process Overview

Before You Apply For Funding

SAM.gov Registration – recommend beginning at least 30 days before the first application deadline

- Register/confirm “active” registration status
 - First-time registration – may take several weeks
 - Existing registration – annual renewal required
- Obtain/confirm **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)**
- Identify current SAM.gov points of contact



Apply For OJP Funding: Overview

Step 1: Grants.gov – complete *at least* 48 hours before deadline in NOFO

- Register/confirm registration
- Submit Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

Step 2: JustGrants – complete *at least* 48 hours before deadline in NOFO

- Register/confirm access
- Submit full application, including required attachments



Apply For OJP Funding: Step 1

Step 1: Grants.gov

- Register/confirm registration
- Add/confirm users and their roles
- Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

You can complete the first two actions at any time. Check the [Grants.gov Quick Start Guide](#) for more tips.



Apply For OJP Funding: Step 2

Step 2: JustGrants

Complete the full application in JustGrants

- Standard Applicant Information
- Proposal Abstract
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget and Associated Documentation
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Other Supportive Documents
- Additional Application Components
- Disclosures and Assurances



What Happens Next?

After the JustGrants application deadline, OJP starts its review process:

- Basic Minimum Requirements
- Peer Review
- Programmatic and Financial Review
- Risk Review



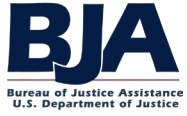
Award Notices

Visit the OJP Grant Awards public website: ojp.gov/funding/ojpgrantawards

Successful applicants notified by JustGrants:

- Accept or decline award within 45 days
- Follow steps in [DOJ Award Acceptance Checklist](#)





Application Resources

[Home](#) / [Grants/Funding](#) / [Applicant Resources](#)

OJP Grant Application Resource Guide

February 6, 2025

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in applying for OJP funding. It complements notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) by providing more detail about policies, statutes, and regulations that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP funding applicants or to grants and cooperative agreements awarded in fiscal year (FY) 2025. For detailed instructions on using the JustGrants system to submit applications, review the [Application Submission Resources](#). Some OJP NOFOs expressly modify a provision of this guide; in such cases, the applicant should follow the guidelines in the NOFO.

DOJ Grant Application Process Overview

See the [YouTube Terms of Service](#)¹¹ and [Google Privacy Policy](#)¹²



Initiate an application

Initiate an application in Grants.gov and submit required documents

Note: Complete and submit the required documents in Grants.gov at least 48–72 hours prior to the Grants.gov deadline.

Watch on  YouTube

Want to apply for Department of Justice (DOJ) funding? This video offers a quick look at the systems you'll use to complete your grant application—SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants—and shows you where to find assistance with any step in the grant application process.

Contents

- [Finding Funding Opportunities](#)
 - [Funding Opportunity Review and Project Planning](#)
- [How To Apply: Application Contents, Submission Requirements, and Deadlines](#)
 - [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\) and SAM.gov Registration/Renewal](#)
 - [First-Time Registration](#)
 - [Renewing an Existing Registration](#)
 - [Applying as an Individual](#)
 - [Applying as a Small Business](#)
 - [Submission Step 1: SF-424 in Grants.gov](#)
 - [First-Time Registration](#)
 - [Renewing an Existing Registration](#)
 - [Guidance for Specific SF-424 Fields](#)
 - [SF-424 Submission](#)
 - [Submission Step 2: Full Application in JustGrants](#)
 - [First-Time Registration](#)
 - [Renewing an Existing Registration](#)
 - [Preparing for Submission](#)
 - [Data Requested With Application](#)
 - [Proposal Narrative/Project Description](#)
 - [Budget Preparation and Submission and Associated Documentation](#)
 - [Additional Application Components](#)
 - [Disclosures and Assurances](#)
 - [Submission Dates and Times](#)
 - [Experiencing Unforeseen Technical Issues](#)
- [Application Review Information](#)
 - [Basic Minimum Requirements](#)
 - [Peer Review](#)
 - [Programmatic and Financial Review Criteria](#)
 - [Risk Review](#)
 - [Selection Process](#)
- [Federal Award Notices](#)
 - [Award Acceptance](#)
- [Post-Award Requirements and Administration](#)
 - [General Information About Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements](#)
 - [Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements](#)
 - [Financial Management and System of Internal Controls](#)
 - [Information Technology \(IT\) Security Clauses](#)
- [Other Information](#)
 - [Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities](#)
 - [Note on Project Evaluations](#)
 - [Freedom of Information and Privacy Act \(5 U.S.C. § 552 and § 552a\)](#)
 - [Provide Feedback to OJP](#)
 - [OJP Peer Reviewers](#)



SAM.gov Entity Registration and Renewal Requirement

All entities seeking Department of Justice (DOJ) grant funding must have an “active” registration in [SAM.gov](#). **Begin the SAM.gov registration or renewal process 30 days prior to any deadlines** to allow time to complete the full process.

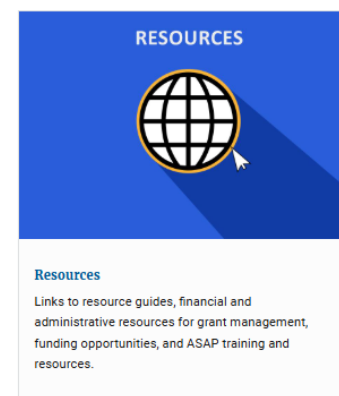
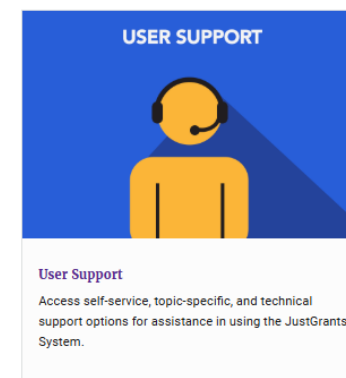
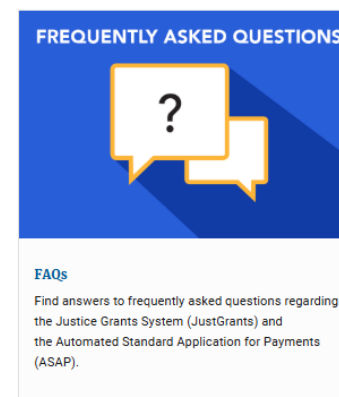
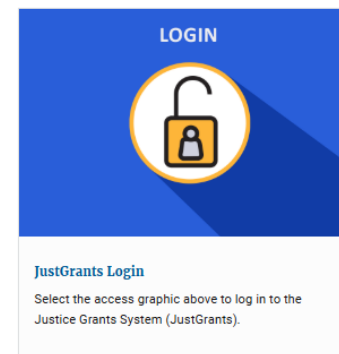
For additional support, visit [SAM.gov Help](#).



Video: DOJ Grant Application Process Overview

Want to apply for Department of Justice (DOJ) funding? This video offers a quick look at the systems you’ll use to complete your grant application—SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants—and shows you where to find assistance with any step in the grant application process.

[Watch the Video](#)



Application Assistance

Grants.gov

Assistance with submitting the **SF-424**.

- **Customer Support Hotline**
 - 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035
 - Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.
- **Web and Email**
 - <https://www.grants.gov/support>
 - support@grants.gov

JustGrants

Assistance with submitting the full application in DOJ's Justice Grants System (JustGrants).

- **Customer Support Hotline**
 - 833-872-5175
 - Monday – Friday between 7am and 9pm ET
 - Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays from 9am – 5pm ET
- **Web and Email**
 - <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/user-support>
 - JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov

OJP Response Center

10am to 6pm ET, Monday - Friday

Additional Questions?



Email: OJP.ResponseCenter@usdoj.gov



Toll free: 800-851-3420

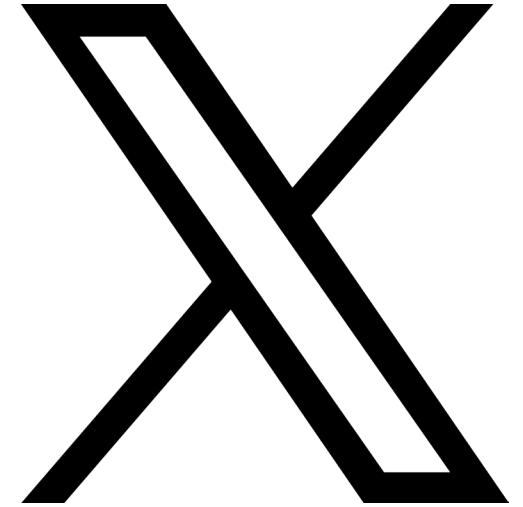


TTY: 202-353-5556
(hearing impaired only)



Stay Connected!

- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA>
- **X:** <https://x.com/DOJBJA>
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/dojbja>
- Use the QR code to subscribe to “**Justice Matters**” and “**News From BJA**” to receive the latest information from BJA and the field.
- For information on funding opportunities, publications, and initiatives, visit **BJA’s website:** www.bja.ojp.gov.
- Subscribe to **Justice Programs News & Funding** <https://www.ojp.gov/news/justice-programs-news-funding>.



Q&A



Please send your questions via the Q&A pod. If you would rather ask verbally, use the raise hand feature to be unmuted and speak. Wait to unmute until you have been acknowledged.