



The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ) is seeking applications for Social Science Research on Implementation, Dissemination, and Translation FY 2015. 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.

Social Science Research on **Implementation,** Dissemination, and Translation FY 2015

Eligibility

In general, NIJ is authorized to make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, States (including territories), units of local government (including federally recognized Indian tribal governments as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), nonprofit and for-profit organizations (including tribal nonprofit or for-profit organizations), institutions of higher education (including tribal institutions of higher education), and certain qualified individuals. For-profit organizations must agree to forgo any profit or management fee. Foreign governments, foreign organizations, and foreign institutions of higher education are not eligible to apply.

NIJ welcomes applications that involve two or more entities, however, one eligible entity must be the applicant and the other(s) must be proposed as subrecipient(s). The applicant must be the entity with primary responsibility for conducting and leading the research project. If successful, the applicant will be responsible for monitoring and appropriately managing any subrecipients or, as applicable, for administering any procurement subcontracts that would receive federal program funds from the applicant under the award.

An eligible applicant may submit more than one application, as long as each application proposes a different project in response to the solicitation. (Applicants should also review and consider the "Duplicate Applications" note under [How to Apply](#) in Section D. Application and Submission Information.) Subrecipients may be part of multiple proposals.

NIJ may elect to make awards for applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

For additional eligibility information, see Section [C. Eligibility Information](#).

Deadline

Applicants must register with [Grants.gov](#) prior to submitting an application. All applications are due to be submitted and in receipt of a successful validation message in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. **eastern time on April 9, 2015.**

All applicants are encouraged to read this [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#).

For additional information, see [How to Apply](#) in Section D. Application and Submission Information.

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035, or via e-mail to support@grants.gov. The [Grants.gov](#) Support Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

Applicants that experience unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must e-mail the NIJ contact identified below **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. Additional information on reporting technical issues is found under “Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues” in the [How to Apply](#) section.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact Dr. Nadine Frederique, Social Science Analyst, by telephone at (202) 514-8777, or by nadine.frederique@usdoj.gov or Mr. Eric Martin, Social Science Analyst, by telephone at (202) 598-7260, or by e-mail at eric.d.martin@usdoj.gov. General information on applying for NIJ awards can be found at www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/welcome.aspx. Answers to frequently asked questions that may assist applicants are posted at www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/faqs.aspx.

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Social Science Research on Implementation, Dissemination, and Translation FY 2015

(CFDA No. 16.560)

A. Program Description

Overview

This solicitation seeks proposals for funding for projects to study how criminal justice practitioners use research in their decision-making processes and how they implement evidence-based programs or practices.

Authorizing Legislation: Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (sections 201 and 202).

Program-Specific Information

In recent years, NIJ has sought to understand how research informs practice in the criminal justice field. One of NIJ's goals is to advance criminal justice through science; consequently, researchers must be able to translate scientific findings into policy and practice. NIJ intends to continue its work studying the processes of knowledge acquisition, implementation, and dissemination.

NIJ proposes two distinct research activities under this solicitation. Applicants may apply to one or both sections of the solicitation; however, proposal titles should clearly identify the section of the solicitation for which the proposal is being submitted.

Incorporating the Use of Research in Policy Decisions (Up to \$500,000 available)

NIJ seeks studies on incorporating the use of research evidence into criminal justice practice and policy decisions. NIJ is particularly interested in understanding how research evidence is used by those with decision-making power to shape their assessments. We also are interested in furthering our understanding and knowledge of the end-users of research evidence. How do they acquire their knowledge of research evidence and how do they use that evidence? NIJ solicits research on the mechanisms (e.g., journal articles, trade publications, listservs, blogs, mavens or trusted colleagues) and the strategies that practitioners and policymakers use to access research evidence; how that information is applied to practice; and how practice evolves based on new research evidence.

Of particular interest is how research evidence has contributed to policy changes in the criminal justice system. Also of interest are studies on the processes, and the facilitators or barriers to the use of research evidence by practitioners and policymakers. The proposed studies should investigate the processes by which research evidence is acquired, interpreted, and used within the criminal justice community, and identify the various factors that impact those processes (e.g., characteristics of the research itself, the setting, the individual policymaker/practitioner and interactions among these and other important contextual factors). NIJ solicits proposals that offer an analysis of readily available information, networks, resources and already collected data

or the collection of new data that can offer insights into these processes related to the use of research evidence.

While proposals will be considered on any topical area (e.g., corrections, courts, policing, crime prevention, and victimization), NIJ is particularly interested in the following:

- Studies that examine judges or prosecutors as consumers of research and consider the different standards of evidence between science and the courtroom.
- Studies on the use of research intermediaries in promoting policies and practices. Intermediaries could include, but are not limited to, research sponsors, advocacy groups, trade or professional associations, and other peer networks.

Implementation Studies (Up to \$500,000 available).

Over the past decade, the science related to developing and identifying "evidence-based practices and programs" has improved and there are now a number of registries of such programs and practices, most notably www.crimesolutions.gov. Yet, the science of implementation of these programs in a variety of settings with diverse populations is not as well developed. In the past few years, both empirically-supported models and authoritative research syntheses have been developed to guide dissemination and implementation of evidence-based interventions, but there is still limited understanding of the generalizability of these approaches. Much of the work in this area has been done in the medical field, as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have a recurring Funding Opportunity Announcement to support research in dissemination and implementation (www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/PA-files/PAR-13-055.html).

Research on implementation in criminal justice and victim services settings lags behind. To this end, NIJ is soliciting research to support innovative approaches to identifying, understanding, and overcoming barriers to the adoption, adaptation, integration, scale-up and sustainability of evidence-based interventions, practices, policies, and guidelines.

Consistent with the NIH definition, for the purposes of this solicitation, "Implementation" is the use of strategies to adopt and integrate evidence-based interventions and change practice patterns within specific settings. Recent literature has underscored the importance of understanding the many factors that affect whether the criminal justice or service organization will adopt, successfully implement and sustain a given intervention, as interventions developed in the context of efficacy and effectiveness trials are rarely transferable without adaptations to specific settings and additional tools and guidance to support uptake and implementation. Therefore, research is needed to examine the process of transferring interventions into local settings, settings that may be similar to but also somewhat different from the ones in which the intervention was developed and tested.

Implementation research is the scientific study of methods to promote the integration of research findings and evidence-based interventions into criminal justice practice and policy. It seeks to understand the behavior of criminal justice and victim service professionals and support staff, organizations, offenders or victims and their family members, and policymakers in context as key variables in the adoption, implementation, and sustainability of evidence-based interventions and guidelines. Relevant studies should develop a knowledge base about "how" interventions are transported to real-world practice settings, which will likely require more than the distribution of information about the interventions.

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Swift and Certain Studies

There are multiple States, counties, cities, and tribes that are interested in implementing “Swift and Certain” (SAC) models of supervision with offenders in the community. This interest has grown out of the potential promise that these SAC models have shown in effectively reducing recidivism and preventing crime. In particular, Hawaii’s Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) program has been shown to have promise, and as a result there is significant interest and activity in implementing models of supervision, and other versions of the HOPE model that rely on swift and certain sanctions.

SAC approaches are intended to: (a) improve supervision strategies that reduce recidivism; (b) promote and increase collaboration among agencies and officials who work in community corrections and related fields; (c) enhance the offenders’ perception that the supervision decisions are fair, consistently applied and consequences are transparent; and (d) improve the outcomes of individuals participating in these initiatives. Through a [FY 2014 grant announcement](#), BJA selected [seven applicants](#) to implement or enhance a HOPE model using SAC.

NIJ seeks applicants who will conduct case studies of the implementation of the HOPE model at one or all of the SAC sites selected by BJA. Applicants should contact the sites directly and establish MOU’s with the site(s) that they plan to study. The documentation of these relationships should be included as a part of the application package.

These implementation studies should focus on understanding how the HOPE model is implemented in the specific jurisdiction being studied and how that implementation either comports or deviates from the original implementation in Hawaii. Research designs should consider how to capture departures from strict fidelity to the model and how to estimate the impact of those departures on offender outcomes.

Other Implementation Studies

NIJ is also interested in implementation studies of other programs, policies, and practices. NIJ is particularly interested in understanding the implementation of evidence-based practices and programs in policing, courts, corrections, victim services, and crime/violence prevention. Studies may propose to use any evidence-based intervention, tool, policy or guideline, but are encouraged to consider www.crimesolutions.gov.

Although studies of any aspect of the implementation process will be considered, NIJ is particularly interested in those that do one or more of the following:

- Seek to describe and understand the multi-level context and environment in which the proposed research will be conducted and investigate the relationship of context to adoption, implementation, and sustainability.
- Seek to incorporate stakeholder input and relevant outcomes (e.g., for offenders, victims, families, practitioners, administrators, or policymakers).
- Focus on the fidelity/adaptation of implementation efforts, including the identification of components of implementation that will enable fidelity to be assessed meaningfully.

- Assess the capacity of specific settings to incorporate implementation efforts within current organizational forms.

Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Expected Scholarly Products

NIJ is seeking studies on the use of research in practitioner decision-making and implementation case studies. These studies will be compiled into a compendium with other NIJ funded research on dissemination and research translation.

In addition to required data sets, a draft and final summary overview of research results, interim and final progress and financial reports,¹ NIJ expects scholarly products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of one or more published, peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press, technological prototypes, patented inventions, or similar scientific products.

Evaluation Research

If an application includes an evaluation research component (or consists entirely of evaluation research), the application is expected to propose the use of random selection and assignment of participants to experimental and control conditions, if feasible. Applications that include evaluation research but do not propose the use of randomization should explain clearly why randomization is not feasible, and should propose a strong quasi-experimental design that can address the risk of selection bias.

Also, applications that include evaluation research are expected to consider seriously incorporation of cost/benefit analysis. NIJ views cost/benefit analysis as an effective way to communicate and disseminate findings from evaluation research and best serve our criminal justice constituents.

Please note: Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to comply with Department of Justice regulations on confidentiality and human subjects' protection. See "Evidence, Research, and Evaluation Guidance and Requirements" under "Solicitation Requirements" in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

B. Federal Award Information

NIJ estimates that it will make up to six awards of up to \$150,000 to \$200,000 for an estimated total of \$1,000,000, for case studies with up to a 24-month project period.

To allow time for, among other things, any necessary post-award review, modification, and clearance by OJP of the proposed budget, applicants should propose an award start date of January 1, 2016.

If the applicant is proposing a project that reasonably could be conducted in discrete phases, with each phase resulting in completion of one or more significant, defined milestones, then NIJ strongly recommends that the applicant structure the application – specifically including the narrative, expected scholarly products, timelines/milestones, and budget detail worksheet and budget narrative – to clearly set out each phase. (This is particularly the case if the applicant

¹ See "Federal Award Administration Information" ("General Information About Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements") section of this solicitation, below, for additional information.