National Institute of Justice Overview

Grants Resource Center’s External Funding Conference
August 2010
Presentation Roadmap

- About NIJ
- How structured
- Strategic Priorities
- Crosscutting Topics
- Funding Mechanisms
- Processes
- Q & A
About NIJ

- Research, development and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

- Provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools

- Meet crime and justice challenges primarily at state and local level
About NIJ


- Director establishes Institute’s objectives guided by priorities of Office of Justice Programs, DOJ, and needs of field
About NIJ

- Work informed by criminal justice and other professionals and researchers

- Goal: Inform policy and practice
What NIJ Offers

- Research and evaluation technical assistance
- Research and evaluation funding
- Subject matter expertise
- Access to data, systems, information, and the criminal justice system
National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Director

Deputy Director
- Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences
- Office of Operations
- Office of Communications

Deputy Director

Office of Science and Technology
- Information and Sensor Technologies Division
- Operational Technologies Division

Office of Research and Evaluation
- Violence and Victimization Division
- Crime Control and Prevention Research Division
- Justice Systems Research Division

International Center
How Structured

- Five Operating Offices
  - Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE)
  - Office of Science and Technology (OST)
  - Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences (OIFS)
  - Office of Communications
  - Office of Operations
- International Center (IC)
ORE’s Mission is to:

- Advance social and behavioral science concerning crime and criminal justice practice, policy, and programs
- Develop knowledge and tools through extramural and intramural research that will enhance the administration of justice
- Coordinate its research programs and dissemination of results with other federal partners
OST’s Mission is to:

- Conduct research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) to address criminal justice technology needs by
  - Establishing and maintaining advisory groups to assess technology needs
  - Developing technical standards and guides
  - Compliance testing
  - Capacity building
  - Providing technology assistance to state and local law enforcement and corrections agencies
OIFS’ Mission is to:

- Improve quality and practice of forensic science through innovative solutions that support
  - Research and development
  - Testing and evaluation
  - Technology
  - Information exchange
  - Development of training resources for criminal justice community.
IC’s Mission is to:

- Foster international research and dissemination by
  - Advising on NIJ’s portfolio of research regarding terrorism, human trafficking, organized crime and corruption, international justice systems and emerging crime issues
  - Facilitating the global exchange of ideas
  - Evaluating the impact of transnational crime
Strategic Priorities

- Determine early warning signs of crime increase
- Understand and prevent twenty-first century crime (e.g. electronic crime)
- Understand violence and victimization in specific populations
- Identify interventions to prevent crime
- Reduce correctional populations safely
- Improve criminal justice systems
Crosscutting Topics
Forensics Policy Analysis

- DNA in property crimes
- Role and impact of forensic evidence in the criminal justice system
- Post-conviction DNA testing and exoneration
- Improving efficiency of DNA processing in crime laboratories
The Intersection of Technology and Social Science

- Eyewitness identification
- Forensics science for officers of the court
- Law enforcement technologies (e.g. less lethal technology, GPS officer tracking)
- Crime mapping
- Corrections
NIJ Annual Solicitations (RFA)

- Crime and Justice Research (Investigator - Initiated)
- Building and Enhancing Criminal Justice Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships
- Data Resources Program (DRP)
- Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) Program
- W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship Program
- Visiting Fellowship Program
FY 2010 Solicitations

- Data Resources Program
- Evaluation of Programs to Reduce Gang Membership
- Foreclosures and Crime Policing
- Eyewitness Identification
- Forensics and Social Science
- Elder Mistreatment
- Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships
- Children Exposed to Violence
- Human Trafficking
- Graduate Research Fellowship
- Visiting Fellowship
FY 2010 Solicitations

- W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship
- Recovery Act: Evaluation of State & Local Law Enforcement Assistance
- Sentencing Alternatives to Incarceration
- Second Chance Act Evaluation
- Violence Against Women (Sexual Violence, Teen Dating Violence, Stalking)
- Crime and Justice Research/Investigator Initiated
- Recovery Act: Drug Market Initiative Evaluation
Funding Mechanisms

- Grants
- Cooperative Agreements
- Interagency Agreements/Reimbursable Agreements
- Contracts
- Analytical Support Program (ASP)
Criminal Justice Research Funding Compared To Other Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>FY 2006 President's Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>$8,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>$4,842</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart, Lungs</td>
<td>$4,459</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>$2,951</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child, Human Development</td>
<td>$2,039</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>$1,278</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drug Abuse</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>$808</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>$786</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dental, Cranial</td>
<td>$582</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>$393</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternative medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>$123</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>$49</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: The chart represents funding in millions of dollars.
How Solicitations are Developed

- Generally based on identified research gaps and needs of the field
- OST and OIFS uses Technology Working Group to inform solicitations
- ORE uses specific Workshops and other methods and has begun to use Topical Working Groups (ToWGs)
- Congressionally mandated studies or agendas may also guide a solicitation (National Academy of Sciences)
Solicitations: Timing

- Targeted and General Solicitations
- Most often released in the Fall or early Winter
- RFPs are generally “on the street” between 45 to 90 days; some cases 120 days
- Decisions are announced approximately nine months after the closing date of a solicitation
Solicitation Notification

- Grants.gov
  - Solicitation Notification Email Subscription
  - Grant Submission
- NIJ’s Funding Page
  - [http://www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/welcome.htm](http://www.ojp.gov/nij/funding/welcome.htm)
- OJP Funding Page
  - [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/solicitations.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/solicitations.htm)
NIJ's Grant Award Process

- Strategic Planning/Program Planning
- Award Processing
- Solicitation Drafting, Processing & Posting
- Proposal Receipt & Program Review
- Peer Review
- Briefings and Director Approval

Science & Budget Evaluation

External & Internal Peer Review

Director Review and Approval

45-120 days on the street
NIJ Application Requirements

- Standard Form 424 (face sheet)
- Abstract (600 words)
- Program Narrative
  - Research question or problem
  - Research goals and objectives
  - Research design and methods
  - Implications for knowledge and practice
  - Dissemination plan for project deliverables
  - Description of estimated costs
  - Staffing and Management plan
  - Timeline
  - Data Archiving Strategy (if applicable)
- Tables, figures, charts, and appendixes (if applicable)
Peer Review Process

- Panels held in-person or by conference call
- Consensus is sought but not required
- Each application is reviewed based on the announced criteria
- Every application is reviewed by the peer review panel
Peer Review Criteria

1. Understanding Of The Problem And Its Importance
2. Quality And Technical Merit
   - Research Design
   - Methods
3. Impact Of Proposed Project
   - Substantive Contribution
   - Advancing Fields of Research and Practice
4. Capabilities, Demonstrated Productivity, And Experience Of Researcher/Research Team
5. Budget Considerations
6. Dissemination Strategy
Benefits of Serving as an NIJ Peer Reviewer

- Learn what NIJ looks for in high quality proposals
- Provide valuable service to Institute and the field
- Modest compensation
- If interested, contact Sherran Thomas, (202) 616-4577, Sherran.Thomas@usdoj.gov
Proposal Review Process

- Review and approval of proposals takes about nine months
  - External Peer Review Recommendation
    - Subject Matter Experts
      - Technical Reviewers (2 per panel)
      - Practitioner Reviewers (2 per panel)
  - Internal Peer Reviews Recommendation
  - Office & Institute Briefings
  - Director’s Funding Decision
The Decision Making Process

- NIJ Director is thoroughly briefed on all proposals.
- NIJ Director is the sole and final authority over awards.
- NIJ Director makes final determination based on:
  - Available Funds
  - Quality of Research Proposed
  - The Study’s Impact On Policy & Practice
  - The Topic’s Fit To The Institute’s:
    - Research Priorities & Strategic Goals
    - Portfolio Contribution & Programmatic Relevance
Contact Information

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http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ni
Questions & Answers