

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: FISCAL YEAR 2022 SECOND CHANCE ACT PROGRAMS

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

Improving Reentry Education and Employment Outcomes Solicitation Webinar



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

Speakers

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

- **Andre Bethea**, Policy Advisor

Vera Institute of Justice

- **Ruth Delaney**, Associate Director, Unlocking Potential

Agenda

1. Overview
2. FY 2022 SCA Grant Programs
3. FY 2022 Improving Reentry Education and Employment Outcomes Grant
4. Additional Information

SCA solicitations
are available at:

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

SECTION 1

OVERVIEW

What is the Office of Justice Programs?

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

Office of Justice Programs

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

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

Mission: To provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal law enforcement in achieving safer communities.

BJA

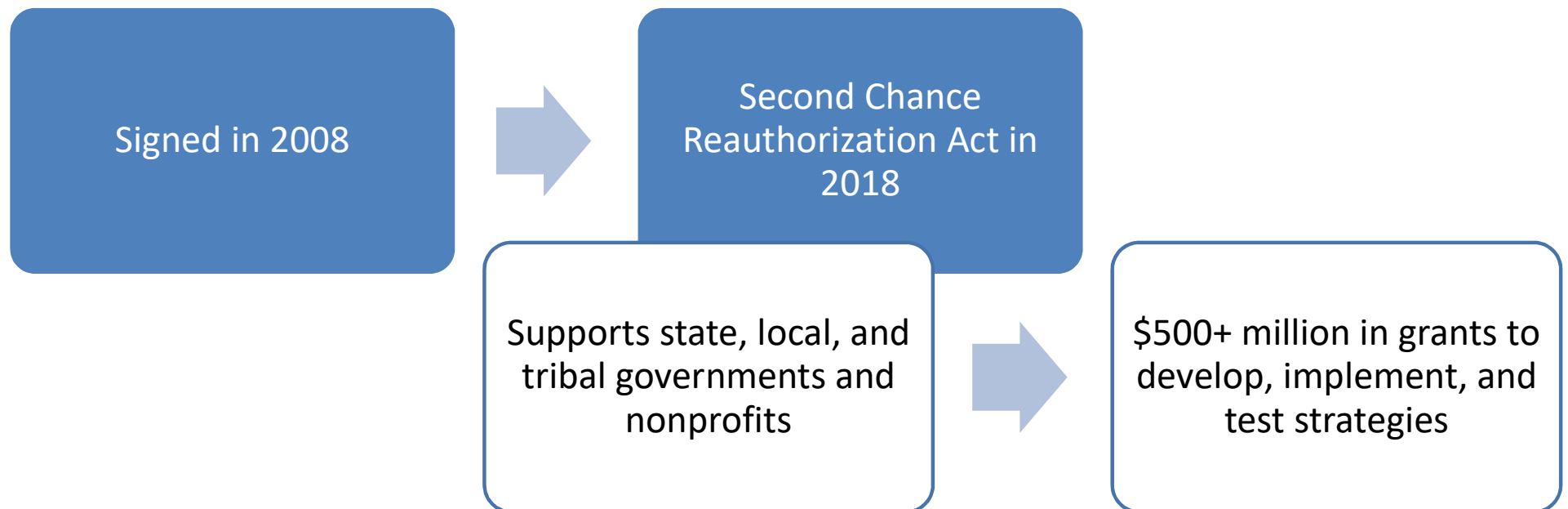
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

www.bja.gov



The Second Chance Act (SCA)

Funding to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for youth and adults leaving detention and incarceration to return to their communities.



BJA's SCA Funding

Grant Funding

Seed money

Proof of concept

Expand or enhance

Training & Technical Assistance to Grantees

With fidelity

In line with research

With project management and content expertise

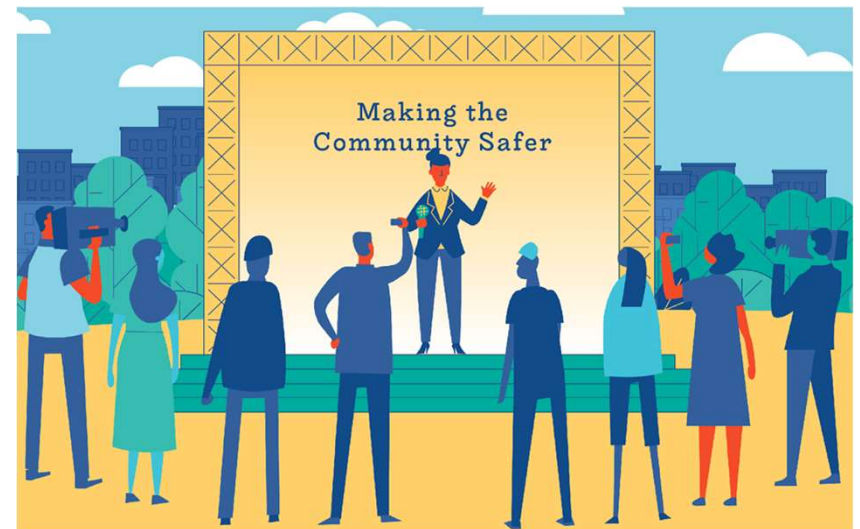
National Reentry Resource Center to support SCA TTA providers and the reentry field

The National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC)

The American Institutes for Research (AIR) operates the NRRC as a collaborative project of BJA and OJJDP.

The primary mission of the NRRC is to advance the knowledge base of the reentry field.

The NRRC serves as a convener and coordinator of SCA grantees.



Vera INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

Training and Technical Assistance Provider (TTA)

- Assistance to grantees on focused education, employment, and reentry
- Connect grantees to peer networks, best practices, and resources



Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)

- Content Expertise
- Research-based solutions
- Objective & multidisciplinary analysis

SECTION 2

**FY 2022 SCA
GRANT PROGRAMS**

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:
IMPROVING REENTRY
EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
OUTCOMES SOLICITATION**

Six FY 2022 SCA Funding Opportunities

**Community-based
Reentry Program**

**Improving Reentry
Education and
Employment
Outcomes Program**

**Improving Reentry
Substance Use
Disorder Treatment
Outcomes Program**

Pay for Success

**Swift, Certain, and Fair
Supervision and HOPE
Institute**

**Smart Reentry and
Smart Supervision
with Technical
Assistance: New Tools
to Facilitate Change**

SCA: Improving Reentry Education and Employment Outcomes

- Through this solicitation, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) seeks applications for funding reentry services and programs focused on strengthening education and employment outcomes for individuals returning from incarceration.
- The Improving Reentry Education and Employment Outcomes Program is designed to improve correctional educational and employment programs that serve individuals during incarceration and throughout their period of reentry into the community.
 - It promotes an evidence-based and data-informed approach that will provide meaningful opportunities, interrupt the cycle of unemployment, and promote reentry success for formerly incarcerated adults.

Grants.gov Deadline: June 7, 2022, 8:59 pm Eastern

Application JustGrants Deadline: June 13, 2022, 8:59 pm Eastern

SCA: Improving Reentry Education and Employment Outcomes

- The purpose of this solicitation is to enhance corrections systems' ability to implement and expand education and employment programs that serve individuals during incarceration and throughout their period of reentry into the community.
- Programs funded under this solicitation should emphasize strong partnerships with corrections, parole, probation, education, workforce development, and reentry service providers.
- Programs should be focused on serving individuals during the 3-year period before release, as well as providing ongoing service provision throughout participants' period of reentry into the community.
- These programs will work to reduce recidivism, promote reentry success, enhance employment prospects for incarcerated adults reentering the workforce, and improve overall public safety and public health.

SCA: Improving Reentry Education and Employment Outcomes

Eligibility

- Eligible applicants:
 - City or township governments
 - County governments
 - Native American tribal governments that are federally recognized
 - Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
 - State governments
 - Other
- BJA will consider applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award; however, only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients (subgrantees).

Additional Eligibility Requirements

To advance **Executive Order 13929 Safe Policing for Safe Communities**, the Attorney General determined that all state, local, and university or college law enforcement agencies must be certified by an approved independent credentialing body or have started the certification process to be eligible for FY 2022 DOJ discretionary grant funding. The certification requirement also applies to law enforcement agencies receiving DOJ discretionary grant funding through a subaward.

To become certified, the law enforcement agency must meet two mandatory conditions:

1. The agency's use-of-force policies adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and
2. the agency's use-of-force policies prohibit chokeholds except in situations where use of deadly force is allowed by law.

For detailed information on this certification requirement, please visit <https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO> to access the Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Safe Communities, the Implementation Fact Sheet, and the List of Credentialing Bodies.

Category 1: Improving Correctional Education

Goal

- Improve the educational and vocational education programs available to individuals incarcerated in prisons and jails and upon return to the community. Services should begin prior to release from incarceration and continue throughout participants' period of reentry.

Objectives

- Implement or expand educational and vocational programs for incarcerated adults that result in improved educational outcomes, as measured by literacy attainment, high school equivalence, high school and higher education diplomas, certifications, and other credentials.
- Demonstrate increased collaboration between educational providers and corrections, community supervision providers, and other reentry stakeholders.

Deliverables (all categories)

- Development of an action plan with input from BJA and an assigned technical assistance coach, submitted within 6 months of receiving final budget approval.
- A final report at the end of the project period.

Category 1: Improving Correctional Education

Federal Award Information

- FY 2022 opportunities
 - Number of awards: 7
 - Dollar amount for award: \$900,000
 - Period of performance start date: 10/3/2022 12:00 AM
 - Period of performance duration: 36 months

Category 1: Improving Correctional Education

Statutorily Allowable Uses of Funds

- Establish/improve/expand educational and vocational programming and services for incarcerated adults, including competency-based learning over a range of services from literacy, high school diploma/equivalency, higher education, to labor market needs-informed vocational education.

Category 2: Improving Employment Services and Connections

Goal

- Provide career training, including subsidized employment when part of a training program, to adults incarcerated in prisons and jails and upon return to the community. Services should begin prior to release from incarceration and continue throughout participants' period of reentry.
- Remove regulatory employment barriers for incarcerated individual adults returning to communities.

Objectives

- Implement or expand job readiness assessments, individualized case plans, and employment-related services for incarcerated adults that result in improved job readiness, employment attainment and retention.
- Articulate and implement a robust vision for reentry employment with transitional supports and a focus on employment.

Deliverables (all categories)

- Development of an action plan with input from BJA and an assigned technical assistance coach, submitted within 6 months of receiving final budget approval.
- A final report at the end of the project period.

Category 2: Improving Employment Services and Connections

Specific Requirements

- Eligible Category 2 applicants must commit to restrict internet access to prisoners as appropriate to ensure public safety and facility security.

Statutory Priority Areas

- Category 2 applicants can receive priority consideration for applications that:
 - Provide assessment of local demand for employees in the geographic areas to which incarcerated individuals are likely to return, as well as job-training grants that look at the local labor/job markets in communities where individuals leaving incarceration are returning.
 - Conduct individualized reentry career planning upon the start of incarceration or post-release employment planning for each individual served under the grant.
 - Demonstrate connections to employers within the local community; and
 - Track and monitor employment outcomes.

Category 2: Improving Employment Services and Connections

Funding

- FY 2022 opportunities
 - Number of awards: 17
 - Dollar amount for award: \$900,000
 - Period of performance start date: 10/3/2022 12:00 AM
 - Period of performance duration: 36 months

Category 2: Improving Employment Services and Connections

Statutorily Allowable Uses of Funds

- Establish/improve/expand career training programs that are informed by the labor market needs in the geographic areas to which incarcerated individuals will return.
- Continually assess local demand for employees in the geographic areas to which incarcerated individuals are likely to return and adjust educational and employment goals accordingly.
- Develop partnerships with local employers. Increase the quality and quantity of training, skills-building, and pre-apprenticeship programs available to incarcerated persons (e.g., programs that respond to new and local labor market demands, jobs with advancement opportunities and good benefits, etc.).
- Conduct individualized reentry career planning programs at the start of incarceration or post-release employment planning programs for program participants.
- Subsidize wages or other employment costs as part of a career training program.
- Provide transitional services to assist in the reintegration of incarcerated individuals into the community
- Train corrections and service provider leadership and staff in career training programming.
- Track and monitor employment outcomes.

Requirements for All Categories

Correctional Partner Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding (MOA or MOU)

- Non-profit organizations and non-correctional government applicants must include as an attachment an MOA or MOU that clearly demonstrates an established, collaborative relationship between the applicant and the correctional agencies that: (1) oversee the specific facility or facilities from which the applicant proposes to recruit the target reentering population, and (2) oversee community corrections (probation and/or parole) for the target population.
- **The MOAs/MOUs must include the following information:**
 1. The roles and responsibilities for staff from both agencies involved in the program.
 2. Terms of access to the correctional facility or facilities for program staff. (If applicants are unable to conduct in-reach into correctional facilities, the application should explain the reason(s) why such access is not practicable.)
 3. Information on prerelease programming and interventions provided by the correctional agency to each participant.
 4. The data elements and performance measures that the partnering agencies will provide — or assist the grantee in obtaining — for the purpose of measuring the impact of grant activities.
 5. Describe the evidence-based programming and/or intervention for the target population.

Requirements for All Categories

Pre-release access

- Participants are expected to be screened, assessed, and identified for program participation pre-release. During the post-release phase of the reentry program, participants will receive case management services and be connected to evidence-based programming designed to assist in the transition from prison or jail to the community so that it is safe and successful. Where feasible, case management services and evidence-based programming should begin during the pre-release phase.

Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)

- An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of tribal authorizing documentation as an attachment. If applicable, the applicant will submit the tribal authorizing documentation by uploading it as an attachment in JustGrants. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on tribal authorizing resolutions.

Requirements for All Categories

Budget Information

- Applicants must budget funding to travel to DOJ-sponsored grant meetings. Applicants should estimate the costs of travel and accommodations for teams of three to attend two meetings for 3 days each in Washington, D.C.
- All grantees will access up to \$100,000 until an action plan is approved by BJA during the first 6 months of the grant period after the final budget is approved.

Unallowable uses for Award Funds

- In addition to the unallowable costs identified in the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, award funds may not be used for the following:
 - Prizes, rewards, entertainment, trinkets (or any type of monetary incentive)
 - Client stipends
 - Gift cards
 - Vehicles
 - Food and beverage

Priority Considerations for All Categories

Priority Considerations Supporting Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

In support of Executive Order 13985, OJP will:

- Give priority consideration to applications that include project(s) that will **promote racial equity and the removal of barriers to access and opportunity** for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality, when making award decisions.
 - To receive this consideration, the applicant must describe how the proposed project(s) will address potential inequities and barriers to equal opportunity, and/or contribute to greater access to services for underserved and historically marginalized populations.
- Give priority consideration to applicants that can demonstrate that their capabilities and competencies for implementing their proposed project(s) are enhanced because the applicant (or at least one proposed subrecipient that will receive at least 30 percent of the requested award funding, as demonstrated in the budget worksheet and budget narrative) identifies as a **culturally specific organization**.
 - To receive this additional priority consideration, applicants must describe how being a culturally specific organization (or funding the culturally specific subrecipient organization(s)) will enhance their ability to implement the proposed project(s) and should also specify which culturally specific populations are intended or expected to be served or to have their needs addressed under the proposed project(s).

SECTION 3

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dual Deadlines

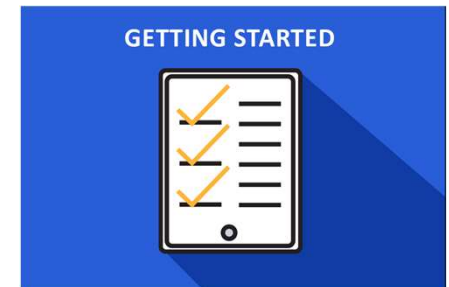
Applications will be submitted to DOJ in two steps:

- **Step 1:** The applicant must submit by the Grants.gov deadline the required Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF)-424 and a Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) form when they register in Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>.
 - To register in Grants.gov, the applicant will need to ensure that its System for Award Management (SAM) registration is current.
- **Step 2:** The applicant must then submit the full application, including attachments, in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://www.justgrants.usdoj.gov). To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline.
 - OJP encourages applicants to review the “How to Apply” section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) and the [JustGrants website](#) for more information, resources, and training.

Grants.gov Deadline: June 7, 2022, 8:59 pm Eastern

Application JustGrants Deadline: June 13, 2022, 8:59 pm Eastern

Application Checklist



- Confirm your Entity's System Award Management (SAM) Registration Information
- Register in Grants.gov, find the funding opportunity, and access the application package
- Submit the Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF)-424 and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form (SF-LLL) in Grants.gov
- Receive an email notification to complete application in JustGrants
- Submit application in JustGrants

The [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#) is another resource.

Content of Application Submission

Critical Application Elements

- ✓ Federal Assistance standard form (SF)-424
- ✓ Proposal Abstract
- ✓ Proposal Narrative
- ✓ Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (web-based form)
- ✓ MOU with Correctional Agency

Budget and Associated Documentation

- ✓ Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)
- ✓ Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire
- ✓ Disclosure of Process related to Executive Compensation (if applicable)

Content of Application Submission

Additional Application Components

- ✓ Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)
- ✓ Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity
- ✓ Request and Justification for Employee Compensation; Waiver (if applicable)

Disclosures and Assurances

- ✓ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
- ✓ Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items
- ✓ DOJ Certified Standard Assurances
- ✓ DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements
- ✓ Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable)

Application Review Information

Merit Review Criteria	Weight
Description of the issue	15%
Project design and implementation	35%
Capabilities and competencies	30%
Plan for collecting the data required for this solicitation's performance measures	10%
Budget	10%

Other important considerations for BJA include geographic diversity, strategic priorities, available funding, past performance, and the extent to which the budget worksheet and budget narrative (web-based form) accurately explain project costs that are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise allowable under federal law and applicable federal cost principles.

JustGrants

- Offers a streamlined, end-to-end process, enabling applicants and grantees to move seamlessly through the full grants management life cycle
- Gives applicants and award recipients new ways to manage their own entity information and that of users in the system

JustGrants Support



**Access
Trainings!**

[Training: “Application Mechanics:
Submitting an Application” Webinar](#)

[Training: “Application Submission” Step-by-
Step Guide with videos](#)

[Training Videos and Archived Webinars](#) show applicants how to use JustGrants, including:

- Navigating the user experience
- What steps/actions applicants need to take prior to applying for funding
- Identifying the key roles in the application process (e.g., Entity Administrator, Application Submitter)
- Submitting an application
- Managing the grant
- Performance and financial reporting

Additional JustGrants Support

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Find answers to frequently asked questions regarding JustGrants and the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP).

USER SUPPORT



Access self-service, topic-specific, and technical support options for assistance in using the JustGrants System.

RESOURCES



Link to resource guides, financial and administrative resources for grant management, funding opportunities, and ASAP training & resources.

NEWS & UPDATES



View the latest updates on DOJ's grants management and payment management systems and sign up for JustGrants Updates emails from the COPS Office, OJP, and OVW.

<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov>

Recommended Resources: BJA Grant Applicant Webinar Series

- Funding Opportunities for Your Community in 2022: An Overview of What's Ahead (*archived*)
- The Federal Funding Process: First Steps to Applying, How to Prepare Now, and Other Considerations (*archived*)

A list of upcoming webinars and the recordings, presentations, and transcripts from previously-held webinars are available at <https://www.bja.gov/funding/webinars.html>.

Recommended Resources on the Web

OJP Funding Resource Center

<https://ojp.gov/funding/index.htm>

DOJ Grants Financial Guide

<https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/doj-grants-financial-guide>

OJP Grants Financial Management and Grant Administration Training

<https://www.ojp.gov/training/financial-management-training>

OJP Grant Application Resource Guide

<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide>

National Reentry Resource Center

<https://nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/>

National Institute of Justice's CrimeSolutions.gov

<https://www.CrimeSolutions.gov>

Important Contacts



Application SF-424 and SF-LLL Form Submission Technical Assistance

Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline

800-518-4726 | 606-545-5035

*Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week,
except federal holidays*

support@grants.gov

[https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/
support.html](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html)



JUSTgrants
JUSTICE GRANTS SYSTEM

Full JustGrants Application Technical Assistance

JustGrants Service Desk

833-872-5175

*Open 5:00 am - 9:00 pm EST, M-F &
9:00 am - 5:00 pm EST, Sa-Su, Federal holidays*

JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov



Additional Solicitation Assistance

OJP Response Center

800-851-3420 | TTY: 301-240-6310

(hearing impaired only)

*Open 10:00 am - 6:00 pm EST, M-F &
10:00 am - 8:00 pm EST on deadline date*

grants@ncjrs.gov

Second Chance Act solicitations are available:

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

Application deadlines vary, so read carefully!



**Access information on
funding webinars and
JustGrants application
submission resources**