

Office of Justice Programs (OJP)
National Forensic Science Improvement (NFSIA)
Grant Program Guidelines 2024 RFP

The Office of Justice Programs will require each grantee to abide by the following requirements in addition to those contained in the general grantee Terms and Conditions:

Financial Requirements:

- 1) The grantee shall report at least quarterly on all expenditures pertaining to this grant contract in the OJP online grants management system, e-grants, no later than 20 days after the end of the quarter.
- 2) The grantee shall submit a written budget revision request via e-grants before any expenditure may be made based on the revised budget. Submission of a budget revision is necessary if a) a line item will deviate by \$200 or 10%, whichever is higher, from the approved budget, or b) a new line item that was not part of the approved budget will be created.
- 3) The grantee shall submit source documentation on grant expenditures in a timely manner, as requested by OJP staff for a desk review audit.
- 4) The grantee's eligible expenditures under this grant contract must be incurred by the grantee by the expiration date of the grant agreement.
- 5) The grantee shall have until 30 days after the expiration date of the grant agreement to liquidate all unpaid obligations related to the program which were incurred on or before the last day of the grant period and to submit a final report of all funds received and disbursed. If a report is not submitted within this time period, expenses claimed on the report may be disallowed and OJP may request a refund of those funds from the grantee if the funding was advanced to the grantee.
- 6) The grantee shall retain all financial records for a minimum of six (6) years after the date of submission of the final financial status report, or until completion of an audit which has commenced before the expiration of this six-year period, or until any audit findings and/or recommendations from prior audit(s) have been resolved between the grantee and OJP, whichever is later.
- 7) The grantee shall comply with all provisions of the Minnesota [OJP Grant Manual](#).

Reporting Requirements:

- 1) Progress Reporting: The grantee shall report quarterly in e-grants a narrative of the progress achieved towards the accomplishment of the project goals and objectives within 20 days of each reporting period.
- 2) Requirement Changes: OJP may add, modify or change all reporting forms at their discretion during the grant period.

Other Provisions:

- 1) Evaluation: OJP shall have the authority, during the course of this grant period, to conduct an evaluation of the performance of the grant program.
- 2) Additional Requirements: The grantee shall attend meetings and training as OJP shall reasonably request.
- 3) Administrative Requirements: OJP reserves the right to include in the grant, at any time during the term of the grant, special administrative requirements deemed necessary to

assure the grantee's successful implementation of the program. OJP will notify the Grantee in writing of any special administrative requirements.

Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant - Federal Provisions:

Payments under this grant contract will be made from federal funds obtained by the State of Minnesota through 42 USC 3797j-3797o; USC 530C. CFDA number 16.742 – Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Justice under the following award: 2020-H5020-MN-CD – 1/1/2021 – 12/31/2021

OJP has an indirect cost rate of 7.15% for use on grants, contracts and other agreements with the federal government.

Federal Requirements:

The Grantee is responsible for compliance with the following federal requirements imposed on these funds and accepts full financial responsibility for any additional restrictions imposed in response to the Grantee's failure to comply with federal requirements.

- 1) SAM Registration: Any organization that receives these federal funds MUST be and up-to-date in the Official U.S. Government, System for Award Management (SAM).
- 2) Applicability of Part 200 Uniform Requirements: The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, as adopted and supplemented by the Department of Justice (DOJ) in 2 C.F.R. Part 2800 (together, the "Part 200 Uniform Requirements") apply to this 2016 award from the Office of Justice Programs (OJP).

For more information and resources on the Part 200 Uniform Requirements as they relate to OJP awards and sub-awards ("subgrants"), see the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) [website](#). In the event that an award-related question arises from documents or other materials prepared or distributed by OJP that may appear to conflict with, or differ in some way from, the provisions of the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, the recipient is to contact OJP promptly for clarification.

- 3) OJP Financial Guide: The Grantee assures that it will comply, and all its subcontractors will comply, with the DOJ Grants Financial Guide as posted on the OJP website (currently the [December 2017 version](#), including any updated version that maybe be posted during the period of performance.
- 4) Effect of failure to address audit issues: The recipient understands and agrees that the DOJ awarding agency (OJP or OVW, as appropriate) may withhold award funds, or may impose other related requirements, if (as determined by the DOJ awarding agency) the recipient does not satisfactorily and promptly address outstanding issues from audits required by the Part 200 Uniform Requirements (or by the terms of this award), or other outstanding issues that arise in connection with audits, investigations, or reviews of DOJ awards.
- 5) Lobbying: In general, as a matter of federal law, federal funds awarded by OJP may not be used by the recipient, or any subrecipient, to support or oppose the enactment, repeal, modification, or adoption of any law regulation, or policy, at any level of government. See 18 U.S.C. 1913.

Another federal law generally prohibits federal funds awarded by OJP from being used by the recipient, or any subrecipient, to pay any person to influence (or attempt to influence) a federal agency, a Member of Congress, or Congress (or an official or employee of any of them) with respect to the awarding of a federal grant or cooperative agreement, subgrant, contract, subcontract, or loan, or with respect to actions such as renewing, extending, or modifying any such award. See 31 U.S.C. 1352.

- 6) Debarment and Suspension: Executive Order 12549 on Debarment and Suspension, and the implementing regulation, requires that the Grantee certify it has not been debarred or otherwise excluded from participating in any other transaction with a federal department or agency.
- 7) Specific post-award approval required to use a noncompetitive approach in any procurement contract that would exceed \$150,000: The recipient, and any sub-recipient ("subgrantee") at any tier, must comply with all applicable requirements to obtain specific advance approval to use a noncompetitive approach in any procurement contract that would exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (currently, \$150,000). This condition applies to agreements that – for purposes of federal grants administrative requirements – OJP considers a procurement "contract" (and therefore does not consider a sub-award).

The details of the requirement for advance approval to use a noncompetitive approach in a procurement contract under an OJP award are posted on the [OJP website](#) (Award condition: Specific post-award approval required to use a noncompetitive approach in a procurement contract (if contract would exceed \$150,000)), and are incorporated by reference here.

- 8) Requirements pertaining to prohibited conduct related to trafficking in persons (including reporting requirements and OJP authority to terminate award): The recipient, and any sub-recipient ("subgrantee") at any tier, must comply with all applicable requirements (including requirements to report allegations) pertaining to prohibited conduct related to the trafficking of persons, whether on the part of recipients, sub-recipients ("subgrantees"), or individuals defined (for purposes of this condition) as "employees" of the recipient or of any sub-recipient.

The details of the recipient's obligations related to prohibited conduct related to trafficking in persons are posted on the [OJP website](#) (Award condition: Prohibited conduct by recipients and sub-recipients related to trafficking in persons (including reporting requirements and OJP authority to terminate award)), and are incorporated by reference here.

- 9) OJP Training Guiding Principles: Any training or training materials that the grantee develops or delivers with OJP award funds must adhere to the [OJP Training Guiding Principles for Grantee and Subgrantees](#).
- 10) Compliance with applicable rules regarding approval, planning, and reporting of conferences, meetings, trainings, and other events: The grantee must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and official DOJ guidance (including specific cost limits, prior approval and reporting requirements, where applicable) governing the use of federal funds for expenses related to conferences (as that term is defined by DOJ), including the provision of food and/or beverages at such conferences, and costs of attendance at such conferences.

Information on the pertinent DOJ definition of conferences and the rules applicable to this award appears in the DOJ Grants Financial Guide.

- 11) Drug-Free Workplace: As required by the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the Grantee will make an ongoing, good faith effort to maintain a drug-free workplace by meeting the requirements of the Act.
- 12) Reporting Potential Fraud, Waste, and Abuse, and Similar Misconduct: The recipient and any sub-recipients ("sub-grantees") must promptly refer to the DOJ Office of the Inspector General (OIG) any credible evidence that a principal, employee, agent, sub-recipient, contractor, subcontractor, or other person has, in connection with funds under this award -- (1) submitted a claim that violates the False Claims Act; or (2) committed a criminal or civil violation of laws pertaining to fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, gratuity, or similar misconduct.

Potential fraud, waste, abuse, or misconduct involving or relating to funds under this award should be reported to the OIG by-- (1) mail directed to: Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice, Investigations Division, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Room 4706, Washington, DC 20530; (2) e-mail to: oig.hotline@usdoj.gov; and/or (3) the DOJ OIG hotline: (contact information in English and Spanish) at (800) 869-4499 (phone) or (202) 616-9881 (fax).

Additional information is available from the [DOJ OIG](#) website.

- 13) Compliance with DOJ regulations pertaining to civil rights and nondiscrimination - 28 C.F.R. Part 42: The recipient, and any sub-recipient ("subgrantee") at any tier, must comply with all applicable requirements of 28 C.F.R. Part 42, specifically including any applicable requirements in Subpart E of 28 C.F.R. Part 42 that relate to an equal employment opportunity program.
- 14) Compliance with DOJ regulations pertaining to civil rights and nondiscrimination – 28 C.F.R. Part 54: the grantee must comply with all applicable requirements of 28 C.F.R. Part 54, which relates to nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in certain "education programs."
- 15) Compliance with DOJ regulations pertaining to civil rights and nondiscrimination - 28 C.F.R. Part 38: The recipient, and any sub-recipient ("subgrantee") at any tier, must comply with all applicable requirements of 28 C.F.R. Part 38, specifically including any applicable requirements regarding written notice to program beneficiaries and prospective program beneficiaries. Part 38 of 28 C.F.R., a DOJ regulation, was amended effective May 4, 2016.

Among other things, 28 C.F.R. Part 38 includes rules that prohibit specific forms of discrimination on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice. Part 38 also sets out rules and requirements that pertain to recipient and sub-recipient ("subgrantee") organizations that engage in or conduct explicitly religious activities, as well as rules and requirements that pertain to recipients and sub-recipients that are faith-based or religious organizations. The text of the regulation, now entitled "Partnerships with Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations," is available via the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations](#), by browsing to Title 28-Judicial Administration, Chapter 1, Part 38, under e-CFR "current" data.

- 16) Civil Rights Training: OJP requires the review of an online civil rights training tool, which incorporates all of these provisions and certification that training has been completed. The acknowledgement of training form will be submitted to OJP via e-grants. The training and acknowledgement of training form can be found on the [OJP website](#).
- 17) Limited English Proficiency (LEP): As clarified by Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination on the basis of limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, recipient must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to its programs. Meaningful access may entail providing language assistance services, including oral and written translation, where necessary. Recipient is encouraged to consider the need for language services for LEP persons served or encountered both in developing its budgets and in conducting its programs and activities. Additional assistance and information regarding your LEP obligations can be found at [LEP website](#).

In accordance with federal civil rights laws, the subrecipient shall not retaliate against individuals for taking action or participating in action to secure rights protected by these laws.

- 18) Supplant: The Grantee agrees that funds received under this award will not be used to supplant State or local funds, but will be used to increase the amounts of such funds that would, in the absence of Federal funds, be made available for criminal justice system activities.
- 19) Compliance with general appropriations – law restrictions on the use of federal funds (FY 2017): The recipient, and any sub-recipient ("subgrantee") at any tier, must comply with all applicable restrictions on the use of federal funds set out in federal appropriations statutes. Pertinent restrictions, including from various "general provisions" in the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017](#) and are incorporated by reference here.
- 20) Restrictions and certifications regarding non-disclosure agreements and related matters: No recipient or sub-recipient ("subgrantee") under this award, or entity that receives a procurement contract or subcontract with any funds under this award, may require any employee or contractor to sign an internal confidentiality agreement or statement that prohibits or otherwise restricts, or purports to prohibit or restrict, the reporting (in accordance with law) of waste, fraud, or abuse to an investigative or law enforcement representative of a federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

The foregoing is not intended, and shall not be understood by the agency making this award, to contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312 (which relates to classified information), Form 4414 (which relates to sensitive compartmented information), or any other form issued by a federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.

1. In accepting this award, the recipient--
 - a. represents that it neither requires nor has required internal confidentiality agreements or statements from employees or contractors that currently prohibit or otherwise

currently restrict (or purport to prohibit or restrict) employees or contractors from reporting waste, fraud, or abuse as described above; and

- b. certifies that, if it learns or is notified that it is or has been requiring its employees or contractors to execute agreements or statements that prohibit or otherwise restrict (or purport to prohibit or restrict), reporting of waste, fraud, or abuse as described above, it will immediately stop any further obligations of award funds, will provide prompt written notification to the federal agency making this award, and will resume (or permit resumption of) such obligations only if expressly authorized to do so by that agency.
2. If the recipient does or is authorized under this award to make subawards ("subgrants"), procurement contracts, or both--
 - a. it represents that--
 - (i) it has determined that no other entity that the recipient's application proposes may or will receive award funds (whether through a subaward ("subgrant"), procurement contract, or subcontract under a procurement contract) either requires or has required internal confidentiality agreements or statements from employees or contractors that currently prohibit or otherwise currently restrict (or purport to prohibit or restrict) employees or contractors from reporting waste, fraud, or abuse as described above; and
 - (ii) it has made appropriate inquiry, or otherwise has an adequate factual basis, to support this representation; and
 - b. it certifies that, if it learns or is notified that any sub-recipient, contractor, or subcontractor entity that receives funds under this award is or has been requiring its employees or contractors to execute agreements or statements that prohibit or otherwise restrict (or purport to prohibit or restrict), reporting of waste, fraud, or abuse as described above, it will immediately stop any further obligations of award funds to or by that entity, will provide prompt written notification to the federal agency making this award, and will resume (or permit resumption of) such obligations only if expressly authorized to do so by that agency.
- 21) Encouragement of policies to ban text messaging while driving: Pursuant to Executive Order 13513, "Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving," 74 Fed. Reg. 51225 (October 1, 2009), DOJ encourages recipients and sub-recipients ("subgrantees") to adopt and enforce policies banning employees from text messaging while driving any vehicle during the course of performing work funded by this award, and to establish workplace safety policies and conduct education, awareness, and other outreach to decrease crashes caused by distracted drivers.
- 22) Compliance with 41 U.S.C. 4712 (including prohibitions on reprisal; notice to employees): The grantee must comply with all provisions that prohibit discrimination against an employee as reprisal for the employee's disclosure of information related to gross mismanagement of a federal grant, a gross waste of federal funds, an abuse of authority relating to a federal grant a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or a violation of law rule, or regulation related to a federal grant.

Grantees must inform its employees, in writing, of employee rights and remedies under 41 U.S.C. 4712.

- 23) Generally accepted laboratory practices: Grantee ensures the use of generally accepted laboratory practices and procedures as established by accrediting organizations or appropriate certifying bodies.

External Investigations: grantee ensures that requirements associated with 42 U.S.C. section 3797k(4) (which relate to processes in place to conduct independent external investigations into allegations of serious negligence or misconduct by employees or contractors) are satisfied with respect to any forensic laboratory system, medical examiner's office, coroner's office, law enforcement storage facility, or medical facility.

Accreditation: Grantee ensures that it will continue to demonstrate accreditation and will notify OJP promptly if there is any change in accreditation status.

- 24) Program income: Grantee agrees that gross income (revenues) from fees charged for forensic science or medical examiner services constitutes program income (in whole or in part), and that program income must be determined, used, and documented in accordance 2 C.F.R. 200.307. program income earned during the award period and expenditures must be reported.

Program income earned during the grant period may be expended only for permissible uses of funds identified in the FY 2017 Coverdell Grant Program solicitation.

Program income earned during the final 90 days of the grant period may, if appropriate, be obligated (as well as expended) for allowable uses during the 90 day period following the end of the grant period. Any program income earned during the grant period that is not obligated and expended within 90 days of the end of the award period must be returned to OJP.

- 25) Grantee must promptly notify OJP if it either starts or stops charging fees for forensic science or medical examiner services, or if it revises its method of allocating fees received for such services to program income.
- 26) Grantee will follow their process regarding external investigations and will refer allegations of serious negligence or misconduct substantially affecting the integrity of forensic results to government entities with an appropriate process in place to conduct independent external investigations, such as the entity identified the grant application.
- 27) Information sharing: Grantee shall provide OJP with copies of publications (including those prepared for conferences and other presentations) resulting from this award, prior to or simultaneous with their public release. NIJ defines publications as any written, visual or sound material substantively based on the project, formally prepared by the grantee for dissemination to the public. Any publications – excluding press releases and newsletters – whether published at the grantee's or government's expense, shall contain the following statement: "This project was supported by Award No. 2017-CD-BX-0040, awarded by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this

publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.” this statement shall appear on the first page of written publications. For audio and video publications, it shall be included immediately after the title of the publication.

28) Grantee shall transmit to OJP copies of all official award-related press releases at least ten (10) working days prior to the public release.

29) Grantee acknowledges that the Federal Office of Justice Programs reserves a royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and authorize others to use (in whole or in part, including in connection with derivative works), for Federal purpose: (1) any work subject to copyright developed under and award or subaward; and (2) any rights of copyright to which a recipient or subrecipient purchases ownership with Federal support.

Grantee acknowledges that the Federal Office of Justice Programs has the right to (1) obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data first produced under and award or subaward; and (2) authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for Federal purposes. “Data” includes data as defined in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) provision 52.227-14.