

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

***IMPLEMENTING THE PREA STANDARDS,
PROTECTING INMATES, AND
SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES***

FY 2020 Competitive Grant Announcement Webinar

March 19, 2020



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

Webinar Agenda

- Section 1 – Solicitation Overview
- Section 2 – Eligibility
- Section 3 – Required Deliverables and Allowable Uses of Grant Funds
- Section 4 – Application Requirements and Priority Considerations
- Section 5 – Federal Award Information
- Section 6 – Match Requirement: Cash or In-Kind
- Section 7 -- How and When to Apply

Section 1

SOLICITATION OVERVIEW

Solicitation Overview

- The PREA Statute directs DOJ to provide grants to jurisdictions nationwide to “protect inmates (particularly from prison rape) and to safeguard communities to which inmates return.” 34 USC § 30305(a).
- To fulfill this statutory obligation, BJA provides grant funding to:
 - Support efforts in state, local, and tribal jurisdictions to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse in confinement facilities covered by the National PREA Standards.
 - Promote comprehensive implementation of the standards.
 - Enhance community safety by decreasing the likelihood that inmates, residents, and detainees are sexually victimized in confinement facilities prior to release.

Solicitation Overview (cont.)

- Efforts funded under this program also support DOJ priorities by enhancing law enforcement officer safety.
- Reductions in prison rape create safer work environments for staff members in the confinement facilities covered by the National PREA Standards.
- Many staff in these facilities are sworn law enforcement officers.

Solicitation Overview (cont.)

- Objectives from DOJ's PREA standards addressed in this program include:
 - Reducing sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities.
 - Increasing staff capacity for preventing sexual abuse in confinement facilities.
 - Promoting integration of the National PREA Standards into the day-to-day operations and cultures of confinement facilities.
 - Identifying and documenting PREA innovations and promising practices to inform and support similar efforts across the nation.
 - Creating cultures of “zero tolerance” for sexual abuse in confinement facilities.

Solicitation Overview (cont.)

- To support the efforts of the selected PREA grantees to achieve the objectives of this program, BJA will assign each grantee a Technical Assistance (TA) coach.
- TA coaches are PREA subject matter experts whose work with the PREA grantees is funded under the BJA Fiscal Year 2019 solicitation, Comprehensive Corrections Training and Technical Assistance.

Solicitation Overview (cont.)

- TA coaches will:
 - Support the efforts of BJA's PREA grantees to finalize their PREA implementation plans.
 - Guide the work of the PREA grantees to operationalize their PREA implementation plans, and maintain or achieve compliance with the National PREA Standards.
 - Identify ways for the PREA grantees to utilize existing resources to support their efforts.
 - Match, as needed, the PREA grantees to other subject matter experts who possess the skills and knowledge the grantees need to make PREA implementation progress.

Section 2

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility

- Eligible applicants are:
 - States
 - Units of local government
 - Federally-recognized Indian tribal governments, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior
- BJA strongly encourages all eligible agencies to submit applications, regardless of how much progress they have made in addressing sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities, and in implementing the National PREA Standards.

Eligibility (cont.)

- BJA welcomes applications under which two or more states, units of local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribal governments would carry out a federal award.
- Only one entity may be the applicant; others must be proposed as subrecipients (subgrantees).

Subrecipients (Subgrantees)

- Applicants may include in their applications nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations (including tribal nonprofit or for-profit organizations), institutions of higher learning (including tribal institutions of higher learning), and faith-based organizations as subrecipients (subgrantees).
- However, to prevent potential conflicts of interest, recipients and subrecipients of funding under the PREA categories in the solicitation, Comprehensive Corrections Training and Technical Assistance (the TA coaches), are **not** eligible to also be subrecipients for awards made under the solicitation we are discussing today.

Section 3

REQUIRED DELIVERABLES AND ALLOWABLE USES OF GRANT FUNDS

Required Deliverables

1. A comprehensive, individualized PREA implementation plan that will guide the grantee's PREA-related activities.

Implementation plans must be finalized during the first six months of approval of the grant budget and be supported, in close consultation with BJA, by a TA coach.

Required Deliverables (cont.)

- Implementation plans will include:
 - a description of high-priority issues and challenges related to sexual abuse in confinement,
 - a description of how funding will be used to address the priority issues and challenges,
 - a description of how the proposed plan will be managed and monitored to support successful implementation,
 - steps to be taken by the grantee to help ensure that the activities supported by program resources are sustained,
 - continuing support for the project by agency leadership, and
 - letters of commitment from external organizations that are expected to participate in the project.

Required Deliverables (cont.)

2. A sustainability plan, developed with guidance provided by the designated TA coach, which ensures that the BJA-funded PREA strategies and activities continue after the grant period ends.
3. Documentation, developed in conjunction with the TA coach, of innovative and promising work accomplished during the grant period, which will be made publicly available.

Examples of Allowable Uses of Funds

- Designation of staff positions responsible for PREA implementation.
- Methods to report sexual abuse when it occurs in confinement facilities.
- Intake, screening, and classification processes designed to identify potential sexual abuse victims and perpetrators, and to make housing, placement, and programming decisions in response.
- Inmate/Detainee/Resident education programs on topics such as available sexual abuse reporting mechanisms and services available to victims.
- Formal partnerships between confinement agencies/facilities and community-based organizations such as rape crisis centers and sexual abuse coalitions, intended to provide services and support to victims.

Examples of Allowable Uses of Funds (cont.)

- Plans to purchase “limited” equipment and/or supplies (using less than 40 percent of the total federal award amount) that are necessary to prevent, detect, or respond to sexual abuse.
- Actions related to conducting PREA audits, such as preparing for audits, carrying out mock or practice audits, selecting and entering into contracts/agreements with DOJ-certified PREA auditors, and covering the costs associated with audits and corrective action plans. All audits funded under this grant program must comply with DOJ’s auditing requirements in the PREA Auditor Handbook.

Section 4

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS & PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS

Application Requirements

- See page 8 of the solicitation for all application requirements.
- Applications must include:
 - Program Narrative
 - Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative, and
 - Executive-level letter(s) of commitment from the agency or agencies that are proposed to receive funding.

Priority Considerations

- In Category 1: Units of state government agencies, priority consideration will be given to applications that:
 - state that the governor of the state in which the applicant’s jurisdiction lies was unable to certify to DOJ full compliance with the PREA standards for Audit Year 3 of Cycle 2 (August 20, 2018 – August 19, 2019),
 - describe the specific difficulties that prevented the jurisdiction from coming into full compliance with the PREA standards; and
 - detail how this federal award will be used to address these barriers.

Priority Considerations (cont.)

- For all categories, priority consideration will be given to applications that:
 - address specific findings in BJS reports or other available data that describe the characteristics of sexual abuse in applicant facilities, such as variations in victimization rates among sub-populations of inmates/residents/detainees and contextual circumstances surrounding victimization and the dynamics of sexual abuse.
 - applicants may also focus on confinement facilities that demonstrate high rates of sexual abuse, based on data reported annually to BJS, or other data that suggest past problems with sexual abuse within the facility.

Section 5

FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Federal Award Information

- BJA expects to make up to 18 awards of up to \$250,000 each, with an estimated total amount awarded of up to \$4,500,000.
- All awards are for a 24-month period of performance.
- The funding during the initial 6-month period must support planning activities, followed by 18 months of implementation activities.
 - Implementation activities may begin early, subject to approval by BJA of the grantee's PREA implementation plan.

Federal Award Information (cont.)

- Applicants must apply in one of four categories, depending upon their jurisdictional status:
 - Category 1 – Units of state government agencies.
 - Category 2 – Units of county or city local government agencies.
 - Category 3 – Units of county or city local government agencies in rural jurisdictions, defined as having a population of 100,000 or fewer.
 - Category 4 – Federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Native tribes and/or tribal organizations.
- Please note that, generally, no more than one no-cost extension may be made to an award and that extension, if granted, may not exceed 12 months.

Federal Award Information (cont.)

- Once awarded, each PREA grant award will have in place a special condition that withholds all but \$25,000, and that requires the grantee to finalize a PREA implementation plan within 180 days of receiving final approval of the project's budget from the Office of Justice Programs' Office of the Chief Financial Officer.
- Each grant recipient will not be authorized to obligate, expend, or draw down funds in excess of \$25,000 until BJA has reviewed and approved the grantee's PREA implementation plan, and a Grant Adjustment Notice has been issued and approved by BJA to remove the special condition.

Section 6

MATCH REQUIREMENT: CASH OR IN-KIND

Match Requirement: Cash or In-Kind

- See page 8 of the solicitation.
- Federal funds awarded under this solicitation may not cover more than 50 percent of the total costs of the project.
- Applicants must identify the source of the 50 percent non-federal portion of the total project costs and how it will use match funds.
- Grant recipients may satisfy the match requirement with either cash or in-kind services.

Section 7

HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY

How and When to Apply

- See pages 2-3 of the solicitation.
- All applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application.
- **All applications are due by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on April 14, 2020.**

If you have additional questions about this solicitation, please submit them ASAP to the following:

- The National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Response Center.
 - Toll-free at 800-851-3420.
 - Via TTY at 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only).
 - Email at grants@ncjrs.gov.
 - Fax to 301-240-5830.
 - Web chat at <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>.
- See page 2 of the solicitation.

Responding to Questions about this Solicitation

- BJA will work with NCJRS to answer the questions, and with the PRC to post responses to the questions in writing at the same location on the PRC website where this webinar is archived.
- This will ensure equal access to the responses by all potential applicants across the nation.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION AND GOOD
LUCK!**