

Plan Year 2023 Criminal Justice Grant Application Scoring Criteria and Guidance

Regional Priorities (20 points)

Does the project fall within 1 or more of the top 5 criminal justice priorities identified during the planning process? (20 points)

- CJAC members should reference the Project Activities Information portion of the application summary when awarding these points.
- The top 5 priorities are ([can be found here with lists of service/activities](#); [can be found here with activity/service definitions](#)):
 - Access to a continuum of comprehensive services that meet victim and community needs
 - Access to resources including equipment, technology, and facilities
 - Adequate well trained staff in all areas of criminal justice
 - Communication, collaboration, and coordination among stakeholders, including members of the community, and consumers of criminal justice services
 - Community outreach, education, awareness, and engagement to promote crime prevention and early intervention efforts
- Points should be awarded based on the portion of a project that falls under one or more of these priorities

Project Design (50 points)

Does the applicant identify a significant criminal justice problem in the community or communities targeted by the project? (10 points)

CJAC members should reference the Problem Statement, Supporting Data, and Target Group narratives in the application summary when awarding these points. Also, please consider the questions below.

- Is the root problem and need clearly defined?
- Does the identified problem fall within the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the applicant?
- Is the problem supported by evidence, either statistical or anecdotal?
- Has the applicant identified a problem that is not just the lack of the proposed project?
- Does the Problem Statement make a compelling case for the existence of and need to solve the problem?
- Does the problem statement identify the people that will be served?
- Is the target group identified in number, geographic area, and demographic makeup? Is there data supporting these claims?
- Have special characteristics of the targeted population been identified?
- Does the applicant demonstrate an understanding of the target population's needs?

How well does the applicant use supporting data to confirm the problem statement? (10 points)

CJAC Members should reference the Supporting Data and Problem Statement narratives the application summary when awarding these points. Also, please consider the questions below.

- Has the applicant cited and used verifiable and trustworthy data sources?
- Is the data used "right sized" for the project? Does it use local or regional data to support the existence of the problem?

- Does the data used clearly support the problem statement?

Has the applicant identified an evidence-based approach to addressing the problem and outlined activities that will be conducted during the project? (10 points)

CJAC Members should reference the Approach and Activities, and Evidence-Based Practices narratives in the application summary when awarding these points. Also, please consider the questions below.

- Is it easy to understand what the project does by reading the Approach and Activities narrative in the application summary?
- Will the approach outlined here have a meaningful impact on the problem?
- Is there a justifiable and clear reason given for choosing the approach?
- Is a reasonable timeline for all relevant aspects of the project identified by the applicant?
- Are the methods, approaches, and activities identified evidence-based?
- Is the evidence cited? Is the citation used reputable and knowledgeable?

Does the applicant provide a sound plan for collecting data and measuring outcomes to evaluate project performance? (10 points)

CJAC Members should reference the Performance Management, and Data Management narratives in the application summary when awarding these points. Also, please consider the questions below.

- Are there clearly defined ways to measure the project's success?
- Have goals and measurable objectives been identified? Are specific outcome and output measures defined?
- How well are the goals and objectives tied to the problem?
- Has the baseline and the expected change resulting from the project been identified?
- Does the applicant have sound methods for reviewing project performance?
- Are the methods used to analyze performance data explained clearly?
- Does the applicant use the information from project performance reviews to make decisions about the project?
- How well does the applicant outline how performance data is collected, tracked, and maintained? Does the applicant identify any software or tools to be used?

How capable is the applicant in executing the project identified in the application and completing any required reporting? (10 points)

CJAC Members should reference the Capabilities & Capacity, Approach & Activities, and Performance Management narratives in the application summary when awarding these points. Also, please consider the questions below.

- Has the applicant provided sufficient information about their organizational qualifications and performance history to confidently ensure the project is feasible?
- Has the applicant provided enough information to indicate it has the capacity to handle all the work required for successful completion of the project, including all reporting that is required by CJD?
- Does the applicant identify personnel who are sufficiently qualified and experienced to add value and increase the likelihood of success for the project?
- Are the proposed activities tied to personnel qualification in a way that shows a reasoned connection between the two?

**Project Feasibility and Scale
(30 points)**

Is the budget adequate and reasonable for meeting the goals of the project? (10 points)

CJAC Members should reference the Budget Information in the application summary when awarding these points. Also, please consider the questions below.

- Does the budget include all items necessary to complete the project?
- How cost effective are the items identified in the project budget?
- Has the applicant provided a clear explanation for how all items in the project budget will be used in the execution of the project?
- Has the applicant budgeted correctly for the proposed project?

Does the project avoid duplication or overlapping of existing resources of programs available within the project's proposed service area and target population? (10 points)

CJAC Members, please consider the questions below.

- How similar is this project to other programs and services provided to the proposed service area and target population?
- Is the proposed project unique in the ways it attempts to solve a problem?

Does the project support a regionally integrated criminal justice system? (10 points)

CJAC Members, please consider the questions below.

- Will the project have an impact outside of the organization or jurisdiction applying for funding?
- Does the applicant work with others in the region to improve the overall effectiveness and broaden the impact of the project? If not, has the applicant documented attempts to do so?
- Does the project allow for more interaction and cooperation among organizations that participate in the criminal justice system?