

# GRANTS LANDSCAPE

## REVIEW SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) National Public Safety Partnership (PSP) program provides an innovative framework for the US Department of Justice (DOJ) to enhance its support of state, tribal, and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors in the investigation, prosecution, and deterrence of violent crime, especially crime related to gun violence, gangs, and drug trafficking.

Departments and agencies interested in improving their violent crime reduction capacity participate in BJA-sponsored reviews of departmental functions ([crime analysis](#), [grants landscape](#), [investigative](#), [technology](#), etc.) to develop a baseline understanding of their challenges and areas for growth. **The grants landscape review helps agencies evaluate their capabilities and capacity to apply for, win, and manage grant opportunities.** The review also identifies the various grant strategy training and technical assistance (TTA) opportunities to support agencies in building and enhancing their grant writing and management capacities.

Ten medium- to large-sized law enforcement agencies across the South and Midwest have completed grants landscape review, allowing an opportunity to identify and share common themes, technical gaps, and recommendations found across law enforcement agencies nationwide. Additional information on the analysis and other common findings and recommendations can be found in our *Grants Landscape Review Summary Report*, and other reports in the assessment summary series, including the [Crime Analysis Assessment Summary Report](#), [Non-Fatal Shooting and Homicide Assessment Summary Report](#), and [Technology Assessment Summary Report](#).



### PURSUE DIVERSE AND STRATEGIC FUNDING SOURCES

- **Common findings**

- Law enforcement agencies often do not have formal grant strategies in place to address strategic priorities through grant opportunities.
- Too often grants received drive activity rather than leadership identifying priorities and finding supporting funding.
- Law enforcement agencies often do not review previously unfunded grants to identify application strengths and weaknesses.

- **Common recommendations**

- Determine strategic priorities and interventions.
- [Create a wish list of grants](#) and other public/private resources that fulfill strategic priorities.
- Learn from feedback on unsuccessful grant applications.
- Take a proactive approach to grants. Start by prioritizing the top three grant needs or projects and developing short (one-to-two page) concept papers on each topic. Also consider establishing working groups to identify grants pertaining to funding priorities.
- Consider a [variety of funding sources](#) through local, state, and national [public](#) and private opportunities. Leadership should be able to quickly articulate the need/problem and how a resource investment would solve it to pitch.
- Monitor the [Department of Justice Program Plan](#) to identify federal funding priorities and opportunities that address criminal, juvenile, and civil justice needs.



### CONSIDER NON-GRANT RELATED RESOURCES

- **Common findings**

- Law enforcement agencies cannot count on receiving particularly competitive grants to fulfill strategic priorities, and must consider several sources of funding.
- Law enforcement agencies may benefit greatly from partnering with their own local police foundation to address resource challenges.

- **Common recommendations**

- Reach out to local organizations such as the prosecutor's office, the mayor's office, and foundations to gather funding, support, and expertise.
- [Create or strengthen a local police foundation.](#)

- [Create a wish list of public/private resources](#) that fulfill strategic priorities.
- Consider a [variety of funding sources](#) through local, state, and national [public](#) and private opportunities.



## ENGAGE IN INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS TO DEVELOP SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

- **Common findings**

- Grant opportunities sometimes require or strongly encourage collaboration, particularly with service providers or research organizations.
- Law enforcement strategic priorities sometimes require collaboration with local criminal justice, social service, or research organizations. This may be best addressed by approaching grant opportunities together.
- Some law enforcement agencies have limited time, funding, and resources to pursue grant opportunities.

- **Common recommendations**

- Reach out to local organizations such as the prosecutor's office, the mayor's office, and foundations to gather grant application support and expertise.
- Consider [partnering with a university or other local or national research centers](#) to pursue research grant opportunities.
- Reach out to peer agencies with successful grant-writing units to learn about best practices in grant writing.
- [Create or strengthen a local police foundation.](#)



## ENGAGE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL IN GRANT WRITING

- **Common findings**

- Some law enforcement agencies have limited time, funding, and resources to pursue grant opportunities.
- Often, grant writers do not have sufficient knowledge of law enforcement to write a strong grant application.

- **Common recommendations**

- Make efforts to free up time for a designated grant writer to respond to more opportunities and improve grant-writing quality.
- Re-structure approaches to grant writing by designating a concept paper coordinator.
- Designate department members to serve as both subject matter experts and project managers on a grant initiative.
- Train all personnel, rather than selected members of the department, on [grant writing](#).
- Reach out to local colleges and universities about potential student assistance in data analysis, evaluation, and grant writing.

### SUBMIT A REQUEST

To request a grant landscape review for your agency, contact the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) [National Training and Technical Assistance Center \(NTTAC\)](#) at [BJANTTAC@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:BJANTTAC@ojp.usdoj.gov).

