Applying for BJA’s Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program for Law Enforcement Grant Webinar Q&A

## General Questions

### Can EMS use the body cameras or is this grant solely for law enforcement?

They cannot apply directly, but if EMS is working with the law enforcement agency, e.g. SWAT, etc. the law enforcement agency would have to include that in their application.

### Is there a specific brand or company one must go through or use in order to purchase the cameras with the funding provided?

No, but you can reference the report done by NIJ on BWC technology.

What successful sustainability solutions have you seen in previously awarded projects?  How have others sustained their awards?

Agencies build this into their future budgets or get grant funding from other agencies.  Some states have made funding available through taxes, fees, or fines.

### Is there a template for the letter affirming regular review of BWC video to improve officer safety? Who needs to be the signatory on this letter?

We will research existing applications to see if we can find a good model letter.  The letter will need to be signed by the Chief or Sheriff.

Letter/ document affirming subrecipient commitment to program participation from each subrecipient: Does this have to be signed by a specific agency executive?

This should be signed by the Chief of Sheriff, but in many cases the lead law enforcement administrator has a designee.  The designee could sign, but should reflect that in the letter.

Our department has obsolete BWC. Can the grant be used to purchase new BWCs?

Yes, your agency can apply, but it is important to articulate this in the “Description of the Issue(s)” of that narrative.

Can we just have a copy of the slide presentation without the audio today?

Unfortunately, no.  The presentation will be available in a few days on the BWC TTA site and we will have the TTA provider send an email to all of the webinar attendees when it is posted.

For any documentation to be signed by the Chief of Police, Our Chief recently contracted COVID-19. I'm not sure of his availability for signatures. Can an Assistant Chief sign in his place?

We are sorry to hear that about your Chief and we wish him a full recovery.  The Chief may sign documents electronically or the Chief’s designee can sign.

How many people can attend the required grantee meeting in one year?

There is a minimum of two required, but if the agency cannot send two, a waiver can be requested from BJA.  If an agency would like to send additional representatives that is up to the agency.

## Financial Questions

### Can the match be completely in-kind?

Yes.

### Are there any national standards that the awardee needs to follow with the purchase of these cameras?

### No, there is not, but the applicant submits under COPS, they must disclose that under an application they might submit to BJA.

Is the national meeting and the one regional peer-to-peer meeting only for Year 1 costs? Or should we budget for each meeting in Year 2 and Year 3 as well?

The national meeting is just for year 1, but an applicant can schedule to attend the meeting each year.

To clarify: No pre-award costs will be allowed under this program, regardless of whether they are requested in the application?

That is correct.  Even if the applicant is asking for it in the application, but the costs have already occurred prior to application, reimbursement is not allowable and would be removed from the budget.

Can the De Minimis cost rate be used for the indirect cost rate?

This question is addressed in the OJP Financial Guide on page 12 under the II. Preaward Requirements, 2.1 APPLICATION PROCESS which states; *”Non-Federal entities that have never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, except for those non-Federal entities described in Appendix VII to 2 C.F.R. Part 200—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals, may elect to negotiate a rate or, if eligible, charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely.”*

Can donated funds be used as part or all of the matching funds?

Yes, donated funds can be used as part of the match as identified in 200 C.F.R §200.306; “ . . . For all Federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the non-Federal entity's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the following criteria: (1) Are verifiable from the non-Federal entity's records; (2) Are not included as contributions for any other Federal award; (3) Are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives; . . . “

Can you please confirm, are we required to submit a quote with our application?

No, you are not required to submit a quote with the application, but you need to itemize the estimated costs in the detailed budget and an explanation in the budget narrative.

Can the budget request include purchasing the Cameras in Year 1 and then continue to fund licensing and warranty costs in Years 2 and 3?

Yes, this is acceptable.

## Previous Grantee Questions

Are current awardees able to apply for an expansion grant while still completing the pilot grant?

They can apply, but this will be taken under consideration during the peer review process.  If the awardee is just in year 2 as opposed to closing out year 3, that would be taken under consideration in the final review of the application.

If we have an existing grant from a previous grant year do we need to identify that in our proposal?

You should mention that in your project narrative and include if you are doing an “expansion” project or something else.

## Small/Rural Questions

I wanted to make sure I understand correctly that there will be a funding opening that would better support smaller/rural agencies, is this correct? Will it be provided by BJA or another agency? How do we make sure we are on the mailing list to be notified?

Yes, this will be a sub-program under BJA managed by a selected service provider.  This will be posted on the BJA website and there will be a webinar explaining the program.  The mailing list will include the notifications that were made to today’s webinar.

Although it states small department in the title, it is not listed under eligible applicants. Please explain and define a small department.

This question must be referencing the “FY 2020 Competitive Grant Solicitation Supporting Small and Rural Law Enforcement Agency Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program” which is designed for BJA to select a single training and technical assistance (TTA) provider to design and implement a sub-award program to assist small and rural departments.

The following is the description of the task of the TTA provider that will be selected; “. . . will be responsible for designing and administering a competitive funding solicitation that distributes microgrants to qualified small and rural agencies to implement a body-worn camera program.”

**Small and Rural Law Enforcement Agency Definition** - The definitions for small and rural law enforcement agencies, who will be the subrecipients of microgrants under this program are defined as. (A) any area or community, respectively, no part of which is within an area designated as a standard metropolitan statistical area by the Office of Management and Budget; (B) any area or community, respectively, that is—(i) within an area designated as a metropolitan statistical area or considered as part of a metropolitan statistical area; and (ii) located in a rural census tract; or (C) any federally recognized Indian tribe. *(This is the definition found in the solicitation on page 5)*

## Additional Resources

Join the [BWC TTA mailing list](https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001xAEmV4_6VAu1VgLlU36dfjTVEyJPwZEYzjram1utj_9GhqTIfREvqIgoBVAzJclXO2__0fJIyLdQ3vayxCDlLas8HgLfdayQ3bGmKYJ-LNY%3D%20).

Visit the [BWC TTA website](http://www.bwctta.com/) and [BJA BWC Toolkit](https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/bwc/index.html).

For questions about BWC TTA, or to submit suggestions for future webinars and resources, please contact us at bwctta@cna.org.