

FY 2021 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program (BWCPIP) to Support Law Enforcement Agencies Solicitation

Questions and Answers

1. Will this presentation be sent to today's attendees?

Answer: Yes, to those who request the presentation. CNA can provide a copy of the slides if you email bwctta@cna.org. The slides also will be posted to BWCTTA.com website.

2. "Related Equipment and Equipment Upgrades" - Would expanding our body-worn camera (BWC) program to include in-car cameras that will all report to the same recording system fall into this category? Our agency is looking to add additional BWCs and start implementing in-car cameras to be used in tandem as a comprehensive recording program.

Answer: In-car cameras can be an associated cost under federal or match funds. However, keep in mind that your federal award amount is capped by the number of BWCs that your agency proposes to purchase. In-car cameras cannot be used when calculating the cap. For instance, if you proposed to add 20 BWCs to your existing inventory, your federal award is capped at \$40,000 (20 BWC * \$2,000). The purchase of in-car camera would need to be expended with the total funding amount of \$80,000 (\$40,000 federal funds and \$40,000 match funds).

3. Are employee benefits able to be calculated in to "in-kind" match?

Answer: Yes

4. Are indirect costs to be included in the total project cost, which cannot exceed \$2K per camera?

Answer: Yes. If your agency proposes to purchase 20 BWCs, your federal award is capped at \$40,000 (20 BWC * \$2,000). Your agency's indirect costs can be applied to federal funds, but the cap still applies. You could not add the indirect costs such that they would put you over the cap.

5. As a police department with less than 50 sworn personnel but part of a state university, would we qualify for the microgrant option?

Answer: No. The microgrant program was designed to meet the needs of small, rural, and tribal law enforcement agencies that historically have found it challenging to apply for federal grants. Public universities are familiar with federal grants, have the capacity to apply for them, and have experience and resources for managing federal grants.

6. City has a contract with a BWC vendor from previous BWC roll out...the amount will exceed \$250,000, are there special things that need to be done to continue with the contract?

Answer: Please see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for more information. <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide>. Specifically, reference the section: “Information on Proposed Subawards (if any) and Proposed Procurement Contracts (if any).”

7. Does the abstract count in the 15-page limit?

Answer: No

8. How can we prove that we are a city with poverty?

Answer: Follow the language that is applicable to many BJA grants, including the Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation solicitation. The specific language is on pages 7 and 8 of the application. *“To receive priority consideration under the poverty priority, the applicant must provide information to demonstrate that the individuals who are intended to benefit from the requested grant reside in high-poverty areas or persistent-poverty counties. For purposes of this priority consideration, the term “high-poverty area” means any census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2013–2017 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Census Bureau (applicants may search by census tract at <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/datatables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2017/>) and the term “persistent-poverty counties” means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (applicants may search by county at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/dec/census-poverty.html> and at <https://www.census.gov/programssurveys/saipe.html>). Priority consideration.”*

9. How do we complete the SF-LLL if we do not have a lobbying registrant?

This form will be filled out as part of the Grants.gov process. An example of the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form with instruction can be found here.

<https://www.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh241/files/media/document/disclosure.pdf>

10. How long is the meeting in DC? Just looking to budget appropriately. Thanks!

Answer: Please plan on two full days.

11. I represent a university with a number of campuses. Three of our campuses have body-worn devices and we would like to outfit some of the other campuses gradually. Should we submit one application for the university as a whole and disburse the funds as needed? Or should each campus' police unit complete separate applications?

Answer: If the university is the fiscal agent for all campuses proposed to receive BWCs, the applicant should submit a single application with a plan to distribute the funds should your university be awarded.

12. If our overall program expenses are anticipated to exceed the camera-based funding metric formula that you provided, is it ok to leave out certain expenses from our grant request? I want to make sure we do not invalidate our grant request, while at the same time be transparent about all the funds we anticipate needing to spend.

Answer: Yes. It is understood that your agency's submitted budget covering federal and matching funds may not represent the full scope and all the costs of your proposed BWC program.

13. If we are approved to implement a program by our Board of Supervisors and funding sources are identified but the program has not started yet for FY21/22, can we still apply? Is this considered supplanting?

Answer: From the question, it appears as though your Board of Supervisors has budgeted for cameras. It would be supplanting if that is the case. A definition of supplanting may be found here <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/grants101/definitions>. Supplanting is not allowed under this BWCPIP solicitation.

14. Is the Grant period 10/1/21 to 9/30/24 and if awarded when are award notifications sent out?

Answer: Yes. The grant period is 10/1/21 to 9/30/24. Awards announcements are expected to be made at the end of the fiscal year, 9/30/21.

15. Is there a copy of a successful, certified BWC policy online? Would like to compare it to our existing policy.

Answer: A number of example BWC policies can be found on the TTA website: <https://bwctta.com/body-worn-cameras-example-policies>.

16. Is there a grant for in-car cameras available?

Answer: No. There is not a comparable grant program specifically for in-car cameras. However, your local government entity be eligible for in-car cameras and other equipment through your state under the [FY 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\) Program - State Solicitation](#).

17. Is there a timeline when the SRT grant will be available?

Answer: The SRT microgrant application should be posted in the coming weeks. Please go to this site www.srtbwc.com to register your intent to submit an application. Once the microgrant award solicitation opens, our partners from Justice Securities and Strategies (JSS) will be reaching out to all who signed up to receive notification.

18. Just to confirm, the microgrant does not include storage, correct?

Answer: The microgrant solicitation does not allow for line-item storage costs to be funded. However, BJA recognizes that BWC systems are often bundled or sold as software-as-a-service (SaaS) with no line-item distinction of data storage costs; therefore, procurements with bundled costs (specifically no line-item storage costs) are permissible for reimbursement, and the agency will not be asked to break out the costs.

19. On page 5 of the solicitation, it states a 1:1 match is required. On page 9, it states a 50% match. Can you please clarify which is correct?

Answer: In the Office of Justice Programs language “50% match” means that federal funds can cover no more than 50% of the total budgets submitted. A dollar-for-dollar or 1:1 match is what is required. If your agency applies for \$100,000 in federal funding, your agency must match with at least \$100,000 of cash or in-kind contributions.

20. Page 5 of the solicitation states matching funds also would apply for leasing of cameras but the slide show only referred to purchase of the cameras. Please clarify if the 1 for 1 match would apply to lease of cameras and not just for purchase of the cameras.

Answer: Funding may be used to purchase or lease BWCs.

21. Please address once more if the applicant needs to have a TTA provider.

Answer: To clarify, should you be funded, TTA services are available through the BJA-funded TTA provider at no expense to your agency. The application does not require you to propose or fund your own TTA provider. CNA is the funded TTA provider for all BWCPIP grantees. Should you receive an award, your agency would be expected to work collaboratively with CNA on policy development or certification. CNA is available to provide a variety of TTA based on your agencies needs.

22. Should the project narrative be single-spaced or double-spaced?

Answer: Double-spaced. There is a 15 page limit with using 12 point font and one-inch margins.

23. The grant solicitation listed other allowable costs - we can include those as part of our total request for funding within our application, or are we limited to the \$2,000 x number of officers with BWCs amount?

Answer: The \$2,000 per BWC metric is the cap on the federal portion of the award, \$2,000 times the number of officer to receive BWCs. This is expected to cover the purchase or lease of BWCs as well as allow support for other allowable and reasonably related program costs.

24. Under the procurement tab in JustGrants it asks for County, State, and City...does this refer to the vendor?

Answer: That question is best answered by referring by contacting **JustGrants:** 833-872-5175
JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov

25. We are a rural community of 1,100 households and 4 police. Should we apply for this grant and the microgrant as well, or just the microgrant?

Answer: The small, rural, and tribal agency grant was designed specifically for agencies such as yours. You may go to this site and register your intent to submit an application at <https://www.srtbwc.com/>. Once the microgrant award solicitation opens, our partners from Justice Securities and Strategies (JSS) will be reaching out to all who signed up to receive notification. To be clear, nothing prohibits you agency from applying for both. However, the microgrant solicitation is designed specifically for small, rural, and tribal agencies. The microgrant application process will be streamlined and an agency that is

awarded will not have the same administrative burden as it would have if awarded the direct BWCPIP funding.

26. To confirm - we are required to include estimated costs for the trip to the national meeting in our budget?

Answer: Yes. Your agency's application should include travel for two people to the BWCPIP National Meeting in Washington, DC in your budget. Please plan for two attendees.

27. We are looking at the SRT grant for small counties (31 sworn officers). You mentioned this grant would come out at a later date. Do we need to submit the SF 424 and SF-LLL on the dates indicated to be considered for the SRT grant?

Answer: The small, rural, and tribal agency grant is being administered through a separate organization and will not be submitted through Grants.gov and JustGrants. The microgrant application will not require a SF 424 and SF-LLL. You may go to this site, www.srtbwc.com, and register your intent to submit an application. Once the microgrant award solicitation opens, our partners from Justice Securities and Strategies (JSS) will be reaching out to all who signed up to receive notification.

28. We have cameras currently that are in need of upgrade. We have not received this funding in the past. Will we be eligible?

Answer: Applicants whose equipment has reached the end of its life cycle are eligible to apply. Applicants should document that the equipment has reached the end of its life cycle and address the programmatic elements that would be expected of an agency initiating a BWC program.

29. We have submitted our first step documents to grants.gov already. Does that trigger an automatic application in JustGrants for us to complete? We are uncertain about how to start the application in JustGrants. Thanks!

Answer: That question is best answered by referring by contacting **JustGrants:** 833-872-5175 JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov

30. What about asking for funds to provide for software support of BWCs? Can the grant provide for support of BWC? We already have the BWC but want help with the software.

Answer: The authorizing legislation for this grant program requires that funds be used to support the purchase or lease of BWCs. Software support is an allowable cost, but only if you agency is including this as part of a BWC purchase or lease.

31. What are the specific performance measures for BWCs?

Answer: The performance measurement tool (PMT) link can be found at [Body-Worn Camera Pilot Implementation Program \(ojp.gov\)](#). The reporting period is semiannual.

32. What if proposed one time funding sources are identified, would this be considered supplanting?

Answer: A definition of supplanting may be found here <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/grants101/definitions>. Supplanting is not allowed under this BWCPIP solicitation.

33. What is the deadline of the microgrant?

Answer: The small, rural, and tribal agency grant is being administered through a separate organization and will **not** be submitted through Grants.gov and JustGrants. It Microgrant applicants will **not** be required to submit a SF 424 and SF-LLL. You may go to this site, www.srtbwc.com, and register your intent to submit an application. Once the microgrant award solicitation opens, our partners from Justice Securities and Strategies (JSS) will be reaching out to all who signed up to receive notification. The microgrant solicitation is expected to be announced in the coming weeks. The solicitation is expected to be open for six weeks.

34. Where can I find the Financial Questionnaire?

Answer: Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status) Information about the questionnaire can be found here <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide#fm-internal-controls-questionnaire> .

35. Will the BWC program cover costs related to Priority Ranked Video features, including performance and transcription tools? If so, could an applicant apply for the subscription/licensing services for more than one year or would the agency have to show how the project would be self-sustainable after the first year?

Answer: You may cover those cost in your grants. The period of the grant is 36 months. An agency budget should be submitted based on that 3-year period of time and all proposed expenditures should be allocated during that 3-year period of time.

36. Will the grant be able to be used for phone app body cams such as Visual Labs, and leasing the phone and monthly service fee for the app?

Answer: BJA does not endorse or prescribe any particular BWC vendor. The equipment proposed in the question, however, does appears to be allowable. The applicant should remain aware that the procurement should occur within the award period and must assure open, fair, and competitive processes in accordance with agency policies and federal procurement standards.

37. Would a vehicle outfitted for BWC deployment during critical incidents likely qualify for the grant conditions in addition to the purchase of additional BWCs?

Answer: BJA cannot answer that question without further information. The applying agency would need to illustrate convincingly within the grant proposal how such a purchase and expenditure would be reasonably related to the BWCPIP program and in furtherance of its goals and objective.