

**BJA Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program (BWCPIP)
FY2022 April 19, 2022 Solicitation Webinar Session
Questions and Answers**

Question as Submitted by Attendee	Asker Name	Asker Organization	Response
We've had body cameras since 2017. We are getting ready to renew another 5 year contract. In regards to the prior slide. Does that mean that we can not apply for the grant under category 1 and 3. We are developing a process with the prosecutors office currently.	Alicia Beacock	Monroe (OH) Police Department	Agencies may apply to BWCPIP to replace end-of-life-cycle BWC equipment, secure equipment upgrades, or secure contract updates under Category 1. However, agencies that will be proposing new BWC programs or expanding BWC deployments to additional divisions/officers who had not previously been issued BWCS will be prioritized. Category 3 is intended for agencies that have BWC programs and a level of demonstrated success in digital evidence sharing, management, and integration efforts. It sounds as though your agency could apply under Category 3.
I am with the City of Clever Police Department, with the state of Missouri. Our agency only has 8 officers, would it be better for use to apply for the smaller BJA BWC grant?	Alicia Robertson	City of Clever (MO) Police Department	BJA staff are ethically prohibited from coaching applicants, so BJA can't specifically tell you which solicitation is more suited for your agency. We can emphasize, however, that the Small, Rural, and Tribal (SRT) BWC Microgrant is designed for smaller agencies. SRT agencies in general are those that historically have not been as successful in the standard BWCPIP solicitation, where they often compete against larger, better resourced, and more grant savvy agencies. The BWC SRT Microgrant is a streamlined application process and provides focused TTA for awardees. To learn more about that program go to www.srtbwc.com . Your agency is the type of agency BJA had in mind when creating BWC SRT.
My organization has been unsuccessful in creating a workspace in grants.gov, I am new to the organization (and anything grant related) and there have been several people who have left. Do you have any suggestions on how to go about getting access to create a workspace?	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	Grants.gov assistance is out of BJA's domain and not administered by DOJ. Technical Assistance can be obtained at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035 support@grants.gov . Perhaps this video on how to create a workspace would be helpful. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOjwumQz0G8&list=RDCMUCc7tRM0vKkTMpxucO7iYPzQ

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Can funding be used for upgrading BWCs? A sheriff's department that is a PIP site is due for an upgrade on the ones they received with their initial award and their county is still in funding distress.	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	Agencies may apply to BWCPIP to replace end-of-life-cycle BWC equipment, secure equipment upgrades, or secure contract updates under Category 1. However, agencies that will be proposing new BWC programs or expanding BWC deployments to additional divisions/officers who had not previously been issued BWCs will be prioritized
Do all of the funding categories required a match (Our read of the solicitation leads us to think two of the four categories don't require a match)?	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	Categories 1 and 2 require a match; categories 3 to 5 do not.
If my agency was to purchase two cameras, per officer, would it be appropriate to request \$2,000 per camera? Or is it more appropriate to request \$2,000 per officer? Thank you	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	\$2,000 per officer
Would technology that bolsters community outreach and the scope of BWC (in the field questionnaires, data and analytics to better citizen satisfaction) be considered in this grant? Or would this fall into a diff category?	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	The technology you describe appears to be within the scope of the BWCPIP solicitation and seems most consistent with Category 5.
Can budgeted, but not yet spent funds, be used for the match funds?	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	No. Replacing pre-award budgeted funds with federal grant funds is considered supplanting. Both federal funds and matching funds must be obligated and expended during the grant period.
When will this grant be awarded?	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	It is expected that awards will be announced before October 1, 2022. The award period would start on that date, which is the beginning of the federal fiscal year.

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Our agency having issues with logging in the grant portals (grants.gov and login.gov.) Are you aware of any issues technical or otherwise with these portals?	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	Grant.gov is out of BJA's domain and not administered by DOJ. Other FY2022 BWCPIP applicants have been successful at logging-in. Technical Assistance can be obtained at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035 support@grants.gov .
Category 3 is to further interagency digital data sharing. However, the Special Considerations discusses limiting the purchase of DESI items to 25% of the budget. It seems that the majority of the costs to enhance interagency sharing would be buying additional licenses, software and equipment yet this consideration limits this ability. Am I reading this correctly?	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	Category 3 is intended to support agencies looking to improve their digital evidence sharing and integration (DESI) efforts building on existing successful efforts and a willingness to demonstrate that programmatic success in ways in which other agencies can benefit. Category 3 is not primarily a equipment or services grant, yet BJA realized that equipment purchases or upgrades may be a necessary part process improvement. The 25% DESI expenditure allowance is intended to assist in programmatic enhancements.
Is the funding generally geared to communities that are designated as distressed or openly available?	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	Openly available.
We currently have a BWC program that in our opinion is well regulated with a good policy but our current BWC's have been very problematic. Where does this leave us for replacement of the entire hardware package with grant assistance?	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	Your agency would either need to (a) self-certify its policy that is in effect at the onset of the grant to assure that it meets the criteria for a comprehensive and deliberate policy or (b) work with the TTA provider on developing a policy and completing the scorecard process. Agencies may apply to BWCPIP to replace end-of-life-cycle BWC equipment, secure equipment upgrades, or secure contract updates under Category 1. However, agencies that will be proposing new BWC programs or expanding BWC deployments to additional divisions/officers who had not previously been issued BWCS will be prioritized.

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Is this grant only for the next 3 years before another application window opens or is there a new application window every year?	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	Generally, every year. We fully expect, but cannot guarantee, that there will be a similar BWCPIP solicitation in FY2023.
If we need 40 additional cameras to add to our program, can we request 40 at the 2,000 cap (80K) and match with licensing and other services over the course of the remainder of our contract - which is three years? Our match would be somewhere around 90K	Anonymous Attendee	n/a	Yes, that is a permissible use of federal grant funds and matching funds. The match funds appear reasonable. They do not raise concerns for "over-matching"
Would a system like FUSUS that integrates and networks camera feeds be eligible for category 3?	Carol McCullough	Akron (OH) Police Department	A system that integrates digital data and network feeds sounds within the scope. BJA does not endorse specific vendor products, so I cannot comment about FUSUS system itself.
Can the cost of dash cameras be used as matching expenses if they are being deployed concurrently with the BWCs?	Carrie Corti	State University of New York at New Paltz	Yes, the costs of dashboard cameras can be used as match if those cameras will be integrated with BWCs. In calculating the federal cap, your agency can only count BWCs, not dashboard cams. For example, if your agency proposes to purchase 20 BWCs and acquire 20 in-dash cams, the federal-portion award cap is \$40,000, based on 20 BWCs (\$2,000 * 20 BWCs). It is NOT \$80,000, based on the combined total of 40 BWCs and in-dash cams.
Is there an updated Single Agency Screening Sheet for this? I can only find the one from FY 2021	Cassandra Fusco	Utica (NY) Police Department	Apparently the link was not updated in the solicitation. You may use the FY2021 form, it is virtually identical to the FY2022 form.
Category 3 and 4 - are these only around evidence?	Cherie Norris	Washington State of the Attorney General	Categories 2 and 4 are generally organized around the use of digital evidence generated from body-worn-cameras and similar devices (e.g., dash cams, pole cams, and data obtained from citizen cell phones).

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[From Prosecutors Office) Can we use category 1 to buy body cams to loan or grant out to smaller jurisdictions?	Cherie Norris	Washington State of the Attorney General	Yes, if I understand the question correctly, smaller agencies may be named as subrecipients to receive BWCs. The loan option you raise is a little unclear. If your agency, as a prosecutor's office, wants to purchase or lease those camera on behalf of agencies in you county, that is permissible.
If you have already been approved to receive a subgrant award this year 2022 are you eligible to apply for the BJA grant?	Clarence Whalen	Sylvania Township (OH) Police Department	Generally not, unless your agency is requesting funds for additional cameras.
We are a small Sheriff dept (less than 20 full time deputies). We have aging cameras. Could we qualify by helping our two city police departments start with body cameras by giving them our aging ones and using the funding to buy the Sheriff's Department new cameras?	Denise Rivette	Carbon County (MT) Sheriff's Office	Agencies may apply to BWCPIP to replace end-of-life-cycle BWC equipment, secure equipment upgrades, or secure contract updates under Category 1. However, agencies that will be proposing new BWC programs or expanding BWC deployments to additional divisions/officers who had not previously been issued BWCS will be prioritized Helping the two municipal agencies by sharing old BWCs would be permissible and would indicate that your agencies is using resources wisely.
Would our application benefit significantly from partnering with a college or university to analyze the effectiveness of our program?	Denise Rivette	Carbon County (MT) Sheriff's Office	Peer reviewers would likely look favorably on the inclusion of researchers to assess program effectiveness. Analysis of the effectiveness of an agency's BWC program would contribute to a more holistic, deliberate, and evidence-based BWC program and augment performance metric tracking.
If we can't get the police departments on board in the next week or so, can we plan to apply to this grant next year?	Denise Rivette	Carbon County (MT) Sheriff's Office	We fully expect, but cannot guarantee, that there will be a similar BWCPIP solicitation in FY2023.

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I work for a state correctional agency. However, our application would be for a specific division of the agency that conducts field law enforcement duties (in the community and not in the prisons). With this in mind, should we apply under Category 1 since the duties are similar or Category 2 since we are a correctional agency?	Derrick Marion	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	Cameras for correctional officers conducting field law enforcement duties are permissible. Since the program will be administered by your state correctional agency, the application should be submitted under Category 2.
Hi there - can this grant be used to pay for existing contracts for BWCs already purchased?	Elise Neyerlin	Summit County (CO)	No. BWCPIP is not a grant program for reimbursement . Using grant funds for pre-award contracts or purchases are not permissible under BWCPIP, nor under most DOJ grants.
Can we apply for the funding even though our budgeting for next fiscal is not yet approved? What happens if our match funding isn't approved?	Eric Hill	Venice (FL) Police Department	Yes. We expect that you do NOT have a municipal budget with line item expenditures for BWC. If you did, that would be supplanting. If you applied and were awarded, and your locality does not approve matching funds, it is possible your agency could update its grant budget to use in-kind match or you could decline the award.
Is the 50% match funding applied to SRT applicants also?	Fabiola Lopez	Unknown	Yes. The organization responsible for administering the Small, Rural, and Tribal (SRT) Microgrant program also provides training and technical assistance (TTA) to assist agencies in matching. This assistance is not available for the general BWCPIP award. To learn more about the SRT Microgrant go to www.srtbwc.com .
We are looking to update our interview room with new cameras, and also add our ALPRS system in the digital evidence storage. Would these items be included in category 3, and would they be subject to the 15% cap on equipment?	Gene Rickle	Township of South Brunswick (NJ) Police Department	Those expenses would be allowable, but subject to the 15% cap on additional BWC equipment and 25% cap on the purchase, lease, or contracting for equipment or services in furtherance of digital data sharing and integration (DESI).

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We are looking to create a training/multipurpose room equipped with technology that would allow us to 1) train our officers using BWC footage and 2) do community outreach through our citizens police academy and youth police academy and present BWC footage to community members during those programs. Would this be allowable in Cat 5?	Gene Rickle	Township of South Brunswick (NJ) Police Department	Yes, but the majority of expenses would be expected to be spent on programmatic activities rather than equipment, services, or contracts. The cap on equipment would be 15% and the cap on purchase, lease, or contracting for equipment or services in furtherance of digital data sharing and integration (DESI) would be 25%.
We have award in the BWC in the Rural SWC SRT grant can we apply for this grant as well in Category 1?	Heidi Menasco	Middletown (DE) Police Department	Generally not, unless you are requesting funds for additional cameras.
can a mix of agencies apply for a grant if some are new to BWC and some are expanding existing BWC? Can I use an existing positions salary and ERE to cover soft costs?	James Edelstein	Prescott Valley (AZ) Police Department	Yes. If I understand the question correctly, some subrecipient agencies may be funded for broad scale implementations and others for BWC expansions or pilot implementation. You can use an existing position salary and fringe benefits for in-kind matching if your agency will be expanding the role of the person to meet the purposes of administering the grant and/or managing operational aspects BWC program itself.
If grant app is going to be total of 156K in Cat 1 are we wasting our time applying since it seems the awards are structured for large programs?	James Edelstein	Prescott Valley (AZ) Police Department	While larger agencies often have advantages in grant experience and resources, many smaller agencies have been successful in applying for BWCPIP awards. The average federal award amount in BWCPIP in FY2021 was \$291,000, but 54 of 94 funded applicants went to agencies that requested less than \$156,000.

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Good Afternoon, should costs be spread out in the budget or should they all be listed in the first year? For example, an agency wishes to purchase 200 cameras. Can the agency purchase all 200 cameras in Year 1 or does it have to be spread out throughout the three year grant period. Also, can applicants include costs for storage and personnel in each year (Year 1, 2 & 3) or can we only include it in Year 1.	Jillian Reynolds	City of Lowell, MA	There is no preference. If you are purchasing equipment, rather than leasing, it makes sense for most of the costs to be incurred in year one.
Can applicants include storage costs for each camera for all three years?	Jillian Reynolds	City of Lowell, MA	Yes, storage costs are allowed with FY2022 funds and are not restricted to any particular year.
what is grants.gov as compared to just grants?	john halbreich	Unknown	<p>Grants.gov (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support/about-grants-gov.html) is the portal and management system centralizing more than 1,000 different grant programs across federal grant-making agencies, not just DOJ. It is the front end of your agency's grant application process.</p> <p>JustGrants is the new grants management system developed by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). JustGrants (https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/) replaced the Grants Management System used by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), as well as the NexGen system used by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office).</p>

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how do apply for a sam number as a person helping write the grant	john halbreich	Unknown	The SAM process is outside of BJAs domain. We assume that the municipality or agency applying for the grant would register or update using their SAM. Information for starting a SAM Registration is available here https://usfcr.com/sam-registration/ There are help numbers provided a that site.
oct 1 is when if you are awarded the grant we can purchase bwc?	john halbreich	Unknown	October 1 is when the grant period begins. Drawdowns cannot occur until your award is accepted by your agency, your agency's budget is cleared, and special condition holds on your agency's funds are cleared.
Where will we find the Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire?	Joseph Garcia	City of Pueblo (CO) Police Department	I believe the form itself will be accessible when you prepare and submit your grant solicitation in JustGrants. For reference purposes, you can find a PDF copy of the form at https://www.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh241/files/media/document/FinancialCapability.pdf
As we create a timeline, are you aware of any backlog of delivery of cameras, like so many other items imported to the US, like cars and washing machines, etc.?	Joseph Garcia	City of Pueblo (CO) Police Department	BJA is not able to track the status on backlogs and delivery issues related to the various BWC vendors. Current grantees have shared that they are experiencing delays. Make you best determination in you project timeline. Adjustments can be made based on the situation that exists when you agency places its BWC order.
We have an existing Body Worn Camera program in my agency. However, we are looking to update and expand it. The impression I am getting from Category 1, is that it is intended for Agency's working from the ground up, is this correct? Or can we use grants funds to pay for the upgrade and expansion of our project?	Joshua Turner	Town of Bristol (VT) Police Department	Agencies may apply to BWCPIP to replace end -of-life-cycle BWC equipment, equipment upgrades, or contract updates under Category 1. However, agencies that will be proposing new BWC programs or expanding BWC deployment to additional divisions/officers who had not previously been issued BWCS will be prioritized.

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Where on the application do I mention that the 50% match will be met in In-Kind match using the grant administrator salary?	Shaquille Russell	Liberty County (GA) Sheriff's Office	In-kind match be mentioned in the budget narrative comments.
Do we need to include a quote from the vendor in the application?	Shaquille Russell	Liberty County (GA) Sheriff's Office	No there is no need to include a vendor quote. Some applicants provide a quote as a reference, but we expect that vendor selection will occur during the grant period and follow local and federal procurement guidelines for competitive purchasing.
Should I include a letter of support from the District Attorney is support of the BWC program?	Shaquille Russell	Liberty County (GA) Sheriff's Office	A letter of support from the local prosecutor is not mandatory for the FY2022 BWCPIP solicitation. However, including a letter is advisable, as the letter would underscore your agency's efforts and commitments to leverage stakeholder collaboration and input.
Some of the documents required to upload does not apply for my area. Since it is required, what do I upload? A letter stating we don't have or need the paperwork?	Shaquille Russell	Liberty County (GA) Sheriff's Office	Yes. If you believe a document that JustGrant is designating as a required document is not applicable, provide an attachment describing why the document is not required. It is advisable to have that document on agency/local government letterhead.
What about prison's are they eligible?	Sharon Fitz		State correctional agencies are eligible to apply for programs that intend to deploy BWCs within prisons and other facilities. If your agency fits that definition, your agency should apply under Category 2.
contract is established but future years are subject to board approval. Can we apply for federal funds to cover future years to is that considered supplanting [looking at Category 5]	Sonja Kohlgraf	Weld County (CO) Sheriff's Office	Your agency cannot apply for funds for BWCs or related equipment and services for which it has already budgeted or contracted. However, you may apply for additional BWCs or related equipment that you agency/municipality has not already contracted or budgeted. These funds need to be obligated and expended during the 3 year grant period.

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Is there common guidelines, or reference, documentation on what and how to utilize BWC videos for training?	Stephen Holmes		There are a number of resources that have developed around training, including one by our TTA provider. https://www.bwctta.com/body-worn-camera-training . Additional information can be found on our TTA providers website. Additional information on training can be found on BJA's BWC training toolkit. https://bja.ojp.gov/program/bwc/topics/training
What is considered “The end of the grant period” as it pertains to entering into a contract with a vendor?	Steve Thompson	New Berlin (WI) Police Department	The grant period for FY2022 grantees is expected to begin on October 1, 2022 and end on September 30, 2025. A one-time grant period extension is available on request for up to one additional year and is subject to approval by BJA..
There are two grant dates, May 20th & May 25th, what is the difference between Grants.gov and Justgrants?	Tracy Stoddard	New Marlborough (MA) Police Department	<p>Grants.gov (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support/about-grants-gov.html) is the portal and management system centralizing more than 1,000 different grant programs across federal grant-making agencies, not just DOJ. It is the front end of your agency's grant application process.</p> <p>Grants.gov is the system your agency will use to initiate a grant application. This is where you will submit your agencies SF-424 and SF-LLL. This video describes the grant.gov initiation and how it related to JustGrants and the two grant deadlines. https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-application-submission#rfifgj</p> <p>JustGrants is the new grants management system developed by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). JustGrants (https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/) replaced the Grants Management System used by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), as well as the NexGen system used by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office).</p>

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We found a company that used real BWC footage to create a POST approved training program on use of force and de-escalation. Can funds be used to pay for that training program? We are implementing a bwc program next month. We plan on submitting footage to the company that creates the training.	Travis Martinez	Redlands (CA) Police Department	By the nature of your question, it appears your agency already has BWCs and would be applying under Category 5: Using BWC Footage for Training and Constitutional Policing Demonstration Projects. If that is correct, what you describe is an allowable expense.
Does BJA withhold levels of funding until policy and then implementation plan are written, submitted, and approved by CNA and BJA?	Veronica Nordeen	City of Portland, OR	For Categories 1 and 2, 90% of your agency's funds will be held until your agency provides a self-certification of your BWC policy or works with the TTA provider to review your policy draft and complete a BWC scorecard. Once BJA reviews and proves the certification or the scorecard, that holding condition will be cleared. There is not withholding of funds contingent on implementation. Agencies are expected to draw down funds as expenses are incurred.
Are Admin Expenses, 2 CFR 200.413, allowed with this grant program?	Veronica Nordeen	City of Portland, OR	Yes administrative expenses are allowable. As was stipulated in the question, the distinction between direct-costs and indirect-costs is spelled out in 2 CFR 200.413. https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-E/subject-group-ECFRd93f2a98b1f6455/section-200.413
Sounds like we need to budget Travel for a New Grantee meeting in D.C.	Veronica Nordeen	City of Portland, OR	There is no in-person new grantee meeting scheduled for FY 2022 grantees. The meeting will be virtual.

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Does CNA or BJA have an example of a project timeline? The budget estimator & guide is very helpful.	Veronica Nordeen	City of Portland, OR	<p>The project timeline will vary by the scope of the project and each agency's program plan, and previous experience with BWCs (e.g., whether the agency is expanding deployment of BWCs or is implementing them for the first time. BJA does not proactively share timelines of grantees out of respect to potential proprietary concern of applicants. That said, some agencies have published their BWCPIP timelines online, including https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-E/subject-group-ECFRd93f2a98b1f6455/section-200.413</p> <p>You may want to check with some agencies near you that are BWCPIP funded sites. You can identify nearby agencies by viewing the map the following site, zooming into your geographic area, and clicking on dots on the map. If you scroll down you will see BWCPIP awarded for all years, 2015 to 2021, on the map. https://www.bwctta.com/bwc-policy-and-implementation-program-sites</p>