

BJA Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementaiton Program (BWCPIP)  
 FY23 February 20, 2023 Solicitation Webinar Session  
 Questions and Answers

Topic Grouping	Question	Answer
Basic Grant Process / Conditions	Does grants.gov or JustGrants require a .gov domain/email or are other domains acceptable?	A .gov email is not required. Other email domains are acceptable.
Basic Grant Process / Conditions	When will awards be announced?	Awards are typically announced by September 30 in anticipation of award onset on October 1, 2023.
Basic Grant Process / Conditions	Is this a three year or two year program?	BWCPIP is a 3 year grant program. If agencies determine the need to ask for a no-cost extension, BJA will consider a one-year no cost extension. Generally, these are submitted and reviewed in the third year of the grants.
Basic Grant Process / Conditions	Where can I find the solicitation?	<a href="https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2023-171562">https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2023-171562</a>
Basic Grant Process / Conditions	Please review grant opening and closing dates again please.	Step 1: Application Grants.gov Deadline: April 04, 2023 8:59 PM ET Step 2: Application JustGrants Deadline: April 11, 2023 8:59 PM ET
Basic Grant Process / Conditions	If I had previously applied for the COPS grant from Grants.gov do I need to re-register every time?	The Grants.gov registration should be active if the previous grant application was recent.
Basic Grant Process / Conditions	If I had previously applied for the COPS grant from JustGrants do I need to re-register every time?	The JustGrants registration should be active if the previous grant application was recent.
Allowable Expenses - In-Car Video Cameras	Will this grant also cover the cost of integrated BWC and in-car video systems? Most major systems come with both a BWC and in-car (DashCam) video system.	This grant can cover the cost of integrated BWC and in-dash camera as an initial project or as a refinement of an existing program provided BWCs are being purchased or leased as part of the grant. Adding BWCs to an existing in-dash program is fine, but adding in-dash cameras to BWCs may be problematic. The Federal Legislation that authorizes funding is intended to support BWC purchases [or leases] and related expenses. As a result, all applicants for
Allowable Expenses - In-Car Video Cameras	Did you say we can add car cameras, etc. to this grant to work with BWC?	This \$2,000 per BWC cap helps ensure that the funds are distributed equitably, reasonably, and proportionally to the scope of effort. BJA understands that a BWC itself seldom costs \$2,000 and that associated expenses are necessary. We designed the program with the understanding that agencies would use the funds for more holistic program implementation, including funds for storage, licensing, redaction, and personnel to manage the program.
Allowable Expenses - Other than BWC	We noticed the grant funding will provide up to \$2,000 per body cam. Does that \$2,000 cover just the camera devices themselves or will that \$2,000 cover storage costs, licensing costs, and redaction software costs as well? Consistent with the discussion about \$2,000 cap per BWC.	
Allowable Expenses - Other than BWC	We are looking at applying for Category 2 funding. In addition to equipment costs, we have significant expenses related to data storage and the contract for service for the body worn cameras. Are either of these items allowable expenses to request in this grant, or are we only able to request funding for the equipment?	Yes, services, contracts, and contractors are allowable.
Allowable Expenses - Reimbursement	Is the grant available for reimbursement in category 3 for agencies who already have implemented a digital evidence management program?	No, BWCPIP is not a reimbursement grant program. All funds must be obligated and expended for activity, services and/or equipment acquired during the grant period.
Allowable Expenses - Replacement Cameras	Can you use the grant to replace BWCs that are no longer supported?	It is permissible to apply for BWC replacement or lease renewals. However, the agency will be assessed on the full programmatic elements of the solicitation and the quality of the project narrative submitted. To be successful, applicants proposing BWC replacements are expected to provide a compelling case for how BWC replacements will enhance the agency's broader mission, e.g., how BWCs will enhance accountability and transparency; for their evidentiary value; or improve police operational efficiency and fairness. Any applications that are seeking an equipment upgrade/replacement will be reviewed alongside other applications that are proposing to initiate new BWC programs or expand existing programs by providing BWC to new groups of officers that had not previously been assigned BWCs. If an application for replacement BWCs focuses primarily on the technical needs rather than documenting how programmatic elements will be achieved, it likely will be scored by peer reviewers accordingly.
Allowable Expenses - Replacement Cameras	If every officer (Chief and supervisors included) of our department is already equipped with a body worn camera, would our department be eligible to apply for the grant? We're currently looking to upgrade the cameras we have.  I was looking at slide "Types of programs supported under categories 1 and 2" and "program expansion" that led me to believe eligibility would be for departments who have only partially implemented body worn cameras thus far.	
Allowable Expenses - Replacement Cameras	Can the funds be used to enhance our Department's current BWC package/agreement with our current BWC vendor? (ex. add more features; move up to a higher "tier;" etc.)	
Allowable Expenses - Replacement Cameras	Can the funds be used strictly for the purpose of purchasing more BWCs for an already existing program?	Yes, as an expansion project you would be limited to the same \$2,000 per BWC cap as agencies initiating a BWC program.
Allowable Expenses - Redaction	Are there any restrictions on software purchases for BWCs? For example, could an agency include costs for redaction software in their grant application?	Redaction software is considered a reasonably associated cost. Redaction services, software, or personnel to support redaction are routine aspects of BWC programs. Redaction often is mandated by agency policy and/or state legislation.
Eligibility - Detention Officers	Can you use the grant funds for both deputies and detention officers?	Yes, applicants that are sheriff's offices seeking to equip field deputies and/or detention officers with BWCs are eligible.
Eligibility - Fire Services	What about local fire departments?	No. The appropriations language specifies funds to be used to support the acquisition of BWC in "law enforcement agencies".
Eligibility - Other Than Sworn	Would Animal Services Officers under the umbrella of a local police department be eligible for this BWC grant?	Yes, provided that the local police department is publicly funded.

Eligibility - School Safety	My name is John White, and I am the Director of Security for the Brooke County School District in West Virginia. My question is would a County school district that utilizes retired, active, certified Law Enforcement Officers as their Resource Officers in the schools, be eligible to apply for this grant. These Resource Officers still hold state certification, but they are not sworn Law Enforcement	<p>If I understand correctly the set-up you describe, the school district itself would not be eligible. According to the budget appropriations language that funds BWCPPI, eligibility is limited to law enforcement agencies, specifically those that are publicly funded (e.g., by municipalities, counties, or states). We have funded independent school district police departments, but from your description that does not seem to be the case in Brooke County. It would be possible, however, for the Brooke County Sheriff to apply for a grant and include the SROs in their allocation of BWCs.</p> <p>Related to that, you should know that there is a separate microgrant solicitation targeted to small, rural, and tribal LEAs. That is a streamlined application tailored to smaller agencies that may not have the resources to be competitive in our general BWCPPI grant (i.e., competing against larger jurisdictions that have grant writers and staff experienced in federal grants). That microgrant solicitation is now open (through February 17). See <a href="https://www.srtbwc.com/">https://www.srtbwc.com/</a>. I checked that website and found that the WV agencies listed below have been funded in the past by that microgrant program. Brooke County Sheriff's Office would qualify as small department eligible to apply for that SRT microgrant program.</p>
Eligibility - School Safety	Are public school districts eligible to apply for this grant?	Only if there are publicly funded agencies whose officers provide law enforcement services. For instance, numerous independent school district PDs have applied for and secured BWCPPI funding. If the school employs security personnel that don't provide law
Eligibility - School Safety	Are school district safety offices eligible to apply? Our safety office is funded by the district, not the police.	
Budget Structure - 3-year	Could you please explain the 3 year grant concept. If the cost is 20k a year for 10 cameras, do you apply for 60k?	That is a permissible budget structure. Note, however that the maximum federal award for a 10 camera program applying the \$2,000 per BWC metric would be \$20,000 for the entire grant, not \$20,000 per year times 3 years). Federal funds in the amount of \$20,000 could be applied against the \$60,000 projected costs. The remaining funds could be covered by a match of at least \$20,000)
BWC Policy	Should we submit our BWC Policy with the grant application or wait until we get technical support from DOJ?	Submission of a BWC policy with the grant application is not expected nor required in BWCPPI. If an agency already has an active or draft policy, applicants are welcome to submit it with their application as an attachment in JustGrants. It is likely that an agency's submission of a robust and comprehensive policy that addresses substantive elements in the grant solicitation would be viewed favorably by peer reviewers. It is not a formal component of BJA peer review scoring consideration. Should the agency submitting a policy subsequently be awarded, that pre-award submission would not satisfy the policy verification process. The policy review process (self-certification or completion of the scorecard process) would still need to take place after the award was issued and accepted by the agency.
BWC Product/Vendor Questions	Is Axon an allowable vendor on this grant?	All major BWC vendors are allowable. BJA makes no recommendation regarding brand or vendor of BWCs. Agencies may make reference to a vendor quote for planning purposes and to estimate costs. However, if an agency submits such a vendor quote as an attachment or mentions a vendor in the budget and is selected for funding, this does not imply acceptance of the vendor or quote by BJA. The Office of Justice Programs, and BJA as its component agency, expected that awardees will engage in competitive acquisition processes during the course of the grant to ensure federal funds are appropriate, reasonable, and allocable to the BWC program.
BWC Product/Vendor Questions	Are there restrictions to the type or brand? Is this a reimbursement grant?	<p>There is no requirement for any vendor nor does BJA express a preference. We remain vendor neutral. There may be some general federal grant programs that prohibit the purchase of equipment and technology of certain foreign companies. These directives change and it is incumbent on the awardee to keep abreast of any such restriction.</p> <p>BJA recognizes that some applicants may choose to include BWC vendor quotes as part of their application. That is acceptable, and BJA considers those quotes to be reference documents. Awarding of a grant does not imply that BJA endorses a vendor, nor does it imply BJA accepts the vendor quote. Agencies must not contract for or purchase BWC before the grant period begins. It is expected that agencies engage in competitive acquisition processes <b>during the course of the grant</b> to ensure federal funds are appropriate, reasonable, and allocable to the BWC program.</p>
BWC Technology Changes	The cameras are changing, and the tech is integrated with in-car systems. My question to the group will be, how will the agency upgrade the cameras when the technology changes?	The rapid evolution of BWC technology is not covered by the grant per se. Individual vendors may offer packages that facilitate integration with in-car cameras or other systems. BJA recognizes that some vendors will offer regularly scheduled BWC upgrades as part of lease packages. These would all be important considerations for procurement processes during the grant period. BJA does not recommend or endorse any particular BWC vendors, nor does BJA recommend particular options or bundled services. Our TTA providers are tasked with keeping informed on the evolving BWC and digital evidence management ecosystem and will occasionally provide resources on the topic or refer agencies to other BWCPPI grantees who have had similar experiences. There is no single correct formula for BWC options, purchases, or bundling. Demonstrating in your preproposal how your agency will assess BWC technical features and the evolving BWC ecosystem to meet your agency's unique need likely will be viewed favorably by peer reviewers.
Funding for Personnel	I am just verifying that funding can be used for personnel for category 3.	Personnel are an allowable expense for Category 3, as are fringe benefits associated with those personnel. The same answer applies to other demonstration projects proposed under Categories 4 and 5. Personnel/fringe benefits are also allowable under Categories 1 and 2.
Funding for Travel	We understand we need to participate with the TTA provider. Do we need to budget travel expenditures for working with the TTA provider, e.g., Grantee meetings?	There are no mandatory travel requirements for BWCPPI. Applicants can propose elective travel as part of their project narratives and proposed budgets (e.g., to meet with other BWC users from the region or state).

Funding Levels	After reviewing the solicitation we are discussing applying for funding in Category 3. I see that only 2 awards will be awarded for \$1,000,000. Could we apply for less than \$1,000,000? We are a medium sized Agency and may not be able to spend the full \$1,000,000. Is there a possibility of more than 2 awards being funded in category 3?	\$1,000,000 is the award cap, but agencies can apply for less based on the sized of the agency and commensurate with scope of the work proposed. Last year smaller agencies did apply for Category 3. We anticipate that there will be two awards for Category 3, but may select more based on the quality of applications across categories and the distribution of funding amounts requested across categories.
Funding Levels	How many (maximum) \$2 million grants will be awarded this FY2023 funding Cycle?	There is no set number of "\$2,000,000 grants" planned or anticipated for BWCPIP. If any are submitted, these would all be proposals from agencies that are requesting at minimum 1,000 BWCs. The number of large grants that would end up being funded depends on how many are submitted and how they rank in the peer review process. Typically, there are only a few awards under Category 1 or 2 that exceed \$1,000,000 in federal funding requested, and fewer (if any) that request the maximum of \$2,000,000.
Indirect Costs (IDC)	What is allowed indirect cost base? Is it federally negotiated rate or is it something else? Can't we use the de minimis indirect cost rate?	Federal negotiated rates are standard. <b>Applicants seeking indirect costs are strongly advised to submit currently valid negotiated indirect cost agreements with their applications.</b> If there are issues with the indirect cost rate agreements submitted and an award is made, that award will be issued with a Conditional Clearance. This would be the case, for instance, if the applicant is requesting indirect costs in the budget based on a referenced negotiated rate agreement (not de minimis), but the rate agreement attachment is missing or is expired. The Conditional Clearance would need to be addresses in the grant period.
Letter of Support	Is there a standard form or language for the letter of support?	No. An MOU or letter of support is permissible. These should be signed by an authorized representative of the submitting organization (prospective subwardee/partner) and appear on that agency's letterhead. MOUs or letters of support should reflect that the proposed subwardee/partner understands and is committed to their specific roles in the project.
Letter of Support - Prosecutors	Someone had mentioned it was a new requirement for this year to have a letter/MOU from our local prosecutor's office with our application but I think John mentioned on here that it's only recommended and not mandatory?	That is no longer a requirement. A letter from the local prosecutor had been required in the early BWCPIP solicitations. Although it is not required, providing documentation for prosecutors support for your proposed BWC program is advisable.
Future BWC Grant Support	At the end of 3 years, can an agency re-apply to account for the salary of a program manager?	Each year's BWCPIP funds are dependent on federal budget appropriation passed by Congress. BJA's program plans are made in a manner consistent with appropriations language. Projection about future BWCPIP funding cannot be reliably made. It is noteworthy, however, there have been no funds appropriated in the past that cover the continuing cost of personnel to manage existing BWC programs.
Match - Waivers	For small agencies that would need only 10 cameras and a small budget, is there anything where they wouldn't have to match 50%?	The BWCPIP program does not currently consider waivers for match funds. Other small agencies have been able to use in-kind match to offset funding burdens.
Match Funding - Amount	Will this require matching funds?	Yes "50% which mean at minimum a \$1 match for every federal dollar requested. Match may be cash or in-kind (a.k.a. soft)." See the DOJ Grants Financial Gude for more details. <a href="https://www.ojp.gov/doj-financial-guide-2022">https://www.ojp.gov/doj-financial-guide-2022</a>
Match Funding - State Grant	When the funding opportunity becomes available, we will also be seeking funding from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board as they provide a grant for body cams as well. According to the ILETBS website, they anticipate opening the application process on February 15th. Will seeking ILETBS's body cam funding opportunity in any way influence our ability to seek and secure the DOJ's body cam grant? Essentially does the DOJ take issue with an agency seeking and possibly receiving funding from two different government agencies?	You should indicate in your grant narrative that you have applied for state funding for BWCs <b>AND</b> submit a Duplication in Cost Items form (a.k.a. Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications). Specific language is provided in OJP Grant Financial Guidance <a href="https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide#applicant-disclosure-pending-applications">https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide#applicant-disclosure-pending-applications</a> . Should your agency be awarded a state grant <b>AND</b> be selected for BWCPIP award, you may be able to use BWCPIP funds and match with state funds (depending on the nature and source of the state funds), In general, this will be the case when states use state funds <b>AND</b> those funds are <b>NOT</b> derived from federal sources.
Supplanting and Pre-Award Cost	Our 5 year contract with our current vendor is due to be renewed in July. Our new fiscal year starts May 1st. If we budget for the renewal of this contract and apply for the grant is this going to be considered supplanting?	That description does fit the definition of supplanting. As described this agency would not be able to receive a BWCPIP grant.
Supplanting and Pre-Award Cost	If BWCs are purchased on 2/21/2023 can an agency still apply for this grant?	Those are preaward costs and are not allowable. BWCPIP is not a reimbursement program. Expenditures for BWCPIP must take place within the grant period. BWCPIP funds cannot be used for expenditures that have already been obligated in the grantee agency budget (e.g., a budget enacted or passed by state, municipal, or county governing body).
Performance Measure Requirements	Is there a place to find where the performance measures for this grant are listed? Are they similar to the BJA's other programs such as OVC and OJJDP?	They are similar. The link can be found in the solicitation <a href="https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/O-BJA-2023-171562.pdf">https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/O-BJA-2023-171562.pdf</a> . The direct link to BWCPIP performance measures can be found here <a href="https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/BWC-Performance-Measures.pdf">https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/BWC-Performance-Measures.pdf</a>
Program Evaluation Research	Did John state that you don't need to do a program evaluation if you are implementing the BWC program internally?	A formal program evaluation for your BWC program is not required. Note that all need to collect and report performance metrics/measures that are reported though JustGrants.
Other Grant Programs	Is the Byrne Discretionary Grant also an option for funding a BWC program this year?	Body-worn cameras are an allowable expense under Byrne JAG. To learn about the release of any BJA grant programs and associated details go to <a href="https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/current">https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/current</a> . You may also want to contact your State Administrating Agency to inquire about Byrne JAG funding or other sources of BWC funding. <a href="https://www.ojp.gov/funding/state-administering-agencies/overview">https://www.ojp.gov/funding/state-administering-agencies/overview</a>
Other Grant Programs	Are there any grants for tasers or that type of equipment?	Check grants.gov. For grants administered by BJA, please check the website <a href="https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/current">https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/current</a>
Other Grant Programs	Are there any DOJ grants for body armor or vests?	Please visit the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership program <a href="https://www.ojp.gov/program/bulletproof-vest-partnership/overview">https://www.ojp.gov/program/bulletproof-vest-partnership/overview</a>
Other Grant Programs	If our agency already has body cameras for corrections and road patrol, are any of these grants beneficial for our agency.	There are other grants available across government agencies on grants.gov, specifically <a href="https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html">https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html</a> for search. For grants administered by BJA, please check the website <a href="https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/current">https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/current</a>

Other Grant Programs - SRT	What is the department size/number of officers threshold for a local county Sheriff's Department to be an eligible applicant?	I am assuming this question is referring to the Small, Rural, and Tribal Body-Worn Camera (SRTBWC) microgrant program. SRTBWC is open to agencies with 50 or fewer officers, as well as some larger agencies that serve a rural county. There are no agency size restrictions on the BWCPIP grant discussed during this webinar. To learn more about the SRTBWC program go to <a href="http://www.srtbwc.com">www.srtbwc.com</a>
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