



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Law Enforcement Violence Reduction & Staffing

2022

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Deadline: **April 29, 2022 (revised date)**

OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

1970 West Broad Street, P.O. Box 182632

Columbus, Ohio 43218-2632

Telephone: 614.466.7782 or 888.448.4842 • Fax: 614.466.0308

www.ocjs.ohio.gov

MIKE DEWINE, *Governor*

JON HUSTED, *Lt. Governor*

THOMAS J. STICKRATH, *ODPS Director*

NICOLE M. DEHNER, *OCJS Executive Director*

Apply for ARPA online using the OCJS Grants Management System





OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

ARPA Law Enforcement
Violence Reduction & Staffing Grant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OCJS and ARPA	1
What to Expect	1
Award Notifications and Expectations	1
Eligible Applicants	2
Applicant Training	2
Program Purpose	2
Length of Funding	3
Fiscal Considerations	3
Post Award Reporting Requirements	3
Proposal Components Checklist	3
Format and Submission	4
ARPA Funding Goals and Priorities	4
ARPA Funding Application Requirements	6

OCJS AND ARPA

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services ([OCJS](#)) is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. By statute, OCJS is the lead justice planning and assistance office for the state, administering millions of dollars in state and federal criminal justice funding every year. OCJS also evaluates programs and develops technology, training, and products for criminal justice professionals and communities. House Bill 169 of the 134th General Assembly appropriated a total of \$175 million to provide grants to support communities that have experienced an increase in violent crime, more difficulty providing services to respond to or mitigate the effects of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, or both. Governor Mike DeWine designated OCJS to administer this portion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. As such, all funding is subject to ARPA guidelines and the final rule for Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds [[SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf \(treasury.gov\)](#)].

WHAT TO EXPECT

Application. For technical assistance on the narrative and budget pieces of the ARPA application, email OCJS at arpa@dps.ohio.gov.

For technical assistance with www.ocjsgrants.com, please contact your grant coordinator by email. You can find your OCJS Regional Contact here: www.ocjs.ohio.gov/grants.stm.

Review. OCJS staff and external grant reviewers will review ARPA proposals. Reviewers will ensure that project budget costs are allowable and directly relate to the program. The OCJS Executive Director makes final funding recommendations and the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety approves them.

AWARD NOTIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

Projects will be notified and required to complete all forms and pre-award conditions electronically through the [Online Grants Management System](#). Forms and assurances included with pre-award conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Special Conditions Form
- Fidelity/Surety Bond (Note: only applicable for non-profit applicants)
- Proof of Tax-Exempt Status (Note: only applicable for non-profit applicants)
- Registration in the System for Award Management (www.sam.gov/www.sam.gov/SAM/).

In addition to the above requirements and this Request for Proposal, all subrecipients are bound by the [Federal Subgrant Conditions Handbook](#). Please note that projects will be required to submit Quarterly Subgrant Reports through the online grants management system as well as meet the requirements of the grant including but not limited to performance reporting requirements as described in the Pre-Award Conditions.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

All ARPA applicants must have an organization, or subrecipient, that will serve as the fiduciary agent and assume overall responsibility for the grant. As this is a law enforcement grant, the implementing agency must be a law enforcement agency and the affiliated unit of government will be either the city or county commissioners of the law enforcement agency. Eligible ARPA applicants include:

1. Law enforcement agencies; if applying under this solicitation, agencies should be in compliance with crime statistics reporting, using either the [Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System](#) or the FBI's NIBRS Collection Application (NCA), per [Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.62\(C\)\(6\)](#), or if not in compliance must commit to exploring the opportunity to become OIBRS Compliant; or
2. A unit of local government that has legislative autonomy, jurisdiction, and authority to act in certain circumstances. Units of government include a city, county, township, or village. If two or more jointly apply, they must designate one body to take the lead role and identify that agency's fiscal officer; or
3. State agencies.

***Note: applications may include research or evaluation components if the applicant is partnering with an established college, university, or credentialed researcher for up to 10% of the funding awarded.**

For an applicant and project to be eligible, the application must be accompanied by a completed Eligibility Screening Tool (Law Enforcement Violence Reduction & Staffing) that demonstrates eligibility in one or more of the purpose areas on the tool.

APPLICANT TRAINING

A voluntary bidder's conference training webinar for the American Rescue Plan Act Funding will take place April 11, 2022 from 10 am to 11 am. The training will provide information helpful for both the application preparation and review process. Please register for the webinar at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2852623966515487501>

In addition to the bidder's training OCJS will host a special webinar event, "Reducing Violent Crime: Strategies and Funding Opportunities for Law Enforcement," on April 7, from 9 a.m. – noon. Learn about critical elements of violent crime reduction strategies, as well as new American Rescue Plan Act grant funding opportunities for violent crime reduction strategies. Click here to register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/701985819415055630>

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of this ARPA funding is to address the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and all proposals must demonstrate how the pandemic has negatively impacted the community and how the proposed response will mitigate that negative impact. Specifically, applicants can use these funds to address violent crime—or challenges in addressing violent crime—that have

increased as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, or to address a decrease in public sector law enforcement staffing as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, using either of the following program areas:

- Violent Crime Reduction Programs, including law enforcement technology/equipment to address violent crime
- Law Enforcement Staffing, including recruitment, hiring and retention

LENGTH OF FUNDING

Projects may apply for 12 months or 24 months of funding. Funding may be back-dated to April 1, 2022.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS

All budget items must be related to the purpose of addressing the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Fiscal Compliance Review

- OCJS is required to perform a funding pre-risk assessment on all grant applicants resulting in a risk assessment of low risk, moderate risk, or high risk.
- Moderate or high risk subrecipients will receive a fiscal compliance review. OCJS staff will be monitoring fiscal and programmatic activities to ensure federal subawards are being used for authorized purposes and financial and performance goals are being achieved.
- Reviewing performance and financial reports and following up on noted deficiencies are required activities per the Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance 200.331-333 Subrecipient Management and Monitoring and Subpart F Audit.

POST AWARD REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All ARPA subgrantees are required to comply with any reporting requirements set forth by the Office of Criminal Justice Services.

PROPOSAL COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

Use the following checklist as a general guide for submitting proposals to OCJS. Read the entire ARPA RFP before completing and submitting proposals.

- Title Page
- ARPA Eligibility Screen Tool
- Narrative
- Budget
- External Audit or Financial Report (this should be uploaded as an attachment in the narrative section).

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION

OCJS will accept applications. The deadline is **5pm on Friday, April 29, 2022 (revised)**. Applications received prior to this date may be reviewed earlier. Please visit www.ocjsgrants.com to apply.

IMPORTANT: Applications must be in the “APPLICATION SUBMITTED” status in the Online Grants Management System to be considered for funding. Designated Project Directors will receive an email confirmation that the application has been submitted.

Agencies that registered for the Online Grants Management System previously should use the same username and password information for this application. OCJS will deny duplicate registration requests. For more information on how to access the application portion of the Online Grants Management System, use the application manual located at www.ocjsgrants.com.

For technical assistance on narrative and budget pieces of the ARPA application, please email arpa@dps.ohio.gov. For assistance with www.ocjsgrants.com please contact your grants coordinator. You can find your OCJS Regional Contact here: www.ocjs.ohio.gov/grants.stm

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Responding to the Pandemic and its Negative Impacts

The purpose of the law enforcement violence reduction ARPA funding is to respond to the impacts of the pandemic by reducing violence and the challenges of addressing violence in Ohio’s communities and/or by addressing law enforcement staffing issues. Below is a non-exhaustive list of potential projects that address this purpose.

Purpose: Hiring and Payroll

- Law enforcement recruitment efforts, such as recruitment drives, job fairs, and advertising.
- Law enforcement personnel payroll costs to (1) replace vacant or eliminated positions from the pandemic or to (2) return to pre-pandemic levels; whichever reason for hiring is used must be justified and demonstrated by using option 1. or 2. under “PURPOSE: HIRING AND PAYROLL” on the ARPA Eligibility Screening Tool. Payroll costs are limited to public sector sworn law enforcement officers or staff who support sworn officers (e.g. dispatchers or analysts).
- Law enforcement hiring bonuses; limited to public sector sworn law enforcement officers or staff who support sworn officers (e.g. dispatchers or analysts).

Purpose: Retention Bonuses, Incentives and Activities

- Law enforcement retention programming.
- Law enforcement retention bonuses or other retention incentives (for staff likely to otherwise leave the agency), which may include reasonable compensation increases for employees to remain at the current employer versus leaving for other options. Any

incentives must be in addition to regular compensation, tailored to the need and not exceed amounts traditionally offered by the current employer or competitive employers. Retention incentives must be less than 25% of an individual's base rate of pay or less than 10% for a group/category of employees. These percent limits apply to annual salary and are for the life of this ARPA funding, meaning that they can be paid in a one-time payment to employees or the equivalent of that one-time amount can be spread out in smaller payments during the grant period. Retention bonuses are allowable for public sector sworn law enforcement officers or staff who support sworn officers (e.g. dispatchers or analysts).

Purpose: Violence Reduction

- Violent crime reduction strategies such as Place Network Investigations, Hot Spots Policing and Crime Gun Intelligence Centers.
- Purchase of technology as part of a larger violent crime reduction strategy.
- Prosecution of offenders, such as through a gun violence task force.
- Training on a violent crime reduction strategy.
- Technical assistance on implementing a violent crime reduction strategy.
- Law enforcement efforts—such as drug task forces—to address violence resulting from drug trafficking.
- Law enforcement partnership efforts to combat domestic violence.
- Law enforcement partnership efforts to combat human trafficking.
- Law enforcement partnership efforts to connect victims of violent crime to recovery services—including collaboration with trauma recovery agencies and child advocacy centers—for the purposes of preventing/reducing future violence.

Purpose: Community Violence Intervention Programs

- Collaborative approaches to intervening in violence in the community, such as Focused Deterrence, Street Outreach, Violence Interrupters and Hospital-based violence intervention models.

For additional projects related to violence reduction and intervention, please go to the following link and click on the Guidance Tab at the bottom of the page:

<https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odps/what-we-do/our-programs-new/arpa-funding>

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Narrative (limited to 8000 characters)

Describe the project to be implemented with grant funding. Narratives must respond to the following:

- State the problem that has been created or made worse by the pandemic (e.g. violent crime, decrease in law enforcement staffing).
- Provide statistics to support the problem statement above; use January 27, 2020 as the ARPA-recognized start of the pandemic, so data should demonstrate that the problem began or worsened after that date.
- Clearly describe the proposed activities and approach to be taken to address the problem that was stated.
- Describe how the activities will be reasonably achieved.
- Provide details of the organization and staff responsible for implementing the project.
- Provide a description of how the proposed activities will engage with the community and any community partners that will be involved, if applicable.
- State if the proposed approach is evidence-based and, if so, provide supporting research references.

Project Objectives

Project objectives measure the changes that will result from implementing the proposed project. Applicants should describe these changes (or outcomes). At least one objective is required for each project. Each objective should include at least two performance indicators that identify how change will be measured. Objectives and indicators should be specific, measurable, achievable and within pre-set timeframes. This section should identify the following:

- Project objectives, such as the following examples:
 - To reduce incidents of violent crime, or a specific type of violent crime, in a specific community by a specified percentage.
 - To decrease the number of shots fired calls received in a specific community by a specified percentage.
 - To increase the number of leads generated by a law enforcement agency due to an implemented technology.
 - To increase violent crime arrests and/or convictions in a specific community by a specified percentage.
 - To restore agency staffing to pre-pandemic levels.
- Performance indicators, such as the following examples:
 - The number of incidents of violent crime in the specified community.
 - The number of shots fired calls received in a specified community.
 - The number of leads generated by a law enforcement agency.
 - The number of arrests in the specific community.
 - The number of convictions in the specified county/court.
 - The number of staff hired during the project period.
 - The number of FTE (full time equivalent) staff in the agency.
- Any baseline data that exists related to the indicators being used.

Budget

Describe any costs associated with implementing the activities described in the narrative.

- Present a clear and detailed budget with a narrative that explains and justifies the budget information.
- Justify the costs of the proposed program and that the costs are considered reasonable and cost-effective in view of the types and range of activities to be conducted, the number of participants to be served, and the expected results and benefits.
- Include information on related funding the agency may be applying for or receiving.

There is not a match requirement for this award; please leave this section of the budget blank.

External Audit or Financial Report

Please upload a copy of your organization's most recent external audit or most recent financial report as part of your application packet. This allows OCJS to ensure requirements are met for 2 C.F.R. § 200.331(f). Single Audit Act Amendment of 1996, and the OMB Circular A-133.



OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

ARPA Law Enforcement

Violence Reduction & Staffing Grant

ADDENDUM: UNALLOWABLE COSTS

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS

All budget items must be related to the purpose of addressing the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Unallowable Costs:

- Deposit into any pension fund - *does not include the payment to a pension fund as part of covered benefits for eligible personnel charged to the fund.*
- Contribute to rainy day funds, financial reserves, budget stabilization, or similar funds – the revenue reduction amounts must be applied to general government services.
- Offset a reduction in net tax revenue.
- Pay interest or principal on outstanding debt instruments, including short-term revenue or tax anticipation notes, or other debt service costs.
- Satisfy a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring plan in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding.
- Serve as non-federal match for other federal grant programs.

Fiscal Compliance Review

- OCJS is required to perform a funding pre-risk assessment on all grant applicants resulting in a risk assessment of low risk, moderate risk, or high risk.
- Moderate or high risk subrecipients will receive a fiscal compliance review. OCJS staff will be monitoring fiscal and programmatic activities to ensure federal subawards are being used for authorized purposes and financial and performance goals are being achieved.
- Reviewing performance and financial reports and following up on noted deficiencies are required activities per the Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance 200.331-333 Subrecipient Management and Monitoring and Subpart F Audit.