



**Office of
Criminal Justice
Services**

STATE OF OHIO
VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION
GRANT PROGRAM

2026
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE
January 8, 2026 at 5:00 PM EST

OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES
1970 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2632
Telephone: 614.466.7782 or 888.448.4842
www.ocjs.ohio.gov

MIKE DEWINE, *Governor*
JIM TRESSEL, *Lt. Governor*
ANDY WILSON, *ODPS Director*
NICOLE M. DEHNER, *OCJS Executive Director*

Apply for grant online using the **NEW** OCJS Grants Management System



**Department of
Public Safety**



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OCJS AND THE VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

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 products, develops training, resources, and best practices for criminal justice professionals and communities. OCJS has been designated by Governor Mike DeWine to administer the Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program.

In 2021, at the request of Governor Mike DeWine, \$8 million was set aside in the state budget (\$4 million per fiscal year) to assist local communities in reducing and preventing crime using [proven or promising crime reduction strategies](#). This funding was approved in the subsequent budget bill and became the State of Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program. The grant program is designed to reduce [violent crimes](#) as defined by the National Incident-Based Reporting System including:

- Murder (nonnegligent)
- Rape - including sodomy and sexual assault with an object
- Aggravated Assault
- Robbery

WHAT TO EXPECT

For technical assistance on any part of the Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program application, call OCJS at 614.466.7782 and ask to speak to your Grants Coordinator. You can find your OCJS Regional Contact here: [Grants Administration Contact | Office of Criminal Justice Services \(ohio.gov\)](#)

Application. Agencies may submit only one application per subrecipient.

Funding amount. There is no cap on the amount of funding that a law enforcement agency can request; however, funding is limited in comparison to the large number of potential applicants. Please carefully consider and justify your budget request, as excessive costs will not be considered.

Review. OCJS staff will review grant proposals using an established process discussed in the “Application Instructions” section below. Reviewers ensure that the proposed project is responsive to the problem to be addressed, and that project budget costs are allowable and directly relate to the program. OCJS conducts internal compliance reviews of funded projects, assessing the timeliness and thoroughness of their financial and programmatic reporting. The OCJS Executive Director makes final funding recommendations, and the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety approves them.

Award notification. OCJS will notify projects and require them to complete all forms and pre-award conditions electronically through the [Online Grants Management System](#). Subrecipients must complete all forms before OCJS allows final approval.

Average Award Amount. The average award amount for FY2025 was \$64,314.60 (ranging, from \$8,500.00 - \$450,000.00).

Length of funding. All awards will be for 12 months of funding, operating from January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Local law enforcement agencies are eligible to apply as the implementing agency. The unit of local government must serve as the official subrecipient (e.g., township/village/city/county).

BIDDERS TRAINING

A voluntary Bidders Training webinar for the 2026 Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program will take place from **9:30 am to 11:00 am, Monday, November 24, 2025**. 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/7452748649330789976> to complete your registration.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS

All subrecipients are bound by the [Standard Federal Subgrant Conditions | Office of Criminal Justice Services \(ohio.gov\)](#). Project directors are required to attend a mandatory online orientation. **Please note: the Violent Crime Reduction Grant is a reimbursement grant.** Projects will submit Quarterly Subgrant Reports through the online grants management system to request reimbursement for grant expenses. Reimbursements are contingent on meeting the requirements of the grant including but not limited to performance reporting requirements as described in the Pre-Award Conditions.

1. Fiscal Requirements

- a. OCJS is committed to ensuring grant payments to Subgrantees in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible. To enhance existing accounts receivable procedures, OCJS requires all Subgrantees receiving State of Ohio payments via paper check, to enroll in Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). For organizations with multiple physical address codes, specific EFT locations (accounts) may be connected to each address code. Instructions for EFT enrollment are available on the OCJS website [Electronic Funds Transfer Instructions | Office of Criminal Justice Services \(ohio.gov\)](#)
- b. External Audit or Financial Report. Applicants are required to upload a copy of the organization's most recent external audit or most recent financial report to the Collaboration Board Upload section of the application. 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. The external audit or most recent financial report should be dated within the past 24 months.
- c. General Ledger. Applicants are required to confirm the ongoing active use of a general ledger defined as a complete record of all the financial transactions over the life of your organization. The general ledger holds all the information needed to prepare financial statements and includes assets, liabilities, equity (net asset), revenue and expenses.

- d. All costs associated listed in the grant budget must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient performance and administration of the grant; be consistent with policies, regulations, and procedures that apply uniformly to both Federal and State awards; and be allocable to the grant. A list of unallowable costs can be accessed at [Unallowable Costs | Office of Criminal Justice Services \(ohio.gov\)](#)
 - e. Specific cost limits exist for certain allowable costs including:
 - Lodging and meal per diem rates, which cannot exceed the rates set by the federal Government Services Administration (GSA). The rates can be found at [GSA Per Diem Rates](#).
 - Mileage rates, which cannot exceed the rates set by Ohio Budget Management (OBM). These rates can be found at [OBM Travel Rule](#).
 - Laptops, which cannot exceed \$1250.
 - Cell phones, which cannot exceed \$600.
 - f. Each application receives a Pre-Risk Assessment to determine risks associated with financial integrity. If an applicant is determined to be moderate, high, or priority high risk, specific conditions of awards may be required as part of the award process.
 - An applicant may be deemed unqualified due to poor performance history or lack of demonstrated honesty or ethics.
2. **Equal Employment Opportunity.** The Subgrantee shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or Vietnam-era status as well as gender identity, provided the subgrantee receives Violence Against Women Act funding. The Subgrantee will ensure applicants are hired and employees are treated fairly during employment without regard to their race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or Vietnam-era status as well as gender identity, provided the subgrantee receives Violence Against Women Act funding. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment; upgrading; demotion or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rate of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training including apprenticeship.

The Subgrantee agrees to post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment, notice setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause. The Subgrantee will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Subgrantee, State that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age or Vietnam-era veteran status as well as gender identity, provided the subgrantee receives Violence Against Women Act funding. The Subgrantee shall incorporate the foregoing requirement in all its contracts for any of the work prescribed herein (other than subgrants for standard commercial supplies or raw materials) and will require all its Subgrantees for any part of such work to incorporate such requirements in all subgrants for such work.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

Legislation specifies that the funding shall be used to assist local communities in reducing and preventing crime by using **promising or proven crime reduction strategies**. Use of the Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program includes, but is not limited to, overtime, equipment (up to 20% of the total budget), training, technical assistance, and analytical support for either of the following Program Purpose Areas:

FGG – Forensic Genetic Genealogy
LTF – Multijurisdictional Law Enforcement Task Forces

Violent Crime Prevention Programs

DVR – Domestic Violence Reduction
VCR – Violent Crime Reduction (excluding intimate partner and domestic violence)

Applicants are responsible for submitting their proposal under the correct program category and providing all required documentation.

If applying under the Violent Crime Prevention Programs Area, applicants will need to determine which crime prevention strategy--Domestic Violence (DVR) or Violent Crime (VCR) is best suited for their community. Applicants should make this decision based on the domestic violence and/or violent crime rate for their jurisdiction, as determined by data reported to the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS). *Because the focus of this grant is to assist communities with high violent crime rates, jurisdictions with rates higher than the state average will be given priority consideration.*

- Statewide violent crime rate: 263 per 100,000 individuals
- Statewide domestic violence rate: 658 per 100,000 individuals

Please contact Kaitlyn Bouchard to find out your jurisdiction's violent crime and/or domestic violence rate: krbouchard@dps.ohio.gov.

EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES

Legislation specifies that this funding support the use of **promising or proven crime reduction strategies**. OCJS prioritizes evidence-based strategies that have causal evidence of effectiveness, based on one or more outcome evaluations, especially:

<u>Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence</u>	<u>Other Violent Crime</u>
Law Enforcement Domestic Violence Units	Focused Deterrence
Lethality Assessments	Hot Spots Policing
Training in Protection Order Service and Enforcement and/or Victim Interviewing	Place Network Investigations

See the [List of Evidence-Based Strategies for the State of Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program](#) for more details on each evidence-based strategy.

GRANT FUND USES

In addition to genealogy requests, law enforcement agencies can use grant funds to address crime in the following ways:

- Purchase technology as part of a larger identified violent crime reduction strategy
- Provide overtime for personnel directly involved in an identified violent crime reduction strategy
- Purchase equipment directly related to and necessary for implementation of an identified violent crime reduction strategy
- Develop and/or provide training on a specific violent crime reduction strategy or on technology to support an identified violent crime reduction strategy
- Receive technical assistance to create, implement, and/or expand an identified violent crime reduction strategy
- Purchase analytical tools and/or analytical support to better understand and respond to violence occurring in the community, and/or to assess the effectiveness of an identified violence reduction strategy being implemented. Please note that equipment is limited to 20 percent of total award.

Note: Projects may use grant funds to support other needs; however, applicants must provide ample justification to demonstrate that the request is responsive to the purpose of the funds, which is to create, implement, and/or expand promising or proven violent crime reduction strategies. If a resource is available through a state program, e.g. Cellebrite, Callyo, additional justification must be provided as to why the currently available resources are not sufficient for an agency's needs.

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REQUIREMENTS OF THE VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

Law enforcement agencies applying under this solicitation must be in compliance with crime statistics reporting, using the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting Summary System or the FBI's NIBRS Collection Application (NCA), per [Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.62\(C\)\(6\)](#).

Applicants must address the following when applicable:

- A commitment to working with local community members to provide education and seek feedback on concerns regarding violence in their community
- Involvement in strategy development of allied criminal justice partners and other relevant partners that intersect the criminal justice system, such as mental health and related service providers
- Strategies that research has shown to be promising or proven, or that incorporate promising or proven practices into an overall strategy
- A discussion of how the agency will support the violence reduction strategy beyond the life of the grant
- A data collection plan that tracks whether progress is being made toward the goal of reducing violent crime.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Awarded applicants may be required to partner with a research institution and/or technical assistance provider (identified by the grantee or assigned by OCJS) who will provide evaluation and/or implementation support throughout the duration of the grant project (i.e., until grant closeout). **Funding for this technical assistance will be provided by OCJS.** OCJS will identify grantees to receive technical assistance based on the nature of the project being implemented. Applicants may also self-identify in their application if they wish to receive technical assistance. Requesting technical assistance is not a guarantee that the application will be funded. Applicants may incorporate evaluation into their application. Applicants can include up to 10% of their budget to partner with an established college, university, or credentialed researcher.

GOALS, PRIORITIES, AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE OHIO VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM (VCR)

Listed below are the Program Purpose Areas and their goals. Applicants must apply under one of these program areas.

Forensic Genetic Genealogy

The goal of this initiative is to reduce violent crime across Ohio by supporting local agencies in solving cold cases through the ethical and effective use of forensic genetic genealogy. The program aims to: resolve unsolved violent crimes, identify unknown victims and perpetrators, support ethical and collaborative investigative practices, and prevent future crimes by removing repeat offenders. This program supports the use of forensic genetic genealogy (FGG) to identify unknown perpetrators and victims in unsolved homicides, sexual assaults, and unidentified human remains cases where traditional forensic methods have been exhausted. The initiative is administered by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) in partnership with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Cold Case Unit.

Multi-Jurisdictional Law Enforcement Task Forces

The goal of this program area is to prevent, reduce, or eliminate the violent crimes of Murder (non-negligent), Rape (including sodomy and sexual assault with an object), Aggravated Assault, and Robbery with a nexus to drug trafficking, substance use, and its associated crimes including those involving firearms. In providing support to Ohio's multijurisdictional law enforcement task forces, this program seeks to support the development, implementation and/or expansion of proactive, evidence-based strategies that achieve that goal, including Place Network Investigations, Hot Spot Policing, Focused Deterrence and crime analysis staff and technology that support Crime Gun Intelligence Centers and/or Real Time Crime Centers. These strategies when combined with the traditional multijurisdictional task force approach can reduce violent crime communities impacted by violent crime.

Violent Crime Prevention Strategies

1. DVR. Domestic Violence Prevention and Reduction

The goal of this program area is to prevent and/or reduce intimate partner and domestic violence by supporting law enforcement agency-led projects that use promising strategies to reduce domestic violence, including lethality assessments and specialized domestic violence units/teams. Funds also support trainings that increase the competency of officer investigations, such as best practices in serving and enforcing protection orders, conducting trauma-informed victim interviews, and identifying primary aggressors. Law enforcement should co-respond with domestic violence service partners or be able to link victims with service partners immediately following the incident. Funding can support newly created projects as well as expansions of existing projects.

2. VCR. Violent Crime Prevention and Reduction

The goal of this program area is to prevent and reduce violent crime (for intimate partner and domestic violence see DVR above) by supporting law enforcement projects that implement promising or proven violent crime reduction strategies, including Place Network Investigations, Hot Spot Policing, Focused Deterrence, and crime analysis staff and technology that support Crime Gun Intelligence Centers and/or Real Time Crime Centers. Funding can support newly created projects as well as expansions of existing projects.

PROPOSAL COMPONENTS CHECKLIST

Use the following checklist as a general guide for submitting proposals to OCJS. **Read the entire RFP before completing and submitting proposals.** All applicants must use the Form associated with their identified Program Purpose Area.

- Title Page
- Proposal Narrative ([State Violent Crime Reduction Application Forms | Office of Criminal Justice Services](#))
- Budget

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION

Applicants must submit proposals online through the [Online Grants Management System](#), by 5 p.m. EST on January 8, 2026. *OCJS will not review late applications or consider them for funding.* Failure to follow the specified application requirements will also disqualify applications from review and consideration for funding.

IMPORTANT: Applications must be completed and submitted through the OCJS Grants Management System to be considered for funding. When an application is successfully submitted, the banner at the top of the screen will turn green, and you will receive a confirmation email.

For technical assistance on any part of the VCR application, call OCJS at 614.466.7782 and ask to speak to your Grants Coordinator. You can find your OCJS Regional Contact here: [Grants Administration Contact | Office of Criminal Justice Services \(ohio.gov\)](#)

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OHIO VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please complete the **Proposal Narrative** in the attached PDF ([State Violent Crime Reduction Application Forms | Office of Criminal Justice Services](#)) for the category in which you are applying. Instructions for completion are included in the PDF. Once completed the PDF will be uploaded as part of the application. The budget information will be completed in the grants management section. Instructions on completing the application can be found [here](#). Apply for ONE of the following Program Purpose Areas:

- Purpose Area FGG: Forensic Genetic Genealogy
- Purpose Area LTF: Multi-Jurisdictional Law Enforcement Task Forces
- Violent Crime Reduction
 - Purpose Area DVR: Domestic Violence Prevention and Reduction
 - Purpose Area VCR: Violent Crime Prevention and Reduction

BUDGET

Instructions for completing the Budget component of the application are below. The budget form is located in the grants management system. Instructions on completing the budget can be found [here](#).

Describe any costs associated with implementing the program. Costs must be allowable and reasonable, and they must align with what is proposed in the Project Description.

Reviewers will evaluate the Budget section based on how well the following points are addressed:

- Budget aligns with what the applicant proposes in the Project Description.
- Budget is detailed and clearly written, with a narrative that explains and justifies the budget information.
- Budget description justifies 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.
- **Match is not required for the VCR grant. Please leave the match blank in your budget.**