



**Office of
Criminal Justice
Services**

2026 OHIO
COLLABORATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT
ACCREDITATION
PROGRAM GRANT (OCLEAP)
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE
March 12, 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 OHIO COLLABORATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION PROGRAM GRANT

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, provides training, resources, and best practices for criminal justice professionals and communities. Governor Mike DeWine issued an Executive Order re-establishing the certification program and creating the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (OCLEAP) through OCJS in 2024.

The mission of OCLEAP is to establish law enforcement best practices by way of comprehensive, obtainable, and operationally effective standards, and to provide resources and support to Ohio agencies in an effort to protect the public and law enforcement personnel, limit liability, and enhance levels of professional service delivery.

- OCJS applied, as the State Administering Agency for the Department of Justice funding for and was awarded the FY25 Community Policing Development (CPD) Accreditation: Enhancing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities grant. As part of the application OCJS proposed to subaward \$200,000 to local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of enhancing accreditation.

WHAT TO EXPECT

For assistance with programmatic questions on any part of the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Accreditation Program Grant application, please email ohiocollaborative@dps.ohio.gov and a staff member will contact you. For assistance with the online grants management system please contact the [grants coordinator](#) for your county.

Application. Agencies may submit only *one* application per subrecipient.

Funding amount. A law enforcement agency can request a maximum of \$25,000 cap in funding; 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.

Length of funding. All awards will be for 15 months of funding, operating from April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

Reporting requirements. Reimbursement may be contingent upon the completion of reporting requirements that will be described in the Pre-Award Condition Process.

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).

Applicants must be OCLEAP Accredited **OR**:

1. Be a Certification Member of the Ohio Collaborative in good standing **AND**:
2. Have completed the application process for OCLEAP accreditation

BIDDERS TRAINING

A voluntary Bidders Training webinar for the 2026 Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Accreditation Program Grant will take place from 1 pm to 2 pm on Thursday February 26, 2026. The training will provide information helpful for both the application preparation and the review process. Please register for the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6800594220316868187> 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 Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Accreditation Program 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](#).
 - f. Unallowable costs include but are not limited to:
 - Construction or capital improvement projects;
 - Body Worn Cameras
 - Uniforms
 - Policy Management Software
 - Firearms or related costs such as ammunition.
 - g. 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

Subgrants will be offered for law enforcement agencies in Ohio to enhance or upgrade their facilities and systems related to accreditation. Some examples of upgrades could be, but are not limited to:

- one-time subscriptions to property or asset management software,
- upgrading computer systems to enhance the accreditation process,
- security enhancements or software upgrades for property and evidence rooms,
- Secure storage areas that can assist with surrender of firearms, deadly weapons, and ammunition to maintain compliance with the Supreme Court of Ohio's protective custody Orders, consistent with the Court's 10-F form,
- Tools to assist with a comprehensive inventory and/or annual audit of sexual assault forensic exam (SAFE) kits or related temperature-specific biological storage needs,
- Or another element that the agency can demonstrate will assist them in meeting an Accreditation Standard (*see list below*).

Subawards will be issued based on the need of the agency. Awards will be prioritized to those agencies that are smaller in size (less than 25 sworn) and are in underserved and underrepresented areas of Ohio. The number of agencies will be determined by the funding requests, in order to allow for the maximum number of agencies to receive some award.

STANDARDS

Chapter 1 – Administration & Organization

[1.01 Written System of Agency Directives](#)

[1.02 Agency Property/Equipment](#)

[1.03 Written Goals and Objectives](#)

Chapter 2 – Professional Standards & Conduct

[2.01 Professional Conduct](#)

[2.02 Investigation of Employee Misconduct](#)

[2.03 Bias-Free Policing](#)

[2.04 Unlawful Harassment](#)

Chapter 3 – Training

[3.01 Career Development](#)

[3.02 Telecommunicator Training](#)

Chapter 4 - Personnel

[4.01 Agency Employee Recruitment](#)

[4.02 Agency Employee Hiring](#)

[4.03 Agency Wellness](#)

[4.04 Performance Evaluation](#)

[4.05 Early Intervention System](#)

Chapter 5 – Records & Information Management

[5.01 Records Policy](#)

[5.02 Collection and Reporting of Data](#)

Chapter 6 – Use of Force

[6.01 Use of Force](#)

[6.02 Use of Deadly Force](#)

Chapter 7 – Law Enforcement Operations

[7.01 Patrol](#)

[7.02 Evidentiary Audio/Video Data](#)

[7.03 Vehicular Pursuit](#)

[7.04 Youth Standard](#)

[7.05 Crisis Intervention](#)

[7.06 Knock and Announce and No-Knock Entries](#)

[7.07 Strip and Body Cavity Searches](#)

[7.08 Community Engagement](#)

[7.09 Arrest with and without Warrant](#)

[7.10 Missing Persons](#)

Chapter 8 – Unusual Occurrences

[8.01 Mass Demonstrations](#)

[8.02 Specialized Units](#)

Chapter 9 – Property & Evidence Management

[9.01 Property & Evidence](#)

[9.02 eTrace & NIBIN](#)

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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
- ☐ Budget

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION

Applicants must submit proposals online through the [Online Grants Management System](#), by 5 p.m. EST on March 12, 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.

OHIO COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please complete the questions numbered below. Failure to answer the questions with needed details will result in the application not being recommended for funding.

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. Applicants should clearly describe the problem that needs addressed and its impact. Grant reviewers evaluate applications on how effectively they:
 - clearly describe the nature and scope of the problem.
 - The development of the nature and scope of the problem should be data driven.
 - provide relevant agency statistics to document the existence of the problem.
2. Applicants should describe a plan of action that the proposed project will implement to address the problems identified. Grant reviewers will evaluate applications on how well they:
 - Describe the proposed activities and approach the project will take given the nature of the problem the applicant identified.
3. Applicants should describe the anticipated changes (or outcomes) through an objective. Applicants must provide at least one objective that details how the funding will help the agency with its accreditation efforts.
4. Applicants should describe how the programmatic and grant administrative activities as well as the related outcomes will be reasonably achieved in the given project period. Grant reviewers evaluate applications based on how effectively they:

- present a comprehensive *Timeline* that is well defined and comprehensively specifies **what** will be done, **who** (individuals and organizations) will do it, and **when** it will be accomplished. Include activities specific to the project.
5. Applicants should provide a comprehensive discussion of their capacity to implement the project. Identify any key staff that will be involved in the project, including the project director and other individuals who will be responsible for administering the grant and implementing the program. Grant reviewers will evaluate applications in terms of how effectively they:
- demonstrate that they have adequate resources (i.e., personnel/staff, infrastructure to support an additional program, computers, software, etc.) to implement the project as proposed.

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 OCLEAP grant. Please leave the match blank in your budget.**