



Federal Funding for County Projects

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Federal Agencies Represented in the Interviews

- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA):
 - **Edward Banks** - Senior Policy Advisor
- National Institute of Justice (NIJ):
 - **Carrie Mulford** - Social Science Analyst
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH):
 - **Denise Juliano-Bolt** - Chief, Systems Research and Disparities in Mental Health Services Research Programs
- Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):
 - **Larke Huang** - Director, Office of Policy, Planning and Innovation and Office of Behavioral Health Equity

Questions Asked

- How they select topics to fund
- What sorts of topics the agency is most likely to fund
- The best way to know when RFAs are posted
- The availability and limitations on “open” solicitations that might support a wide array of topics
- What reviewers look for in an application/tips for constructing a more successful application
- What support/resources are offered by your agency to assist counties in formulating and submitting a grant
- Suggestions regarding sustainability

How are topics to fund selected?

- **BJA**
 - Dictated by federal budget
 - Very little discretionary money ($\leq 10\%$; of \$1.6 billion)
 - Look at what was funded in the prior 2 years and that's what they'll likely fund in the coming year
- **NIJ**
 - Director's discretion or push from a "topical working group" (e.g. M.H. and gun violence)
 - Push growth in a particular area or knowledge or technology; strategic leveraging of funding to push an area forward
 - Typically don't fund programs/projects that have only a local impact

How are topics to fund selected?

- NIMH
 - Lots of interest in a range of MH/CJ issues, but they'll be most interested in the MH outcomes
 - **Dominated by the “medical model”** – how to get services to people to treat symptoms and improve overall life outcomes
 - They think about justice issues through the perspective of the sequential intercept model
 - More interest in the science than particular topic but currently funding work on reentry, police and court studies
 - **Want to see how the mechanisms of an intervention work**
- SAMSHA
 - Topics based on Congressional directives and agency priorities
 - Don't fund grants in practice/evaluation research but do award grants for implementation and service activities
 - Have funded diversion and reentry efforts
 - Don't fund services for incarcerated individuals

What is the best way to know about funding opportunities?

- COE website updated weekly
- Across agencies, announcements typically made between **December and April**
- Check funder website
 - Office of Justice Programs website for NIJ and BJA funding opportunities
 - Grants.gov
- Sign up for email alerts

Tips for a Successful Application

- Read the funding announcement carefully and make sure your idea fits the solicitation
 - If unsure, talk to the contact person listed
- Make sure you address each of the scoring criterion listed in the announcement
 - If you don't include requested information, won't get funded
- Make a clear/tight connection between the question you want to address and the activities you want funded

Tips for a Successful Application

- Academic–practitioner partnerships are very attractive
 - Build a record of collaboration (not just something you put in the grant)
 - BJA: Center of Research Partnerships & Evaluation
- Broad applicability
 - Can't be too specific to one setting or one group
- Be aware of the likely reviewers

Sustainability

- **Start sustainability planning when you start the planning for the project**
 - **Look for community partners to be involved from the beginning, not just at the end**
- **Collect data on outcomes**
 - **Evidence of effectiveness is powerful for continued investment of resources**
- **Consider that some components of a program may be sustained if the whole program cannot**

Resources

- COE website
- Program officers – there to provide support and answer questions
- Websites
 - BJA: Grant Writing & Management Academy
 - BJA: Center for Research Partnerships & Evaluation