



# Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division Funding Announcement: *Project Safe Neighborhoods Program, FY2021*

## Purpose

The purpose of this announcement is to solicit applications for projects that are designed to create and foster safer neighborhoods through a sustained reduction in violent crime, including, but not limited to, addressing criminal gangs and felonious possession and use of firearms.

## Available Funding

Federal funds are authorized under 34 U.S.C. §60702 Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program (PSN). PSN funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

## Eligible Organizations

Applications may be submitted by public and private institutions of higher education, independent school districts, non-profit corporations (including hospitals and faith-based organizations), and units of local government, which are defined as a non-statewide governmental body with the authority to establish a budget and impose taxes.

All applications submitted by local law enforcement agencies/offices must be submitted by a unit of government affiliated with the agency, including an authorizing resolution from that unit of government. For example, police departments must apply under their municipal government, and community supervision and corrections departments, district attorneys, and judicial districts must apply through their affiliated county government (or one of the counties, in the case of agencies that serve more than one county).

## Application Process

Applicants must access the PSO's eGrants grant management website at <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov> to register and apply for funding. For more instructions and information, see *Developing a Good Project Narrative Guide*, available [here](#).

## Key Dates

Action	Date
Funding Announcement Release	12/13/2019
Online System Opening Date	12/13/2019
Final Date to Submit and Certify an Application	02/27/2020 at 5:00pm CST
Earliest Project Start Date	10/01/2020

## Project Period

Projects must begin on or after 10/01/2020 and may not exceed a 12-month project period.

## Funding Levels

Minimum: None

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: None

## Standards

Grantees must comply with standards applicable to this fund source cited in the State Uniform Grant Management Standards ([UGMS](#)), [Federal Uniform Grant Guidance](#), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

## Eligible Activities and Costs

Funds may only be used to foster and improve existing partnerships between Federal, State, and local agencies, including the United States Attorney in each Federal judicial district, entities representing members of the community affected by increased violence, victims' advocates, and researchers to create safer neighborhoods through sustained reductions in violent crimes by

1. Developing and executing comprehensive strategic plans to reduce violent crimes, including the enforcement of gun laws, and prioritizing efforts focused on identified subsets of individuals or organizations responsible for increasing violence in a particular geographic area;
2. Developing evidence-based and data-driven intervention and prevention initiatives, including juvenile justice projects and activities which may include street-level outreach, conflict mediation, provision of treatment and social services, and the changing of community norms, in order to reduce violence; and
3. Collecting data on outcomes achieved through the Program, including the effect on the violent crime rate, incarceration rate, and recidivism rate of the jurisdiction.

### Eligible Costs:

1. Salary, wage, and fringe benefits of individuals supporting the PSN Project;
2. Overtime compensation of individuals supporting the PSN project;
3. Workshops and events associated with the support of the PSN project (pending approval by Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance)
4. Travel associated with implementation and evaluation of the PSN project;
5. Equipment purchased to support the execution of the PSN project; and
6. Printing, publication, and duplication of materials that support the PSN project.

## Program-Specific Requirements

### Project Safe Neighborhoods Design Features

Applications must address 1 of 3 PSN design features:

**Targeted and Prioritized Enforcement.** Applicants are required to develop data-driven strategies to target enforcement efforts in locations with significant violent crime problems and against offenders who are driving the violence. Applicants must focus on three areas:

1. Identify locations within their jurisdiction in greatest need of comprehensive violent crime reduction efforts;
2. Identify offenders who are driving the violence in those locations; and
3. Ensure offenders are prosecuted in the jurisdiction that can provide the most certain and appropriate sanction.

**Prevention.** The main focus of this PSN design feature is local prevention and reentry programs that can help reduce violent crime by keeping at-risk populations from offending in the first place. Applicants are required to take a comprehensive approach that establishes public awareness and support for the local violent crime reduction effort. Specifically, developing effective relationships with both community leaders and residents, understanding the needs and priorities of the community, and effectively communicating how law enforcement efforts are helping to reduce crime and increase public safety.

**Accountability.** PSN maintains accountability by measuring results based on outcomes and numbers of investigations and prosecutions. Applicants addressing this PSN design feature are required to collect and analyze relevant data that focus on outcomes—i.e. reduced violent crime. Applicants must monitor crime data over time as related to their local PSN Task force’s targeted problems and/or targeted areas.

### Gang Task Forces

The PSN program requires that 30 percent of funding be allocated to support gang task forces in the United States regions experiencing a significant or increased presence of criminal or transnational organizations engaging in high levels of violent crime, firearms offenses, human trafficking, and drug trafficking. Applications seeking to support gang task forces will be required to provide information on the gang task force as well as list of participating agencies.

## Eligibility Requirements

1. Entities receiving funds from CJD must be located in a county that has an average of 90% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as directed in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 66. The disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system.
2. Beginning January 1, 2020, counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90 percent of convictions within seven business

days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety. By January 1, 2021, such reporting must take place within five business days.

3. Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR). To be considered eligible for funding, applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year.
4. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has established a goal set by the Texas Legislature for all local law enforcement agencies to implement and report crime statistics data by using the requirements of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) will collect required crime statistics solely through the NIBRS starting January 1, 2021. Due to the upcoming federal deadline, grantees are advised that eligibility for future grant funding may be tied to compliance with NIBRS. Financial grant assistance for transitioning to NIBRS may be available for your jurisdiction from the Public Safety Office.
5. Local units of government, including cities, counties and other general purpose political subdivisions, as appropriate, and institutions of higher education that operate a law enforcement agency, must comply with all aspects of the programs and procedures utilized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) to: (1) notify DHS of all information requested by DHS related to illegal aliens in Agency’s custody; and (2) detain such illegal aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. Additionally, counties and municipalities may NOT have in effect, purport to have in effect, or make themselves subject to or bound by, any law, rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) require or authorize the public disclosure of federal law enforcement information in order to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection fugitives from justice or aliens illegally in the United States; or (2) impede federal officers from exercising authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), § 1226(c), § 1231(a), § 1357(a), § 1366(1), or § 1366(3). Lastly, eligible applicants must comply with all provisions, policies, and penalties found in Chapter 752, Subchapter C of the Texas Government Code.

Each local unit of government, and institution of higher education that operates a law enforcement agency, must download, complete and then upload into eGrants the [CEO/Law Enforcement Certifications and Assurances Form](#) certifying compliance with federal and state immigration enforcement requirements. This Form is required for each application submitted to OOG and is active until August 31, 2021 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

6. Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).
7. Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://sam.gov/>.

Failure to comply with program eligibility requirements may cause funds to be withheld and/or suspension or termination of grant funds.

## Prohibitions

Grant funds may not be used to support the unallowable costs listed in the [Guide to Grants](#) or any of the following unallowable costs:

1. Construction, renovation, or remodeling;
2. Medical services;
3. Law enforcement equipment that is standard department issue; and
4. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state or local law or regulation.

## **Selection Process**

Projects will be reviewed by a panel appointed by the respective regional PSN Taskforce in an effort to prioritize funding. Panelists must not be federal employees or employees of any applicant for a subaward. The merit review panel will assess and score each application and then report its findings to the executive director. Scores will be based on standard criteria that include objective eligibility criteria and application requirements. PSO will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, cost-effectiveness, state priorities and strategies, and/or other relevant factors.

## **Contact Information**

For more information, contact the eGrants help desk at [eGrants@gov.texas.gov](mailto:eGrants@gov.texas.gov) or (512) 463-1919.