



Bulletproof Vest Partnership

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP), created by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998 is a unique U.S. Department of Justice initiative designed to provide a critical resource to state and local law enforcement.

Since 1999, over 13,000 jurisdictions have participated in the BVP Program, with \$277 million in federal funds committed to support the purchase of an estimated 800,000 vests. The Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the BVP Program.

NEW: The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to announce the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 BVP application funding period.

Applications for FY 2012 BVP funds will be accepted beginning Wednesday, May 16, 2012. All applications must be submitted online by 6:00 pm (Eastern Time), Wednesday, June 27 2012.

Please see the FY 12 [application checklist](#) for further details.

Notice (updated 12/05/2011): The BVP user login process was updated 11/22/2011. This update requires all existing users to register for a new BVP account and associate it with an existing agency before agency details can be viewed.

To register, please create a new user login and associate it with your current agency by providing your current account login and password. See the [BVP Account Creation Checklist](#) for an overview of the steps required, and the [BVP User and Agency Registration Guide](#) for more details on this process.

For questions regarding account migration, please do not hesitate to contact the BVP Help Desk at vests@usdoj.gov or 1-877-758-3787. During this transition, the helpdesk is experiencing heavy call volume during peak hours. If you experience issues getting in contact with the helpdesk, please try again during off peak hours (before 10am, 12-1pm, or after 5 pm EST).

New: The Bureau of Justice Assistance is pleased to announce the Fiscal Year 2011 BVP funds are available for use. The FY 2011 award funds may be used for the latest National Institute of Justice (NIJ) compliant armored vests which are ordered on or after April 1, 2011. The deadline to request payments from the FY 2011 award funds is August 31, 2013, or until all available 2011 awards funds have been requested.

The complete list of FY 2011 BVP awards can be viewed [here](#).

[NEW! UPDATED Mandatory Wear FAQs](#)

Following two years of declining law enforcement officer line-of-duty deaths, the country realized a dramatic 37 percent increase in officer deaths in 2010. Fifty-nine of the 160 officers killed in 2010 were shot during violent encounters; a 20 percent increase over 2009 numbers. The U.S. Department of Justice is committed to improving officer safety and has undertaken research to review and analyze violent encounters and law enforcement officer deaths and injuries. Due to the increase in the number of law enforcement officer deaths, coupled with our renewed efforts to improve officer safety, beginning with FY 2011, in order to receive BVP funds, jurisdictions must certify, during the application process, that all law enforcement agencies benefitting from the BVP Program have a written "mandatory wear" policy in effect. This policy must be in place for at least all uniformed officers before any FY 2011 funding can be used by the agency. There are no requirements regarding the nature of the policy other than it being a mandatory wear policy for all uniformed officers while on duty. BJA strongly encourages agencies to consult the International Association of Chiefs of Police's Model Policy on Body Armor and to strongly consider all recommendations within that policy. This policy change was announced in October 2010 by Attorney General Holder after consulting with and receiving input from the law enforcement community.

The IACP has very generously provided both its Body Armor Model Policy and position paper to the BVP program. In order to obtain a copy of the Model Policy and position paper, jurisdictions must be registered with the BVP program. To obtain a copy of the Model Policy, contact the BVP Customer Support Center at 1-877-758-3787 or email vests@usdoj.gov.

For additional information regarding this new BVP program requirement, click [here](#).

BVP 50% Match Waiver: Jurisdictions with 2009 and 2010 BVP award funds may request a financial hardship waiver during the payment request process and receive up to 100% of the cost of each vest submitted for reimbursement. Previously, a jurisdiction was only able to request up to 50% the cost of a vest with their available BVP funds. Jurisdictions requesting a waiver of the 50% match requirement may not use BVP funds toward the purchase of any vest with a total unit cost greater than \$1,200; excluding taxes, shipping and handling fees (if any) to maximize funding for all eligible jurisdictions. All standard BVP vest requirements apply to the eligible vest types.

Additionally, jurisdictions requesting a waiver have to meet criteria of financial or natural disaster hardship. The jurisdictions have to cite the source of their financial hardship during the waiver request process. Jurisdictions will be expected to keep documentation substantiating the financial hardship for four years and realize the waiver requests are open to Bureau of Justice Assistance and Office of the Inspector General audits.

Finally, all applicant jurisdictions, requesting a waiver of the 50% match, are required to certify that the jurisdiction's Chief Executive Officer formally accepts the request for the waiver and confirms the waiver justification provided. The certification must list the highest elected official from the requesting jurisdiction in order to be approved.

Notice - Check Prior Year BVP Funds: Prior to completing an application for FY 2011 BVP funds, it is strongly recommended that prior year participants log into the BVP system and check

for prior year BVP fund balances and the "de-obligation date"/use expiration date for each year's funds. In some instances the use of prior year funds had been extended. All "Requests for Payments" must be submitted to the BVP system on or before the "de-obligation date" or the funds will be considered expired and will no longer be available.

The complete list of FY 2010 BVP awards can be viewed [here](#).

Historical BVP award information for FY 1999 through the FY 2009 can be accessed [here](#)