

Dear BVP Participant:

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to announce the Fiscal Year 2015 BVP application funding period.

Applications for FY 2015 BVP funds will be accepted beginning Wednesday, April 1, 2015. All applications must be submitted online at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bvpbasi/> by 6:00 pm (e.d.t.), Wednesday, May 13, 2015.

Important Information Regarding FY 2015 BVP Funds:

1. Jurisdictions receiving funding for reimbursement of body armor purchases must have a written mandatory wear policy for uniformed patrol officers, in place when the FY 2015 BVP applications are submitted. Please see the BVP mandatory FAQs for further guidance on this requirement: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bvpbasi/docs/FAQsBVP MandatoryWearPolicy.pdf>
2. Each vest purchased with FY 2015 funds must meet National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standards on the date it was ordered and must be American-made. Please see this website for the latest NIJ compliant vests: https://www.justnet.org/other/ballistic_cpl.html and https://www.justnet.org/other/stab_cpl.html
3. Jurisdictions with more than one law enforcement agency (LEA) associated with the jurisdiction account may not submit a separate application. Instead, the LEAs associated with jurisdictions with more than one LEA must submit their own application information and vest needs to the jurisdiction. The jurisdiction will then submit the LEA applications in one submission to BJA.
4. To ensure that program participants are submitting applications that accurately reflect their vest needs for the next two years, please review the program guidance below. Prior to submitting an application for FY 2015 BVP funds:
 - a. Verify that the number of vests indicated on the application does not exceed actual agency needs. Review all currently deployed vests for those that will need to be replaced during the next two years, according to the replacement cycle indicated on your BVP system profile. Applications for funds should reflect the number of vests your agency needs to replace within the next two years, and vests for officers your agency anticipates hiring in the next two years. (New hires can be anticipated based on the average number of officers hired over the most recent three years.)
 - b. Ensure that the application accurately reflects the current market cost for the vests identified on the application.
 - c. Review previous year(s) BVP funding to identify any unspent funds that might currently be available for BVP needs.

Your careful attention to actual vest needs will help ensure that all eligible jurisdictions submitting requests will receive the maximum allowable based on the appropriation and distribution guidelines.

For questions regarding this email or for assistance with the online application process, please do not hesitate to call the BVP Help Desk at 1-877-758-3787, or email vests@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

The BVP Program Team
Bureau of Justice Assistance
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bvpbasi/>