



[Menu](#)

[Home](#) / [Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership](#)

Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership

Notice: Critical Program Information (Click here.)

Overview



The Patrick Leahy 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.

ONE MILLION VESTS: Since 1999, the BVP program has awarded more than 13,000 jurisdictions a total of \$467 million in federal funds for the purchase of over one million vests (1,395,976) as of February 2020.

NEW: The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to announce the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 BVP application funding period. **Applications for FY 2020 BVP funds will be accepted beginning April 23, 2020. All applications must be submitted online by 6:00 pm (Eastern Time), June 8, 2020.**

NEW: The Fiscal Year 2019 BVP awards have been announced. See the complete list of [FY 2019 BVP awards](#).

Documentation Requirement: Grantees are required to keep documentation to support the BVP vest application and payment requests for at least a three year period.

Other Federal Funds: Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds or other federal funding sources may not be used to pay for that portion of the bullet proof vest (50%) that is not covered by BVP funds. JAG or other federal funds may be used to purchase vests for an agency, but they may not be used as the 50% match for BVP purposes.

Uniquely Fitted Armor Vest Requirement- Jurisdictions receiving funding for reimbursement of body armor purchases must have in place a uniquely fitted vest requirement when the FY 2019 BVP applications are submitted.

In the BVP Program, "uniquely fitted vests" means protective (ballistic or stab-resistant) armor vests that conform to the individual wearer to provide the best possible fit and coverage, through a combination of: 1) correctly-sized panels and carrier, determined through appropriate measurement, and 2) properly adjusted straps, harnesses, fasteners, flaps, or other adjustable features. The requirement that body armor be "uniquely fitted" does not necessarily require body armor that is individually manufactured based on the measurements of an individual wearer. In support of the Office of Justice Programs' efforts to improve officer safety, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International has made available the *Standard Practice for Body Armor Wearer Measurement and Fitting of Armor* ([Active Standard ASTM E3003](#)) available at no cost. [The Personal Armor Fit Assessment checklist](#), is excerpted from ASTM E3003.

In addition, a certification section has been added to the 2019 application (in the BVP system) stating the jurisdictions and law enforcement agency are aware of and will comply with this requirement.

[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](#).

NIJ Advisory and Safety Notices

[Current National Institute of Justice Body Armor Standard 0101.06](#)

[NIJ Certification Mark](#)

[NIJ Body Armor Standard 0101.06 Vest List](#)

[NIJ Selection and Application Guide 0101.06 to Ballistic-Resistant Body Armor](#)

1-16-20: NIJ Advisory Notice:

- [Survival Armor, Inc model TKU-FEM-IIIA](#)

1-7-20: NIJ Safety Notice:

- [Hesco Armor, Inc., model 3610](#)

6-18-19: NIJ Advisory Notice:

- [Power Hit S.A. de C.V. model – PHXP](#)

6-3-19: NIJ Advisory Notice:

- [Hesco model - 3610](#)

3-25-19: NIJ Advisory Notice

- [Arsenal Industries Panama Inc. model – GR-102](#)

2-27-19: NIJ Advisory Notice

- [Craig International Ballistics, model CIB-XP-IIIA](#)

12-10-18: NIJ Advisory Notice

- [NIJ Advisory Notice Hardwire, LLC model – HW-LWP-III](#)

11-29-18: NIJ Safety Notice #01-2018:

- [Pacific Safety Products Ballistic Body Armor Model GPAII-2-F4 \(November 29, 2018\)](#)

5-17-16: NIJ Safety Notice #1-2016

- [Pacific Safety Products model – GPBII-3-F2 \(May 17, 2016\)](#)

5-5-17: NIJ Safety Notice

- [Angel Armor Ballistic Body Armor Model Rise, Premium, Female, II](#)

10-13-15: NIJ Safety Notice

- [Paraclete model – LXIIIA-1](#)
- [Gall's model – LXIIIA-1](#)
- [PACA model – LXIIIA-1](#)
- [Protective Products model – LXIIIA-1](#)

- [Point Blank Body Armor model – LXIIIA-1](#)
- [Paraclete model – LXIIIAF-1](#)
- [Gall's model – LXIIIAF-1](#)
- [PACA model – LXIIIAF-1](#)
- [Protective Products model – LXIIIAF-1](#)
- [Point Blank Body Armor model – LXIIIAF-1](#)

Body Armor Labels: When In Doubt Check It Out ([Click here for additional information](#))

[Closed NIJ Advisory Notices and Safety Notices](#)

Previous National Institute of Justice Body Armor Alerts

2-25-16: NIJ Advisory Notice

- [PACA model – CIIIA-2](#)
- [Galls model – CIIIA-2](#)
- [Point Blank Enterprises model – CIIIA-2](#)

9-15-15: NIJ Advisory Notice

- [U.S. Armor Corporation model - 5226](#)

8-27-15: NIJ Advisory Notice

- [Central Lake Express model - SERFG-B-II](#)

10-24-13: NIJ Advisory Notice

- [Safariland, LLC Models BA-2000S-HP02F and BA-2000S-SX01F](#)
- [American Body Armor Models BA-2000S-HP02F and BA-2000S-SX01F](#)
- [Second Chance Models BA-2000S-HP02F](#)

6-28-13: NIJ Advisory Notice

- [Safariland, model 2220-1](#)

6-13-13: NIJ Advisory Notice

- [Pacific Safety Products Inc. Ballistic Body Armor Model 06UG2A8H](#)

4-17-13: NIJ Safety Notice

- [Point Blank Body Armor, model CB-S2-BII](#)
- [Point Blank Body Armor, model CB-S3-BIIIA-2](#)

[Body Armor Safety Initiative Archive](#)

**All media contacts should be directed to the [Office of Justice Programs, Office of Communications](#).

For immediate assistance, please call us toll-free at 1-877-758-3787. You may also reach us by email at vests@usdoj.gov

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