

Tips for PSN Grant Proposals
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- Closely Follow the Solicitation and Provide Insightful Details

The PSN solicitation is developed following the key elements of the PSN model. These include strong partnerships, data-driven and data-informed decision-making, focused interventions, and ongoing assessment and evaluation. Reviewers will want to see each of these components discussed in your proposal. The section of the solicitation that lays out the various components of the proposal and the weighting for each section provides a valuable “road-map” for your proposal. Follow the solicitation and respond fully to each section as it is prescribed. Peer Reviewers find it difficult to read the proposal when it does not follow the solicitation outline which may result in a lower proposal score.

Do not assume the reader/Peer Reviewer knows your language. Provide explanations or definitions of acronyms or programs.

State interaction with other locally funded BJA programs. For example, some cities have BCJI and PSN grants. Discussing the level of awareness and engagement exhibits a deeper commitment to overall community improvement and safety.

Disclose recent trainings attended such as the PSN Research Partner Orientation Course, Smart Suite Researcher Practitioner Fellows Academy, etc. This shows knowledge on evidence-based practices, data-driven efforts, importance of partnerships, implementation science, sustainability, and the like.

- Start Early

Strong proposals require a *fiscal agent* who can successfully manage the grant award as well as a *research partner* who can conduct initial problem analyses as well as serve as an active, engaged partner throughout the award. Strong proposals are often built on established relationships or are the product of planning and dialogue well ahead of the proposal deadline.

- Demonstrate a Data-Driven and Focused Approach

Reviewers will not expect a fully developed analysis of gun and gang crime in your jurisdiction for the proposal. However, proposals that provide data and analysis that inform your current understanding of the gun and gang crime problem, and address issues such as the target area for the PSN intervention, and the types of evidence-based strategies you are considering, will demonstrate to reviewers that you are likely to follow this data-driven, strategic approach in your actual PSN initiative.

- Cross Reference Budget with Goals and Objectives
The budget narrative should link planned expenditures to goals and objectives. Also, the budget should include items required in the solicitation (e.g., travel funds to attend BJA TTA trainings; funds for a research partner).

Helpful Resources:

- BJA Grant Writing and Management Online Academy: <https://www.bja.gov/gwma/index.html>
- BJA Grant Preparation Manual: <https://www.bja.gov/Publications/GrantWritingManual.pdf>
- BJA Center for Research Partnerships and Program Evaluation
<https://www.bja.gov/programs/crppe/index.html>
- PSN Strategic Action Plan Template: http://www.psnmsu.com/rpoc_resources/
- PSN Guide to Working with Research Partners:
<http://www.psnmsu.com/documents/ResearchPartnerQ&A.pdf>
- Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy E-Consortium of University Centers and Researchers for Partnership with Practitioners: <http://www.gmuconsortium.org/>