



The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) (OJJDP) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for funding under its FY 2012 Court-Appointed Special Advocates Membership and Accreditation program. This program furthers the Department's mission by providing funding for the administration of a subgrant program and the development of publications, training, technical assistance, and resources for state and local court-appointed special advocates programs.

OJJDP FY 2012 Court-Appointed Special Advocates Membership and Accreditation Program

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations (including tribal nonprofit organizations). As set forth in the authorizing language in 42 U.S.C. Section 13013, the successful applicant: —(A) shall be a national organization that has broad membership among court-appointed special advocates and has demonstrated experience in grant administration of court-appointed special advocate programs and in providing training and technical assistance to court-appointed special advocate programs; or (B) may be a local public or not-for-profit agency that has demonstrated the willingness to initiate, sustain, and expand a court-appointed special advocate program. See Eligibility, page 3, for details.

Deadline

Applicants must register with [Grants.gov](#) prior to submitting an application. (See How To Apply, page 9.) All applications are due by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on May 14, 2012. (See Deadlines: Registration and Application, page 3.)

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, or via e-mail to support@grants.gov.
Note: Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact the Justice Information Center (JIC) at 1-877-927-5657, via e-mail to JIC@telesishq.com, or by [live Web chat](#). JIC hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., eastern time, Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., eastern time on the solicitation close date.

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FY 12 Court-Appointed Special Advocates Membership and Accreditation Program (CFDA #16.756)

Overview

The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, as amended (Public Law 101-647), mandates that all abused and neglected children involved in dependency proceedings receive timely, sensitive, and effective advocacy. The Act states that every victim of child abuse or neglect in the United States that needs one shall have a court-appointed special advocate. The Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program ensures that abused and neglected children receive high quality representation in dependency court hearings. The successful applicant will provide assistance and membership and accreditation services to regional, state, and local CASA organizations that support volunteer advocates who represent abused and neglected children in dependency hearings and will partner with other public and private child welfare system stakeholders at the local, state, regional, and national levels. This program is authorized by the Victims of Child Abuse Act, 42 U.S.C. 13011, et seq.

Deadlines: Registration and Application

Applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application. OJP encourages applicants to register several weeks before the application submission deadline. In addition, applicants are urged to submit applications **at least 72 hours prior** to the due date of the application to allow time to receive the validation message and to correct any problems that may have caused a rejection notification. The deadline to apply for funding under this announcement is 11:59 p.m. eastern time on May 14, 2012. See How To Apply, page 9, for details.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations (including tribal nonprofit organizations).

As set forth in the authorizing language in 42 U.S.C. Section 13013, the successful applicant: —(A) shall be a national organization that has broad membership among court-appointed special advocates and has demonstrated experience in grant administration of court-appointed special advocate programs and in providing training and technical assistance to court-appointed special advocate programs; or (B) may be a local public or not-for-profit agency that has demonstrated the willingness to initiate, sustain, and expand a court-appointed special advocate program.

OJJDP welcomes joint applications from two or more eligible applicants; however, one applicant must be clearly indicated as the primary applicant (for correspondence, award, and management purposes) and the others indicated as co-applicants.

Program-Specific Information

Abused and neglected children face a complex child welfare system and significant barriers in their search for safe, stable homes. Instability arising from transient placements can have

lasting impact on a child's emotional, social, and educational development. This program seeks to serve and improve outcomes for children in the dependency system, provide effective advocacy for abused and neglected children, to include foster care youth, and fund programs that support cultural diversity and competency.

This program seeks to build on the national program for state and local CASAs that OJJDP developed in collaboration with the National CASA Association. Under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 13013(c)(3), "[t]he Administrator shall ensure that grants are distributed to localities that have no existing court-appointed special advocate programs and to programs in need of expansion."

Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

To achieve its goals of serving and improving outcomes for children in the foster care system, providing effective advocacy for abused and neglected children, and funding programs that support cultural diversity and competency, OJJDP has established the following objectives:

- increasing the number of children receiving services under CASA programs.
- increasing the number of volunteer advocates serving children under CASA programs.
- increasing the percentage of recruited and trained volunteer advocates who have similar ethnic, cultural, and racial backgrounds to the children that CASA programs serve.
- increasing recruitment of volunteer advocates under CASA programs.

The successful applicant will develop and administer a membership accreditation and subgrants program for local and state CASA programs to assist those organizations in meeting the objectives described above. Subgrantees will use their awards to develop new CASA programs and provide CASA services in communities where representation rates are low, the numbers of abused and neglect children are high, and service systems are not meeting the needs of families and children. State CASA organization subgrantees may use their awards to strengthen their capacity to provide services to local programs. The successful applicant will design and implement the following activities to achieve the above goals and objectives:

- drafting a request for proposals for subgrant applicants to submit plans in one of the following areas:
 - new program development in unserved areas.
 - expansion of existing programs in areas with unmet need.
 - urban program demonstration projects to deliver new programs and services in urban areas.
- designing and administering the competitive process through which applicants will submit proposals.
- conducting an expert panel review of applications and selecting successful applicants.
- administering subgrant funds and monitoring the activities of subgrantees.

- holding subgrantees accountable for providing data on performance measures that reflect the program objectives identified above.
- reporting subgrantee performance measures to OJJDP semi-annually.
- developing a process to certify that subgrantees comply with program standards that the National CASA Association has established and identifying subgrantees that will receive appropriate assistance to support accreditation.
- developing and disseminating publications to increase recruitment of CASA volunteer advocates and share best practices with volunteers and other stakeholders within the dependency system, as approved by OJJDP.
- engaging partner organizations to improve services to children, families, volunteer advocates, and other stakeholders within the child welfare system.

Amount and Length of Awards

OJJDP expects to make one award of as much as \$1,778,395 for a 12- month project period. The amount is for the entire award period. The award will be renewable for a period not to exceed 2 years, based on performance and availability of funds.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

OJJDP will enter into a cooperative agreement with the successful applicant. In furtherance of the goals and objectives described above, OJJDP's role will include the following tasks:

- reviewing and approving major work plans, including changes to such plans, and key decisions pertaining to project operations.
- reviewing and approving major project-generated documents and materials used in the provision of project services.
- providing guidance in significant project planning meetings and participating in project sponsored training events or conferences.

Budget Information

Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver: With respect to any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation, federal funds may not be used to pay total cash compensation (salary plus bonuses) to any employee of the award recipient at a rate that exceeds 110% of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service (SES) at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year. The 2012 salary table for SES employees is available at www.opm.gov/oca/12tables/indexSES.asp. Note: A recipient may compensate an employee at a higher rate, provided the amount in excess of this compensation limitation is paid with non-federal funds. (Any such additional compensation will not be considered matching funds where match requirements apply.)

The limitation on compensation rates allowable under an award may be waived on an individual basis at the discretion of the Assistant Attorney General for OJP. An applicant requesting a waiver should include a detailed justification in the budget narrative of its application. Unless the applicant submits a waiver request and justification with the application, the applicant should anticipate that OJP will request the applicant to adjust and resubmit its budget.

The justification should include the particular qualifications and expertise of the individual, the uniqueness of the service being provided, the individual's specific knowledge of the program or project being undertaken with award funds, and a statement explaining that the individual's salary is commensurate with the regular and customary rate for an individual with his/her qualifications and expertise, and for the work to be done.

Minimization of Conference Costs. No OJP funding can be used to purchase food and/or beverages for any meeting, conference, training, or other event. Exceptions to this restriction may be made only in cases where such sustenance is not otherwise available (i.e., extremely remote areas), or where a special presentation at a conference requires a plenary address where there is no other time for sustenance to be obtained. Such an exception would require prior approval from OJP. This restriction does not apply to water provided at no cost, but does apply to any and all other refreshments, regardless of the size or nature of the meeting. Additionally, this restriction does not impact direct payment of per diem amounts to individuals in a travel status under your organization's travel policy.

Updated Department of Justice and OJP guidance on conference planning, minimization of costs, and conference cost reporting will be forthcoming and will be accessible on the OJP website at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/funding.htm.

Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable). If an applicant proposes a program or activity that would deliver services or benefits to individuals, the costs of taking reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to those services or benefits by individuals with limited English proficiency may be allowable costs. Reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services or benefits may include interpretation or translation services where appropriate.

For additional information, see the "Civil Rights Compliance" section of the OJP "Other Requirements for OJP Applications" Web page (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm).

Match Requirement. This solicitation does not require a match. However, if a successful application proposes a voluntary match amount, the match amount incorporated into the OJP-approved budget becomes mandatory and subject to audit.

Performance Measures

To assist the Department in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, Public Law 103-62, and the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, Public Law 111-352, applicants that receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measure the results of their work done under this solicitation. Any award recipient will be required, post award, to provide the data requested in the "Data Grantee Provides" column so that OJP can calculate values for the "Performance Measures" column. Performance measures for this solicitation are as follows:

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Description	Data Grantee Provides
To increase the number of active local CASA programs.	Percentage of new, active local CASA programs.	The number of active and new CASA local programs implemented during the reporting period.	Total number of local CASA programs active during the reporting period. The total number of new local CASA programs active during the reporting period.
To enhance the matching of children to volunteer advocates.	Percentage of volunteer advocates that are new recruits.	The number of new advocate volunteers recruited and available to serve children during the reporting period. New volunteer advocates are defined as those volunteers that became available to serve during the reporting period.	Total number of new volunteer advocates available to serve children during the reporting period. Total number of volunteer advocates
To increase the number of volunteer advocates serving children under the CASA program.	Percentage increase in the number of advocate volunteers serving children.	The number of new advocate volunteers recruited and available to serve children during the reporting period. New volunteer advocates defined as those volunteers that became available to serve during the reporting period.	Total number of new volunteer advocates available to serve children during the reporting period. Total number of volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve (new and existing).
To increase the number of children receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services.	Percentage increase in the number of new children receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services. Percentage of children with a current report of substantiated or indicated child abuse or neglect during the reporting period. Percentage of children who exited the CASA	An unduplicated count of the number of children who started receiving services by the CASA volunteer during the reporting period. Definition of the number of children served for a reporting period is the number of children carried over from the previous reporting period, plus new children who started receiving services by a CASA volunteer advocate during the reporting period. An unduplicated count of the number of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect served during the reporting period. Of the total number of children who exited CASA	Total number of children who started receiving services during the reporting period. Total number of children served during the reporting period. Number of youth served during the reporting period. Number of those youth served during the reporting period with a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect. Number of CASA youth, at the time of their most recent

	program through reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship since the most recent admission to foster care.	programs, the number to exit either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship.	entry into foster care, who left foster care during the reporting period. Number of those CASA youth, at the time of their most recent entry into foster care, who left foster care during the reporting period either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship.
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Submission of performance measures data is not required for the application. Instead, applicants should discuss in their application their proposed methods for collecting data for performance measures. Refer to the section What an Application Is Expected To Include on page 11 for additional information.

Project Evaluations

Applicants that propose to use funds awarded through this solicitation to conduct project evaluations or statistical data collections should be aware that these activities (such as systematic investigations designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge) may constitute research, which is defined as follows:

Research means a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. Activities that meet this definition constitute research for the purposes of this policy, whether or not they are conducted or supported under a program that is considered research for other purposes. For example, some demonstration and service programs may include research activities. 28 C.F.R. § 46.102(d). The following information pertains to applications that propose to conduct research and involves human subjects:

DOJ regulations (28 C.F.R. Part 46) protect the human subjects of federally funded research. In brief, 28 C.F.R. Part 46 requires that most research involving human subjects that is conducted or supported by a federal department or agency be reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB), in accordance with the regulations, before federal funds are expended for that research. As a rule, persons who participate in federally funded research must provide their "informed consent" and must be permitted to terminate their participation at any time. Funding recipients, before they will be allowed to spend OJP funds on any research activity involving human subjects, must submit appropriate documentation to OJP showing compliance with 28 C.F.R. Part 46 requirements, as requested by OJP.

DOJ regulations (28 C.F.R. Part 22) require recipients of OJP funding to submit a Privacy Certificate as a condition of approval of any grant application or contract proposal that contains a research or statistical component under which "information identifiable to a private person" will be collected, analyzed, used, or disclosed. The funding recipient's Privacy Certificate includes a description of its policies and procedures to be followed to protect the confidentiality of identifiable data. 28 C.F.R. § 22.23. The Department's regulations provide, among other matters, that: "Research or statistical information identifiable to a private person may be used only for research or statistical purposes." 28 C.F.R. § 22.21. Moreover, any private person from

whom information identifiable to a private person is collected or obtained (either orally or by means of written questionnaire or other document) must be advised that the information will only be used or disclosed for research or statistical purposes and that compliance with the request for information is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. 28 C.F.R. § 22.27.

OJP has developed a decision tree www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/pdfs/decision_tree.pdf to assist applicants in assessing whether an activity they plan to undertake with OJP funds may constitute research involving human subjects. **Applicants should review this decision tree and include a specific statement in their application narrative that clarifies if they intend to use any information from a project evaluation or data collection to contribute to “generalizeable knowledge” or if they intend to use the information solely for the purpose of internal improvements and/or to meet OJP’s performance measures data reporting requirements.** If an application includes a research, demonstration evaluation, or statistical data collection component, OJP will examine that component to determine whether it meets the definition of research.

For additional information visit the “Research and Protection of Human Subjects” and the “Confidentiality” sections of the OJP “Other Requirements” Web page at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm.

Notice of Post-Award FFATA Reporting Requirement

Applicants should anticipate that OJP will require all recipients (other than individuals) of awards of \$25,000 or more under this solicitation, consistent with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), to report award information on any first-tier subawards totaling \$25,000 or more, and, in certain cases, to report information on the names and total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of the recipient and first-tier subrecipients. Each applicant entity must ensure that it has the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should it receive funding. Reports regarding subawards will be made through the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS), found at www.fsrs.gov.

Please note also that applicants should anticipate that no subaward of an award made under this solicitation may be made to a subrecipient (other than an individual) unless the potential subrecipient acquires and provides a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.

How To Apply

Applications will be submitted through Grants.gov. Grants.gov is a “one-stop storefront” that provides a unified process for all customers of federal awards to find funding opportunities and apply for funding. Complete instructions on how to register and submit an application can be found at www.Grants.gov. If the applicant experiences technical difficulties at any point during this process, call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at **800-518-4726, 606-545-5035**, or via e-mail to support@grants.gov, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays. Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, **processing delays may occur, and it can take up to several weeks** for first-time registrants to receive confirmation and a user password. OJP highly recommends that applicants start the registration process as early as possible to prevent delays in submitting an application package by the specified application deadline.

All applicants are required to complete the following steps:

1. **Acquire a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.** In general, the Office of Management and Budget requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal funds include a DUNS number in their applications for a new award or renewal of an existing award. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information for federal assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, one-time activity. Obtain a DUNS number by calling Dun and Bradstreet at 866–705–5711 or by applying online at www.dnb.com. A DUNS number is usually received within 1-2 business days.
2. **Acquire or renew registration with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database.** OJP requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal financial assistance maintain current registrations in the CCR database. An applicant must be registered in the CCR to successfully register in Grants.gov. The CCR database is the repository for standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. Organizations that have previously submitted applications via Grants.gov are already registered with CCR, as it is a requirement for Grants.gov registration. Note, however, that applicants must **update or renew their CCR registration annually** to maintain an active status. Information about CCR registration procedures can be accessed at www.ccr.gov.
3. **Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password.** Complete the AOR profile on Grants.gov and create a username and password. The applicant organization's DUNS number must be used to complete this step. For more information about the registration process, go to www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp.
4. **Acquire confirmation for the AOR from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC).** The E-Biz POC at the applicant organization must log into Grants.gov to confirm the applicant organization's AOR. Note that there can be more than one AOR for the organization.
5. **Search for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov.** Use the following identifying information when searching for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this solicitation is 16.756, titled "Court Appointed Special Advocates", and the funding opportunity number is OJJDP-2012-3250.
6. **Complete the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.** All applicants must complete this information. An applicant that expends any funds for lobbying activities must provide the detailed information requested on the form, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities*, (SF-LLL). An applicant that does not expend any funds for lobbying activities should enter "N/A" in the required highlighted fields.
7. **Submit an application consistent with this solicitation by following the directions in Grants.gov.** Within 24–48 hours after submitting the electronic application, the applicant should receive an e-mail validation message from Grants.gov. The validation message will state whether the application has been received and validated, or rejected, with an explanation. **Important:** Applicants are urged to submit applications **at least 72 hours**

prior to the due date of the application to allow time to receive the validation message and to correct any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

Note: Grants.gov will forward the application to OJP’s Grants Management System (GMS). GMS does not accept executable file types as application attachments. These disallowed file types include, but are not limited to, the following extensions: “.com,” “.bat,” “.exe,” “.vbs,” “.cfg,” “.dat,” “.db,” “.dbf,” “.dll,” “.ini,” “.log,” “.ora,” “.sys,” and “.zip.”

Note: Duplicate Applications. If an applicant submits multiple versions of an application, OJJDP will review the most recent version submitted.

Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues

If an applicant experiences unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond the applicant’s control that prevent submission of its application by the deadline, the applicant must email the Justice Information Center (see Page 1 for contact information) **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit its application. The applicant must include in the e-mail: a description of the technical difficulties, a timeline of submission efforts, the complete grant application, the applicant DUNS number, and Grants.gov Help Desk tracking number(s) the applicant has received. **Note: Requests are not automatically approved by OJJDP.** After the program office reviews all of the information submitted, and contacts the Grants.gov Help Desk to validate the technical issues reported, OJP will contact the applicant to either approve or deny the request to submit a late application. If the technical issues reported cannot be validated, the application will be rejected as untimely.

To ensure a fair competition for limited discretionary funds, the following conditions are not valid reasons to permit late submissions: (1) failure to begin the registration process in sufficient time, (2) failure to follow Grants.gov instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its Web site, (3) failure to follow all of the instructions in the OJP solicitation, and (4) technical issues experienced with the applicant’s computer or information technology environment, including firewalls.

Notifications regarding known technical problems with Grants.gov, if any, are posted at the top of the OJP funding Web page at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/solicitations.htm.

What an Application Is Expected To Include

Applicants should anticipate that failure to submit an application that contains all of the specified elements may negatively affect the review of the application; and, should a decision be made to make an award, it may result in the inclusion of special conditions that preclude access to or use of award funds pending satisfaction of the conditions.

Moreover, applicants should anticipate that applications that are unresponsive to the scope of the solicitation, or that do not include application elements designated by OJJDP to be critical, will neither proceed to peer review nor receive further consideration. Under this solicitation, OJJDP has designated the following application elements as critical: Program Narrative, Budget Detail Worksheet or a Budget Narrative.

OJP strongly recommends use of appropriately descriptive file names (e.g., “Program Narrative,” “Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative,” “Timelines,” “Memoranda of

Understanding,” “Resumes”) for all attachments. OJP recommends that resumes be included in a single file.

1. Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

The SF-424 is a standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. Grants.gov and GMS take information from the applicant’s profile to populate the fields on this form. When selecting "type of applicant," if the applicant is a for-profit entity, select "For-Profit Organization" or "Small Business" (as applicable). Instructions on completing the SF 424 are available at www.grants.gov/assets/SF424Instructions.pdf.

2. Program Narrative

Applicants must submit a program narrative that presents a detailed description of the purpose, goals, objectives, strategies, design, and management of the proposed program. The program narrative should be double-spaced with 1-inch margins, not exceeding 30 pages of 8½ by 11 inches, and use a standard 12-point font, preferably Times New Roman. Pages should be numbered “1 of 30,” etc. The project abstract, tables, charts, pictures, etc., including all captions, legends, keys, subtext, etc., may be single-spaced, and will count in the 30-page limit. Material required under the “Budget and Budget Narrative” and “Additional Attachments” sections will not count toward the program narrative page count. Applicants may provide bibliographical references as a separate attachment that will not count toward the 30-page program narrative limit. If the program narrative fails to comply with these length-related restrictions, noncompliance may be considered in peer review and in final award decisions.

The program narrative should address the following selection criteria: (1) project abstract; (2) statement of the problem; (3) goals, objectives, and performance measures; (4) program design and implementation; and (5) capabilities/competencies. The applicant should clearly delineate the connections between and among each of these sections. For example, the applicant should derive the goals and objectives directly from the problems to be addressed. Similarly, the project design section should clearly explain how the program’s structure and activities will accomplish the goals and objectives identified in the previous section.

The following sections should be included as part of the program narrative.

- a. **Project Abstract.** Applicants should include a project abstract as the first page of the program narrative, and it is included in the page limitation specified above. The abstract should not exceed 200 words and briefly describe the project’s purpose, identify the population to be served, and summarize the activities that the applicant will implement to achieve the project’s goals and objectives. These goals and objectives should focus on short-term and intermediate outcomes (see Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures, below). The abstract should describe how the applicant will measure progress toward these goals.

Permission to Share Abstract and Contact Information with Private Funders. It is unlikely that OJJDP will be able to fund all competitive applications, but may have the opportunity to share unfunded competitive application information with private foundations. Applicants should indicate whether they give OJJDP permission to share their abstract and contact information for both the authorized representative and point of

contact with potentially interested private foundations. Granting this permission will not affect OJJDP's funding recommendations, and if the application is not funded, it will not guarantee that information will be shared, nor does it guarantee funding from any other source.

- b. Statement of the Problem.** Applicants should briefly describe the need for a national membership and accreditation program for state and local CASA programs. The applicant should use data to provide evidence that the need exists. Applicants should describe the target population of the national membership and accreditation program and any previous or current experience administering a national subgrant program, publishing resources for court-appointed special advocates, and providing training and technical assistance to state and local CASA programs.
- c. Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures.** Applicants should describe the goals of the proposed program and identify its objectives. When formulating the program's goals and objectives, applicants should be cognizant of the performance measures that OJJDP will require successful applicants to provide.

Goals. Applicants should describe the program's intent to change, reduce, or eliminate the problem noted in the previous section and outline the project's goals.

Program Objectives. Applicants should explain how the program will accomplish its goals. Objectives are specific, quantifiable statements of the project's desired results. They should be clearly linked to the problem identified in the preceding section and measurable. (Examples of measurable objectives include the following: to increase the number of public and private partnerships supporting CASA goals, to increase the number of CASA programs serving children in rural areas).

Performance Measures. OJJDP requires award recipients to report data in support of mandated performance measures for this solicitation (see Performance Measures, page 6.) OJJDP does not require applicants to submit performance measures data with their applications. For the application, applicants should indicate an understanding of these requirements and discuss how they will gather the required data, should they receive funding.

OJJDP encourages award recipients to use information from existing program records to fulfill performance measures reporting requirements rather than initiating new data collection activities for this purpose.

- d. Project Design and Implementation.** Applicants should detail how the national membership and accreditation program will operate throughout the funding period and describe the strategies that they will use to achieve the goals and objectives identified in the previous section. Applicants should describe how they will complete the deliverables stated in the Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables section on page 4.

Timeline. Applicants should submit a realistic timeline or milestone chart that indicates major tasks associated with the goals and objectives of the project, assigns responsibility for each, and plots completion of each task by month or quarter for the duration of the award, using "Year 1," "Month 1," "Quarter 1," etc., not calendar dates (see "Sample Project Timelines" at ojjdp.gov/grantees/timelines.html).

Applicants should submit the timeline as a separate attachment, as stipulated in Additional Attachments, page 15. On receipt of an award, the award recipient may revise the timeline, based on training and technical assistance that OJJDP will provide.

- e. Capabilities and Competencies.** Applicants should describe the roles and responsibilities of project staff and explain the program's organizational structure and operations. Management and staffing patterns should be clearly connected to the project design described in the previous section. This section should describe the experience and capability of the applicant's organization and any contractors that the applicant will use to implement and manage this effort and its associated federal funding, highlighting any previous experience implementing projects of similar design or magnitude.

Letters of Support/Memoranda of Understanding. If submitting a joint application, as described under Eligibility, page 3, applicants should provide signed and dated letters of support or memoranda of understanding for all key partners that include the following:

- expression of support for the program and a statement of willingness to participate and collaborate with it
- description of the partner's current role and responsibilities in the planning process and expected responsibilities when the program is operational
- estimate of the percent of time that the partner will devote to the planning and operation of the project.

3. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative

Applicants should provide a budget that (1) is complete, allowable, and cost-effective in relation to the proposed activities; (2) shows the cost calculations demonstrating how they arrived at the total amount requested; and (3) provides a brief supporting narrative to link costs with project activities. The budget should cover the entire award period. Not more than 5 percent of the award may be used for administrative purposes. (See 42 U.S.C. 13013(b)(2).

For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, see the OJP Financial Guide at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/index.htm.

- a. Budget Detail Worksheet.** A sample Budget Detail Worksheet can be found at www.ojp.gov/funding/forms/budget_detail.pdf. Applicants who submit the budget in a different format should include the budget categories listed in the sample budget worksheet. The budget detail worksheet should be mathematically sound.
- b. Budget Narrative.** The Budget Narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe every category of expense listed in the Budget Detail Worksheet. Proposed budgets are expected to be complete; reasonable and allowable; cost-effective; and necessary for project activities. The narrative should be mathematically sound and correspond with the information and figures the applicant provides in the Budget Detail Worksheet. The narrative should explain how the applicant estimated and calculated all costs and how they are relevant to the completion of the proposed project. The narrative may include

tables for clarification purposes but need not be in a spreadsheet format. As with the Budget Detail Worksheet, the Budget Narrative should be broken down by year.

4. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Indirect costs are allowed only if the applicant has a federally approved indirect cost rate. (This requirement does not apply to units of local government.) A copy of the rate approval should be attached. If the applicant does not have an approved rate, one can be requested by contacting the applicant's cognizant federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant organization or, if the applicant's accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct cost categories. If DOJ is the cognizant federal agency, obtain information needed to submit an indirect cost rate proposal at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/pdfs/indirect_costs.pdf.

5. Additional Attachments

Applicants should submit the following information, as stipulated in the cited pages, as attachments to their application. While the materials listed below are not assigned specific point values, peer reviewers will, as appropriate, consider these items when rating applications. For example, reviewers will consider résumés and/or letters of support/memoranda of understanding when assessing "Capabilities/Competencies." Peer reviewers will not consider any additional information that the applicant submits other than that specified below.

- timeline or milestone chart (see Timeline, page 13)
- résumés of all key personnel
- job descriptions outlining roles and responsibilities for all key positions
- letters of support/memoranda of understanding from partner organizations (see Letters of Support/Memoranda of Understanding, page 14)
- evidence of nonprofit status, e.g., a copy of the tax exemption letter from the Internal Revenue Service
- evidence of eligibility as described on page 3 of this solicitation.

6. Other Standard Forms

Additional forms that may be required in connection with an award are available on OJP's funding page at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/forms.htm. For successful applicants, receipt of funds may be contingent upon submission of all necessary forms. Note in particular the following forms.

- a. [Standard Assurances](#). Applicants must read, certify, and submit this form in GMS prior to the receipt of any award funds.

- b. [Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements](#). Applicants must read, certify, and submit in GMS prior to the receipt of any award funds.
- c. [Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire](#). (Required for any applicant other than an individual that is a non-governmental entity and that has not received any award from OJP within the past 3 years; this form must be downloaded, completed, and submitted.)

Selection Criteria

The following five selection criteria will be used to evaluate each application, with the different weight given to each based on the percentage value listed after each individual criteria. For example, the first criteria, "Statement of the Problem," is worth 20 percent of the entire score in the application review process.

1. Statement of the Problem (20 percent)
2. Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures (5 percent)
3. Project Design and Implementation (40 percent)
4. Capabilities and Competencies (20 percent)
5. Budget (complete; reasonable and allowable; cost-effective; and necessary for project activities) (15 percent)

See What an Application Is Expected To Include, page 11, for the criteria that the peer reviewers will use to evaluate applications.

Review Process

OJP is committed to ensuring a fair and open process for awarding grants. OJJDP reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with the solicitation.

Peer reviewers will review the applications submitted under this solicitation that meet basic minimum requirements. OJJDP may use either internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination, to review the applications under this solicitation. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the subject matter of a given solicitation who is NOT a current DOJ employee. An internal reviewer is a current DOJ employee who is well-versed or has expertise in the subject matter of this solicitation. Applications that meet basic minimum requirements will be evaluated, scored, and rated by a peer review panel. Peer reviewers' ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only. In addition to peer review ratings, considerations for award recommendations and decisions may include, but are not limited to, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding.

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with OJJDP, conducts a financial review of applications for potential discretionary awards to evaluate the fiscal integrity and financial capability of applicants; examines proposed costs to determine if the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative accurately explain project costs; and determines whether costs are reasonable, necessary, and allowable under applicable federal cost principles and agency regulations.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General, who also may give consideration to factors including, but not limited to, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance, and available funding when making awards.

Additional Requirements

Applicants selected for awards must agree to comply with additional legal requirements upon acceptance of an award. OJP strongly encourages applicants to review the information pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting an application. Additional information for each requirement can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm

- Civil Rights Compliance
- Faith-Based and Other Community Organizations
- Confidentiality
- Research and the Protection of Human Subjects
- Anti-Lobbying Act
- Financial and Government Audit Requirements
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- DOJ Information Technology Standards (if applicable)
- Single Point of Contact Review
- Non-Supplanting of State or Local Funds
- Criminal Penalty for False Statements
- Compliance with [Office of Justice Programs Financial Guide](#)
- Suspension or Termination of Funding
- Nonprofit Organizations
- For-Profit Organizations
- Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)
- Rights in Intellectual Property
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) of 2006

- Awards in Excess of \$5,000,000 – Federal Taxes Certification Requirement
- Active CCR Registration

Provide Feedback to OJP on This Solicitation

To assist OJP in improving its application and award processes, we encourage applicants to provide feedback on this solicitation, application submission process, and/or the application review/peer review process. Feedback can be provided to OJPSolicitationFeedback@usdoj.gov.

Appendix: Application Checklist

OJJDP FY 2012 Court-Appointed Special Advocates Membership and Accreditation Program

This application checklist has been created to assist in developing an application.

Eligibility Requirement:

The applicant is:

- A national organization with a broad membership among court-appointed special advocates and has demonstrated experience in grant administration of court-appointed special advocate programs and in providing training and technical assistance to court-appointed special advocate programs.
- A local public or not-for-profit agency that has demonstrated the willingness to initiate, sustain, and expand a court-appointed special advocate program.
- The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit of \$1,778,395.

What an Application Should Include:

- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, (SF-LLL) (see page 10)
- Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424) (see page 12)

- Program Narrative (see page 12)
 - Format (double spaced, 12-point standard font, 1" standard margins, narrative is 30 pages or less)
 - Abstract
 - Statement of the Problem
 - Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures
 - Program Design and Implementation
 - Capabilities/Competencies

- Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative (see page 14)
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see page 15)

- Additional Attachments (see page 15)
 - timeline or milestone chart
 - résumés of all key personnel
 - job descriptions for all key positions
 - letters of support/memoranda of understanding from partner organizations
 - evidence of nonprofit status, e.g., copy of articles of incorporation
 - evidence of eligibility as described on page 3 of this solicitation

- Other Standard Forms, Certifications, and Other Components, (see page 15) including:
 - DUNS number
 - CCR registration
 - Certifications
 - Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire