

*\*Note: Questions are posted in the original form in which they were submitted to OCJP, with slight edits or additions for clarity and to remove any identifying information. Duplicate questions are not included if they were already answered. Questions are grouped below by topic, not by chronological order.*

## General Questions

**Will these grants be considered reimbursement grants or an alternative process of funding?**

- VCIF will be all reimbursement grants. Agencies can invoice the state for reimbursement as frequently as every month. Agencies are required to invoice at least quarterly.

## Project Types & Collaborations

**Can a DTF be a partner agency with a county law enforcement agency? For example, a DTF and a Sheriff's Office collaborate for a multijurisdictional project.**

- Yes, that can be a component of the Competitive Collaborative Enhancement grant application. Keep in mind that the minimum requirement of that application is TWO local law enforcement agencies. The applicant would need a second local law enforcement agency as a partner and then could also include the DFT.

**Would a Police Department partnership with County Communications fulfill the collaboration requisite for the Competitive Collaborative Enhancement grant?**

- Possibly, depending on which entity oversees the County Communications Unit. Projects must include two distinct law enforcement agencies working together to combat violent crime. Applications would be expected to demonstrate the need for such a collaboration and make the argument for why and specifically how such a collaboration would help to combat violent crime.

**We would like to submit for one grant as a stand-alone agency for LPRs and then submit one as a unified group of all law enforcement agencies for the purposes of obtaining P25 radios. So, do we have to submit 2 letters of intent? If so, what is the course of action to do this since we have an EDISON number for our County – do we need the other agencies too?**

- Yes, you would submit two Intent to Apply forms – and select the specific project for each (Formula v. Enhancement). For the Enhancement grant funding, one agency must be the “lead” agency on the application if your agency is the lead agency for the enhancement application, you use your same Edison Vendor ID for both of the intent to apply forms.
- Submitting an Intent to Apply form is not a binding commitment to apply, so if the plan for the Collaborative Enhancement changes prior to submitting the application in January, that’s fine.
- The Collaborative Enhancement grant is intended to support multijurisdictional/regional violent crime solutions. Applicant agencies must explain in their application how the equipment, staff, and other expenses requested would support such a purpose.

## Technical Assistance: UT Institute for Public Service (IPS) Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC)

**Is there a contact at UT Institute for Public Service (IPS), Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC) that we can reach out to at this point, or will we need to submit the Intent to Apply letter first?**

- The contact info for that UT IPS technical assistance is included throughout the solicitation documents and that email address is rhiannon.jones@tennessee.edu.

## Equipment & Allowable Costs

*Note: If a question is not addressed below, applicants should first check the solicitation, and then check the OCJP Grants Manual "[Allowable Costs](#)" and "[Unallowable Costs](#)" sections before submitting their question.*

**Do radios have to be purchased on state contract, and how much leeway is there? What if an agency wants to buy certain radios because they already have that system? Is buying a radio tower considered "construction"?**

- Agencies are strongly encouraged to utilize statewide contracts and cooperative agreements, to expedite the purchasing process. Equipment and technology purchases under this application will first identify products currently on state contract or local cooperative agreement as the first choice to allow for consistency across entities, enhanced data collection, and a uniform system of tracking violent criminals.
- Radios purchased with grant funds must meet P25 CAP Encryption Requirements, which have no encryption, have AES 256 algorithm, and have AES 256 algorithm along with any other non-standard encryption algorithms.
- All budget items should demonstrate how they are part of a proven public safety strategies to combat violent crime in the scope of service.

**Are uniforms going to be allowable?**

- No.

**Are mobile LPRs allowed under the grant?**

- No. License Plate Readers may only be purchased with grant funds if they are to be installed on state right of ways and are approved by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-8-198.

**Are Flock LPR cameras installed on state right of ways allowed under this grant?**

- No. License Plate Readers may only be purchased with grant funds if they are to be installed on state right of ways and are approved by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-8-198.

**Can agencies purchase LPRs that are mounted to the digital message boards?**

- License Plate Readers may only be purchased with grant funds if they are to be installed on state right of ways and are approved by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-8-198.

**Are we allowed to purchase tasers with these funds?**

- Yes. All budget items should demonstrate how they are part of a proven public safety strategies to combat violent crime in the scope of service.

**Do TASER programs and/or virtual reality training programs fall into the training or equipment categories for the grant?**

- If a piece of equipment is not listed as explicitly unallowable, then the expectation is that the applicant would demonstrate in their scope how each piece of requested technology or equipment is necessary to combat violent crime in their community/region.

**Are rifle plates and carriers allowed?**

- Yes. Agencies would need to clearly demonstrate in their scope how that equipment helps their agency address violent crime in their community/region. A funding determination would be based on that.

**On the roundtable call it was mentioned that PDs could hire advocates/counselors on this grant...is that correct? It was mentioned it would help with the decrease of funding that will occur in the spring of 2023?**

- Yes. All budget items should demonstrate how they are part of a proven public safety strategies to combat violent crime in the scope of service

**Is overtime an allowable expense?**

- Yes. All budget items should demonstrate how they are part of a proven public safety strategies to combat violent crime in the scope of service.

**Can an agency apply the money towards an existing contract that will run the duration of the grant? (For example, if a PD just signed a contract for body cams and tasers that runs through 11/2027, could they use this money to pay for that?)**

- VCIF funds cannot replace existing state or federal funds. VCIF funding should be used to expand current budgeted initiatives or for new initiatives to combat violent crime.

**Can a 3<sup>rd</sup> party be allocated 5% of the award to administer the grant under professional fees?**

- The Project Director and Financial Director on the grant MUST be a city/county employee and cannot be a subcontracted service (professional fee). The implementing agency can hire someone to administer the grant, but they can't subcontract it out.

**If an agency wants to sign a multi-year contract that extends beyond the term of the grant (so a five or seven-year contract) and they pay the full amount in the first year to get a discount, is that acceptable?**

- Allowable costs are costs that occur during the project period. Only the portion that would be for the grant project period would be allowable.