

Jennifer Ayres

From: BVP Email Account <ojp@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 10:47 AM
To: Jennifer Ayres
Subject: Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) – FY 2022 Application Announcement

Dear BVP Participant:

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to announce the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) program application funding period. The purpose of the BVP program is to reimburse states, counties, federally recognized tribes, cities, and local jurisdictions up to 50% of the cost of body armor vests purchased for law enforcement officers. Please see the BVP Overview for detailed information on the BVP Program: <https://www.ojp.gov/bvp/overview>.

Applications for FY 2022 BVP funds will be accepted beginning Thursday, April 28, 2022. All applications must be submitted online at Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership: Login (usdoj.gov) by **6:00 pm eastern time on Monday, June 27, 2022**.

Important Information regarding FY 2022 BVP:

1. **System for Award Management (SAM) Registration Requirement:** Jurisdictions will not be able to apply for and receive FY 2022 BVP funds if they are not registered in SAM. Jurisdictions not registered with SAM are strongly encouraged to access the SAM website at <http://www.sam.gov> as soon as possible in order to obtain information on and to complete the online SAM registration. Applicants should ensure that current bank routing and bank account information is included in the www.sam.gov profile, as the banking information in the SAM at the time of application will be used to transfer reimbursement funds to your jurisdiction. For more information about renewing and updating your existing SAM registration, or registering in SAM as a new entity, please visit www.sam.gov. The SAM Helpdesk can be reached at 866-606-8220.
2. **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):** SAM recently transitioned from the DUNS number to the new Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). The UEI, a 12-character alphanumeric value, is now the primary means of identifying entities registered for federal awards government-wide in SAM. If an entity is already registered in SAM, it has been assigned a UEI. To view the UEI, the Federal Service Desk [posted instructions for finding the UEI in SAM](#). **All FY 2022 BVP applications must have a UEI entered in the BVP system to receive an FY 2022 BVP award.** More details on the impact of this change in the SAM system can be found at: <https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei>.
3. **User Guides and Training Materials:** User guides and training materials for the BVP application process and the payment request process can be found at: <https://www.ojp.gov/program/bulletproof-vest-partnership/program-resources#hf3a1a>.
4. **Mandatory Wear Policy:** 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 2022 BVP applications are submitted. There are no requirements regarding the nature of the policy other than it specify when mandatory wear is required for uniformed officers on duty. Please see the [BVP Mandatory FAQs](#) for further guidance on this requirement.
5. **Compliant Vest Lists:** Each vest purchased with FY 2022 funds must meet the 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://cjtec.org/compliance-testing-program/compliant-product-lists/>.

6. **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 2022 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.
7. **Eligibility:** Multiple law enforcement agencies (LEAs) within the same jurisdiction 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. This includes colleges and universities. All public colleges and universities are considered LEAs under their respective jurisdiction.
8. **Items to Review:** 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 2022 BVP funds:
 - 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.)
 - Ensure that the application accurately reflects the current market cost for the vests identified on the application.
 - 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 award 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.

In addition, please visit BJA's Officer Robert Wilson III Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officers and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR) Initiative website to obtain other information regarding officer safety: [VALOR Officer Safety and Wellness Initiative | Overview | Bureau of Justice Assistance \(ojp.gov\)](#). The VALOR Initiative is a comprehensive set of programs that deliver no-cost officer safety, wellness, resilience training, resources, and technical assistance to law enforcement throughout the country. VALOR brings together the latest research and practices to address current and emerging officer safety and wellness issues/threats. Please see the VALOR Initiative Overview-Booklet for a detailed synopsis of this important initiative: [BJA VALOR INITIATIVE \(ojp.gov\)](#).

Sincerely,

The BVP Program Team

Bureau of Justice Assistance

<https://www.ojp.gov/program/bulletproof-vest-partnership>

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