



FY26 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Are all law enforcement agencies eligible to apply for this Notice of Funding Opportunity?

A. This program has three subcategories under which applicants can apply for LEMHWA funding. Two of these, the Start-up LEMHWA Implementation Projects and Enhanced LEMHWA Implementation Projects subcategories, are open only to state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies that have primary law enforcement authority for their jurisdiction. The LEMHWA Community of Practice Initiative subcategory is open only to nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, institutes of higher education, community groups, or faith-based organizations.

Q. How do I determine if my agency has primary law enforcement authority?

A. An agency with primary law enforcement authority is defined as the first responder to calls for service for all types of criminal incidents within its jurisdiction. Agencies are not considered to have primary law enforcement authority if they only respond to or investigate specific type(s) of crime(s), respond to or investigate crimes within a correctional institution, serve warrants, provide courthouse security, transport prisoners, have cases referred to them for investigation or investigational support, or some combination of these.

Q. My agency does not have primary law enforcement authority. Can we partner with an agency that is eligible to apply?

A. Yes, partnerships are highly encouraged. If your agency does not have primary law enforcement authority, it can partner with an agency that is eligible to apply. Please keep in mind that the application must be submitted by the agency with primary law enforcement authority.

Q. What are the LEMHWA subcategories?

A. The LEMHWA Program Notice of Funding Opportunity **has three subcategories:**

- *Start-up LEMHWA Implementation Projects*

The goal of this program is to provide support to law enforcement agencies that do not have established mental health and wellness programming. These funds will serve as start-up costs to support the development of new mental health and wellness service and programming. Please note: Applicants that have received any previous LEMHWA funding are ineligible for this program.

- *Enhanced LEMHWA Implementation Projects*

The goal of this program is to provide support for law enforcement agencies that have current wellness programs in place and are seeking to enhance or expand upon those existing wellness programs.

- *LEMHWA Community of Practice Initiative*

The goal of this program is to provide funding to a provider that will create a support network for LEMHWA grantees that includes peer support and technical assistance through the development and facilitation of an innovative forum where grantees can learn from their peers and share promising practices. The forum should be responsive and adaptive to the needs of the LEMHWA grantees.

Q. My agency has access to an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and/or other wellness services through my city/county/state. What subcategory should I apply to?

- A. Employee Assistance Programs provided by local/state governments provide generalized services that may not account for the unique mental health and wellness needs of law enforcement personnel. Please apply for the Start-up LEMHWA funding to help your agency develop something specific for law enforcement agencies.

Q. Does the LEMHWA Notice of Funding Opportunity require a proposal narrative?

- A. Applications for LEMHWA Start-up and Enhanced Implementation Projects do not require a proposal narrative; rather, applicants are required to submit a proposal abstract that will be entered into a JustGrants text box during the application process and to answer a series of survey questions. Please refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity guide for full details on application requirements and the list of applicable survey questions.

The LEMHWA Community of Practice Notice of Funding Opportunity requires a proposal narrative. Please see the NOFO for complete details.

Q. Are the LEMHWA Start-up and Enhanced Implementation Projects subcategories restricted to peer programs?

- A. No. The primary purpose of LEMHWA funding is to help officers seek assistance in receiving support services. The LEMHWA program will fund the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement officers and their families through the implementation of peer support, training, family resources, suicide prevention, stress reduction, clinical support, and other promising practices for wellness programs. Programs may also serve agency civilian staff such as crime scene technicians, dispatchers, and others who may regularly experience some of the same trauma exposure.

Q. Do any law enforcement agencies receive priority consideration for funding under this program?

A. Additional considerations may be provided to agencies that serve small and rural communities. These considerations may also be provided to applicants that cooperate with federal law enforcement to address illegal immigration and to applicants that submit accurate race and ethnicity information in the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

Q. How does the COPS Office define rural jurisdictions?

A. Because of geographic and regional considerations, the COPS Office allows an applicant to identify their jurisdiction type and explain how the project will benefit nonurban areas.

Q. I am having issues completing the “Continuation of Support after Federal Funding Ends” section of the FY26 CPA Notice of Funding Questionnaire. When I click “Other,” it requires a secondary response even though this is not applicable to my agency. How do I resolve this issue?

A. Applicants should enter “N/A” in the text box to complete this question.

Q. I am unable to submit my application because of a budget error on the Budget Summary page in JustGrants. The Federal Funds field is not calculating correctly.

A. Take the following steps to fix the Federal Funds error on the Budget Summary page in JustGrants:

1. Navigate to the Budget Summary screen and review the total amounts. Check to make sure Federal Funds is displaying correctly: $\text{Federal} = \text{Total Project Cost} - \text{Match} - \text{Program Income}$. (Ignore any warning messages about aligning with the Standard Applicant Information values.)

Grant Package (e-3c6e-4a98-bbe0-1755b6be371b) PENDING DRAFT Due January 3, 2023 6:43:00 PM EST

Budget Category	Total Cost	
Sworn Officer Positions	\$0	
Civilian or Non-Sworn Personnel	\$0	
Travel	\$0	
Equipment	\$5,000	
Supplies	\$0	
SubAwards	\$0	
Procurement Contracts	\$0	
Other Costs	\$0	
Indirect Costs	\$0	
Total Project Costs	\$5,000	
Federal Funds:	\$15,750	75.00%
Match Amount:	\$250	25.00%
Program Income:	\$ 0	0.00%

(This screenshot is provided for illustration purposes only. The LEMHWA program DOES NOT require a match amount or program income.)

If Federal Funds still does not display correctly, continue to the next steps.

2. Add a dummy value into the Match or Program Income field, then hit tab or click out of the field.

Grant Package (e-3c6e-4a98-bbe0-1755b6be371b) PENDING DRAFT ⌚ Due January 3, 2023 6:43:00 PM EST

Budget Category	Total Cost
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Civilian or Non-Sworn Personnel	\$0
Travel	\$0
Equipment	\$5,000
Supplies	\$0
SubAwards	\$0
Procurement Contracts	\$0
Other Costs	\$0
Indirect Costs	\$0
Total Project Costs	\$5,000
Federal Funds:	\$4,650
Match Amount:	\$250
Program Income:	\$ <input type="text" value="100"/>

(This screenshot is provided for illustration purposes only. The LEMHWA program DOES NOT require a match amount or program income.)

3. Remove the dummy value and then hit tab or click out of the field.
Federal Funds should now recalculate correctly.

For additional information on the application process visit our [How To Apply](#) page.

Questions? For technical assistance with submitting the **full application** in JustGrants, contact the JustGrants Service Desk at JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov or 833-872-5175. The JustGrants Service Desk operates 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. eastern time (ET) Monday to Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

For programmatic and general assistance with the funding opportunity requirements, contact the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770 or by email at AskCOPSRC@usdoj.gov. The Response Center’s hours of operation are Monday–Friday (except U.S. Federal Government holidays; see <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/federal-holidays/>) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). The Response Center will remain open on the funding opportunity closing date until 4:59 p.m. ET.