

Process for Applying to COPS Office Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Step 1. Register with SAM database/Confirm SAM number (the Unique Entity ID (UEI) will be from SAM)

System of Award Management (SAM) registration and renewal can take as long as 10 business days to complete.

If you do not have an Employer Identification Number (EIN), the process can take up to five weeks.

SAM registration procedures can be accessed at www.sam.gov.

The person registering with SAM will be the designated SAM E-Business Point of Contact, who can assign the people who submit applications for the organization (your Authorized Organization Representatives). You must review your SAM registration once a year.

Step 2. 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. An applicant entity's unique entity identifier (obtained through SAM.gov) must be used to complete this step. For more information about the registration process for organizations and other entities, visit the [Grants.gov registration page](http://Grants.gov/registration). Individuals registering with Grants.gov may visit the [Applicant Registration page](http://Grants.gov/registration).

Step 3. Acquire confirmation for the AOR from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC).

The SAM E-Biz POC at the applicant organization must log into Grants.gov to confirm the applicant organization's AOR. The E-Biz POC will need the Marketing Partner Identification Number (MPIN) password obtained when registering with SAM to complete this step. Note that an organization can have more than one AOR.

Step 4. Search for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov.

Search using the Assistance Listing title and the funding opportunity number from the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Step 5. Access Funding Opportunity and Application Package from Grants.gov.

Select "Apply for Grants" under the "Applicants" column. Enter your email address to be notified of any changes to the opportunity package before the closing date. Click the Workspace icon to use Grants.gov Workspace.

Step 6. Complete and Submit SF-424 via Grants.gov.

Within 48 hours after submitting the [SF-424](#), the applicant should receive two notifications from Grants.gov. The first will confirm the receipt of SF-424. The second will state whether the SF-424 has been validated and successfully submitted, or whether it has been rejected due to errors, with an explanation. It is possible to first receive a message indicating that the application is received, and then receive a rejection notice a few minutes or hours later. Submitting the SF-424 well ahead of the Grants.gov deadline provides time to correct the problem(s) that caused the rejection.

Important: DOJ urges each applicant to submit the SF-424 at least 72 hours prior to the Grants.gov due date, to allow time to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification. Verify the application deadline (date and time) in the NOFO .

New Entity without a JustGrants Account

Step 7. Register the Entity Administrator (E-Biz POC) and the Application Submitter with DOJ's Justice Grants System (JustGrants).

Within 24 hours of JustGrants receiving an application from Grants.gov, the user submitting the application in Grants.gov and SAM E-Biz POC will receive an email to register for a JustGrants account. The email is from DOJ's secure user management system (DIAMD) and will include instructions on how to create an account.

To ensure that you receive these emails and that they are not flagged as spam, we recommend adding **DIAMD-NoReply@usdoj.gov** to the trusted sender list in your email settings.

The E-Biz POC at the applicant organization serves as the Entity Administrator and must log in to JustGrants to confirm the entity's profile, add users, and assign the two required Authorized Representatives (Law Enforcement Executive/Program Official and Government Executive/Financial Official). The Authorized Representatives are officials who have ultimate and final responsibility for all programmatic and financial decisions for your agency, as the legal recipient. For guidance on who should be your Authorized Representatives, please see below:

- **For law enforcement agencies**, COPS Office awards require that both the top law enforcement executive (e.g., chief of police, sheriff, or equivalent) and the top government executive (e.g., mayor, board chairman, or equivalent) sign the application, and (if awarded funding) accept the Award Package. The top law enforcement executive must be assigned the role of Authorized Representative 1 and the top government executive must be assigned the role of Authorized Representative 2 in Just Grants.

- **For non-law enforcement agencies** (institutions of higher education, school districts, private organizations, etc.), COPS Office awards require that both the programmatic official (e.g., executive director, chief executive officer, or equivalent) and financial official (e.g., chief financial officer, treasurer, or equivalent) sign the application, and (if awarded funding) accept the Award Package. These two officials must have the ultimate signatory authority to sign contracts on behalf of your organization. The programmatic official must be assigned the role of Authorized Representative 1 and the financial official must be assigned the role of Authorized Representative 2 in Just Grants.

Please note that nonexecutive positions (e.g., clerks, trustees) are not acceptable Authorized Representatives.

The user who submitted the application in Grants.gov serves as the Application Submitter. Within minutes of completing your JustGrants account registration, the Application Submitter and the E-Biz POC (Entity Administrator) users will receive an email from JustGrants with a link to the application started in Grants.gov.

Application Submitters and E-Biz POC Users with a JustGrants Account

Step 8. Review and Invite the Two Required Authorized Representatives in JustGrants

The Entity Administrator will need to log in to JustGrants to review and assign the required two Authorized Representatives. (Law Enforcement Executive/Program Official and Government Executive/Financial Official). The Authorized Representatives are officials who have ultimate and final responsibility for all programmatic and financial decisions for your agency, as the legal recipient. For guidance on who should be your Authorized Representatives, please see below:

- **For law enforcement agencies**, COPS Office awards require that both the top law enforcement executive (e.g., chief of police, sheriff, or equivalent) and the top government executive (e.g., mayor, board chairman, or equivalent) sign the application, and (if awarded funding) accept the Award Package. The top law enforcement executive must be assigned the role of Authorized Representative 1 and the top government executive must be assigned the role of Authorized Representative 2 in Just Grants.
- **For non-law enforcement agencies** (institutions of higher education, school districts, private organizations, etc.), COPS Office awards require that both the programmatic official (e.g., executive director, chief executive officer, or equivalent) and financial official (e.g., chief financial officer, treasurer, or equivalent) sign the application, and (if awarded funding) accept the Award Package. These two officials must have the ultimate signatory authority to sign contracts on behalf of your organization. The programmatic official must be assigned the role of Authorized Representative 1 and the financial official must be assigned the role of Authorized Representative 2 in Just Grants.

Please note that nonexecutive positions (e.g., clerks, trustees) are not acceptable Authorized Representatives.

If an Authorized Representative needs to be invited, the Entity Administrator will need to invite the individual to receive a JustGrants account. These actions are required before an application can be submitted.

Within minutes of being invited to be an Authorized Representative, the individual will receive an email from **DIAMD-NoReply@usdoj.gov** with instructions on how to create an account in DOJ's secure user management system.

Once the Authorized Representative receives the email and completes the steps to create an account, the Authorized Representative will be available in JustGrants.

Review the "[JustGrants User Roles Guide](#)" to become familiar with the various JustGrants Entity User roles.

Step 9. Complete and Submit the JustGrants Application

The Application Submitter will need to complete the application by entering data into web-based forms, uploading attachments, and accepting assurances and certifications. Before you submit your application, each section must be completed and free of validation errors. If not, please return to each identified page using the table of contents on the right side of the page. If any required fields are unanswered, they will be flagged with warning messages. In this case, answer these required fields. You will not be able to submit your application until all validation issues are corrected and the application is certified.

The Application Submitter will also need to confirm the required two Authorized Representatives (Law Enforcement Executive/Program Official and Government Executive/Financial Official).

The Application Submitter will need to select two authorized representatives via dropdown field in the "Confirm Authorized Representative" section of the application. The dropdown will display all authorized representatives that have been assigned for your entity (the [Application Submission Job Aid Reference Guide](#) for this step).

If you do not see authorized representatives for your entity in the dropdown field within the "Confirm Authorized Representative" section of the application, you will need to add and assign the role for each authorized representative for your entity. Please be aware users will not be visible in JustGrants until they have successfully logged into JustGrants. If you need assistance adding users and assigning roles for your entity, please refer to the [Entity Management Job Aid Reference Guide](#).

Once all sections are completed, the application submitter will submit the application. Upon successful submission of an application, the Application Submitter, Entity Administrator, and the two Authorized Representatives will receive an email from JustGrants confirming submission of the application. The COPS Office will not accept applications submitted via mail or email.