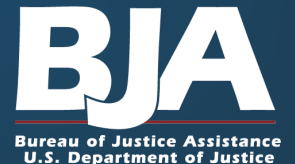


BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

# Emmett Till Cold Case Investigation Program **FY 2020 Competitive Grant Announcement**

March 25, 2020

1:00 – 2:30 PM



# Presenters:

**A. Elizabeth Griffith**, Associate Deputy Director, BJA

**Barbara Kay Bosserman**, Deputy Chief of the Cold Case Unit and Senior Legal Counsel, Department of Justice

**Randy Gonzalez**, Supervisory Special Agent, Civil Rights Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation,

**Gerri Ratliff**, Deputy Director, Community Relations Service

# Agenda

- Overview of OJP and BJA
- Emmett Till Cold Case Funding
- Eligibility Requirements
- Grant Requirements
- Review Application Sections
- Department Support for Emmett Till Act
- Top Grant Application Tips
- Questions and Answers

# What is the Office of Justice Programs (OJP)?

- OJP provides grant funding, training, research and statistics to the criminal justice community.
- OJP is one of three grant-making components of the Department of Justice.
  - Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
  - Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

# BJA Mission Statement

BJA provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities.

To learn more about BJA, visit [www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov), or follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA/>) and Twitter (@DOJBJA).

# Administration Priorities

Funding through BJA is aligned with the Administration's priorities to develop and sustain strategies that address violent crime, including strategies designed to:

- Support law enforcement and prosecutors;
- Focus on strategies to combat violent crime, including hate crimes; and
- Address the needs of victims.

# Program Objectives

- Enhance collaboration between federal, state and local law-enforcement and prosecution agencies in their investigation and prosecution of unsolved civil rights cold case murders.
- Increase the number of state, local and tribal investigations and prosecutions of civil rights cold case murders.
- Bring justice and support to families and stakeholders impacted by these murders.

**Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations  
Solicitation was released on  
March 4, 2020**

**Close Date: May 4, 2020**



# Eligibility:

The following entities are eligible to apply:

State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, including prosecutors' offices.

Tribal law enforcement must be from federally recognized Indian tribal governments that perform law enforcement functions (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior).

All recipients and subrecipients (including any for-profit organization) must forgo any profit or management fee.

# Award Information

BJA expects to make approximately six awards

Estimated maximum award amount: \$300,000

Total amount anticipated to be awarded: \$1,800,000

Grant start date: October 1, 2020

Period of performance: 24-36 months

# Budget Information

## **Allowable costs include:**

- Staffing;
- Costs associated with processing crime scene and other evidence including forensic evidence and crime lab associated costs;
- Expert testimony;
- Case preparation, investigation and prosecution;
- Costs to inventory, track, investigate and prosecute the cases; and
- Support to family members and stakeholders impacted by these cases.

**Match Requirement:** This solicitation does not require a match.

# Application Sections

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (required)
2. Program Abstract
3. Program Narrative (required)
4. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative (required)
5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)
6. Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)
7. Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire
8. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
9. Additional Attachments (listed on next slide)

# Application Sections – con't

## Additional Attachments

- Time Task Plan
- Resumes/Job Descriptions of Key Staff
- Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications
- Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity
- Request and Justification for Employee Compensation Waiver (if applicable)

# Abstract

- Applicant's name and project title.
- Description of the scope of cases the project will address, including geographic or jurisdictional boundaries.
- Dollar amount of federal grant funds requested.
- A list of partners and describe current coordination, if relevant.
- A summary of the project's goals and proposed project activities.
- Identification of other resources that will support the program.

# Program Narrative

Double-spaced, using standard 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Number pages “1 of 20,” etc.

Should not exceed 20 pages.

## **SCORING:**

-Description of the Issue	25%
-Project Design and Implementation	30%
-Capabilities and Competencies	30%
-Plan for Collecting Data Required for Performance Measures	5%
-Budget and Budget Worksheet	10%

# Budget and Budget Narrative

- Itemized budget for each year of the grant.
- There is no match required.
- Prior approval, planning, and reporting of conference/meeting/ training costs



# Additional Attachments

- **Time and Task Plan:**
  - Outline goals and objectives
  - Summarize major activities, expected date of completion, and responsible agencies
- **Resumes and/Job Description:** For all staff to be funded under the grant.
- **Applicant Disclosure of Proposed Subrecipients:** Attach a list of proposed subrecipients of grant funding, if applicable, that includes their name, organizational affiliation, and location.

# **Department of Justice Support for Emmett Till Cases**

# Civil Rights Division

# Emmett Till



- In August 1955, Till, a 14-year-old Chicago teen, was kidnapped while visiting relatives in Money, Mississippi.
- His body was later discovered in the Tallahatchie River.

# Emmett Till Acts



# Original Till Act

- Recognized importance of unsolved, racially motivated murders.

# Original Till Act

- Required FBI/DOJ to look at unsolved matters that occurred before December 31, **1969**.
- Encouraged FBI/DOJ to work on cold cases, even when ***federal*** prosecution is unavailable, to assist state or local jurisdictions.

# Reauthorization Act of 2016

- ▶ Extends date of cold cases to December 31, **1979**.
- ▶ Requires DOJ/FBI to meet regularly with stakeholders.



# Reporting a Cold Case

- The Till Act is meant to respond to *death-resulting cases*; therefore, cases in which people were beaten or shot but not killed do not fall under the Act.

# Reporting a Cold Case

- There must be evidence that the death was the result of a *civil rights* crime.

# Successful Prosecutions



Ernest Avants  
Federal Conviction, 2003

## National Report

The New York Times

### Former Klansman Is Found Guilty of 1966 Killing

Federal Court Jury  
Decides in 3 Hours

By RICK BRAGG

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 28 — Ben Chester White used twists of wire to hold the soles on his shoes, patched his own clothes with scrap and said “yes, sir,” to white men, and when he made a little money, he wrapped the \$1 bills in wax paper so they would not be ruined by his own sweat. He was not registered to vote, and had never fought against the segregation that was as much a fact of life for him as a hoe handle or cotton sack.

He died huddled in a car’s back seat, killed by men who needed a piece of bar, who needed to kill a black man so brutally in the summer of 1966 that the act itself would lure the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Natchez, Miss., so that they could assassinate him.

Today, in a federal courtroom in Jackson, Mr. White, the 67-year-old field hand, became, officially, a martyr of the civil rights movement.

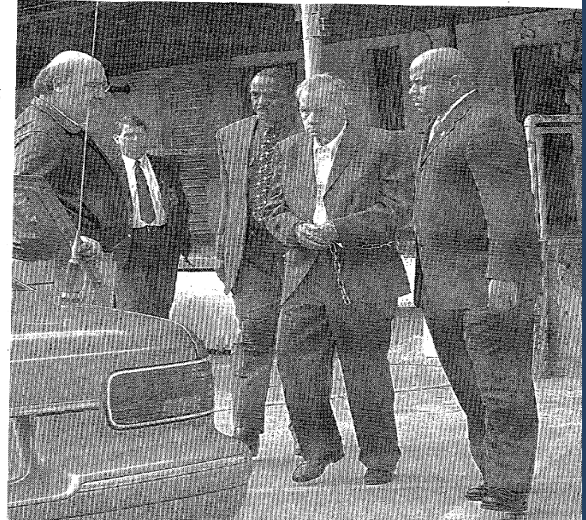
After just three hours of deliberations and a three-day trial, a jury of nine whites and three blacks found Ernest Avants, 72, a former Klansman and the last living suspect in this old case, guilty of murdering Mr. White as part of a bee-inspired plot to draw Dr. King down to them.

“Imagine the hatred,” said Paige Fitzgerald, a trial lawyer with the United States Department of Justice, after helping to convict Mr. Avants. It was just the latest of several convictions over the last decade of old killers in civil rights cases who thought they had gotten clean away. But it was the first federal murder trial, and the first to involve a victim who was not a civil rights hero or well-known casualty, like Medgar Evers, a civil rights hero in Mississippi, or the four girls killed in the Birmingham church bombing.

This courtroom has been a time machine where the past and the present have collided,” said Jack Lacy, the federal prosecutor who tried the case here.

Mr. Avants, who has suffered a stroke and other health problems, showed no emotion as the verdict was read. His wife, Martha, sat near him, impassive, her arms crossed on her chest. Mr. Avants had predicted this, speaking to a reporter four years ago.

“Hell,” he said then, “they’ll prob-



Ernest Avants, above, was led away yesterday after his conviction. **Ben Chester White, left, is the son of Mr. Avants's victim, Ben Chester White.**



15 to 18 bullets into him from an automatic rifle, murdering him in the back seat of a 1966 Chevrolet as he cried out, “Oh Lord, what have I done to deserve this.”

To corroborate that testimony from Mr. Jones, who was granted a mistrial in 1967 despite confessing to the killing, prosecutors in the new trial brought Mr. Kornblum back into the courtroom.

“An eyewitness account and the

splashed on him from the shotgun blast.

Mr. Royals asked the jury if they would want such a man to be their doctor or stockbroker.

“If I when I need to want to,” said Mr. Royals, pretending to quote Mr. Jones. “I’ll sometimes, but I’m telling the truth now, so believe me.”

Ms. Fitzgerald countered with these words, “Crimes committed in hell do not have any real effect on

# Successful Prosecutions



James Ford Seale  
Federal Conviction, 2007

Saturday, August 25, 2007  
clintonfdgpr.com

**James Ford Seale's crime is unpardonable because only numbers could inflict this. The pulse of this community still thrubs with sorrow.**  
U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate

## 3 life terms for Seale

James Ford Seale of Roxie is escorted into the James O. Eastland Federal Courthouse in downtown Jackson on Friday for sentencing in U.S. District Court.

### Dozens of other civil-rights era cases eyed

By Jerry Mitchell  
In the 1960s...

The Justice Department is investigating more than 100 cold cases from the civil-rights era like the case that James Ford Seale received since his sentencing Friday in connection with — the abducting, beating and unavailing of two black teenagers 43 years ago.

The crime is "unpardonable because only numbers could inflict this," U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate told the 72-year-old defendant in his sentencing Friday in downtown Jackson. "The pulse of this community still thrubs with sorrow."

A federal jury in June convicted Seale, a former crop duster, of complicity and two counts of kidnapping in the May 2, 1964, slayings of Henry Hezekiah Rice and Charles Eddie Moore. The two 19-year-olds were hitchhiking in Maconville when Klansmen picked them up, took them to a secluded forest, beat them, then dumped them to the Mississippi River, where they were beheaded, weighted down and thrown.

Seale's June 24 conviction was the 23rd since 1998 for crimes from the civil rights era that have been re-prosecuted, when authorities reopened the 1963 assassination of Mississippi NAACP field secretary Medgar Evers in Jackson.

At a news conference "Why, following See SEAT 2, 2A

**ONLINE**  
clintonfdgpr.com

Interviewed: Five-time U.S. Marshal Stanley Seale is sentencing Seale's son, James F.D.P. Seale, who was born from Fitzgerald, Thomas Moore.

# Successful Prosecutions



Thomas Edwin Blanton  
AL conviction, 2001



Bobby Frank Cherry  
AL conviction, 2002



# Successful Prosecutions



Edgar Ray Killen  
MS conviction, 2005



James Bonard Fowler  
AL conviction, 2010

# Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Cold Case Unit

<https://www.fbi.gov/services/laboratory>

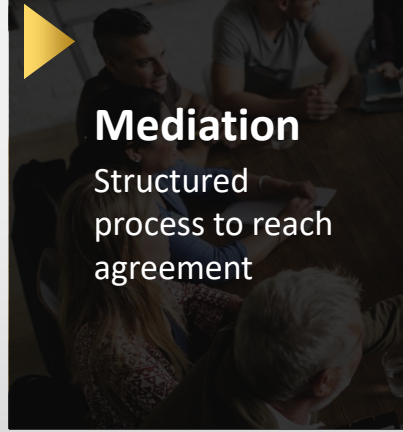
This website provides information on FBI lab resources and capabilities available to assist state, local and tribal law enforcement on cold case investigations.

**Randy Gonzalez**, Supervisory Special Agent  
Civil Rights Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
202-324-3432

# U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS)



**Facilitation**  
Convening parties in dialogue to identify issues and solutions



**Mediation**  
Structured process to reach agreement



**Consultation**  
Technical assistance, best practices, models, and evidence-based resources



**Training**  
Knowledge or skills-based programs



# CRS Service Areas



## Administration of Justice

- Police-community relations
- Controversial incidents
- Alleged bias or hate incidents/crimes



## Education

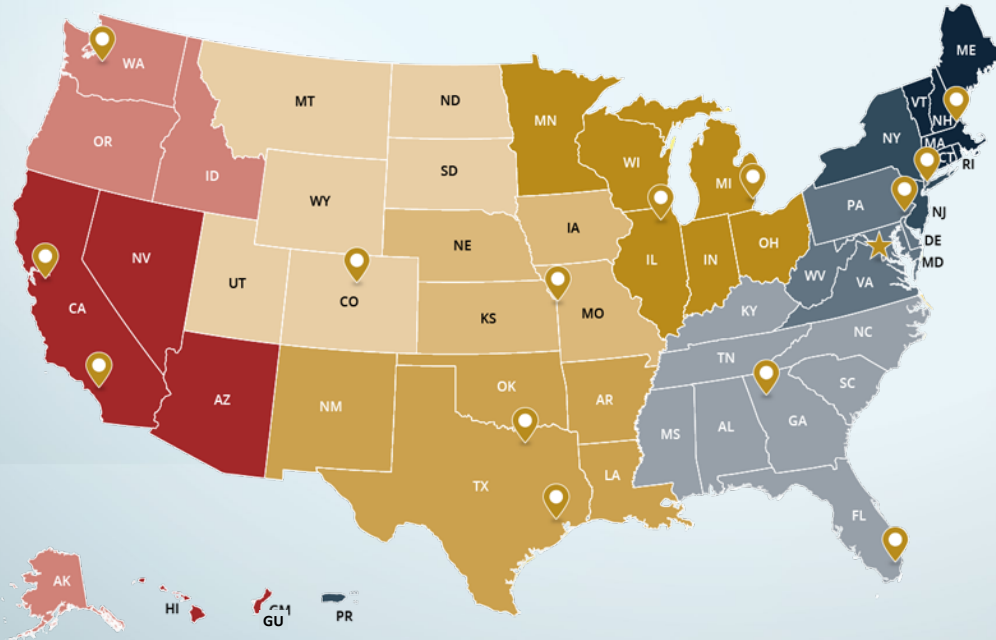
- Intergroup tensions in schools
- Alleged bias or hate incidents/crimes in schools
- Alleged bullying



## General Community Relations

- Demographic shifts
- Language-based conflicts
- Public demonstrations or controversial events
- Alleged bias or hate incidents/crimes

# CRS Regional and Field Office Locations



legend

- New England Regional Office (ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI)
- Northeastern Regional Office (NY, NJ, VI, PR)
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Office (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV)
- Southeastern Regional Office (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)
- Midwestern Regional Office (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)
- Central Regional Office (IA, KS, MO, NE)
- Southwestern Regional Office (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)
- Rocky Mountain Regional Office (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)
- Northwestern Regional Office (AK, ID, OR, WA)
- Western Regional Office (AZ, CA, GU, HI, NV)
- Regional Office Locations

To contact a CRS office,  
email [askCRS@usdoj.gov](mailto:askCRS@usdoj.gov)

# Application Tips

Top application tips to prevent issues that may delay access to funds post award

(1) SF 424, Legal Name/Address/Tax EIN:	(2) SF 424/SAM registration:	(3) SF 424/Authorized Representative:
<p>The legal name/Tax EIN/Address/DUNS entered in the SF-424 should be for the legal entity that will be receiving and managing the funds. Please carefully review and follow the guidance in the Application Resource Guide that is linked via the solicitation.</p>	<p>When processing awards, OJP/BJA uses SAM.gov to confirm active registration and verify the legal name/address entered in the SF-424. If there is a discrepancy with what is entered in the SF-424 and the SAM entity registration associated with the DUNS number, you will be asked to address this and/or BJA will need to issue the award based on the SAM registration.</p>	<p>The authorized representative listed in the SF-424 should be the official with authority to sign and accept grant agreements for the legal entity applying for the award. In general, this will be the highest elected official of the applicant agency. OJP uses the internet to confirm prior to award. If someone else in your agency has been delegated authority to sign award documents, you should attach to your application a letter of delegation on agency letterhead, signed by the highest elected official/governing body, which explicitly gives this person authority to sign the award document.</p>

# Application Tips

Top application tips to prevent issues that may delay access to funds post award

(4) SF 424/Funding:	(5) Budget/Proper Format:	(6) Budget/Unallowable Costs:
<p>The total federal request entered in the SF-424 should match the total federal request in your application budget for the entire project period.</p>	<p>It is required that you use the Budget Detail Worksheet template that is linked in the solicitation for your application. If you use a different format, it is possible to receive an award but you will not be able to access funds until a budget in the proper format is submitted and approved post-award.</p>	<p>Please do not include any of the costs listed in the “Budget Information” section, and make sure any proposed federal costs avoid supplanting. If such costs are identified in your application budget and you receive an award, you will need to revise your budget before receiving funds.</p>

# Application Tips

Top application tips to prevent issues that may delay access to funds post award (cont.)

(7) Budget/Subgrants:	(8) Budget:	(9) Application Attachments/General:
<p>The budget template distinguishes between subgrants versus procurement contracts. You should carefully OJP Grant Application Resource Guide (linked in the solicitation) subsection titled “Information on Proposed Subawards (if any) and Proposed Procurement Contracts (if any)” to properly categorize your costs in these sections. If BJA has questions about the identification of a particular relationship in the budget, we may place a hold on funds.</p>	<p>Be sure that funding requested is consistent with the allowable activities under the solicitation and OJP financial manual. You should carefully OJP Grant Application Resource Guide (linked in the solicitation) for more details.</p>	<p>Follow <u>exactly</u> the “What an Application Should Include” section. It is very helpful for reviewers if each attachment is a separate file named/numbered as it is in the solicitation. If you combine attachments (not recommended), please include a table of contents with page numbers.</p>

# Application Tips

Top application tips to prevent issues that may delay access to funds post award

## (10) Application Attachments: Disclosure of Pending Applications/Time Task Plan

Disclosure of Pending Applications is required for all applicants, whether you have duplications to declare or not. Please use the legal name listed in the SF-424 in the disclosure language. Be sure to enclose a Time/Task plan and resumes/position descriptions as required.

# BJA Cold Case Investigation Resources

For information on the FBI Cold Case Initiative, see:

<https://www.justice.gov/crt/cold-case-initiative>.

For other BJA training and tools on cold case investigations see:

<https://www.sakitta.org/>

<https://bj.a.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/Publications/promising-strategies-for-strengthening-homicide-investigations.pdf>

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800–518–4726, 606–545–5035, at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>, or at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

# Questions?



# Application Assistance and Support

## National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Response Center:

- **Phone** 800–851–3420
- **TTY** 301–240–6310 (hearing impaired only)
- **E-mail** [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov)
- **Fax** 301–240–5830
- **Web chat** <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>
- **Hours of operation** 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. ET M - F, (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET on Due Date)
- **Subscribe** to JustInfo and Funding News from NCJRS

**A Elizabeth Griffith**  
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202-616-2008