

## Funding Opportunity: National Institute of Justice Releases FY 2021 W.E.B. Du Bois Research Program on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System

*Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – October 5, 2021*

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Department of Justice's (DOJ) primary research office, released a funding call for the W.E.B. Du Bois Program of Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System for fiscal year (FY) 2021. The program seeks to fund research that uncovers ways to reduce empirical racial and ethnic inequalities at the criminal and juvenile levels of the justice system. Research topics can include policing practices, defense resources, pre-trial release practices, charging practices, sanctions, access to treatment services, and post-release programs. This program furthers DOJ's mission to promote civil rights by adding to the base of knowledge on the intersections of race, crime, violence, and justice. This is the program's first competition since FY 2018.

NIJ will award funding in two categories:

1. **W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars:** Projects should support researchers who are advanced in their careers as they train and mentor less-experienced justice researchers. Proposals must include the curriculum vitae of the mentee, a career development plan, a description of mentoring resources and their availability, career skills training plan(s), and a statement assuring that "at least one peer-reviewed journal article will be first-authored by the mentee." Normally, projects will be funded at a minimum of \$500,000. Grant periods are expected to be around 3-5 years.
2. **W.E.B. Du Bois Fellows:** Early-career fellowships enable a single researcher to undertake projects with the option of a short-term residency at NIJ. Fellowships are expected to last 24 months and be funded at a minimum of \$250,000. Prospective fellows must "possess a terminal degree in their field, and not have been awarded tenure by December 31, 2021."

All proposals must investigate racial and ethnic inequality in the justice system through the context of criminal or juvenile justice, or both. NIJ encourages researchers from underrepresented communities to apply. Proposers may choose to form researcher-practitioner partnerships in which researchers propose "practical solutions" to issues of racial and ethnic disparity in the justice system, and criminal justice practitioners assess research and measure potential outcomes. Through these partnerships, NIJ hopes to marry academic research excellence with end-user realities. Partnership proposals should include a letter of support from the partnering agency and a formal agreement. The letter of support should be signed on behalf of the partnering agency certifying that research data will be de-identified and archived in the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the end of the project. NIJ strongly encourages proposers and partners to review NACJD's policies [here](#).

**Eligibility:** All higher education institutions, small businesses, for-profit organizations, nonprofits, independent school districts, Native American tribal governments and organizations, county governments, special district governments, and state governments are eligible to apply to this solicitation.

# LEWIS–BURKE

ASSOCIATES LLC

**Awards:** NIJ anticipates awarding a total of \$3 million for this program. In certain cases, NIJ will provide additional funding to awardees through continuation awards. Proposers are encouraged to structure proposals into phases with milestone funding delineated.

**Submission Process and Key Dates:** DOJ has a new submission process for FY 2021. Applicants must submit a SF-424 and SF-LLL to [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) or [here](#). For assistance when submitting your SF-424 and SF-LLL, email [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). These items are due by **December 30, 2021, at 11:59 PM ET**. Full applications are due by **January 13, 2022, at 11:59 PM ET** to JustGrants, at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://JustGrants.usdoj.gov). NIJ will hold a webinar on **October 19, 2021, at 1:00 PM ET** to provide application guidance and discuss the goals and purpose of this program, which you can register for [here](#).

*Sources and Additional Information:*

- The full solicitation can be found at <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/O-NIJ-2021-171008.pdf>.
- The W.E.B. Du Bois Program of Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System webpage is available at <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-nij-2021-171008>.
- Additional information on the program's webinar is available at <https://nij.ojp.gov/events/web-du-bois-program-research-reducing-racial-and-ethnic-disparities-justice-system-fiscal>.