



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Center for Justice Research
cjr@bgsu.edu
Office: (419) 372-0224

Science Informing Policy

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Bail Reform in Ohio

2022 Competitive Grant Solicitation

RFP #: CJR-2022-001

Solicitation Release Date: February 18, 2022

Application Deadline: Friday, April 1, 2022 at 11:59pm EST

Amount to be Funded: One or more awards, up to \$90,000 total

Center for Justice Research

Office of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost

Director John H. Boman, IV, Ph.D., Bowling Green State University

**Request for Proposals (RFP): Bail Reform in Ohio
2022 Competitive Grant Solicitation**

The Center for Justice Research (CJR) requests applications for proposals for original research on bail reform in the State of Ohio.

Eligibility Criteria to be Considered for FundingEligibility Requirements of Research Team

- Individual researchers or research teams (multiple researchers) are eligible to apply, pending individual team member requirements listed below are satisfied

Eligibility Requirements of Principal Investigators (PIs)

- The PI of the research team must be an employee of a university or college in the State of Ohio
- A Ph.D. or equivalent research degree is required

Eligibility Requirements of Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) and Investigators

- Co-PIs and Investigators can be employees of colleges, universities, or research organizations inside or outside of Ohio
- Co-PIs must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent research degree

Eligibility Requirements for Students

- Masters-level and doctoral-level students are not allowed as Co-PIs, but are eligible to be Investigators
- Undergraduate-level students are eligible to be research team members as research assistants (RAs), but are not allowed to be Co-PIs or Investigators

Contact Information

For general and technical questions about this RFP, please contact cjr@bgsu.edu or call Christina Guinsler, Assistant to the Director, at 419-372-0224. For substantive questions about this RFP, please contact Dr. John Boman, Director of the CJR, at jboman@bgsu.edu or 419-372-3874. The CJR is staffed during normal business hours, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Deadline

Completed applications (cover page + abstract + narrative + capabilities and competencies + budget + budget narrative + Curriculum Vitae [CVs] + supporting materials [if necessary]) should be sent in one combined file (a combined PDF) to cjr@bgsu.edu by 11:59pm on Friday, April 1, 2022. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding.

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Program Description

Over the past several years, bail reform has become a topic that has received considerable attention in research as well as in legislatures and courtrooms across the United States. With the rapidly changing landscape on the status of bail processes – including money bond and pretrial detention practices – across the country, the CJR invites applications for research on bail reform in the State of Ohio.

Broadly, we are seeking a project or projects that can provide concrete, meaningful, and actionable policy recommendations to the Office of the Ohio Attorney General (AGO) and provide guidance as to how to improve bail, bond, and pretrial detention practices in the State of Ohio.

The purpose of this solicitation is to support one or more projects that will:

1. Focus specifically on bail, bond, and pretrial detention practices in the State of Ohio;
2. Use Ohio-based, existing and / or original data, and;
3. Provide findings specific to the State of Ohio that carry clear, meaningful, and actionable policy recommendations that can inform the AGO as to how Ohio could best address bail reform.

While we have a basic core of questions that we would like answered (see below), the CJR is leaving the research questions largely up to the discretion of the research team. However, we would like to note that the CJR and the AGO are especially interested in projects that can provide research-based, objective, empirical evidence as to what that State of Ohio could do with the bail reform topic to improve public safety and reduce recidivism through fiscally responsible policies.

At minimum, a successful proposal will be able to answer the following questions:

1. What are the current standard practices across the State of Ohio for bail / bond / pretrial detention?
2. Which bail / bond / pretrial detention policies are the most effective at reducing crime and recidivism in Ohio? Why?

Beyond these two basic questions, the CJR encourages researchers to be creative in the formulation of research questions and research design.

Priority Areas

This RFP has three Priority Areas:

1. The possibility of a ‘natural experiment’ from COVID-19
2. Public opinions on bail reform in Ohio
3. The role of bail / bond / pretrial detention practices in impacting sentencing outcomes, family relationships (including intimate partners and children), and employment for offenders in Ohio.

The CJR wishes to note that Priority Areas are not rank ordered. Instead, all Priority Areas are equally weighted. The CJR also notes that these Priority Areas are not mutually exclusive from one another, meaning that research teams can address multiple Priority Areas in the same project.

Priority Areas that are addressed by proposals should be clearly identified and justified in the narrative (see the next pages on instructions of where to put this in the narrative).

Priority Area 1: COVID-19

During 2020, pretrial detention, bond, and bail were used much more sparingly to slow the spread of COVID-19 in jails. The AGO and CJR wonder whether this change in practice could potentially be used by a research team as somewhat of a ‘natural experiment’ to examine how changes in bail / bond / pretrial detention impacted recidivism / arrest / community risk / calls for service (i.e., 911 calls) / specific crime types across the State of Ohio. While we are leaving specific research questions up to research teams, taking advantage of these natural-experiment-like conditions from COVID-19 will satisfy this Priority Area. Accordingly, the CJR has identified COVID-19 as Priority Area 1 for funding consideration.

Priority Area 2: Public Opinions

The AGO and the CJR would like to have a research team identify opinions of the general public across Ohio to get a metric for 1) how supportive people are of bail reform and 2) what changes, if any, are preferred and which are not. Although there are many options as to how Priority Area 2 could be addressed, some sort of survey-based, original data methodology seems logical.

Priority Area 3: Sentencing, Families and Jobs

Research highlights that people who are detained throughout the pretrial process have considerably worse sentencing outcomes compared to people who are not. Additionally, research has demonstrated that individuals who are detained throughout the pretrial process experience adverse effects in the contexts of maintaining healthy family relationships (including with intimate partners and children) and retaining employment. To what extent are these three things true in the State of Ohio? Are these research findings replicable in Ohio currently, or are there nuances that are important to consider if policy were revised? Research teams who can answer these questions will satisfy Priority Area 3.

Objectives and Deliverables

Objectives

With this RFP, the goal of the AGO and CJR is to fund a project or projects that can help guide policy on bail reform in Ohio.

Deliverables

Research teams who are successfully funded must provide quarterly updates on progress to the CJR.

A final report in the form of an Executive Summary is required at the completion of the project. This document should be written in size 12 Times New Roman font with 1” margins and single-

spaced pages. The Executive Summary is not to exceed five pages of main text (the title page, table of contents, and works cited are not included in this document's main page count). The CJR encourages the use of visuals in this document.

In addition, a policy brief, written for a general audience, is also required at the conclusion of the project. The policy brief is not to exceed two pages of 12 point, single-spaced, Times New Roman font at 1" margins. The CJR encourages the use of visuals in this document.

There is also a possibility that the PI and / or research team could be asked to give a presentation (or presentations) to the CJR and AGO and / or various political actors in the State of Ohio at the conclusion of the project. If this occurs, the CJR will provide supplemental funding for travel and time reimbursement for all involved parties (please do not budget this in your proposal).

Application Information

Applications must be completed to be considered for funding. Applications should be submitted as one combined file (a PDF) and include the following components:

1. Cover page
2. The abstract
3. The narrative
4. Capabilities and competencies of the research team
5. The budget
6. The budget narrative
7. Current CVs of the research team
8. Any supplemental or supporting materials

Cover Page

On the cover page, please list the following things:

- Project title
- The research team members, their roles (e.g., PI, Co-PI, Investigator, RA), and their institutions
- The PI institution's administrative point of contact for grants (the person who is responsible for grant management) and this person's full contact information
- The PI institution's authorized organizational representative (AOR) and the AOR's full contact information
- Project period (with April 25, 2022 as the start date; projects must be concluded by June 30, 2023)

Abstract

Proposals should include an abstract that outlines the project in 250 words or less. Please write the abstract for a general audience as it will be circulated through the AGO and potentially the Governor's Office and legislature.

Narrative (50% of score)

The narrative should be written for an academic audience. It should describe in detail the project, the project's goals, and how the project will reach the goals. The narrative should be broken down into the following parts:

- Part 1: Description of the Project. In this section, please describe the project in detail and clearly lay out the goals of the project, research questions, and hypotheses. The narrative must address the Priority Areas which the project is tapping in this section.
- Part 2: Project Design and Implementation. In this section, describe the methodology through which project goals will be reached. Be explicitly clear about how existing / original data will be used / collected and the analytical strategy that will be implemented to answer the research questions. All qualitative and / or quantitative methodologies should be technically described in this section. Please include a timeline for the project in this section as well.
- Part 3: Potential Impact on Policy. In this section, please discuss the overall impact that the findings from this project could potentially have on policy practices in Ohio.

The narrative should be written in size 12 Times New Roman font with 1" margins. Narratives should be single-spaced and not exceed six pages in length (including any figures / tables / etc. that the authors choose to include).

Capabilities and Competencies (25% of score)

In this section, describe the qualifications and expertise of each member of the research team, beginning with the PI. For each person, describe their experience with research, accomplishments, and carefully lay out what the responsibilities of each person on the research team will be.

For projects involving students: Please discuss prior and current collaborations between students and the PI / Co-PI(s).

The capabilities and competencies should be written in size 12 Times New Roman font with 1" margins. Capabilities and competencies should be single-spaced and not exceed two pages in length.

Note: This section does not count towards the overall length of the narrative.

Budget (15% of score)

Please include a detailed budget as to all costs of the proposed project.

Budget Narrative (10% of score)

Please include a budget narrative which justifies line items included in the budget.

CVs of the Research Team

The CVs of the research team, starting with the PI, should be included in the main submission file. The CJR accepts CVs in any form – a standardized CV is not necessary.

Supplemental and Supporting Documents

If necessary, the research team may include supporting documentation to demonstrate feasibility of the project in this section. If the project involves working with an agency or agencies, a letter of support (LOS) or a memorandum of understanding (MOU) / memorandum of agreement (MOA) is strongly encouraged.

Review Team

Applications will be peer-reviewed by a team of criminologists who are active in research (faculty).

Award Information

Number of awards expected: One or more

Maximum dollar amount for each award: \$90,000

Total amount to be awarded: \$90,000

Start date: April 25, 2022

Maximum project duration: Projects must be concluded by June 30, 2023

Budget Information

Indirect Rate

The CJR will pay a maximum of 10% indirect costs for funded projects. Indirect costs should be included in proposed budgets and budget narratives.

Unallowable Uses of Award Funds

The CJR follows Department of Justice (DOJ) guidelines for unallowable costs. Please refer to the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) for more information.

Cost Sharing or Match Requirement

There is no match required for this RFP.

Grant Management

Funded projects should be run through the PI institution's research office.

Dissemination of Research

The CJR wants research that is conducted with our funds to be disseminated as widely as possible. We encourage (and expect) funded research to be published in scholarly peer-reviewed journals and disseminated in scholarly conference presentations, practitioner outlets, research briefs, policy briefs, and so forth. Researchers who are successfully funded must include an acknowledgement to the funding mechanism, the CJR, and the AGO in all products using CJR-supported data.

Data Sharing

To ensure replicability and transparency, data that are generated by funding from the CJR must be deposited at the University of Michigan's Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) within six months of the conclusion of the project.