



**From:** BVP Email Account [<mailto:ojp@public.govdelivery.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, April 13, 2018 9:34 AM

**To:** Ken Bounds

**Subject:** Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) – FY 2018 Application Announcement Updated Links

Dear BVP Participant:

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to announce the Fiscal Year 2018 BVP application funding period.

Applications for FY 2018 BVP funds will be accepted beginning Thursday, April 12, 2018. All applications must be submitted online at <https://ojp.gov/bvpbasi/> (Updated Link) by 6:00 pm (e.d.t.), Tuesday, May 29, 2018.

Important Information Regarding FY 2018 BVP Funds:

**1.** Jurisdictions receiving funding for reimbursement of body armor purchases must have a written mandatory wear policy for uniformed patrol officers in place when the FY 2018 BVP applications are submitted. Please see the BVP mandatory FAQs for further guidance on this requirement: <https://ojp.gov/bvpbasi/docs/FAQsBVPMandatoryWearPolicy.pdf> (Updated Link)

**2.** Uniquely Fitted Armor Vest Requirement: The BVP Reauthorization Act of 2015 included a provision that states that BJA may give preferential consideration to BVP recipients that provide armor vests to law enforcement officers that are uniquely fitted for such officers, including vests uniquely fitted to individual female law enforcement officers. This provision is applicable to FY 17 BVP awards moving forward. Please see the BVP Reauthorization Act of 2015 amendment for reference: <https://www.congress.gov/114/plaws/publ155/PLAW-114publ155.pdf>.

In the BVP Program, "uniquely fitted vests" means protective (ballistic or stab-resistant) armor vests that conform to the individual wearer to provide the best possible fit and coverage, through a combination of: 1) correctly-sized panels and carrier, determined through appropriate measurement, and 2) properly adjusted straps, harnesses, fasteners, flaps, or other adjustable features. The requirement that body armor be "uniquely fitted" does not necessarily require body armor that is individually manufactured based on the measurements of an individual wearer. In support of the Office of Justice Programs' efforts to improve officer safety, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International has made available the *Standard Practice for Body Armor Wearer Measurement and Fitting of Armor* (Active Standard ASTM E3003) available at no cost. The [Personal Armor Fit Assessment checklist](#), is excerpted from ASTM E3003.

In addition, a certification section has been added to the 2018 application (in the BVP system) stating the jurisdictions and law enforcement agency are aware of and will comply with this fitted vest requirement.

**3.** Each vest purchased with FY 2018 funds must meet National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standards on the date it was ordered and must be American-made. Please see this website for the latest NIJ compliant vests: [https://www.justnet.org/other/ballistic\\_cpl.html](https://www.justnet.org/other/ballistic_cpl.html) and [https://www.justnet.org/other/stab\\_cpl.html](https://www.justnet.org/other/stab_cpl.html).

**4.** Jurisdictions with more than one law enforcement agency (LEA) associated with the jurisdiction account may not submit a separate application. Instead, the LEAs associated with jurisdictions with more than one LEA must submit their own application information and vest needs to the jurisdiction. The jurisdiction will then submit the LEA applications in one submission to BJA.

**5.** To ensure that program participants are submitting applications that accurately reflect their vest needs for the next two years, please review the program guidance below. Prior to submitting an application for FY 2018 BVP funds:

a. Verify that the number of vests indicated on the application does not exceed actual agency needs. Review all currently deployed vests for those that will need to be replaced during the next two years, according to the replacement cycle indicated on your BVP system profile. Applications for funds should reflect the number of vests your agency needs to replace within the next two years, and vests for officers your agency anticipates hiring in the next two years. (New hires can be anticipated based on the average number of officers hired over the most recent three years.)

b. Ensure that the application accurately reflects the current market cost for the vests identified on the application.

c. Review previous year(s) BVP funding to identify any unspent funds that might currently be available for BVP needs.

Your careful attention to actual vest needs will help ensure that all eligible jurisdictions submitting requests will receive the maximum award allowable based on the appropriation and distribution guidelines.

**6.** BJA has completed user guides and training materials for the BVP application process and the payment request process. Please see the following website for the guides and checklists:

<http://ojp.gov/bvpbasi/bvpprogramresources.htm>

For questions regarding this email or for assistance with the online application process, please do not hesitate to call the BVP Help Desk at 1-877-758-3787, or email [vests@usdoj.gov](mailto:vests@usdoj.gov).

Sincerely,

The BVP Program Team

Bureau of Justice Assistance <https://ojp.gov/bvpbasi/>

---

This email was sent to [kbounds@nrhtx.com](mailto:kbounds@nrhtx.com) using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Office of Justice Programs · 810 Seventh Street, NW · Washington, DC 20531 · 202-514-2000