

BJA's Justice Today



BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE • OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

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BVP Application Opens Today!

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to announce the opening of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) **Program application period**. Through the BVP Program, states, units of local government, and tribal governments are **reimbursed up to 50 percent of the cost of each unit of eligible body armor purchased for law enforcement officers**.

[Click here](#) to apply today!

How to Apply for BVP Funds

The BVP application period will be open from **May 16–July 7, 2011**. Only applications submitted through the electronic **BVP System** will be eligible for consideration.

For additional questions regarding the BVP application process, visit **www.ojp.gov/bvpbasi** or contact BJA at **vests@usdoj.gov**.

NEW Mandatory Wear Policy Requirement

In order to receive BVP funds, jurisdictions must certify, during the application process, that all law enforcement agencies benefitting from the BVP Program have a written "mandatory wear" policy in effect. This policy must be in place for at least all uniformed officers before any FY 2011 funding can be used by the agency. There are no requirements regarding the nature of the policy, other than it being a mandatory wear policy for all uniformed officers while on duty. BJA strongly encourages agencies to consult the International Association of Chiefs of Police's Model Policy on Body Armor and to consider all of the recommendations listed in the policy. To obtain a copy of the Model Policy, contact the BVP Customer Support Center at 1-877-758-3787 or e-mail **vests@usdoj.gov**.



[Notice: Critical Program Information \(Click here.\)](#)

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BVP

**44
DAYS**

Due July 7, 2011

Bulletproof Vest Partnership



The **Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP)**, created by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998 is a unique U.S. Department of Justice initiative designed to provide a critical resource to state and local law enforcement.

Since 1999, over 13,000 jurisdictions have participated in the BVP Program, with \$277 million in federal funds committed to support the purchase of an estimated 800,000 vests. The Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the BVP Program.

NEW: The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to announce the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 BVP application funding period.

Applications for FY 2011 BVP funds will be accepted beginning Monday, May 16, 2011. All applications must be submitted online by 6:00 pm (Eastern Time), Thursday, July, 7 2011.

Please note that FY 2011 BVP funds may only be used toward the purchase of vests ordered on or after April 1, 2011. Each vest purchased with FY 2011 funds must meet National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standards on the date it was ordered. Beginning with FY 2008 funds, the use period for BVP funds will be two years. To draw down FY 2011 BVP funds, vests must be received and the request for payment submitted to the BVP system by August 31, 2013. **Each applicant should update their profile before filing an application for FY 2011 funds.**

Planning Your FY 2011 BVP Application

- Check Prior Year BVP Funds
- Check Your Jurisdiction and Contact Information & Update if Needed
- Be sure that the vests you intend to purchase are on the [NIJ compliant list](#)
- FY 2011 BVP Funds can only be used for vests ordered after April 1, 2011.
- Have a written Mandatory Wear policy in place when application is submitted

For additional information, click [here](#).

Important Information - New BVP Program Requirements for FY 2011 Applications

NEW! UPDATED Mandatory Wear FAQs

Following two years of declining law enforcement officer line-of-duty deaths, the country realized a dramatic 37 percent increase in officer deaths in 2010. Fifty-nine of the 160 officers killed in 2010 were shot during violent encounters; a 20 percent increase over 2009 numbers. The U.S. Department of Justice is committed to improving officer safety and has undertaken research to review and analyze violent encounters and law enforcement officer deaths and injuries. Due to the increase in the number of law enforcement officer deaths, coupled with our renewed

Body Armor Safety Initiative



Body Armor Safety Initiative - An Initiative of U.S. Department of Justice. In response to concerns from the law enforcement community, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced an initiative to address the reliability of body armor used by law enforcement personnel and to examine the future of bullet-resistant technology and testing. As part of this initiative, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has examined Zylon®-based bullet-resistant vests (both new and used) and is reviewing the process by which bullet-resistant vests are certified.

Body Armor Labels: When In Doubt Check It Out
([Click here for additional information](#))

NEW 04/07/2011: NIJ Body Armor Advisory Notice

- [Galls model AIIAF \(Apr. 1, 2011\)](#)
- [Galls model CIIIAF \(Apr. 1, 2011\)](#)
- [PACA model AIIF \(Apr. 1, 2011\)](#)
- [Galls model AIIF \(Apr. 1, 2011\)](#)
- [Galls model AIIF \(Apr. 1, 2011\)](#)
- [PACA model CIIIAF \(Apr. 1, 2011\)](#)

Note: BVP Program participants that have ordered, but have not as yet received, any units of the above listed models of body armor, should contact the manufacturer immediately.

Previous National Institute of Justice Body Armor Alerts

12/22/2010:

- [Pacific Safety Products, Inc. Model 06UG2A8H](#)
- [GH Armor Systems Model 06UG2A8H](#)

5/28/2008:

- [Model TBL II S6XF](#)
- [Model MF34F-06](#)
- [Model NFORCE II S6XF-06](#)

8/25/2008: [New National Institute of Justice Body Armor Standard 0101.06](#)

2/20/2008: [Bullet-Resistant Body Armor Models Removed from NIJ Body Armor List](#)

[National Institute of Justice Body Armor Safety Initiative Website](#)

[Body Armor Safety Initiative Archive](#)

**All media contacts should be directed to the [Office of Justice Programs, Office of Communications](#).

efforts to improve officer safety, beginning with FY 2011, in order to receive BVP funds, jurisdictions must certify, during the application process, that all law enforcement agencies benefitting from the BVP Program have a written "mandatory wear" policy in effect. This policy must be in place for at least all uniformed officers before any FY 2011 funding can be used by the agency. There are no requirements regarding the nature of the policy other than it being a mandatory wear policy for all uniformed officers while on duty. BJA strongly encourages agencies to consult the International Association of Chiefs of Police's Model Policy on Body Armor and to strongly consider all recommendations within that policy. This policy change was announced in October 2010 by Attorney General Holder after consulting with and receiving input from the law enforcement community.

The IACP has very generously provided both its Body Armor Model Policy and position paper to the BVP program. In order to obtain a copy of the Model Policy and position paper, jurisdictions must be registered with the BVP program. To obtain a copy of the Model Policy, contact the BVP Customer Support Center at 1-877-758-3787 or email vests@usdoj.gov.

For additional information regarding this new BVP program requirement, click [here](#).

Notice - Check Prior Year BVP Funds: Prior to completing an application for FY 2011 BVP funds, it is strongly recommended that prior year participants log into the BVP system and check for prior year BVP fund balances and the "de-obligation date"/use expiration date for each year's funds. In some instances the use of prior year funds had been extended. All "Requests for Payments" must be submitted to the BVP system on or before the "de-obligation date" or the funds will be considered expired and will no longer be available.

FY 2010 Awards: On October 7, 2010 the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) announced the availability of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 BVP program funds. FY 2010 BVP funds may only be used to purchase bullet- and stab-resistant vests, ordered on or after April 1, 2010 and that are on the latest National Institute of Justice Body Armor Compliance list on the date the vest was ordered. All requests for payments from FY 2010 BVP awards must be submitted on or before August 31, 2012.

The complete list of FY 2010 BVP awards can be viewed [here](#).

Historical BVP award information for FY 1999 through the FY 2009 can be accessed [here](#)

For immediate assistance, please call us toll-free at 1-877-758-3787. You may also reach us by email at vests@usdoj.gov