

Bulletproof Vest Grant Fund Availability

The Kansas Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (KCJCC) is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds for the Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program. The FY 2015 BVP funds may be used only toward the purchase of approved vests and can fund up to 50 percent of the purchase cost. The application process is now open. Visit the Office of Justice Programs' website, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bvpbasi/>, for detailed information and to apply for BVP grant funds.

Applicant Eligibility: Only chief executives of jurisdictions (or their designees) may apply for funds. Jurisdictions are defined as units of local government or Federally-recognized Indian tribes. All jurisdictions **must apply directly to the Federal Office of Justice Programs** between April 1, 2015 and May 13, 2015.

Beneficiary Eligibility: Only law enforcement officers may receive vests through this program. "Law Enforcement Officer" means any officer, agent, or employee of a State, unit of local government, or an Indian tribe authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, or investigation of any violation of criminal law, or authorized by law to supervise sentenced criminal offenders.

Mandatory Wear Policy Requirement: Agencies receiving funds for reimbursement of body armor purchases must have a written mandatory wear policy for uniformed patrol officers in place when the FY 2015 BVP applications are submitted. For more information on this requirement, please visit the BVP website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bvpbasi/>,

Vest Standards Requirement: Each vest purchased with FY 2015 BVP funds must meet National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standards on the date it was ordered and must be American-made. Please visit the BVP website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bvpbasi/> for the latest information regarding NIJ compliant vests.

Following is a list of general job categories determined to be eligible for this program:

Police Officers	Traffic and Code Enforcement Officers
Sheriff Deputies	Liquor Control/Authority Investigators
Judicial Officers	Juvenile Probation Officers
Prosecutorial Officers	Adult Parole and Probation Officers
Transit Authority Police	Police Chaplains
Fire Marshals	Adult and Juvenile Jail, Detention Center and Correctional Institution Officers
Arson Investigators	State, County and City College and University Police
State Patrol Officer, Troopers Park, Conservation Police	

The following categories are generally considered outside the scope of the Act and are ineligible:

Federal Employees	Emergency Medical Personnel
Vests for K-9 dogs	Fire and Rescue Personnel
Private College and University Police	
Private Correctional Officers or private police officers under contract with a Local, State, or Tribal government to provide related services.	

For more information, contact the Bulletproof Vest Program Toll Free 1-877-75-VESTS or email vests@usdoj.gov.