



*Award Amount* Lisa Meredith <lmeredith@foleypolice.org>  
*\$5107.50 FY 2021 BVP*

## Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) – FY 2021 Award Announcement

1 message

**BVP Email Account** <ojp@public.govdelivery.com>  
Reply-To: ojp@public.govdelivery.com  
To: lmeredith@foleypolice.org

Thu, Oct 14, 2021 at 9:24 AM

Dear BVP applicant,

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to inform you that your jurisdiction will receive an award under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) solicitation. These funds have been posted to your account in the BVP System. A complete list of FY 2021 BVP awards is available at: <https://www.ojp.gov/program/bulletproof-vest-partnership/overview>.

**Important: Jurisdictions must be registered in the SAM system (<https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>) in order to be paid for any 2021 BVP funds.** Please ensure the banking information in SAM is up to date. For more information about renewing and updating your existing SAM registration, or registering in SAM as a new entity, please visit <https://sam.gov/content/status-tracker>. The SAM Helpdesk can be reached at 866- 606-8220.

The FY 2021 award may be used for National Institute of Justice (NIJ) compliant armored vests which were ordered after April 1, 2021. The deadline to request payments from the FY 2021 award is August 31, 2023, or until all available funds have been requested. Awards will not be extended past that date, and any unused funds will be forfeited.

Please see the following websites for a list of NIJ compliant vests: <https://cjtec.org/compliance-testing-program/compliant-product-lists/>

As a reminder, all jurisdictions that applied for FY 2021 BVP funding certified that a mandatory wear policy was in place for their jurisdiction. BJA will be conducting reviews of the mandatory wear policies as funds are requested from the BVP System. For more information on the BVP mandatory wear policy, please see the BVP Frequently Asked Questions document: [https://www.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh241/files/media/document/FAQsBVP MandatoryWearPoli cy\\_0.pdf](https://www.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh241/files/media/document/FAQsBVP MandatoryWearPolicy_0.pdf)

Finally, please visit the following page for checklists and guides for each step of the BVP process: <https://www.ojp.gov/program/bulletproof-vest-partnership/program-resources>

For questions regarding the BVP Program or your award, please do not hesitate to contact the BVP Help Desk at [vests@usdoj.gov](mailto:vests@usdoj.gov) or 1-877-758-3787.

Thank you

BVP Program Support Team  
Bureau of Justice Assistance

FY 2021 BVP Awards

State	Jurisdiction Name (City)	BVP Funding Amount
AK	ALASKA	\$21,627.16
AK	ANCHORAGE MUNICIPALITY	\$23,187.61
AK	DILLINGHAM CITY	\$903.50
AK	FAIRBANKS CITY	\$6,000.00
AK	JUNEAU CITY AND BOROUGH	\$6,183.00
AK	KENAI CITY	\$2,314.75
AK	NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH	\$8,736.00
AK	PALMER CITY	\$5,154.50
AK	PETERSBURG CITY	\$2,180.50
AK	SITKA CITY AND BOROUGH	\$2,312.50
AK	SOLDOTNA CITY	\$2,287.50
	<b>Totals for AK(11 Jurisdictions):</b>	<b>\$80,887.02</b>
AL	ALABAMA	\$38,288.25
AL	ALABASTER CITY	\$3,673.26
AL	ALBERTVILLE CITY	\$2,220.00
AL	ANDALUSIA CITY	\$2,275.00
AL	ANNISTON CITY	\$4,581.50
AL	ATHENS CITY	\$2,250.00
AL	AUBURN CITY	\$4,093.13
AL	AUTAUGA COUNTY	\$6,090.00
AL	BARBOUR COUNTY	\$6,452.50
AL	BESSEMER CITY	\$8,487.50
AL	BIRMINGHAM CITY	\$11,109.98
AL	CALERA CITY	\$3,900.00
AL	COTTONWOOD TOWN	\$437.50
AL	CREOLA TOWN	\$3,298.50
AL	CULLMAN COUNTY	\$2,975.00
AL	DE KALB COUNTY	\$6,168.00
AL	DECATUR CITY	\$14,651.00
AL	DEMOPOLIS CITY	\$3,641.00
AL	ENTERPRISE CITY	\$3,749.95
AL	FAIRHOPE CITY	\$1,755.00
AL	FLORENCE CITY	\$13,061.00
AL	FOLEY CITY	\$5,107.50
AL	GARDENDALE CITY	\$2,362.50
AL	HALEYVILLE CITY	\$2,600.00
AL	HARTFORD CITY	\$2,277.00
AL	HEADLAND CITY	\$2,992.50
AL	HENRY COUNTY	\$2,217.50
AL	HOOVER CITY	\$17,458.93
AL	HUEYTOWN CITY	\$2,850.00
AL	IRONDALE CITY	\$3,399.50
AL	JACKSON CITY	\$1,747.50
AL	JASPER CITY	\$11,075.00

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## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

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# Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership

**Notice: Critical Program Information (Click here.)**

## Overview



The Patrick Leahy 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.

**ONE MILLION VESTS:** Since 1999, the BVP program has awarded more than 13,000 jurisdictions a total of \$522 million in federal funds for the purchase of over one million vests (1,441,013) as of November 2020.

See the complete list of [FY 2021 BVP awards](#).

**System for Award Management (SAM) Registration Requirement:** Jurisdictions must be registered in SAM in order to receive access to FY 2018-2021 BVP award funds. Jurisdictions not registered with SAM are strongly encouraged to access the [SAM website](#) as soon as possible in order to obtain information on and complete the online SAM registration process. For more information about renewing and updating your existing SAM registration, or

registering in SAM as a new entity, please visit <https://sam.gov/content/status-tracker>. The SAM Helpdesk can be reached at 866-606-8220.

**Documentation Requirement:** Grantees are required to keep documentation to support the BVP vest application and payment requests for at least a three year period.

**Other Federal Funds:** Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds or other federal funding sources may not be used to pay for that portion of the bullet proof vest (50%) that is not covered by BVP funds. JAG or other federal funds may be used to purchase vests for an agency, but they may not be used as the 50% match for BVP purposes.

**Uniquely Fitted Armor Vest Requirement** - Jurisdictions receiving funding for reimbursement of body armor purchases must have in place a uniquely fitted vest requirement when the BVP applications are submit.

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 BVP application stating the jurisdictions and law enforcement agency are aware of and will comply with this requirement.

### **[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 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](mailto:vests@usdoj.gov).

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

## Resources

- [Current National Institute of Justice Body Armor Standard 0101.06](#)
- [NIJ Certification Mark](#)
- [NIJ Body Armor Standard 0101.06 Vest List](#)
- [NIJ Selection and Application Guide 0101.06 to Ballistic-Resistant Body Armor](#)
- [Body Armor Labels: When In Doubt .... Check It Out](#)
- [Body Armor Safety Initiative Archive](#)

## Advisories, Notices, and Alerts

**Active NIJ Advisory and Safety Notices**

**Previous NIJ Body Armor Alerts**

## Contacts

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

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

## Latest Advisories [↗](#)

1-19-21 NIJ Advisory Notice: [Safariland, LLC. – Model NS02-2020S-ME](#)

12-4-20 NIJ Advisory Notice: [Beijing V-Great International Co., Ltd. model – VGNIJ3A-2](#)

6-11-20 NIJ Advisory Notice: [Seguicol S.A. de C.V. model – 001PAN-SEGUICOL](#)

1-7-20 NIJ Safety Notice: [Hesco Armor, Inc., model 3610](#)

6-18-19 NIJ Advisory Notice: [Power Hit S.A. de C.V. model – PHXP](#)

[All Active Advisories](#)



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# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program**

### **Mandatory Wear Requirement**

**Updated: April 2020**

**Q. Why is a mandatory wear requirement necessary under the DOJ's Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program?**

A. The requirement is intended to ensure the use of body armor to protect law enforcement officers and reduce line-of-duty deaths. This requirement ensures that vests purchased through the BVP program will be used to the maximum benefit in protecting officers. This is particularly important given that many agencies and officers cannot afford the total cost of protective vests and with limited BVP funding BJA has been unable to reimburse the maximum 50 percent for all requested vests.

**Q. Isn't this policy requirement best left to local law enforcement agencies to decide?**

A. BJA implemented this policy requirement to reduce line of duty deaths and disabling injuries and to ensure that taxpayer funding, appropriated by Congress specifically for body armor to protect officers, is spent wisely and that the armor is used in the field. This requirement was carefully written to ensure that local law enforcement agencies maintain significant discretion in how this requirement is met locally. There are no requirements regarding the nature of the policy other than it **specify when mandatory wear is required** for uniformed officers on duty.

**Q. Does this requirement pertain to all DOJ funding that may be used for body armor?**

A. This requirement is specific to the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program and the Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) administered by BJA ([JAG FAQs](#)).

**Q. When must the policy be in effect?**

A. The written mandatory wear policy must be in effect when the jurisdiction submits its application for BVP funds. Each submitting government official will need to electronically certify during the application process that it has a written mandatory wear policy for all uniform law enforcement officers. The policy will need to be submitted with the BVP application and said policy will be subject to random review and verification. In order to meet the requirement of the BVP program, the policy must bear the date that the policy was enacted and be signed by the CEO or the authorized representative of the requesting agency/jurisdiction.

**Q. How long after receiving funding must jurisdictions maintain the mandatory wear policy?**

A. An agency's written mandatory wear policy must be active for the life of the vests purchased with BVP program funds (dependent upon the grantee's vest replacement cycle that is usually 4-5 years). If at any time the agency modifies the policy after submitting it to the BVP program, the revised policy must be submitted to the BVP program (via the BVP Helpdesk email or during an application for funding) for compliance review. Failure to maintain a mandatory wear policy during the vest replacement cycle may result in a withholding of any funds remaining in the jurisdiction's BVP account and/or a return of all funds dispersed to the jurisdiction since the submission of the mandatory wear policy.

**Q. What is meant precisely by "while engaged in patrol or field operations"? Who does that cover?**

A. BJA recognizes that some officers in uniform assignments may not always be in situations or environments where they are at risk of violent encounters. The BVP requirement will not expand beyond this language and local agencies may decide how they wish to implement the mandatory wear requirement within their agency. BJA takes no position on agency interpretations so long as the local

policy does not serve to eliminate the requirement altogether for all officers. However, please note that a policy that allows for vests to be “readily available” for all officers does not constitute a mandatory wear policy.

**Q. Can a Chief/Commander have authority to grant exceptions to mandatory wear policy within the agency?**

A. Yes, agencies can provide exceptions for individuals, assignments, organizational units, climate-related situations and other factors that may be determined necessary at the local level.

**Q. Does this apply to officers who are uniformed but are in administrative or support positions that do not regularly engage in police action?**

A. Local agencies may decide what, if any, exceptions should be in place within the mandatory wear policy for uniformed officers.

**Q. Can an agency exempt an officer for documented medical reasons?**

A. Yes; however, the agency should maintain records regarding the exemption.

**Q. If an officer is injured/killed in the line of duty and was NOT wearing a vest as required by policy, would they risk losing federal benefits?**

A. No blanket policy or automatic disqualification shall be implemented regarding this policy and its effects on federal death, disability, or educational benefits through the Public Safety Officers Benefits Program (PSOB).

**Q. Does the requirement pertain to correctional agencies and other law enforcement agencies that do not have a traditional “street patrol” function or that have uniformed officers in specialized non-“street patrol” functions, such as jails, civil process service, school resource, or security?**

A. The mandatory wear requirement applies to all agencies that apply for funding through the BVP program; however, agencies have discretion in determining which types of specialized functions may be exempted from the mandatory wear requirement or how this would be done.

**Q. Where can I get a copy of a sample model policy?**

A. Law enforcement agency administrators and jurisdiction CEOs can obtain a copy of the Body Armor Model Policy and Issues Paper (developed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police) by contacting the BVP Help Desk at 1-877-758-3787 or by email at [vests@usdoj.gov](mailto:vests@usdoj.gov).