

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**Office of Justice Programs****[OJP (BJA) Docket No. 1831]****Meeting of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board**

AGENCY: Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This is an announcement of a meeting (via WebEx/conference call-in) of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board to consider nominations for the 2023–2024 Medal of Valor, and to make a limited number of recommendations for submission to the U.S. Attorney General to be cited. Additional issues of importance to the Board may also be discussed.

DATES: November 6, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held virtually using web conferencing technology. The public may hear the proceedings of this virtual meeting/conference call by registering at last seven (7) days in advance with Gregory Joy (contact information below). All emailed requests to register must include within its Subject line, “MOV Board Meeting—November 6, 2024”.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory Joy, Policy Advisor, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, by telephone at (202) 514–1369, or by email at Gregory.joy@usdoj.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board carries out those advisory functions specified in 42 U.S.C. 15202. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 15201, the President of the United States is authorized to award the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer.

This virtual meeting/conference call is open to the public to participate remotely. For security purposes, members of the public who wish to participate must register at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting/conference call by contacting Mr. Joy.

Access to the virtual meeting/conference call will not be allowed without prior registration. Please submit any comments or written statements for consideration by the Review Board in

writing at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting date.

Gregory Joy,
Policy Advisor/Designated Federal Officer,
Bureau of Justice Assistance.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**National Institute of Justice****[OJP (NIJ) Docket No. 1826]****Request for Comment on NIJ Draft Public Access Plan**

AGENCY: National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) seeks input from all interested stakeholders, including NIJ grantees, criminal justice practitioners, academics, publishers, nonprofits, and the public as it develops a Public Access Plan to increase access to publications and data resulting from NIJ-funded research.

DATES: Individuals wishing to submit comments must do so by 5 p.m. Eastern Time November 29, 2024, as instructed below.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by sending electronic mail (Email) to: public.access.nij@usdoj.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory Dutton, Physical Scientist, National Institute of Justice, 999 North Capitol St. NE, Washington, DC 20002; telephone number: (202) 532–5612; email address: gregory.dutton@usdoj.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Ensuring broad access to the products of NIJ-sponsored research is critical to achieving our mission to provide evidence, data, and tools to inform criminal and juvenile justice communities, victims services providers, and the public. NIJ is drafting a Public Access Plan to expand timely access to the results of NIJ-funded research and the data underpinning it. Facilitating access to both publications and data without barriers increases transparency and reproducibility. This has the potential to accelerate new discoveries and practical applications and contribute to evidence-based changes in policy and practice, which is all in the public interest. NIJ's Public Access Plan is expected to be implemented for new awards made in Fiscal Year 2025. NIJ intends to include these key requirements:

- That all peer-reviewed publications resulting from NIJ-funded research will be made freely available to the public without delay, by requiring the authors to deposit their manuscripts in a public repository designated by NIJ.

- That the data underlying those publications will be made available at the time of publication.

- That persistent digital identifiers and metadata will be used to facilitate findability and reuse.

Access to Scholarly Publications

The current scientific publishing model places many peer-reviewed journal articles behind paywalls, which can make access inequitable. While large research institutions often have subscriptions or negotiated publisher agreements granting them full access, the general public and many criminal justice practitioners typically do not. One approach authors take to reach broader audiences is to publish their work under “Gold” Open Access. The publisher collects an upfront fee to make the article free to all readers. This cost must be borne by the author, their institution, or the funding agency, putting additional financial strain on institutions and researchers. A second approach is for the author to make their author accepted manuscript—to which they typically retain the rights—available in a public repository. This is referred to as “Green” Open Access. While the manuscript made available under this approach is not the publisher's version of record, it accurately reflects the final peer-reviewed text, except for formatting. Since 2013, large federal science funding agencies (e.g., National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Energy) have required that a version of all peer-reviewed publications be made publicly accessible within 12 months of publication (2013 OSTP Memo). More recently, a call was made for all federally funded peer-reviewed publications and associated data to be made publicly accessible upon publication without delay (2022 OSTP Memo).

NIJ expects its grantees to publish the results of their work in the peer-reviewed literature. But since NIJ was not subject to the 2013 OSTP Memo, our current policy does not mandate public access to these publications. Currently, grantees must notify NIJ of these publications simultaneous with their public release, and they are encouraged—but not required—to index them at the National Criminal Justice Research Service (NCJRS) Virtual Library. This aids discoverability, but