

10 STEPS TO WIN BWC GRANT FUNDS

Agencies that wait until the BWC grant solicitation is posted usually do not have enough time to get organized and collect everything they need for a highly competitive proposal. Here are 10 steps you can take now to get your team ready to win BWC grant dollars in the future.

1. REVIEW THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BODY-WORN CAMERA (BWC) TOOLKIT

The DOJ's BWC Implementation Toolkit is a comprehensive source of information on nearly every aspect of implementing a BWC program. It can help you ask the right questions internally, think about the stakeholders you want around the table, and consider what has worked for peer agencies.

2. COLLECT DATA TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR A BWC PROGRAM

Granting agencies want you to paint an accurate picture of how a BWC program will improve policing in your community. This could include numbers of officer injuries, responses to surveys of community trust, allegations of police misconduct, use-of-force incidents, and other similar indicators.

3. LAY OUT CLEAR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR YOUR BWC PROGRAM

Start with the end in mind as you plan your program. Unless you have clear goals in mind, you are not ready to begin consulting with stakeholders, planning a budget, or developing a policy. Answer the questions: What are you trying to change by implementing a BWC program? What measurable ways will it improve policing in your community? What metrics will you use to see if you are being effective?

4. START TALKING WITH YOUR LOCAL PROSECUTORS AND PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICES

Your Prosecutor's office will need to ensure that your policy on BWC video management is consistent with state and local laws. You will also want to engage with your Public Defender. Your BWC grant application should include a letter of support from your Prosecutor and Public Defender.

5. OUTLINE KEY ELEMENTS OF YOUR BWC PROGRAM POLICY

Every successful BWC program is based on a carefully developed policy for how your officers will use their cameras, how video will be retained, shared, and managed, how and when information will be made available to the public, and how your program will be staffed and managed. The COPS Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program Report is a great place to begin outlining your policy.

6. ENGAGE COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO EDUCATE AND BUILD SUPPORT

Community understanding and involvement are critical to making any BWC program successful. Engaging community groups not only helps you build support, but it sets their expectations on access to BWC footage, officer responsibilities, privacy, and the limits of a BWC program. Community leaders can also include civil rights and advocacy groups, local political leaders, and residents themselves. You should gather as many letters of support from community stakeholders as possible to include with your BWC grant application.

GAIN ACCESS TO THE ENTIRE GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY CLICKING BELOW. IT'S FREE!

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7. CONSIDER BWC EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE OPTIONS

Review the National Institute of Justice's 18 Core Body-worn Camera Operating Characteristics and secure **quotes** from vendors.

Technology changes and evolves every year, so don't assume that you are seeing the latest capabilities unless you are talking with providers.

8. DEVELOP A BWC IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Develop a timeline for program implementation including BWC procurement, limited scale deployment periods, required policy updates, and other steps. Typically, for a large department, full-scale implementation can take 2 years.

9. DEVELOP A BWC PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION BUDGET

Consider the cost of implementation and develop a preliminary budget for your department's BWC program taking in to account hardware, manpower, and video storage costs. Determine where funding will come from and what portion of the program will be funded using grant dollars.

10. NAME YOUR BWC GRANT TEAM AND LAY OUT A PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

Determine who from your department will lead the BWC grant proposal development process, who will actually write the proposal itself, and who will lead the engagement with all the external stakeholders. Lay out a realistic schedule to get the work done to meet the deadlines.

10 Steps To Winning / Quick Checklist

1. Review the DOJ toolkit
2. Collect data for a BWC program
3. Lay out clear goals
4. Talking with prosecutors and public defenders
5. Outline key elements
6. Engage community stakeholders
7. Consider BWC implementation timeline
9. Develop a BWC program implementation budget
10. Name your BWC grant team and schedule

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