

Genetec Grants Support Team
Grant Funding for Rural, Small, and Tribal Safety & Security Initiatives

Genetec™

Grants Intelligence Powered By GRANTS OFFICE empowering communities



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Introduction

The Benefits of Genetec Solutions in Public Safety

Genetec™ Security Center is a unified security, operations, and intelligence platform. Security Center manages all systems through a single application, addressing an organization's multiple security needs and providing a consistent experience and savings in training, infrastructure, and lifecycle management.

Security Center simplifies the path to unification with access to multiple modules right out of the box:

- Synergis™ access control
- Omnicast™ video management system
- AutoVu™ automatic license plate recognition
- Sipelia™ SIP protocol communication management
- Intrusion monitoring
- Advanced mapping features
- Visitor management
- Threat-level management

As an open architecture platform, Security Center allows agencies to monitor and control other Internet of Things (IoT) devices used in their jurisdictions from the same interface. Examples include gunshot detection, fire and smoke alarms, HVAC systems, AED devices, and more.

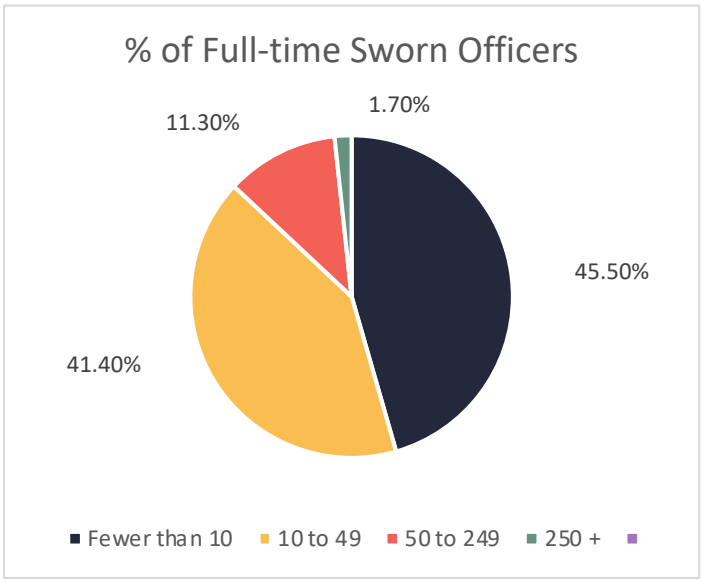
Security Center Federation facilitates centralized monitoring, reporting, and alarm management. Federation can be done across multiple sites of the same organization or across different agencies. Agencies can grant permission to share critical security information as needed, setting specific parameters. For instance, a school district may share recorded and real-time interior, exterior, and ALPR camera views, and door access control to local police in the event of an armed shooter incident.

In response to a criminal incident or a natural disaster, public safety requires collaboration between multiple agencies -- law enforcement, fire departments, emergency responders, hospitals, universities, and schools, highway patrols, and venues. A federated city enables these and other stakeholders to enhance the capacity of each other to prepare, respond, and investigate incidents as needed.

When every second counts, Federation synchronizes cameras, doors, automatic license plate reader (ALPR) units, intrusion panels, and all related events, alarms, and ALPR hits between sites providing centralized access to various system components to allow first responders to access cameras, change the threat level, and monitor intrusion alarms. Federating your jurisdiction's security system gives first responders visibility and actionable information when responding to an incident.

An Overview of Small, Rural, and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies

When the average American thinks of police, they likely imagine large metropolitan departments, which is understandable because those agencies are regularly portrayed in the media. In reality, small, rural, and tribal law enforcement agencies make up the majority of law enforcement agencies in the United States. Small departments (fewer than 250 full-time sworn personnel) accounted for more than 98% of the 11,788 local police departments in 2020. Of the 258 tribal police departments in the United States, all have fewer than 250 sworn officers, the largest being the Navajo Nation with 210 sworn officers. It should be noted that when it comes to grant funding, federally recognized Indian tribes are statutorily identified as rural regardless of their location, so when considering federal grants tribal agencies are eligible to apply to most Department of Justice grant opportunities.



Data sourced from Goodison, S. (2022, November). Local Police Departments Personnel, 2020. https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/lpdp20.pdf



Grant Funding for Small, Rural, and Tribal Agencies

An Introduction to Grant Pursuit

A significant challenge for small, rural, and tribal law enforcement agencies seeking grant funding is the lack of resources, particularly time. These agencies rarely have dedicated grant writers or full-time grant staff. As a result, grant applications often fall to patrol officers who must juggle research and application writing between their regular duties. While some officers may have received grant writing training, many are learning on the job and facing a steep learning curve.

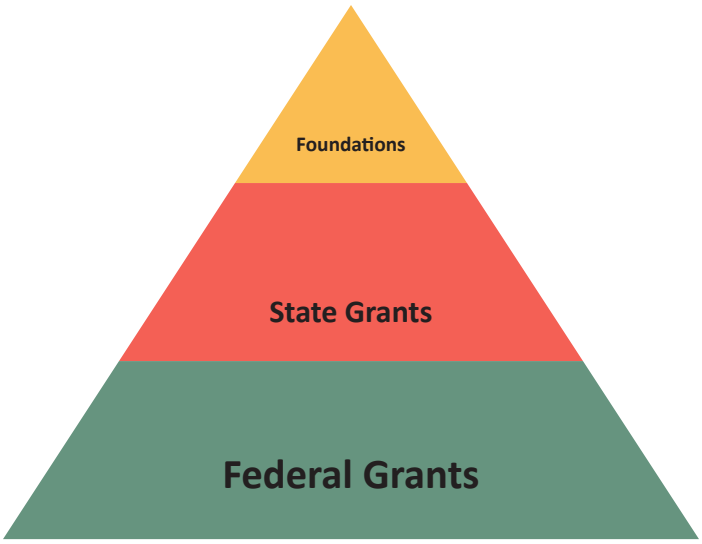
Furthermore, many departments lack the financial capacity to meet grant cost-sharing requirements as their budgets are primarily dedicated to essential community safety services.

While these restrictions present challenges, departments should not be discouraged from pursuing grant funding. Practical tips and strategies can significantly reduce the time and financial burden of the application process.



Grants Intelligence Resources

A department can't apply for a grant if they don't know it exists so grants intelligence is the primary factor in grant pursuit. There are three main types of grant funding in the United States: federal, state, and foundation. You can think of grants as a pyramid, with federal grants being the largest source of funding and foundations being the smallest:



Foundation Grants

This term is used to describe any grant that is not taxpayer funded. Foundation funding can come in the form of corporate, community, and family foundations, and they can be local, regional, or national. While there are numerous online platforms dedicated to researching foundation funding, many require a subscription. One of the first recommendations we make when talking to small departments about foundation funding is to engage with your community members. Small, local foundations may not have a web presence, so word of mouth is key. Foundation members live and work in the same community that your department protects, so start there. Communication is key when it comes to pursuing grants, but it is vital when it comes to pursuing foundation grants. Don't be afraid to walk into the building or pick up the phone to talk about your project. If you don't ask, you'll never know the answer. The worst thing you'll hear is "No" but more often you may hear, "No, but…" and ideally, you'll hear, "Yes!"

While foundation funding amounts are often on the smaller side, the benefit of this type of funding is they are far more approachable and the burden of applying for and administering grants is usually far lower. If an officer is dipping their toes into the grant funding pool, this is often a great place to start.



State Grants

State grants are the middle tier in the grant funding pyramid. They are less competitive than federal grants, as applicants are restricted to a particular state, but are generally more competitive than many foundation grants. State grants can come in two forms: grants funded through the state budget and federal pass-through grants.

A benefit of state-funded grants is they are more flexible and responsive; they reflect the state's priorities and, importantly, the governor's priorities. This factor can sometimes be a drawback of state grants: one governor may prioritize public safety grant funding while the next governor may not. Keeping abreast of your state's grant funding landscape is key. To do so, join the email subscription lists of state public safety, attorneys general, emergency management, and homeland security agencies. While every state is unique, these subscriptions are where you will find most state grant funding for law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.

The second form, pass-through grants, is funded through the federal government and "passed through" to local applicants in each state. Like state-funded grants, these grants are less competitive since applicants are restricted to the state. Unlike state-funded grants, pass-through grants are more reliable to return from cycle to cycle, since they are funded through the federal budget, often through congressional acts. A great place to start with this form of state grant is to find your state's federal pass-through administering agency and join their email subscription lists.

DOJ State Administering Agencies

DHS State Administrative Agencies

Federal Grants

By far, the largest source of grant funding in the United States is federal funding. While award sizes are generally the largest of the three types of grant funders, federal grants are also the most competitive and have the highest application burden. While there are 26 federal funding agencies, the two main sources of grant funding for criminal justice agencies are the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security. A department should start researching federal grants by joining the Grants.gov email subscription list. Grants.gov is where every federal grant application begins. While the site can be overwhelming, dozens of helpful articles, videos, and blog posts are available. Here is a good place to start.

You can subscribe to Grants.gov alerts!

Below are some helpful links to more information on grant programs offered through the Department of Justice and some of its funding offices:

- Bureau of Justice Assistance Solicitation Overviews
- Office of Justice Programs Tribal Funding Directory
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Grant Programs

There is a lot of grant information out there, so don't let it overwhelm you. If you narrow your focus a little and use strategic research tools, you can reduce the fire hose of information to a much friendlier garden hose.

Cost Sharing/Matching Pointers

As mentioned, the second roadblock small, rural, and tribal departments come upon when considering grant funding is cost-match requirements. While not all grants have them, some do, and departments often completely dismiss opportunities that mention "a cost match of x% is required." While matching can be relatively complex depending on the grant, some general advice for all matching is: you don't need it all right away! When applying for grants, usually the funder wants the applicant to demonstrate that they are aware of the match component and have a source for that match amount. If awarded the grant, the recipient then has the life of the grant to comply with any match requirements. While federal funds cannot be used for other federal funds (for example, an applicant cannot use part of its state passthrough Justice Assistance Grant award to cover the match component of the Small, Rural, and Tribal Body-Worn Camera (SRTBWC) Program) other sources are available, whether it is through the department, local, or county annual budget, through foundation funders, or through local fundraisers. With some creative thinking and community outreach, matching funds can be raised and those once-overlooked grant opportunities can benefit your community.

Examples of Federal Funding Opportunities

We've provided a few examples of federal grant opportunities below to give your agency a starting point. With the tools we've provided, your small, rural, or tribal department's road to grant funding will be far less bumpy.

Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction Program

Purpose: The Bureau of Justice Assistance's Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction Program provides funding and support to small, rural, and tribal law enforcement agencies to implement violent crime reduction strategies, improve investigations, improve services to victims, and enhance collaboration between local stakeholders. The funder understands that violent crime may look different in every community so the program is flexible and may be tailored to suit each applicant's needs. The critical elements around which successful programs are built can be found in the Violent Crime Reduction Roadmap, organized around ten essential actions to reduce community violence.

Funding Amount: A total of $6,000,000 was available in 2024 for 15 awards of up to $300,000.

Eligible Applicants: Small (250 or fewer sworn officers), rural, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

Application Deadline: The anticipated deadline is May 2025.

Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS)

Purpose: The Department of Justice's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) provides funding under the Purpose Area(s) that best addresses Tribes' concerns related to public safety, criminal and juvenile justice, substance use-related crime, and access to treatment and recovery support, and the needs of victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking under its various funding offices.

Funding Amount: A total of $105,000,000 is available in 2025 across eight (8) Purpose Areas.

Eligible Applicants: Federally recognized Indian tribes, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior. This includes Alaska Native villages and tribal consortia consisting of two or more federally recognized Indian tribes.

Application Deadline: Applicants are to submit forms SF-424 and the SF-LLL to Grants.gov by March 18, 2025. Full applications are to be submitted to JustGrants by March 25, 2025.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

Purpose: The Bureau of Justice Assistance's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program provides the critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education programs, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, crime victim and witness initiatives, planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. Funding is available through either direct formula funding ("JAG Local") or passthrough funding ("JAG State").

Funding Amount: A total of $180,502,770 was available in 2024 for State JAG funding and $84,921,048 was available in 2024 for Local JAG funding.

Eligible Applicants: State agencies, local law enforcement agencies, and other nonprofit organizations.

Application Deadline: The anticipated deadline for Local is August 2025; state deadlines vary by state.



Services Available Through the Genetec Grants Support Team

The Genetec Grants Support Team (GGST) offers a range of complimentary services for public sector agencies, educational institutions, public utilities, transit agencies, and healthcare organizations to help navigate the grant funding process. Depending on your team's needs, the GGST can provide everything from consultation to full proposal development. We focus on grants that support technology initiatives and improve security and operations. Our goal is to be an extension of your internal team and help you connect with additional funding opportunities through grants.

Genetec helps organizations navigate the grant seeking process through a partnership with Grants Office LLC, a national grants development services firm with a 25-year track record of helping public sector agencies find and secure funding for technology projects.

Project Consultation

The GGST works with agencies and organizations to help define their projects and frame them in the context of what funders are supporting. Grants tend to fund projects that address identified needs and include measurable objectives. The GGST can help agencies define these and communicate the results.

Funder Research

With a few specifics on an agency's project concept, the GGST will develop customized reports on funding opportunities that are the best fit. The reports will identify the most relevant funders based on the project type, organization type, and the geographic location where the project will be deployed.

Grants Development Support

The GGST provides a range of grant proposal support services. Whatever capacity and resources organizations can dedicate to developing grant proposals, the GGST will partner with them through the process of submitting competitive applications.

More than 5,000 grant programs are opened each year in the US, providing more than $500B in awards. Don't miss out on this available funding and grant seeking support. To get engaged, reach out to the Genetec Grants Support Team at grants@genetec.com.

Example Awarded Project Abstracts 2024

Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction Program

Passaic, NJ $300,000 – Passaic Police Department/Passaic City Comprehensive Gang Reduction and Outreach initiative. Passaic, facing escalating violent crime rates, particularly gun violence, necessitates urgent intervention due to its dense urban population and significant socioeconomic challenges. The proposed initiative, designed for small agencies like PPD, aims to reduce violent crime while fostering fair and accountable policing standards. With a comprehensive strategy rooted in evidence-based practices, community engagement, and collaborative partnerships, the project targets gang-related violence and recidivism. Key components include data analysis, targeted interventions, community outreach, and surveillance enhancements through CCTV cameras. Performance measurement involves systematic data collection, rigorous evaluation, and transparent reporting to ensure accountability and guide decision-making. Through this initiative, PPD endeavors to fulfill its mission of protecting and serving the community while addressing the root causes of crime in Passaic.

Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation

Catawba Indian Nation, SC $1,600,000 - The Catawba Indian Nation is a federally recognized Tribe located on its ancestral lands along the banks of the Catawba River in Rock Hill, South Carolina. The Catawba are a resilient people who wish to become a beacon of justice in Indian country by promoting understanding, community, and healing through the creation of their first modern justice system. With this funding, the Tribe will complete the existing construction project to establish a multipurpose justice center to house its Tribal Courts, Police Department, and Victim Services Department. Over the last several years, the Tribe has grown exponentially, and there is currently no extra space at the Tribe's government building to house either courts or the Police Department; several staff members are already sharing offices. Housing these justice services together is more convenient for Tribal citizens and victims, who can visit one building for their justice needs rather than taking many trips to separate buildings to address their needs. In addition, having these services in one building will also encourage and ensure these programs do not work in silos but rather offer services in a holistic manner.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Local Program

Casper, WY $29,202 - The Casper Police Department (CPD) intends to purchase three Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) cameras with a three-year service subscription. This technology will support CPD's strategic goals by enabling targeted crime reduction, enhancing response time, and ensuring efficient traffic monitoring and law enforcement. ALPR cameras provide real-time data that aids in locating wanted or stolen vehicles, tracking high-risk suspects, and improving overall community safety. Through this project, CPD will address current crime trends and enhance operational efficiency in Casper, Wyoming.

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