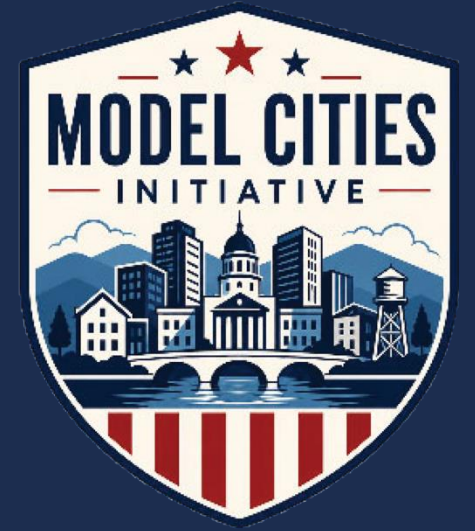


Application Webinar

FY 2026 Model Cities Initiative



Speakers:

Micah Fielden, Chief of Staff and Deputy Associate Attorney General

Nick Davis, Acting Associate Deputy Attorney General

June 23, 2026



U.S. Department of
JUSTICE



“This administration is leveraging every authority to ensure the safety of all Americans. The Model Cities Initiative will supercharge our law enforcement partners and restore the rule of law to America’s neighborhoods, towns, and cities. Our message is clear: We will help those who help us Make America Safe Again.”

– Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche





Purpose of MCI

- **Make America Safe Again**

- Continue and expand the successes seen in Memphis and Washington, D.C.
- Surge substantial, targeted federal funding into select cities to implement comprehensive and innovative approaches and produce measurable outcomes in the reduction of violent crime, improvements in public safety, and greater protection for our Nation's citizens.

- **A whole-of-city approach**

- City leaders, including the mayor, sheriff, county prosecutor, and others will work together to submit one application that proposes a persuasive vision of how federal financial assistance can be used strategically throughout their city to improve law enforcement engagement, victim services, detention and reentry services, and preventive programs.





Addressing Critical Needs

MCI funds will be used to support a range of allowable activities

- Hiring and retaining personnel
- Purchase or lease of equipment, tools, or technology
- Training and professional development
- Facility costs
- Mental health and substance use services
- Reentry, transitional support, and recidivism reduction programs services
- Victim services
- Youth crime prevention and intervention services





Goals

- Goal 1: Expand crime-fighting, investigative, and prosecution capacity.
- Goal 2: Improve and modernize crime data collection, intelligence gathering, incident response, and analytics capabilities to drive evidence-based policing.
- Goal 3: Develop innovative, nation-leading approaches to policing and violent crime reduction.
- Goal 4: Enhance law enforcement readiness and support for frontline officers.
- Goal 5: Expand services for American victims of crime.
- Goal 6: Reduce recidivism and support community reintegration.
- Goal 7: Expand behavioral health treatment and recovery services that improve public safety outcomes.





Unallowable Uses of Funds

The following are examples of unallowable costs and activities that are out of the program scope and will not be funded.

1. Any program or activity that, directly or indirectly, violates (or promotes or facilitates the violation of) federal immigration law (including, but not limited to, 8 U.S.C. § 1373) or impedes or hinders the enforcement of federal immigration law—including by failing to comply with 8 U.S.C. § 1373, give access to DHS agents, or honor DHS requests and provide requested notice to DHS agents.
2. Any program or activity that violates any applicable federal civil rights or nondiscrimination law. This includes violations that (1) indirectly violate the law, including by promoting or facilitating violations, or (2) unlawfully favor individuals in any race or protected group, including on a majority or minority, or privileged or unprivileged, basis, within a given area, population, or sector.
3. As specified in the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, in Chapter 3.13 “Unallowable Costs” (“Legal Services for Aliens”), any obligations of funds, at any tier, under this award to provide (or to support the provision of) legal services to any removable alien or any alien otherwise unlawfully present in the United States shall be unallowable costs for purposes any award made under this notice, but the foregoing shall not be understood to apply— (1) to legal services to obtain protection orders for victims of crime; or (2) to immigration-related legal services that may be expressly authorize.





Funding Details

- Expected Total Amount of Funding: Approximately \$300 million
- Anticipated Number of Awards: 2–4
- Expected Award Period: 36 months
- Phase 1 Application Deadline: September 1, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET





Eligibility

- Local government entities serving a population of at least 100,000 people.
- An eligible applicant may be a government entity or a collective entity acting as a single governmental unit representing a jurisdiction or contiguous region and must have the legal authority to receive and administer a federal award.
- Each eligible entity is limited to one application submission.





Additional Eligibility Factors

To be eligible to apply, any government entity must:

1. Agree to partner with DOJ to jointly develop, implement, administer and review the efficacy of MCI projects.
2. Submit for DOJ pre-review and approval any award subrecipient or partnering entity.
3. Submit the Certified Assurances as to Compliance with 8 U.S.C. § 1373 form.
4. Comply with the July 29, 2025 Guidance for Recipients of Federal Funding Regarding Unlawful Discrimination issued by the U.S. Attorney General.
5. Demonstrate support from required and other key stakeholders deemed necessary for successful project implementation.





Applications

The MCI application process will proceed in two phases:

Phase 1

Eligible applicants must submit a written application narrative that includes:

1. Information about why the applicant and the areas/populations it represents needs MCI funding.
2. Information about why the applicant and the areas/populations it represents is best suited to be designated as a Model City.
3. Appendices A – F

*Phase 1 applications must be submitted by email to MCIapplications@usdoj.gov by 11:59 p.m. EST on **September 1, 2026***





Applications

Phase 2

- Finalists will be invited to make a presentation. These presentations will be an opportunity to highlight the applicant's plans and strategies, and to engage in robust discussions about the best ways to improve public safety. Presentations may include city or site visits as appropriate. DOJ will provide additional guidance about the presentations to the selected finalists.
- Award recipients will be selected by DOJ senior leadership based on the application, presentation, and overall alignment with the goals and objectives of MCI.
- DOJ will announce the selected applicants and will work closely with the participating jurisdictions to begin MCI implementation.





Frequently Asked Questions

- Question: Our city does not meet the 100k population threshold, but we would still like to apply as a county-wide initiative. Would this be considered?
 - Answer: Jurisdictions that are individually ineligible to apply can still participate by partnering with other contiguous local government entities to submit one application, as long as the total population is greater than 100,000. One entity should apply and include information and partnerships in the application materials.
- Question: If a city government serves as the applicant for a regional proposal, may grant-funded activities, personnel, contracts, subawards, and services be implemented outside the applicant city's boundaries?
 - Answer: The population threshold applies to the geographic region served by the proposed project, and all grant-funded activities should be implemented within the geographic region referenced in the application.





Frequently Asked Questions

- Question: If a regional approach is proposed, does DOJ require formal authorization or approval from each participating county or municipal governing body, or are letters of commitment/MOUs from participating agencies and organizations sufficient?
 - Answer: Applicants must submit Appendix B: *Documentation of Required Partnerships*. Applicants must include the name and signatures of the relevant individuals to demonstrate partnership and support for participation in the project(s) as proposed in the application. This includes all entities involved in the application.
- Question: Are nonprofit organizations eligible to apply?
 - Answer: Nonprofit organizations are ineligible to apply for this opportunity. Nonprofit organizations could receive MCI funds if they are included as a partner in a city's MCI application.





Frequently Asked Questions

- Question: What are the essential elements of a strong application?
 - Answer: A strong application demonstrates a comprehensive strategy that weaves together law enforcement, service providers, community organizations, and justice system partners to reduce violent crime and strengthen public safety.
 - Applicants should refer directly to the NOFO for specific guidance on allowable and unallowable costs, noting that MCI is not designed for single, stand-alone equipment purchases but for integrated efforts that strengthen criminal justice processes and collaboration across the community.
 - A compelling proposal shows how investments work together to produce lasting, system-wide improvements in safety and stability.





Other Available Funding Opportunities

- **DOJ Grants** <https://www.justice.gov/grants>
 - Office of Justice Programs (OJP) - <https://www.ojp.gov/funding>
 - Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) - <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/funding-opportunities>
 - Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) - <https://cops.usdoj.gov/grants>





Contact

MCI Funding Page www.justice.gov/grants

For questions, please email MCIquestions@usdoj.gov

Submit applications to MClapplications@usdoj.gov

