

**BRENNAN  
CENTER  
FOR JUSTICE**

Brennan Center for Justice  
*at New York University School of Law*

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June 23, 2015

**Via Certified Mail and E-Mail**

Dorothy Lee  
Office of Justice Programs  
Office of the General Counsel  
Attention: FOIA Staff  
810 7<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Room 5400  
Washington, DC 20531

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear Ms. Lee:

This is a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on behalf of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law.

The Brennan Center seeks successful grant applications submitted to the Research on Domestic Radicalization and Violent Extremism (DRVE) Program, administered by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015. In addition, the Brennan Center requests all research funded by the DRVE Program in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014, as well as any materials citing this research.

Specifically, the Brennan Center hereby requests the following records:

1. The successful grant applications for federal funding through the DRVE Program for FY 2012, FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015 (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CDFA) Number 16.560).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE, FY 2012 RESEARCH ON DOMESTIC RADICALIZATION (2012), *available at* <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sl001009.pdf> [hereinafter FY 2012 SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS].

- a. For FY 2012, NIJ issued a solicitation for research proposals relating to domestic radicalization.<sup>2</sup> It approved the following six projects and awarded a total of \$3,053,281<sup>3</sup>:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Awardee</b>	<b>Award Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>
Community Policing Strategies To Counter Violent Extremism	Duke University	2012-ZA-BX-0002 (0)	\$653,189	NC	Open	2012
Empirical Assessment of Domestic Radicalization	University of Maryland	2012-ZA-BX-0005 (0)	\$675,027	MD	Open	2012
Identity and Framing Theory, Precursor Activities, and the Radicalization Process	University of Arkansas	2012-ZA-BX-0003 (0)	\$423,939	AR	Open	2012
Lone Wolf Terrorism in America: Using Knowledge of Radicalization Pathways to Forge Prevention Strategies	Indiana State University	2012-ZA-BX-0001 (0)	\$247,263	IN	Open	2012

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Awards Related to: Fiscal Year 2012, Domestic Radicalization*, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE, <http://www.nij.gov/funding/awards/Pages/awards-list.aspx?tags=Domestic%20Radicalization&fiscalyear=2012> (last visited Jun. 5, 2015).

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The Role of Social Networks in the Evolution of Al Qaeda-inspired Violent Extremism in the United States, 1993-2013	Brandeis University	2012-ZA-BX-0006 (0)	\$459,969	MA	Open	2012
Understanding Pathways to and away from Violent Radicalization among Resettled Somali Refugees	Children's Hospital Corporation	2012-ZA-BX-0004 (0)	\$593,894	MA	Open	2012

The Brennan Center requests copies of the successful grant applications corresponding to the research projects listed above, including all supporting documentation. The Brennan Center also requests any communications between NIJ and approved applicants regarding modifications to their FY 2012 applications.

b. For FY 2013, NIJ issued a solicitation for research proposals relating to domestic radicalization.<sup>4</sup> It approved the following six projects and awarded a total of \$2,714,918<sup>5</sup>:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Awardee</b>	<b>Award Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>
Across the Universe? A Comparative Analysis of Violent Radicalization Across Three Offender Types with Implications for Criminal Justice Training and Education	University of Massachusetts Lowell	2013-ZA-BX-0002 (0)	\$530,298	MA	Open	2013
Evaluating the Federal CVE Initiative	Duke University	2013-ZA-BX-0004 (0)	\$246,493	NC	Open	2013
Evaluation of a Multi-Faceted, U.S. Community-Based Muslim-Led CVE Program	University of Massachusetts Lowell	2013-ZA-BX-0003 (0)	\$525,020	MA	Open	2013

<sup>4</sup> NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE, FY 2013 RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ON RADICALIZATION TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE UNITED STATES (2013), available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sl001061.pdf> [hereinafter FY 2013 SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS].

<sup>5</sup> Awards Related to: Fiscal Year 2013, Domestic Radicalization, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE, <http://www.nij.gov/funding/awards/Pages/awards-list.aspx?tags=Domestic%20Radicalization&fiscalyear=2013> (last visited Jun. 5, 2015).

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Prisoner Recollections: The Role of Internet Use and Real-Life Networks in the Early Radicalization of Islamist Terrorist Offenders	Brandeis University	2013-ZA-BX-0005 (0)	\$148,941	MA	Open	2013
Sequencing Terrorists' Precursor Behaviors: A Crime Specific Analysis	University of Arkansas	2013-ZA-BX-0001 (0)	\$470,383	AR	Open	2013
Transnational Crimes among Somali-Americans: Convergences of Radicalization and Trafficking	The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois	2013-ZA-BX-0008 (0)	\$793,783	IL	Open	2013

The Brennan Center requests copies of the successful grant applications corresponding to the research projects listed above, including all supporting documentation. The Brennan Center also requests any communications between NIJ and approved applicants regarding modifications to their FY 2013 applications.

c. For FY 2014, NIJ issued a solicitation for research proposals related to domestic radicalization.<sup>6</sup> It approved the following six projects and awarded a total of \$3,139,545<sup>7</sup>:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Awardee</b>	<b>Award Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>
A Comparative Study of Violent Extremism and Gangs	University of Maryland	2014-ZA-BX-0002 (0)	\$639,736	MD	Open	2014
An Assessment of Extremist Groups Use of Web Forums, Social Media, and Technology to Enculturate and Radicalize Individuals to Violence	Michigan State University	2014-ZA-BX-0004 (0)	\$585,719	MI	Open	2014
Empirical Assessment of Domestic Disengagement and Deradicalization (EAD3)	University of Maryland	2014-ZA-BX-0003 (0)	\$620,545	MD	Open	2014

<sup>6</sup> NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE, FY 2014 RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ON DOMESTIC RADICALIZATION TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM (2014), available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/SL001090.pdf> [hereinafter FY 2014 SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS].

<sup>7</sup> Awards Related to: Fiscal Year 2014, Domestic Radicalization, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE, <http://www.nij.gov/funding/awards/Pages/awards-list.aspx?tags=Domestic%20Radicalization&fiscalyear=2014> (last visited Jun. 5, 2015).

Gang Affiliation and Radicalization to Violent Extremism within Somali-American Communities	Children's Hospital Corporation	2014-ZA-BX-0001 (0)	\$331,241	MA	Open	2014
Radicalization on the Internet: Virtual Extremism in the US from 2012-2017	Arkansas State University	2014-ZA-BX-0014 (0)	\$261,503	AR	Open	2014
Research and Evaluation on Domestic Radicalization to Violent Extremism: Research to Support Exit USA	Research Triangle Institute	2014-ZA-BX-0005 (0)	\$700,801	NC	Open	2014

The Brennan Center requests copies of the successful grant applications corresponding to the research projects listed above, including all supporting documentation. The Brennan Center also requests any communications between NIJ and approved applicants regarding modifications to their FY 2014 applications.

- d. For FY 2015, NIJ issued a solicitation for research proposals related to domestic radicalization.<sup>8</sup> The Brennan Center requests copies of the successful grant applications, including all supporting documentation. The Brennan Center also requests any communications between NIJ and approved applicants regarding modifications to their FY 2015 applications.
2. The research products produced through the DRVE program for FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.
    - a. According to the FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014 Solicitations for Applications, the primary objective of the DRVE Program is to produce research studies providing insight on domestic radicalization and developing empirical bases upon which to

<sup>8</sup> NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE, FY 2015 RESEARCH AND EVALUATION ON DOMESTIC RADICALIZATION TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM (2015), available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sl001152.pdf> [hereinafter FY 2015 SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS].

implement policies for countering violent extremism.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, grant recipients are required to submit the following information to determine performance measures<sup>10</sup>:

- A final report providing a comprehensive overview of the project and a detailed description of the project design, data, and methods; a full presentation of scientific findings; and a thorough discussion of the implications of the project findings for criminal justice practice and policy in the United States
- Quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, and a final progress report
- If applicable, every data set that was collected, acquired, or modified in conjunction with the project
- If applicable, citation to report(s)/document(s)

The Brennan Center requests all research studies produced by the eighteen projects funded for FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014, including any documentation of the performance measures listed above.

3. Any OJP documents or communications that cite or reference the research products produced through the DRVE program for FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

## Fees

The Brennan Center is exempt from search and review fees as a noncommercial scientific institution, an educational institution, and a representative of the news media. 28 C.F.R. § 16.11(c)-(d). The Brennan Center is a non-profit, non-partisan public policy and law institute at the NYU School of Law that conducts research and disseminates to the public information about issues affecting justice and democracy. It is engaged in social science research and therefore meets the definition of a noncommercial scientific institution entitled to a waiver of search and review fees. In addition, the Brennan Center's affiliation with NYU Law School (which is plainly an educational institution) means that the Center is exempt from review or search charges. Finally, the Brennan Center qualifies for a waiver as a representative of the news media under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II) based on its track record of publishing reports and papers.

In addition, as a noncommercial requester acting in the public interest, the Brennan Center is eligible for a waiver of duplication fees, or at the very least, a reduction of these fees under § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II). For the same reason, we are entitled to the first 100 duplicated pages free of

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<sup>9</sup> FY 2012 SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS, *supra* note 1, at 6; FY 2013 SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS, *supra* note 3, at 6; FY 2014 SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS, *supra* note 5, at 7; FY 2015 SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS, *supra* note 7, at 7.

<sup>10</sup> FY 2012 SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS, *supra* note 1, at 8; FY 2013 SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS, *supra* note 3, at 10; FY 2014 SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS, *supra* note 5, at 11; FY 2015 SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS, *supra* note 7, at 29.



charge, 28 C.F.R. § 16.11(d)(3)(i), and to a waiver or reduction of any remaining duplication costs under 28 C.F.R. § 16.11(k).

### **Expedited Processing**

Please provide expedited processing pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(1). The criteria for expedited processing are satisfied because there is an “urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity,” *id.* § 16.5(d)(1)(ii), and the Brennan Center is primarily involved in disseminating information to the public. In this case, the grant program identified above provides funding for research targeted toward preventing acts of domestic terrorism by using a “countering violent extremism” approach, which continues to be a subject of national importance and debate.<sup>11</sup>

### **Response Requested in 10 days**

Your attention to this request is appreciated, and I will anticipate your determination of our request within ten (10) calendar days pursuant to 28 C.F.R. 16.5(d)(4). Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at your earliest convenience via e-mail at michael.price@nyu.edu or by telephone at (646) 292-8335.

Sincerely,



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<sup>11</sup> See, e.g., Department of Justice, Pilot Programs are Key to Our Countering Violent Extremism Efforts, Feb. 18, 2015, available at <http://www.justice.gov/opa/blog/pilot-programs-are-key-our-countering-violent-extremism-efforts>; The Associated Press, *Boston Shooting Raises Questions About Anti-Extremism Plans*, N.Y. TIMES (June 12, 2015, 3:11 PM), <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/06/12/us/ap-us-fighting-extremism-boston.html>; Juliet Eilperin, *Trying to Counter Extremism at Home, U.S. Faces a Risk: Sowing Mistrust*, WASHINGTON POST (Feb. 16, 2015) [http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trying-to-counter-extremism-at-home-us-faces-a-risk-sowing-more-mistrust/2015/02/16/43f742d8-b58b-11e4-aa05-1ce812b3fdd2\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trying-to-counter-extremism-at-home-us-faces-a-risk-sowing-more-mistrust/2015/02/16/43f742d8-b58b-11e4-aa05-1ce812b3fdd2_story.html) (last visited Jun. 12, 2015).