

## Violent Crime Intervention Fund (VCIF) FAQ – Updated 1/3/2024

\*Note: Questions are posted in the original form in which they were submitted to OCJP, with slight edits or additions for clarity and to remove any identifying information. Duplicate questions are not included if they were already answered. Questions are grouped below by topic, not by chronological order.

The topics are, in order (click to jump to section): [General Questions](#), [Grant/Contract Management](#), [Equipment & Allowable Costs](#), [Invoicing](#), and [Amendments](#).

\*\*It is recommended that you read the entire FAQ, but you are encouraged to use the Ctrl+F search function to find key words in the document. \*\*

### General Questions

**I received an email about a EOFY E-form and an IAP E-form regarding our agency's VCIF grant project. What are these and what do I need to do with them?**

- This is a new process for the State. The forms are required to be completed for each grant on behalf of the authorizing entity which holds the contract. These must be completed toward the end of the fiscal year. An email was sent to all OCJP grantees on 11/3/2023 with instructions for completing these forms. If you did not receive this email, please reach out to your Project Management Specialist.

**The Fiscal Director (FD)/Project Director (PD) has left the position and we are currently attempting to fill the position at this time. What do we need to do/what information do we need to provide until the vacancy is filled?**

- Please send an email to your Project Management Specialist explaining the situation and containing an interim contact who can be reached until a new, permanent PD or FD is identified. Once they are identified, please email your Project Management Specialist with the new contact information. Please note that OCJP must be notified in writing within ten (10) days of the event if there is a change in PD, FD, or authorized official.

**If I have completed the Civil Rights Training for another fund source this year, do I also have to complete the Civil Rights Training for VCIF?**

- If the project director and/or civil rights compliance officer have already completed the OCJP Civil Rights Training for the current fiscal year, it does not need to be completed again. Please make sure the certificate/email notification of completion is saved in the grant file. Find the training here: <https://www.tn.gov/finance/office-of-criminal-justice-programs/ocjp/ocjp-grants-manual/civil-rights.html>

**Do partner/subcontract agencies receiving funds or pass-through equipment need to complete the Civil Rights Training?**

- No, only the project director and civil rights compliance officer for the lead agency/grantee must complete the Civil Rights Training. Find the training here: <https://www.tn.gov/finance/office-of-criminal-justice-programs/ocjp/ocjp-grants-manual/civil-rights.html>

## Grant/Contract Management

### **We have purchased everything and have extra money left over. What can we do with it?**

- It depends on the contract. Please contact your Project Management Specialist, as the answer to this may be different for each agency and each contract. For example, the guidelines for Formula grant contracts will be different than for Collaborative grant contracts. Additionally, leftover money in the Salary line item may need to be considered differently than leftover money in the Supplies line item. Please do NOT spend leftover funds without contacting your Project Management Specialist first.

### **We have purchased everything in our budget and scope. Now what? How do we “close out” the grant?**

- Once you have spent all your grant funds and accomplished all grant activities, you may still have other grant requirements to complete. These include:
  - o Basic grant management: Civil rights training, inventorying all purchases, tracking grant activities such as trainings held, events hosted, staff hired, and other outputs listed in the contract.
  - o Invoicing: Make sure you have submitted all invoices to the State.
  - o Monitoring: All OCJP contracts must be monitored – You will be contacted in early 2024 to set a date to complete this requirement.
  - o Reporting: The annual report is due July 31, 2024. A training will be held during the last quarter of FY24 on how to complete this report.
  - o Inventory: A final inventory list for all VCIF-funded equipment will need to be submitted to OCJP. The VCIF team will host a training during the last quarter of FY24 on how to complete the final inventory list.

## Equipment & Allowable Costs

### **We received a better deal on a cheaper piece of equipment than what we have in our executed budget. The two items accomplish the same goals for our agency, but we would like to purchase the cheaper option even though it's not in our current executed budget. Is this allowed?**

- If the only difference is a change in make/model of equipment, this is almost always going to be allowable. Please email your Project Specialist to inform them of the desired change, and they will assist you with any next steps.

### **If we are passing funds or equipment to a partner agency, is the lead agency/grantee responsible for that equipment, or does the agency that receives the equipment hold the responsibility?**

- In all cases, the lead agency/grantee that holds a contract with the State is the entity that is responsible for all equipment use, maintenance, and disposition. See contract section D.27 for more detailed information. The grantee may delegate this responsibility to a partner or subcontract agency by executing a signed agreement in writing. However, the State will ultimately maintain an interest in the equipment via the responsibility of the lead agency/grantee, which is bound by the contract with the State.

**We originally had a marked vehicle in our contract and now we would like to change it to an unmarked vehicle. Can we do that?**

- This must be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Per the OCJP Grants Manual, all vehicles funded in whole or in part with VCIF funds that are not explicitly stated in the Scope as “covert” or “undercover” must be clearly marked with branding consistent with the unit’s other fleet vehicles. This includes but is not limited to: armored rescue vehicles, boats, UTVs/ATVs, trucks, vans, and cars. Such vehicles must be issued to the unit described in the scope and used only within the purpose outlined in the VCIF scope. Please see the VCIF Fund Source Chapter section on allowable costs: <https://www.tn.gov/finance/office-of-criminal-justice-programs/ocjp/ocjp-grants-manual/redirect-fund-source-chapters/fund-source-chapters/vcif.html>
- Changing a vehicle to be unmarked must be requested in writing and may require an amendment. When making a request to amend the contract, the parameters of using VCIF grant funds for a vehicle that will be exclusively covert or undercover must be confirmed in writing.

**What should we do if equipment delivery times are delayed, and equipment won’t be delivered before the end of the fiscal year?**

- Expenses budgeted in FY24 must occur by June 30, 2024. Agencies are expected to make every effort to complete all purchases before this date – the end of fiscal year.
- Agencies must follow their internal procurement policies; often, this means that to complete a purchase, an agency must first take possession of an item. This step must occur by June 30, 2024, for all expenses in the FY24 budget.
- If you anticipate that any item(s) in your FY24 budget will not be able to be purchased by June 30, 2024, please reach out to your Project Management Specialist on or before February 29, 2024.

**How do we purchase license plate readers (LPRs)?**

- LPRs must be purchased off the statewide contract (SWC450).
- In order to install LPRs, agencies must apply via the TN Department of Transportation (TDOT) website, automated license plate reader program application: <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/right-of-way-division/excess-land-office.html>
- The application process may take up to 4-5 months to complete, which does not include executing the license once it has been issued.
- A powerpoint and video with step-by-step guidance for completing the application may be found on the VCIF Fund Source Chapter website under “VCIF Office Hours #2 – 11/30/23”:  
<https://www.tn.gov/finance/office-of-criminal-justice-programs/ocjp/ocjp-grants-manual/redirect-fund-source-chapters/fund-source-chapters/vcif.html>
  - o Direct link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeKAA5wlsN4>

## Invoicing

**Where do I submit invoices? How often do I need to submit?**

- You will need to submit your invoice workbook (completely filled out with the expenses incurred) to OBF at [OBF.grants@tn.gov](mailto:OBF.grants@tn.gov)
- Please make sure to include the InvCertify document so that OBF knows where to send the payment.

- It is strongly recommended that agencies invoice monthly, when monthly expenditures are incurred. However, subrecipient agencies can invoice quarterly. If invoicing quarterly, agencies must request reimbursement 30 days after the end of each quarter for all the expenses incurred during the quarter in its entirety. Funds can only be distributed to sub-recipients upon receipt of a properly prepared and signed invoice.
- If you have not incurred any expenses during the prior quarter, you do not need to submit a blank invoice for \$0.

#### **How do I fill out the invoice workbook?**

- Please review the VCIF Grant Orientation Meeting recording, which demonstrates how to complete the invoice. It can be found here: <https://www.tn.gov/finance/office-of-criminal-justice-programs/ocjp/ocjp-grants-manual/redirect-fund-source-chapters/fund-source-chapters/vcif.html>
- The invoice workbook page must be signed and dated.

#### **Do I need to provide/attach any additional documentation like invoices or purchase orders when submitting a request for reimbursement?**

- No, you only have to send the workbook and the InvCertify document. All receipts, invoices, and purchase orders should be kept and organized in your grant file.

#### **Does it have to be the Fiscal Director who submits the request for reimbursement, or can the Project Director submit the request?**

- The project director, financial director, and authorized official can all submit invoices for reimbursement.

## **Amendments**

#### **What is the likelihood of receiving an amendment?**

- Contract amendments may be approved, depending on the need and justification submitted to your Project Management Specialist.
- All amendment requests must be submitted in writing, on or before February 29, 2024.

#### **How can I request to receive an amendment in order to move funds?**

- Amendment requests must be made in writing (via email) by the project director (or with knowledge of the project director).
- Requests must include the amount of money involved, the budget line items involved, and a justification of the change that mentions why it is needed and how it fits the contracted project to address violent crime.
- All amendment requests must be made by February 29, 2024.
- Amendment requests may not be approved.

#### **What does the amendment process look like?**

- Once a request to amend a contract is made in writing, a project management specialist will reach out to confirm and/or request additional information.

- The request will be considered by OCJP leadership; if approved, the project management specialist will communicate next steps to the project director.
- The amendment will take the form of a revised scope and budget document; the duration of this revision process depends on the responsiveness of the project director to making needed changes, as well as the volume of amendment requests being considered by OCJP.
- Once the amendment is ready to be finalized, it will need to go through the same approval process as the original contract: possible city/county commission approval, signature by mayor or city/county executive, State review, and final execution by the commissioner of the Finance and Administration department.

**Can I invoice while the amendment process is taking place?**

- Projects may proceed as normal for all activities that will NOT be changed with an amendment. For example, if tasers are in the original budget and will remain in the amended budget, the tasers may be purchased even during the amendment process. After the expenses occur, such expenses may be invoiced for.
- New equipment or other budget items that will be added to the project by an amendment should NOT be purchased until the amendment is effective.