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## **LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS PROGRAM**

- The Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Program is intended to increase the availability of civil and criminal legal assistance needed to effectively aid adult and youth victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking by providing funds for comprehensive direct legal services to victims in legal matters relating to or arising out of that abuse or violence. Comprehensive legal services extend beyond representation in emergency and non-emergency protection order hearings to address the broad spectrum of legal issues that victims encounter, including family matters such as divorce, child custody or child support, immigration, administrative agency proceedings, and consumer or housing matters.
- “Legal assistance” includes assistance to adult and youth victims of sexual assault, intimate partner domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, and dependents of victims where necessary for the safety of the victim, in: a) family, tribal, territorial, immigration, employment, administrative agency, housing matters, campus administrative, or protection or stay away order proceedings, and other similar matters; and b) criminal justice investigations, prosecutions, and post-trial matters (including sentencing, parole, and probation) that impact the victim’s safety and privacy. 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(19).
- Eligible applicants are limited to: private nonprofit entities; publicly funded organizations not acting in a governmental capacity; territorial organizations; Indian tribal governments; and tribal organizations.
- In 2022, the LAV Program gave out 59 awards, totaling over \$35.6 million.
- In FY 2023, LAV will support an Expanding Legal Services Initiative (ELSI) to develop legal programs to serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking at organizations that do not currently offer legal representation. Eligible applicants will be non-profit organizations, tribal governments, tribal organizations, or territorial organizations that do not currently have programs or divisions providing legal representation but propose to establish programs to provide legal services to victims. Priority consideration will be given to applications for which the lead applicant is a culturally specific organization.
- The solicitation to apply for this program can be found on OVW’s website here: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/open-solicitations>. Members of the public can also sign up for notifications on that website, and grant announcements are posted to OVW’s Twitter at [twitter.com/OVWJustice](https://twitter.com/OVWJustice).
- This program is authorized by 34 U.S.C. § 20121.

### **CONTACT**

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