



Justice for Families Solicitation Pre-Application Information Session

Transcript recorded November 15, 2017

>> This pre-application information session is for the Justice for Families Program solicitation that was posted on or about November 2, 2017. It is strongly recommended that you read the full solicitation prior to listening to this information session. Application submissions are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on December 20th, 2017. Applications will be submitted through Grants.gov.

>> The Grants to Support Families in the Justice System program (referred to as the Justice for Families program) was authorized in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (or VAWA) of 2013 to improve the response of all aspects of the civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, or in cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse. The program supports the following activities for improving the capacity of communities and courts to respond to impacted families: court-based and court-related programs; supervised visitation and safe exchange by and between parents; training and technical assistance for people who work with families in the court system; civil legal services; provision of resources in juvenile court matters; and development or promotion of legislation, model codes, policies, and best practices.

>> OVW is interested in funding projects that take a coordinated approach to helping families victimized by sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as they navigate the justice system. In order to help achieve this coordinated approach, applicants may propose either a standard project or a comprehensive project.

>> Standard project: applicants must propose activities under purpose area 1 or 5. If an applicant is proposing to provide supervised visitations/safe exchange services (purpose area

1), the applicant must also propose activities under at least one additional purpose area. The courts purpose area (purpose area 5) can be addressed on its own or in combination with another purpose area.

>> Comprehensive project: applicants must propose activities under purpose areas 1 (supervised visitation), 5 (courts), **and** 6 (civil legal services).

>> Purpose areas available in the solicitation included are: 1- supervised visitation, 3- training for court-based and court-related personnel, 4- juvenile court resources, 5- court and court-based programs and services, 6- civil legal assistance, and 8- training within the civil justice system.

>> Projects addressing only pro se victim assistance programs under purpose area 5(b) and civil legal assistance under purpose area 6 must count all associated costs toward the 50% cap on civil legal assistance described under purpose area 6. Projects allocating more than 50% of project activities and budget to civil legal assistance would be better suited for the OVW Legal Assistance for Victims Program, for which applications are solicited annually.

>> OVW priority areas: Applications proposing activities in the following areas will be given special consideration during the review process: 1) Improve services for and/or the response to victims of sexual trafficking and other severe forms of trafficking in persons who have also experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking; 2) Meaningfully increase access to OVW programming for specific marginalized and/or underserved populations (for example based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, etc.); or 3) Increase the use of promising, evidence-based, and evidence building practices where available.

>> Activities that compromise victim safety and recovery: Please review carefully for all purpose areas. Applications that are deemed to propose activities that compromise victim safe recovery may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be eliminated for further consideration entirely.

>> Out of scope and unallowable activities: Please review carefully and note that applications that propose activities that are deemed to be substantially out of scope, or propose

unallowable activities may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be eliminated from further consideration entirely.

>> The grant award period is 36 months. Budgets must reflect 36 months of project activity, and the total estimated funding on the SF-424 must reflect 36 months. Generally the award period will start on October 1, 2018. Funding levels under the Justice for Families Program for FY 2018 are as follows: Standard projects may apply up to \$550,000. Comprehensive projects may apply up to \$700,000. OVW estimates that it will make up to 16 standard grant awards and between 3 and 5 comprehensive grant awards for an estimated \$11,000,000.

>> Please pay particular attention to the applicant types as this has changed from previous years. Those considered new applicants are those that have never received direct funding under the Justice for Families Program, including current and former OVW Safe Havens and OVW Court grantees or sub-grantees, or Justice for Families grantees whose previous funding expired more than 12 months ago. Continuation applicants are those that have an existing or recently closed (within the last 12 months) award under the Justice for Families Program and meet the eligibility requirements. Continuation funding is not guaranteed. Additionally, continuation applicants with a substantial amount of remaining funds, more than 50% at the time of application submission, without adequate justification may not be considered for funding in FY 2018.

>> Please note that grant recipients that received funding under the Justice for Families Program for 36 months in FY 2016 or FY 2017 are not eligible to apply.

>> Eligible applicants are limited to states, units of local government, courts including juvenile courts, Indian tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, legal service providers, and victim service providers.

>> The summary data sheet should include all information requested. Please note the difference between element number 5 (Appendix D) and element number 7 (Appendix E). Appendix D is a summary of all current and recent OVW funded projects. Appendix E is a summary of current and pending non-OVW grants to do the same or similar work. For element number 10 on the summary data sheet, percentage of grant activities addressing the issues, the total percentage of grant activities should not exceed 100%. Please be sure to include whether

your project is addressing the trafficking priority area under element number 11, and whether your application is a standard or comprehensive project in element number 12. For elements number 13 and number 14, please state if either is not applicable, because the lead applicant is such an entity for the nonprofit domestic violence or sexual assault victim service provider or court.

>> Certification requirements are outlined for all purpose areas and appendix F has a chart identifying which types of projects require which statutory certifications. Appendices also have sample certification letters for each requirement. Certification letters should be separate documents and each signed by the authorizing official.

>> The Justice for Families Program requires partnerships. All applicants for the Justice for Families Program must include formal partnerships with both 1) a nonprofit domestic violence or assault sexual victim service provider and 2) a court. Applications that do not include a victim services provider and a court, either as the lead applicant or as partners, will not be eligible for Justice for Families Program funding.

>> Please keep in mind that a victim service provider is defined as a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization, tribal organization, or rape crisis center, including a state or tribal domestic violence and/or sexual assault coalition, domestic violence shelter, faith-based organization, or other organization, with a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Victim service providers should meet all of the following criteria: 1) provide direct services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking as one of their primary purposes and have a demonstrated history of effective work in this field; 2) address a demonstrated need in their community by providing services that promote the dignity and self-sufficiency of victims, improve their access to resources, and create options for victims seeking safety from perpetrator violence; and 3) do not engage in or promote activities that compromise the victim safety.

>> Applicants intending to apply for FY 2018 funding under this program are strongly encouraged to submit a letter of registration. The letter should state that the applying organization is registered and current with SAM and Grants.gov. The letter should be submitted to OVW at OVW.JFF@USDOJ.GOV by November 29, 2017. This will ensure that the applicant is

well-positioned to successfully submit a proposal by the application deadline. This letter will not obligate the applicant to submit an application. Interested applicants who did not submit a letter of registration are still eligible to apply. See appendix B for a sample letter of registration.

>> Under the application requirements please note that there are a few differences between standard and comprehensive projects. Standard projects have a 20 page limit while comprehensive projects have a 25 page limit. Additionally, budgets must include funds to attend OVW-sponsored training and technical assistance in the amount of \$20,000 for standard projects and \$25,000 for comprehensive projects for states, and \$25,000 for standard projects and \$30,000 for comprehensive projects for territories, Hawaii and Alaska.

>> Recipients of OVW funds must comply with applicable federal civil rights laws, which among other things prohibit recipients from discriminating on the basis of national origin and disability. This includes taking reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to grantees programs and activities for individuals with disabilities, deaf individuals, and persons with limited English proficiency to meet this priority, applications must include activities designed to ensure accessibility and costs to support those activities. Additionally, applicants must include funds or other resources in their budget to support activities to ensure access for individuals with disabilities, deaf/hard of hearing individuals, and persons with limited English proficiency.

>> Memorandum of understanding, or MOU: The MOU is a document containing the terms of partnership and the roles and responsibilities between two or more parties. The MOU should be a single document with all appropriate signatures. The MOU must be current for this solicitation and the project you are proposing. Courts that are precluded from signing an MOU may submit letters of commitment in lieu of an MOU. If the court is the lead applicant, all project partners may submit letters of commitment. If the lead applicant is not the court, the court may submit a letter of commitment but all other project partners should sign an MOU. Applicants must have a formal partnership delineated in the MOU or letters of commitment with both 1) a domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim services provider and 2) a court. Applications without the required partnership may be eliminated from consideration for funding. Please follow the criteria for either the MOU or letter of commitment and include all required information. Note the letters of commitment submitted in lieu of a MOU by any entity

besides a court as the lead applicant, project partners of the court as the lead applicant, or the court as a partner will not be accepted.

>> Again, applications are due at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on December 20, 2017. It is strongly suggested you start the submission process at least 48 hours but no later than 24 hours before December 20, 2017. Applications submitted after 11:59 PM. Eastern Standard Time on December 20, 2017 will not be considered for funding.

>> Please review the solicitation carefully and contact OVW with any questions regarding the solicitation by either calling OVW at 202-307-6026 or email OVW.JFF@USDOJ.GOV. If you need technical assistance with Grants.gov please contact the grants.gov customer support line at 1-800-518-4726.