

OVW Electronic Service Protection Order Court Pilot (ESPOC)

FY 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity Q&A Session



FY 2026 ESPOC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- Posted on August 19, 2026. See posting for full details and requirements.
- Complete SF-424 and submit in Grants.gov by **11:59 pm Eastern Time on October 6, 2026.**
- Submit full application in JustGrants by **4:59PM Eastern Time on October 8, 2026.**



Electronic Service Protection Order Court Pilot Program (ESPOC)

- Authorized by 34 U.S.C. § 10462a
- **Purpose:** Supports efforts to develop and implement programs for properly and legally serving protection orders through electronic communication methods.
- **Eligible applicants:** State or Tribal courts that are a part of a multidisciplinary partnership.
 - The term “state” includes the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.
- **Award Length:** 60 months (5 years), including a 24-month planning period.
- **Award Amount:** Up to \$1,500,000



Eligible Applicants

- Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 10462a(d), funding shall be awarded to a diverse group of applicants when possible:
 - A state court that serves a population of at least 1,000,000 individuals
 - A state court that serves a state that is among the 7 states with the **lowest** population density in the United States and has a relatively low rate of successful service with respect to protection orders
 - A state court that serves a state that is among the 7 states with the **highest** population density in the United States and has a relatively low rate of successful service with respect to protection orders
 - A court that uses an integrated, statewide case management system
 - A court that uses a standalone case management system
 - A Tribal court
 - A court that primarily serves a culturally specific and underserved population



Required Partnerships

Applicants must include the following four types of partner entities in the Proposal Narrative and Letters of Commitment:

- 1) A state, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency
- 2) A victim service provider or a state or Tribal domestic violence coalition
- 3) At least one state or Tribal court judge with expertise in domestic violence and issuing protective orders
- 4) The department(s) with at least 2 individuals responsible for purchasing, designing, and/or court case management technology and integration



Additional Partnerships

In the first year of the award, applicants will be required to make substantial efforts to, when possible, develop partnerships with the remaining entities and individuals listed in the statute:

- A state, Tribal, or local prosecutor's office
- A provider of culturally specific services
- A nonprofit or government agency with experience providing legal assistance or legal advice to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
- A bar association of the applicable state or tribe
- The state or Tribal association of court clerks
- A state, Tribal, or local association of criminal defense attorneys
- A judge assigned to the criminal docket of the state or Tribal court
- An additional state or Tribal court judge with expertise in domestic violence and issuing protective orders



Questions?

Email OVW.ElectronicService@usdoj.gov or call 202-307-6026

7 of 7



U.S. Department of Justice
OVW
Office on Violence Against Women
Working Together to End the Violence