

# Justice for Families FY2024 Pre-Application Webinar Q&A

1. We will be a new applicant for an already established supervised visitation and safe exchange program. We understand that we need to include a 12-month planning period in our budget. Should we submit a budget for 36 months or 24 months of services?

*The budget for a newly OVW funded supervised visitation project should have a 36-month budget, with up to 12 months of planning. All budgets should cover a 36-month period.*

2. What expenses are covered during the 12-month planning period? It is also noted that a planning period may be up to 12 months. How should the duration of the planning period be determined?

*The applicant determines the length of the planning period based on its planning needs, but OVW suggests a period of up to 12 months. The applicant determines its own planning expenses, but may include staff salaries to develop a site plan and to develop policies, procedures, and training that align with the [OVW Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Guiding Principles](#).*

3. It is noted in the solicitation that new supervised visitation and safe exchange programs may be eligible for an additional 24 months of non-competitive funding. Is this included in the 36 months of funding or does this indicate 24 additional months of non-competitive funding following the 36-month grant period?

*The 24 months of non-competitive funding refers to funding that follows the initial 36-month award.*

4. Can we apply for only supervised visitation or only safe exchanges under Purpose Area 1?

*You do not have to apply for both supervised visitation and safe exchange. You may apply for only supervised visitation or only safe exchange.*

5. Our supervised visitation and safe exchange program is under our domestic violence program. Do we still need an MOU?

*You will need an MOU or Letter of Commitment (LOC) with the court if the domestic violence program (that meets the definition of "victim service provider" on page 13 of the solicitation) is the applicant.*

6. Can a court apply for supervised visitation without a domestic violence program partner?

*No. All applicants must include formal partnerships with both:*

- a) a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault victim service provider (as defined on page 13 of the solicitation) and
- b) a court. Formal partnerships must be clearly documented in the form of a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Signed LOCs from a court may be submitted in lieu of a MOU. A court needs to partner with a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault victim service provider.

7. Our program also provides supervised visitation for our Department of Children’s Services for children who are in state’s custody. Can we provide transportation for parents whose children are in state’s custody if their cases involve domestic violence?

*No, supervised visitation and safe exchange services are limited to visits by and between parents with a history or allegation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or child sexual abuse and not when the children are in a third party custodial situation such as state custody.*

8. Does OVW provide an up-to-date resource for programmatic requirements related to delivery of best practices for supervised visitation and safe exchange?

*Yes, please see the [OVW Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Guiding Principles](#).*

9. Can we apply if we currently have a JFF grant?

*Maybe. Please note that current grantees with a substantial amount of unobligated funds remaining (50 percent or more of the previous award) as of March 31, 2024, without adequate justification, may not be considered for funding or may receive a reduced award amount if selected for funding in FY 2024.*

10. How is a “court” defined?

*“Court” (including juvenile courts) means any civil or criminal, tribal, and Alaska Native Village, federal, state, local or territorial court having jurisdiction to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including immigration, family, juvenile, and dependency courts (34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(7)). Note: prosecutors’ offices do not qualify as a court.*

*The partnership should be with the court and the authorized representative of the court should sign the MOU or LOC.*

11. Who is considered an appropriate court representative to sign the MOU?

*It should be the authorized representative for the court who is able to enter into an MOU or LOC on behalf of the court. This may vary by jurisdiction and should be discussed with your court partner.*

12. Can a prosecutor’s office be a lead applicant?

*No, a prosecutor’s office is not considered a court nor a unit of local government.*

13. Can a nonprofit legal services provider be a lead applicant?

*Yes. See page 13 of the solicitation.*

14. Can a for-profit agency be a partner alongside the non-profit and court entities?

*Possibly, if the for-profit agency is a non-required partner and meets the requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 to be a subrecipient rather than a contractor. A for-profit agency (or other entity), cannot be the lead applicant or the required victim service provider partner.*

15. How does the requirement of an MOU impact an application?

*An application that is submitted without an MOU or LOC that meets the requirements in the solicitation (on page 18) will not be considered for funding. In peer review, an applicant's MOU or LOC is assessed based on the criteria set forth in the solicitation.*

16. Can a partnership with a court simply be the court's agreement to attend training and support childcare?

*No. The MOU or LOC with the court should clearly address the requirements outlined on pages 27 and 28 of the solicitation.*

17. Do all MOU partners need to be compensated?

*MOU partners may choose not to receive compensation. If they are not compensated, it should be stated in the MOU.*

18. What is the difference between Purpose Area 3 and Purpose Area 8?

*Purpose Area 3 is "educate court-based and court-related personnel and court-appointed personnel (including custody evaluators and guardians ad litem) and child protective services workers on the dynamics of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including information on perpetrator behavior, evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide, and on issues relating to the needs of victims, including safety, security, privacy, and confidentiality, including cases in which the victims proceeds pro se." Purpose Area 8 is "improve training and education to assist judges, judicial personnel, attorneys, child welfare personnel, and legal advocates in the civil justice system." Applicants should select the Purpose Area that best meets their proposed project.*

19. Counseling is listed as an out-of-scope activity. Does this apply to Abusive Partner Intervention Programs?

*Counseling may be allowable for offender accountability programs, but not for other activities. An applicant seeking funding an offender accountability program should consult the [FY 2023 Solicitation Companion Guide](#) regarding activities that compromise victim safety and recovery and undermine offender accountability.*

20. Is there a recommended number or limit on the number of purpose areas we can include in our application?

*There is not a recommended number or limit on the number of purpose areas.*

21. How is Grants.gov connected to JustGrants?

*You will only upload and submit the SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov. You will receive an email notification to continue the full submission in JustGrants.*

22. Is there a specific Excel sheet to use in creating a budget?

*Ovw recommends applicants use this sample budget: <https://www.justice.gov/d9/2023-11/Sample-Budget-Narrative-2024.pdf>*