

**Selected Q&A from Expanding Legal Services Initiative (ELSI) Pre-Application Call
1/11/24**

What is the difference between the FY 2024 Expanding Legal Services Initiative (ELSI) and the other FY 2024 LAV Grant Program Solicitation?

The LAV Grant Program's Expanding Legal Services Initiative (ELSI) is intended to enable eligible organizations that do not currently offer legal services to establish a program that provides legal representation to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. ELSI has a 24-month award period and includes a planning phase, supported by intensive training and technical assistance. The Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) program supports comprehensive legal services and typically has a 36-month award period, with no "planning phase" built in.

If our organization already provides in-house legal representation to victims, can we apply for ELSI?

No, if you currently provide in-house legal representation to victims, you would not be eligible for ELSI. You may wish to review the [LAV solicitation](#) instead.

Please note that if you offer legal advocacy (i.e., advocacy provided by non-lawyers) but do not currently have in-house legal representation – and are otherwise eligible for ELSI – you may apply.

Is this program open only to tribal applicants?

No; the ELSI solicitation is open to entities beyond tribal applicants. The solicitation lists the eligible entities on pages 10-11.

Why do you specify that "private nonprofits" are eligible?

Eligibility for the Legal Assistance for Victims Program is determined by statute. The term "private nonprofit" is meant to exclude any governmental organization that also falls under the umbrella of being a nonprofit.

Our organization is very new. Can we apply?

Yes, the age of your organization does not impact your eligibility to apply.

Can we apply with a project partner?

No, you may not apply for ELSI with a project partner.

Can the attorney included in my ELSI application be contracted (rather than staff)?

ELSI applicants must include a plan to hire an attorney to provide in-house legal representation to victims. If you do not wish to hire a staff attorney, then you should not apply for ELSI. If you are interested in using contract attorneys only, you should review the [LAV solicitation](#) instead.

Can the staff attorney included in my ELSI application be part time (rather than full time)?

Yes, the staff attorney may be part time or full time.

Can the staff attorney included in my ELSI application also serve as the project coordinator?

Yes, but note that you will need to receive approval from OVW before moving from the planning to the implementation phases of the project.

Would it be allowable to hire an attorney but subcontract for immigration services?

Yes, you can hire an attorney to provide representation, and identify another organization during the planning period to provide services that your attorney will not provide.

Should the budget be divided evenly between the two years of the award period?

The budget should cover two years (24 months) of project activities, but it does not need to be distributed evenly between the two years. Please submit a single budget covering 24 months, rather than two budgets covering 12 months each.

The budget cap of \$400,000 applies to the total award period of 24 months; it is not \$400,000 per year.

For the Salary Range/Determination document, which staff members should we include?

This document should be for all positions included in your project budget.

How many awards will be granted under this solicitation?

We anticipate granting 8 ELSI awards during FY 2024.

Who can we contact for additional information?

Please reach out to OVW.LAV@usdoj.gov for questions about the ELSI solicitation. For financial questions, reach out to OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov. Additional contacts for technical questions may be found in the solicitation.