

OVW FY 2024 Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Grant Program (STCJ Program) Pre-Application Information Session Script

(Slide 1)

This pre-application information session is for the OVW 2024 Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Grant Program commonly referred to as the STCJ Program.

(Slide 2)

The STCJ Program is made up of 2 grant programs. There is the STCJ Lower 48 that focuses on Tribes in the Lower 48 US States. Then, there is STCJ Alaska that focuses only on Tribes/Tribal Communities in the State of Alaska. Both programs support tribes in their efforts to exercise criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians who commit covered crimes within the Tribe's jurisdictional boundaries.

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Through the STCJ Alaska Grant Program, Alaska Native Tribal Governments can get assistance with getting designation by the Attorney General as a participating Tribe able to exercise jurisdiction over non-Indians through the Alaska Pilot Program for STCJ.

Please note, an award under the OVW STCJ Alaska Grant Program does not constitute designation or replace the process for seeking designation by the Attorney General as a participating Tribe to exercise STCJ under the Alaska Pilot Program.

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Eligibility to submit an application for funding under STCJ Lower 48 is limited to Indian Tribal Governments or a consortia of Indian Tribal Governments that have jurisdiction over Indian country. For STCJ Alaska, eligible applicants are Governments of Indian Tribes, or consortia of Indian Tribes, occupying a Village in Alaska.

(Slides 5-6)

The OVW STCJ Grant Programs have four statutory purpose areas. These purpose areas are:

1. strengthening the tribal criminal justice system;
2. ensuring indigent criminal defendants are provided licensed defense counsel;
3. ensuring that jurors are summoned, selected, and instructed consistent with requirements; and
4. that Crime Victims' Rights are afforded to victims in criminal cases.

Applicants must address at least one Purpose Area in their application and proposed project.

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The STCJ Grant Programs are not limited to Tribes that are already exercising or immediately prepared to exercise jurisdiction upon receiving funding. Nor are they planning grant programs that are limited to only Tribes that are in the early planning and preparation phases. OVW STCJ Programs fund Tribes at different stages of development across the Assessment and Planning, Implementation, and Exercising phases.

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OVW does not fund activities that jeopardize victim safety, that deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or that allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions.

Out-of-Scope activities under the STCJ Programs include research projects, prosecuting cases that do not involve one or more of the covered crimes and the purchase or lease of vehicles.

With prior OVW approval, Tribes can include minor renovations in their budgets to support capacity building to exercise jurisdiction.

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For 2024, 2 solicitations were released. One for Tribes in the Lower US States and the other for Tribes in Alaska.

Please read the solicitation that you are eligible to apply under in its entirety.

(Slide 10)

Applications under both solicitations must be submitted in JustGrants by 8:59 pm eastern time on Thursday July 11, 2024.

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The grant award period for STCJ Lower 48 will be 60 months. While for STCJ Alaska, the grant award period is 36 months. There is no minimum or maximum award amount for either STCJ program.

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STCJ Lower 48 will accept applications for either new or continuation projects. New applicants are those that have never received a STCJ award or had prior STCJ funding that ended on or before June 30, 2023. Continuation applicants will be current STCJ grantees that have a project with an ending date in 2024.

STCJ grantees from the Lower 48 US States who received a 60-month award in 2023 or a 36-month award in 2022 are NOT eligible to apply as a lead applicant. Current or Continuation grantees with 50% or more funding remaining in their current award may not be considered for funding.

Tribes submitting a proposal under the STCJ Alaska solicitation will apply as "new" applicants. Recipients of a 60-month STCJ Alaska award in 2023 are NOT eligible to apply as the lead applicant.

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All applicants and grantees under both STCJ Programs must comply with the following STCJ Program Requirements:

1. Participate in the Inter-tribal Technical Assistance Working Group on STCJ and/or the Alaska Inter-Tribal Technical Assistance Working Group.
2. Participate in a Planning Period to further develop their project and budget. During the Planning Period, grantees will complete and submit grant documentation that is not required at the time of application. Also, during the planning period, refinements to the project narrative and/or budget may be required.
3. Include a half-time Project Coordinator in their budget. Grantees that are currently exercising jurisdiction are not required to support a project coordinator.
4. Develop and submit a Memorandum of Understanding (or MOU) or an Internal Memorandum of Understanding (or IMOU) that includes all required partners. The MOU or IMOU should not be submitted with the application that you complete in JustGrants. The MOU or IMOU will be submitted after acceptance of the STCJ grant award.
5. Submit either a STCJ Readiness Certification or obtain Attorney General Designation. STCJ Lower 48 grantees will submit a STCJ Readiness Certification that requires certain tribal officials to certify that various requirements are in place in order to begin exercising jurisdiction. STCJ Alaska grantees will be required to obtain designation from the Attorney General to exercise jurisdiction.

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Both STCJ Lower 48 and STCJ Alaska applicants must submit "Documentation Demonstrating Authority to Apply." This documentation must be uploaded or attached as a separate attachment under the "Additional Application Components" section in JustGrants. This documentation may be in the form of either a Tribal Resolution or a letter on Tribal letterhead signed by the chief executive officer of the governing body of the Tribe certifying that:
*the applicant is a federally-recognized Tribe,

- *the Tribe has jurisdiction over lands that meet the definition of Indian country,
- *the Tribe intends to exercise STCJ, and
- *all required partners will participate in and cooperate with the exercise of STCJ.

Detailed requirements for this document can be found in both STCJ solicitations.

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Applications for STCJ funding must be submitted to OVW through a two-step process that begins in Grants.gov and is completed in JustGrants.

Step 1: Applicants must submit by the Grants.gov deadline the required Application for Federal Assistance standard form and the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form in Grants.gov. More information on these 2 required forms can found on slides 19 and 20 of this PPT as well as in the STCJ solicitations. The deadline to submit these forms in Grants.gov is 11:59 pm eastern time on Tuesday July 9, 2024.

Step 2: Applicants must then submit the full application, including all required attachments, in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline which is 8:59 pm eastern time on Thursday July 11, 2024.

(Slides 22-30)

Slides 22-30 lists all the documents that must be included with your application.

1. The Proposal Abstract. The Proposal Abstract is a short summary of your proposed project and will be completed in a text box in JustGrants.
2. Data Requested with the Application. All Applicants must complete 3 forms in JustGrants: the Pre-Award Risk Assessment, the Applicant Entity Form, and the Tribal Jurisdiction Program Summary Data Sheet. Although these forms must be

completed in JustGrants, the questions can be viewed in Appendices B, C, and D of the STCJ solicitations.

3. The Proposal Narrative. The Proposal Narrative cannot exceed 25 pages and must be uploaded as an attachment in JustGrants.
4. The Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative. The Budget must reflect either 60 months of project activity for STCJ Lower 48 applicants or 36 months of project activity for STCJ Alaska applicants. The budget should include funding for language access and the provision of access for persons with disabilities or who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Budget should also include \$50,000 for OVW mandated training and technical assistance. This amount is for the entire project period and not per year. The Budget and Budget Narrative must be uploaded as an attachment in JustGrants.
5. Additional required Application documents and/or certifications are: Documentation Demonstrating Authority to Apply, a Letter of Nonsupplanting, a Confidentiality Notice Form, Summary of Other Federal Funding, an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if applicable, and Disclosures and Assurances.

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In the next couple of slides, I am going to focus on aspects of your application that relate to the documents that OVW's Grants Financial Management Division (or GFMD for short), reviews. More specifically, I will discuss some items that GFMD has identified from prior years' applications that could help with expediting the review process. I am going to highlight certain aspects of the pre-award risk assessment and provide you with a link to a detailed webinar on how to develop the budget that will be included in your application.

First, I will highlight the items identified in the Summary Data Sheet, which is completed by all applicants. Specifically, I would like to discuss the Single Audit response. OVW requests that all applicants provide a statement as to whether they have expended \$750,000 or more in federal funds during their last fiscal year. If they have, then they indicate that and also specify the end date of their last fiscal

year. However, GFMD is finding that applicants do not always include all of this information. Please ensure that this question is answered in its entirety on the Summary Data Sheet (Question #3).

The next item that I will discuss is the pre-award risk assessment questions which assists GFMD during their pre award risk assessment review for all applications. Each applicant must prepare a response to ALL ELEVEN QUESTIONS, and each question has MULTIPLE PARTS.

GFMD has noticed from prior years that applicants do not always fully answer all parts of the questions, which in turn, requires GFMD to reach out to the applicant and which may delay funding decisions. Some of the most common issues that have been encountered have been, for example, question #2, where the applicant indicates that they do indeed have internal policies, but they don't provide a brief list of topics covered in the policies and procedures. On question #3, some applicants fail to provide a brief summary of the organization's process for tracking expenditures, and more specifically whether or not it tracks budgeted versus actual expenditures.

These are just a few examples, but in general, please make sure that you read each piece of each question and provide a full and comprehensive response.

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I want to highlight some resources that are available that should be used as you are creating your budget to be submitted with your application. GFMD has developed a webinar presentation on developing a budget to be submitted with your OVW application. GFMD wants to help reduce any challenges you may face with the budget and make it clear what they look for when they review your budget. This webinar provides some insight as to what OVW financial staff considers during their review. The webinar can be found under the "Budget Information" section on the OVW Resources for Applicants web page. The Uniform Guidance, which can be found at 2 CFR 200, provides information on grant management requirements. The DOJ Financial Guide provides information on

financial requirements for DOJ grants. All open OVW Solicitations can be found on the OVW Open Solicitations webpage.

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If you have any questions regarding the GFMD information included in this presentation, please contact them at the information listed on this slide.

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If you have any questions regarding the STCJ Grant Programs, our contact information is located on this slide.

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This concludes the Pre-Application Information Session. Thank you and Good luck!