

# U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women

# OVW Fiscal Year 2025 Justice for Families Program

**Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number** O-OVW-2025-172266

**Assistance Listing Number** 16.021

# **Application Due**

Deadline to submit Standard Form/SF-424 in Grants.gov: January 17, 2025, by 11:59 PM Eastern Time Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: January 22, 2025, by 8:59 PM Eastern Time

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# **Basic Information**

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is accepting applications for funding in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Created in 1995, OVW administers grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation and provides national leadership on issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. OVW grants support coordinated community responses that provide services to victims and hold offenders accountable.

#### **Executive Summary**

The Justice for Families Program supports activities to improve the response of the civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or in cases involving child sexual abuse. Activities should improve the capacity of courts and communities to respond to families through court-based and court-related programs; supervised visitation and safe exchange by and between parents; training for people who work with families in the court system; and civil legal assistance.

Funding Opportunity Details		
Federal Agency Name	U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women	
Funding Opportunity Title	OVW FY 2025 Justice for Families Program	
Announcement Type	Initial	
Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number	O-OVW-2025-172266	
Assistance Listing Number	16.021	
Statutory Authority	34 U.S.C. § 12464	
Expected Total Amount of Funding	\$14,000,000	
Anticipated Number of Awards	20	
Expected Award Amounts	Standard projects: up to \$600,000 Comprehensive projects: up to \$700,000	
Expected Award Period	36 months	

# **Key Dates**

This table contains deadlines and other important dates.

Key Dates	
Funding Opportunity Release Date	On or about November 27, 2024
Pre-Application Information Session	Pre-application webinar: December 13, 2024, at 2:00pm Register by emailing OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov by December 9, 2024
Sam.gov Registration/Renewal	Recommend <u>completing process</u> by January 6, 2025
Grants.gov Registration/Renewal	Recommend <u>completing process</u> by January 6, 2025
Letter of Intent (Optional)	Submit to OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov by January 6, 2025
Grants.gov Deadline	January 17, 2025, by 11:59 PM Eastern Time (ET)
JustGrants Deadline	January 22, 2025, by 8:59 PM ET
Decision Notification Date	OVW anticipates notifying applicants of funding decisions by October 1, 2025.

# **Contact Information**

For assistance with the application process or questions about this funding opportunity, contact the resources listed below.

Contact Information	
OVW Contact	Phone: 202-307-6026
OVVV Contact	Email: OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov
	Phone: 866-606-8220
For assistance with SAM.gov	Website: https://sam.gov/content/help
	Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET Monday-
	Friday
	Phone: 800-518-4726
	Email: support@grants.gov
For assistance with Grants.gov	Website: https://www.grants.gov/support
	Hours of operation: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed
	federal holidays)
For assistance with JustGrants	Phone: 866-655-4482
FOI assistance with JustGrants	Email: OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov

## Resources for Applying

#### Pre-application Information Session

OVW will conduct an online pre-application information session. Participation is optional. During this session, OVW staff will summarize the program's requirements, review the funding opportunity, and answer questions. The webinar will be captioned in English and Spanish. To register and request language assistance contact: OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov. See <a href="Key Dates">Key Dates</a> for date and deadline to register. A recording will subsequently be available on the <a href="OVW website">OVW website</a>.

#### **Application Resources**

- Application Companion Guide
- Resources for Applicants
- Budget Information on OVW Website
- JustGrants Application Submission Training

# **Eligibility**

#### **Eligible Applicants**

Entities that are eligible to apply are:

#### **States and Territories**

 State governments, including the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands (34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(37))

#### Units of Local Government

- Any city, county, township, town, borough, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State (or territory) (34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(47))
- The following are not considered units of local government: (1) Police departments; (2) Pretrial service agencies; (3) District or city attorneys' offices; (4) Sheriffs' departments; (5) Probation and parole departments; (6) Shelters; (7) Nonprofit, nongovernmental victim service agencies including faith-based or community-based organizations; and (8) Universities. (28 C.F.R. § 90.2(g)) These entities may assume responsibility for the development and implementation of the project but must have their state, tribal government, or unit of local government apply as the lead applicant.

#### **Indian Tribal Governments**

- The governing body of an Indian Tribe, or
- A Tribe, band, pueblo, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians, including any Alaska Native Village or regional or village corporation (as defined in, or established pursuant to, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. §§ 1601 et seq.)), that is recognized as

eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians (34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(43))

#### Courts (including juvenile courts)

- 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, and the judicial officers serving
  in those courts, including judges, magistrate judges, commissioners, justices of the peace, or
  any other person with decision making authority (34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(7))
- Prosecutor's offices are not considered a court.

#### Victim Service Providers

- A nonprofit, nongovernmental or Tribal organization or rape crisis center, including a state or territorial coalition, that assists or advocates for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victims, including domestic violence shelters, faith-based organizations, and other organizations, with a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(50)). Victim service providers must provide direct services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking as one of their primary purposes and have a demonstrated history of effective work in this field.
- Culturally specific organizations, Tribal organizations, and population-specific organizations serving underserved communities that meet this definition of "victim service provider" are eligible to apply.

#### Nonprofit Organizations

An organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code (34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(15)(B)(i)).

#### Legal Service Providers

• Entities that provide legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This does not include for-profit organizations.

#### Faith-Based and Community Organizations

Faith-Based and community organizations, including culturally specific organizations, Tribal organizations, and population-specific organizations, that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this program (see <a href="Partnership with Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood">Partnership with Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood</a> Organizations and the <a href="Application Companion Guide">Application Companion Guide</a> for more information).

#### 501(c)(3) Status

Any entity that is eligible for this program based on its status as a nonprofit organization must be an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code. See 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(15)(B)(i).

#### **Other Program Eligibility Requirements**

In addition to being an eligible entity, applicants also must meet the requirements below. All certification and other eligibility related documents must be current and developed in accordance with this NOFO.

Certifications must take the form of a letter, on letterhead, signed, and dated by the authorized representative. Each one must be uploaded as a separate attachment under the **Additional Application Components** section in JustGrants. Failure to provide required certifications may disqualify an application. At a minimum, an applicant that fails to include the required certification letter(s) with its application must submit that certification letter prior to receiving an award.

#### Certification of Eligibility

Under 34 U.S.C. § 12464(d), all applicants for the Justice for Families Program must:

• Certify that the organizational policies of the applicant do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims being physically present in the same place, in cases where domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking is alleged.

A sample Certification of Eligibility letter can be found on the OVW website.

#### Other Certifications

# Applicants proposing projects under purpose area 1 (supervised visitation and/or safe exchange services) must also:

• Demonstrate that adequate security measures, including adequate facilities, procedures, and personnel capable of preventing violence, and adequate standards are, or will be, in place (including the development of protocols or policies to ensure that confidential information is not shared with courts, law enforcement agencies, or child welfare agencies unless necessary to ensure the safety of any child or adult using the services of a program funded by OVW).

A sample <u>Certification Letter</u> can be found on the OVW website.

# Applicants proposing projects under purpose area 5 (court and court-based programs and services) must also:

• Certify that victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking are not charged fees or any other costs related to the filing, petitioning, modifying, issuance, registration, enforcement,

withdrawal, or dismissal of matters relating to the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

A sample Certification of Letter can be found on the OVW website.

# Applicants proposing projects under purpose area 5 to support custody evaluation and/or guardian ad litem services must also:

• Certify that any person providing custody evaluation or guardian ad litem services through a program funded under this program has completed or will complete training developed with input from and in collaboration with a tribal, state, territorial, or local domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victim service provider or coalition on the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault, including child sexual abuse, that includes training on how to review evidence of past abuse and the use of evidence-based theories to make recommendations on custody and visitation.

A sample <u>Certification of Letter</u> can be found on the OVW website.

# Applicants proposing projects under purpose area 5(b) or 6 to provide civil legal assistance services must also certify the following:

#### <u>Delivery of Legal Assistance Certification</u>

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12464(d) and 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(12), to be eligible for an award, any recipient or subrecipient providing legal assistance with funds awarded under this program must submit a Delivery of Legal Assistance Certification letter as described under <u>Additional Application</u> Components in this NOFO.

A sample Delivery of Legal Assistance Certification letter can be found on the OVW website.

#### Required Partnerships

All applicants for the Justice for Families Program must include formal partnerships with both 1) a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault victim service provider (as defined in the <u>Eligible Applicants</u> section) and 2) a court. Formal partnerships must be clearly documented in the form of a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Signed Letters of Commitment (LOC) from a court may be submitted in lieu of a MOU.

If the court is the lead applicant, it must have a domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider as a project partner. If a domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider is the lead applicant, it must have a court as a partner. If the lead applicant is neither a domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider nor a court, it must have a partnership with both a domestic violence and/ or sexual assault victim service provider and a court.

Indian Tribal governments that are unable to submit a signed MOU at the time of application may submit a signed LOC from each partner and will be required to submit a signed MOU if selected for funding. This consideration is offered only to Indian Tribal governments as defined in the "<u>Eligible Applicants</u>" section.

## **Types of Applications**

This year, OVW will accept applications for this program from the following applicants:

#### **New Applicants**

Applicants that have never received funding under this program or whose previous funding under this program expired on or before January 22, 2024.

**Note:** New applicants include those proposing new supervised visitation and safe exchange programs or that have never received funds from OVW for the proposed supervised visitation and safe exchange program for families with a history of domestic violence. If funded, the applicant may be eligible to receive 24 months of additional non-competitive funding to continue the project, provided OVW has sufficient appropriated funds and the grantee has complied with the fiscal and programmatic requirements of the award.

#### **Continuation Applicants**

Applicants that have an existing or recently closed (after January 22, 2024) award under this program. Continuation funding is not guaranteed.

**Note:** Current recipients with a substantial amount of unobligated funds remaining (50 percent or more of the current award) as of March 31, 2025, without adequate justification, may not be considered for funding or may receive a reduced award amount if selected for funding under this NOFO.

# **Ineligible Entities and Disqualifying Factors**

Applications submitted by ineligible entities or that do not meet all other program eligibility requirements will not be considered for funding. In addition, an application deemed deficient in one or more of the following areas may not be considered for funding:

- 1. Program-Specific Unallowable Costs
- 2. Risk Review
- 3. Completeness of application contents
- 4. Meeting deadlines

An application will be removed from consideration if the applicant does not comply fully with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM.gov requirements (see <u>Submission Requirements and</u> Deadlines section for more information on these requirements).

An applicant with past performance issues, long-standing open audits, or an open criminal investigation also may not be considered for funding.

**Note:** Any nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code is not eligible for a grant from this program. See 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(15)(B)(ii).

#### <u>Limit on Number of Applications</u>

OVW will consider only one application for this program per organization for the same service area (i.e., the geographic area to be served). If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, OVW will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted before the deadline.

#### Cost-Sharing

This program has no matching or cost-sharing requirement.

# **Program Description**

This program is authorized by 34 U.S.C. § 12464. For a brief description of this program, see the <u>Executive Summary</u>.

For more information about OVW programs, including how recipients of OVW grant funding achieve program goals, see:

- OVW grant program information: <u>OVW Grants and Programs webpage.</u>
- Data that recipients collect and report: <u>VAWA Measuring Effectiveness Initiative webpage.</u>
- What recipients have achieved and some of the evidence-based approaches they may have used: OVW's most recent report to Congress on the effectiveness of VAWA grant programs.

# **Purpose Areas**

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12464, funds under this program must be used for one or more of five statutory purpose areas as described below. Although the statute contains eight distinct purpose areas, OVW is limiting applicants to the following five purpose areas:

- (Purpose Area 1) Supervised visitation and safe exchange;
- (Purpose Area 3) Training for court-based and court-related personnel;
- (Purpose Area 5) Court and court-based programs and services;

- (Purpose Area 6) Civil legal assistance; and
- (Purpose Area 8) Training within the civil justice system.

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

Standard Project: Applicants must propose activities either under purpose area 1 (supervised visitation/safe exchange) or purpose area 5 (court and court-based programs and services). If an applicant is proposing to provide supervised visitation/safe exchange services (purpose area 1), the applicant must propose activities under at least one additional purpose area. The courts' purpose area (purpose area 5) can be addressed in combination with another purpose area or on its own under any one or more of the purpose area 5 sub-categories. However, applications that address pro se victim assistance programs (purpose area 5(b)) or propose education and outreach programs (purpose area 5(e)) must also propose activities under at least one more purpose area 5 subcategory or other purpose area(s).

<u>Comprehensive Project</u>: Applicants must propose activities under purpose areas 1 (supervised visitation/safe exchange), purpose area 5 (court and court-based programs and services), and purpose area 6 (civil legal assistance). Applicants may include additional purpose areas in a comprehensive project but are required to include purpose areas 1, 5, and 6.

• (Purpose Area 1) Supervised visitation and safe exchange: Provide supervised visitation and safe exchange of children and youth by and between parents in situations involving domestic violence, dating violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. Although the program statute allows for sliding scale fees (34 U.S.C. § 12464(d)(2)), to ensure accessibility of OVW-funded services, grantees providing supervised visitation and safe exchange services are not allowed to charge fees to parents served with OVW funds.

For a standard project, applicants proposing activities under this purpose area must propose activities under at least one additional purpose area. For a comprehensive project, this purpose area must be included.

(Purpose Area 3) Training for court-based and court-related personnel: 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 victim proceeds pro se.

# Applicants proposing activities under this purpose area must also propose activities under purpose area 1 and/or 5.

- (Purpose Area 5) Court and court-based programs and services: Enable courts or court-based or court-related programs to develop or enhance:
  - a) court infrastructure (such as specialized courts, consolidated courts, dockets, intake centers, or interpreter services);
  - b) community-based initiatives within the court system (such as court watch programs, victim assistants, pro se victim assistance programs, or community-based supplementary services);
  - c) offender management, monitoring, and accountability programs;
  - d) safe and confidential information-storage and information-sharing databases within and between court systems;
  - e) education and outreach programs to improve community access, including enhanced access for underserved populations; and
  - f) other projects likely to improve court responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

For a standard project, applicants proposing activities under purpose area 5 are not required to propose activities under any other purpose area. (However, OVW will not consider applications that only propose pro se victim assistance programs (purpose area 5 (b)) or only propose education and outreach programs (purpose area 5(e)). Applicants may apply to implement additional purpose areas if they choose. For a comprehensive project, purpose area 5 must be included.

- (Purpose Area 6) Civil legal assistance: Provide civil legal assistance and advocacy services, including legal information and resources in cases in which the victim proceeds pro se, to:
  - a) victims of domestic violence; and
  - b) nonoffending parents in matters:
    - i. that involve allegations of child sexual abuse;
    - ii. that relate to family matters, including civil protection orders, custody, and divorce; and
    - iii. in which the other parent is represented by counsel.

Applicants proposing activities under this purpose area must also propose activities under purpose area 1 and/or 5 for a standard project. This purpose area must be included in a comprehensive project.

In addition, a project in which the primary focus is on providing civil legal assistance is not appropriate for the Justice for Families Program and will be removed from consideration. At least 50 percent of all proposed activities and budget items in the application must be targeted toward activities other than civil legal assistance. All costs supporting civil legal assistance, including indirect costs and pro se victim assistance programs that provide civil legal assistance proposed under purpose area 5(b), will be counted toward this cap on civil legal assistance.

 (Purpose Area 8) Training within the civil justice system: Improve training and education to assist judges, judicial personnel, attorneys, child welfare personnel, and legal advocates in the civil justice system.

Applicants proposing activities under this purpose area must also propose activities under purpose area 1 and/or 5.

#### **Statutory Considerations**

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12464(c)(1), OVW must consider the following in making grants under this program:

- (A) The number of families to be served by the proposed programs and services. Applicants will provide this information in the Proposal Narrative.
- (B) The extent to which the proposed programs and services serve underserved populations. Applicants will provide this information in the <u>Proposal Narrative</u>.
- (C) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates cooperation and collaboration with nonprofit, nongovernmental entities in the local community with demonstrated histories of effective work on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including State or tribal domestic violence coalitions, State or tribal sexual assault coalitions, local shelters, and programs for domestic violence and sexual assault victims.
  - This consideration is addressed through the <u>required partnership</u> with a victim service provider.
- (D) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates coordination and collaboration with State, Tribal, and local court systems, including mechanisms for communication and referral This consideration is addressed through the <u>required partnership</u> with a court.

To encourage collaboration with Tribal court systems and Tribal victim service providers under (C) and (D) above, OVW will give special consideration to 1) court applicants proposing to collaborate with Tribal communities and 2) Indian Tribal government applicants addressing purpose area 5.

- For courts seeking special consideration for collaboration with Tribal communities, the application must include an Indian Tribal government or Tribal victim service provider from the applicant's jurisdiction as an MOU partner.
- For Tribal applicants seeking special consideration, the applicant must be an Indian Tribal government proposing to address purpose area 5 through either a standard or comprehensive project.

In addition, to encourage collaboration with victim service providers and court systems under (C) and (D) above in domestic violence cases, OVW will give special consideration to applicants that demonstrate a coordinated systems and community approach for court cases involving domestic violence through a specialized court, consolidated court, docket, and/or intake center. To receive this special consideration,

applicants should demonstrate meaningful coordination and collaboration with system and community partners such as prosecutors, defense attorneys, civil legal assistance, advocates, population-specific organizations, and/or a resource coordinator in the Proposal Narrative and signed Memorandum of Understanding.

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12464(c)(2), in making grants to address Purpose Area 8 (Training within the civil justice system), OVW must take into account the extent to which the grantee has expertise addressing the judicial system's handling of family violence, child custody, child abuse and neglect, adoption, foster care, supervised visitation, divorce, and parentage. Applicants addressing this purpose area should describe their relevant expertise (or the expertise of a proposed partner on the grant) in the Who Will Implement section of the <u>Proposal Narrative</u>.

## **Program Requirements**

Applicants that receive funding under this program will be required to engage in the following activities:

- 1. Participate in OVW-sponsored training and technical assistance (TTA).
- 2. Collect and report performance indicators. Forms, instructions, training, and related tools for each OVW program are available on the <u>VAWA Measuring Effectiveness Initiative webpage</u>.
- 3. Participate in an assessment or evaluation, if OVW conducts one that requires recipient involvement.
- 4. Participate in new grantee orientation, unless exempted by OVW.
- 5. For new supervised visitation and safe exchange projects, complete a planning period of up to 12 months prior to providing supervised visitation and safe exchange services. The planning period will conclude once:
  - a. Grantees have completed the development of and received OVW approval for policies and procedures and a site plan;
  - b. Grantees have participated in a planning meeting with the assigned OVW technical assistance provider; and
  - c. The project director has completed two specified in-person trainings focused on supervised visitation provided by the OVW technical assistance provider.

# **Program-Specific Unallowable Costs**

Applications proposing activities described below may have points deducted during the review process or may be removed from consideration.

Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery or Undermine Offender Accountability

OVW will not fund activities that compromise victim safety and recovery, deter healing for victims, and/or undermine offender accountability. See the <a href="Application Companion Guide">Application Companion Guide</a> for more details about these activities, including program-specific information.

#### **Out-of-Scope Activities**

The activities listed below are out of the program scope and will not be funded.

- 1. Research projects. Funds under this program may not be used to conduct research, defined by 28 C.F.R. § 46.102(d) as a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. However, assessments conducted for internal improvement purposes only may be allowable. For information on distinguishing between research and assessments, see the <u>Application Companion Guide</u>.
- 2. Mediation requiring offenders and victims being physically present in the same place, where domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking is an issue.
- 3. Parent education programs.
- 4. Individual, group, and family counseling other than for offender accountability programs.
- 5. Telephonic and/or virtual monitoring of supervised visitation.

**Note:** OVW will only grant temporary exceptions to in-person supervised visitation where 1) grantees are experiencing extreme impediments, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or a natural disaster; and 2) grantees are supporting families temporarily separated by a move of one parent to another state. To be eligible for these exceptions, grantees would be required to have prior approval from OVW. Recipients seeking to provide virtual supervised visitations would be required to have policies established to ensure the safety of the adult survivor and the child.

- 6. Supervised visitation and exchange services unrelated to domestic violence, dating violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.
- 7. Legal representation in child protection cases, except for cases in which the legal services are provided to a victim of domestic violence and the proceedings relate to or arise out of the abuse or violence committed against the victim.
- 8. Legal representation in child sexual abuse cases, except for cases in which the legal services are provided to nonoffending parents and relate to family matters, including civil protection orders, custody, and divorce, and where the other parent is represented by counsel.
- 9. Criminal defense of victims charged with crimes, except for representation in post-conviction relief proceedings where the victim's conviction related to or arose from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- 10. Support of law reform initiatives, including, but not limited to, impact litigation.
- 11. Direct victim assistance such as emergency housing and transportation not directly related to accessing supervised visitation, legal assistance services, or court hearings.

#### Other Unallowable Costs

Grant funds under this program also may not be used for the following costs:

- 1. Lobbying except with explicit statutory authorization.
- 2. Fundraising.
- 3. Purchase of real property.
- 4. Physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations (such as painting or carpeting) without prior approval by OVW.

5. Construction.

#### **Limited Use of Funds**

Recipients of an award under this program may use up to two percent of the funds to assess the need for internal improvements (e.g. convening listening sessions to identify service gaps in the community; surveying participants about the quality of the training.) The OVW research decision tree in the <u>Application Companion Guide</u> describes how applicants can ensure that such assessments are not prohibited human subjects research.

#### **Activities Requiring Prior Approval**

OVW must approve the following activities before recipients use grant funds to support them:

- 1. Surveys, regardless of their purpose, to ensure they are within the scope of the award and meet the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act.
- Renovations, including such minor activities as painting, carpeting, or installing lighting. Recipients must also ensure that funded renovations comply with the <u>National</u> <u>Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)</u> and related laws, which may be time-consuming and include public notice and consultation.

#### Type of Award

Awards will be made as grants.

# **Application Contents and Format**

## **Letter of Intent**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent stating their intention to apply. The letter should be submitted to OVW at <a href="OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov">OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov</a> by January 6, 2025. This letter does not obligate the applicant to apply, and applicants that do not submit this letter can still apply. See the OVW website for a sample Letter of Intent.

# **Application Contents**

Applications must include the required documents and meet the program eligibility requirements. For a checklist of all required items, see the Application Submission Checklist section of this NOFO.

OVW will not contact applicants for missing items on the list below. **Applications must include ALL** the following to be considered for funding:

Required Application Components	Number of Possible Points		
Proposal Narrative			
Purpose of the Proposal	10		
What Will Be Done	45		
Who Will Implement	10		
Budget			
Budget worksheet and narrative	15		
Memorandum of Understanding and Supporting Documents			
MOU and/or LOC	20		

### **Formatting and Technical Requirements**

Applications must follow the requirements below for all attachments, unless otherwise noted. OVW may deduct points for applications that do not adhere to these requirements:

- 1. Double-spaced text (charts may be single-spaced)
- 2. 8½ x 11-inch pages
- 3. One-inch margins
- 4. Arial font, type no smaller than 11-point, except for footnotes, which may be 9-point
- 5. Correctly numbered pages
- 6. No more than 20 pages for the Proposal Narrative for standard projects, and no more than 25 pages for the Proposal Narrative for comprehensive projects
- 7. Documents in the following formats: Microsoft Word (.doc), PDF files (.pdf), or Text Documents (.txt)
- 8. Headings and sub-headings that correspond to those identified below for each application component

# **Proposal Abstract**

The Proposal Abstract must provide a short summary (no more than two pages double-spaced) of the proposed project, including names of lead applicant and project partners, project title, purpose of the project, primary activities for which funds are requested, who will benefit (including geographic area to be served), and products and deliverables. The abstract should not summarize past accomplishments. The Proposal Abstract must be entered into a text box in JustGrants. It will not be scored but will be used throughout the review process.

Applicants are strongly encouraged, but not required, to use the following template for the abstract:

Through this [Choose one: new or continuation] Justice for Families project, [Applicant Legal Name], in partnership with [list MOU Partners], will implement a [Choose one: standard or

comprehensive] project addressing the following purpose areas: [list purpose areas being addressed including number and name of purpose area] for the [insert a brief description of the geographic area covered by the project]. [Optional: The project will address the following special statutory considerations: [Collaboration with Tribal courts and communities; Coordinated systems and community approach to domestic violence court cases centers].] Specific activities will include: 1) [list specific activities and products/deliverables that will be addressed for each purpose area listed].

#### **Data Requested with Application**

Applicants must complete the Pre-Award Risk Assessment questionnaire in JustGrants. The questionnaire will not be scored. The questions are listed in <u>Appendix B</u> of this NOFO.

#### **Summary Data Sheet**

(1 to 4 pages maximum, single or double-spaced)

The Summary Data Sheet must be completed and submitted as an attachment under the Additional Application Components section in JustGrants. It will not be scored. Refer to <a href="Appendix C">Appendix C</a> for the list of questions.

#### **Proposal Narrative**

**(65 points**, 20 pages maximum for standard projects and 25 pages maximum for comprehensive projects, double-spaced)

The Proposal Narrative must include the sections outlined below.

#### Purpose of the Proposal (10 points)

This section must:

- Describe the communities in the service area, including but not limited to: traditionally underserved populations, such as communities of color, people with disabilities, people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, persons with limited English proficiency, older adults, and LGBTQ+ communities.
- 2. Describe the challenge(s) or need(s) faced by the community and how the proposal will meet the need.
  - a. If addressing Tribal courts and communities, describe the challenges or needs of the identified Tribal community and how the project will meet the need.
  - b. If addressing a coordinated systems and community approach to domestic violence court cases, describe the challenges of the community to be served and how a coordinated effort will meet the need.
- 3. Identify the purpose area(s) the application is proposing to address.
- 4. Describe the gap in services and how the proposed project will complement and not duplicate existing services.

5. Describe any previous or current efforts (OVW-funded or not) to address the problem(s) the proposed project targets, and the effectiveness of those efforts.

#### What Will Be Done (45 points)

The application must provide a clear link between the proposed activities and the need identified in the "Purpose of the Proposal" section above. This section should not include any of the activities listed as unallowable costs in the Program Description section of this NOFO.

#### This section must:

- 1. Describe the approach to addressing the challenge or need identified in the "Purpose of the Proposal" section.
- 2. Explain how the applicant will measure its progress in achieving the proposal's goal(s)/vision. Identify targeted outcome(s) and describe any tool(s) the applicant will use to track those outcomes and report them to OVW.
- 3. Describe the safety needs of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and the applicant's commitment to addressing those needs through the proposed project.
- 4. Describe project goals, objectives, activities, and products (if applicable), including the number of families to be served, and provide a corresponding 36-month timeline. If proposing to implement a new supervised visitation and safe exchange program or have never received funds from OVW for the proposed supervised visitation and safe exchange program for families with a history of domestic violence, include a planning period for up to 12 months.
- 5. Describe how the proposed project will address the unique needs of the traditionally underserved populations identified in the Purpose of the Proposal section above.
- 6. Describe what steps the applicant and any proposed partner(s) will take to make proposed services accessible to people with disabilities and people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.
- 7. Describe what steps the applicant and any proposed partner(s) will take to make proposed services accessible to people with limited English proficiency.
- 8. Describe how survivors and those with relevant lived experiences have helped formulate and/or will be involved in shaping and implementing the project. Involving people with lived experience ensures that a project is informed by those who have direct experience with the issues the project is seeking to address. (For example, this may include working with survivors who have obtained protection orders to develop a brochure explaining the steps for requesting a protection order.) For more information about engaging people with lived experience, see <a href="Methods and Emerging Strategies to Engage People with Lived Experience: Improving Federal Research, Policy, and Practice">Methods and Emerging Strategies to Engage People with Lived Experience: Improving Federal Research, Policy, and Practice</a> (funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).

For applicants proposing projects addressing purpose area 1 (supervised visitation and/ or safe exchange services):

- 1. Using concrete examples, describe the extent to which the applicant's or a project partner's supervised visitation and/or safe exchange services align—or will be aligned with the <a href="OVW's Supervised Visitation Guiding Principles">OVW's Supervised Visitation Guiding Principles</a>.
- 2. Describe the applicant's or a partner's previous experience providing supervised visitation and exchange services to families affected by domestic violence, dating violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. If the applicant or partner has no prior experience providing supervised visitation and exchange services to families affected by domestic violence, dating violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking, describe the steps that have been or will be taken to gain knowledge and understanding to be able to provide these services.
- 3. Provide a detailed statement of how the applicant will ensure that adequate security measures, including adequate facilities, procedures, and personnel capable of preventing violence, and adequate standards are, or will be, in place.
- 4. Describe the layout and security features of the anticipated facility and where in the community the facility is located. If a facility is not identified, describe the layout and security features that will be considered and factors to be considered of where the facility will be located within the community.
- 5. Describe how the applicant will develop protocols or policies to ensure that confidential information is not shared with courts, law enforcement agencies, or child welfare agencies unless necessary to ensure the safety of any child or adult using the services of a program funded by OVW.

# For applicants proposing projects addressing purpose area 5 (court and court-based programs and services):

- 1. Describe any specialized docket or court infrastructure that is currently in place or will be established as part of this project to improve the handling of cases involving domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. If no specialized docket or court infrastructure exists or will be established through this proposal, describe how the court handles cases involving domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking.
- 2. Describe how the project will improve the judicial handling of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and/or cases involving child sexual abuse; ensure offender accountability; and promote informed judicial decision-making.
- 3. Describe the technology used by the court for case management and how information is shared between courts and other partners, including how the project will address any victim safety concerns that could arise from the use of technology, such as confidentiality, safety planning, and informed consent.
- 4. If proposing a community-based initiative within the court system, describe how the initiative will enhance access to the court for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and/or in cases involving child sexual abuse.
- 5. If proposing an offender management, monitoring, and/or accountability program, describe the proposed program model and how it will enhance safety for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and/or in cases involving child sexual abuse and ensure offender accountability.

6. If proposing education and outreach programs to improve community access to the courts, describe how the project will enhance access to the courts and reach underserved populations.

### For applicants proposing projects addressing purpose area 6 (civil legal assistance):

- Describe the extent to which the applicant will provide civil legal assistance to victims of domestic violence and/ or to nonoffending parents in matters that involve allegations of child sexual abuse and relate to family matters, including civil protection orders, custody, and divorce, and in which the other parent is represented by counsel.
- 2. Describe how the proposed activities will protect victim confidentiality.
- 3. Describe how the applicant or project partner will provide a supervision and mentoring plan for attorney staff supported by this project (attorneys with fewer than five years of experience must be supervised by an attorney).
- 4. Explain how the project will address any victim safety concerns that may arise from the use of technology, such as confidentiality, safety planning, and informed consent.
- 5. If the applicant is not a domestic violence or sexual assault victim service provider, explain how it will coordinate with a local domestic violence or sexual assault victim service as a required project partner when providing civil legal assistance to victims.

# For applicants proposing projects addressing purpose area 3 (training for court-based and court-related personnel) or purpose area 8 (training within the civil justice system):

- 1. Describe any training program or curriculum that is currently in place or will be established as part of this project.
- 2. Identify the agencies that will be trained, the estimated number of trainings and attendees for each training, and the purpose of the trainings.
- 3. Describe how the project will improve training and education for court-based and court-related personnel on the dynamics of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and/or improve training and education for those within the civil justice system.
- 4. Provide a detailed statement of how the applicant will reach the intended audience for training and education, including efforts MOU/LOC partners will engage in to encourage identified participants to attend the trainings.

#### Who Will Implement the Proposal (10 points)

#### This section must:

1. Identify the key people and organizations, including project partners involved in the proposed project. Identify the required court and domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider partners. If proposing a coordinated systems and community approach to domestic

- violence court cases, identify system and community partners such as prosecutors, defense attorneys, civil legal services, advocates, and/or a resource coordinator that will implement the coordinated system and community approach.
- 2. Demonstrate that the people and organizations identified have the capacity to address the stated need and can successfully implement the proposed project activities. Job descriptions of all key personnel must be attached but will not count toward the page limit.
- 3. Describe the applicant's and/or or project partner's expertise in the areas of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child sexual abuse. If proposing a coordinated systems and community approach to domestic violence court cases, describe the expertise of system and community partners such as prosecutors, defense attorneys, civil legal services, advocates, and/or a resource coordinator that will implement the coordinated system and community approach. If addressing Purpose Area 8 (training within the civil justice system), describe the expertise of the applicant or a project partner in addressing the judicial system's handling of family violence, child custody, child abuse and neglect, adoption, foster care, supervised visitation, divorce, and parentage.

#### **Budget and Associated Documentation**

OVW awards are governed by the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and the DOJ Financial Guide.

Applicants must submit a detailed budget and budget narrative and upload the applicable associated documentation under each heading, as described below. The budget worksheet and budget narrative will be reviewed separately from the Proposal Narrative. The associated documentation will not be scored, but failure to include it may result in removal from consideration or a delay in access to funding.

For additional information on budget requirements and allowable costs, see the Budget Information and Sample Budget Narrative in <u>Appendix A</u> and the <u>Creating a Budget</u> webinar on the OVW website.

#### **Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative**

#### (15 points)

Applicants must upload in JustGrants a detailed budget and budget narrative for all applicable cost categories. OVW strongly encourages using a spreadsheet (e.g., Excel, Numbers, etc.) for the budget worksheet. The budget narrative must describe each line item requested in the budget and explain all costs included in the budget, including how the costs of goods and services are determined and how they will fulfill the objectives of the project. Budgetary requirements vary among programs. The budget should be reasonable and based on the resources needed to implement the proposed project in the applicant's specific geographic location.

#### Award Period and Amounts

The award period is 36 months. Budgets, including the total "estimated funding" on the <u>SF-424</u>, must reflect 36 months of project activity. OVW anticipates that the award period will start on October 1, 2025.

Awards under this program for FY 2025 will be made for up to \$600,000 for standard projects and \$700,000 for comprehensive projects.

OVW has the discretion to make awards for greater or lesser amounts than requested and to negotiate the scope of work and budget with applicants before making an award or after an award is made but prior to access to funds.

#### The budget must:

- 1. Present a clear link between the specific project activities and the proposed budget items. The budget should not contain items that are not supported by the Proposal Narrative.
- 2. Fairly and reasonably compensate all project partners for their full level of effort, unless otherwise stated in the MOU/LOC.
- 3. Include a minimum of \$5,000 to provide language access, identify other funds that the applicant has budgeted for language access for this project, or describe other resources that the applicant has secured to ensure meaningful access for persons with limited English proficiency. See the <a href="Accessibility">Accessibility</a> section of this NOFO for more information.
- 4. Include a minimum of \$3,000 to provide access for people with disabilities and a minimum of \$3,000 to provide access to those who are Deaf/hard of hearing, identify other funds that the applicant has budgeted for such access for this project, or describe other resources that the applicant has secured to ensure meaningful access for such people. See the <u>Accessibility</u> section of this NOFO for more information.
- 5. Include funds to attend OVW-sponsored TTA in the amount of \$15,000 for standard projects and \$20,000 for comprehensive projects for applicants located in the 48 contiguous states and \$20,000 for standard projects and \$25,000 for comprehensive projects for applicants located in Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, and Alaska. This amount is for the entire 36 months and NOT per year. Applicants also may budget expenses in excess of the required amount if they are aware of relevant non-OVW sponsored conferences or training for which they would like permission to use grant funds to support staff/project partner attendance.

**Note:** For new supervised visitation and safe exchange projects, the planning period will include at least two required in-person trainings on providing supervised visitation and safe exchanges services by an OVW technical assistance provider.

- 6. If applying under purpose area 1 and proposing to implement new supervised visitation and safe exchange program (or if the applicant has never received funds from OVW for the proposed supervised visitation and safe exchange program) for families with a history of domestic violence, include costs for up to12 months of planning activities (training, siteselection, development of policies and procedures, hiring and onboarding of new staff, etc.).
- 7. If applicable to the proposed project, include costs related to transportation for supervised visitation/safe exchange, transportation for court hearings, and childcare in court settings for domestic violence or sexual assault cases.

- 8. If proposing to provide civil legal assistance and pro se victim assistance programs, do not include costs related to those activities that exceed 50 percent of the total project costs and activities.
- 9. Distinguish clearly between subawards and contracts in allocating any grant funds to other entities.
  - a. Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.331, a subaward is for the purpose of carrying out a portion of the federal award, such as compensating an MOU partner; a contract is for the purpose of obtaining goods and services for the recipient's use.
  - b. The substance of the relationship is more important than the form of the agreement in determining whether the entity receiving federal funds is a subrecipient or a contractor.
  - c. The awarding and monitoring of contracts must follow the recipient's documented procurement procedures, including full and open competition, pursuant to the procurement standards and oversight requirements in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.327.
  - d. The issuance and monitoring of subawards must meet the requirements of 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.328-200.329 & 200.332, which includes oversight of subrecipient spending and overall performance to ensure that the goals of the subaward are achieved.

For more information on distinguishing between subawards and contracts, see the Budget Information and Sample Budget Narrative in <u>Appendix A</u> and the <u>Application Companion</u> Guide.

#### Food and Beverage/Costs for Refreshments and Meals

Recipients **must** receive prior approval before using grant funds to provide a working meal and/or refreshments at a meeting, conference, training, or other event. Food and beverages are generally considered personal expenses for which government funds should not be used. Exceptions may be made for working meals that are necessary to accomplish official business and enhance the cost effectiveness of the meeting or conference. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- 1. The location of the event is not in close proximity to food establishments, despite efforts to secure a location near reasonably priced and accessible commercial food establishments.
- 2. Failure to serve food will significantly lengthen the day or necessitate extending the meeting to achieve meeting outcomes.
- 3. A special presentation at a conference requires a plenary address where there is no other time for food to be obtained.
- 4. Other extenuating circumstances necessitate the provision of food.

Justification for an exception listed above must be included in the applicant's budget narrative, including relevant details about the applicant's community, such as a rural or remote location. For additional information on restrictions on food and beverage expenditures, see OVW Conference Costs Guidelines (posted on the <a href="OVW website">OVW website</a>).

#### Conference Planning and Expenditure Limitations

Applicants' budgets must be consistent with all requirements (including specific cost limits and prior approval and reporting requirements, where applicable) governing the use of federal funds for expenses related to conferences (which is defined to include meetings, retreats, seminars, symposiums, training, and other similar events), and costs of attendance at such events. Information on conference planning, minimization of costs, and conference reporting is available at <a href="OVW">OVW</a> Conference Planning.

#### <u>Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (If applicable)</u>

Applicants that intend to charge indirect costs through the use of a negotiated indirect cost rate must have a current, signed, federally approved indirect cost rate agreement and must upload and attach a copy of the agreement to their application in JustGrants. Applicants that do not have a current federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate), may elect to charge a de minimis rate of up to 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC).

#### Financial Capability Questionnaire (if applicable)

All nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations that apply for funding from OVW and have not previously (or within the last three years) received funding from OVW must complete an <u>Applicant Financial</u> <u>Capability Questionnaire</u> and attach it to their application in JustGrants. In addition, applicants may be required to submit their current year's audit report at a later time.

#### Nonprofits Only: Disclosure of Process for Setting Executive Compensation (if applicable)

Nonprofit organizations that use the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Safe Harbor Procedure (described below) must submit a special disclosure to OVW (required by 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(15)(B)(iii)). All other applicants may skip this section.

IRS Safe Harbor Procedure: A nonprofit organization that provides unreasonably high compensation to certain executives may subject both the organization's managers and those who receive the compensation to additional federal taxes. However, the IRS may treat executive compensation levels as reasonable if the nonprofit organization satisfies certain rules set out in IRS regulations. These rules concern the organization's process for making compensation decisions and are known as the "three-step safe-harbor procedure" to create a "rebuttable presumption" of reasonableness for compensation of an organization's executives. See 26 C.F.R. § 53.4958-6.

**The special disclosure must** describe the process the applicant uses to determine the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees. At a minimum it must describe (terms explained in IRS regulations are in italics):

 the composition of the body that reviews and approves compensation arrangements for officers, directors, trustees, and key employees (covered individuals);

- 2. the methods and practices used by the organization to ensure that no individual with a *conflict of interest* participates in such review and approval;
- 3. the *appropriate data as to comparability* (obtained in advance) that the body uses to review and approve compensation arrangements for covered individuals; and
- the records the applicant maintains as concurrent and adequate documentation of the body's decisions related to compensation, including records of deliberations and of the basis for decisions.

The disclosure must be uploaded as an attachment to the application in JustGrants, titled "Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation." A sample disclosure is available on the OVW website.

**Note:** OVW is required by law to make the applicant's disclosure available for public inspection, if requested. In addition, if funded, the applicant must update its disclosure in certain circumstances (e.g., if it changes the way it determines compensation).

### **Memorandum of Understanding and Supporting Documents**

#### Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Letter(s) of Commitment (LOC) (20 points)

The MOU is a document containing the terms of the partnership and the allocation of roles and responsibilities between two or more parties, and it must be included as an attachment to the application in JustGrants. The LOC is a letter affirming the intent to commit the specified resources toward the project by one party and it must be included as an attachment to the application in JustGrants. The MOU is not a substitute for a subaward agreement, which ensures that subrecipients adhere to the requirements of the award and 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (see 2 C.F.R. § 200.332). Partners receiving funds under the award generally are considered subrecipients because they are carrying out a portion of the federal award.

The MOU **must** be a single document developed specifically for this application. It **must** be signed and currently dated by the Authorized Representative of each proposed partner organization. OVW will accept electronic signatures. MOUs missing signatures may result in a point deduction or **removal from consideration, particularly if the MOU is missing the signature of a required <b>partner**. If necessary, an MOU can include multiple signature pages so long as each page includes the names and titles of all signatories to the MOU. A sample MOU is available on the OVW website.

Applicants must have formal partnerships, delineated in the MOU (or LOC), with both 1) a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or Tribal domestic violence and/ or sexual assault victim service provider and 2) a court (as outlined in the "Required Partnerships" section under <u>Eligibility Information</u>).

#### The MOU must clearly:

1. Identify the project partners and provide a brief history of the collaborative relationship between those partners, including when and under what circumstances the collaborative relationship began and when each partner entered into the relationship.

- 2. Describe the roles and responsibilities each partner will assume to ensure the success of the proposed project.
- 3. Demonstrate how the proposed partnership can address the needs of the traditionally underserved population(s) identified in the Purpose of the Proposal section.
- 4. State that each project partner has reviewed the budget, is aware of the total amount being requested, and is being equitably compensated for their work under the grant or is agreeing to be partially compensated or receive no compensation from the grant.
- 5. Demonstrate meaningful collaboration with a state, Tribal, or local court system and a nonprofit, nongovernmental or Tribal domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider.
- 6. Demonstrate a meaningful partnership among all signing parties.
- 7. Specify the extent of each partner's participation in developing the application, including the budget.
- 8. Identify the individuals who will be responsible for developing and implementing project activities and describe how they will work together.
- 9. Describe the resources each partner would contribute to the project, either through time, inkind contributions, or grant funds (e.g., office space, project staff, and training).
- 10. Demonstrate that the project has commitments from entities that will receive training if the applicant proposes training under purpose area 3 (training for court-based and court-related personnel) or purpose area 8 (training within the civil justice system).

If a court is unable to sign an MOU, the court may submit a LOC in lieu of signing the MOU as described below:

- If the court is the lead applicant and unable to sign an MOU, all project partners should submit LOCs and no MOU is required.
- If the court is a project partner and unable to sign an MOU, the lead applicant should still submit an MOU signed by the applicant and any other non-court partners and the court partner should submit an LOC.
- If the domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider is the lead applicant, and the only project partner is the court, only the court should provide a signed LOC which the lead applicant will submit with the application.

If an Indian Tribal government applicant is unable to submit a signed MOU, it may submit a signed LOC from each project partner. If selected for funding, the Indian Tribal government must submit a signed MOU as a deliverable post-award.

An LOC must clearly:

- 1. Identify the name of the organization and provide a brief description of the collaborative relationship with the applicant.
- 2. Highlight the expertise of the individual or organization's staff who will be affiliated with this project.
- 3. State the roles and responsibilities the organization would assume to ensure the success of the proposed project.
- 4. Demonstrate how the proposed partnership can address the needs of the traditionally underserved communities identified in the "Purpose of the Proposal" section of the project narrative.
- 5. Demonstrate a commitment to work with the applicant and its partners to achieve the stated project goals.
- 6. State that the organization has reviewed the budget, is aware of the total amount being requested, and is being fully compensated for its work under the grant or is agreeing to be partially compensated or receive no compensation from the grant.
- 7. Specify the extent of the organization's participation in developing the application.
- 8. Describe the resources that would be contributed to the project, either through time, in-kind contributions, or grant funds (e.g., office space, project staff, and training).
- 9. Describe the collaboration, activities, and/or resources the partner(s) will contribute to addressing the identified traditionally underserved population(s).
- 10. Demonstrate that the project has commitments from entities that will receive training if the applicant proposes training under purpose area 3 (training for court-based and court related personnel) or purpose area 8 (training within the civil justice system).

**Note:** LOCs submitted in lieu of MOU under circumstances other than those defined above will not be accepted.

# **Additional Application Components**

The following documents will not be scored but must be uploaded and attached to the application in JustGrants. Failure to do so may result in the application being removed from consideration.

## Letter of Nonsupplanting

Applicants must attach a letter to OVW's Director, signed by the Authorized Representative, certifying that federal funds will not be used to supplant non-federal funds should a grant award be made. A sample <u>Letter of Nonsupplanting</u> is available on the OVW website.

## Proof of 501(c)(3) Status (Nonprofit Organizations Only)

As noted under the <u>Eligible Applicants</u> section, an entity that is eligible for this program based on its status as a nonprofit organization must be an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Code. All such applicants are required to attach a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service recognizing their tax-exempt status. OVW cannot make an award to any nonprofit organization that does not submit a 501(c)(3) determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service.

#### Confidentiality Notice Form

All applicants are required to acknowledge that they have received notice that recipients and subrecipients must comply with the confidentiality and privacy requirements of VAWA, as amended. Applicants must upload and attach, under Additional Attachments in JustGrants, the completed acknowledgement form available on the <a href="OVW website">OVW website</a>. This form must be signed by the Authorized Representative.

#### **Delivery of Legal Assistance Certification**

As referenced under <u>Other Program Eligibility Requirements</u>, applicants proposing projects under purpose area 5(b) or 6 to provide civil legal assistance must certify in writing that:

- 1. any person providing legal assistance with funds through this program (A)(i) is a licensed attorney or is working under the direct supervision of a licensed attorney; (ii) in immigration proceedings, is a Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative; (iii) in Veterans' Administration claims, is an accredited representative; or (iv) is any person who functions as an attorney or lay advocate in Tribal court; and (B)(i) has demonstrated expertise in providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in the targeted population; or (ii)(I) is partnered with an entity or person that has demonstrated expertise described in clause (i); and (II) has completed, or will complete, training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault and related legal issues, including training on evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide;
- any training program conducted in satisfaction of the requirement of paragraph (1) has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a tribal, state, territorial, local, or culturally specific domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking victim service provider or coalition, as well as appropriate tribal, state, territorial, and local law enforcement officials;
- any person or organization providing legal assistance with funds through this program has informed and will continue to inform state, local, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence, or sexual assault programs and coalitions, as well as appropriate state and local law enforcement officials of their work; and
- 4. the recipient's organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or child sexual abuse is an issue.
- 5. any person providing legal assistance through a program funded under the Justice for Families Program has completed or will complete training on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including child sexual abuse, and related legal issues.

A sample letter is available on the OVW website.

#### Certification of Eligibility

As referenced under <u>Other Program Eligibility Requirements</u> all applicants must submit a Certification of Eligibility regarding mediation or counseling.

#### Certification Letter for Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange

As referenced under <u>Other Program Eligibility Requirements</u>, applicants proposing activities under purpose area 1 must submit a Certification letter demonstrating safe operation of supervised visitation or safe exchange.

#### Certification Letter for Court-based Programs

As referenced under <u>Other Program Eligibility Requirements</u>, applicants proposing activities under purpose area 5 must submit a Certification letter regarding filing and other fees.

#### Certification Letter for Custody Evaluation and Guardian ad Litem Services

As referenced under <u>Other Program Eligibility Requirements</u>, applicants proposing activities under purpose area 5 to support custody evaluation and/ or guardian ad litem services must submit the Certification letter regarding custody evaluation and guardian ad litem services.

#### **Disclosures and Assurances**

All applicants must review, complete, and submit all disclosures, assurances, and certifications in JustGrants as described below.

#### Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)

Applicants are required to complete and submit a lobbying disclosure form (Standard Form/SF-LLL) **IF** they have paid or will pay any person to lobby in connection with the award for which they are applying **AND** their application is for more than \$100,000. This disclosure requirement is not applicable to such payments by an Indian Tribe, Tribal organization, or any other Indian organization that are permitted by other federal law. For this requirement, lobbying means influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress. (See 31 U.S.C. § 1352; 28 C.F.R. part 69.)

Applicants that are required to submit the SF-LLL must download the form from <a href="https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SFLLL\_2\_0-V2.0.pdf">https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SFLLL\_2\_0-V2.0.pdf</a>, complete it, and upload it with their application when prompted to do so in JustGrants.

#### Summary of Other Federal Funding

Applicants must disclose whether they have any of the following: 1) an OVW grant or cooperative agreement that is open or that closed within 12 months of the date this funding opportunity closes; 2)

a subaward under an OVW grant or cooperative agreement that is open or that closed within 12 months of the date this funding opportunity closes; 3) a pending OVW application as either the lead applicant/potential recipient or as a partner/potential subrecipient; 4) a federal award to do the same or similar work; or 5) a pending federal application to do the same or similar work.

Applicants must provide this information by completing the Summary of Other Federal Funding form in the Disclosures and Assurances section of JustGrants during the application submission process.

#### **DOJ Certified Standard Assurances**

Applicants must read and acknowledge the DOJ Certified Standard Assurances in JustGrants, a copy of which is available here.

<u>DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters;</u> and <u>Drug-Free Workplace Requirements</u>

Applicants must read and acknowledge these DOJ certifications in JustGrants, a copy of which is available here.

# **Submission Requirements and Deadlines**

#### Address to Request Application Package

The complete application package (this NOFO, including links to required forms) is available on Grants.gov and on the <a href="OVW website">OVW website</a>. Applicants wishing to request a paper copy of these materials should contact OVW at 202-307-6026 or <a href="JFF.OVW@usdoj.gov">JFF.OVW@usdoj.gov</a>.

# **Prior to Application Submission**

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

Entities applying for the first time must register with the following systems:

- SAM.gov: Registration with <u>SAM.gov</u> includes receiving a UEI and takes an average of 2 to 3 weeks.
- Grants.gov: Registration with <u>Grants.gov</u> takes an average of **1 week.**
- JustGrants: Registration with JustGrants needs to be completed <u>ONLY</u> after successful submission of <u>Step 1</u> of the application as described below under How to Apply.

**Note:** Registration time frames are estimates. Applicants experiencing registration challenges should contact the system's <u>help desk</u> and refer to the <u>OVW Policy for Applicants Experiencing Technical Difficulties During the Registration and Submission Processes</u> section below for guidance on how to proceed.

Entities that have previously applied for funding from DOJ must ensure their accounts with SAM, Grants.gov, and JustGrants are active and up to date.

All applicants must maintain active registration in SAM.gov with current information whenever they have a federal award or an application under consideration by a federal agency. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they are registered with SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants. OVW strongly encourages all applicants to begin the registration process or ensure that all accounts are active and up to date, by January 6, 2025. Failure to do so may result in missing the application deadline and therefore not being considered for funding.

#### **How to Apply**

#### Step 1:

Submit the SF-424, which is generated when the applicant begins the submission process in Grants.gov. To view the form before completing it in Grants.gov, applicants should click the Package tab under the funding opportunity for which they are applying and select Preview. Preview then provides links to the form.

For Type of Applicant (box 9), do not select Other. The amount of federal funding requested in the "Estimated Funding" section of this form (box 18a) should match the amount of federal funding requested in the budget of the application. This program does not require a match; therefore, the value for the Applicant line (box 18b) should be zero. The individual who is listed as "**Authorized Representative**" (box 21) must have the authority to apply for and accept grant awards on behalf of the organization or jurisdiction.

Intergovernmental Review (SF-424 Question 19): This funding opportunity is subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. Applicants must check the Office of Management and Budget's website for the names and addresses of state Single Points of Contact (SPOC) under Intergovernmental Review. If the applicant's state appears on the SPOC list, the applicant must contact the state SPOC to comply with the state's process under E.O. 12372. In completing the SF-424, the applicant must make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 once it has complied with its state E.O. 12372 process. An applicant whose state does not appear on the SPOC list should answer question 19 by selecting the following response: "Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the state for review."

#### Step 2:

Submit the full application, including attachments, in JustGrants at <a href="https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/">https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/</a>. Applicants begin Step 2 of the application submission process by reviewing the Standard Applicant Information in JustGrants, making edits as needed, confirming the Authorized Representative, verifying the legal name and address, and entering the ZIP code(s) for the areas affected by the project. OVW encourages applicants to review the <a href="JustGrants">JustGrants</a> website for more information, resources, and training.

**Tip:** JustGrants functions better using a PC with Chrome or Edge web browser.

Note that the Grants.gov and JustGrants deadlines are typically only a few days apart.

#### **Submission Dates and Times**

- Deadline to submit form SF-424 in Grants.gov: 11:59 pm ET on January 17, 2025.
- Deadline to submit the full application in JustGrants: 8:59 pm ET on January 22, 2025.

Applicants must make every effort to submit their application electronically in Grants.gov and JustGrants by the deadlines above.

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties should refer to the <u>OVW Policy for Applicants</u> Experiencing Technical Difficulties During the Registration and Submission Processes.

OVW will not accept applications after the JustGrants deadline, except for severe inclement weather or natural or man-made disaster. See the OVW Policy on Late Submission Request Due to Severe Inclement Weather or Natural or Man-Made Disaster below.

**Application Tip:** OVW strongly encourages all applicants to begin the submission process at least 48 hours prior to the Grants.gov application deadline. Failure to do so may result in missing the application deadline and therefore not being considered for funding.

#### **Application Submission Checklist**

Applicants must submit all required application items. Prior to peer review, OVW will not contact applicants for missing items. Applicants applying to more than one OVW program are responsible for ensuring that only documents pertinent to this funding opportunity are included with this application. OVW will not redirect documents submitted with the wrong application (e.g., a Rural Program letter submitted with a Transitional Housing Program application will not be transferred to the Rural application).

Application Item	Required?	Submission Type	Submission Website	Date Completed
Application for Federal Assistance: SF-424	Yes	Online Form	Grants.gov	
Proposal Abstract	Yes	Online Form	JustGrants	
Pre-Award Risk Assessment	Yes	Online Form	JustGrants	
Summary Data Sheet	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
Proposal Narrative	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
Job Descriptions	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	

Application Item	Required?	Submission Type	Submission Website	Date Completed
Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
Indirect Cost Rate Agreement	If applicable	Attachment	JustGrants	
Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation	If applicable	Attachment	JustGrants	
Memorandum of Understanding and/or Letter(s) of Commitment	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
Letter of Nonsupplanting	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
Confidentiality Notice Form	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	If applicable	Attachment	JustGrants	
Summary of Other Federal Funding	If applicable	Online Form	JustGrants	
Delivery of Legal Assistance Certification	If applicable	Attachment	JustGrants	
Certification of Eligibility Regarding Mediation or Counseling	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
Certification Letter Demonstrating Safe Operation of Supervised Visitation or Safe Exchange	If applicable	Attachment	JustGrants	
Certification Letter Regarding Filing and Other Fees	If applicable	Attachment	JustGrants	
Certification Letter Regarding Custody Evaluation and Guardian Ad Litem Services	If applicable	Attachment	JustGrants	

#### OVW Policy for Applicants Experiencing Technical Difficulties

Technical difficulties are issues that are beyond the applicant's control. OVW can confirm when each registration and/or submission action began.

#### Technical difficulties with SAM.gov or Grants.gov

- 1. Contact SAM.gov or Grants.gov support as soon as the applicant is aware of a problem.
- 2. Maintain documentation of when the issue began and all communication with technical support.
- 3. Before the Grants.gov deadline, notify the <u>OVW contact</u> by email, stating the applicant is experiencing technical difficulties with SAM.gov or Grants.gov. The applicant should provide regular updates to the OVW contact.
- 4. If the technical difficulty cannot be resolved before the Grants.gov deadline, the applicant must notify the <a href="OVW contact">OVW contact</a> by email before the <a href="Grants.gov deadline">Grants.gov deadline</a>.
- 5. Once the Grants.gov deadline passes an applicant will not be able to apply in JustGrants. Therefore, the applicant **must** email the complete application (SF-424, Proposal Narrative, Budget and Budget Narrative, MOU/ LOC, required certifications, and all documentation confirming the technical difficulty to the <a href="OVW contact">OVW contact</a> by the <a href="JustGrants deadline">JustGrants deadline</a>.

#### Technical difficulties while applying in JustGrants

- Contact OVW JustGrants Support at <u>OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov</u> or 866-655-4482 as soon as the applicant is aware of a problem. OVW JustGrants Support is a separate Help Desk from OJP and COPS and is dedicated to OVW applicants.
- 2. Maintain documentation of all communication with OVW JustGrants Support.
- 3. Work with OVW JustGrants Support to resolve the technical difficulty.
- 4. Email the <u>OVW contact</u> before the <u>JustGrants deadline</u>. If an applicant must submit their application by email due to a technical difficulty, they must do so by the JustGrants deadline, but **no earlier than 4 hours prior to the deadline**. The email must include the following:
  - · A detailed description of the technical difficulty.
  - The contact information (name, telephone, and email) for the person making the request.
  - The applicant's UEI number.
  - JustGrants application numbers and User Support tracking numbers.
  - The complete application (SF-424, Proposal Narrative, Budget and Budget Narrative, MOU/LOC, and required certifications).

OVW does not guarantee that applications submitted by email will be considered for funding, even if the email is received before the JustGrants deadline. OVW will decide and notify applicants of the decision within 30 days of the JustGrants deadline. OVW may then ask applicants to coordinate with OVW to submit applications in Grants.gov and JustGrants.

# OVW Policy on Late Submission Request Due to Severe Inclement Weather or Natural or Man-Made Disaster

Cases of severe inclement weather or natural or man-made disaster are the only circumstances under which OVW may accept applications after the deadline. In such circumstances:

- 1. Email the <u>OVW contact</u> listed in this NOFO as soon as the applicant is aware of severe weather or disaster that may prevent the applicant from submitting the application on time. The email should describe the weather event or disaster, including when it occurred or is likely to occur, the impacted area, and the impact on the applicant and/or partners' ability to ensure the application is submitted before the deadline (e.g., without power for "x" days, office closed for "x" days). If the application is complete and ready for submission at the time the applicant notifies OVW, then attach the application to the email.
- 2. After following step 1, contact OVW within 48 hours after the deadline or as soon as communications are restored.

Note: OVW may not be able to accommodate all requests.

Within 30 days of receiving a request for late submission, OVW will notify the applicant of a decision to approve or deny it.

# **Application Review Information**

# Responsiveness Review

Criteria that make an application or project ineligible are listed in the <u>Application Contents</u> and <u>Eligibility</u> sections of this NOFO. Additional information about circumstances that may result in removal from consideration is provided below under Review and Selection Process and Risk Review.

# **Review Criteria**

Applications will be scored based on the degree to which the application responds to each section and addresses each element in the section. Applications will also be scored based upon the quality of the response, capacity of the applicant and any partners, and the level of detail provided. Each element **must** be addressed in the section in which it is requested. Points may be deducted if the applicant does not include the information in the appropriate section even if it is included elsewhere within the application. Each section will be reviewed as a separate document and will be scored as such. Scoring details can be found in the <u>Application Contents</u> section of this NOFO.

Voluntary match or other cost sharing methods will not be considered in the evaluation of the application.

#### **Review and Selection Process**

Applications will be subject to a peer review and a programmatic review.

#### Peer Review

OVW will subject all eligible, complete, and timely applications to a <u>peer review process</u> that is based on the criteria outlined in this NOFO. OVW may use internal reviewers, external reviewers, or a combination of both.

OVW peer reviewers may include victim advocates, judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, legal professionals, and others with expertise in areas such as tribal communities, colleges and universities, rural areas, urban areas, working with people with disabilities or older adults, and providing services to victims, including transitional housing and services provided by culturally specific organizations and the faith community. While some peer reviewers are expert consultants on violence against women issues, the vast majority are current practitioners or recent retirees from the professions mentioned above. To ensure that applications are reviewed by people with on-the-ground experience responding to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, OVW does not use professional peer reviewers. All reviewers are required to adhere to OVW's peer review conflict of interest policy, which is designed to identify and resolve any issues that may call into question a reviewer's impartiality or objectivity regarding an application.

#### Programmatic Review

All applications that are considered for funding will be subject to a programmatic review. The programmatic review consists of assessing the application for compliance with the program's scope, activities that compromise victim safety, and, if applicable, past performance and priority area review. OVW reserves the right to deduct points from applications for the following reasons:

- 1. Activities that compromise victim safety and recovery and undermine offender accountability (deduct up to 10 points).
- 2. Out-of-scope and unallowable activities (deduct up to 10 points).
- 3. Past performance (deduct up to 25 points).
- 4. Formatting and Technical Requirements (deduct up to 5 points).
- 5. Activities and budget items associated with the provision of civil legal assistance described under purpose area 6 and pro se victim assistance under purpose area 5(b) that exceed 50 percent of the total project cost and activities (deduct up to 10 points).

An application that is substantially out-of-scope, proposes a substantial number of activities that are unallowable, or proposes activities that pose a significant threat to victim safety or a serious breach of confidentiality will not be considered for funding. An applicant with considerable past performance issues may receive a deduction in points as listed above or be removed from consideration regardless of the application's peer review score.

#### Past Performance Review

As a part of the programmatic review process described above, applicants with current or recently closed OVW awards under this program will be reviewed for past performance and risk, based on the elements listed below.

- 1. Adherence to the grant program's statutory purposes and requirements.
- 2. Implementation of the project according to plan, without significant obstacles and/or challenges.
- 3. Implementation of the project within the original period of performance.
- 4. Drawdown of funds commensurate with the level of program activities completed.
- 5. Management of award such that applicant has had uninterrupted access to funds.
- 6. Attendance at/participation in all required OVW-sponsored training and technical assistance events.
- 7. Timely resolution of issues identified during programmatic monitoring.
- 8. Completion of close-out of prior awards within 120 days of the project end date.
- 9. Timely resolution of issues necessary to close out prior awards.
- 10. Timely resolution of issues identified during financial monitoring.
- 11. Timely response to OVW requests.
- 12. Development of deliverables that support the project goals and objectives and are of acceptable quality.
- 13. Implementation of the project as designed without unjustified modification.
- 14. Timely submission of federal financial reports (FFR).
- 15. Timely submission of performance reports.
- 16. Submission of complete and accurate performance reports.
- 17. Adherence to the terms and conditions of existing grant award(s) from OVW.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all award decisions will be made by the OVW Director, who also may consider factors including but not limited to: reaching underserved populations, geographic diversity, past performance, and available funding when making awards. All award decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

### **Risk Review**

Prior to making an award, OVW must evaluate the risk posed by applicants as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.206(b), using the applicant's responses to the questions listed in <u>Appendix B</u>. OVW also must review and consider integrity and performance information about applicants that is available in SAM.gov. Applicants may review and comment on information about themselves that another federal awarding agency has previously entered. OVW considers the applicant's comments as well as other

information available in SAM.gov in making its judgment about the risk posed by making an award to the applicant.

#### **High-Risk Recipients**

Based on DOJ's assessment of each recipient's current or past funding, unresolved audit issues, delinquent programmatic and fiscal reporting, and prior performance, a recipient may be designated "high-risk." Awards to high-risk recipients may carry special conditions such as increased monitoring and/or prohibitions on drawing down funds until certain requirements are met. High-risk recipients with substantial or persistent performance or compliance issues, long-standing open audits, or open criminal investigations may not be considered for funding.

# **Award Notices**

OVW notifies applicants through JustGrants (not Grants.gov) when they receive an award. Successful applicants then log into JustGrants to review and accept the award. The Authorized Representative must acknowledge that they have read and understood all sections of the award instrument and they must submit the required declaration and certification to accept the award. These steps must be completed electronically in JustGrants.

By the anticipated decision notification date in the <u>Key Dates</u> section of this NOFO, unsuccessful applicants will receive a letter addressed to their Authorized Representative with information on how to receive feedback on their application.

### Availability of Funds

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds as well as any modifications or additional requirements imposed by law. There is no guarantee that funds will be available in the future. Depending on availability of funding and an application's merit, OVW may fund an application not selected under this funding opportunity in a future fiscal year or under another OVW program.

# **Post-Award Requirements and Administration**

# Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements

Applicants selected for awards must agree to comply with additional legal, administrative, and national policy requirements. OVW strongly encourages applicants to review the information pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting an application. This information can be found in the section of the <u>Application Companion Guide</u> entitled "Requirements for All OVW Applicants and Recipients."

<u>Terms and conditions</u> for OVW awards are available on the OVW website. These terms are subject to change prior to the issuance of the awards.

#### Civil Rights and Accessibility

Recipients must comply with applicable federal civil rights laws, as well as the nondiscrimination provisions in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and, for some OVW programs, in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act. Taken together, these federal laws prohibit recipients from discriminating either in *employment* (subject to an exemption for certain faith-based organizations) or in the *delivery of services or benefits* based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability, and in the delivery of services or benefits based on age. More information on these obligations is available in the <u>Application Companion Guide</u>.

VAWA, as amended, prohibits OVW recipients from excluding, denying benefits to, or discriminating against any person based on actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability in any program or activity funded in whole or in part by OVW. Recipients may provide sex-segregated or sex-specific programming if doing so is necessary for the essential operation of a program, so long as the recipient provides comparable services to those who cannot be provided with the sex-segregated or sex-specific programming. For additional information, see <a href="Frequently Asked Questions: Non-Discrimination Grant Condition in the Violence Against Women Act of 2013">Frequently Asked Questions: Non-Discrimination Grant Condition in the Violence Against Women Act of 2013</a>.

Compliance with federal civil rights laws includes taking reasonable steps to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency (LEP individuals) have meaningful access to recipients' programs and activities. Additionally, recipients are responsible for ensuring that their programs and activities are readily accessible to people with disabilities, including those with physical or cognitive disabilities, as well as people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. OVW expects applicants to allot sufficient resources to ensure programs and activities are accessible and to go beyond minimum compliance in providing accessibility.

Serving victims effectively and supporting their safety and recovery requires programs to be accessible to people with disabilities and those who are Deaf or hard of hearing, to provide language access to LEP individuals, to ensure that any sex-segregated or sex-specific services are comparable, and generally to serve all survivors free from discrimination.

# Post-Award Reporting Requirements

OVW recipients must submit semi-annual performance reports and quarterly Federal Financial Reports (SF-425). Performance report forms will be provided to all award recipients. Forms will be submitted electronically. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent. For more information on post-award reporting requirements, including requirements for certain recipients to report information on civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings in SAM, see the <a href="Application Companion Guide">Application Companion Guide</a> and the award condition on recipient integrity and performance matters available on the <a href="OVW website">OVW website</a>.

## **Other Information**

# Public Reporting Burden - Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OVW tries to create forms and instructions that are accurate, easily understood, and not unnecessarily burdensome. The estimated average time to complete and file this form is 30 hours. Comments regarding the accuracy of this estimate or suggestions for simplifying this form can be submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, 145 N Street, NE, Washington, DC 20530.

Note: Any materials submitted as part of an application may be released pursuant to a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

### **Appendix A: Budget Instructions and Sample Budget Narrative**

#### **Budget Instructions**

Cost information for selected items is provided below to assist applicants in preparing their budgets. Additional information is available in the <u>DOJ Financial Guide</u>.

#### Consultants/Contracts

Compensation for services by an individual consultant must be reasonable and consistent with that paid for similar services in the marketplace. Applicants must consider the type of services provided and the individual's experience and expertise when deciding if a consultant's rate is reasonable. Applicants are strongly discouraged from requesting consultant rates over \$650 per day. Please note that the rate does not need to be as high as \$650 for all consultants. If a project is selected for funding with a budget allocating more than \$650 per day to a consultant, the applicant must provide additional information to OVW for review and approval before consultant costs are incurred. Applicants must also include all costs associated with consultants or contractors in the "Procurement Contracts" category, including travel-related costs. Applicants should not reflect these costs in the Personnel or Travel categories.

Applicants must follow the same established procurement policies with federal funds as with non-federal funds. All procurement transactions, including the awarding of consultant contracts, must be conducted in a manner that provides maximum open, free, and fair competition, and must follow 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.327. All sole-source procurements (not awarded competitively) over \$250,000 require prior approval from OVW. This applies to procurements of goods and services, but not to selection of subrecipients.

#### MOU Partner/Subrecipient versus Contractor Determination

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) project partners are generally considered subrecipients for time spent working on program objectives. The following MOU project partner responsibilities are consistent with the characteristics in 2 C.F.R. § 200.331 that support their classification as subrecipients:

- they are using federal funds to carry out a program for a public purpose specified in the authorizing statute;
- they are responsible for adherence to program requirements;
- they are responsible for programmatic decision-making;
- their performance is measured by meeting program objectives; and
- in some cases, they may be responsible for determining who is eligible to receive assistance (services) under the grant award.

#### In contrast, a contractor:

- provides goods and services within normal business operations;
- provides similar good and services to many different purchasers;
- normally operates in a competitive environment;
- provides goods and services that are ancillary to the operation of the program; and

• provides goods or services to which programmatic requirements generally do not apply.

For additional information on determining subrecipient or contractor designation, please refer to <u>2</u> <u>C.F.R. § 200.331</u>, as well as the Application Companion Guide, available at <a href="https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants">https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants</a>.

#### Compensation for Partners

In developing budgets, applicants should compensate all project partners for their participation in project-related activities, including but not limited to compensation for time and travel expenses to participate in project development, training, and implementation. The budget **must** include compensation for all services rendered by project partners, including nonprofit, nongovernmental domestic violence and/or sexual assault services programs, and state and tribal domestic violence and/or sexual assault coalitions. Partners are generally considered subrecipients and are reimbursed for their actual costs incurred for the project rather than on a fee for service basis. If a partner is a state or local governmental agency and the partnership duties are performed within the course of the agency's "regular" scope of work, applicants do not need to compensate the partner if the partner: a) offers this arrangement; and b) an explanation of this arrangement is included in the application (typically in the MOU).

#### Training and Technical Assistance/Travel

The program notice of funding opportunity specifies the amount of grant funds that must be budgeted for training and technical assistance. These funds must **only** be used for OVW-designated technical assistance, unless otherwise approved by OVW. These funds are to be used to support travel by all project partners, including nonprofit, nongovernmental service providers, to technical assistance events. This may include travel by individuals whose positions are not grant-funded if their roles and responsibilities are linked to the purpose of the project. If the technical assistance funds will be shared between the applicant and any project partners, the applicant's employees' travel costs must be listed in the "Travel" category in the budget, and partners' travel must be in the "Subawards" category. Label both costs as "OVW Technical Assistance" and ensure they total to the full required amount. Do not include registration fees, as OVW technical assistance is free for grantees.

If applicants are aware of relevant non-OVW sponsored conferences or training for which they would like permission to use grant funds to attend, they can budget expenses over the required amount.

#### Rent

Rental costs are generally allowable under OVW programs. Applicants must list square footage and cost per square foot in the budget. The amount must be based on the space that will be allocated to implement the OVW project, not the costs of the entire rental facility. **Rental costs are not allowable for property owned by the applicant or if the applicant has a financial interest in the property**. In this case, only the costs of ownership, including maintenance costs, insurance, depreciation, utilities, etc., are allowable. The applicant must state in the budget narrative whether they own the space that will be rented. Refer to the following document for more information on how to

appropriately allocate and break down the cost of rent in the budget: Cost Allocation Information, available at https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants.

#### **Audit Costs**

Costs for audits not required or performed in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200 Subpart F – Audit Requirements are unallowable. If the applicant agency did not meet the applicable expenditure threshold (see 2 C.F.R. § 200.501) during the organization's fiscal year, they may not charge the cost of any audit performed to the grant.

#### **Indirect Costs**

Applicants that intend to charge indirect costs through the use of a negotiated indirect cost rate must have a current, signed, federally approved indirect cost rate agreement and must upload and attach a copy of the agreement to their application in JustGrants. Applicants that do not have a current negotiated (including provisional) indirect cost rate, except for those non-Federal entities described in Appendix VII to Part 200 paragraph (d)(1)(B), may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). Organizations that wish to negotiate an indirect cost rate should contact OVW's Grants Financial Management Division at <a href="https://ovw.gfmlogusdoj.gov">OVW.gfmlogusdoj.gov</a> or 1-888-514-8556 for more information. Applicants may also choose to waive indirect costs.

#### Purchase and/or Lease of Vehicles

The purchase and lease of vehicles are prohibited under most OVW grant programs. However, some programs allow for purchasing vehicles on a case-by-case basis. Refer to the program notice of funding opportunity to determine whether vehicles can be purchased or leased. A lease/purchase analysis must be submitted with the application if requesting a vehicle.

#### Non-Federal contributions

Any non-federal contributions can be discussed in the Proposal Narrative or Memorandum of Understanding (if required). **Applicants should not include supplemental contributions in the budget, budget narrative, or SF-424.** 

If the applicant voluntarily decides to provide matching funds through the use of in-kind contributions and includes this information in the budget or budget narrative, the voluntary contributions will become a mandatory requirement under the grant award. Grantees that fail to provide these mandatory matching funds through cash or in-kind contributions during the award period may be required to meet their obligation by making a cash payment to OVW to close out the grant award.

#### Cost Allocations

Costs for shared items, those not used solely for the award, should be equitably distributed to the funding sources that receive a benefit from the items. For example, when budgeting for general office supplies, it is important to note that the full cost cannot be allocated to the project. Instead, an allocation method should be used to share the cost among all staff who use the supplies. Refer to the following document for information on allocating shared costs in the budget: Cost Allocation Information, available at <a href="https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants">https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants</a>.

#### Accessibility

The program notice of funding opportunity requires that the applicant include sufficient funds to provide language access or describe other resources available to the applicant to ensure meaningful access for persons with limited English proficiency, including by offering translation and interpretation services, and to provide access for people with disabilities or who are Deaf/hard of hearing.

Determining how much to budget for accessibility requires that recipients analyze the following:

- Available data about the local population to understand the language and accessibility needs in their service area;
- Historical data on screening and serving individuals who are LEP, Deaf or Hard of Hearing, or disabled; and
- Costs or documented estimates of language and other accessibility services and modifications in the service area. For resources and assistance in this process, visit <a href="https://www.justice.gov/ati">https://www.justice.gov/ati</a> and <a href="https://www.justice.gov/ati">https://www.justice.gov/ati</a></a>

Recipients should make every effort to use these funds for their budgeted purpose of providing accessibility, and not reallocate them for other purposes later in the project.

#### Sample Budget Narrative

**Purpose:** The Sample Budget Narrative may be used to assist with preparing the budget and narrative. Applicants may use this form or the format of their choice (plain sheets, Excel document, the applicant's own form, or a variation of this form). However, all required information (including the budget narrative) must be provided. Any category of expense not applicable to the applicant's project may be deleted.

Note: The following budget is an example intended to assist applicants in preparing their budgets. The sample expenses may not fit the purposes or activities of this particular grant program.

**A. Personnel** – List each position by title and employee name, if available. Show the annual salary rate and the percentage of time devoted to the project. Compensation paid for employees engaged in grant activities must be consistent with that paid for similar work within the applicant organization.

Name/Position	<u>Computation</u>	Cost
Program Coordinator	\$65,000 x 50% x 3 years	\$97,500
Bilingual Shelter Manager	\$70,000 x 100% x 3 years	\$210,000
Administrative Assistant	\$45,000 x 10% x 3 years	\$13,500

Sample narrative: The Program Coordinator will dedicate 50% of their time to the project by coordinating and organizing regular council meetings between all partner organizations, ensuring

compliance with program requirements, and serving as the central point of contact for all project activities.

The Bilingual Shelter Manager will dedicate 100% of their time to the project by providing direct client assistance, coordinating services and case management for clients, and managing the temporary shelter activities.

The Administrative Assistant for the project will spend 10% of their time on the project, providing administrative and clerical support for activities directly related to this project.

**TOTAL PERSONNEL:** \$ 321,000

**B. Fringe Benefits** – Fringe benefits must be based on actual known costs or an established formula. Fringe benefits are for the personnel listed in budget category (A) and only for the percentage of time devoted to the project. Fringe benefits on overtime hours are limited to FICA, Worker's Compensation, and Unemployment Compensation.

Name/Position	Computation	Cost
Program Coordinator		
Employer's FICA	\$97,500 x 7.65%	\$ 7,459
Health Insurance	\$4,800/year x 50% x 3 years	\$ 7,200
Worker's Compensation	\$97,500 x 1.00%	\$ 975
Unemployment Compensation	\$97,500 x 0.50%	\$ 488
Bilingual Shelter Manager		
Employer's FICA	\$210,000 x 7.65%	\$16,065
Health Insurance	\$4,800/year x 100% x 3 years	\$14,400
Worker's Compensation	\$210,000 x 1.00%	\$ 2,100
Unemployment Compensation	\$210,000 x 0.50%	\$ 1,050
Administrative Assistant		
Employer's FICA	\$ 13,500 x 7.65%	\$ 1,033
Health Insurance	\$4,800/year x 10% x 3 years	\$ 1,440
Worker's Compensation	\$ 13,500 x 1.00%	\$ 135
<b>Unemployment Compensation</b>	\$ 13,500 x 0.50%	\$ 68

Sample Narrative: We request fringe benefits for the Program Coordinator, Bilingual Shelter Manager, and Administrative Assistant. Each employee's share of Health Insurance cost is prorated based on their projected time on the project.

**TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS:** \$ 52,413

**C. Travel** – Project staff travel expenses should be itemized by purpose (e.g., training, field interviews, advisory group meeting, etc.) and include the basis of computation (e.g., six people to 3-day training at \$X airfare, \$X lodging, \$X per diem). For training projects, travel and meals for trainees should be listed separately. Show the number of trainees and unit costs involved. Identify the location of travel, if known. Indicate source of travel policies applied, either the applicant's policy or Federal Travel Regulations.

Purpose of Travel	<u>Location</u>	<u>Item</u>	Computation	Cost
OVW-Mandated Training and Technical Assistance	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$12,000
Local Program Mileage	XYZ County		150 miles/month x \$0.655/mile x 36 months	\$ 3,537

Sample narrative: According to the requirements in the notice of funding opportunity for this program, \$12,000 out of the total \$20,000 in OVW mandated technical assistance and training funds has been allocated to cover the travel cost for staff. The remaining amount of \$8,000 has been allocated for partner travel and can be found in Section G of this form. The exact locations of the trainings are currently unknown. However, travel estimates have been made using our formal written travel policy.

It is expected that the Program Coordinator will use a privately owned vehicle for local program mileage when traveling between the program shelter, main office, and all partner organizations. The rate for mileage reimbursement is calculated based on the current GSA Mileage Reimbursement Rate of \$0.655/mile and is estimated to be around 150 miles per month for a period of 36 months.

TOTAL TRAVEL: <u>\$ 15,537</u>

**D. Equipment** – List tangible personal property with a useful life of more than one year that needs to be purchased to support the project. It is important to follow the applicant's own capitalization policy for equipment classification. For high-cost items and information technology systems, applicants should perform an analysis (and attach it to the application) that compares the cost of purchasing versus leasing equipment items, to determine the most economical approach. Rented or leased equipment items should be listed in the "Procurement Contracts" category. Describe in the narrative how the equipment is necessary for the success of the project.

<u>ltem</u>	<b>Computation</b>	<u>Cost</u>
(2) Video Cameras	\$1,500/camera x 2 cameras	\$ 3,000

Sample narrative: The portable video cameras and tripod package will be used during the interviews of alleged offenders, as well as to record witness testimony in preparation for trial in cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Our capitalization threshold is \$1,000, so these items are classified as Equipment.

TOTAL EQUIPMENT: \$3,000

**E. Supplies** – List items by type (office supplies, postage, training materials, copying paper, and other expendable items such as books, thumb drives, and flash drives) and show the basis for computation. Generally, supplies include any expendable or consumable materials that are used during the project period that are not equipment.

Supply Items	<b>Computation</b>	<u>Cost</u>
Office Supplies (paper, printer, toner, pens, etc.)	\$250/month x 53% x 36 months	\$4,770
Postage	\$ 100/month x 53% x 36 months	\$1,908
Program Supplies	\$ 50/month x 36 months	\$1,800
75 Client Assistance Kits	\$ 25/kit x 75 kits	\$1,875

Sample narrative: Office supplies and postage are needed for the general operation of the program and are shared amongst all office staff. The FTE allocation rate for shared costs incurred by all staff in this budget is 53% (based on total FTEs in the office is 3FTEs, and total FTEs in this budget is 1.6FTEs, so 1.6 / 3 = 0.53, or 53%). Monthly costs for Office Supplies at \$250/month and Postage at \$100/month are estimated based on historical data. Charges to the grant will be based on the actual supplies purchased and actual percentage of staff time worked on the project (not budgeted amounts).

Program Supplies are estimated at a cost of \$50/month, based on historical data. The program supplies will be used for direct program activities such as art supplies and educational handouts/brochures for healing circles and group meetings for survivors.

The Client Assistance Kits will be provided to clients who receive services for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These kits will contain toiletries and other personal hygiene products. We estimate the need for 75 kits, and the cost is based on similar kits provided by other programs.

TOTAL SUPPLIES: \$10,353

**F. Construction** – As a rule, construction costs are not allowable. In some cases, minor repairs or renovations may be allowable. Consult with OVW before budgeting funds in this category.

**Purpose** 

#### **Description of Work**

Cost

**TOTAL CONSTRUCTION:** 

<u>\$ 0</u>

**G. Subawards (subgrants):** Describe project activities for which subrecipients/MOU partners will receive compensation under the award, including services for clients. Include any compensation for partner/subrecipient travel in this section as well.

Subrecipient Name	Computation	Cost
XYZ Survivor Services Organization		
Advocate	\$40,000 per year x .25 FTE x 3 years	\$30,000
Advocate	Benefits x 28% of FTE salary	\$ 8,400
OVW-Mandated Training and Technical Assistance	Location and cost TBD	\$ 4,000

#### **Subtotal XYZ Survivor Services Organization Subaward**

\$42,400

Sample narrative: The MOU partner XYZ Survivor Services Organization will offer advocacy services, such as safety planning and court accompaniment services. To cover the cost of travel for their staff, \$4,000 of the required \$20,000 in OVW mandated technical assistance and training funds has been allocated, in line with the budget requirements set forth in the notice of funding opportunity for this program. However, the training session locations are currently unknown. Travel estimates are based on the subrecipient's formal written travel policy.

Subrecipient Name	Computation	Cost
123 Housing Provider		
Permanent housing advocate	\$40,000 per year x .10 FTE x 3 years	\$12,000
Advocate	Benefits x 28% of FTE salary	\$ 3,360
Rent subsidies	\$150/month x 36 months x 15 clients/families	\$ 81,000
OVW-Mandated Training and Technical Assistance	Location and cost TBD	\$ 4,000

#### **Subtotal 123 Housing Provider Subaward**

\$100,360

Sample narrative: The MOU partner, 123 Housing Provider, will provide rent subsidies for clients and their dependents, permanent housing placement services, and advocacy. The rent subsidy rates are based on our experience with available community housing. Out of the required \$20,000 for OVW

mandated technical assistance and training funds, \$4,000 has been allocated to cover the cost of travel for partner staff. Travel estimates are based on the subrecipient's formal written travel policy and training locations are currently unknown.

TOTAL SUBAWARDS: \$142,760

**H: Procurement Contracts** – Applicants should follow their documented procurement procedures that comply with the procurement standards in the Uniform Guidance at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.327 or the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

**Consultant Fees:** For each consultant enter the name, if known, service to be provided, hourly or daily fee (8-hour day), and estimated time on the project. The actual rate for each consultant should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, consistent with fair market value, and equal to the individual's experience, education, and compensation they receive for providing similar services in the marketplace. Consultant fees over \$650 per day (for an 8-hour day) or \$81.25 per hour require additional justification and prior approval from OVW.

Name of Consultant	Service Provided	Computation	Cost
Consultant/Trainer	Sexual Assault Training	\$575/day x 3 days	\$ 1,725

Sample narrative: A Consultant/Trainer will provide a three-day on-site training (at 8 hours per day) on sexual assault and related issues to law enforcement, prosecution, court personnel, and medical and social services personnel. The training will focus on addressing cultural needs of clients who experience sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

Subtotal Consultant Fees: \$ 1.725

**Consultant Travel:** List all expenses to be paid from the grant to the individual consultant in addition to their fees (i.e., travel, meals, lodging etc.).

Purpose of Travel	Location	<u>Item</u>	Computation	Cost
Delivery of Sexual Assault Training	Town of XYZ	Airfare	\$500 (avg.) x 1 person x 1 trip	\$ 500
		Lodging	\$ 75 (avg.)/night x 2 nights	\$ 150
		Per diem	\$ 45 (avg.)/day x 3 days	\$ 135

Subtotal Consultant Travel: \$ 785

Sample narrative: Funds are allocated to pay for the Consultant/Trainer to travel to provide sexual assault training.

Subtotal Consultants:	<u>\$ 2,510</u>

**Contracts:** Provide a clear description of the product or services that will be acquired through the contract, along with an estimated cost. All procurement transactions must be conducted in a manner that ensures full and open competition and adheres to the standards in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.327. A separate justification must be provided for sole source (non-competitive) contracts in excess of \$250,000.

<u>Item</u>	Computation	Cost
Therapist	\$85/hr. x 10 hrs./month x 36 months	\$30,600
Cell Phone Service	\$75/month x 36 months	\$ 2,700
Copier and Printer Lease	\$262/month x 53% x 36 months	\$ 5,000
Telephonic Interpretation	\$3.95/min. x 300 min. x 3 years	\$3,555
In-person Interpreter – Spanish	\$100/hour x 20 hours x 3 years	\$6,000
In-person Interpreter – non-Spanish	\$125/hour x 10 hours x 3 years	\$3,750
Translation – Spanish	\$25/page x 20 pages x 3 years	\$1,500
Translation – non-Spanish	\$25/page x 14 pages x 3 years	\$1,050
Sign Language Interpretation	\$95/hour x 20 hours x 3 years	\$5,700
CART Services	\$65/hour x 8 hours x 3 years	\$1,560
	Subtotal Contracts:	<u>\$ 61,415</u>

Sample narrative: The Therapist will be compensated at a rate of \$85/hour, consistent with the therapist's normal rate for providing this service in the marketplace. This contracted position will provide individual counseling sessions to clients on an as-needed basis and facilitate the group healing sessions once per week for 2 hours. A total of 10 hours of service per month is estimated.

The Bilingual Shelter Manager will need a cell phone to ensure 24 hours/day communication to provide emergency services and transportation to clients. This position is funded 100% through the application, therefore 100% of this cost is budgeted.

Equipment to be rented and/or leased includes the copier and printer. The copier and printer costs are estimated based on historical costs and allocated using an FTE allocation method (see allocation breakdown in Supplies Category).

The most common language in the local service area is Spanish, followed by Mandarin Chinese and Tagalog. Spanish language interpreters in applicant's area charge approximately \$100 per hour, and Mandarin and Tagalog interpreters charge approximately \$125 per hour. We estimate the number of hours of interpretation based on previous years plus an anticipated 10% increase during the project period. (We also employ a Spanish-English bilingual Shelter Manager, who assists with Spanish language interpretation.)

Translations in our service area cost approximately \$25 per page. We plan to have the following documents translated into Spanish during the project period: intake form (3 pages), confidentiality policy (1 page), house rules (2 pages), non-discrimination notice and complaint forms (3 pages), pamphlet on domestic violence (5 pages), pamphlet on sexual assault (5 pages), Power and Control Wheel (1 page). We plan to have the following documents translated into Mandarin and Tagalog: intake form (3 pages X 2), confidentiality policy (1 page X 2), non-discrimination notice and complaint forms (3 pages X 2).

Qualified sign language interpreters charge approximately \$95 per hour, and we anticipate using interpreters approximately 20 hours per year, based on past use and allowing for a 5% increase in usage over past years. We will host 1 day-long training session each year and anticipate providing Communication Access Realtime Translation services at each session.

#### TOTAL PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS: \$ 63,925

**I. Other Costs** – List items (e.g., rent, reproduction, telephone, janitorial or security services, and investigative or confidential funds) by each type of cost and the basis of the computation. For example, provide the square footage and the cost per square foot for rent, and provide a monthly rental cost and how many months to rent.

<u>ltem</u>	<u>Computation</u>	Cost
Bus Vouchers	\$15/client x 10/month x 36 months	\$ 5,400
Crisis Hotline	\$ 75/month x 36 months	\$ 2,700
Rent	\$1.50/sq. foot x 1,000 sq. feet x 36 months	\$54,000
Utilities	\$200/month x 36 months	\$ 7,200
Housing Assistance	\$500/family x 12 families/year x 3 years	\$18,000

Sample narrative: Bus Vouchers are estimated at a cost of \$15 per client to attend therapy or group healing sessions and we project distributing 10 per month on an as-needed basis. Vouchers are kept in a locked safe, inventoried by the Program Coordinator, and require a signature for distribution by the Shelter Manager.

Clients in remote areas often lack access to long-distance service providers, and contacting the program office can be a long-distance call for many of them. The project will maintain an 800 hotline for clients, which will be staffed daily by volunteers. The cost budgeted is for the fee associate with the use of the 800 number.

The Client Services Program rents a safe house located within the community. The house is used to provide temporary housing to clients who experience domestic violence and their minor children. The rent is consistent with the fair market rate for similar properties in the local community. This is a direct cost to the program and is used solely for the purpose of this program, therefore the cost is not allocated.

The cost of utilities (i.e., gas, electric, and water service) for the Client Services Program safe house averages \$200/month. The services are necessary to ensure that the house is suitable for occupancy. This is a direct cost to the program and is used solely for the purpose of this program, therefore the cost is not allocated.

Funds have been budgeted to provide monthly housing assistance to at least one client who experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Each client and dependents will receive up to \$500 to assist with rent and utility payments. Housing assistance will not be used to pay for delinquent or past due utility or rental costs.

Funds for Language Line Solutions (LLS) for telephonic interpreting at a rate of \$3.95 per minute are budgeted. In recent years, we have used LLS between 225 and 275 minutes per year, and we anticipate a 10% increase in usage based on recent trends.

TOTAL OTHER COSTS: \$87,300

**J. Indirect Costs** – Indirect costs are allowed if the applicant has a federally approved indirect cost rate. A copy of the rate approval (a fully executed, negotiated agreement) must be submitted with the application. If the applicant does not have an approved rate, they may request one from their cognizant federal agency or choose to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.414(f). If the applicant's accounting system allows for it, costs may be allocated in the direct cost categories.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Computation</u>	<u>Cost</u>
32% of Direct Salaries	\$321.000 x 32%	\$102,720
(Excluding Fringe Benefits)	Φ321,000 X 32 /0	φ102,120

TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS: \$ 102,720

Sample narrative: The Indirect Cost Rate Agreement was approved by the Department of Health and Human Services, the applicant's cognizant federal agency on January 1, 2023. (A copy of the fully executed, negotiated agreement that covers the current period is attached).

**Budget Summary** – Upon completion of the budget worksheet, transfer the totals for each category to the spaces below. Compute the total direct costs and the total project costs. Indicate the amount of federal funds requested and the amount of non-federal funds that will support the project.

Budget Category		Amount	
A. Personnel	\$ 3	321,000	
B. Fringe Benefits	\$	52,413	
C. Travel	\$	15,537	
D. Equipment	\$	3,000	
E. Supplies	\$	10,353	
F. Construction	\$	0	
G. Subawards.	\$ 1	142,760	
H. Procurement Contracts	\$	63,925	
I. Other Costs	\$	87,300	
I Direct Costs \$ 694,		694,113	
J. Indirect Costs	\$	102,720	
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	<u>\$ 7</u>	796,833	
Federal Share Requested	\$ 7	796,833	
Non-Federal (Match) Amount	\$	0	

#### **Appendix B: Pre-Award Risk Assessment**

**Note:** Applicants must complete this questionnaire in JustGrants. The questions listed below are for reference only. Each applicant must respond to each question. Do not submit responses from a prior fiscal year without updating them to be responsive to all questions listed in the questionnaire. This information will be used for a mandatory pre-award risk assessment. Failure to provide this information or to respond to questions from OVW regarding this information in a timely manner could result in the application being removed from consideration or a delay in access to funds. Provide complete responses that address all questions included for each numbered item.

- Will all funds awarded under this program be maintained in a manner that they will be accounted for separately and distinctly from other sources of revenue/funding? Provide a brief description of the applicant's policies and procedures that ensure funds will be tracked appropriately.
- 2. Does the applicant have written accounting policies and procedures? How often are these policies and procedures updated? Provide a brief list of the topics covered in the applicant's policies and procedures. OVW may request a copy for review during the application/award process or as part of the grant monitoring process.
- 3. Is the applicant's financial management system able to track actual expenditures and outlays with budgeted amounts for each grant or subgrant? Provide a brief summary of the organization's process for tracking expenditures, including tracking budgeted versus actual amounts.
- 4. Does the applicant have procedures in place for minimizing the time between transfer of funds from the United States Treasury and disbursement for project activities? Provide a short summary of the applicant's policy for requesting payments for grant awards.
- 5. Does the applicant have effective internal controls in place to ensure that federal funds are used solely for authorized purposes? Provide a brief description of the applicant's internal controls that will provide reasonable assurance that the award funds will be managed properly.
- 6. Does the applicant have a documented records retention policy? If so, briefly describe the policy and confirm that the policy complies with federal regulations. Information on Record Retention and Access can be found at 2 C.F.R. 200.334-200.338.
- 7. Does the applicant or any of its employees have any potential personal or organizational conflicts of interest related to the possible receipt of OVW award funds? Applicants are required to disclose in writing any potential conflicts of interest to their awarding agency. See 2 C.F.R. 200.112 and Chapter 3.20, Grant Fraud, Waste and Abuse, of the DOJ Financial Guide for additional information.
- 8. Is the individual primarily responsible for fiscal and administrative oversight of grant awards familiar with the applicable grants management rules, principles, and regulations including the

Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 C.F.R. Part 200)? Provide a short list of the individual's qualifications/experience. If the individual is not familiar with the applicable rules and regulations, the applicant must contact OVW's Grants Financial Management Division at OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov or 1-888-514-8556 immediately after the applicant is notified of its award to coordinate training.

- 9. Does the applicant have policies and procedures in place to manage subawards and monitor activities of subrecipients as necessary to ensure that subawards are used for authorized purposes, in compliance with laws, regulations, and terms and conditions of the award, and that established subaward performance goals are achieved (2 C.F.R. 200.331-200.333)? Provide a brief description of the organization's policies and procedures on subrecipient management and monitoring.
- 10. Does the applicant currently require employees to maintain time distribution records that accurately reflect the work performed on specific activities or cost objectives in order to support the distribution of employees' salaries among federal awards or other activities (2 C.F.R. 200.430)? Budget estimates do not qualify as support for charges to federal awards. Provide a brief description of the organization's established timekeeping policies and procedures.
- 11. Is the applicant designated as high risk by a federal agency outside of DOJ? (High risk includes any status under which a federal awarding agency provides additional oversight due to the applicant entity's past performance, or other programmatic or financial concerns with the applicant entity.) If so, provide the names(s) of the federal awarding agency, the date(s) the agency notified the applicant entity of the high risk designation, contact information for the high risk point of contact at the federal agency, and the reason for the high risk status, as set out by the federal agency.

### **Appendix C: Summary Data Sheet**

The Summary Data Sheet questionnaire must be completed and submitted as an attachment under the Additional Application Components section in JustGrants.

- 1. Provide the following information for the grant point-of-contact. This person must be an employee of the applicant.
  - Name
  - Title
  - Address
  - Telephone number
  - Email address
- 2. Is the applicant (the organization whose unique entity identifier is being used for the application) serving as a fiscal agent? A fiscal agent is an entity that does not participate in implementation of the project and passes <u>all</u> funds through to subrecipients, conducting minimal administrative activities. Note: The fiscal agent must be an eligible applicant for the program.
  - Yes go to Q 2A & 2B
  - No.
  - 2A. List all subrecipients
  - 2B. Note: The applicant acknowledges that it will be responsible for all applicable statutory, fiscal, and programmatic requirements, including those of 2 C.F.R. Part 200, as well as all project deliverables.
- 3. Has the applicant expended \$750,000 or more in federal funds in the applicant's past fiscal year?
  - Yes go to 3A
  - No
  - 3A. Specify the end date of the applicant's fiscal year.
- 4. Is the applicant a nonprofit organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code?

Note: The applicant must upload proof of 501(c)(3) status in the Additional Application Components section of JustGrants.

- 5. Is the applicant a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code?
- 6. Is the applicant a nonprofit organization that uses the Internal Revenue Service's three-step safe-harbor procedure to establish a rebuttable presumption that its executives' compensation is reasonable? For additional information about the safe-harbor procedure, see Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation in the Budget and Associated Documentation section of this solicitation.

Note: The applicant must upload the required <u>Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation</u> in the Budget and Associated Documentation section of JustGrants.

- 7. Identify the percentage of grant activities, should the application be funded, that will address each of the following issues (the total percentages should not exceed 100):
  - Domestic Violence
  - Dating Violence
  - Sexual Assault
  - Stalking
  - Child Sexual Abuse
- 8. Does the applicant propose to implement a Standard Project?
- 9. Does the applicant propose to implement a Comprehensive Project?
- 10. Will the application address Purpose Area 1 (supervised visitation and safe exchange)?
- 11. Is the applicant a new supervised visitation and safe exchange program or an applicant that has never received funds from OVW for the proposed supervised visitation and safe exchange program for families with a history of domestic violence?
- 12. Will the application address Purpose Area 3 (training for court-based and court-related personnel)?
- 13. Will the application address Purpose Area 5 (courts and court-based programs and services)?
- 14. Will the application address Purpose Area 6 (civil legal assistance)?
- 15. Will the application address Purpose Area 8 (training within the civil justice system)?
- 16. Is the applicant a State?

- 17. Is the applicant a unit of local government?
- 18. Is the applicant a court (including a juvenile court)?
- 19. Is the applicant an Indian Tribal government?
- 20. Is the applicant a nonprofit organization?