

## Justice for Families FY2025 Pre-Application Webinar Q&A

1. Would a Domestic Violence Intake Center, if one already exists, be eligible to serve as the required victim's service providing partner?

*Existing Domestic Violence Intake Centers may be eligible as a victim services partner if it meets the following requirements: 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.*

2. Does the restriction of 2% of funds allocated under this program to assess the need for internal improvements include measuring progress in achieving the proposal's goals (i.e. internal evaluation) or can additional funds (beyond 2%) be allocated to these tasks?

*No, the 2% restriction does not include measuring progress in achieving the proposal's goals; additional resources can be used for that purpose. Moreover, the proposal narrative section requires applicants to explain how they will measure their progress in achieving the proposal's goal(s)/vision, including a description of any tools that will be used to track outcomes.*

*The two percent restriction is primarily related to determining gaps for internal improvements and training feedback if providing a training.*

3. Is there any requirement that a certain portion of the budget be allocated to each partner?

*No, however your budget should match the activities proposed in the budget narrative and, if applicable, the activities described in the Memorandum of Understanding or Letter(s) of Commitment.*

4. Are applicants eligible if applying under purpose areas 3 and 5b only?

*Yes, however, if proposing 5b—pro se victim assistance programs—these activities can be no more than 50% of the budget or project activities.*

5. Can the court administrator be a partner?

*The required court partner should meet the definition of a court on page 7 of the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). If the court administrator has the authority to sign an LOC or MOU on behalf of the court then that is allowable, but the partnership is with the court entity and not an individual person.*

6. How is a "court" defined?

*"Court" (including juvenile courts) means any civil or criminal, Tribal, and Alaska Native Village, federal, state, local or territorial court having jurisdiction to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including immigration, family, juvenile, and dependency courts, 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)). Note: prosecutors' offices do not qualify as a court.

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

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

**8. What does the partnership with a domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider or a court entail?**

*As stated on page 9 of the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#): "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 Eligible Applicants section) and 2) a court.*

*The partnership should be meaningful and demonstrated through a Memorandum of Understanding or Letter of Commitment. The specifics of the partnership is up to the applicant and should be detailed in the proposal narrative, as well as the MOU/LOC.*

**9. Our community has a Tribal court, can this funding cover our current personnel for Tribal courts?**

*Justice for Families funding may be used to develop new or enhance existing court and court-based programs and services.*

*When considering personnel, remember that federal funds may be used to supplement, not supplant, existing non-federal funds that otherwise would be available for activities.*

*Please refer to the "Letter of nonsupplanting" section of the NOFO.*

**10. We are interested in partnering with two different court dockets (Purpose Area 5f). Are we required to secure MOUs or LOCs from both court partners?**

*Yes, if proposing activities in two different courts, MOUs/LOCs from both courts are required to demonstrate commitment to the proposal.*

**11. Does OVW have a preferred format or template for LOCs from court partners?**

*Please follow the requirements, as listed in the NOFO on page 29. The Letter of Commitment should be on letterhead from the court, signed and dated.*

**12. Is an in-court domestic violence clinic considered adequate for the partnership requirement?**

*The court that houses the clinic would meet the court partner requirement.*

**13. Are in-court legal clinics considered a court program or civil legal assistance?**

*Depending on the services provided by the clinic, this could fall under Purpose Area 5b-community-based initiatives within the court system (pro se victim assistance programs, or community-based supplementary services); or towards Purpose Area 6, civil legal assistance. Services would count towards the 50% cap on*

legal services.

**14. If we are a Domestic Violence Victim Service Provider (VSP), do we need to have a VSP partner and a court partner? Or would we ONLY need a court partner?**

*Per page 9 of the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#): "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 Eligible Applicants section) and 2) a court."*

*If your program meets the definition of a Victim Service Provider, found on page 7, you do not need to partner with another. Per the Notice of Funding Opportunity: a victim service provider is 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.*

**15. We have both a supervised visitation center and a domestic violence organization. Can we apply twice?**

*As is stated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, "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."*

**16. Although our organization does not focus on assisting or advocating for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victims, our organization's program for which we would request funding has this focus. Is our organization eligible to apply?**

*If you are a nonprofit organization with a 501c3 then yes, the organization is eligible. However, you would be required to have both required partners involved in your project since this description of the organization would not qualify as a victim service provider or a court.*

**17. We are a DV Coalition (nonprofit) and will partner with a court. Do we still need to formally partner with a victim services organization through an MOU for this application?**

*No, if your DV Coalition provides direct services to victims and meets the definition of a victim service provider, your organization would satisfy the partnership requirement. A victim service provider is "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.”*

**18. Can an MOU partner be a for-profit agency?**

A for-profit agency would not qualify as a required partner, but additional partners can be included in the MOU if those partners are involved in the work for the proposal.

**19. Does the Supervised Visitation Center have to be nonprofit if they are not the main applicant?**

*No, it does not need to be a nonprofit but note that fees are not allowable.*

**20. I understand a prosecutors’ office does not qualify as a Court. Can the prosecutor’s office be included as a sub awardee?**

*While prosecutors are allowed as community partners, when proposing a coordinated systems and community approach, the Justice for Families grant program does not have a focus on the prosecutor's office. If looking for a program that can support a prosecutor's office, the OVW grant program [Improving Criminal Justice Responses in the Justice System](#), may be a better fit for your project idea.*

**21. Can funding be used to pay overtime for deputies to ensure the safety of the children and families at the visitation center during the evenings?**

*Yes, this is an allowable and allocable cost. The cost should be reasonable, and deputies should have training in the dynamic of domestic violence.*

**22. For applicants proposing projects addressing purpose area 5 (court and court-based programs and services), does a proposal have to address all items 1-6 on page 21 of the NOFO, or only ones that apply to the project?**

*Items #1-3 should be addressed if addressing Purpose Area 5.*

*Item #4 is only required if you are proposing a community-based initiative within the court system; item #5 is required if proposing an offender management, monitoring, and/or accountability program; and item #6 is required if proposing education and outreach programs to improve community access to the courts.*

**23. If an applicant chooses 5b and 5e, is that sufficient, or does it still need an additional purpose area?**

*These purpose areas can be proposed together.*

**24. Can purpose area 6 include a full continuum of civil legal assistance or only pro se?**

*Pro-se victim assistance programs are included in Purpose Area 5b.*

*Purpose Area 6 includes 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*

An applicant that proposes a project under purpose area 6 may offer a full continuum of direct legal services; however, funding from the Justice for Families program can only be used for the above purposes.

**25. Would assistance with VAWA applications, referring to those filed with USCIS to help applicants regularize their immigration status, be considered part of a civil legal assistance program or a pro se victim assistance program Purpose 5b?**

*Yes, if the immigration matters arise out of the victimization. Keep in mind, 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.*

**26. Can we use the funds for contract attorneys and is there a limit on the hourly rate that we can pay them?**

*Yes, funds may be used for contract attorneys. The rate should be reasonable and consistent with the fair market value for contract attorneys. and the grantee will be required to explain how the rate was determined.*

**27. For Purpose Area 3, could a subaward grantee provide the training?**

*Yes, the training may be provided by a subawardee or contract.*

**28. If proposing a project under purpose area 3 (training for court-based or court-related personnel) must the proposed training cover \*all\* topics listed in the NOFO? Or could training focus specifically on one victimization type - for example, child sexual abuse or trafficking?**

*No, the training does not need to cover all the items listed in the NOFO, but all trainings provided need to be within scope of the grant program.*

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

*Purpose Area 3- Training for court-based and court-related personnel is to “educate court-based and court-related personnel and court-appointed personnel (including custody evaluators and guardians ad litem) and child protective services workers on the dynamics of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including information on perpetrator behavior, evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide, and on issues relating to the needs of victims, including safety, security, privacy, and confidentiality, including cases in which the victims proceeds pro se.”*

*Purpose Area 8- Training within the civil justice system is to “improve training and education to assist judges, judicial personnel, attorneys, child welfare personnel, and legal advocates in the civil justice system.”*

*Applicants should select the Purpose Area that best meets their proposed project.*

30. For the standard project, will it be complying if addressing Purpose Area 5b and 5e?

Can a standard project address Purpose Areas 5e and 6? What about 6 and 5b?

*Programs can propose projects under 5b and 5e; or 5e and 6. Please note that the 50% cap on legal services applies. A project only proposing to address 5b (pro se victim assistance) and purpose area 6 would not be eligible as it would exceed 50% of civil legal services.*

*As stated in the NOFO, "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."*

31. Can you apply for only program area 5 and 6?

*Yes, but the 50% cap on the legal services will apply.*

32. Which OVW Program is appropriate for those seeking to prioritize civil legal assistance?

*The [OVW FY2025 Legal Assistance for Victims \(LAV\) Grant Program](#) is intended to increase the availability of legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by funding comprehensive legal services projects.*

*Or*

*The [OVW FY2025 Expanding Legal Services Initiative \(ELSI\) Program](#) intends to expand legal representation available to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking by funding organizations with a history of providing direct services to victims of these crimes, but that do not currently offer in-house legal representation for victims*

33. Would this be an appropriate funding source to support project funding to a county for a district attorney's office led family justice center, with court and nonprofit partners? More specifically, if the county is the lead applicant, can it request funding for a district attorney-led FJC?

*Justice for Families cannot fund a Family Justice Center. [The Improving Criminal Justice Response \(ICJR\)](#) grant program may be better fit for this need.*

34. Regarding the \$3,000 required for disability access, can this include funds to purchase a handicap ramp for mobile advocacy/office?

*Yes, this is allowable.*

35. We have never received JFF Funding before. If we have an existing supervised visitation program that we want to enhance, do we have to include a 12-month planning process?

*Yes, the planning process ensures programs are meeting the [OVW Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Guiding Principles](#) for supervised visitation and safe exchange for families with a history of domestic violence even if you have an existing center or services that address those families or other types of families.*



36. We are applying under Purpose Area 1 and have reviewed the OVW Guiding Principles. In the narrative section of the application, do we have to address all six principles, or can we pick some (page 21)?

Programs should address all of the [OVW Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Guiding Principles, as well as items 1-5 on page 21, for purpose area 1.](#)

37. Are there any special considerations or preferences for a comprehensive project vs a standard project?

*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 achieve a coordinated approach, applicants may propose either a standard project or a comprehensive project. Follow the NOFO to address the questions for each purpose area you plan to address.*

*Special consideration will be given under the following circumstances:*

- *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.*
- *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.*

38. What indirect is allowed for this grant? Is the new 15% de minimis rate allowed?

*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).*

*Organizations that wish to negotiate an indirect cost rate should contact OVW's Grants Financial Management Division at [OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov) or 1-888-514-8556 for more information.*

39. Would a federally approved indirect rate be covered at 25.1%?

*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.*

40. Are there any cost sharing requirements?

*No, there is no cost match requirement.*

41. If we received funding prior to Jan 2022 but would be considered a new program and have an operational visitation program, would we have to have 12 months of planning?

*The applicant would not have to include the 12-month planning period, if there has not been a significant gap in funding (1-3 years). If the gap in funding has been longer than 3 years, if there has been a location change, or if there have been changes to program since receiving funding, then a planning period should be included in the proposal.*

42. Can you describe what is required of a planning period for new supervised visitation or safe exchange grantees/programs?

*As stated on page 15 of the NOFO, 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.*

43. Is time for a contract social worker an eligible expense under the grant?

*Yes, as long as the position is providing services and performing activities that are within scope of the program and purpose areas detailed in the NOFO.*

44. Should the abstract also include a breakdown of the budget or does it only have to summarize the purpose areas and the work?

*No. The abstract should follow the template provided on page 18 of the NOFO. No additional information is needed.*

45. Is there a specified page limit for the Budget Narrative?

*No, there is no page limit for the budget, but please use the format in the NOFO and on OVW's website. Budget Instructions and Sample Budget Narrative are provided in the NOFO.*

46. What is the data collection requirement for the Justice for Families Program?

*A sample of the reporting form can be found on the [Justice for Families Program VAWA Measuring Effectiveness Initiative](#) webpage.*

47. Where can we find information or examples of JFF projects?

*Project descriptions of prior funded projects are available on [USAspending.gov](#). Filter the search criteria by the Assistance Listing (CFDA Program), "16.021 Justice Systems Response to Families"*

48. Does the one-year proof of audit requirement disqualify start-up organization or organizations in their first year seeking funding?

*As stated on page 26 of the NOFO, "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 Applicant Financial Capability Questionnaire 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."*



49. Is the IRS three-step Executive Compensation disclosure only needed if the primary applicant is a nonprofit?

*Yes, this is only if the lead applicant is a Nonprofit organization that uses the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Safe Harbor Procedure (described on page 26 of the NOFO).*

*If you do use the Safe Harbor Procedure, then you do not need to submit.*

50. Are applicants notified of the determination of their application, even if (due to errors) it can't be considered for funding?

*All applicants are notified of the results. Applicants may also request consensus comments as result of a peer review—if their applications went to peer review— by emailing [JFF.OVW@usdoj.gov](mailto:JFF.OVW@usdoj.gov)*

51. Any chance the due date can be extended?

*No, the due date is set and is not anticipated to be changed.*