



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

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**\*\*\* REVISED \*\*\***

(Revised sections include *Priorities*, *Program Description*, *Program-Specific Unallowable Costs*, and *Application Contents*.)

## OVW Fiscal Year 2025 Research and Evaluation (R&E) Initiative

### **Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number**

O-OVW-2025-172399

### **Assistance Listing Number**

16.026

### **Application Due**

Deadline to submit Standard Form/SF-424 in Grants.gov: September 23, 2025, by 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: September 25, 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 purpose of the Research and Evaluation (R&E) Initiative is to study approaches to preventing and addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. By studying the efficacy of strategies for serving victims and holding offenders accountable, the R&E Initiative helps communities assess their current programs and adopt proven strategies. The initiative is designed to support researcher-practitioner partnerships and a broad range of research and evaluation methods, including qualitative, mixed-method, quasi-experimental, and experimental designs. Because OVW has limited funds to support research and evaluation, this initiative prioritizes topics for which a stronger evidence base would help OVW recipients use federal funds most effectively.

Funding Opportunity Details	
Federal Agency Name	U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women
Funding Opportunity Title	OVW FY 2025 Research and Evaluation Initiative
Announcement Type	Initial
Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number	O-OVW-2025-172399
Assistance Listing Number	16.026
Statutory Authority	34 U.S.C. §12291(b)(7)
Expected Total Amount of Funding	\$8,000,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	7
Expected Award Amount(s)	Up to \$500,000 (except for topic area #7, which may be for up to \$5,000,000)
Expected Award Period(s)	12 to 36 months (except for topic area #7, which may be between 36 and 48 months)

## Key Dates

This table contains deadlines and other important dates.

Key Dates	
<b>Funding Opportunity Release Date</b>	On or about <b>August 20, 2025</b>
<b><u>Sam.gov Registration/Renewal</u></b>	Recommend <a href="#">completing process</a> by <b>September 2, 2025</b>
<b><u>Grants.gov Registration/Renewal</u></b>	Recommend <a href="#">completing process</a> by <b>September 2, 2025</b>
<b><u>Letter of Intent</u> (Optional)</b>	<b>September 1, 2025</b> , to OVW.Research@usdoj.gov
<b><u>Grants.gov</u> Deadline</b>	<b>September 23, 2025</b> , by 11:59 PM Eastern Time (ET)
<b><u>JustGrants</u> Deadline</b>	<b>September 25, 2025</b> , by 8:59 PM ET
<b>Decision Notification Date</b>	OVW anticipates notifying applicants of funding decisions by <b>February 2, 2026</b> .

## Contact Information

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

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

## **Resources for Applying**

- [Application Companion Guide](#)
- [Resources for Applicants page](#)
- Budget Information on [OVW Website](#)
- [JustGrants Application Submission Training](#)

## **Eligibility**

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### **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) pre-trial 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)).

#### **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)).

#### **Tribal Organizations**

- The governing body of any Indian Tribe;
- Any legally established organization of Indians which is controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by such governing body of a Tribe or Tribes to be served, or which is democratically elected by the adult members of the Indian community to be served by such organization and which includes the maximum participation of Indians in all phases of its activities; or

- Any Tribal nonprofit organization (34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(45)).

#### Non-profits

- Any nonprofit, with or without 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service.

#### Institutions of Higher Education

- Private institutions of higher education.
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education.

### **Other Program Eligibility Requirements**

OVW welcomes applications that involve two or more entities; however, only one eligible entity should be designated as the applicant, whereas the other(s) should be proposed as the subrecipient(s). The applicant will have primary responsibility for conducting and leading the research. If funded, the applicant will be responsible for monitoring and appropriately managing any subrecipients or, as applicable, for administering any procurement subcontracts that would receive federal program funds from the applicant under the award.

### **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 [Submission Requirements and 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).

#### Cost-sharing

This program has no matching or cost-sharing requirement.

## Program Description

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The R&E Initiative is authorized by 34 U.S.C. 12291(b)(7), and topic area #7 below is also authorized by 34 U.S.C § 12513. For a brief description of this program, see the [Executive Summary](#).

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

- OVW grant program information: [OVW Grants and Programs webpage](#).
- Data that recipients collect and report: [VAWA Measuring Effectiveness Initiative webpage](#).
- 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.

## Priorities

Applications that fare well in merit review and substantively address one or more of the priorities listed below, **to the extent consistent with authorizing statutes**, may receive priority consideration for funding:

1. Measures to combat human trafficking and transnational crime, particularly crimes linked to illegal immigration and cartel operations, that support safety and justice for trafficking victims who have also suffered domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking; and
2. Projects to provide victim services, especially housing, and improve law enforcement response in rural and remote areas, Tribal nations, and small towns that often lack resources to effectively combat domestic violence and sexual assault.

## Areas of Study

OVW is interested in funding research and evaluation that will contribute to knowledge in these six areas of study.

1. **Justice:** Ways the justice system can effectively pursue and achieve justice in cases involving domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, with justice broadly understood to include safety and healing for victims, accountability for offenders, and procedural fairness for all.
2. **Victims' needs:** How victimization and its aftermath affect people's lives, and what victims need to cope, heal, and achieve safety and justice.
3. **Access to services and justice:** Where and to whom people go for help, and whether they can access justice and get services that are useful to them.
4. **Impact:** Short- and long-term impact of the criminal and civil justice systems' responses, victim services, and other VAWA-funded interventions on victim safety and offender accountability.

5. **Indicators of success:** What success looks like and how to measure it—for victims pursuing safety, well-being, and justice; for offenders being held accountable for their violence; and for people who work with victims and offenders.
6. **Promoting desistance and reducing recidivism:** How to prevent people from continuing to use violence.

## **Topics for Research and Evaluation**

OVW invites proposals under these topics:

1. **Evaluations of VAWA-funded interventions.** “VAWA-funded intervention” refers to any activity that is funded, or could potentially be funded, through OVW grant programs to address sexual assault, domestic/dating violence (including technological abuse and economic abuse), stalking, and sex trafficking. OVW is especially interested in studying the effectiveness of interventions that cut across multiple grant programs. Information about OVW grant programs can be found on the [OVW Grant Programs webpage](#).
2. **Evaluations or systematic reviews of trainings, strategies, policies, practices, tools, and other means of fostering trauma-informed law enforcement and prosecutorial responses to sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking.**
3. **Evaluation of the effectiveness of training curricula, tools, and other technical assistance (TA) resources developed and implemented with OVW grant funds.** Note: TA providers can be practitioner partners on R&E Initiative applications under this topic but should not apply to lead an evaluation of their own TA/training. For example, a TA provider may be a project partner of another organization that applies to evaluate a model the TA provider created.
4. **Evaluations of emerging innovations for serving victims and holding offenders accountable.**
5. **Secondary data analyses related to domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking.** Applicants proposing studies under this topic may include multiple, distinct projects in one application.
6. **Research, evaluation, and data analysis related to domestic violence homicide prevention.** Applications may address interventions designed to help prevent domestic violence homicides, as well as analysis of data related to domestic violence homicide and efforts to prevent it.
7. **Multi-site evaluation of the effectiveness of trauma-informed, victim-centered training for law enforcement funded under the Abby Honold Act Program (34 U.S.C § 12513).**
  - a. Key research questions could include but are not limited to:
    - i. Does training work?
    - ii. Which elements of training content or process are most effective?
    - iii. What factors or conditions impact efficacy of implementation?

- iv. How is training integrated and implemented across law enforcement agencies?
  - v. How does training vary across implementation sites, and how is it adapted to a specific community or context?
  - vi. What, if any, are the medium and short-term effects of participating in training on law enforcement activities and victim experiences?
- b. Research activities might include:
- i. The development of a system for generating and collecting data, conducting evaluability assessments, context mapping, the identification of indicators or measurable outcomes, assessment of successes or barriers to implementation, evaluating the impact of community adaptation, conducting comparison analyses or quasi-experimental studies, and/or developing recommendations for improving the use of grant funds.
  - c. The proposed research design should focus on practical and programmatically relevant findings to inform future efforts to train law enforcement officers on trauma-informed investigation and improve investigations.
  - d. This award may be issued as a cooperative agreement. Recipients should plan to work cooperatively with OVW, training and technical assistance providers, local researchers, and more than ten demonstration sites. Recipients should expect to share regular updates regarding findings, including public reports of preliminary results. Recipients should also anticipate findings being used in future reports to Congress. The award period must be between 36 and 48 months and budgets must reflect the requested project duration. OVW estimates that it will issue at least one award of up to \$5,000,000 for research under this topic.

## **Program Requirements**

Applicants that receive R&E Initiative funding must adhere to OVW's requirements related to methodological principles, expected products, and confidentiality and human subjects' protections.

### **Methodological Principles**

OVW will only support research methods that:

- Are well-matched to the purpose of the research and build on existing evidence;
- Uphold victim safety as the paramount objective, with the understanding that scientific progress is always subordinate to that objective;
- Are likely to yield findings that have practical utility for victim services providers and justice system professionals;
- Are developed collaboratively between researchers and practitioners;
- Place as minimal a burden as possible on research participants;
- Operate from a cogent theoretical framework; and
- Have been approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) if they involve human subjects research.

## Expected Products

OVW expects R&E Initiative recipients to produce these products:

- Pre-specification report. If applicable to the project design and methodology, award recipients will submit a pre-specification report detailing final design and methods before data collection begins. If a recipient's pre-specified design and methods are later revised, then performance reports should include an explanation of the revisions.
- One or more presentations delivered via webinar or at conferences.
- One or more scholarly product(s) that are published or submitted for publication, meaning peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or (if appropriate) law review journal articles, conference papers, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press.
- One or more, 1- to 2-page research brief(s), written in plain language and intended for practitioners, policymakers, and/or the general public. The brief should include a summary of the study, goals and objectives, research questions, methods, results, key findings, and limitations.
- One or more, plain language product(s) intended for practitioners on how to apply research findings to their work. This could include videos, infographics, briefs, or other materials focused on how to make research findings actionable.
- Final research report. Recipients of an award under this funding opportunity will be expected to submit a final research report. The final report should be written in a way that makes the content useful to a broad audience, which includes the public, practitioners, policymakers, and other researchers. Award recipients should expect that all or part of the final report will be made available to the public.

## Confidentiality and Human Subjects Protection

Any recipient of an R&E Initiative award will be required to comply with DOJ regulations on confidentiality and human subjects' protection. See Human Subjects and Privacy Protection, at: <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/human-subjects-and-privacy-protection>. Note: Final IRB approval is not required at the time an application is submitted.

## Pre-Specification:

Any recipient of an R&E Initiative award may be required to pre-specify their design and methodology before data collection can begin. There are multiple ways of pre-specifying design and methods, including in project reports and publicly available pre-registration. For a given R&E initiative award, a method for pre-specification should be chosen that affords the greatest transparency and accountability within constraints on disclosing information. If pre-specification is not feasible, then the reason should be clearly stated in subsequent performance reports. If a recipient's pre-specified design and methods are later revised, then project reports should include an explanation of the revisions.

## 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 [Application Companion Guide](#) for more details about these activities, including program-specific information.

### Out-of-Scope Activities

**\*\*\* This list of out-of-scope activities is the subject of federal litigation. For the most up-to-date information about out-of-scope activities, please see the OVW website at: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/open-notice-of-funding-opportunity>.\*\*\***

The activities listed below are out of the program scope.

1. Promoting or facilitating the violation of federal immigration law.
2. Inculcating or promoting gender ideology as defined in Executive Order 14168, *Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government*.
3. Promoting or facilitating discriminatory programs or ideology, including illegal DEI and “diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility” programs that do not advance the policy of equal dignity and respect, as described in Executive Order 14173, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*. This prohibition is not intended to interfere with any of OVW’s statutory obligations, such as funding for HBCUs, culturally specific services, and disability programs.
4. Activities that frame domestic violence or sexual assault as systemic social justice issues rather than criminal offenses (e.g., prioritizing criminal justice reform or social justice theories over victim safety and offender accountability).
5. Generic community engagement or economic development without a clear link to violence prevention, victim safety, or offender accountability.
6. Programs that discourage collaboration with law enforcement or oppose or limit the role of police, prosecutors, or immigration enforcement in addressing violence against women.
7. Awareness campaigns or media that do not lead to tangible improvements in prevention, victim safety, or offender accountability.
8. Initiatives that prioritize illegal aliens over U.S. citizens and legal residents in receiving victim services and support.

9. Excessive funding for consulting fees, training, administrative costs, or other expenses not related to measurable violence prevention, victim support, and offender accountability.
10. Any activity or program that unlawfully violates an Executive Order.
11. Proposals to conduct needs assessment activities exclusively for the purpose of program improvement. (Refer to the OVW research decision tree in the [Application Companion Guide](#).)
12. Proposals primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies. (A budget may include these items if they are necessary to conduct the proposed study.)
13. Proposals that are not responsive to this specific NOFO.
14. Implementation of an intervention unrelated to the scope of the proposed research project.
15. Training in support of programs or direct services unrelated to, or unassociated with, the proposed research project.

**Note:** Recipients should serve all eligible victims as required by statute, regulation, or award condition.

#### Other Unallowable Costs

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

1. Lobbying.
2. Fundraising.
3. Purchase of real property.
4. Physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations (such as painting or carpeting).
5. Construction.

#### Type of Award

R&E Initiative Awards will be made as grants.

The topic area #7 (Abby Honold Act Program evaluation) award may be made as a grant or as a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements are a type of award in which OVW expects to be substantially involved in planning and implementing the project. Examples of substantial involvement are: participating in meetings, reviewing drafts of products and plans, and helping select trainers, subject matter experts, and project sites. Recipients must be willing to work closely with OVW and be willing to make changes at OVW's request and/or when new needs emerge.

# Application Contents and Format

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## 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 [OVW.Research@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.Research@usdoj.gov) by September 1, 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
<b>Proposal Abstract (not scored)</b>	
<b>Proposal Narrative</b>	
Statement of the Problem	10 points
Project Design and Implementation	50 points
Potential Impact	15 points
Capabilities and Competencies	15 points
Dissemination Plan	10 points
<b>Budget and Narrative</b>	
Budget worksheet and narrative	Not Scored

## 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 30 pages for the Proposal Narrative

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 (no more than 400 words) should summarize the proposed project in plain language, including the project title, purpose of the project, goals and intended outcomes, primary activities, intended beneficiaries, and subrecipient involvement (if known). The abstract is an important part of the application and serves as an introduction to the proposed project. OVW uses the abstract for a number of purposes, including assignment of the application to an appropriate review panel. If the application is funded, the abstract typically will become public information and may be used to describe the project. The abstract, which is to be entered into a text box in JustGrants, will not be scored but is used throughout the review process. The abstract does not count against the page limit for the Proposal Narrative.

## **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 [Appendix A](#) 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 [Appendix B](#) for the list of questions.

## **Proposal Narrative**

**(100 points, 30 pages maximum, double-spaced)**

The Proposal Narrative must include the sections outlined below.

### **Statement of the Problem (10 points)**

This section must:

1. Identify topic(s) the proposed project will address.
2. Explain the need for research in this area.
3. State the purpose, goals, and objectives of the proposed project.
4. Offer a review of relevant literature.
5. State how the study is expected to contribute to one or more of the six [Areas of Study](#).

6. If applicable, describe how the proposal will address [priority one](#) (human trafficking and transnational crime) and/or [priority two](#) (under-resourced rural and remote areas, Tribal nations, and small towns).

### **Project Design and Implementation (50 points)**

This section must:

1. Explain the theoretical foundation on which the proposed study is based.
2. Provide a description of a sound research design and appropriate analytic methods, including research questions, description of sample, and analysis plan, all of which must align with the [Methodological Principles](#) in the Program Requirements section of this NOFO. If the applicant is proposing an experimental or quasi-experimental design, a power analysis must be included.
3. Discuss potential pitfalls of the proposed project design and how the applicant will mitigate them.
4. Explain how people with direct experience with the issues being studied, and connection to the communities being studied, are involved in project design and implementation (other than as study participants).
5. Include a plan to pre-specify any outstanding design and methodology decisions before data collection begins or provide an explanation for why pre-specification is not feasible.

### **Potential Impact (15 points)**

This section must:

1. Describe the implications for practice and policy in victim services and/or the justice system's response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

### **Capabilities and Competencies (15 points)**

1. Describe the applicant's qualifications and the qualifications of key staff and partners.
2. Present an approach and a management plan that reflect a strong researcher-practitioner partnership.

### **Dissemination Plan (10 points)**

1. Provide a detailed plan to produce Expected Products (see [Program Requirements](#) for more details) and make findings available in plain language to broader audiences, including the public, practitioners, and policymakers, through written materials and interactive formats.

## **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](#), the [Sample Budget Narrative](#) (including Excel file), and the [Creating a Budget](#) webinar on the OVW website.

### Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative

#### **(0 points, not scored)**

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 between 12 and 48 months for the R&E Initiative and between 36 and 48 months for topic area #7 (Abby Honold Act Program evaluation). Budgets, including the total "estimated funding" on the [SF-424](#), must reflect the proposed months of project activity. OVW anticipates that the award period will start on or about March 1, 2026.

Awards will be made for up to \$500,000 for the R&E Initiative (up to \$5,000,000 for topic area #7).

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 (including study participants, consultants, and members of advisory groups that inform and guide the project) for their full level of effort, unless otherwise stated in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or letter of support.
  - a. Applicants are encouraged to include stipends for research participants in their budgets unless there is a compelling reason for not compensating participants. Refer to information on Participant Support Costs in the [DOJ Financial Guide](#) for information on providing research participant stipends to cover the cost of participants' time, transportation, gas, and other incidentals (excluding food and beverages). A stipend, which can be in the form of cash, is not a salary, honorarium, incentive, or fee.
3. Include sufficient funds 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 [Accessibility](#) section of this NOFO for more information.

4. Include sufficient funds to provide access for people with disabilities or 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 [Accessibility](#) section of this NOFO for more information.
5. 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](#), the [Sample Budget Narrative](#), and the [Application Companion 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 [OVW website](#)).

#### **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 [OVW Conference Planning](#).

#### Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (If applicable)

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).

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.

#### 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 [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.

#### 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):

1. 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

4. 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).

## **Required Appendices**

Listed below are appendices that applicants are required to submit with their applications. If an applicant determines that a particular appendix is not relevant to their application, they can attach a file with a statement to that effect. Appendices do not count against the page limit for the Proposal Narrative. Appendices can be submitted as separate attachments or in consolidated files in Just Grants. The following documents will not be scored, but failure to upload the documents or the statement of irrelevance as mentioned above may result in the application being removed from consideration.

1. **Curriculum vitae or resumes** of the Principal Investigator(s) and/or project lead, and key project partner(s).
2. **Letters of commitment** from organizations or agencies serving as partner entities and/or collaborating on the project, such as victim services organizations, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, etc. Letters of commitment must be dated and signed by the partnering entity's Authorized Representative. Budget note regarding partner entities: In general, partners that will be receiving funds to carry out a portion of the award should be treated as subrecipients in the proposed budget, not contractors. For more information see 2 C.F.R. § 200.331 and the [Application Companion Guide](#).
3. **Proposed Project Staff, Affiliation, and Roles**, which OVW uses to avoid conflicts of interest during peer review. Provide a list (to the extent known) of all proposed project staff members, including those affiliated with the applicant organization or any proposed subrecipient organization(s), any proposed consultant(s) and contractors (whether individuals or organizations), and any proposed members of an advisory board for the project (if applicable). The list should include: individual or organization name, title (if applicable), employer or other organizational affiliation, and roles and responsibilities proposed for the project. Ideally, applicants provide this appendix in a table format, i.e.:

Name and Title	Employer / Affiliation	Role on Proposed Project

4. **Bibliography/references.** This can be a stand-alone document or consolidated with the Proposal Narrative and will not count against the page limit.

5. **Tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/charts/graphs, or maps** pertaining to the proposed project that are supplemental to such items included in the main body of the narrative.
6. **Documentation of Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity.** To receive funds, the applicant must demonstrate research independence, including appropriate safeguards to ensure objectivity and integrity, both in this proposed project and as it may relate to the applicant's other current or prior projects. This documentation should be an attachment to the application that addresses both a. and b. below.
  - a. For purposes of this NOFO, applicants must document research and evaluation independence and integrity by including, at a minimum, one of the following two items:
    - i. A specific assurance that the applicant has reviewed its proposal to identify any research integrity issues (including all Principal Investigators and subrecipients) and it has concluded that the design, conduct, or reporting of research and evaluation funded by OVW grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts will not be biased by any personal or financial conflict of interest on the part of its staff, consultants, and/or subrecipients responsible for the research and evaluation or on the part of the applicant organization.

**OR**

- ii. A specific listing of actual or apparent conflicts of interest that the applicant has identified in relation to this proposal. These conflicts could be either personal (related to specific staff, consultants, and/or subrecipients) or organizational (related to the applicant or any subrecipient organization). Examples of potential conflict situations may include but are not limited to: those in which an investigator would be in a position to evaluate a spouse's work product (actual conflict), or an investigator would be in a position to evaluate the work of a former or current colleague (potential apparent conflict). With regard to potential organizational conflicts of interest, as one example, generally an organization could not be given a grant to evaluate a project if that organization provided substantial prior technical assistance to that specific project or an entity implementing the project (whether funded by OVW or other sources), as the organization in such an instance would appear to be evaluating the effectiveness of its own prior work. The key is whether a reasonable person understanding all of the facts would be able to have confidence that the results of any research or evaluation project are objective and reliable. Any outside personal or financial interest that casts doubt on the objectivity and reliability of an evaluation or research product is a problem and must be disclosed.
  - b. In addition, applicants must address mitigation of possible research integrity concerns by including, at a minimum, one of the following two items:
    - i. If an applicant reasonably believes that no potential personal or organizational conflicts of interest exist, then the applicant must provide a brief narrative explanation of how and why it reached that conclusion. Applicants must also

include an explanation of the specific procedures that the applicant will put in place to identify and eliminate (or, at the very least, mitigate) potential personal or financial conflicts of interest on the part of its staff, consultants, and/or subrecipients for this particular project, should that be necessary during the grant period. Documentation that may be helpful in this regard includes organizational codes of ethics/conduct or policies regarding organizational, personal, and financial conflicts of interest.

**OR**

- ii. If the applicant has identified specific personal or organizational conflicts of interest in its proposal during this review, the applicant must propose a specific and robust mitigation plan to address conflicts noted above. At a minimum, the plan must include specific processes and procedures that the applicant will put in place to eliminate (or mitigate) potential personal or financial conflicts of interest on the part of its staff, consultants, and/or subrecipients for this particular project, should that be necessary during the grant period. Documentation that may be helpful in this regard could include organizational codes of ethics/conduct or policies regarding organizational, personal, and financial conflicts of interest. There is no guarantee that the plan will be accepted as proposed. Considerations in assessing research and evaluation independence and integrity include but are not limited to: the adequacy of the applicant's efforts to identify factors that could affect the objectivity or integrity of the proposed staff and/or the organization in carrying out the research; and the adequacy of the applicant's existing or proposed remedies to control any such factors.

**7. Applicant disclosure of pending applications.** Applicants must disclose whether they have pending applications for federally funded grants or subgrants that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application submitted under this solicitation. The disclosure must include both direct applications for federal funding (i.e., applications to federal agencies) and indirect applications for such funding (e.g., applications to state agencies that will subaward federal funds).

- a. OVW seeks this information to help avoid any inappropriate duplication of funding. Leveraging multiple funding sources in a complementary manner to implement comprehensive programs or projects is encouraged and is not seen as inappropriate duplication. Applicants that have pending applications as described above are to provide the following information about pending applications submitted within the last 12 months: the federal or state funding agency, the solicitation name/project name, and the point of contact information at the applicable funding agency.
- b. Applicants must include this information as a separate attachment, in a table format, with the file name "Disclosure of Pending Applications," to their application. Applicants that do not have pending applications as described above are to include a statement to this effect in the separate attachment page (e.g., "[Applicant Name on SF-424] does not have pending applications submitted within the last 12 months for federally funded

grants or subgrants that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application submitted under this solicitation.”).

8. **Data archiving plan.** OVW will require through special award conditions that data sets, resulting in whole or in part from projects funded under this solicitation, be prepared for archiving. Applications must include as an appendix a brief plan – labeled “Data Archiving Plan” – consistent with the instructions found here: <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/data-archiving#data-archiving-plan>. Data sets are to be submitted 90 days before the end of the project period unless the recipient receives different instructions from OVW. Please note that OVW will consider requests for exemptions from data archiving requirements post-award.
9. **Human Subjects Protection paperwork.** Documentation and forms related to Institutional Review Board (IRB) review. See <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/human-subjects-and-privacy-protection>, and note that final IRB approval is not required at the time an application is submitted.
10. **Privacy Certificate.** For further information and a model privacy certificate, see <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/confidentiality-and-privacy-protections> and [https://nij.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh171/files/media/document/NIJ\\_pccr\\_fillable.pdf](https://nij.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh171/files/media/document/NIJ_pccr_fillable.pdf).

## **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.

### **Certification Regarding Out-of-Scope Activities**

**\*\*\*This Certification Regarding Out-of-Scope Activities is the subject of federal litigation. For the most up-to-date information about the certification requirement, please see the OVW website at: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/open-notice-of-funding-opportunity>.\*\*\***

Activities Applicants must attach a letter to OVW’s Director, signed by the Authorized Representative, certifying that grant funds will not be used for the following out-of-scope activities:

1. Promoting or facilitating the violation of federal immigration law.
2. Inculcating or promoting gender ideology as defined in Executive Order 14168, *Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government*.
3. Promoting or facilitating discriminatory programs or ideology, including illegal DEI and “diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility” programs that do not advance the policy of equal dignity and respect, as described in Executive Order 14173, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*. This prohibition is not intended to interfere with any of OVW’s statutory obligations, such as funding for HBCUs, culturally specific services, and disability programs.

4. Activities that frame domestic violence or sexual assault as systemic social justice issues rather than criminal offenses (e.g., prioritizing criminal justice reform or social justice theories over victim safety and offender accountability).
5. Generic community engagement or economic development without a clear link to violence prevention, victim safety, or offender accountability.
6. Programs that discourage collaboration with law enforcement or oppose or limit the role of police, prosecutors, or immigration enforcement in addressing violence against women.
7. Awareness campaigns or media that do not lead to tangible improvements in prevention, victim safety, or offender accountability.
8. Initiatives that prioritize illegal aliens over U.S. citizens and legal residents in receiving victim services and support.
9. Excessive funding for consulting fees, training, administrative costs, or other expenses not related to measurable violence prevention, victim support, and offender accountability.
10. Any activity or program that unlawfully violates an Executive Order.
11. All other activities listed under the [Out-of-Scope Activities](#) section.

**Note:** Nothing in this certification prohibits recipients from serving all eligible victims as required by statute, regulation, or award condition.

See sample [Certification of Out-of-Scope Activities Letter](#).

#### 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 [Letter of Nonsupplanting](#) is available on the OVW website.

#### 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 [OVW website](#). This form must be signed by the Authorized Representative.

### **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

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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 [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), 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](#).

### DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

Applicants must read and acknowledge these DOJ certifications in JustGrants, a copy of which is available [here](#).

## **Submission Requirements and Deadlines**

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The complete application package (this NOFO, including links to required forms) is available on Grants.gov and on the [OVW website](#). Applicants wishing to request a paper copy of these materials should contact OVW at 202-307-6026 or [OVW.Research@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.Research@usdoj.gov).

Deadlines for the steps below are in the [Key Dates](#) section of this NOFO.

### **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 [SAM.gov](#) includes receiving a UEI and takes an average of **2 to 3 weeks**.
- Grants.gov: Registration with [Grants.gov](#) takes an average of **1 week**.
- JustGrants: Registration with JustGrants needs to be completed **ONLY** after successful submission of [Step 1](#) 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 [help desk](#) and refer to the [OVW Policy for Applicants Experiencing Technical Difficulties During the Registration and Submission Processes](#) 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. **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 not** subject to Intergovernmental Review under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372. In completing the SF-424, an applicant is to answer question 19 by selecting the following response: "Program is not covered by E.O. 12372."

### **Step 2:**

Submit the full application, including attachments, in JustGrants at <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/>. 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 [JustGrants](#) 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**

Applicants must make every effort to submit their application electronically in Grants.gov and JustGrants by the [deadlines](#).

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties, severe inclement weather, or natural or manmade disasters affecting submission should follow the steps described on OVW's [website](#).

**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.

Application Item	Required?	Submission Type	Submission Website	Date Completed
<a href="#">Application for Federal Assistance: SF-424</a>	Yes	Online Form	Grants.gov	
<a href="#">Proposal Abstract</a>	Yes	Online Form	JustGrants	
<a href="#">Pre-Award Risk Assessment</a>	Yes	Online Form	JustGrants	
<a href="#">Summary Data Sheet</a>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<a href="#">Proposal Narrative</a>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<a href="#">Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative</a>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	

Application Item	Required?	Submission Type	Submission Website	Date Completed
<u>Indirect Cost Rate Agreement</u>	If applicable	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Financial Capability Questionnaire</u>	If applicable	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation</u>	If applicable	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Certification Regarding Out-of-Scope Activities</u>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Letter of Nonsupplanting</u>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Confidentiality Notice Form</u>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Disclosure of Lobbying Activities</u>	If applicable	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Summary of Other Federal Funding</u>	If applicable	Online Form	JustGrants	
<u>Bibliography/references</u>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/charts/graphs, or maps</u>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Curriculum vitae or resumes</u>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Proposed Project Staff, Affiliation, and Roles Form</u>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Letters of commitment</u>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Documentation of Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity</u>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<u>Applicant disclosure of pending applications</u>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	

Application Item	Required?	Submission Type	Submission Website	Date Completed
<a href="#">Data archiving plan</a>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<a href="#">Human Subjects Protection paperwork</a>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	
<a href="#">Privacy Certificate</a>	Yes	Attachment	JustGrants	

## Application Review Information

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### Responsiveness Review

Criteria that make an application or project ineligible are listed in the [Application Contents](#) and [Eligibility](#) 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 [Application Contents](#) 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 peer review process that is based on the criteria outlined in this NOFO. OVW may use internal reviewers, external reviewers, or a combination of both. Following peer review and the assignment of a technical merit score to each application, a threshold is established and applications scoring at or above that threshold are discussed by a full peer review panel.

## 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. 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: geographic diversity, statutory considerations, applicable priorities, 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 [Appendix A](#). 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**

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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 [Key Dates](#) 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

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## 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 applying. This information can be found in the *Requirements for All OVW Applicants and Recipients* section of the [Application Companion Guide](#).

[Terms and conditions](#) for OVW awards are available on the OVW website. These terms are subject to change prior to the issuance of the awards.

## 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 [Application Companion Guide](#) and the award condition on recipient integrity and performance matters available on the [OVW website](#).

## Other Information

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### 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: 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.

1. 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 B: Summary Data Sheet

The Summary Data Sheet 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 **all** 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. Does the application substantively address one or both of the following priorities:
  - Measures to combat human trafficking and transnational crime, particularly crimes linked to illegal immigration and cartel operations, that support safety and justice for trafficking victims who have also suffered domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking.

- Yes
- No

- Projects to provide victim services, especially housing, and improve law enforcement response in rural and remote areas, tribal nations, and small towns that often lack resources to effectively combat domestic violence and sexual assault.

- Yes
- No

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?

- Yes
- No

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 NOFO.

- Yes – go to Q6A
- No

6A. The applicant must upload the required Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation in the Budget and Associated Documentation section of JustGrants.