

Restorative Practices Pilot Sites Program

FY 2025 Pre-application Information Session



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Office on Violence Against Women
Working Together to End the Violence

Agenda

- Restorative Practices Pilot Sites Program Description
- Award Information
- Eligibility and Partnership Requirements
- Program Requirements
- Application Components
- Grants & Financial Management Division on Budgets
- Application Submission and Resources
- Calls/meetings with Technical Assistance Providers



Restorative Practices Pilot Sites Program



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Restorative Practices Pilot Sites Program Description

Authorized by 34 U.S.C. §12514

The Restorative Practices Pilot Sites Program seeks to support, strengthen, enhance, and expand existing restorative practice programs that prevent or address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, in accordance with the “restorative practices” definition at 34 U.S.C. § 12514(a)(3), and build evidence for victim centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive restorative practices addressing these harms.



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Purpose

To implement a program for restorative practices focused on preventing or addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, in collaboration with the designated Training and Technical Assistance providers.



Restorative Practices Pilot Sites Program (1 of 3)

OVW is interested in supporting communities to enhance or expand current efforts at the intersection of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and restorative practices

OVW will award 48-month cooperative agreements to eligible entities that form a partnership of two or more organizations that have:

- A demonstrated history of comprehensive training and experience in working with victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and
- Demonstrated experience in implementing restorative practices



Restorative Practices Pilot Sites Program (2 of 3)

OVW seeks to support and fund a range of pilot sites, including:

- Sites in various geographic locations with different demographic characteristics
- Culturally specific, and/or underserved populations
- Different VAWA subject areas to be addressed (i.e., domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking)
- Projects that may have a connection to the criminal justice system, as long as the program is not housed within or administered by a court, prosecutor's office, law enforcement agency, or any other component of the civil or criminal justice system.



Restorative Practices Pilot Sites Program (3 of 3)

Recipients under this program will receive training and technical assistance (TTA) for the duration of their awards that is tailored to the recipients' distinct approach to restorative practices in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases. This involves mandatory participation of in-person and virtual meetings.



Award Information



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Award Period, Amount, Type of Application, Type of Award

Award Period: 48 months

Award Amounts: up to \$1,000,000

Estimated Number of Awards: 20 awards (estimate)

Type of Award: Cooperative Agreement

- OVW and TA providers are more involved in shaping the project with Cooperative Agreement awards.
- Recipients will work closely with OVW and TA providers.
- OVW must approve activities before recipients are able to do them.
- Recipients will have specific terms and conditions outlined in their award.



Eligibility & Partnership Requirements



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Eligible Applicants

1. Units of local government
2. Tribal governments
3. Tribal organizations
4. Victim service providers
5. Institutions of higher education (as defined in section 1001(a) of Title 20)
6. Private or public nonprofit organizations, including Tribal nonprofit organizations; and faith-based nonprofit organizations

For more information, please see the Eligibility Information section of this NOFO.



Required Partnerships (1 of 3)

Direct victim services and advocacy expertise: An applicant that has direct victim services and advocacy expertise working with survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking must partner with a community-based organization that has expertise implementing restorative practices.

Restorative practices expertise: An applicant that has expertise in implementing restorative practices must partner with a community-based victim service provider with expertise providing direct victim services and advocacy to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.



Required Partnerships (2 of 3)

An applicant cannot serve in both partner categories. Distinct expertise must be noted in the application and evidenced in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Even if an applicant has both types of expertise, it still must identify its primary expertise and have a partner to address the other category.



Required Partnerships (3 of 3)

All applications, must include formal partnerships, as evidenced in the signed MOU with the application, demonstrating all of the following:

1. Experience implementing restorative practices;
2. History of collaborating with community-led or community-driven efforts to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
3. History of advocating for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
4. Experience in screening the suitability of individual(s) who caused harm; and
5. Experience in working with individual(s) who caused harm.



Program Requirements



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Program Requirements (1 of 2)

- Engage in a planning period for approximately 12 months to work with OVW and TTA Providers
- Upon successful completion and approval, implement the provision of restorative practice only within the definition of restorative practice outlined in 34 U.S.C. § 12514



Program Requirements (2 of 2)

- Ensure the project includes individuals with knowledge and experience in conducting risk assessments and referring victims to additional services and resources.
- Designate a full-time Site Coordinator to oversee and implement project activities
- Participate in at least 1 All-Sites meeting per year
- Participate in OVW-sponsored training and technical assistance
- Collect and report on performance indicators via a semi-annual reporting tool



Application Components



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Required Application Components

- Proposal Narrative (70 points)
 - Purpose of the Proposal (20 points)
 - What Will Be Done (25 points)
 - Who Will Implement (25 points)
- Job Descriptions
- Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative (10 points)
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Letters of Commitment (Tribal government applicants only) (20 points)
- Certification Letter to Implement Statutorily Defined Restorative practices



Summary Data Sheet

- Quick synopsis of key aspects of the proposal.
- Answer each criterion included.
- Data is used in the initial review of the application.



Proposal Narrative

- Answer all questions within the Proposal Narrative section and limit your proposal narrative to no more than 20 pages.
- Be sure to include all three sections: Purpose of the Proposal, What Will be Done, and Who Will Implement.
- Please ensure that each section contains a header and responds to the questions asked in that section of the NOFO.



Purpose of the Proposal

Describe the need for the project and help reviewers understand your specific community needs:

- Describe the community(ies) in the service area, target population(s) to be served in this project, dynamics of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including any unique cultural context within the community to be served by the project.
- Describe the challenges of implementing existing restorative practices and how the proposed project will enhance existing or expand restorative practices that address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking.
- Describe the available resources within the community and referral process, including situations when it is determined that the person harmed or a dependent of the person harmed is at risk of subsequent serious injury, sexual assault, or death, such that restorative practices are not a suitable option.



What Will be Done (1 of 3)

- Provide detailed information that clearly describes the activities and strategies to support your proposed project.
- Information should be clear and detailed so that reviewers understand how the proposed activities will meet the needs identified in the purpose section and the program requirements listed in the NOFO.



What Will be Done (2 of 3)

- Describe how the experience and needs of each person harmed will be centered in the program design, including safety planning, safety monitoring process, and victim safety prioritization, with an emphasis on ongoing voluntary participation by the person harmed.
- Explain how the needs of people harmed will be balanced with working on accountability with the people who have caused the harmed.
- Describe the evidence-based risk assessment tool and process that will be used, including at which point(s) the risk assessment will be administered and explain the screening practices and procedures for determining the suitability of any individual who committed a harm to participate in restorative practices.



What Will be Done (3 of 3)

- Describe the needs of the target population and how the restorative practice model(s) that will be used will meet those needs.
- Describe how the proposed project will improve accessibility for people with disabilities and people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.
- Describe how the proposed project will improve accessibility for people with limited English proficiency.



Who Will Implement (1 of 2)

- Identify the key individuals and partners involved in the proposed project.
- Demonstrate that the individuals and partners identified have the capacity to address the stated need and can successfully implement the proposed project activities throughout the 48-month project period. Providing details on their expertise and experience is critical here.
- Demonstrate that the applicant and/or project partners have a history of comprehensive training as well as experience in working with victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.



Who Will Implement (2 of 2)

- Explain the history of the applicant and/or project partners of implementing restorative practices, including the number of years of experience in restorative practices, a list of the types of crimes or incidents addressed, and populations served.
- Describe how the applicant and/or its partners has built trust within the community, among people who have been harmed, and among people who have caused harm, including how the applicant and/or its partners has addressed perceptions of partiality to either people who have been harmed or people who have caused harm.



Job Descriptions

Job descriptions of all key personnel

- Must be attached
- Will not count toward the page limit.



Budget Worksheet and Narrative (1 of 2)

- Submit a detailed budget to cover the 48 months of the award period.
- Include sufficient funds to provide meaningful access, or describe other resources available to the applicant to ensure meaningful access for:
 - people with disabilities,
 - those who are deaf/hard of hearing, and
 - persons with Limited English Proficiency
- Include sufficient funds for a full-time Site Coordinator



Budget Worksheet and Narrative (2 of 2)

- Include sufficient funds for:
 - Attendance to OVW-sponsored Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) in the amount of:
 - \$50,000 for applicants located in the 48 contiguous states
 - \$60,000 for applicants located in the U.S. territories, Hawaii, and Alaska
- Include a \$300,000 planning period budget for Year 1
- Attach the budget worksheet and narrative in JustGrants.



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Applicants are required to submit an MOU, a document containing the terms of the partnership and the allocation of roles and responsibilities between two or more parties.

The MOU must:

- Be a single document, and
- Be signed and dated by the Authorized Representative of each proposed partner organization during the development of the application
 - MOUs missing signatures may receive a point deduction or be removed from consideration
- [A sample MOU is available on the OVW website.](#)



Letters of Commitment (LOC) – Tribal Government Applicants Only

The Letters of Commitment (LOC) (Tribal governments only) is a letter affirming the intent to commit the specified resources towards the project by one party, and it must be included as an attachment to the application in JustGrants.

If unable to submit a signed MOU, Tribal governments may submit a Letter of Commitment from each partnering organization(s).

If funded, the Tribal applicant will be required to submit a signed MOU as a post award deliverable within 6 months of the award.



Certification to Implement Statutorily Defined Restorative Practices

All applicants must implement this program based on the statutory definition of Restorative Practices. As such, all applicants must include the [Certification Letter](#) to Implement Statutorily Defined Restorative Practices at the time of application submission.



Activities that Compromise Victim Safety

OVW does not fund activities that jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions. Please refer to the NOFO and OVW Application Companion Guide for additional details.



Out-of-Scope Activities

- Page 13-14 of the NOFO lists specific activities that are outside the scope of the program and will not be supported by the program's funding.
- Applications that propose activities deemed to be substantially out-of-scope may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be eliminated from consideration.
- Restorative practices that do not meet the definition outlined at 34 U.S.C. § 12514.

Please also see the list of unallowable costs in the Funding Restrictions section.



Grants Financial Management Division (GFMD)



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Grants Financial Management Division (GFMD), pt.1

Summary Data Sheet (questionnaire)

- Single Audit (threshold and fiscal year)
- IRS three-step safe-harbor procedure—Executive Compensation –
- Sample Disclosure Letter
 - Address all four parts

Pre-Award Risk Assessment (questionnaire)

- Eleven questions; Multiple parts to each question
- **Most Common issues:**
 - Brief list of policies and procedures not provided
 - Budgeted vs. Actual process not provided
 - Record Retention policy not provided
 - Knowledge of rules and regulations



Grants Financial Management Division (GFMD), pt. 2

Resources

- Training for OVW Applicants:
 - <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants>
- Budget Information and Sample Budget Detail Worksheet:
 - <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1107316/download>
- Creating a Budget:
 - <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/video/creating-budget>
- Uniform Guidance - 2 CFR Part 200
 - <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200?toc=1>
- DOJ Financial Guide:
 - [https://www.justice.gov/media/1282146/dl?inline=](https://www.justice.gov/media/1282146/dl?inline=1)
- Program Specific Funding Opportunities:
 - [Office on Violence Against Women \(OVW\) | Open Notices of Funding Opportunity](#)



Contact Information

OVW GFMD Helpdesk:
1-888-514-8556
OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov



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Application Submission and Resources



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Register or Update SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants Accounts

Strongly encouraged by September
30, 2025

Organizations must ensure that their accounts with SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants are active and up to date.

- SAM.gov registration requires an average of 2-3 weeks
- Grants.gov registration takes an average of one week
- Register or update both soon



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Grants.gov and JustGrants

- Applicants may find this funding opportunity on Grants.gov by:
 - using the Assistance Listing number 16.052;
 - Grants.gov Opportunity number O-OVW-2025-SI-172290; or
 - the title of this NOFO, all of which can be found on the cover page
- The FY 2025 application submission process is a **two-step process**.
 - Application documents will be started in Grants.gov and fully submitted in JustGrants.



Application Deadlines

Accounts must be registered or updated to submit an application.

The Grants.gov deadline is October 14, 2025 at 11:59PM ET; which includes:

- SF-424, the Application for Federal Assistance standard form and
- SF-LLL, the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form

The JustGrants deadline for the full application is October 16, 2025 at 8:59PM ET.



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Formatting and Technical Requirements

- Double-spaced (charts may be single-spaced)
- 8½ x 11 inch pages
- One-inch margins
- Arial font, type no smaller than 11 point, except for footnotes, which may be 9 point
- Page numbers
- No more than 20 pages for the Proposal Narrative
- Only Microsoft Word (.doc), PDF files (.pdf), or Text Documents (.txt)
- Headings and sub-headings that correspond to the sections identified in this section of the NOFO



Applying through Grants.gov

- Applicants must complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) in Grants.gov.
 - Read the “Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)” section in the NOFO carefully for all requirements.
 - Applicants must complete and submit the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) in Grants.gov.
- After submitting these forms, the applicant will receive an email notification to complete the rest of the application in JustGrants. If the applicant is a new user in JustGrants, the email will include instructions on registering with JustGrants.



Applying through JustGrants

- Items completed in JustGrants:

- Proposal Abstract
- Summary Data Sheet
- Applicant Questionnaire

- Documents uploaded in JustGrants:

- Proposal Narrative
- Job Descriptions
- Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative
- Memorandum of Understanding/Letter of Commitment (Tribal governments only)
- Certification Letter

Read the NOFO carefully for other documentation required for all applications or when applicable.



JustGrants Resources

The Department of Justice has made a collection of self-guided training resources, including training and a Virtual Q&A session on Application Submission, available at <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training-resources/justgrants-training/grants-management-lifecycle>



Tips – Start early!

- Read the NOFO carefully, early, and often!
- Some steps, such as registering with the System for Award Management (SAM) or Grants.gov, may take several days to complete.
- Begin these processes as soon as possible but no later than the dates suggested in the NOFO:
 - Remember: SAM.gov registration can take an average of up to 2-3 weeks
 - Grants.gov registration can take an average of up to 1 week.
- Review, and re-review the Application Checklist.
- Make sure your application is complete.



Application Deadline Reminders

- Submit in grants.gov by 11:59pm ET on Tuesday, October 14, 2025
- Applications are due in JustGrants by 8:59pm ET on Thursday, October 16, 2025
- Carefully review the “How to Apply” and “Submission Dates and Time” sections
- Submitting the application components **at least 48 hours** before each deadline (Grants.gov or JustGrants, as applicable) will enable applicants to receive notice of a failed submission and provide an opportunity to correct the error before the applicable deadline.



Calls/Meetings with TA Providers

In Fall/Winter 2025, TA Providers may contact applicants to discuss their applications and proposed projects.



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Have Questions?

- Programmatic Questions:
 - Email OVW.RestorativeJustice@usdoj.gov or call 202-307-6026
- Financial Questions:
 - Email OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov or call 1-888-514-8556
- Technical Questions
 - **Grants.gov** Applicant Support:
 - Email support@grants.gov or call 800-518-4726
 - **OVW JustGrants Applicant Support:**
 - Email OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov or call 866-655-4482



Thank you!



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