



U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

***** REVISED *****

(Revisions made to Section B. Types of Applications.)

**OVW Fiscal Year 2020
Transitional Housing Assistance
Grants for Victims of Domestic
Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual
Assault and Stalking
Solicitation**

Release Date: on or about December 4, 2019

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are limited to: States, units of local government, Indian tribes, and other organizations, including domestic violence and sexual assault victim service providers, domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, other nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations, or community-based and culturally specific organizations, that have a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(See "[Eligibility Information](#)")

Deadlines

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (E.T.) on February 6, 2020.

(See "[Submission Dates and Times](#)")

Registration Information: To submit an application, all applicants must obtain a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number and register online with the System for Award Management (SAM) and with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). To ensure sufficient time to complete the registration process, applicants must obtain a DUNS number and register online with SAM and with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) immediately, but no later than January 22, 2020.

(See "[Registration](#)")

Letter of Intent: Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a non-binding Letter of Intent to ovw.transitionalhousing@usdoj.gov by January 22, 2020. This letter confirms that the applicant has registered with SAM and [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Submitting a Letter of Intent will not obligate a potential applicant to submit an application. Interested applicants who do not submit a Letter of Intent are still eligible to apply.

(See "[Letter of Intent](#)")

Pre-Application Information Sessions: OVW will conduct two web-based Pre-Application Information Sessions for entities interested in submitting an application for this program. Participation in these sessions is optional. Interested applicants who do not participate are still eligible to apply.

(See "[Pre-Application Information Sessions](#)")

Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, email OVW at ovw.transitionalhousing@usdoj.gov. Alternatively, interested parties may call OVW at 202-307-6026.

Submission and Notification Information

Submission: Applications for this program will be submitted through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). For technical assistance (TA) with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), contact [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) Applicant Support at 1-800-518-4726.

The [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) number assigned to this announcement is OVW-2020-17676.

Notification: OVW anticipates notifying applicants of funding decisions by October 1, 2020.

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Federal Award Information:

Funding Type:	Grant
Estimated Total Funding:	\$30,000,000
Expected Number of Awards:	70
Award Ceiling:	\$500,000
Award Floor:	N/A
Registration Due:	January 22, 2020
Letter of Intent Due:	January 22, 2020
Application Due:	February 6, 2020
Anticipated Start Date:	October 1, 2020
Length of Award Period:	36 Months

**OVW Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for
Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence,
Sexual Assault and Stalking
(CFDA 16.736)**

A. Program Description

Overview of OVW

OVW is a component of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). 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 to hold offenders accountable and serve victims.

Statutory Authority

This program is authorized by 34 U.S.C. § 12351.

About the OVW Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking

The Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking (Transitional Housing Program) supports programs that provide 6-24 months of transitional housing with support services for victims who are homeless¹ or in need of transitional housing as a result of a situation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking; and for whom emergency shelter services or other crisis intervention

¹The term "homeless" means an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes an individual who is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason. An individual who is living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations is also considered to be homeless. Living in an emergency or transitional shelter are also examples of homelessness. Individuals who have been abandoned in a hospital or are awaiting foster care placement are also considered to be homeless. An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, or migratory children (as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 6399) who qualify as homeless under 34 U.S.C. § 12473 because the children are living in circumstances described in this paragraph, are also considered to be homeless. (See 34 U.S.C. §§ 12291(a)(12), 12473(6).)

services are unavailable or insufficient. For additional information about this program, see <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs> and <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/vawamei/thousingmain.htm>.

Program Scope

Activities supported by this program are determined by statute, federal regulations, and OVV policies. If an applicant receives an award, the funded project is bound by the provisions of this solicitation, the [DOJ Financial Guide](#), including updates to the financial guide after an award is made, the section of the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) on post-award requirements for all federal award recipients, and the conditions of the award. Please see [Funding Restrictions](#) for additional information on unallowable costs.

Purpose Areas

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12351(b), funds under this program must be used for one or more of the following purposes:

1. transitional housing, including funding for the operating expenses of newly developed or existing transitional housing;
2. short-term housing assistance, including rental or utilities payments assistance and assistance with related expenses such as payment of security deposits and other costs incidental to relocation to transitional housing; and
3. support services designed to enable a minor, an adult, or a dependent of such minor or adult, who is fleeing a situation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to—
 - a. locate and secure permanent housing;
 - b. secure employment, including obtaining employment counseling, occupational training, job retention counseling, and counseling concerning re-entry in to the workforce; and integrate into a community by providing that minor, adult, or dependent with services, such as transportation, counseling, child care services, case management, and other assistance. Participation in the support services shall be voluntary.

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12351(b)(3)(C), OVV-funded transitional housing projects cannot condition receipt of housing assistance upon participation in any or all of the support services offered.

This solicitation uses the term “transitional housing” to refer to both transitional housing assistance (Purpose Area 1) and short-term assistance (Purpose Area 2), which are defined as follows:

Transitional housing assistance is temporary housing offered for at least six months and no more than 24 months that helps victims transition into permanent housing. Transitional housing is not an extended shelter stay and does not support hotel or motel stays.

Short-term housing assistance is rental assistance and/or other financial assistance (e.g., security deposits, utility assistance, relocation costs, etc.) offered for at least six months and no more than 24 months that helps victims transition into permanent housing. Short-term housing assistance is not emergency shelter, rental assistance that is offered for less than six months, or financial assistance for victims not provided with transitional housing.

Applicants must provide both transitional housing (Purpose Area 1 or 2) and support services (Purpose Area 3). If an applicant proposes to use Transitional Housing Program grant funds to support only transitional housing or only support services, a project partner or another funding source must sustain the remaining component for the entire 36-month project period.

OVW Priority Areas

In FY 2020, OVW is interested in supporting the priority areas identified below. Applications proposing activities in the following areas will be given special consideration and/or additional points as appropriate during the review process:

1. Empower victims to become survivors by growing them past their vulnerabilities to a place of self-sufficiency.

Applicants interested in this priority are encouraged to submit proposed projects that demonstrate strong partnerships with workforce development/job training programs. Applications meeting this priority will not receive additional points but will receive special consideration during the review process and may receive awards of up to \$500,000.

2. Address the specific challenges that rural communities face in responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

To qualify for this priority, an application must clearly identify what makes the geographic service area rural and how it will address specific challenges in rural communities. Applicants effectively addressing this priority may receive an additional five points during the review process.

Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery or Undermine Offender Accountability

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. Applications that propose any such activities may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be eliminated from consideration entirely. Information on activities that compromise victim safety and recovery or undermine offender accountability may be found in the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#).

Out-of-Scope Activities

The activities listed below are out of the program scope, and they will not be supported by this program's funding. See also the list of unallowable costs in the [Funding Restrictions](#) section of this solicitation:

1. Research projects. (This does not include assessments conducted only for internal improvement purposes (up to one percent of the award). For information on distinguishing between research and assessments, see the heading on this topic in the [Funding Restrictions](#) section of this solicitation and the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#).)
2. Prevention: Grant funds may not be used for prevention activities (e.g., outreach to elementary and secondary schools, implementation of educational programs regarding domestic and dating violence intervention, and public awareness campaigns). Permissible outreach activities are limited to informing potential survivors about the availability of services.

3. Family violence: Grant funds may not be used to directly address child abuse, other family violence issues (such as violence perpetrated by a child against a parent or by a sibling against another sibling), or neglect or exploitation. Grant funds may not be used for caregiver abuse of elders and other vulnerable adults.
4. Mandatory participation in services: Participation by survivors in all support services shall be voluntary and shall not be a condition for receiving transitional housing. An application proposing a project that requires participation in any support services, including case management, will not be considered a qualified application.
5. Grant funds may not be used to keep victims in their homes or to prevent them from losing their current housing.
6. Emergency shelter or short-term housing assistance offered for less than six months.

Applications that propose activities that are deemed to be substantially out-of-scope may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be eliminated from consideration entirely.

Activities Requiring Prior Approval

Recipients must receive prior approval before using grant funds to support surveys, whether conducted as part of a program or needs assessment, or for any other purpose. Prior approval is necessary to determine whether the activity is within the scope of the award and meets the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (see the [Solicitation Companion](#) Guide for more information).

B. Federal Award Information

Availability of Funds

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law. There is no guarantee that funds will be available in the future. OVW may elect to make awards in a future fiscal year for applications submitted under this solicitation but not selected for FY 2020 funding, depending on the merits of the applications and the availability of funding.

Award Period and Amounts

The award period is 36 months. Budgets must reflect 36 months of project activity, and the total “estimated funding” on the SF-424 must reflect 36 months. OVW anticipates that the award period will start on October 1, 2020.

This program typically makes awards in the range of \$400,000 - \$500,000. OVW estimates that it will make up to 70 awards for an estimated \$30,000,000.

Awards under this program for FY 2020 will be made for up to \$500,000 for the entire 36 months.

- Applicants proposing to use Transitional Housing Program grant funds for housing alone² or for both housing and support services may submit budgets for up to \$450,000 for a 36-month period.

² Applicants must provide both transitional housing (purpose area 1 or 2) and support services (purpose area 3). If an applicant proposes to use Transitional Housing Program grant funds to support only transitional housing or only support services, a project partner or another funding source must sustain the remaining component.

- Applicants proposing to use Transitional Housing Program grant funds for support services only may submit budgets for up to \$300,000 for a 36-month period.³
- Applicants proposing to address the priority area, “Empower victims to become survivors by growing them past their vulnerabilities to a place of self-sufficiency,” should submit budgets for up to \$500,000 for a 36-month period. Successful applicants for this priority may be eligible for an additional 24 months of non-competitive funding. Any future supplemental awards will be based on factors, including, but not limited to, OVW’s available appropriation and grantee performance.

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 prior to making an award.

Awards will be made as grants.

Types of Applications

In FY 2020, OVW will accept applications for this program from the following:

New: Applicants that have never received funding under this program or whose previous funding expired more than 12 months ago.

Continuation: Applicants that have an existing or recently closed (within the last 12 months) award under this program. Continuation funding is not guaranteed.

Recipients of an FY 2018 or FY 2019 award under this program are NOT eligible to apply as the lead applicant or as a partner/subrecipient on an FY 2020 proposal. Likewise, an organization that is a partner/subrecipient on an FY 2018 or FY 2019 award is NOT eligible to apply as the lead applicant or as a partner/subrecipient on an FY 2020 proposal.

Additionally, current grantees with a substantial amount of unobligated funds remaining (50 percent or more of the previous award) as of March 31, 2020 without adequate justification may not be considered for funding, or may receive a reduced award amount if selected for funding in FY 2020.

Mandatory Program Requirements

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

1. Participate in OVW-sponsored TTA.
2. Participate in an OVW-sponsored assessment or program evaluation, if applicable.
3. Submit the policies, procedures, and rules governing the provision of the transitional housing and related support services for review and approval (post award). Grant recipients will be required to revise and/or remove an activity that OVW determines may compromise victim safety, is unallowable, or does not conform to best practices for providing transitional housing to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

³ Applicants must provide both transitional housing (purpose area 1 or 2) and support services (purpose area 3). If an applicant proposes to use Transitional Housing Program grant funds to support only transitional housing or only support services, a project partner or another funding source must sustain the remaining component.

4. Offer transitional housing and services for at least six months and no more than 24 months with OVW grant funds. Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12351(c)(2), a recipient may waive the 24-month limit for up to six months for any victim who has made a good faith effort to acquire permanent housing but has not been able to do so.
5. Offer support services only to individuals receiving transitional housing (other than follow-up services described below).
6. Offer follow-up support services for transitional housing clients who secure permanent housing. Follow-up services are limited to advocacy, support groups, case management, and minimal financial assistance (e.g., security deposit or first month's rent for permanent housing); and are provided for at least three months but not more than a year.
7. Significantly involve a victim service provider in the implementation of the project, including the development and review of all policies and procedures and the provision of support services.
8. Ensure that any staff, partner staff, or service providers working with transitional housing survivors are trained to work with victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
9. Send the project coordinator and one other key staff member to an in-person OVW grantee orientation.
10. Send key staff to an in-person OVW-sponsored training on voluntary services.
11. Agree to provide transitional housing to their clients without requiring participation in support services.
12. Notify OVW of any changes to the source of funding used to provide transitional housing.
13. Compensate at least one, if not all, of their project partners for time and travel to participate in project development, training, and implementation. If a partner is a state or unit of local government and the partnership duties are conducted within the course of the agency's "regular" scope of work, the applicant does not need to compensate the partner if the partner:
 - a. offers this arrangement; and
 - b. an explanation of this arrangement is included in the application.

C. Eligibility Information

Applications that are submitted by ineligible entities or that do not meet all program eligibility requirements will not be considered for funding. In addition, an application that is deemed deficient in one or more of the following categories may not be considered for funding: 1. [activities that compromise victim safety](#), 2. [out-of-scope activities](#), 3. [unallowable costs](#), 4. [pre-award risk assessment](#), 5. [completeness of application contents](#), and 6. [timeliness](#). An applicant with [past performance issues](#), long-standing open audits, or an open criminal investigation also may not be considered for funding.

Eligible Applicants

The following entities are eligible to apply for this program:

1. States.
2. Units of local government.
3. Indian tribal governments or tribal organizations.
4. Other organizations, including domestic violence and sexual assault victim service providers, domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, other nonprofit,

nongovernmental organizations, or community-based and culturally specific organizations, that have a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this solicitation (see “Faith-Based Organizations” on the [OVW website](#) for more information).

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)(16)(B)(ii).

Cost Sharing or Matching

This program has no match or cost sharing requirement.

Other Program Eligibility Requirements

In addition to meeting the eligible entity requirements outlined above, applications for this program must also meet the requirements below. All certification and other eligibility related documents must be current and developed in accordance with the FY 2020 solicitation.

Required Partnerships

An application must include both a victim service provider and at least one other organization (e.g., a housing provider, local homelessness coalition, or other social service provider serving low-income households, including community colleges, workforce centers, community action agencies, and public assistance departments).

An application from a tribe, state, or unit of local government must include both a victim service provider and a housing provider (and may include the other types of partners listed above).

The victim service provider must play an active role in the development and implementation of the project. Applications must demonstrate that the victim service provider is significantly involved in the design of the project, development and review of all policies and procedures, and ensuring that anyone working with transitional housing survivors is trained in working with victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Definition of Victim Services Provider

A victim service provider is a nonprofit, nongovernmental or tribal organization or rape crisis center, including a state or tribal domestic violence and/or sexual assault coalition, that assists or advocates for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victims, including a domestic violence shelter, faith-based organization or other organization, with a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(43). Victim service providers must provide direct services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking as one of their primary purposes and have a demonstrated history of effective work in this field.

Voluntary Services

All services (support and follow-up) provided to recipients of transitional housing, either while in transitional housing or when establishing permanent housing, must be voluntary.

Limit on Number of Applications

OVW will consider only one application per organization for the same service area. In addition, if an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, OVW will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted before the deadline.

D. Application and Submission Information

Address to Request Application Package

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

Pre-Application Information Sessions

OVW will conduct two optional web-based pre-application information sessions for entities interested in submitting an application for this program. During these sessions, OVW staff will review this program's requirements, review the solicitation, and allow for a brief question and answer period. These sessions are tentatively scheduled for:

1. January 7, 2020 at 1 p.m. ET.
2. January 9, 2020 at 1 p.m. ET.

The total number of participants for each session may be limited, and therefore interested participants from the same agency/jurisdiction are expected to participate together. OVW reserves the right to deny multiple registrations from a single agency/jurisdiction to allow as many interested applicants as possible to participate.

Participation in a pre-application information session is optional. Interested applicants that do not participate in a session are still eligible to apply.

To register, contact the Transitional Housing Program at ovw.transitionalhousing@usdoj.gov or at 202-307-6026. Registration must be received at least two days prior to the start of the first session. Participants are not registered until they receive a confirmation email. Webinars will be captioned in English and Spanish. Interested applicants needing additional language assistance should contact this program's POC at ovw.transitionalhousing@usdoj.gov or at 202-307-6026 as soon as possible, but no later than December 23, 2019.

Content and Form of Application Submission

The information below (“**Letter of Intent**” through “**Additional Required Information**”) describes the full content and form of application submission.

Letter of Intent

Applicants intending to apply for FY 2020 funding under this program are strongly encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent. The letter should state that the applicant is registered and current with SAM and with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). The letter should be submitted to OVW at ovw.transitionalhousing@usdoj.gov by January 22, 2020. This letter will not obligate the applicant to submit an application. See <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants> for a sample Letter of Intent.

Formatting and Technical Requirements

Applications must follow the requirements below for all documents, unless otherwise noted. Points may be deducted for applications that do not adhere to the following requirements:

1. Double spaced (Summary Data Sheet, and charts may be single spaced).
2. 8½ x 11 inch paper.
3. One-inch margins.
4. Type no smaller than 12 point, Times New Roman (TNR) or Arial font, except for footnotes, which may be in 10-point font.
5. Page numbers.
6. No more than 25 pages for the Project Narrative (26 or 27 pages for applications addressing one or more priority areas).
7. Word documents in the following formats: Microsoft Word (.doc), PDF files (.pdf), or Text Documents (.txt).
8. Headings and sub-headings that correspond to the sections identified in this section of the solicitation.

Application Contents

Applications must include the required documents and demonstrate that the program eligibility requirements have been met. For a complete checklist of the application contents, see the [Other Information](#) section in this solicitation.

OVW will not contact applicants for missing items on the list below. Applications that do not include all of the following documents will be considered substantially incomplete and will not be considered for funding:

1. Project Narrative.
2. Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative.
3. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
4. Letter of Experience (LOE).

In addition, the following documents are required; failure to submit them will not result in removal from consideration but may result in a loss of points:

1. Summary Data Sheet.
2. Proposal Abstract.

Summary Data Sheet (5 Points Total)

The Summary Data Sheet should be one to four pages and may be single or double spaced. The Summary Data Sheet does not count toward the Project Narrative page limit. Provide the following information:

1. Name, title, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the individual with authority to accept grants on behalf of the applicant.
2. Name, title, address, telephone number, and e-mail address for the grant point-of-contact. This person must be an employee of the applicant.
3. Statement as to whether the applicant (the organization whose DUNS number is being used for the application) will serve as a fiscal agent/sponsor and pass all funds through to an entity or entities that will implement the project. Such an applicant will not be involved with implementation of the project beyond issuing subaward(s) to these entities and conducting minimal administrative activities. A fiscal agent/sponsor applicant must list these subrecipients and include a statement acknowledging that, should an award be made, the applicant 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. In such situations, the fiscal agent/sponsor must be an eligible applicant for the program.

4. Statement as to whether the applicant has expended \$750,000 in federal funds in the applicant's past fiscal year. If so, specify the end date of the applicant's fiscal year.
5. Summary of all current and pending OVW grants (if applicable). If the applicant has a current grant or cooperative agreement under any OVW grant program or an award that has been closed within the last 12 months from the date this solicitation closes, the information must be provided in a table using the sample format found on the OVW website at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants>. Failure to provide the required table will result in a loss of points. The applicant should also provide the same information regarding any current OVW grants or pending applications on which the applicant is a subrecipient.
6. A list of all other federal grant programs from which the applicant currently receives funding or for which it has applied for funding in FY 2020 **to do similar work**. Provide this information in a table using the sample format found on the OVW website at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants>.
7. Statement as to whether the applicant is 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.
8. Statement as to whether the applicant is 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. If the applicant is not a nonprofit organization or is a nonprofit that does not use the safe-harbor procedure, provide a statement to that effect. For additional information about the safe-harbor procedure, see "Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation" in the [Additional Required Information](#) section.
9. The percentage of grant activities, should the application be funded, that will address each of the following issues (the total percentages should not exceed 100%):
 - Domestic violence.
 - Dating violence.
 - Sexual assault.
 - Stalking.
10. Statement as to whether the applicant is a recipient, or partner/subrecipient, on a current grant or pending application for this grant program. If a current grant, provide the year of the award and the role of the applicant on the award (recipient or project partner).
11. Statement as to whether any proposed project partner/subrecipient is a recipient, or partner/subrecipient, on a current grant or pending application for this grant program. If a current grant, provide the year of the award and the role of the partner(s) on the award (recipient or project partner/subrecipient).
12. Statement as to whether the application addresses the OVW priority area to "Empower Victims to become Survivors by growing them past their vulnerabilities to a place of self-sufficiency" by developing formal partnerships with workforce development/job training programs.
13. Statement as to whether the application addresses the OVW priority area to "Address the specific challenges that rural communities face in responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking."
14. Statement as to whether the applicant will:
 - (a) provide both housing and support services with Transitional Housing Program funds;
 - OR

- (b) limit its use of Transitional Housing Program funds to either housing *or* support services. If (b) is selected, the applicant must provide documentation, e.g., an award letter, to verify the source and availability of non-OVW Transitional Housing Program funds for the other purpose area (housing *or* support services). The documentation must describe the availability of these funds for at least the duration of the OVW project period of 36 months.

15. Identification of:

- (a) the applicant organization.
- (b) all project partner(s).
- (c) the victim service provider in the proposal, including whether it is the applicant or a project partner. This information must be consistent with the rest of the proposal, including the MOU.

Proposal Abstract (not scored but used throughout the review process)

The Proposal Abstract must provide a short summary (**no more** than two pages double-spaced) of the proposed project, including names of applicant and partners, project title, purpose of the project (including goal and intended outcome), primary activities for which funds are requested, who will benefit (including geographic area to be served), products and deliverables, and how the applicant will measure progress in completing project goals and objectives. Applicants must not summarize past accomplishments in this section.

Project Narrative (60 Points Total)

The Project Narrative may not exceed 25 pages double-spaced (except if it addresses a priority area as discussed below). The Project Narrative must include the following three sections:

Purpose of Application (20 points)

This section must:

1. Describe the challenge or need faced by the community and how the goal/vision for the project will meet that need.
2. Describe the community to be served, including the geographic location and the populations in the service area.
3. To qualify for the OVW rural priority, describe what makes the geographic service area rural (using U.S. Census or other appropriate government data) and how isolated the area is from needed services.
4. Describe current services.
5. Describe in detail the gaps in economic empowerment and victim autonomy services for survivors in the proposed project service area and how such survivors are currently underserved.
6. Describe the barriers survivors experience while attempting to seek economic empowerment and victim autonomy services.
7. Describe how the funding will alleviate the challenge or need faced by the community.
8. Describe the [Housing Model](#) and rent structure to be implemented.
9. Provide a detailed plan for how the project will assist survivors in moving toward economic empowerment and victim autonomy within the framework of voluntary services. Applicants should demonstrate their ability to assist in implementing graduated stages of self-sufficiency for all survivors served during the life of the project (i.e., obtaining employment counseling, education, occupational training, establishing financial literacy, etc.).

What Will Be Done (30 points)

The application must provide a clear link between the proposed activities and the need identified in the “Purpose of Application” section above. The application must not include any of the activities listed as unallowable costs in the [Funding Restrictions](#) section of this solicitation.

This section must:

1. Describe the approach to addressing the challenge or need identified in the Purpose of the Application section, including, if addressing the OVW rural priority, how the project will address the challenges associated with the remoteness of the service area.
2. Performance measurement: Describe how the applicant will measure its progress in achieving the project's goal(s)/vision. Identify targeted outcome(s) and describe any tool(s) the applicant will use to track those outcomes and report them to OVW. Tools may include OVW performance progress reports and logic model templates (both available at www.vawamei.org).
3. Describe how the applicant will move to project sustainability.
4. Describe the transitional housing that will be provided, including, but not limited to:
 - a. The type of transitional housing (e.g. transitional housing assistance or short-term housing assistance, location, etc.).
 - b. How it will be provided (program-owned, program-rented, landlord/tenant relationship, etc.).
 - c. Method for determining client eligibility (e.g., screening tools, eligibility requirements, etc.).
 - d. Facility rules and regulations.
 - e. Facility safety planning.
 - f. Fee schedule (if applicable).
5. Describe the support services that will be offered, including, but not limited to:
 - a. What will be offered.
 - b. Who will provide them.
 - c. Where they will be provided.
 - d. How clients will access them.
 - e. How the services will support economic empowerment and survivor autonomy.
6. Describe the plan for follow-up services, including, but not limited to:
 - a. What will be offered.
 - b. Timeframe for follow-up services.
 - c. How economic empowerment and survivor autonomy will be reinforced during follow-up services.
7. Describe how the applicant plans to address victim safety and autonomy in the project. Applicants will need to provide a detailed plan for assisting survivors toward graduated economic empowerment and survivor autonomy while using a voluntary services model.
8. Describe how the applicant will maintain confidentiality, especially if working with homeless providers and/or the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), etc.
9. Describe how the proposed project will reach each population in the service area identified in the Purpose of the Application section.

Who Will Implement the Project (10 points)

This section must:

1. Identify the key individuals and organizations, including project partners, involved in the proposed project.

2. Demonstrate that the individuals and organizations identified have the capacity to address the stated need and can successfully implement the proposed project activities; attach resumes or job descriptions of all key personnel.
3. Describe specific roles and responsibilities of all project partners and key staff.
4. Describe project partners with substantive knowledge of economic empowerment, including their history (if any) of providing transitional housing and support services to this population and their proposed role in the project.
5. Describe the expertise and history of key project staff in assisting survivors to achieve economic independence.
6. Demonstrate the capacity and expertise of the lead applicant and all project partners to serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking.
7. Clearly describe who will implement activities as described in the “What Will Be Done” section (e.g., which organization and staff will conduct intake, find housing, work with participants, provide services, etc.).
8. Clearly demonstrate that required partnerships have been developed (see “Required Partnerships” in the [“Program Eligibility Requirements”](#) section of the solicitation).

Applications proposing to address priority areas must include in the project narrative additional information as described below. This portion of the application is limited to one page, double-spaced per priority area (for a total project narrative of 26 or 27 pages, as applicable).

Empowering victims to become survivors by growing them past their vulnerabilities to a place of self-sufficiency (0 points)

This section is optional. This section must clearly describe:

1. Project partners who have expertise in workforce development and job-placement in the service area.
2. Program aspects and demographic information concerning job availability and placement in the service area.
3. Trauma-informed, victim-centered policies and practices to assist survivors with completing their education and obtaining employment.
4. How the project will measure performance related to this priority (e.g., the number of survivors completing job training, how many survivors obtained employment, how many survivors maintained employment during transitional period and how many survivors maintained employment after obtaining permanent housing placement).
5. A comprehensive plan exhibited in the MOU, reflecting formal partnerships with organizations that have particular expertise in support services designed to enable survivors to secure employment, including obtaining employment counseling, education, occupational training, job retention counseling, and counseling concerning re-entry into the workforce.

Addressing the specific challenges that rural communities face (Additional 5 Points)

This section is optional. This section must:

1. Describe in detail the gaps in current services for survivors in rural areas and how such survivors are currently underserved.
2. Describe the barriers victims in rural areas experience while attempting to seek services.
3. Describe project partners who have a special expertise in working with rural communities and their role in the project.
4. Describe the expertise and history of key project staff in providing services in rural areas to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

5. Provide a detailed plan for how the project will provide rural-specific services to victims in rural areas within a coordinated community response model.

Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative (10 Points)

All applications must include a detailed budget and budget narrative. See the sample Budget Detail Worksheet and the Creating a Budget webinar available on the OVW website at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants>. Keep in mind that budgetary requirements vary among programs. Applicants must submit reasonable budgets based on the resources needed to implement their projects in their specific geographic location.

Award Period and Amount

Applicants proposing to use Transitional Housing Program grant funds for housing alone or for both housing and support services may submit budgets for up to \$450,000 for a 36-month period.

Applicants proposing to use Transitional Housing Program grant funds to support services only may submit budgets for up to \$300,000 for a 36-month period.

Applicants proposing to address the priority area, "Empower victims to become survivors by growing them past their vulnerabilities to a place of self-sufficiency," should submit budgets for up to \$500,000 for a 36-month period.

The budget and budget narrative will be reviewed separately from the proposed project narrative. 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.

The budget must:

1. Display a clear link between the specific project activities and the proposed budget items and not contain items that are not supported by the project narrative.
2. Include funds to attend OVW-sponsored TTA in the amount of \$15,000 for applicants located in the 48 contiguous states and \$20,000 for applicants located in the territories, Hawaii, and Alaska. This amount is for the entire 36-month project period and NOT per year. Applicants also may budget expenses in excess of the required amount if they are aware of relevant non-OVW sponsored conferences or training for which they would like permission to use grant funds to support staff/project partner attendance.
3. Include a statement describing whether the housing units are applicant owned.
4. Include as program income any fees charged to transitional housing participants if the transitional housing is applicant owned.
5. Include funds or describe other resources available to the applicant to support activities to ensure access for individuals with disabilities, Deaf/hard of hearing individuals, and persons with limited English proficiency. See [Accessibility](#) under [Federal Award Administration Information](#) for more information.
6. Compensate at least one, if not all, project partners as reflected in the MOU. For more information on compensating project partners, see the sample Budget Detail Worksheet on the OVW website at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants> (compensation must be present in the budget).
7. Distinguish clearly between subawards and contracts in allocating any grant funds to other entities. Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.330, a subaward is for the purpose of carrying out a portion of the federal award, such as compensating an MOU partner, and a

contract is for the purpose of obtaining goods and services for the grantee's own use. The substance of the relationship is more important than the form of the agreement in determining whether the recipient of the pass-through funds is a subrecipient or a contractor. The awarding and monitoring of contracts must follow the recipient's documented procurement procedures, including full and open competition, pursuant to the procurement standards in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.329. The issuance and monitoring of subawards must meet the requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.331, which includes oversight of subrecipient/partner spending and monitoring performance measures and outcomes attributable to grant funds. For more information, see the sample Budget Detail Worksheet and the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) on the OVW website at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants>.

OVW awards are governed by the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and the [DOJ Financial Guide](#), which include information on allowable costs, methods of payment, audit requirements, accounting systems, and financial records. For additional information on allowable and unallowable costs, go to the [Funding Restrictions](#) section of this solicitation and the sample Budget Detail Worksheet on the OVW website at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants>.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (15 Points Total)

For purposes of this solicitation, the MOU is a document containing the terms of the partnership and the roles and responsibilities between two or more parties. The MOU is not a substitute for a subaward agreement, which ensures that subrecipients adhere to the requirements of the award and 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (see 2 C.F.R. § 200.331). Partners receiving funds under the award generally are considered subrecipients because they are carrying out a portion of the federal award.

All applicants, new and continuation, must submit a *new* MOU with the application as described above. Continuation applicants should describe any changes in the collaboration, including an explanation or description of any new or additional partners.

The MOU **must** be a single document and **must** be signed and currently dated by the [Authorized Representative](#) of each proposed partner organization during the development of the application. The application will be removed from consideration if the MOU is missing, not a single document, not current, or if signatures and/or dates are missing for any of the project partners. If necessary, an MOU can include multiple signature pages so long as each page includes the names and titles of all signatories to the MOU.

The MOU must clearly:

1. Identify the partners and provide a brief history of the collaborative relationship among those partners, including when and under what circumstances the relationship began and when each partner entered into the relationship.
2. State the roles and responsibilities each partner will assume to ensure the success of the proposed project.
3. State that each project partner has reviewed the budget, is aware of the total amount being requested, and is being fully compensated for their work under the grant or is agreeing to be partially compensated or receive no compensation from the grant.

4. Identify who will be implementing the activities as described in the “What Will Be Done” section of the project narrative (goals, objectives, and activities) and corresponding Budget.
5. Identify who will work with transitional housing participants (i.e., which organization and staff will do intake, find housing, work with participants, provide services, etc.).
6. Demonstrate the capacity of the applicant, partners, and key staff to achieve the goals of the proposed project.
7. Demonstrate a commitment on the part of all project partners to work together to achieve stated project goals.
8. Describe the applicant’s financial commitment to at least one, if not all, project partners for their participation in project-related activities, including, but not limited to, compensation for time and travel expenses to participate in project development, training, and implementation.
9. Describe the resources each partner will contribute to the project, either through time, in-kind contributions, or grant funds (e.g., office space, project staff, and training).

Letter of Experience (LOE) (10 Points Total)

All applicants must submit a signed, currently dated LOE describing the applicant organization’s documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as required by 34 U.S.C. § 12351(a) (or such experience and capacity of a partner, if the applicant is a tribe, state, or unit of local government). The letter must:

1. Describe the organization’s history of providing assistance to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
2. Demonstrate a history of at least three years of effective work serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking by showing the number of years the organization has provided direct services to victims.
3. Describe the services provided to victims.
4. Describe the qualifications or skills of staff assigned to the grant, and the training they have received.

Applications from a tribe, state, or unit of local government must include an LOE from their victim service provider partner. In addition to the above information, the letter must make clear how the victim service provider will be involved in the implementation of the proposed project.

The LOE is limited to two pages; additional pages will not be reviewed. Applications will be removed from consideration if the LOE is missing, not a single document, not current, or if it is not signed or dated. A sample LOE is available at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants#Program%20Specific>.

Additional Required Information

The following documents will not be scored but must be included with the application. Failure to supply this information may result in the application being removed from consideration. Some documents will be generated during the application submission process while other documents will be uploaded and attached to the application.

The following documents will be generated and completed during the application submission process:

Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

Applicants must complete the SF-424. The SF-424 is generated when the applicant begins the submission process. For "Type of Applicant," do not select "other." The amount of federal funding requested in the "Estimated Funding" section of this form must match the amount of federal funding requested in the budget section of the application package. This program does not require a match; therefore, the values for the Applicant line should be zero. The individual who is listed as "**Authorized Representative**" must be an individual who has the authority to apply for and accept grant awards on behalf of the organization or jurisdiction.

Intergovernmental Review: This solicitation ("funding opportunity") is subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372. An applicant may find the names and addresses of state Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) at the following website: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Intergovernmental-Review-SPOC-01-2018-OFFM.pdf>. If the state appears on the SPOC list, the applicant must contact the state SPOC to find out about, and comply with, the state's process under E.O. 12372. In completing the SF-424, an applicant whose state appears on the SPOC list is to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 once the applicant has complied with its state E.O. 12372 process. (An applicant whose state does not appear on the SPOC list should answer question 19 by selecting the response that the "Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the state for review.")

Assurances and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Review the assurances and disclosure forms online. Applicants will be prompted to compile these forms online during the application submission process. All applicants must complete both the *Assurances – Non-Construction Programs* (SF-424B) form and the *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities* (SF-LLL) form. Applicants that expend any funds for lobbying activities must provide the information requested on the SF-LLL. Applicants that do not expend any funds for lobbying activities should enter "N/A" in the required highlighted fields.

*The following documents must be uploaded and attached **separately** to the application:*

Applicant 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. In addition, applicants may be required to submit their current year's audit report at a later time. The questionnaire can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/file/866126/download>.

Confidentiality Notice Form

All applicants are required to acknowledge that they have received notice that grantees and subgrantees must comply with the confidentiality and privacy requirements of VAWA, as amended. Applicants must submit the acknowledgement form available on the OVW website at http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ovw/pages/attachments/2015/01/20/confidentiality_acknowledgement_form_42015.pdf. This form must be signed by the [Authorized Representative](#).

Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation (if applicable)

An applicant that is a nonprofit organization may be required to make certain disclosures relating to the processes it uses to determine the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees.

Under certain circumstances, a nonprofit organization that provides unreasonably high compensation to certain persons may subject both the organization's managers and those

who receive the compensation to additional federal taxes. A rebuttable presumption of the reasonableness of a nonprofit organization's compensation arrangements, however, may be available if the nonprofit organization satisfies certain rules set out in Internal Revenue Service regulations with regard to its compensation decisions.

Each applicant must state at the time of its application (in the Summary Data Sheet mentioned earlier) whether the applicant is 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. If the applicant states that it uses the safe-harbor procedure, then it must disclose, in an attachment to its application (to be titled "Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation"), the process it uses to determine the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees (together, "covered persons"). See 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(16)(B)(iii).

At a minimum, the disclosure must describe in pertinent detail: (1) the composition of the body that reviews and approves compensation arrangements for covered persons; (2) the methods and practices used by the applicant nonprofit organization to ensure that no individual with a conflict of interest participates as a member of the body that reviews and approves a compensation arrangement for a covered person; (3) the appropriate data as to comparability of compensation that is obtained in advance and relied upon by the body that reviews and approves compensation arrangements for covered persons; and (4) the written or electronic records that the applicant maintains as concurrent documentation of the decisions with respect to compensation of covered persons made by the body that reviews and approves such compensation arrangements, including records of deliberations and of the basis for decisions. For a sample letter, see the OVW website at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants>.

For purposes of the required disclosure, the following terms and phrases have the meanings set out by the Internal Revenue Service for use in connection with 26 C.F.R. § 53.4958-6: officers, directors, trustees, key employees, compensation, conflict of interest, appropriate data as to comparability, adequate documentation, and concurrent documentation.

Following receipt of an appropriate request, OVW may be authorized or required by law to make information submitted to satisfy this requirement available for public inspection. Also, a recipient may be required to make a prompt supplemental disclosure after the award in certain circumstances (e.g., changes in the way the organization determines compensation).

Pre-Award Risk Assessment

Each applicant must respond to the questions below. 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 applicant being removed from consideration or a delay in access to funds. Provide complete responses that address all questions included for each numbered item. This section of the application should be no more than four pages:

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. §§ 200.333-200.337.
 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. §§ 200.330-200.332)? 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.

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. Applicants that have never received a federally-approved indirect cost rate may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs, which may be used indefinitely. This includes state, local, and tribal governments that have never negotiated an indirect cost rate with the federal government and receive less than \$35 million in direct federal funding per year.

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

Letter of Nonsupplanting

Applicants must submit 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 is available at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants>.

Unique Entity Identifier (DUNS Number), System for Award Management (SAM), and Grants.gov Registration

Applicants for federal grants and cooperative agreements are required to have a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number to submit an application. A DUNS number is a unique, nine-character identification number provided by the commercial company Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). Once an applicant has applied for a DUNS number through D&B, its DUNS number should be available within two business days.

Federal regulations require that an applicant (1) be registered in SAM.gov prior to submitting an application; (2) provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and (3) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application under consideration by a federal awarding agency. Also, federal agencies may not make an award to an applicant until that applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with these requirements by the time that OVW is ready to make an award, then OVW may make the determination that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making the award to another applicant. See 2 C.F.R. §§ 25.200, 25.205.

SAM centralizes information about grant recipients and also provides a central location for grant recipients to change organizational information. [Grants.gov](#) uses SAM to establish roles and IDs for electronic grant applicants.

If the applicant already has an Employer Identification Number (EIN), the SAM registration will take **up to two weeks to process**. If the applicant does not have an EIN, then **the applicant should allow two to five weeks for obtaining an EIN from the Internal Revenue Service. There is no fee associated with these processes. These processes cannot be expedited.** OVW strongly discourages applicants from paying a third party to apply or register on their behalf in an attempt to expedite these processes. To ensure all applicants are able to apply by the deadline for this solicitation, applicants must have obtained a DUNS number and registered online with the SAM and with [Grants.gov](#) no later than January 22, 2020.

Submission Dates and Times

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is complete and submitted by the deadline. Failure to meet the submission deadline will result in an application not being considered for funding. Applicants should refer to the chart below to ensure that all required steps and deadlines are met.

Failure to begin the registration or application submission by the deadlines stated in the chart below is not an acceptable reason for late submission.

Applicant Action and Information	Dates/Deadlines
Apply for a DUNS number	
Obtain a DUNS number at https://www.dnb.com/ or call 866-705-5711.	January 22, 2020
Register with SAM	
Access the SAM online registration through the SAM homepage at https://www.sam.gov/SAM/ and follow the online instructions for new SAM users. If the applicant already has the necessary information on hand, the online registration takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, depending upon the size and complexity of the business or organization. Organizations must update or renew their SAM registration at least once a year to maintain an active status.	January 22, 2020
Register with Grants.gov	
Once the SAM registration is active, the applicant will be able to complete the Grants.gov registration (see Other Submission Requirements for more information on registering for and using Grants.gov).	January 22, 2020
Submit Letter of Intent	
Charlayna Brady, ovw.transitionalhousing@usdoj.gov , 202-307-6026	January 22, 2020
Download Updated Version of Adobe	
Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the most up-to-date version of Adobe Acrobat is installed on all computers that may be used to download the grant application package and submit the proposal. To verify if the Adobe software version is compatible with Grants.gov , visit the following link: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html .	At least 48 hours before application deadline
Request Hardcopy Submission (if necessary)	
Applicants that cannot submit an application electronically due to lack of internet access must contact the POC at 202-307-6026 or ovw.transitionalhousing@usdoj.gov to request permission to submit a hardcopy application.	February 1, 2020
Begin Application Submission Process	
Applications must be submitted electronically via Grants.gov .	Begin 24 – 48 hours prior to the application deadline.
Confirm Application Receipt	
<p>Authorized Organization Representatives (AORs) should closely monitor their email for any notification from Grants.gov about a possible failed submission. The AOR is a user role within Grants.gov for a user who is authorized to submit applications on behalf of the organization.</p> <p>The AOR should receive a minimum of two emails from Grants.gov. One will confirm receipt of the application package. The other will contain either a notice that the application was successfully submitted or a notice that there was an error with the application submission.</p> <p>OVW does not send out these notifications, nor does OVW receive a copy of these notifications. It is the applicant’s responsibility to notify OVW of any problems with the application submission process.</p>	Submitting the application at least 48 hours before February 6, 2020 will enable the applicant to receive notice of a failed submission and provide an opportunity to correct the error before the deadline.

OVW Policy on Late Submissions

Applications submitted after **11:59 p.m. E.T.** on February 6, 2020 will not be considered for funding, unless the applicant receives OVW permission to submit a late application. In limited

circumstances, OVW will approve a request to submit an application after the due date. The charts below provide a description of the circumstances under which OVW will consider such requests. Approval of a late submission request is not an indication of the application’s final disposition. Applications approved for late submission are still subject to all of the review process and criteria described in this solicitation.

To ensure fairness for all applicants, OVW requires that applicants requesting late submission adhere to the following:

Experiencing Technical Difficulties Beyond the Applicant’s Reasonable Control

Issue	Applicant Action	OVW Policy
Issue with SAM or Grants.gov Registration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Register and/or confirm existing registration at least three weeks prior to the application due date to ensure that the individual who will be submitting the application has SAM and Grants.gov access and is the person registered to submit on behalf of the applicant. 2. Maintain documentation of when registration began, any issues related to registration, and all communication with technical support. 3. Notify OVW as soon as the applicant becomes aware of a problem with registration but no later than 14 days before the application due date. 	Failure to begin the SAM or Grants.gov registration process in sufficient time (i.e., by the date identified in this solicitation) is not an acceptable reason for late submission.

Issue	Applicant Action	OVW Policy
Unforeseeable Technical Difficulties During the Application Submission Process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact Grants.gov for technical support at least 24 hours prior to the application deadline. 2. Maintain documentation of all communication with Grants.gov Applicant Support. 3. Prior to the application deadline, contact the POC for this program, via email at ovw.transitionalhousing@usdoj.gov indicating that the applicant is experiencing technical difficulties and would like permission to submit a late application. The email must include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed description of the difficulty that the applicant is experiencing. • The contact information (name, telephone, and email) for the individual making the late submission request. • The complete application packet (Project Narrative, Budget, Budget Narrative, MOU, and LOE). 4. Within 24 hours after the application deadline, the applicant must email the POC for this program at ovw.transitionalhousing@usdoj.gov the following information: 	Common foreseeable technical difficulties for which OVW will not approve a late submission request include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Using an outdated version of Adobe Acrobat; and b. Attachment rejection. (To ensure that attachments are not rejected, attachment names should only include allowable characters. See “Other Submission Requirements”). Through Grants.gov , OVW can confirm when submission began. Applicants that start the submission process less than 24 hours before the deadline will not be

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant's DUNS number. • Grants.gov Applicant Support tracking numbers. • Other relevant documentation. 	<p>considered for late submission. By beginning the application submission process 24-48 hours before the deadline, applicants should have sufficient time to receive notice of problems with their submissions and make necessary corrections.</p>
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Issue	Applicant Action	OVW Policy
Severe Inclement Weather or Natural Disaster	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact the POC for this program at ovw.transitionalhousing@usdoj.gov as soon as the applicant is aware of severe weather or a natural or manmade disaster that may impede the submission of an application by the deadline. The email should include a detailed description of the weather event or natural or manmade disaster. A detailed description includes when the event occurred, or is likely to occur, the impacted area, and the specific impact on the applicant and/or partners' ability to submit the application by the deadline (e.g., without power for "x" days, office closed for "x" days). If the application is complete and ready for submission at the time the applicant notifies the POC, it should be included with the email. 2. Applicants impacted by severe weather or a natural or manmade disaster occurring on the deadline must contact OVW within 48 hours after the due date or as soon as communications are restored. 	<p>OVW may not be able to accommodate all requests resulting from severe inclement weather or a natural disaster.</p>

Submission of the required documents to the POC is not an approval of a late application submission request. OVW will review the information provided, consider the request, and inform the applicant of its decision within 30 days of the request.

Funding Restrictions

The following information is provided to allow applicants to develop an application and budget consistent with program requirements.

Unallowable Costs

The costs associated with the activities listed below are unallowable and must not be included in applicants' budgets:

1. Lobbying.
2. Fundraising.
3. Purchase of real property.

4. Physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations (such as painting or carpeting).
5. Construction.
6. Payment of mortgage, property taxes, or other expenses that would prevent foreclosure or eviction.
7. Payment of bills/utilities in arrears.
8. Drug and/or alcohol testing.
9. Using federal funds for savings accounts for survivors.

Food and Beverage/Costs for Refreshments and Meals

Generally, food and beverage costs are **not** allowable. OVW may approve the use of grant funds to provide a working meal at a meeting, conference, training, or other event, if one of the following applies:

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. Not serving 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, and grantees may only use funds to purchase food and/or beverages if OVW approves the specific expenditures in advance. For additional information on restrictions on food and beverage expenditures go to <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/conference-planning>.

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 <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/conference-planning>. This includes requirements pertaining to:

1. Cost of Logistical Conference Planning.
2. Cost of Programmatic Conference Planning.
3. Conference Space and Audio-Visual Equipment and Services.
4. Prohibition on Trinkets at Conferences.
5. Prohibition on Entertainment at Conferences.
6. Food and Beverages at Conferences.
7. Prior Approval Required Before Entering Into Contracts or Expending Funds for Conferences.
8. Conference Reporting.

Research and Assessments

Grantees under this program are prohibited from using OVW funds to conduct research, which is defined in 28 C.F.R. § 46.102 as a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute

to generalizable knowledge. Surveys and focus groups, depending on their design and purpose, may constitute research and therefore be out of scope.

However, grantees may use funds (up to one percent of the award) to assess their work for internal improvement purposes only, such as by convening a listening session to identify service gaps in the community, or surveying training participants about the quality of training content and delivery. Applicants considering such assessments must refer to the OVW research decision tree in the Solicitation Companion Guide to ensure that the activity does not qualify as human subjects research. The [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) also provides additional information on federal requirements related to research, assessments, and surveys.

Pre-Agreement Cost Approval

OVW generally does not allow pre-award costs. Costs incurred prior to the start date of the award may not be charged to the project unless the recipient receives prior approval from OVW. See the [DOJ Financial Guide](#) for more information on pre-award costs.

Other Submission Requirements

As discussed in the [Submission Dates and Times](#) section above, applications must be submitted electronically via [Grants.gov](#). Applicants that are unable to submit electronically must follow the instructions in that section.

After applicants obtain their DUNS number and register with SAM, they can begin the [Grants.gov](#) registration process. The applying organization must complete the [Grants.gov](#) registration process prior to beginning an application for a federal grant. The E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC) must register the applicant organization with [Grants.gov](#). The E-Biz POC oversees the applicant's [Grants.gov](#) transactions and assigns the AOR. The AOR submits the application to [Grants.gov](#) and must register with [Grants.gov](#) as well. In some cases the E-Biz POC is also the AOR for the applicant. Complete instructions can be found at [Grants.gov](#).

This registration process generally takes between three and five business days and may take as long as four weeks if all steps are not completed in a timely manner. The application process can move forward once the applicant successfully registers with [Grants.gov](#). Grants.gov is not the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Grants Management System (GMS). If applicants experience difficulties at any point during this process, they should call [Grants.gov](#) Applicant Support at **1-800-518-4726**.

Note: [Grants.gov](#) limits the use of specific characters in names of attachment files. Valid file names include only the characters shown in the table below. [Grants.gov](#) is designed to reject any application that includes an attachment(s) with a file name that contains any characters not shown in the table below.

Characters	Special Characters		
Upper case (A – Z)	Parentheses ()	Curly braces { }	Square brackets []
Lower case (a – z)	Ampersand (&)	Tilde (~)	Exclamation point (!)
Numbers (0-9)	Comma (,)	Semicolon (;)	Apostrophe (')
Underscore (_)	At sign (@)	Number sign (#)	Dollar sign (\$)
Hyphen (-)	Percent sign (%)	Plus sign (+)	Equal sign (=)
Space	When using the ampersand (&) in XML, applicants must use the “&#amp;” format.		
Period (.)			

Use simple titles for all documents, such as “Project Narrative.” Visit the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) website to review the most up-to-date guidelines about the use of specific characters.

Submitting a Grant Application

In 2017, Grants.gov updated its application tool. The legacy PDF application package was phased out and retired as of December 31, 2017. Grants.gov Workspace is now the standard application method for applying for grants. Applicants should familiarize themselves with the Workspace format. For complete information and instructions on using Workspace (and other changes), go to the Workspace Overview page at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html>.

[Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) Applicant Support can be reached at 1-800-518-4726 and is available 24/7, except federal holidays.

E. Application Review Information

Criteria

Applications will be scored based on the degree to which the application responds to each section and addresses each element in the section. Furthermore, applications will 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. Specifically, for the Transitional Housing Program, scoring will be as follows:

1. Summary data sheet: (5) points.
2. Project narrative: (60) points, of which:
 - A. Purpose of the project: (20) points.
 - B. What will be done: (30) points.
 - C. Who will implement: (10) points.
3. Budget detail worksheet and narrative: (10) points.
4. MOU: (15) points.
5. LOE (10) points.
6. Rural communities priority (5) points.

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 solicitation. OVW may use internal reviewers, external reviewers, or a combination of both.

Programmatic Review

All applications that are considered for funding will be subject to a programmatic review. The programmatic review consists of assessing the application for compliance with the program's scope, activities that compromise victim safety, and, if applicable, past performance and priority area review. OVW reserves the right to add up to 10 points to applications fully addressing OVW priority areas and to deduct points from applications for the following reasons:

1. Activities that compromise victim safety and recovery and undermine offender accountability (deduct up to 25 points).
2. Out-of-scope and unallowable activities (deduct up to 25 points).
3. Past performance (deduct up to 25 points).
4. Formatting and Technical Requirements (deduct up to 5 points).

An application that is deemed to be 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 described above or be removed from consideration entirely regardless of the application's peer review score.**

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

1. Demonstrated effectiveness of the current project indicated by timely progress toward meeting project goals and objectives.
2. Demonstration that past activities supported with OVW grant funds have been limited to program purpose areas.
3. Adherence to all special conditions of existing grant award(s) from OVW.
4. Adherence to programmatic and financial reporting requirements, including timely submission of required reports.
5. Completion of close-out of prior awards in a timely manner.
6. Appropriate use of and active participation in OVW-sponsored workshops and other technical assistance events as required by a special condition of the current or recent award.
7. Receipt of financial clearances on all current or recent grants from OVW.
8. Timely resolution of issues identified in any audit or on-site financial or programmatic monitoring visit.
9. Adherence to the Office of Management and Budget single-audit requirement
10. Timely expenditure of grant funds.
11. Adherence to the requirements of the [DOJ Financial Guide](#).

Prior to making an award, OVW is required to review and consider any information about applicants included in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS). Applicants may review and comment on information in FAPIIS about themselves that another federal awarding agency has previously entered. OVW will consider the applicant's comments as well as other information available in FAPIIS in making its judgment about the risk posed by making an award to the applicant as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.205.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the OVW Director, who also may give consideration to factors

including, but not limited to, reaching underserved populations, geographic diversity, OVW priorities, past performance, and available funding when making awards. All award decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

High-Risk Grantees

Based on DOJ's assessment of each grantee with regard to current or previous funding, unresolved audit issues, delinquent programmatic and fiscal reporting, and prior performance, a grantee may be designated "high risk." Awards to high-risk grantees may carry special conditions such as increased monitoring and/or prohibitions on drawing down funds until certain requirements are met. High-risk grantees with substantial or persistent performance or compliance issues, long-standing open audits, or open criminal investigations will likely not receive an additional OVW award until all issues are resolved.

Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

It is anticipated that all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by October 1, 2020.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

Federal Award Notices

Successful applications will receive OVW award notifications electronically from the OJP Grants Management System (GMS) (not Grants.gov). This award notification will be sent to the individuals listed as the [Authorized Representative](#) and the Point of Contact on the SF-424 for the application that was selected for funding and will include instructions on accepting the award. Recipients will be required to log in; accept any outstanding assurances and certifications on the award; designate financial points of contact; and review, sign, and accept the award. The award acceptance process involves physical signature of the award document and terms and conditions by the [Authorized Representative](#), scanning the fully executed award document, and returning the scanned document to OVW via facsimile or email.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Information for All Federal Award Recipients

Applicants selected for awards must agree to comply with additional legal, administrative, and national policy requirements. OVW strongly encourages applicants to review the information pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting an application. This information can be found in the section of the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) entitled "Post-Award Requirements for All Federal Award Recipients."

Terms and conditions for OVW awards are available at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/award-conditions>. These terms are subject to change prior to the issuance of the awards.

Violence Against Women Act Non-Discrimination Provision

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act prohibits OVW grantees from excluding, denying benefits to, or discriminating against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability in any program or activity funded in whole or in part by OVW. Additional information on the civil rights obligations of OVW funding recipients can be found in the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) under "Civil Rights Compliance."

Accessibility

Recipients of OVW funds must comply with applicable federal civil rights laws, which, among other things, prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and national origin. Compliance with these laws includes taking reasonable steps to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency have meaningful access to recipients’ programs and activities and that these programs and activities are readily accessible to individuals with disabilities. More information on these obligations is available in the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) under “Civil Rights Compliance.”

Reporting

OVW grantees are required to submit semi-annual progress reports and quarterly Federal Financial Reports (SF-425). Appropriate progress report forms will be provided to all applicants selected for an award. Forms will be submitted electronically via GMS. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact the following: for programmatic questions, contact the POC for this program at 202-307-6026 or ovw.transitionalhousing@usdoj.gov, for financial questions, contact 202-307-6026 or OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov, and for technical support, contact 1-800-518-4726 for Grants.gov Applicant Support.

H. Other Information

Application Checklist

Applicants must submit a fully executed application to OVW, including all required supporting documentation. Prior to peer review, OVW will not contact applicants for missing items. Additionally, if an applicant plans to submit an application under any other OVW grant program this fiscal year, it is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that only documents pertinent to this solicitation are included with this application. OVW will not redirect documents that are inadvertently submitted with the wrong application (e.g., a Rural Program letter submitted with a Transitional Housing Program application will not be transferred to the Rural application).

Application Document	Date Completed
1. Letter of Intent.	
2. Summary Data Sheet.	
3. Project Narrative: a) Purpose of the Application. b) What Will Be Done. c) Who Will Implement.	
4. Proposal Abstract.	
5. Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative.	
6. MOU (signed and currently dated).	
7. Application for Federal Assistance: SF 424.	
8. Assurances (SF 424B) and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL).	

9. Applicant Financial Capability Questionnaire (if applicable).	
10. Confidentiality Notice Form.	
11. Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation.	
12. Pre-Award Risk Assessment.	
13. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable).	
14. Letter of Nonsupplanting.	
15. LOE (signed and currently dated).	

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

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, can be easily understood, and impose the least possible burden on applicants. 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.