

ROUGHLY EDITED TRANSCRIPT

VERA CENTER ON VICTIMIZATION AND SAFETY

"FUNDING TO MAKE SERVICES SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR SURVIVORS WITH DISABILITIES AND DEAF SURVIVORS; OVW'S DISABILITY GRANT PROGRAM"

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>> SANDRA HARRELL: Hello, welcome, everyone, it looks like people are still trickling in. While that is happening, I just want to go over a handful of features in Zoom webinar to help you acclimate to this particular webinar platform. You are in listen only, so you should be able to see and hear us, but we cannot see or hear you. What that means is that in order for you to pose questions to the presenters, you're going to want to go to the Q&A box at the bottom of your screen and type in your question. You have the ability, if you see a question that someone has posed and you really want to make sure it's brought to our attention, you have the ability to upvote that question, basically it's liking it on Facebook or Twitter. You can upvote it, and then if you want, you can go ahead and introduce yourself in the chat pod. We do ask that you keep your Q&A. So any questions that you're posing, we are asking that you pose that in the Q&A box. That's where we will be paying the most attention to. The chat box tends to get pretty clogged, especially if you're all excited to chat with each other, which we want you to be.

So, please, if you have a pressing question post it in the Q&A box. You do have the ability to view closed captions for this. So all you have to do is click on the closed captioning at the bottom of your screen, and you'll be able to see the closed captioning. You can choose full transcript if you want it to be a bigger box on your screen, or the regular one if you just want it to be scrolling along the bottom. I think those are the key features I wanted to bring your attention to today. We are excited to see so many people who are interested in the Disability Grant Program and the funding available. We were excited to see the solicitation post, and so today I'm going to spend a little bit of time talking about the problem that is being addressed through the Disability Grant Program and what can be accomplished through the Disability Grant Program and introduce you to the overall purpose of the grant program, and then I will pass the bat onto Sylvia Pauling from the Office of Violence Against Women. She is the Program Manager for the Disability Grant Program and will go through the full solicitation. The opportunities for you to pose questions at the end of each of those portions of the presentation and when Sylvia is done, we will then pass the bat onto Valerie Cruise from the grant financial management division, who will spend just a little bit of time talking about some of the budgeting aspects for this grant program. With that said, we'll go ahead and get started. I will note that we will pause for interpreting switches every 15 minutes. So if you hear us take a pause, that's what is happening on our end. So welcome, everyone. We wanted to, again, spend just a little bit of time summarizing what we know about victimization, people with disabilities and helping you to understand some of the common barriers that survivors with disabilities face when trying to access services. Again, review some of the opportunities that the Disability Grant Program offers you and addressing those barriers. My name is Sandra Harrell, I'm with the Center on Victimization and Safety at the Vera Institute of Justice. I've been overseeing our technical assistance to the Disability Grant Program for about 14 years, and I've been working with the Disability Grant Program for about 16 years. So I've been with this program for a really long time. It is near and dear to my heart, and I've got to see just all of these communities across the country who have come together to work to improve services for survivors with disability, and I'm happy to and Deaf survivors, so happy to see so much interest in the grant program and happy to share with you some of the issues you will have the opportunity to address. So just to give you some basic information about the incidence and prevalence rate among people with disabilities and Deaf people when it comes to domestic and ask sexual violence. The research that exists is incredibly limited in a number of different ways. One way it's limited is that it has largely collapsed, all people with disabilities into one category. So it's kind of hard to know what types of violence people with their specific disabilities are experiencing and the duration and who is actually committing the violence against people with disabilities. What we do know, from all of the research that we do have is that people with disabilities are at an increased risk of violent victimization and some people with disabilities actually experience increased risk of domestic and sexual violence when compared to people without disabilities. Specifically within that category, we see a lot of people with intellectual disabilities and developmental disability see a high rate of sexual violence in their lives. That's an important emphasis of the grant program, is trying to encourage perhaps that address sexual violence to really increase their capacity to serve survivors with intellectual disabilities. Again, you can't generalize funding to all people with disabilities because disability is a very, very broad category, and includes sensory disabilities, physical disabilities that have been acquired, disabilities that are congenital in nature, meaning they were present at birth. Intellectual disabilities, mental health disabilities. So all of that that category is just very, very big, so it's hard to generalize all of the findings that we have.

But here's some of the ones that we do know, is that people with disabilities are three times more likely to experience rape, sexual assault, aggravated assault and robbery compared to those without disabilities. And that, again, the risk is much higher for certain people with disabilities, including people with intellectual or cognitive disabilities, people with psychiatric disabilities. People who have multiple disabilities, women with disabilities have higher rates of victimization than men with disabilities, and people of color with disabilities. So specifically multiply marginalized people with disabilities have very high rate of violence.

Again, some more research to help you with your problem statement and your application. Women who have experienced intimate partner violence are twice as likely to also report a disability. 14 percent of men with disabilities reported experiencing sexual violence at some point in their lifetime, which is 10 percent higher than men without disabilities. So when you start to look at domestic violence and sexual violence and the life of people with disabilities, the gendered nature of that violence gets blurred more because men with disabilities experience high rates of sexual violence in their lifetimes.

This is what I was referring to earlier about people with developmental disabilities. 49 percent of people with developmental disabilities reported being assaulted ten or more times in their lifetime. Deaf adults, 20 percent of Deaf adults have experienced physical abuse by an intimate partner and 15 percent have experienced forced sex in an intimate partner relationship.

We also know that women with disabilities and people with disabilities, in general, were more than likely to experience more severe victimization, experience abuse for a longer duration of time, be victims of multiple episodes of abuse and be victims of a larger number of perpetrators, and a little bit of analysis there will certainly help you understand why this is happening more severe victimization and longer duration of abuse is often tied to the fact that they have nowhere to go. Their disability organizations aren't necessarily places that have been trained to address abuse in the lives of the people they serve. Victim service organizations aren't designed around accessibility, and so they're not or around the unique dynamics of abuse in the lives of people with disabilities, and so they're not prepared to serve survivors with disabilities.

So it absolutely those barriers absolutely are tied to the persons who experience abuse.

What other maybe in the chat section spend just a little bit of time, introducing yourselves if you haven't done so already, but share with us what other factors do you think contribute to the high rates of victimization among people with disabilities and Deaf people.

Cycle of violence is prevalent in these communities. Any other? Isolation, lack of support systems, not being believed when reporting, absolutely, and, of course, the stigma of not wanting to share. People with disabilities are more likely to be in institutional settings, absolutely. Again, another comment that they're seen as not being reliable reporters, absolutely. Lack of resources in their area. Lack of a support system has been echoed. Biased in providers. Yes, yes, all of these absolutely are a major contributors to the high rates of victimization among people with disabilities and Deaf people and this grant program gives you an opportunity to begin to address those issues. I'm going to pause for one minute while we switch interpreters.

I see some folks that I know in here. So it's nice to see you all.

So a lot of this is it's covered on this slide, has already been covered by the brilliant folks who are participating today. Absolutely presumed lack of credibility. The way that our society has isolated and segregated people with disability in our society. There's also a general devaluation of people with disabilities and Deaf people in the forms of ableism and oddism that contributes to an environment in which people with disabilities don't get the resources that they need, that they are relying on personal care attendants and other helpers who maybe have not actually been fully vetted and therefore, they are you know, they may have backgrounds where they're able to bounce from person to person and commit victimization.

So that increases the exposure of people with disabilities to potential abusers.

There is also this phenomenon around people with disabilities specifically, culture of compliance, in which they are taught through various systems that they must be compliant to authority figures and, therefore, they can be seen as easy targets. And when we say it that way, what we mean is that we created an environment around people with disabilities that allows people to target them for victimization with relative impunity. So it's something that if you want to get away with hurting someone, you might target a person with a disability.

So the people responsible for victimizing people with disabilities, like people without disabilities, a high number of the people that are abusing people with disabilities are acquaintances. Next in line is strangers, and then intimate partners. Relatives. And then, you know, there's always some level of mystery as to what the person was in that don't know area.

A lot of the same tactics that are used against people without disabilities and are used against people with disabilities. They often take very specific forms, based on the disabilities. So, for instance, where you might use power and privilege to to abuse someone in heterosexual relationship, withholding medication might be a tactic that is used against an individual with a disability.

Or delaying or abusing refusing to provide care to the person, abusing or threatening a service animal. A big one is threatening to move a person into a nursing home or institution or threatening that reporting the abuse could result in them being moved into a nursing home or institution, and that is a threat that is borne out in reality. I a very credible threat in the lives of people with disabilities, that I are afraid to report because they fear that the report could result in them losing their independence.

So just some additional context here about underreporting in the lives of survivors with disabilities. A lot of times silence just feels safer or less harmful. Because they are afraid that they would have to get a new personal care attendant who they don't know, and that, you know, it's different having somebody that you actually know in your life versus some stranger that you've never even met. Again, there's a significant fear of losing independence or being institutionalized for those of you who are new to disability, I would encourage you to really look up independent living movement and the deinstitutionalization movement to better understand just how hard people with disabilities have had to fight for their independence and why this would be such a big fear in their lives when they are victimized.

In fact, so often when a person with a disability is victimized, the sort of knee jerk reaction is to become very paternalistic and to protect them from their own choices. So, again, that fear of losing their independence is borne out in reality.

Another thing that we have found, as we've been doing this work, is that people with disabilities are often denied information about what healthy relationships look like, what healthy boundaries look like, what healthy sexuality looks like. So someone who is targeting them for abuse will really take advantage of that lack of knowledge and really twist and manipulate that person's lack of knowledge to their own benefit. Again, there's a fear of losing their ability to make their own decisions.

I'm sure many of you have heard about guardianship, and that's something that is a pretty common response to victimization of people with disabilities, is to say, okay, well, we can't have you making your own decisions anymore. So we'll put someone in charge of your decision making, which is, again, a pretty significant loss in your life if you've been used to making your own decisions and suddenly the law can give someone else the ability to make those decisions for you.

We also know criminal justice responses are not particularly effective. Many of you have already mentioned in the chat that criminal justice system often sees people with disabilities as unreliable, as not having credibility, et cetera, and so and there's often a sort of shrug of the shoulders of what are we going to do here, how would we investigate this? There's not a lot of effort to do anything about it when it happens.

Then, importantly, again, are victim services systems and disability systems aren't necessarily providing people with disabilities the right kind of outreach and information so that they would know how to report or reach out for help. And as such, only 13 percent of victims of violent crimes and disabilities actually ever receive support from victim services, which is an issue we are really trying to change through the Disability Grant Program. And then justice also is out of reach because of certain systems in place around people with disabilities. When people with disabilities report 47 percent of the violence that happens to them, which is a much higher rate than you see at the population. When you start to see people charged with that offense, it drops to 22 percent. Then the people convicted of the offense drops down to 9 percent.

So, again, it's the criminal justice system is not working very well and holding people accountable for victimizing people with disabilities.

So some of those barriers we are seeing and that the grant program works to address, that there's limited to no specialized outreach to people with disabilities and Deaf survivors.

There are a ton of barriers within antiviolence programs, those barriers are physical in nature, meaning you have steps to your front door or, you know, you don't have adequate entryway response or your for security reasons, people have to be able to speak into an intercom, which doesn't work so well for people who are Deaf or have communication disabilities.

You might have eligibility requirements that create barriers to services overall, just the attitudes of staff, which we all know that advocates are people who want to do the very most good in any way that they can, but if they haven't gotten the proper training and the right resources, they may be very uncomfortable serving survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors. That's going to show in their actual service delivery.

You want to address those types of barriers.

Also, a look of specialized knowledge and response protocols within disability organizations. So disability organizations are often places that people with disabilities have a common, regular relationship with, and they will you know, they may go there on a weekly basis. If that disability organization's only protocol for responding to reports of abuse or victimization and the people they serve is mandatory reporting, that's really leaving that person to, like with zero additional supports. Like immediate safety planning, or a warm referral to a victim services organization.

And then really importantly, the a problem that we in the Disability Grant Program are seeking to solve is a lack of coordination and collaboration between antiviolence and disability organizations. Again, you know, we talk about the perceived lack of credibility and the lack of accommodations, and then for law enforcement and prosecutors, there is also a look of specialized training.

Again, we talked a lot about isolation earlier in the chat. Exploitation and marginalization of people with disabilities, which are in a framework of understanding victimization of people with disabilities as being part of a larger system of oppression. That exploitation and march naturalization really creates a barrier for people with disabilities being able to reach out for help and get the services they need. We mentioned already the denial of information about healthy sexuality and relationships.

And then incredibly important is a lack of confidential avenues for reporting. I've sort of referenced this earlier around the fear of losing independence, but, you know, our primary public policy response to abuse of people with disabilities, is to mandate reporting of abuse of people with disabilities, and all 50 states at this point. All of those mandatory reporting policies are determined at the state level, so there's no real congruity across states.

They are often vague and sweeping, and they can close down confidential avenues for getting support. Again, the whole practice of putting in place stand in decision maker for someone in the form of a guardian, can create a look of confidential avenues for getting help, because if it is a plenary guardian, that person may not allow that the person with a disability to seek help without them signing off on it. Then often, particularly among the Deaf community, their communities are small and close knit. This can close down avenues for feeling like you have complete confidentiality.

Other barriers for Deaf survivors include the fact that the disability services may not have a strong connection to the Deaf community. You know, the Deaf community has for a while for a long time now, been very clear that they consider themselves a linguistic minority, a linguistic and cultural minority, versus being within the disability community. If disability services don't reflect that, then it can really close down sort of that connection with the Deaf community in your area.

And Deaf services may not have any sort of focus on the full range of violence and abuse, their service makeup is exclusively on communication action, for instance, and then crisis line workers may not be familiar with working with someone over video relay, or through a video remote interpreter. So just a lot of tons of those types of barriers, but then also knowing that going into shelter will create even a larger sense of isolation for that person living in shelter among a bunch of hearing people. Then if the shelter or victim services also lacks an understanding of Deaf culture, that can compound that sense of isolation.

I'm going to pause for an interpreter switch. And then I'm going to jump into some programming strategies, the happier part of this presentation.

Through the last at least the last 15 years that Vera has been overseeing the training and technical assistance on the the Disability Grant Program, we have seen a number of really promising strategies emerge. Many of these strategies can be supported through your work on the Disability Grant Program, including budgeting for access, making sure you're involving people with disabilities and Deaf people, and really looking at your services, your programming, your policies, your practices, all of that sort of stuff can be really important for victim service programs to really engage people with disabilities and Deaf people.

Establishing expectations through policies. Establishing expectations through policies, this is how quickly we'll be able to get an asl interpreter into an in take. That's some of the major changes that you can make through the grant program. Also, routinely conducting access reviews and removing barriers to access. Supporting staff and volunteers through training enhancing engagement with disability leaders. On the flip side, within disability organizations, you can do similar things, like you conduct safety and responsiveness reviews, support staff and volunteers through training on immediate safety planning, really creating strong linkages through referrals.

Then disability programs can do a lot to support self advocates to take on leadership roles. Within the grant program, one of our the main theory of change that we operate from is that collaboration is the key to change.

So really building strong relationships with one another is such a key to being able to close the gaps in services. And then another real very important theory of change is making sure that you're meaningfully including self advocates and Deaf survivors, to be able to work at the intersection of domestic and sexual violence and disability and making sure that you're promoting the full participation of people with disabilities and Deaf people in the services that you're offering.

So we are not and do not advocate for doing just enough to get them into services, but doing but really creating an environment where people with disabilities and Deaf people who come into your services are able to fully engage the full range of healing services available, and that would include the community, like within a shelter of other survivors. So really finding ways to foster that community among everyone, including survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors.

Another thing that can be done is really taking a look at your materials and making sure that they are inclusive and accessible. The materials that you're putting out into the world really convey your knowledge, your experience, your credibility, and it can be an important signal that you know about the unique dynamics in the lives of survivors with disabilities.

So you want to really take a look at those materials, and this is something that you can do through your work in the Disability Grant Program, as well as building staff capacity at the intersection.

So you want to make sure staff have that comfort and competence to be able to work really comfortably with survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors in a way that really, you know, responds to the unique perpetrators in the lives of people with disabilities, the unique ways that power and control manifest in these relationships and that your staff are able to reflect they understand those dynamics and those situations. In a really respectful way.

And then, of course, budgeting for accommodations, you know, understanding the range of accommodations that are available, including those that cost money, versus those that can be done with staff time. It just a critical component it's just a critical component of serving survivors with disabilities and being able to make contacts and connections with other organizations in your community so that you can readily provide those sorts of accommodations instead of saying, okay, it will take a week for us to get you the services you requested, nobody wants to wait a week to use the bathroom.

If your bathroom is not accessible, if it's going to take a week to make that accessible, survivor with a disability is likely not going to stay.

And, of course, seeking other funding opportunities. One of the beauties of the Disability Grant Program is that the grant program is structured as a three year program and the first year of that is really dedicated to planning and development. So a year, sometimes it takes 14 months, a little bit longer than that. You're really working to cement your relationships, your collaboration, and then you go through a needs assessment process to really understand the needs of your organizations that are part of the collaboration and be able to lift up the ones that you can actually address with grant program funding. And then you create a strategic plan based on those needs that you've identified. The strategic plan, while it will definitely address things that you're going to do with your grant program funding, it can also set you up to seek other sources of funding. To more comprehensively address the issues that you're finding in your organizations when serving survivors with disabilities.

Just quickly, about the grant program, it was first authorized in 1994, this isn't necessary for your application, but I wanted to give you a quick understanding of the overall structure of the grant program just to get your head around it. It was first authorized the Violence Against Women Act was first authorized in 1994 and reauthorized in 2000, included the addition of disabilities. Has funded over 100 communities to date. The grant program is currently structured as a three year award, as I mentioned for new grants. For continuation grants, which Sylvia will get into, those are two year awards, planning and development Grants are three year,

Again, there's a real emphasis on collaboration with shared output and decision making, and there's in the grant program strongly emphasizes enhancing organizational capacity. So you're really looking at your own organization and figuring out what you need to shore up in your own practices around access and around knowledge and around outreach so that you can be the change that you want to see in your community.

So it's really emphasizing organization capacity and building a body of best practices. And again, it's structured in two phases with the first phase being planning and development, and then an implementation phase that is about two years, depending on how long your planning and development phase lasts.

Again, just want to sort of end on what the purpose of the grant program is, which is to create permanent changes within a and among the organizations in your collaboration that will result in more accessible, safe and effective services for survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors. What this means, the Grant program is structured to help you build your own capacity. It's not structured so that you can go out and do training to build other organization's capacities, it's really, again, looking inward to figure out how you can get better at doing this.

I want to pause to see if there are any questions?

Lax like we had a couple of questions about the PowerPoint being available, which we have answered, thank you. Are there any questions before I hand the baton over to Sylvia at OVW to go through the solicitation? Yes, there is a question.

There is a question now, who can apply for the grant. That is something Sylvia is about to go over with you.

There's a question, when you say outreach, does this include support for finding new survivors through community education? When we talk about doing outreach, the goal is to shore up your outreach practices so that you are reaching survivors with disabilities. And so I'm not sure if you mean finding new survivors through community education, if you mean that you're finding survivors who would not necessarily be connected with your services because you're out doing community education. Yes, but I would say in the first year of your work, you're going to be figuring out whether or not that is the most pressing need that you have.

So you may come into this thinking we really need to shore up our community education and more people will come to our programs, but you may find out through your needs assessment that people aren't coming to your programs because you have a reputation of not being accessible. So your priority area needs to be working on accessibility.

There's a question about accessing the research that was cited. I believe that the PowerPoint actually has links to the citations. If not, I'll pull those and include them when we send it out.

And then there's a question which I'm going to punt to Sylvia, just to be just so I understand this grant can't be used for startup founded by individuals with disabilities. If you have Sylvia can answer this more thoroughly disability organizations can absolutely apply. So if you have a disability organization that is, you know, a nonprofit, and you can partner with victim services, you know, it's fine to have a disability organization apply for this grant, even if it was founded by individuals with we would love to see that. Okay.

Okay, great. And then a lot of these questions have to do with the grant program, which Sylvia is about to go you there the solicitation and will be able to address that. And, yes, I think there's more questions coming in about like survivors that are spread out and really using community education as an opportunity to connect with them. Again, I would say that how you ultimately reach survivors will be determined based on your needs assessment. So it's hard to go into this knowing exactly what you're going to do, because you go through a process of trying to understand the needs in your community before you actually start that.

Okay then there's a question about defining disability. It is a broad category. The definition for disability that OVW uses would obviously be the Americans with disabilities act. The one that we operate from is broader with the WHO definition, World Health Organization definition. We understand that disability, it can be more or less increased by the accessibility of the environment the person encounters. So, yeah, if you have other questions about defining disability, feel free to reach out to me.

There's a question about handouts, we'll send out the PowerPoint, we don't have other handouts. With that, we are going to do an interpreter switch and then Sylvia, it's all yours, but I'll advance your slides for you.

>> SYLVIA PAULING: Good afternoon. Welcome to the application webinar for the fiscal year 2021 Disability Grant Program. The Office of Violence Against Women, which I will refer to as OVW is convening this webinar to go over the fy2021 solicitation for the Disability Grant Program. As Sandra has indicated, I'm Sylvia Pauling, and I am the grant Program Specialist and the solicitation point of contact for the fy2021 Disability Grant Program solicitation.

The purpose of this webinar is to provide information regarding the fy2021 Disability Grant Program solicitation. I will cover highlights of the solicitation on today's webinar. However, it is not the intent to go over every aspect of the solicitation. All applicants are responsible for reading the solicitation and reviewing the contents of all the application materials and ensuring that a complete application is submitted.

The Disability Grant Program staff cannot provide feedback to applicants about the quality of an applicant's proposal or provide any information outside of that presented in this solicitation. Disability grant staff will be available throughout the period that the solicitation is open to respond to any questions about the application requirements. Please feel free to send questions about the Disability Grant Program solicitation to OVW I'm sorry, OVW.disabilities at usdoj.gov or call 209 307 6026.

I will cover the topics in the order that they are listed in the solicitation.

To again with, eligibility. Eligible applicants are limited to city or township governments, county governments, native American tribal governments that are federally recognized. Native American tribal organizations other than federally recognized tribal governments. Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status. States, victim service providers, state or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault coalitions or nonprofit. Nongovernment organizations serving individuals with disabilities in the United States or U.S. territories.

Eligibility requirements will be discussed in depth later in this presentation.

>> PROFESSOR: Sylvia, do you mind repeating the.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: Can you repeat the phone number and e mail people can contact for the interpreters.

>> SYLVIA PAULING: The e mail is OVW.disabilities at usdoj.gov or 202 307 6026.

Deadlines. So applications are due by 11:59 p.m. eastern standard time on April 1, 2021. Please note this is 11:59 eastern standard time. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications 24 to 48 hours prior to the deadline. Please do not wait to submit applications. I encourage you to begin the application process now, as we have a new system. So please do not wait to begin the application process. We'll talk about the new system a little further in the presentation.

To submit an application, all applicants must obtain a data universal number system, DUNS, number and register online with the system for award management and with Grants.gov. To ensure sufficient time to complete the registration process, applicants must obtain a DUNS number and register online with

SAM and Grants.gov immediately, but no later than February 22, 2021. This allows time for the issues to be resolved, which can take several weeks. If an applicant has an issue with DUNS, SAM or Grants.gov, can't keep record of all communication. This information may need to be presented to OVW at a later date.

And again, contact information, if you have any questions regarding the Disability Grant Program, the solicitation contact OVW at 202 307 6026, or by e mail. At [OVW.disabilities@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.disabilities@usdoj.gov).

Submission and notification information. Applications for this program will be submitted through a new two step process. As I indicated, please do not wait to begin the process. You should begin submitting your application now. The new two step process is one you will submit the SF424 and SF LLL in Grants.gov. Submit as early as possible, but not later than 24 48 hours before the Grants.gov deadline of February 22, 2021.

Submission of the full application including attachments in the Justice Grants System, is due by April 1, 2021.

The Grants.gov number assigned to this announcement is 0 OVW 202 13 6006. Technical assistance with Grants.gov, it's Grants.gov for the Grants.gov applicant support, you can call 1 800, 518 426 or e mail support at Grants.gov. Technical assistance for JustGrants, for OVW just grants support, the number 1 866 655 4482 or [OVW.justgrantssupport@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.justgrantssupport@usdoj.gov).

Notification OVW anticipation notifying applicants of the funding decisions by October 1, 2021.

Purpose areas. Funds under this program must be used I'm sorry, funds under this program must be used for one or more of the eight purpose areas. Please review the section labeled purpose areas, and that's in page 6 and 7 of the solicitation. For new applicants, new applicants do not have to identify which purpose areas you will use because the structured TA process will cover most of them. Continuation applicants must identify a purpose area.

OVW priority areas. In FY2021 OVW is interested in supporting the following priority areas. Applications proposing activities in the following areas will be given special considerations during the FY2020 funding recommendations. Those applications that propose to reduce violent crimes against women and promote victim safety through investing in law enforcement, increasing prosecution and promoting effective prevention.

The second type of proposal that we are using as a priority area is those proposals that seek to serve sexual assault survivors. To qualify for this priority, applications must propose a sexual assault focus and include a sexual assault service provider as part of the Multidisciplinary collaboration team.

Please note, there will be no additional points if you choose one of the priorities areas.

OVW does not fund the following activities.

Activities that compromise victim safety and recovery or undermine offender accountability. Examples of activities that would not be funded are procedures or policies that compromise the confidentiality of information and/or privacy of persons receiving services, partnering with individuals or organizations that support, promote practices that compromise victim safety, and recovery. Or undermine offender accountability. Please see the solicitation companion guide for additional information.

Out of scope activities are research projects, formal or informational, surveys. Surveys will be built into the structured process. So surveys outside of the structured process are not supported by the grant. Other out of scope activities are public service campaigns and projects that focus on children.

Types of awards. Awards will be made as cooperative agreements. And cooperative agreement is a form of award under which OVW expects to have ongoing, substantial involvement in the award activity. And this substantial involvement includes participating in project meetings, help developing or approving final agendas, reviewing and approving faculty products, curricula and identifying participants.

Recipients must be willing to work closely with OVW on the implementation of their project and be willing to modify project activities at OVW's request.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: Let's pause for an interpreter switch. And we are ready.

>> SYLVIA PAULING: Award period and amounts.

New state focused projects are 36 months, and the award amount is 500,000, and, again, that's for 36 months. New local focus or tribal focus, the award amount is 425,000, and that is for 36 months.

Continuation focus continuation state focus, is for 24 months in the amount of 400,000. Continuation local focus, is for 24 months and in the amount of \$325,000.

Types of applications., there are new applicants, and new applicants are applicants that have never received funding under this program, or whose funding under the program expired on or before February 1, 2019. Continuation applicants are ones that have an existing or recently closed project and recently closed since February 2, 2019. If an applicant received an award under this program previously, and it was for more than 24 months, since the award has been active, then the applicant can choose to either submit a new or continuation application.

We also have subtypes. In addition to identifying as a new or continuation applicant, applicants for this program must also identify as one of the following subtypes. Again, a new applicant has to identify either as a state focused project or a new local focus or tribal focus project.

Continuation applicants should identify as state focused or local focus. Recipients of an FY2019 or 2020 award under this program are not eligible to apply as the lead applicant or as a partner subrecipient on the FY2021 proposal. Likewise, an organization that is a partner, subrecipient on an FY2020 award is not eligible to apply as the lead applicant or as a partner subrecipient on an FY2021 proposal.

For new applications, a college or university may not be proposed as a partner. For continuation applications, a college or university may be proposed as a part of the NCT team. Current grantees with a substantial amount of unobligated funds remaining, that's 50 percent or more of the previous award, as of that March 31, 2021, without adequate justification, may not be considered for funding or may receive a reduced award amount if selected for funding in FY2021.

Mandatory program requirements. New applicants, as Sandra went over, there is the plank and development and the implementation phases. Technical assistance is mandatory and is required. A decision maker must participate in the NCT team.

Continuation applicants are required do a scope of activities, critical assessment, purpose area, again, the decision maker must participate and technical assistance is mandatory.

Again, to go over the eligibilities. The eligibilities that can apply for this program is state, units of local government, Indian or tribal organizations, victim service providers, such as a state or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault coalitions, or nonprofit, nongovernmental organization serving individuals with disabilities. New or continuation or state or local.

So just to go into detail about what that needs to look like, a state focused project should consist of an NCT team composed solely of organizations that operate at the state level. Such as a state independent living council, state or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault coalition.

A state focused project may concentrate efforts between organizations on the NCT or one to two communities within the state which could be seen as a pilot site.

A local or tribal focused project, NCT composed of local, tribal or community based organizations such as a center for independent living, community mental health organizations, rape crisis centers, domestic violence, sexual assault programs, grant activities with focus within and between the local tribal or community based organizations represent should be represented on the Multidisciplinary team.

There is no mixing of state and local organizations. They must all be local or state. So, again, there cannot be a mix of state and local together. It has to be either all local on the team or all state organizations on the team.

Required partnership and Multidisciplinary collaborative team members, and the memorandum of understanding. At least one victims service provider or tribal organization serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or sexual abuse, and at least one nonprofit, nongovernmental organization or tribal organization serving individuals with disabilities and/or Deaf individuals.

Again, new applications may not partner with a college or university.

Applications must meet all of these requirements. If not, then applications will be removed from considerations.

Application and submission information. Again, I want to reiterate, do not wait to start the application process, please begin the process now.

Formatting and technical requirements, I won't go into detail on that, please see pages 16 and 17 of the solicitation.

Applications must include the required documents and demonstrate the program eligibility requirements that have been mentioned. See the application checklist and the other information section of page 39 to 40 of the solicitation.

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

So applications must include, a proposal narrative, budget detail worksheet and narrative, data requested with application, and a memorandum of understanding.

The proposal abstract, the proposal abstract should be a short summary, no more than two pages double spaced, of the proposed outlining the proposed project.

Applicants should not summarize past accomplishments in this section. The proposal abstract will not be scored, but will be used throughout the review process.

The proposal narratives. New applicants will outline the purpose of the proposal which is worth 40 points, it will outline who will implement the proposal, this is worth 30 points, continuation applicants should outline the purpose of the proposal, which is worth 20 points, who will implement the proposal, worth 15 points, who will do what will be done the what will be done section is worth 35 points.

There's a budget and MOU. The budget and narrative is worth 10 points. And the memorandum of understanding is worth 20 points.

Funding restrictions. Unallowable costs. The costs associated with activities listed are unallowable and must not be included in applicants budget. These activities are lobbying, fundraising, purchase of real property, physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations, such as painting, or carpeting. Except as allowed under purpose area 6. And construction is also unallowable, and, again for those applicants, purpose area 6 does include some minor renovations, so please review purpose area 6, that does not fall up under the unallowable costs.

Food and beverages costs for refreshments and meals, generally they are not allowed. Justification for an exception must be included in the applicant's budget narrative. For additional information and restrictions on food and beverage expenditures, see OVW conference planning. And then conference planning. The Disability Grant Program generally does not allow conferences. Pre agreement costs, OVW generally does not allow pre award costs, see the DOJ financial guide for more information on pre award costs.

Additional requirements, page 23 30 provides information about additional required information that must be included with the application. I'm sorry, that's page 23 through 30. Failure to include any of the requested information may result in the application being removed from consideration for funding.

Submission dates and time. Please review in detail pages 31 through 35. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is complete and submitted by the deadline. Failure to meet the submission deadline will result in an application being removed from consideration for funding.

Applicants should refer to the list on page 32 to ensure that all required steps and deadlines are met. The application is due by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on April 1, 2021.

OVW's policy on late submissions and other submission requirements can be found on page 33.

If you're experiencing technical difficulties, please review OVW policy on late submissions on page 33. Experiencing technical difficulties beyond the applicant's reasonable control, please review page 33. Issues with SAM, Grants.gov or just grants registration, please see page 33. Sun foreseeable technical

assistance during the submission process, please see page 34. Contact Grants.gov or JustGrants, as applicable, for applicant/user support, at least 24 hours before the application deadline.

Maintain all communication with Grants.gov or JustGrants applicant or user support.

Prior to the application deadline, contact our program, via e mail at [OVW.disabilities@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.disabilities@usdoj.gov) indicating that the that you're experiencing technical difficulties and would like permission to submit a late application. The e mail must include the following. A detailed description of the difficulty that the applicant is experiencing, the contact information, name, telephone number and e mail for the individual who is making the late submission request.

In the case of just grants, the complete application package proposal narrative, budget and budget narrative, along with the MOU. Within 24 hours after the deadline, the applicant must e mail the Disability Grant Program at [OVW.disabilities@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.disabilities@usdoj.gov) the following information: Applicant's DUNS number, Grants.gov or JustGrants applicant/user support tracking number and any other relevant documentation.

Again, I stress that you should begin the application process now as JustGrants is a new system we are using.

Technical issues with JustGrants, applicants experiencing technical issues with JustGrants should contact the OVW JustGrants support line as soon as possible. OVW will take the necessary steps to ensure that applicants are able to submit their applications on time.

Applicant experiencing JustGrants technical issues should ensure that they are developing their proposals while working to address any issues.

Applicants should allow the solicitation guidance regarding tech I'm sorry, applicants should review the solicitation guidance regarding technical difficulties. This will enable applicants to submit a full proposal by the deadline using an alternate method, if necessary.

OVW will update our submission guidance as necessary and as the due date nears.

Application review information. The review criteria, proposed narrative, which is worth 70 points, budget worksheet and budget narrative, 10 points. MOU, 20 points.

The review and selection process, the applications are reviewed by peer review, there is then an internal programmatic review and there's a review of high risk grantees.

Other information.

It is anticipated that all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by October 1, 2021. Please review the application checklist on page 40.

OVW contact information, again, the Disability Grant Program contact is [OVW.disabilities@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.disabilities@usdoj.gov). Contact number is 202 307 6026. I am the point of contact, and again, I'm Sylvia Pauling and I'm the

Program Manager for the grant. My direct e mail is Sylvia.Pauling at usdoj.gov, and my contact number is 202 514 0748.

I now will allow time for questions before.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: There are a number of questions in the Q&A. Some of them I answered directly, but there are some I think everybody would benefit from hearing directly from you about. One question is are national organizations eligible to apply or are these limited only to those serving at the state or local level?

>> It's limited only to those serving at the state or local levels. National organizations are not eligible to apply.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: The next question is the total funding, is that the maximum or the total you award for each award? So ever we were looking at a local collaboration, are you saying that every collaboration could get \$425,000 in funding, or is that the maximum amount you have to give out.

>> SYLVIA PAULING: That is the maximum amount by have to give out. That amount could possibly change, but as of now, that is the maximum amount.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: Per community, right? Each community could get 425,000.

>> SYLVIA PAULING: Yes. Yes.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: Great. And then a great question here, which I'm happy to hop in on this as well, but for the purpose of this program the, is the District of Columbia, D.C., is the government eligible under statewide as district government fulfill state administering role for VOCA funds, for example? I will say that are we have had grantees from D.C. who came in as local projects, and we a current grantee who came in as a statewide project. I think in this case, D.C. wins, you have flexibility there. It would depend on what you wanted to do and who your partners were. Sylvia, anything you would add there.

>> SYLVIA PAULING: No, I would agree with that. Again, it would also we would look at your partners and being mindful that government state partners are all state partners and local would be all local partners. So the two cannot mix.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: And that is only that's just in your best interests. If you mix it up, it becomes a hot mess for everyone and we'll get confused. Thanks for that.

Another question, can a victims service provider and nonprofit serving people with disabilities be under the same umbrella organization or do they need to be two separate agencies.

>> SYLVIA PAULING: They should be two separate agencies. So even if you have a disability organization and a victims service organization under your umbrella, you would need a partner for one or the other. You couldn't use your organization as both. There would need to be two independent organizations.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: Yeah. We actually have a collaboration in Big Sandy, Kentucky, who has both a victim service and disability provider under one umbrella agency. But then they have other partners as

well. So, yeah, you could still come in, but you would just want to make sure you have external partners it's not just your agency that you're looking at.

And then there's a question, are there matching funds in this grant program.

>> SYLVIA PAULING: No, there are no matching funds.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: Great. So there's a question about I'm curious about how this works when you are already disability centric, how does this impact your MOU requirements? Essentially, the grant program is designed to help domestic violence programs, sexual assault perhaps and disability perhaps become better at serving survivors with disabilities. So if you feel like you are an agency that is already you're sort of a master at that, I'm not sure the grant program is for you, because it's really about capacity building within your own agency. But if you're a DVSA program doing who is already focused on working with survivors with disabilities and want to improve how you do that, and you want to make sure that your disability organizations are effectively responding to victimization among the people that they serve, this could be the grant program for you.

I hope that answers your question.

And there's a question, do we have a web sit or list of organizations that are state specific? We do have a website. It's kind of hard to and a half gate, but I'll pull up the page for you and pop it into the chat.

We are redesigning it to make it easier for people to find information on our website, but let me pull this up and then pop a URL into the chat.

Then, let's see, can this grant cover, in addition to other activities, prevention workshops on sexuality education for folks with intellectual disabilities and their support systems, I'll punt that to you, Sylvia.

>> SYLVIA PAULING: Can you repeat that question.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: Can this grant cover prevention workshops on sexuality education for folks with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities and their support system.

>> SYLVIA PAULING: So the grant is intended to build capacity and to it's not a service grant, and so it's possible, but we would have to flush we would really have to flush out what you're proposing to do, because it's not it's not intended to be a training grant.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: Great. Exactly. So then then there's a question, the pool of 425,000, how do you define community? Basically, as Sylvia was talking when she was talking about the Multidisciplinary collaborative team, and so when you apply for the award, there will be the lead agency and whoever you decide will be your partners on the grant. That could be one other agency, three other agencies, just depends on sort of what it is who you want to build a partnership with.

So that would be the community as defined, it would be whoever is the partnering grants, the lead agency would get the 425, then you would sub out awards to your partner agency. Anything you would add there, Sylvia.

>> SYLVIA PAULING: The partnering agencies should be receiving equal funding. So it should be equal funding. It should almost equal out in reference to the organizations that sit at the table.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: Great. Then there's a question about whether the grant can be used for community education such as law enforcement. It is not designed generally for community education. It is designed to increase organizational capacity.

So if you wanted law enforcement if you wanted them to be the ones who ultimately get training, what you'll want to do is bring law enforcement on as the partner and then work with them to determine what sorts of education your law enforcement needs. I'll pause for an interpreter switch.

Then there's a question, could OVW award two awards to a large local area. For instance, like Los Angeles county.

>> SYLVIA PAULING: It's possible.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: We have seen it happen. We've seen, for instance, in New York, different burros getting an award in the same year. That's possible. I think that's all of our questions. So I think we are ready for yes, so we are ready for our GFMD folks to join, I think they've just got a few slides to share, and Valerie, did you want to share your slides or do you want me to share the slides.

>> VALERIE CRUZAN: Okay, great, thank you.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: One second, let me pull them up real quick.

>> VALERIE CRUZAN: , we'll discuss items they have identified from prior year explanations to expedite the review process. Today we'll talk about the pre award Risk Assessment and detailed webinar on how to developing the budget included in your application. First things we'll highlight are the items identified in the data requested with application, which is completed by all applicants. Specifically three items we would like to discuss are the nonprofit organization requirement, the single audit response, and the I.R.S. three step safe harbor procedure. If you are an eligible private nonprofit organization to receive training and services to end violence against women with disabilities program funding, you're required to submit a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service recognizing your tax exempt status. OVW cannot make an award to any nonprofit organization that does not submit a 501(c)(3) determination letter. Applicants are not including this as part of their application further delays the review. Please ensure that this document is included if applicable.

OVW requests that all applicants provide a statement as to whether they have expended \$750,000 or more in federal funds during their last fiscal year. If they have, then they indicate that and also specify the end date of their last fiscal year. However .

>> SANDRA HARRELL: This is Sandra. Can you slow down just a little bit.

>> VALERIE CRUZAN: I'm sorry, yes, of course. GFMD is finding applicants do not always include this information and leave out whether or not they have met the threshold or the end date of the last fiscal year is not included. Please ensure this question is answered in its entirety on a data requested with application sheet.

Another item we would like to highlight from the solicitation is specifically for nonprofit organizations. If you use the I.R.S. three step safe harbor procedure to determiner executive spontaneous nystagmus compensation, you must reference the additional information section that provides the required

disclosure letter. We would like to highlight there are four parts of this disclosure letter that must be provided to OVW in order to comply with this requirement. The sample letter outlines all four parts of the disclosure, so please be sure to follow the sample and provide a response to each of the four pieces.

The next item we'd like to discuss are the financial accounting practices, which assists GFMD during the pre award Risk Assessment review for all applications. Each applicant must prepare a response to to all 11 questions and each of those questions has multiple parts.

We have noticed from prior years applicants do not always fully answer all parts of the questions, which, in turn, requires GFMD to reach out to the applicant which may delay recommendations.

Some of the most common issues we have encountered have been, for example, question No. 2 where the applicant indicates that they do have internal policies, but they do not provide a brief list of topics covered in the policies and procedures. Another example of incomplete response would include question 3, where the applicant does not provide a brief summary of the organization's process for tracking expenditures, and more specifically, whether or not tracks budgeted versus actual expenditures, make sure you provide a comprehensive response. Next slide.

This slide will quickly highlight some resources that are available that should be used as you're creating the budget to be submitted to the application. Over the last year, GFMD has worked to develop a detailed webinar presentation on how to assist applicants in developing a budget to be submitted with their OVW applications. We want to help reduce challenges you may face with the budget and make it clear what we look for when we are reviewing your budget. This webinar provides some insight as to what OVW financial team considers during their review. Using the link provided, the webinar can be found under the budget information section on that page.

We also have a link there for the uniform guidance, which can be found at 2 CFR 200, as well as links for the DOJ financial guide and the program specific solicitation.

So this brings us to our last slide of our contact information. If you have any questions about the information that we just discussed. Please feel free to contact the GFMD help desk at 888 514 8556, or by e mail at [ovw.gfmd@usdoj.gov](mailto:ovw.gfmd@usdoj.gov).

>> SANDRA HARRELL: Thank you, Valerie. Let see if there are any other questions. So there's a question, Valerie, is there guidance for new projects in proposing a budget that includes the planning phase.

>> VALERIE CRUZAN: As far as I know, the budget the webinar doesn't speak specifically to the planning phase. I think that's just something, once you go in and create the budget, it might just be something that maybe you need to discuss with the program office as well, in conjunction with them. To figure out what needs to be in that portion of the budget.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: Yeah. Usually during the planning phase, your budget is going to want to account for obviously compensating your partners fairly, as Sylvia stated, and then my overhead that is incurred by the lead agency. And then there's always a set aside for travel, OVW required travel that will go into that first year's budget.

And then, once you have finished the planning phase and submitted your strategic plan, almost everyone ends up having to do a budget modification. So that almost always happens because, by you really don't know what you're going to be doing in implementation when you're submitting your application. So you'll put in information about consultants and if you have Deaf partners, you'll have ASL interpreters and other accommodations that will be in there. Once you've gone through the planning and development phase and have a strategic plan in place, you'll have much more knowledge about concrete costs that you'll then fold into a budget modification, which we can get to once you've gotten funding from the grant program.

Any other questions? This was a long and information filled webinar. So if you need to let the information marinate for a little while, feel free to do so. I'll put my contact information in the chat box here. If you have followup questions, feel free to reach out to me. And then there's a question, does the financial information apply to subrecipients as well. Valerie, can you weigh in on that.

>> VALERIE CRUZAN: Sure. Can you provide a little bit more context about your question? Do you mean for the budget or what specifically what piece specifically are you asking about?

If you're asking if the subrecipients need to submit the things that we were talking about, no, they do not need to do that. What you would need from your subrecipients is they would have to have kind of their own budget that goes within your budget that will be under the partner piece. And the budget should explain that when you're doing it.

But as far as the budget, that is what you would have from your subrecipients for that.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: So you guessed right and answered the question.

Any other questions?

Okay. Well, it looks like we have worn you all out with this lengthy webinar. Sylvia, Valerie, thanks so much for providing this information and this opportunity for communities to really improve their responses to survivors with disabilities.

I hope everyone who attended today is ready to go and put in your application, as Sylvia said, start early, start early so you're not submitting at the last minute, and we wish you good luck, and I hope that we will be meeting all of you in October. So take care, everyone, and have a great.

>> VALERIE CRUZAN: I was thinking on the last question, I want to clarify something real quick when she asked about the subrecipients and the financial information. While they do not have to submit that documentation, your subrecipients still do have to keep in line with the same guidelines that you as the recipient are following. So the information that was in there about the financial guide and the 2CFR. They do have to follow those, they do not have to submit the documentation as part of the application, I wanted to clear that up so there was no confusion there.

>> SANDRA HARRELL: Perfect, thank you.

All right, everyone, have a wonderful rest of your week, and I look forward to we look forward to hopefully being able to work with you. Take care.