

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

OVW Fiscal Year 2023

Emerging Issues and Training and Technical Assistance

Call for Concept Papers

Call for Concept Papers Release Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Call for Concept Papers Close Date: Thursday, January 26, 2023

Contact Information:

For assistance with the requirements of this Call for Concept Papers, email OVW at OVW.TechAssistance@usdoj.gov. Alternatively, interested parties may call OVW at 202-307-6026.

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.

About the OVW FY 2023 Emerging Issues and Training and Technical Assistance Call for Concept Papers

OVW is interested in supporting projects that explore new and emerging issues and training and technical assistance projects addressing the needs and challenges of OVW grantees, subgrantees, and the larger violence against women field. In particular, with the passage of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022¹ (VAWA 2022), OVW wishes to identify innovative projects and TA that address the new and revised programs and issues included in VAWA 2022, as well as other areas emerging in the fields of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. See 34 U.S.C. 12291(b)(11) and (16).

Organizations with innovative ideas for exploring an emerging issue in the field or for OVW TA that will move forward the nation's response to these crimes should consider submitting a concept paper.

Please note, all concept papers must be national in scope unless a more limited geographic area is identified in the purpose area.

OVW will also release its standard annual TA solicitation in the first half of FY 2023. **OVW will not support continuation of an existing OVW TA project through this Call for Concept Papers.** For information regarding existing OVW-supported TA projects, visit www.TA2TA.org.

¹ Pub. L. No. 117-103, div. W, 136 Stat. 49, 840-962

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are national, tribal, statewide, or local nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education. Applicants must have the capacity to develop and implement projects to address an emerging issue or to provide training and technical assistance on a national level. For this Call for Concept Papers, OVW may also support state, local, or tribal governments or governmental agencies (e.g., police departments, prosecutor's offices, or probation departments). These entities must describe in detail their demonstrated history of implementing pilot projects or of providing TA on a national level. Applicants to this Call for Concept Papers are in no way prohibited from applying to OVW FY 2023 TA Initiative Solicitation expected to be released after January 1, 2023.

Due Date for all Concept Papers: Thursday, January 26, 2023

Purpose Areas

For this FY 2023 TA Call for Concept Papers, there are five competitive purpose areas. Each purpose area includes a budget cap and project period. Funded applications may be eligible in the future for non-competitive supplemental funding.

Purpose Area 1: Emerging Issues

Purpose Area Content: Innovative projects focused on emerging issues not currently being addressed through OVW's grant programs, demonstration/special initiatives, TA Initiative, or other OVW supported national projects. For this purpose area, we encourage local, tribal, and statewide programs with innovative solutions to apply to implement their ideas at the national level through a pilot or TA project.

Budget Cap: \$500,000 - \$750,000/36 months for TA ideas. Up to \$1,500,000 for pilot project.

*** OVW plans to make 10 to 20 awards for this purpose area

Purpose Area 2: Technical Assistance for Alaska Tribes Implementing Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction

Purpose Area Content: Provide training and technical assistance to Tribes in Alaska to plan for, implement, or exercise Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ) over non-Indian offenders pursuant to the Alaska Pilot Program authorized by the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022, Pub. L. No. 117-103, div. W, § 813(d), codified at 25 U.S.C. § 1305(d). Proposed projects must include peer-to-peer learning opportunities and training and technical assistance for tribal leaders, judges, court personnel, prosecutors, defense counsel, law enforcement, court services, victim advocates, child welfare staff, and other internal and external partners within the tribal justice system and community necessary for effective and successful planning, implementation, and exercise of special Tribal criminal jurisdiction. This is a similar model to the Intertribal Technical Assistance Working Group on Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction. The applicant and any project partners must, collectively, demonstrate experience addressing the unique cultural, environmental, and legal issues faced by Alaska Native villages and expertise regarding implementation of tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians. At least one partner must have expertise on jurisdictional issues in Alaska. Partner(s) or consultant(s) on the project must have expertise regarding the systems and processes involved in implementation of STCJ (prosecution, courts, criminal defense, law enforcement, advocacy, code development, jury systems, etc.).

Budget Cap: \$400,000/ 12 months

***Future non-competitive funding for this project beyond the initial 12 months will be based on available funding and progress implementing the project.

Purpose Area 3: Campus Special Initiative - Culturally Specific Campuses

Purpose Area Content: OVW is looking for a consortium of national organizations and consultants with demonstrated experience working directly with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities and expertise in providing culturally relevant strategies in

addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campus. The consortium will provide customized, intensive training and technical assistance that is rooted in a culture-specific framework, reflects the campus community, and promotes best practices in the field of campus violence against women. This TA project will assist culturally specific campuses in developing a comprehensive approach to addressing these crimes that includes establishing coordinated community response teams, effective response protocols, victim services, and multi-faceted prevention programming.

Budget Cap: \$2,000,000/ 36 months

Purpose Area 4: Expanding Legal Services Initiative (ELSI)

Purpose Area Content: Provide training and technical assistance for Expanding Legal Services Initiative (ELSI) grantees on providing legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The proposed project should include multiple partner organizations, including an organization with expertise setting up legal assistance programs, and one or more culturally specific or population-specific organizations. The lead applicant or partner organizations must have combined expertise in working with a range of different types of underserved and culturally specific populations.

Activities should include providing technical assistance to develop policies and procedures for legal assistance programs, conducting on-site visits, developing curriculum, presenting at new grantee orientation, hosting peer-to-peer exchange, developing practice materials, and conducting trainings.

Budget Cap: \$500,000/ 36 months

Purpose Area 5: Culturally Specific Cross-Program Technical Assistance

Purpose Area Content: This purpose area would establish an initiative to provide technical assistance and capacity building to culturally specific organizations across OVW grant programs. One of OVW's goals is to increase funding to culturally specific community-based organizations. This TA initiative will serve as a resource hub for these organizations, respond to their TA needs, and help support

them as they provide services to culturally specific communities. OVW is seeking to fund a consortium of organizations or a lead organization with strong collaborative partners with sexual assault and domestic violence expertise. The lead applicant must be a culturally specific organization with a demonstrated history in working with culturally specific community-based organizations. The consortium must also have expertise in working at the intersections of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, Deaf and hard of hearing, religion, alienage status, limited English proficiency, or other underserved populations (e.g., working with African American survivors who also have disabilities). OVW may fund more than one award to address this purpose area.

Budget Cap: \$800,000/ 24 months

Limit on Number of Proposals

OVW will accept no more than 3 concept papers per organization. An organization may only submit one proposal per purpose area with the exception of Purpose Area 1: Emerging Issues. Although an applicant may submit more than one proposal for the Emerging Issues purpose area, they cannot exceed the limit of 3 concept papers overall.

Out of Scope

The activities listed below are outside the program scope and will not be supported. See also the list of unallowable costs.

1. Research projects. Funds under this program may not be used to conduct research, 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. Prohibited research does not include assessments conducted for internal improvement purposes only (see Limited Use of Funds below). For information on distinguishing between research and assessments, see the Solicitation Companion Guide.
2. Direct victim services and justice system interventions. OVW's TA Initiative funds are intended to support educational and training opportunities and

technical assistance for current and potential OVW grantees and subgrantees. They cannot support law enforcement activities, legal representation, direct services, or other interventions.

3. Applications focused on a single state, region, or local geographic community, unless specified in the purpose areas.

Unallowable Costs

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

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

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 or promote any such activities may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be eliminated from consideration. Please note that OVW will support survivor-centered alternative pathways to justice and non-criminal approaches to accountability that fall within the statutory scope of this program. Information on activities that compromise victim safety and recovery or undermine offender accountability may be found in the Solicitation Companion Guide.

Concept Papers Content

Concept papers must include a summary data sheet, a project narrative, and a statement of expertise. The total point value for a concept paper is 100 points (75 points for project narrative and 25 points for statement of expertise).

A. Summary Data Sheet

The Concept Papers Package should include a “Summary Data Sheet” not to exceed 2 pages and may be single spaced. The Summary Data Sheet should include the following:

1. Lead Applicant
2. Project Title
3. Purpose Area being addressed
4. Point-of-Contact for lead applicant: Name, Title, Address, Daytime Phone Number, and Email Address
5. Point-of Contact for partner organizations and proposed consultants: Name, Title, Organization Name (if applicable); Daytime Phone Number, and Email Address
6. Estimated Budget Amount (total), including rough estimates for the following categories: personnel, contracts/consultation, and travel. A detailed breakdown is not needed at this time. Applicants should consider costs related to accessibility in developing their estimates; this should include language access for persons who are limited in their English proficiency because of their national origin and access for individuals with disabilities or who are Deaf/hard of hearing.

B. Project Narrative (75 points)

The project narrative should be no longer than 10 pages, double –spaced, and type no smaller than 12 point, Times New Roman (TNR) or Arial font and must provide a basic description of the following:

1. The emerging issue or purpose area addressed by the concept paper.
2. The gaps or challenges that the proposed project would/could help address.

3. What the applicant and any project partners would do to address the gap(s) (e.g. trainings, one-on-one technical assistance, develop resources).
4. A list of key project partners or consultants (Key project partners/consultants should be only those organizations/individuals critical to the successful implementation of the proposed concept.) By submitting a concept paper, the applicant is affirming that all project partners and named consultants have agreed to participate in this project if funded.

C. Statement of Expertise (25 points)

Statement of Expertise: Applicants must include a statement summarizing the qualifications of the applicant, partnering organizations, and proposed consultants. The statement should identify by name applicant and partner staff who will develop and implement the project. OVW may contact partner organizations and proposed consultants during the course of the application review process. The Statement of Expertise is limited to eight pages double-spaced and type no smaller than 12 point, Times New Roman (TNR) or Arial font.

Selection Criteria

Concept papers will be assessed based on the degree to which the application responds to each element in the Project Narrative and Statement of Expertise and the quality of the response. Additionally, the selection of concept papers will also be based on the following:

1. the extent to which the proposal identifies an emerging issue or TA project that is not duplicative of an existing OVW TA project and effectively responds to one of Purpose Areas identified in this Call for Concept Papers;
2. the extent to which the proposal effectively addresses sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking and does not promote practices or theories that compromise victim safety;
3. the extent to which the project is national in scope or addresses the region specified by the purpose area;

4. the degree to which the application addresses accessibility, including providing for meaningful language access; and
5. the extent to which the applicant and its key project partners/consultants have the expertise necessary to carry-out the project.

Decision-Making Process

1. OVW will conduct one pre-application webinar on **Wednesday January 4, 2023 at 2:00 pm ET**. To register for the pre-application webinar, please email OVW.TechAssistance@usdoj.gov no later than **close of business Tuesday January 3, 2023**. The pre- application webinar will be recorded and posted on the OVW website. The pre-application webinar will have American Sign Language (ALS) and Spanish interpretation. Please indicate in your email registration for the pre-application webinar if you will require any other language interpretation and we will strive to accommodate this request.
2. Concept Paper Packages must be submitted via email to OVW.TechAssistance@usdoj.gov by **Thursday January 26, 2023 9:00 pm ET**. OVW will send receipt of confirmation emails within 72 hours of the due date. All required materials for the call for concept paper (Summary Data Sheet, Project Narrative, and Statement of Expertise) must be submitted together in one email. OVW will not merge documents from multiple emails. Do not submit applications as a Zip file. If you encounter technical issues in submitting an application via email, please email OVW.TechAssistance@usdoj.gov or call 202-353-4338 no later than 24 hours of the due date.
3. Concept Papers will be reviewed internally by review panels that will consist of OVW staff. OVW may also invite staff from other federal agencies (e.g. Office for Victims of Crime, Family Violence Prevention and Services Program) to participate in the review process.
4. OVW may elect to conduct virtual or in-person meetings with applicants as part of the review process. OVW may request the participation of proposed project partners/consultants in these meetings.

5. Please note OVW has final say to approve, deny, or require specific partners or consultants for this project.
6. OVW will contact selected applicants to negotiate the full scope of any resulting cooperative agreements. Negotiations will address specific project activities, deliverables, project partners and consultants, and the budget. Final award recipients will be determined based on the outcome of the cooperative agreement negotiations.

Application Process

Selected recipients will be contacted by OVW via email and will be required to submit a full “non-competitive” application via the Grants.Gov and JustGrants systems. The application must reflect the activities and budget negotiated during the decision-making process.

Post Award Requirements

1. Upon receipt of their awards, applicants will be given 90-120 days to enter into signed Memoranda of Understanding with their key project partners/consultants.
2. 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. Recipients are also responsible for ensuring that their programs and activities are readily accessible to individuals with disabilities, and those who are Deaf/hard of hearing. More information on these obligations is available in the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) under “Civil Rights Compliance.” Recipients of awards under this call for concept papers will be required to allocate the appropriate amount of funds to support the use of interpreters (spoken language, American Sign Language, and other forms of interpretation as requested) and translators to fully allow the project to be accessible to all participants. Accessibility is important to OVW, and OVW encourages applicants to plan and budget for truly meaningful access.