

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

**OVW Fiscal Year 2023  
Restorative Practices Technical Assistance Pilot  
Program  
\*Call for Concept Papers\***

**Call for Concept Papers Release Date:** Thursday, March 9, 2023  
**Call for Concept Papers Close Date:** Thursday, May 4, 2023

**Contact Information:**

For assistance with the requirements of this Call for Concept Papers, email OVW at [OVW.RestorativeJustice@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.RestorativeJustice@usdoj.gov). Alternatively, interested parties may call OVW at 202-353-5498.

## **Overview of the Office on Violence Against Women**

The Office on Violence Against Women (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 Restorative Practices Technical Assistance Call for Concept Papers**

VAWA was first enacted nearly 30 years ago to compel the justice system to treat domestic violence and sexual assault as the serious crimes they are, and to support coordinated community responses involving justice professionals, victim advocates, and others. In the decades that followed, strategies for achieving VAWA's core aims emerged, gained traction, and proved critical to addressing gender-based violence. These strategies include victim advocacy, legal services, Sexual Assault Response Teams and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs, protection orders, transitional housing programs, specialized law enforcement and prosecution units, and more. Even with these successes, the criminal legal system does not—and fundamentally cannot—offer all victims a navigable path to justice. Experts in the movement to end gender-based violence recognize that communities need more tools to hold offenders accountable and help victims rebuild their lives.

One such tool is restorative justice, or restorative practice. Several restorative practice models are used in the United States in justice, education, and community settings as a way to confront and repair harm, either as an avenue within the criminal justice system or without involving law enforcement and prosecutors. Restorative practices originated in various indigenous cultures centuries ago, and in recent years, have gained wider exposure as an alternative to systemic policies and practices that lead to excessive punishment and over-incarceration. Furthermore, restorative practices may be more accessible to victims seeking accountability from the harm-doer on their own terms, speaking on their own behalf, and having a say in the consequences that whoever hurt them will face.

OVW is interested in supporting organizations with a demonstrated history of comprehensive training and experience in working with victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to provide training and technical assistance to communities implementing restorative practices that respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In particular, as a first step to implement section 109 of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022), as well as the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, OVW is seeking to fund training and technical assistance projects that will develop training and technical assistance on restorative practices, as defined by VAWA 2022 (34 U.S.C. 12514(a)(3)). Training and technical assistance must incorporate program implementation of those practices and must be designed for state, local or tribal governments, victim service providers, institutions of higher education, or private or public nonprofit organizations, including tribal nonprofit organizations or faith-based nonprofit organizations, that OVW may fund under VAWA 2022's Pilot Program on Restorative Practices (Restorative Practices Pilot Program) (34 U.S.C. 12514). Projects should also propose to incorporate training for prosecutors and court personnel. **All concept papers must propose projects that are national in scope.**

OVW will release its standard annual technical assistance solicitation in the first half of FY 2023. **OVW will not support the continuation of an existing OVW Technical Assistance project through this Call for Concept Papers.** For information regarding existing OVW-supported technical assistance projects, visit [www.TA2TA.org](http://www.TA2TA.org).

## **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants are states; units of local government; tribal governments; tribal organizations; victim service providers; institutions of higher education; and private or public nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and tribal nonprofit organizations. See 34 U.S.C. 12514(a)(2). Applicants must have the capacity to provide training and technical assistance on a national level, as well as a demonstrated history of comprehensive training and experience in working with victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

In addition, applicants must have, directly or through partnerships, all the following:

1. Experience implementing or developing restorative practices in underserved communities or culturally specific populations;
2. A demonstrated history of collaborating with community-led or community-driven efforts to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
3. A demonstrated history of advocating for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and
4. A demonstrated history of providing national training on culturally specific, population-specific, or community-based practices in the field of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

OVW will prioritize applications in which the lead applicant is a culturally specific, population-specific, or community-based organization. All partners should be compensated equitably, although the lead applicant may receive additional compensation for administrative costs. OVW will prioritize proposals that meaningfully address the needs of culturally specific or underserved populations.

## **Due Date for Concept Papers: May 4, 2023**

### **Purpose Area**

Funds under this Call for Concept Papers may be used to develop and provide training and technical assistance to grantees, subgrantees, and potential grantees and subgrantees of OVW's Restorative Practices Pilot Program.

VAWA 2022 defines a "restorative practice" as a practice relating to a specific harm that (1) is community-based and unaffiliated with any civil or criminal legal process; (2) is initiated by a victim of the harm; (3) involves, on a voluntary basis and without any evidence of coercion or intimidation of any victim of the harm by any individual who committed the harm or anyone associated with any such individual, (i) one or more individuals who committed the harm, (ii) one or more victims of the harm, and (iii) the community affected by the harm through one or more representatives of the community; (4) shall include and has the goal of (i) collectively seeking accountability from one or more individuals who committed the harm; (ii) developing a written process whereby one or more individuals who committed the harm will take responsibility for the actions that caused harm to

one or more victims of the harm; and (iii) developing a written course of action plan (I) that is responsive to the needs of one or more victims of the harm; and (II) upon which one or more victims, one or more individuals who committed the harm, and the community can agree; and (5) is conducted in a victim services framework that protects the safety and supports the autonomy of one or more victims of the harm and the community (34 U.S.C. 12541(a)(3)).

Technical assistance proposed under this Call for Concept Papers should focus on helping potential applicants to the Restorative Practices Pilot Program design and stand-up community-based restorative practices programs to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. At a minimum, all applications must describe how the project will assist organizations to develop practices and procedures for:

- screening the suitability of any individual who committed a harm based on (i) the history of civil and criminal complaints against the individual involving domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking; (ii) parole or probation violations of the individual or whether active parole or probation supervision of the individual is being conducted for prior offenses involving domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking; (iii) the risk to the safety of any victim of the harm based on an evidence-based risk assessment; (iv) the risk to public safety, including an evidence-based risk assessment of the danger to the public; and (v) past participation of any individual who committed the harm in restorative practice programming (34 U.S.C. 12541(e)(1)(A)); and
- denying eligibility to participate in the program for any individual who committed a harm against whom there is (i) a pending felony or misdemeanor prosecution for an offense against any victim of the harm or a dependent of any such victim; (ii) a restraining order or a protection order that protects any victim of the harm or a dependent of any such victim, unless there is an exception in the restraining order or protective order allowing for participation in a restorative practices program; (iii) a pending criminal charge involving or relating to sexual assault, including rape, human trafficking, or child abuse, including child sexual abuse; or (iv) a conviction for child sexual abuse against the victim or a sibling of the victim if the victim or sibling of the victim is still a minor (34 U.S.C. 12541(e)(1)(B)).

## **Award Amounts and Duration**

The total amount allocated for this program is \$3,000,000. The project period for all awards is 36 months, which includes a 12-month planning phase.

OVW recognizes a single applicant may not be able to fulfill all requirements necessary to provide training and technical assistance to future recipients of funding from the OVW Restorative Practices Pilot Program. OVW anticipates making multiple awards under this Call for Concept Papers but may make only one if one applicant and its partners propose a project that can successfully meet the goals of the Call for Concept Paper. If OVW issues more than one award, recipients will be expected to collaborate with other technical assistance providers and cooperate, under OVW's leadership and direction, to ensure that all technical assistance activities assist grantees, subgrantees, and potential grantees and subgrantees to develop the organizational and staff capacity to implement community-based restorative practices programs.

The selected technical assistance provider(s) will be required to submit a full application that include specific project goals, objectives, and deliverables, and a budget detail worksheet and budget narrative.

Individual projects should adhere to the following guidelines:

- Restorative Practice and Domestic and Dating Violence focused project: \$750,000
- Restorative Practice and Sexual Assault focused project: \$750,000
- Restorative Practice and Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking focused project: \$1,500,000

If an applicant seeks to exceed these guidelines, the application must demonstrate that, in conjunction with its partners, it has capacity to provide technical assistance and training for a diverse group of communities nationwide.

## **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, justice system interventions, or activities to implement a restorative practice program.
3. Training or technical assistance for purposes other than supporting grantees, subgrantees, or potential grantees and subgrantees of OVW's Restorative Practices Pilot Program.
4. Applications focused on a single state, region, or local geographic community.
5. Training or technical assistance on restorative practices that are affiliated with civil or criminal legal processes, or that otherwise do not meet the definition of restorative practice in VAWA 2022, 34 U.S.C. 12514(a)(3).

## **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**

The Concept Paper Package should be a single PDF document comprised of the Data Requested with Application, Project Narrative, and a Statement of Expertise. The document should be double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman font. Each section should be clearly labeled in **bold** (ex. **Project Concept Narrative**). Each page should include a footer with the lead applicant's name and the page number. Do not include a header. The total point value for a concept paper is 100 points (75 points for project narrative and 25 points for statement of expertise).

### A. Data Requested with Application

The Concept Papers Package should include a "Data Requested with Application" not to exceed two pages and may be single spaced. The Data Requested with Application should include the following:

1. Lead Applicant
2. Project Title
3. Point-of-Contact for lead applicant: Name, Title, Address, Daytime Phone Number, and Email Address
4. Point-of-Contact for partner organizations and proposed consultants: Name, Title, Organization Name (if applicable); Daytime Phone Number, and Email Address
5. 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 Concept Narrative (75 points)

The Project Concept Narrative should be no longer than 10 pages and must provide a basic description of the following:

1. 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.
2. A description of how the applicant will identify and assess the training needs of grantees, subgrantees, and potential grantees and subgrantees of OVW's Restorative Practices Pilot Program, including the unique needs of culturally specific, population specific, or community-based organizations.
3. A description of the applicant's approach to developing and providing national training on restorative practices to prevent or address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
4. A description of how the applicant will meaningfully address the needs of culturally specific and underserved populations in the training and technical assistance project, including its approach to training mainstream organizations to improve their capacity to implement restorative practices in culturally specific and underserved populations.
5. A description of how the applicant will prioritize victim safety and harm-doer accountability in its training and technical assistance project.
6. A description of how the applicant will identify and support best practices for evaluation activities.

C. Statement of Expertise (25 points)

Statements of Expertise are limited to eight pages and must summarize the qualifications of the applicant, partnering organizations, and proposed consultants. The statement should identify by name the applicant and partner staff who will develop and implement the project and describe the lead applicant's and project partners' philosophy around restorative practice models utilized by the applicant and any project partners in the past, and how those practices align with the definition of "restorative practice" in VAWA 2022. If the

applicant's or partners' experience with restorative practices diverges from the definition of restorative practices in VAWA 2022, describe the applicant's or partners' organizational or staff capacity to provide training and technical assistance on restorative practices as defined in VAWA 2022. OVW may contact partner organizations and proposed consultants during the course of the application review process.

## **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 demonstrates a working understanding of restorative practices in diverse communities;
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;
4. The degree to which the application addresses accessibility, including providing meaningful access to its programs to people who are limited in their English proficiency, and accessibility for people with disabilities, and people who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing; 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 **Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 2:00 pm ET**. To register for the pre-application webinar, please email [OVW.RestorativeJustice@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.RestorativeJustice@usdoj.gov) no later than **close of business Monday, April 3, 2023**. The pre-application webinar will be recorded and posted on the OVW website. The pre-application webinar will have American Sign Language (ASL) 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.RestorativeJustice@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.RestorativeJustice@usdoj.gov) by **Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 9:00 pm ET**. OVW will send receipt of confirmation emails within 72 hours of the due date. All required materials for the concept paper package (Data Requested with Application, 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.RestorativeJustice@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.RestorativeJustice@usdoj.gov) or call 202-353-5498 no later than 24 hours before 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 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 authority to approve, deny, or require specific partners or consultants for this project.
6. OVW will contact selected applicant(s) 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.

## **Post Award Requirements**

1. Upon receipt of awards, applicants will be given up to 45 days to enter into signed Memoranda of Understanding with their key project partners/consultants and submit it to OVW for approval.
2. Recipients of OVW funds must comply with applicable federal civil rights laws, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion,

national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or age. Recipients should take 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 or 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.