

NI'CORRA GRAY: Welcome to the Office on Violence Against Women (also referred to as OVW) Pre-Application Information Session for the fiscal year 2023 Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program solicitation. This information session is being presented by OVW Rural team members: myself, Ni'Corra Gray; Charlotte Turpin; and Team Lead Aisha Battle. We also have our Associate Director online, Krista Blakeney-Mitchell. This call is meant to serve as a source of information regarding the Rural application process. It is strongly recommended that you read the full solicitation and have it to reference for the information session.

Pre-application webinar overview. The purpose of the pre-application webinar is to provide applicants with an opportunity to understand the Rural Program application and submission process. This is also an opportunity for potential applicants to ask questions about the solicitation.

The grants supported by the Rural Program funds as well as about this program. The Rural Program is authorized by 34 USC 12341. The Rural Grant Program funds and supports projects that enhance the safety of rural victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The program also supports projects that uniquely and specifically serve in rural areas. The Rural Program recognizes that victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child abuse who live in rural communities face unique challenges and barriers to receiving assistance rarely encountered in urban areas, including geographic isolation, poor economic structure, strong social and cultural pressures, lack of available services in rural jurisdictions, and lack of anonymity and security when seeking shelter services. These challenges significantly compound problems facing those seeking support to end violence in their lives. They also complicate the criminal justice system's abilities to investigate and prosecute cases and create difficulties for victim service providers to identify and assist victims. Sexual assault is also a priority for this program. We will highlight this throughout our webinar. More information about all OVW programs, including the Rural Program, can be found on the OVW (Office on Violence Against Women) website.

So, what's new about the Rural Program? VAWA 2022 added an additional purpose area for our program, which we will discuss later in this presentation. VAWA 2022 also added language to Strategy 5. And finally, the budget submission for this year is different. We will go into further detail about this information later in the webinar.

Registration and submission. Application submissions and times are listed on the cover of the Rural solicitation and also on page 35. The Letter of Intent should be submitted by March 27, 2023. Apply for a Universal Entity Identifier, also known as the UEI, by April 3, 2023. Make sure your SAM registration is up to date. If your SAM registration isn't up to date, please complete your registration by April 3, 2023. Applications are due by 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time on April 18, 2023. All applications are submitted through Grants.gov and JustGrants. Application submission has two date requirements. You must be registered in Grants.gov by April 11 to be able to submit your application in JustGrants by April 18. Only in limited circumstances will OVW approve a request to submit an application after the deadline. Details regarding late submissions are listed on

page 35 of the solicitation. More information about important dates and how to apply can be found in the How to Apply section on page 35 and on the cover page of the solicitation.

The submission process. There is a reason that we set a deadline of April 3, 2023, as the process to register for UEI and SAM is extremely lengthy. If you do not have your UEI number and/or are not current in the SAM system, you should begin this process as soon as possible. For more information on the SAM/UEI registration process, see page 34 of the solicitation. Register with Grants.gov as soon as possible if you haven't done so already. The registration process is not one that can be completed quickly. It takes time, sometimes days. And you should begin this process as soon as possible. Every year, we have a handful of applicants that don't make the deadline because they are delinquent with their UEI, SAM, or Grants.gov registration. The two-step process for submitting your application is, one, submission of the SF-424 and SF-LLL, which will be submitted in Grants.gov. Two, submission of the full application, including the attachments, will be submitted in the Justice Grants System, also known as JustGrants. If you need any assistance with Grants.gov or JustGrants, please refer to slide 31 in this presentation, where you will find contact information for the Grants.gov Applicant Support Hotline and JustGrants Support. Applicants experiencing technical issues with JustGrants should contact the OVW JustGrants Support line as soon as possible. Applicants should follow the solicitation guidance regarding technical difficulties. This will enable them to submit a full proposal by the deadline using an alternate method, if necessary.

SAM, Grants.gov, and JustGrants website visual page. Here is a visual of each of the three sites you will use when submitting your application.

Rural Program eligibility. In this section, we will discuss the Rural purpose areas, Rural strategies, OVW priority areas, and funding restrictions.

The purpose areas. The Rural Program has four purpose areas. I won't read the purpose areas to you verbatim. However, in a nutshell, all projects funded through the Rural Program must fall under one or more of the purpose areas listed on pages 6-7 of the solicitation. I will also highlight that this year we have a fourth purpose area. So, that's the what's new purpose area. That purpose area, which is number 4, reads "to develop, expand, implement, and improve the quality of sexual assault forensic medical examination of sexual assault nurse examiner programs."

In addition to the four purpose areas, Rural Program grantees must implement one or more of the five strategies as outlined in the authorizing statute. This information can be found on page 7 of the solicitation.

New language was added to Strategy 5. Strategy 5 now states the following:
"developing programs and strategies that focus on the specific needs of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking who reside in remote rural and geographically isolated areas, including addressing the challenges posed by

the lack of access to quality sexual assault examinations by trained healthcare providers, shelters and victim services, and limited law enforcement resources and training, and providing training and resources to Community Health Aides involved in the delivery of Indian Health Service programs.”

OVW priority areas. In FY 2023, OVW is interested in the office priority areas identified. Example to address Priority 1: Prioritize funding for culturally specific community-based organizations and tribal organizations, including tribal government and tribal nonprofit organizations, as well as for technical assistance for these entities. Example to address Priority Area 2: Prioritize applications that focus primarily on responding to non-intimate partner sexual assault, including sexual assault across the lifespan. This includes prevention, outreach, offender intervention, medical forensic care, civil legal assistance, and victim services. Note, applications proposed in activities for either of the priority areas will be given special consideration. Information on how to address the OVW priority areas can be found on page 8 of the solicitation.

Funding restrictions. OVW does not fund activities that jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions. Applications that propose any such activities may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be eliminated from consideration. Please note that OVW will support survivor-centered alternative pathways to justice and noncriminal approaches to accountability that fall within the statutory scope of the program. Information on activities that compromise victim safety and recovery or undermine offender accountability may be found in the Solicitation Companion Guide. Information on activities that compromise victim safety and recovery can be found on page 9 in the Solicitation Companion Guide located on the OVW website under Resources for Applicants.

Out-of-scope activities. Applications including out-of-scope or unallowable activities may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be removed from consideration. The solicitation lists specific activities that are outside the scope of the Rural Program on page 10 of the solicitation. These activities will not be supported by the Rural Program.

I will now turn over the presentation to Charlotte Turpin.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Thank you, Ni’Cora. Hi, everyone. I am Charlotte Turpin and we will now talk about the Rural Program eligibility. In this section, we will discuss eligible applicants, service areas, required partnerships, and legal assistance certification.

The Rural Program has several areas of eligibility to comply with. The first area I would like to discuss will be eligible applicants. The Rural Program can encompass a wide variety of applicants, including those listed on the screen. And ineligible applicants would include single persons applying for personal assistance, applicants outside of the United States or U.S. territories, or organizations that don’t have a demonstrated history of effective work in this field. Applications representing any of these types will be

deemed ineligible and removed from the review process. For a definition of eligible entities, please refer to pages 13-14 of the solicitation. I want to note that we have received questions in the past from healthcare centers, hospitals, colleges, or university applicants on whether or not they are eligible to apply for the Rural grant. And the answer is yes, as long as you meet all the qualifying requirements in the solicitation.

Eligible service area. The Rural statute within the Violence Against Women Act requires that funds be directed to victims residing in areas and communities that are Rural-eligible. We have provided instructions to guide you through the process of demonstrating that you or your proposed service area meets the eligibility requirement. Instructions to complete the documentation process can be found at this link that we will drop in the chat or in the Rural solicitation under Eligible Service Area on page 16. Regardless of whether an application is submitted for an entity from a rural state or nonrural state, all applicants must target services in a rural area or rural community. I'll give you an example of that. Colorado is a designated rural state, but Denver is not a rural area or community. So, therefore, Denver or the Census tracts that make up Denver would not be an eligible service area under the Rural grant, even though the state is rural. This will apply to rural and nonrural states. A list of rural states and definitions of rural areas and communities can be found on page 13 of the solicitation.

Pictured here, you will see what the required documentation looks like. As you go through the process, if you get documents that look different from these, then you have not followed the instructions correctly. The Rural health grant eligibility analyzer will confirm whether the county you proposed to serve is completely rural, partially rural, or not rural. This document must be submitted as an attachment to your application as well as the Excel document of the Census tracts you propose to serve if the county is partially rural. The highlighted sections on the spreadsheet represent Census tracts that are Rural-eligible. You will need to scroll through the spreadsheet to find and then highlight all the Census tracts that you propose to serve. Step-by-step instructions can be found by following the link on page 16.

Partnership eligibility requirements. You may include as many partners as you need to successfully implement your project, but at least one of them must be a victim service provider or the lead applicant. Applications must have one MOU partner on the project. Having no partner on the project will eliminate your application from consideration. A formal MOU must be signed and dated by all partners. And all applicants must include partners necessary to implement the proposed project. Partners in name only do not need to sign the MOU. Partners must be reasonably compensated for their roles on the project. If their contribution on the project is in kind or cannot be compensated monetarily due to the nature of their work, then compensation can be in the form of OVW training and technical assistance. A Letter of Support can be submitted in lieu of the MOU by court applicants or court partners only. This will be discussed in more detail later in the presentation.

Legal assistance certification eligibility requirements. A written letter certifying that the applicant has expertise providing legal assistance or is partnering with an entity or

person with expertise providing legal assistance, and has or will complete training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and related issues, must be submitted with the application. A full description of legal assistance certification requirements can be found on pages 15-16 of the solicitation. I will now turn it over to Aisha Battle.

AISHA BATTLE: Thank you so much, Charlotte. Hello, everyone. I am Aisha Battle. Now, let's talk about the application information. We will cover the types of applications, the grant award period, and budget caps. Then we will go over the application contents, and I will share with you some common application challenges that we have observed over the years.

There are two types of applicants: new and continuation. For continuation applicants, you should select on the SF-424 that you are a continuation applicant. Please note that, if awarded, all awards will be made as new awards due to the transition to the JustGrants system. We of course know that you are a new applicant if you have never received funding under the Rural Program. You are also considered new if your Rural Program funding ended on or before March 8, 2022.

For FY 2023, the grant award project period is 36 months, with the project period beginning October 1, 2023. Continuation applications are limited to \$750,000 for the entire 36 months. As shared earlier, the Rural Program has a large emphasis on sexual assault. Therefore, continuation applicants that focus 75% or more of their activities on sexual assault may apply for up to \$950,000. New applicants are limited to applying for \$500,000 for the entire 36 months. If new applicants propose to focus 75% or more of their activities on sexual assault, they may apply for up to \$700,000.

An application will be considered incomplete if any of the following components are missing: a Proposal Narrative, a Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative, a Memorandum of Understanding and/or Letter of Support, and the Rural eligibility documentation Charlotte discussed earlier in the presentation. Over the next few slides, I will go into more detail about the scored components of the application.

So, the Proposal Narrative. The Proposal Narrative is worth 65 points and is comprised of the Purpose of the Proposal, the What Will Be Done, and the Who Will Implement sections. The Proposal Narrative can be no more than 20 pages. If you exceed the page limit, the additional pages will not be reviewed. Information in the Proposal Narrative should correspond with the specific section you are addressing. For example, the information asked about in the Purpose of the Proposal section should appear in that section of the narrative and not in the What Will Be Done section. Please be sure to include headings and subheadings throughout to correspond with each section of the solicitation.

Now, let's talk about the Budget Worksheet and Narrative. For those of you all familiar with submitting budgets in JustGrants, we are excited that instead of completing the web-based budgets, you will attach your Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative this

year. All budgets should be for the 36-month project period. All budgets should include funds set aside for language access and accessibility. In addition, all budgets should include the required set-aside of \$10,000 for training and technical assistance for the 48 contiguous United States and \$15,000 for the territories, Alaska, and Hawaii. Please remember that all activities detailed in the What Will Be Done section should be included in the budget as well as the personnel and partners listed in the Who Will Implement section.

I encourage you to review the Memorandum of Understanding section carefully to ensure that you are meeting all of the requirements. In the past, I have seen applications miss the cutoff score by a point because information was missing from the MOU. When preparing and submitting your MOU, please remember that the MOU should be one document. While you can have multiple signature pages, each signature page should have all signatories listed. A Letter of Support can be submitted by a court applicant or court project partner if the court is not allowed to sign an MOU. Applicants and project partners other than courts cannot submit a Letter of Support. Please take heed that you should be submitting a current MOU prepared to answer this solicitation. The MOU must be responsive to the solicitation requirements and include only those activities that are listed in the Proposal Narrative. Please also note that electronic signatures are allowed.

In the next couple of slides, we are going to focus on aspects of your application that relate to the documents our financial team, the Grants Financial Management Division, reviews. More specifically, we will discuss some items GFMD has identified from prior-year applications that can help with expediting their review process. I'm going to highlight certain aspects of the Pre-Award Risk Assessment and provide you with a link to a detailed webinar on how to develop the budget that will be included in your application. First, we'll highlight the items identified in the Summary Data Sheet, which is completed by all applicants and uploaded into JustGrants. The list of questions begins on page 20 and goes through page 21 of the solicitation under the heading Summary Data Sheet. Specifically, two items that GFMD would like for me to discuss with you are the single audit starred risk assessment questions, which assist GFMD during the Pre-Award Risk Assessment review for all applications. The Pre-Award Risk Assessment questions begin on page 21 of the solicitation. Each applicant must prepare a response to all 11 questions. Please note that each question has multiple parts. GFMD has noticed from prior years that applicants do not always fully answer all parts of the Pre-Award Risk Assessment questions, which in turn requires GFMD to reach out to the applicant and may delay funding decisions.

Some of the most common issues encountered have been, for example, question number 2, where the applicant indicates that they do indeed have internal policies, but they don't provide a brief list of topics covered in their policies and procedures. Or question 3, where some applicants failed to provide a brief summary of the organization's process for tracking expenditures and, more specifically, whether or not it tracks budgeted versus actual expenditures. These are just a few examples, but in general please make sure you read each component under every question and provide

a full and comprehensive response. Both the responses to the Summary Data Sheet and the Pre-Award Risk Assessment questions must be uploaded in the section with your Proposal Narrative.

GFMD has shared these resources to support you in the development of your proposal and, in particular, your Budget Worksheet and Narrative. There are links to training as well as the Uniform Guidance and the DOJ Financial Guide. Please take a moment to capture this slide.

We wanted to share with you all some common application challenges we have observed applicants encounter that will hopefully help you have a smooth application development and submission process. Make sure you meet the solicitation requirements before spending valuable time completing the application. Check to ensure that you meet the eligibility requirements and that your partners meet the partnership eligibility requirements. The application process is a two-step process. You must first register in Grants.gov and SAM before you can register in JustGrants. Even if you already have a Universal Entity Identifier, please check to make sure your registration is up to date. This is why we suggest that you start this process early to mitigate problems before the time of submission. Be sure to submit the correct Rural eligibility documentation. And don't forget that the Census data has been updated with 2020 information. Each partner must include a signature, title, and date on the MOU. If including multiple signature pages, please ensure the signature lines reflecting all signatories are on each page. Please note that the Letter of Support requires the same level of information as the MOU. Submit only one MOU for the project, with all partners' signatures included. Ensure that you are following the formatting parameters included in the solicitation. And as stated before, please ensure your budget reflects the 36-month grant cycle, and do not exceed the 20-page Proposal Narrative page limit.

Throughout this presentation, you have heard us reference the Solicitation Companion Guide, which is located on the OVW website, which you can see a screenshot of here. The guide and other sample documents, such as a sample MOU, Letter of Support, Letter of Intent, and Budget Detail Worksheet, among other documents, are located on the OVW website under Resources for Applicants. This is also where a recording of this webinar will be housed for your reference.

Please take a moment and capture the contact information on this page. Ni'Cora Gray is the point of contact for the Rural solicitation. We have also included our Grants Financial Management Division's Helpdesk contact information in case any questions arise for you about the budget. In addition, there are the Grants.gov and JustGrants Support contacts for issues around registration and submission.

Now, I will open the floor for questions. Please type your questions in the chat box or raise your hand, and we will answer as many as we can. Any questions not answered here can be emailed to the Rural Program mailbox that is listed on the contact information slide. If we have time after questions, Charlotte will provide a demonstration on obtaining your Rural eligibility documentation.

NI'CORRA GRAY: Thank you so much, Aisha. All right, Cody. The questions are coming into the chat box. If you want, we can start with the questions that we were emailed. The first question that we were emailed was, "In reading through the recently released solicitation, I was confused as to whether we need to have a partner if we are the lead applicant. I see, under the required partnership section, it says that it must include a victim service provider as the lead applicant." The answer to that question is yes. At least one partner is required, whether the lead applicant is a victim service provider or not.

The next question we received: "In reviewing the priority areas, I understand that for Priority Area 1, we need a culturally specific partner." That is correct. You do need a culturally specific partner for Priority Area 1. "I also understand that Priority Area 2, Part 2, will require a partnership with the Prosecutor's Office." The answer to that question, as it states in the solicitation on page 9: "Partners can be law enforcement or prosecutors."

The next question we received: "For Priority Area 2, Part 1, I was unclear whether a partnership is needed. Our organization provides direct legal advocacy for victims of sexual assault, as well as training to prosecutors, advocates, and law enforcement. We also run the statewide SANE program. As the lead applicant, we would need to have a partnership if we are applying under this priority area." The answer to that question is yes. All partnerships for the Rural Program must include a victim service provider and at least one partner necessary to implement the project.

The next question we received from Dr. Sandy Rogers. She asked, "We are a community mental health center that was established as a political subdivision and have 501(c)(3) status. Does this qualify us to apply?" Your answer, Dr. Rogers, is, as an eligible applicant, yes, but you must also meet all the program requirements in the solicitation.

The next question we received is from Catherine Robbins from hopehealing.org. Catherine asked, "In reviewing the grant opportunity for OVW for the Rural DV, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program, I learned that portions of the county we serve meet the rural definition according to OVW based on the Census tracts. Approximately 10 out of the 30 Census tracts meet the rural definition provided in the application. We are currently in need of increasing staff for the shelter and programming for the area. But we are wondering if the funding can be used to serve the entire county or if we have to track carefully to show that funding is serving survivors in a qualifying rural Census tract?" The answer, Ms. Robbins, yes, you will have to be able to carefully track the services provided to the qualifying Census tracts in your county since Rural funding can only be used to serve rural areas or communities. You cannot use Rural funding to serve the other 20 Census tracts. Also, these services will be recorded on the semiannual progress report, which tracks where Rural funds were spent. So, it is important to be able to provide accurate information.

The next question was submitted by Gail Cloth. Her question is, "Our grant ends on 09/30/2023, and we will be applying for a continuation of our grant project. Our current grant partner will now be continuing to partner on this project but wants to apply for the FY '23 Rural grant on their own. Will they, one, be eligible to apply?" And the answer is yes, if they meet all the qualification requirements in the solicitation. Her second question: "Should they apply as a new or a continuation grantee?" Because they were not the lead applicant on your award, they would apply as new. Her third and final question: "Do they need to disclose the OVW Rural funds received as a part of the project they are currently partners with us on?" And the answer is yes, as addressed in the Summary Data Sheet.

All right. So, that answers the questions sent in via email. And we'd like to thank you all for sending those questions in. We'll now answer the questions that were provided in the chat. Cody, if you would like to just read out the questions as they are presented, and myself, Charlotte, Aisha, or Krista will answer those questions.

CODY: Okay. First off, we have Debbie Barrett. Sorry if I mispronounce anyone's name. We have first, "May we have a copy of these slides? It would be most helpful, since page numbers are referenced."

NI'CORAGRAY: Yes. As stated earlier, this presentation will be available for you on the OVW website. Leidos should have this presentation available within 14 days.

CODY: Next, we have Mary Parsons: "Does the budget amount on the SF-424 have to match the budget submitted? We'd like to do Grants.gov now but haven't finalized our Budget Narrative."

NI'CORAGRAY: Charlotte, would you like to answer that question, or Aisha?

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yes. The budget on the 424 should match the budget document that you submit. If you haven't started your budget yet, I'm not sure if you can update that in the system later or not. Krista, do you know?

KRISTA BLAKENEY-MITCHELL: Can update the 424?

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yes.

KRISTA BLAKENEY-MITCHELL: Yes, it can be updated, and I was going to say that this is a little bit of a sticking point. When we get applications and their budget does not match the 424, we generally end up reaching out to the applicant regarding getting that reconciled. We understand that sometimes you have an amount in mind or maybe you're looking at the budget caps there in the solicitation, and then you go back and try to configure your budget and maybe a dollar less, it could be \$10,000 less or more than what you've provided on the 424. Those should match when you submit your application. However, if those amounts are not the same, we will reach out to have that corrected.

CODY: Next question, we have Arthur Davis: “Why do we have instructions for web-based budgets if we won’t be using the web-based budget system? Is there a training for the new budget process?”

AISHA BATTLE: Hi, Arthur. If funded, you will eventually have to use the web-based budget process. At this time, you simply have to attach a budget. If you go to the Resources for Applicants section of the OVW website, you can find a sample budget as well as under the GFMD Resources slide. The top link is the in-depth training to drafting a budget.

KRISTA BLAKENEY-MITCHELL: And just to clarify, because you will be attaching a budget to your application, GFMD is actually doing the heavy lifting this year, and they will create the web-based budget based on what you provide in your attached budget. So, just so you know, it’s just the manual budget—we call it manual because you do it yourself as opposed to having things prepopulated and added up. So, we’re hoping that this is going to make things easier for you all, because we had a lot of challenges with folks trying to submit web-based budgets last go-round, and we were just trying to streamline that process for you with the attached budget.

CODY: Thanks, Krista and Aisha. Next up, we have Vienna St. John: “In the solicitation, it is stated that since 2020 Census data is delayed in completion, we should use the 2010 Census data. Should we use the 2020 when that information is available and 2010 if not available?”

NI’CORRA GRAY: Yes. So, if you referenced the solicitation, certain parts of the Census tracts are working and certain parts aren’t. So please use the 2010 Census tracts for this year’s solicitation. Also, if we have enough time after this process, Charlotte will do a live demonstration on how you can operate the Census tracts.

CODY: Thanks, Ni’Corra. Next, we have Barbara: “We currently have a Rural grant that ends in 2024. Are we eligible to apply?”

NI’CORRA GRAY: Barbara, you aren’t eligible to apply for this year’s grant funding.

CODY: Thanks, Ni’Corra. Michelle Mahoney: “Does everyone need to do the executive compensation disclosure?”

AISHA BATTLE: Well, the disclosures have to be done by the lead applicant.

CODY: Thanks, Aisha. Anyolie Rivera: “Does the Delivery of Legal Assistance Certification Letter apply to a nonprofit agency that does not have an in-house attorney?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yes, the Legal Assistance Certification Letter has to be submitted if you are planning to provide legal services. If your organization is not a legal

services organization, you have to partner with someone that is able to do that and also submit the letter on your behalf.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Valerie Williams: “Number 3 purpose area ends with “and” prior to going into explaining number 4. Does that mean we have to do number 4 with number 3?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: No, all of the purpose areas are separate. You can do one or more, as many as you like. But you have to do at least one.

CODY: Thank you. Casper Rose: “Thank you for hosting this session. Can you please tell us what the advantage or reason would be for submitting an LOI, since it is optional, not required?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: The purpose of the Letter of Support is to give us an idea of how many applicants we have, so that we can judge accordingly the number of peer reviewers we need for the applications.

CODY: Judy Chan: “Compensating survivors and people with lived experience, would you please speak to this?”

NI’CORRA GRAY: So, I think I need more clarity. Is she asking how to fund the victim, like the needs or wants of the victims, or is she saying compensating them how?

CODY: Judy, if you could further explain in the chat, we’ll come back to your question. If you could just clarify a little bit more and then we’ll come back to yours. Lucia Smith: “I requested a copy of one of last year’s awards but have not received a response.”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Lucia, please email the Rural mailbox so that we can get that to you or understand more of what it is you’re looking for.

AISHA BATTLE: And I’ll just add to that, that this could turn out to be a FOIA request, which is a different step and process. So, if you want to circle back with us regarding your question, that way we can make sure we direct you appropriately.

CODY: Joanna Heights: “Is there a list of current grantees available?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yes, on the OVW website. There is a list of previous grants and grantees on our website.

CODY: And all those links I provided also in the chat, just in case you weren’t able to capture the screenshot. You’ll be able to copy and paste those and use those links as well. Next we have Michelle Mahoney: “For Alaska’s Congressional District, is it okay to put AKALL, or All.”

NI'CORA GRAY: When she says, is it okay to put it, put it like where? On the application or abbreviated throughout the narrative or what exactly is she wanting to do with those abbreviations? [INDISTINCT]

CODY: I'm sorry. Michelle Mahoney, could you clarify a little bit more?

NI'CORA GRAY: Oh, SF-424. She wants to put it on an SF-424. I suggest you spell it all the way out, because we don't always know the exact name of your organization. You could probably put it in parentheses after you spell it out if you have the space, but I suggest using the full name of your organization.

CODY: Thank you, Ni'Cora. Catherine Robbins: "Approximately 10 of the 30 Census tracts for our county meet the rural definition provided in the application. We're currently in need of increasing staff for the shelter and programming for the area, but we are wondering"—just a sec, so I can throw it up—"if the funding can be used to serve the entire county or if we have to track carefully to show that the funding is only serving survivors in qualifying rural Census tracts."

NI'CORA GRAY: Hi, Catherine, we received your email request. I responded a little bit earlier. I'll provide the answer again. So, yes, you will have to be able to carefully track the services provided to the qualifying Census tracts in your county since Rural funding can only be used to serve rural areas or communities. You cannot use Rural funding to serve the other 20 Census tracts. Also, these services will be recorded on your semiannual progress report, which tracks where the Rural funds were spent. So, it's important to be able to provide accurate information. Yes. Again, I reiterate, you'll only be able to fund the 10 areas that are in your rural Census tract.

CODY: Christie Sobolik: "Hello, we are a continuation applicant. We are wondering if we can have a formal partnership and MOU agreement with another currently funded OVW Rural grant applicant that is also reapplying. Our program provides legal services to rural DV and SA victims, and our proposed partner provides nonlegal supportive services for rural DV and SA victims."

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yes, you can apply as a partner for an existing grantee. You just cannot duplicate services. And if you need further clarification on exactly what it is you're doing, please contact us via the Rural mailbox and provide more information.

AISHA BATTLE: And just to follow up on what Charlotte said, I know I see a lot of questions coming through, which is super exciting. We are so thrilled with your interest in the program, but a lot of the questions are very specific to your jurisdictions. And so, I think for those questions, such as the one just asked, so that we can get you the most thorough answer and make sure we're speaking to your specific kind of community, please email the Rural mailbox that was provided, and we can put it in the chat again with your questions so we can make sure that we're homing in on what applies to your community.

CODY: So, we have Arthur Davis. He wants to know, “Can you enable chat text saving? This is due to prevent participants from saving chat. Setting being enabled, this setting must be deselected in order to allow participants to have the ability to copy or save chats sent within a Zoom meeting.”

NI’CORRA GRAY: Leidos would be more feasible to answer this question, if the applicants will be able to have access to the chat. I know this entire webinar will be posted, so the questions are being read and repeated and answered so that you could reference them later. But I don’t—Jonathan is, or Michelle, if someone can answer, if they’ll have access to the live chat box later, the verbiage in it.

MICHELLE: We can send that file to you. And if you’d like that posted, we’ll give you that option. But yes, we can send that file to you.

NI’CORRA GRAY: Thank you so much, Michelle.

MICHELLE: You’re welcome.

CODY: Okay. Next question. We have Christie Sobolik: “Can you describe what a partner in name only is?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yes. A partner in name only is a partner that doesn’t really have a heavy role in your grant project, as some folks partner with a lot of people in the community because they work with your organizations a lot, but don’t really have a role in the grant project. So, if they don’t have a role in the grant project, then they don’t need to sign your MOU.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Jennifer Kellams: “Can funds be used for SANEs that are partially funded through another project? We have existing MOUs with our local SART. Can that be used?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: I think that that question requires a little more in-depth information. If you could give us more information about that or send us an email to the Rural mailbox, we can talk about that specifically.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Stacy Umhay: “It appears that our MOU partner will be considered a subgrantee. Can you talk a bit about what our responsibilities will be in terms of administrating funds to an MOU partner that is considered a subgrantee?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Well, all of your MOU partners should have some role in implementing your project. So, the fact that it’s a subgrantee is not an issue. The roles and responsibilities that your MOU partner provides on your project would just be fairly compensated. I don’t know if that answers your question. If you could elaborate on what you’re looking for or send us an email to the Rural mailbox, and we can go into that further. But, yes, just compensate all your partners based on what it is they’re providing—what service they’re providing in your project.

KRISTA BLAKENEY-MITCHELL: And if I can just add to that, Charlotte, because the question says what is your responsibility in terms of administering funds to an MOU partner. That should be laid out in your budget, and your MOU partner that signs the MOU is also saying that they've reviewed the budget and they're in agreement with how the funds would be administered to them if they are going to be a partner that receives funds under the project.

CODY: Thank you, Krista and Charlotte. Mel Ross: "In the solicitation announcement, it states that applicants are encouraged to use a spreadsheet for the budget attachments. Does this mean that an applicant agency can create the application budget in an Excel document they have created and submit this Excel document as the budget and narrative?"

NI'CORRA GRAY: Yes. So, you can use an Excel spreadsheet. Remember that your budget will later be computed to a web-based budget. So, you're attaching your budget as an attachment. So, that can be an Excel spreadsheet, and you still will need to do your Budget Narrative.

CODY: Thank you, Ni'Corra. Victoria Yeager: "We will have sexual assault advocates traveling a great deal to meet with victims and survivors, attend meetings, host trainings, et cetera. Historically, we reimburse staff for mileage if they use their own vehicle. We recently noticed that for some staff using a university (our organization is part of a state university) owned lease vehicle is most cost effective. Are we able to budget the lease payments instead of the mileage for this grant?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: I don't believe you can budget the lease payment for an already leased car. You are able to lease a car for the project, and it would be for the three-year grant period.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Carla Cara: "For Rural eligibility for partially rural areas, is there a minimum number in the Census tract that must be met before being able to serve this specific Census tract area? Can it be only 10 that is enough to serve this specific area, or must it be a certain percentage of the entire Census tract?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: I'm assuming you're talking about the number of people in the Census tract? If that's the case, then, as long as the number of rural folks is higher than the number of urban folks, that Census tract is eligible. There's no specific number of people living in the Census tract itself. And if you need more clarification, you might be able to get that when I do the demonstration; it might be helpful. Otherwise, just give us a call or send us an email, and we can look into it further for you.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Tony Huffman: "Can you be specific about the process of applying in Grants.gov and JustGrants? Do we need to create an application on the dashboard in Grants.gov? Will those two forms transfer over to JustGrants?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: I am not that familiar with Grants.gov. So, someone else may jump in if I don't get all the information. But I do know that you have to complete the application for the 424 and the SF-LLL in Grants.gov and submit it in Grants.gov before you're able to even access JustGrants to start your application. And anyone else want to add anything?

AISHA BATTLE: I would start there, Charlotte. I guess my question is, is further detail needed by who asked that question?

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yeah. If so, you can contact us and we can go into it further for you.

CODY: Meredith O'Reilly: "Southeastern Ohio Legal Services covers 30 counties, almost all rural. Regarding Letters of Support, will we need one from the court in each county?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: If you plan to serve them all and if they're not able to sign an MOU, then yes.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Molly Meridian: "We are the service provider in our area. We are a nonprofit directly serving survivors. Who will we need as a partner for the MOU?"

AISHA BATTLE: That is dependent on the project that you propose and what partnership is needed in order to successfully implement that project. And I guess I would just open it to the team to expound.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yes, Aisha, that is correct. You have to have at least one partner on this project. So, whoever you feel would be best to help implement the project, you would want to be an MOU partner.

KRISTA BLAKENEY-MITCHELL: And if I may, I want to reference with that question. I want to go back to the previous question regarding the Ohio Legal Services. Is that okay? Just want to check with folks. Okay. So, I'm just reading the question regarding Ohio Legal Services as it covers 30 counties. And the question is regarding Letters of Support: Will we need one from a court in each county? So, if the court is a partner in your project, then yes. So, if you're going to have 30 courts that are going to be a part of this project, but if you're just talking about Ohio Legal Services, that's their service area, is 30 counties, you wouldn't need to have a Letter of Support from all 30 counties, if that's their service area. But if there is going to be a court partner on the project, then you would need a Letter of Support from each court. I hope that helps.

CODY: Joanna Heights: "The RFP states that 75% of the total amount of funding made available for this program must be allocated to eligible entities located in rural states. Does this mean that only 10 to 15 awards will be made to organizations outside of this category? Applicants serving rural areas in nonrural states?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: No. The breakdown of the funds available would be 75% of the funds toward rural states. But it doesn't mean that there's only going to be 10 or 15 awards for nonrural states. It just depends on how the funding breaks down. There could be more, there could be less. Just depends on how the funding breaks down.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Jean: "Could you clarify the definition of non-intimate partner sexual assault as indicated on page 9 of the solicitation?"

NI'CORA GRAY: Yeah. So, non-intimate partner sexual assault is by a person who you're not in an intimate relationship with. So, it's like, you know how you have intimate partner violence? So, that—the sexual assault and intimate partner relationships—and then there's non-intimate partner sexual assault. So, it's an assault committed by someone with whom you're not in an intimate relationship.

AISHA BATTLE: Thank you, Ni'Cora. I think you nailed it. But I guess my question is, were you asking about some additional things that can fall under non-intimate partner sexual assault, like maybe some kind of cyber abuse?

NI'CORA GRAY: Yeah, a little more clarity would help.

CODY: Thank you, Ni'Cora and Aisha. Jean, if you could clarify just a bit more in the chat. If not, you can also email us at the Rural mailbox. Next, we have Catherine Robbins: "Can the client's ZIP code of origin be used to match them to the qualifying rural Census tracts?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: No. We have instructions to follow to find your eligible Census tracts, and it does not include ZIP codes of origin.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. William Hellman: "Looks like the SAM number has been replaced with a UEI number and a cage number. Is that good to submit in the Letter of Intent?"

AISHA BATTLE: You do not have to include that in the Letter of Intent. Of course, you can. But there is no incentive for that. We'll be able to recognize you. But the Letter of Intent is—someone said earlier—is really for us to gauge what our needs will be and then reviewing your application.

CODY: Thank you, Aisha. Andrea Saswell.

NI'CORA GRAY: Also, I would—I'm sorry, if we can go back. I wanted to clarify that the SAM number hasn't replaced the UEI. You still need to do the SAM registration and a UEI. You're used to the DUNS. But instead of the DUNS number, you have a UEI. But SAM does not replace the UEI.

CODY: Thank you, Ni’Cora. Andrea Saswell: “Is there a way for the PowerPoint to be emailed this week to help us prepare? I understand the recording of the webinar will be uploaded in 14 days. Thank you for your help.”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: If you want a copy of the webinar—I mean the presentation, like the actual PowerPoint slides, we can PDF them. Please email the Rural mailbox for a copy of those slides, and then we can email them back to you.

CODY: Angela Rivera: “If we do not receive the full amount of \$750,000, do we still need the Audit Response Letter, or will we just put that information in the Summary Data Sheet?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: I think that the information should just be on the Summary Data Sheet.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Next up, Melody: “We are registered in SAM.gov and Grants.gov. Where do we go to obtain a justgrants.gov account?”

NI’CORRA GRAY: So, you would just go to the JustGrants system and create your account there. The SAM.gov and Grants.gov is just the first step of the application process. You still need to register and create an account with the JustGrants system.

CODY: Thank you, Ni’Cora. Joanna: “Is the solicitation released every year asking regarding continuation of applications?”

NI’CORRA GRAY: Yes. The solicitation is released annually.

CODY: Carol: “If we are a victim service program providing sexual assault services in rural communities, who is the required MOU partner?”

NI’CORRA GRAY: There isn’t a required MOU partner. You just must partner with someone that’s a victim service provider. Yeah. So, I’m sorry, I was reading to make sure I answered it, if we are a victim service program providing sexual assault. Yeah. You would just need to partner with someone who could provide sexual assault services. And that partner could be your partner of choice. It doesn’t have to be someone we specify for your program.

AISHA BATTLE: Just to elaborate on that, because I know we got the question earlier today as well. When thinking about your proposal and thinking about not just you writing your proposal, but, like, who is truly needed to implement the project? And think about peer reviewers reading this who, in reading this application, would be like, “Oh, well, there are people missing to actually implement this project,” or “They have a well-rounded group of people, whether it’d be two or more organizations.” However, it’s only required to have a lead and a required partner. But think more broadly about who are the necessary parties to help you implement this project, and those should be the people you’re partnering with.

CODY: Thank you, Aisha. Christie: “What is the legal service certification document that was referenced in a prior question?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: There is a sample of the legal services certification letter on the OVW website and the materials for grantees or applicants. You can find the letter there.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Lindsay: “For Priority Area 2, would funding be considered if 75% were for sexual violence activities, with a priority of services for non-intimate partner, so it is a part of the 75%? Or must the full 75% be only for non-intimate partner sexual violence?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: I think it could be, as long as 75% of your project is toward sexual assault. If part of it is for non-intimate violence, that’s fine.

AISHA BATTLE: Thank you, Charlotte. Because I see that that question was asked a few times in the chat. And so, just to reiterate what Charlotte said, you can support both intimate partner and non-intimate partner sexual assault.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: I’ll add to that that the Rural Program also has a sexual assault component. So, this 75% was directed to the OVW office priority, which is also sexual assault. So, you don’t have to specifically stay with a non-intimate partner violence sexual assault as long as 75% or more of your whole project is sexual assault.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte and Aisha. Next question is from Melody: “Do all grantees have to provide legal services or have a partnership with an agency that does?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: No.

AISHA BATTLE: This is another question that was asked a few times in the chat. Legal services are not required. Now, if you want to provide civil legal services, there is a certification you will need to complete. But it is by no means mandated as part of the program. It is just that there is a certification if that is an activity you would like to do.

CODY: Thank you, Aisha. Mary: “Did I understand the semiannual progress report for this grant will require us to report by victim which Census tract that victim lives in? Or what did you mean by reporting on the Census tract receiving services?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: I just meant that the Rural funding is tracked on the semiannual progress report. So, that’s why you cannot provide services in nonrural Census tracts, because the Rural Program only provides services to rural areas and communities. And that information will be tracked on the semiannual progress reports when you report your activities, if you get a grant award.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Meryl has two questions. First is, “My team has never submitted a grant through JustGrants. Is there a resource that provides formatting and samples of what the grant package should look like?”

NI’CORRA GRAY: Sure. If you look in the solicitation under the Submissions section and the How to Apply section, you can see formatting stuff and technical assistance and how everything should be formally set up within an application. It explains in two or three different sections how to set up your application and what should be included in your application and formatting for your budget, your Proposal Narrative, and things of that nature, and your MOUs and stuff. Charlotte mentioned earlier about a website where you could find a sample legal certification letter and things of that nature.

CODY: Second question was, “Does ‘fairly compensated MOU partners’ mean monetarily compensated?”

NI’CORRA GRAY: So, you don’t...

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: It does not...

NI’CORRA GRAY: Oh, okay. Sorry.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Sorry. Ni’Corra, go ahead.

NI’CORRA GRAY: No. You go, Charlotte. I’m sorry.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: It does not mean that your MOU partners have to be compensated monetarily, because some partners will not be able to if they are providing the service. Anyway, you wouldn’t compensate them for providing a service that they’re already providing on your grant. So, in that case, you could—if there is no other compensation that you have to provide them, you can provide them with OVW technical assistance. And that would work for us. And while we’re talking about OVW technical assistance, there is that \$10,000 or \$15,000 amount that is intended to be shared with your partners. So, whether they are monetarily compensated or not, you should share that OVW technical assistance money with your grant partners.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Stacy has a similar question: “I’m mostly wondering about monitoring responsibilities for MOU partners that you touched on.”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Well, hopefully that answered your question, too, Stacy. If it did not, please clarify your question or specify something that you might be interested in knowing.

CODY: Caroline: “How many projects will be funded through this program?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Well, that’s hard to say. Depending on the number of applications we get in, the number of applications that make it through the review

process and are eligible for funding, we hope to have at least, or up to, 55 awards, which I believe we noted in the solicitation. But it just depends.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Christie: “Is it a problem if we are an unfunded MOU partner on another Rural grant and also a lead applicant on our Rural grant?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: No, that’s not a problem.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Ariel: “When you say applicants can receive more funding if the services are 75% or more focused on sexual assault, do you mean 75% of the services in the specific project or 75% of the service provided by the applicant organization as a whole, through all programs?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Seventy-five percent of your Rural Grant Program application activities.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Emily: “Just to clarify, if a Census tract has 500 people designated as urban and 700 designated as rural, then can it be considered rural?”

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yes.

CODY: Tommy: “As a continuation grant applicant, do we change goals and objectives to add in a new purpose area or just add them to the previous ones?”

AISHA BATTLE: I guess that is your choice, whether you apply to continue your current project, or you apply to expand it, or you apply to pivot it into a new project.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Right. I’ll add that the purpose areas are not all required. You don’t have to do all four. You can do one. You can do two. You can do three or four. But whatever your continuation project is, if that fourth and new purpose area does not apply to that, then you don’t have to include it.

CODY: Connie also asked, “Can we budget in legal fees such as filing fees, document fees, without partnering with an attorney as talked about on page 16?”

NI’CORRA GRAY: I think I’m kind of confused with this question because what legal services would the organization be providing, if they’re not partnering with a legal services entity? What legal fees would the victim acquire if the attorney isn’t filing on their behalf? I guess I’m saying, who’s following the legal stuff, if you’re not partnering with an attorney or you don’t have an attorney on staff?

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: This could be a situation where maybe you have an advocate or a legal advocate who’s assisting with the filing. So, the filing fees will be the fees that are paid to the court and if there are document fees for filing. So, assuming that, I believe the answer would be yes, that you can budget for that. But as Ni’Corra said, if it’s

a legal process that's being handled by the victim service provider, they should be partnering with an attorney to provide those services.

NI'CORA GRAY: Right. Because an advocate usually helps with protective orders and stuff, but you would want legal counsel to assist you with actual legal filing and stuff.

CODY: Connie also asked, "If we did a podcast to reach more of our underserved population, would every podcast need to be approved by OVW before we can publish it, if we are budgeting equipment for the podcast?"

AISHA BATTLE: If you're using time on the grant's award to record the podcast, then, or funds from the grant fund, are you proposing to use funds to disseminate the podcast? Then, yes, you would need OVW approval of the podcast. Each of them.

CODY: Thank you, Aisha. Jean...

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: And I would assume that if you're budgeting the equipment under your Rural grant project that the podcast would be for this project, and, yes, you would have to get it approved.

CODY: Thank you, Charlotte. Jean: "Non-intimate partner: So, that would not be a dating partner or current spouse?"

NI'CORA GRAY: Correct.

AISHA BATTLE: But that doesn't mean you won't be able to have a project that includes intimate partner.

NI'CORA GRAY: Right. Right.

AISHA BATTLE: So, you could include, for instance, the dating partner, as well as stranger rape, right?

CODY: Thank you. Okay. Maria: "Can you explain more what a UIE is? And I need the email for the PDF of this webinar."

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: The UEI is a replacement for the DUNS number. They changed that over last year. And so now, instead of applying for a DUNS number, you would apply for a UEI. And it is necessary before you can submit your application.

NI'CORA GRAY: Also, I'll add that this number is provided for any organization that's doing business with the federal government.

CODY: We can put the OVW Rural mailbox email in the chat once we get through the questions, or if somebody can do that while we're going through the questions, whichever works best.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yeah. We should add it to the...

AISHA BATTLE: Oh, she added it, so...

CODY: Oh, she already put it. Perfect. Arthur: "To qualify for this priority area, applicants must partner with culturally specific community-based organizations or programs and include project activities to specifically engage, promote, and serve the needs of underserved culturally specific communities. If we provide Spanish-language legal services that include culturally specific attorneys and/or paralegals, does that qualify?"

NI'CORRA GRAY: If they are partners, that could qualify.

AISHA BATTLE: I want to note that I see some people with raised hands that I'm not sure if the raising of hands corresponds to who asked the question, if they're trying to provide more clarity.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: That could be, because it is Arthur. You want to open your mic, Arthur, and clarify?

AISHA BATTLE: Is there a way to unmute him?

NI'CORRA GRAY: Leidos would have to give him that permission.

SPEAKER 1: Yes. One moment, please.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Thank you.

CODY: Thank you.

SPEAKER 1: Okay. At this time, you are able to unmute yourself.

ARTHUR: Oh, great. Thank you. Our organization provides legal services, so we have attorneys and paralegals for the general population. But also, we have culturally specific Spanish-language attorneys and/or paralegals. Would we qualify, or are you looking for an organization that only serves one specific priority population?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: I think we are looking—if you don't already serve underserved culturally specific communities—for you to partner with an organization in the community that does serve those folks, to give you some insight into how services are being provided and what their needs are. And I don't know if just providing services, legal services, in a different language qualifies for that.

ARTHUR: Yeah. I guess the question is whether you're looking for specific culturally specific agencies, like an agency that only serves a Latino population, for example. Or if

we provide Latino attorneys, would that—along with our other services—would that qualify us as that priority? Are you looking...

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Are you a legal services organization?

ARTHUR: Yes.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Okay. That helps. Then yes. Definitely having culturally specific attorneys for those folks you'll be serving would be good. But you should probably also have a victim service provider as a partner, and the culturally specific victim service provider might be a good partner to have. But you can have more than one, so you can have a culturally specific victim service provider and another victim service provider as a partner. But you want to have someone that can help you understand the needs of the culturally specific population that you're going to be serving.

ARTHUR: Thank you.

AISHA BATTLE: Okay. I just want to piggyback off of what you said a little bit, Charlotte. I know in the solicitation, it also says organization and programs. And so, Arthur, if we had more information, and this may need to be done over email or offline. I know you said you had culturally specific attorneys: I would say, reflect on, is it a program? Is it a culturally specific program within your organization that you can write up? Or do you have people who are just culturally responsive and trained on your staff, and figuring out where you fit in there, and that will tell you if you need to partner with another culturally specific organization, or if you could be that program.

ARTHUR: Thank you.

KRISTA BLAKENEY-MITCHELL: Also, before we move on, I just want to go back to Maria's question regarding the UEI. I think there's some confusion and maybe just take a moment just to explain. So, we've been talking about making sure you register at SAM.gov, making sure your registration is up to date. In registering for SAM, you will obtain your UEI number. And this basically is to confirm your entity's electronic business point of contact. And that EBiz POC is what you're going to be using to complete your registration with Grants.gov and moving on to JustGrants. They're all tied together. You register at SAM, you have your UEI number, and you make sure your registration is still good, if you registered in previous years, make sure your UEI number is still active. It could be deactivated, it could be dead for not being used—for a lack of registration or updated registration. So, just to be clear, you get your UEI number through the SAM registration process.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Thank you, Krista.

CODY: Thank you, Krista. Next question we have: "If New Mexico Legal Aid is on our MOU, would we put them on our letter of assistance certification letter, being that we refer to them and they assist our clients with legal services?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yes, they would have to. When you see the letter itself, it will provide you with the information that's needed. And if you're providing information for the legal aid, then yes, they would have to be verifying that they qualify for all of the things listed in the letter.

CODY: Same person who asked the question just raised their hand. I don't know if they have some clarification.

NI'CORA GRAY: Michelle, if you could unmute Ms. Rivera.

MICHELLE: All of the participants are actually able to unmute themselves.

NI'CORA GRAY: Oh. Oh, perfect. Thank you.

MICHELLE: You're welcome.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Go ahead with your question, Aniela.

ANIELA: Okay. No, I just wanted more clarification, because I've heard other organizations talk about they pay for the legal services and stuff. But legal aid does the majority of it for free, so I was just wanting some clarification if they would go on this portion. And then I was reading on that sample letter about immigration proceedings. They provide more legal assistance for restraining orders. Some might help with the divorce process or the child custody stuff, but it's not, like, on Section A of the sample letter of the assistance certification.

KRISTA BLAKENEY-MITCHELL: Right. So, you would tailor the letter to reflect the services that will be provided. If there are areas where this will not be addressed, you can basically just state that who we're partnering with is not doing work in that area. So, if they're not doing the immigration piece, we just state that that's not what we're partnering with them to do and that's not in their area of profession.

ANIELA: Okay. Okay. That makes sense.

CODY: Of course. Thank you, Krista. Merrill's question: "I'm a bit confused. Does this program require that 75% of services by the proposed program support sexual assault?"

KRISTA BLAKENEY-MITCHELL: No.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: The Rural Program has a sexual assault piece. You don't have to provide 75%—only if that is what your project is doing. And the OVW office priority is where, when you are offering services to assist with non-intimate partner violence, that you would be able to increase the funding request. But for the Rural Program, it doesn't matter how much sexual assault services you provide, you can still provide sexual assault services.

KRISTA BLAKENEY-MITCHELL: And just to tag onto that, so basically, if you are holding yourself out as a sexual assault service provider—that's what you do—then your project activities that you're proposing should align with at least 75% of what you are proposing to do—align with providing sexual assault services, resources, that sort of thing. So, I just want to make sure that's clear. But if you're not holding yourself out as a sexual assault provider, but you're going to be providing services either through a partnership or with your intake and you're realizing that folks who are coming in are sexual assault survivors and you're providing assistance, then it doesn't have to meet that 75% threshold. But if you're holding yourself out as a sexual assault service provider, then the activities that you propose for funding on the grant application should be at least 75%.

CODY: Thank you, Krista and Charlotte. Greg: "Does legal advocacy such as court accompaniment and help in filling out protective orders fall under the definition of legal services? I see us qualifying in the certification."

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: No. Legal advocacy is not legal services. It is not going through an attorney, or services are not being provided by an attorney.

KRISTA BLAKENEY-MITCHELL: So, therefore, the legal certification wouldn't be required here.

CODY: Greg also has a second question on top: "If MOU partners are there to solidify their responsibility to allow and support us in providing training to their staff and clarifying their responsibilities to refer clients and our responsibilities to refer clients when appropriate, are there compensation scenarios that would work in this case?"

AISHA BATTLE: Greg, anything related to the budget really has to be determined between you, your organization, and the project partners and what you feel is suitable. Now, while they can provide their time in kind, you should still detail that they are providing that, if that is what they choose. And it should be noted that everyone has reviewed and approved the budget. And so, that really is up to you and your partners on what you all settle on.

NI'CORA GRAY: And, Cody, for the sake of time, we have one more question, so that Charlotte can go through a live demonstration of the eligibility Census tract process. We have one more question, and then, Charlotte, you can start your live demonstration.

CODY: Okay. Last question is by Zoe: "In relation to assistance in immigration matters, would funding be allowed to support forensic exams related to asylum applications?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: So, I guess we're going to need to know more about the forensic exams.

AISHA BATTLE: Yeah, because that's what I was wondering, too, what type of forensic exam. Is it for the SANE sexual assault situations or intimate partner? What type of exam are you saying?

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: SANE.

NI'CORA GRAY: SANE? Okay.

AISHA BATTLE: That should be allowable.

NI'CORA GRAY: Yeah.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Right. So even in immigration matters, victims of sexual assault would qualify as clientele who should be provided services that could be supported by the funds of the grant.

CODY: That concludes the last question.

NI'CORA GRAY: Okay. Charlotte, if you would like to share your screen so that you can start your live demonstration.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Okay.

CODY: Charlotte, your live demonstration, are you going to be doing the Stark County as the example?

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yes, I can.

CODY: Ni'Cora, if you're not familiar with this and you want me to go through it, since you'll have to do the thing, I can bring it up and kind of do the live demonstration since I've done it before.

NI'CORA GRAY: Okay. Perfect, Cody. I'll stop sharing so you can.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: So, the first thing you'll do is you're going to select by state and county, not by address. And then you'll select your state, in which case we're going to do Ohio. And then you'll scroll down and select the county, which we're going to do Stark, and search. So, this page is what you're going to submit with your application, and you'll see it says yes, some parts of this county are eligible for Rural health grant. That is one of selections that you'll get. Sometimes, you'll get yes, all of this county is rural, and some will say no, none of the county is rural, in which case, the no's you won't be able to serve, but if you get a yes, all of the county is rural, that's the only document you'll need to submit. If you get a yes, some parts of the county are rural, then you have to go to the Census data link to do your Census tracts. So, this is one of the pages you'll submit for some parts of the county as rural. And if we can go now to the Census data link.

CODY: Oh, pull that one up, just a moment. I'll stop sharing this for a moment and open up the other link. Okay. Everybody see my screen?

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Okay. So, the first thing you'll do is go to Advanced Search. Click on Advanced Search and then Geography, and then Tract in the box, Census Tract in that box. And then you will select your state. We're looking for Ohio. And then, let's see. Stark County, correct. And then you're going to select all Census tracts within Stark County. Then you'll move down to the bottom and click Search. And at the top—oh, that doesn't look right.

CODY: There was one more step, Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Was there?

CODY: Yes. Uh-hmm.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Did you click All Census Tracts within Stark County?

CODY: Yeah. Yes, but there—you have to type in the Search bar.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Oh, that's right. I'm sorry. I did skip that. Urban and Rural.

CODY: Got that really fast.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Urban and Rural, then click Search. And that top one, H2 Urban and Rural, is the one you want to click on. Are we there? Yeah.

CODY: Yeah.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: And this is going to show the Census tracts with all the urban and rural Census tracts in that county. Then you want to print—click Print. It should be up in that box. It's not there. And Excel—Export to Excel—and that will create an Excel document. You open that document.

CODY: Are you guys able to see the Excel spreadsheet?

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: I can't see it.

NI'CORA GRAY: No.

CODY: Okay. Let me—oh, no, momentarily go here. We will go here.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: There we go. Once you open up your Excel spreadsheet, you're going to click on Data, at the bottom, and that's where you'll see all of your Census tracts. And what you'll do is, you'll scroll across the page, because it can be a very long

page, and any of the Rural numbers, there's a—where you see totals—Urban is at the top and Rural is next to the bottom. So, when the Rural numbers are larger than the Urban numbers, that Census tract would be eligible as a rural Census tract. So, you have to scroll through and find them, and once you find them, you highlight them. And that's if you're serving the whole county. If you're serving a specific area, then you would need to check your specific area to see if the Census tracts are eligible. And this one, 7112.02, is a rural because there's 1,133 rural population and 557 in the urban population. So, you would select that and then highlight it. And just go through and select all the ones that you will be serving, and save that document and attach it with your other document that says your county is partially rural. And that's it. But these are the documents that you have to submit. No other documents, no substitutes, no different things. These two documents—the Excel sheet, with the highlighted Census tracts, and the sheet from the HRSA site that says your county is either all rural, partially rural, or, if it's not rural, then you just won't be able to serve it, you don't have to submit anything. And that's it. Anybody have any questions?

AISHA BATTLE: I see a question in the chat box. Arthur said, "I noticed it said 2017 on the demo. Do we select 2010 instead?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: No, I think this document was just created then.

AISHA BATTLE: Okay.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: The website is already updated. And I believe the rural states were updated with the 2020 Census information. But the way you search for your Census tract is from 2010, but it is still the same, it hasn't changed.

CODY: We have another question from Jean: "Is it okay to put all these printed screenshots into one document if we are serving five counties?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Yes, it is.

NI'CORRA GRAY: Cody, if you want, you could put the PowerPoint up, so we can close out.

AISHA BATTLE: Well, there are a few more questions. Ni'Cora, sorry, I know we only have a couple of minutes, but I think we can answer them quickly. "If the county is all rural, do we still need tracts?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: No, no, you don't need tracts if your HRSA sheet, the first sheet you print out, says your county is all rural. You don't need to submit the tracts, just the form that says it's all rural.

AISHA BATTLE: And then someone said, "Is the Census data required if the county agency is serving defined as all rural?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: I'm sorry?

AISHA BATTLE: And is the Census data required if the county the agency is serving is defined as all rural? Val, I think our confusion is what you mean by "defined as all rural."

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: If the service area is rural, you still have to go through this process, so that you can show that the service area is rural.

AISHA BATTLE: Thank you, Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: And you have to...

AISHA BATTLE: I appreciate.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: And—yeah. And you have to submit the documents.

AISHA BATTLE: I think that was what the question was, so thank you, Charlotte. And then, lastly, Connie asked, "Do we have to show all three pages of the Census or just the first page that shows rural eligibility?"

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: The first page that shows rural eligibility if the whole county is rural. That's all you have to submit. If the whole county says partially rural, then you have to go through and do the Census tract step and highlight all the Census tracts you'll be serving.

AISHA BATTLE: Thank you all for—we are so excited about all of your questions. I'm glad we were able to get to all of them, but I guess—Cody, you can proceed to the next slide. So, we just wanted to...

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: And the answer to that last question is yes.

AISHA BATTLE: Good eye, Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: The page, it says "Partially rural."

AISHA BATTLE: ...Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: In the Census tract.

AISHA BATTLE: The last question—oh, sorry.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: That's all right.

AISHA BATTLE: Oh, just to read it out loud, "Should we be including both the page that says partially rural and the Census tracts or just the latter? And Charlotte says both pages.

CHARLOTTE TURPIN: Both, yes.

AISHA BATTLE: Yeah. And so, thank you all so much for viewing the OVW FY 2023 Rural Program Pre-Application Webinar. We wish you all good luck during the application process. And please email any additional questions you have to the Rural mailbox.