

LASHONDE BEASLEY: Again, my name is Lashonde Beasley, joined with Aisha Battle, Debra Murphey, and Elaina Roberts from the Office on Violence Against Women. Welcome and thank you for coming to our Restorative Practices, Training and Technical Assistance Call for Concept Paper, Pre-Application Call. We look forward to telling you more about the new Restorative Practices Program and how you can apply to be a TA provider for sites who are working on Restorative Practices and Programs. If you have any questions throughout the presentation, feel free to put them in the chat and OVW Representatives will respond. Otherwise, we will open the floor for questions at the end.

Here is the agenda for today's call. As you can see, we will be covering the Call Concepts Components of the application and submission processes, including OVW priorities and the Restorative Practice purpose area. We have a lot to cover, so let's begin.

The Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA, was first enacted nearly 30 years ago to compel the justice system to treat domestic violence and sexual assault as serious crimes they are and to support coordinated community responses involving justice professionals, victim advocates, and others. While many of these funded programs have come with great successes over the years, the criminal legal system does not and fundamentally cannot offer all victims navigable paths to justice. In the movement and gender-based violence recognize that communities need more tools to hold offenders accountable and help victims rebuild their lives, once such tool is Restorative Justice or Restorative Practices. 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 overincarceration. Furthermore, the Restorative Practices may be a more accessible to victims seeking accountability from the harm doer on their own terms. Speaking on their own behalf and having a say and the consequences whoever hurt them will face. OVW is interested in supporting organizations with a demonstrated history of comprehensive training and experience and 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 that OVW may fund under the VAWA 2022 pilot program on Restorative Practices. The application is due in one month, on Thursday May 4th, 2023, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. We will always recommend getting the application in sooner than the deadline to ensure you are able to successfully submit your application.

For this project's eligible applicants include 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 -- 501(c)(3) status is not required. Please note that individuals and for-profit entities are not eligible applicants for this call for concepts paper.

In order to ensure that applicants have relevant experience and are engaging with the community, we have determined that either directly or through partnerships, applicants must have all of the following. Experience implementing or developing Restorative Practices in underserved communities or culturally specific populations such as the Black, Latinx, API, LGBTQ, immigrant, et cetera, a demonstrated history of collaborating with community led or a community driven efforts to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The collaboration should include work done directly

with communities. A demonstrated history of advocating for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and a demonstrated history of providing national training on culturally specific, population specific, or community-based practices in the field of domestic violence, dating violent, sexual assault, or stalking.

A core priority of OVW is ensuring that practices and programs are conducted in a manner that is culturally specific and rooted in the community. This means meaningfully engaging in underserved communities, ensuring that excluded voices are included in the process. As such, OVW will prioritize applications in which the lead applicant is a culturally specific, population specific, or a community-based organization. Next slide, please. We are now going to discuss some of the definitions provided by the VAWA reauthorization in 2022.

VAWA defines a Restorative Practice as a practice relating to a specific harm that, one, is community based and unaffiliated with any civil or criminal procedure. In other words, Restorative Practice programs are initiated and administrated through communities outside the legal process. Two, it must be initiated by a victim of the harm. It cannot be initiated by the harm doer or by outside sources. Three, it involves voluntary participation by at least one or more of the victims of the harm, one or more of the harm doers, and one or more representatives of the community affected by the harm. And four, must be completely voluntary without any evidence of coercion or intimidation of the victim, witness, or perpetrator. Participants must willingly choose to enter the restorative procedure, and this includes if there are multiple victims of the harm, individuals who committed the harm, and representatives of the community.

VAWA 2022 also states that Restorative Practices, five, objects should include and have a goal of collectively seeking accountability for one or more individual who committed the harm and developing a written process, whereby one or more individuals who committed the harm will take responsibility for the actions that cause harm to one or more victim of the harm. As part of that project, a course of action plan must be written that is responsive to the needs of one or more victims--one or more victims of the harm and upon which one or more victims of individuals who committed the harm, and the community can agree. There must be a process for the harm doer to take responsibility and to take agreed upon actions. Lastly, VAWA 2022 requires a Restorative Practice, if six, conducted in the victim services framework that protects the safety and support, the autonomy of one or more victims of the harm and the community. That's based on a 34 U.S.C 12541(a)(3).

Victim safety is always a priority at OVW. All programs will be reviewed to ensure they do not compromise victim safety. Technical assistance proposed under this Call for Concept paper should focus on helping grantees of the Restorative Practices Pilot Program design and stand-up community-based restorative practices programs to address domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault, and stalking. All applications must include, but are not limited to assisting organizations, develop policies and procedures for screening the suitability of any individual who committed harm based on a variety of risk factors noted in the solicitation. For example, criminals and civil complaints, parole and probation violations, public safety risk-based on assessment tools, et cetera. Denying eligibility to victims in the program or an individual who has restrictions noted in the solicitation. For example, pending felonies, restraining orders, certain criminal charges, and a conviction, as well as others. And I'll hand it over to Aisha to continue.

AISHA BATTLE: Thank you, Lashonde. Good afternoon. I'm Aisha Battle, and we're going to jump into discussing project funding guidelines.

The total amount allocated for this program is \$3 million. The project period for all awards is 36 months, which includes a 12-month planning phase. OVW anticipates making multiple awards under this call for concept papers. So, it may make only one and if an applicant and its partners propose a project that can successfully meet the goals of the call for concept paper. For projects that focus solely on restorative practices for domestic and dating violence, or solely on restorative practices for sexual assault, applicants can receive up to \$750,000. For projects that address all VAWA crimes, applicants can receive funding up to \$1.5 million. If an applicant seeks to exceed these guidelines, the application must demonstrate that in conjunction with its partners, it has the capacity to provide technical assistance and training for a diverse group of communities nationwide.

We at OVW support collaboration as a cornerstone to any successful project. We expect all recipients and grant funds to collaborate with each other and OVW to ensure that all technical assistance activities assist communities in developing the organizational and staff capacity to implement community-based restorative practices programs. OVW will provide leadership and direction for collaboration. But we also welcome you all to come up with creative and supportive strategies or working together.

Application requirements must be met in order to qualify for funding. All projects must be for a national audience to ensure that TA is accessible to communities all across the country. Be sure to propose a national-oriented project. Your Concept Paper Package worth a total value of 100 points, must include the three following components, the Data Requested with the Application, which can be found in the call for papers, the Project Concept Narrative covering the overall project goals and implementation plan, which should not exceed 10 pages. The Project Narrative should include a description of how the applicant will identify and address grantee trainings, as well as a description of how the project will meaningfully address underserved populations and prioritize victim safety. This will account for 75% of the scoring. A Statement of Expertise highlighting your team's qualifications to implement the project, which should not exceed eight pages. That statement should identify by name, the applicant and partner staff who will develop and implement the project and describe the lead applicants and project partners' philosophy around restorative practice models. You don't utilize by the applicant and any project partners in the past. And in addition, the statement should include how those practices align with the definition of restorative practice in VAWA 2022. This will account for 25% of the scoring. Please do not include additional documents that were not requested in the Call for Concept Papers. This includes resumes, letters of support, articles, budgets, table of contents, appendices, et cetera. They will not be scored or considered.

When submitting your application, please ensure the following -- that all documents are compiled in a single PDF document, that documents are double-spaced with 12-point Times New Roman font, that each section of the document is clearly labeled in bold, that the documents do not include a header, and that each page of the document include a footer with the lead applicant's name and the page number. Please double check that all of these actions have been taken before submitting your application.

So, what happens if you mistakenly submit a proposal multiple times or send four different proposals? OVW will review the most recently submitted by a timestamped, emailed application if it relates to any of the duplicative applications. If you do need to resubmit an application via email before the due date and time, resubmit via email and state in the email which email you would like to remove from review. And indicate the application that should be reviewed. As a reminder, we highly recommend submitting your application a

few days before the deadline, to ensure that you are able to successfully turn your application in without issue.

For OVW's review process, the 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. OVW may elect to conduct virtual or in-person meetings with applicants as part of the review process. OVW may request to--request the participation of proposed project partners and/or consultants in these meetings. And please note, OVW has the final authority to approve, deny, or require specific partners or consultants for the project.

When putting together your proposal, consider the following selection criteria, as OVW will be looking for how you address these key areas during their review – the extent to which the proposal demonstrates a working understanding of restorative practices in diverse communities, 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, the extent to which the project is national in scope. 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 and hard of hearing, and the extent to which the applicant and its key project partners and consultants have the expertise necessary to carry out the project.

After a decision has been made, the project point of contact identified in the summary data sheet or also the data requested with the application will be contacted via the email address provided regarding the outcome of the application. This applies to both successful and unsuccessful applicants. Separate emails will be sent regarding each application submitted. Negotiation of full scope of project, partnership, and budget amount with OVW will take place before final proposals are approved for successful applicants. Also, successful applicants will be required to submit a full proposal through Grants.Gov and JustGrants.

Now, we are going to open the floor for questions and answers. Please take note of the slide where we refer you to the OVW Restorative Justice mailbox for where you will submit applications and ask any questions that come up following this call. Please post questions in the chat box and we will read them out and answer them. Elaina, I see we've got our first question. Could you read it for us?

ELAINA ROBERTS: Yes, I'm sorry about that. The first question that we've got is, "What is the timeline and when do you expect to start this project?" So, I think, David -- and feel free to unmute yourself and ask a clarifying question -- what is the timeline they should be planning for? What month, and how many months other than the 36, should they be planning?

DAVID: Just to clarify, you want to know the timeline of when you expect to be asking for a full proposal and when for the project to actually begin? The 36 months is very clear in the announcement.

DARLENE: Hi, David. This is Darlene. How are you? Long time no hear from?

DAVID: Good to see you, or good to see your name.

DARLENE: Yes. Just real quick -- I should unmute myself. I'm sorry about that. We are working extremely hard. It is our hope that it will be sometime around the fall. You know, like, with any other OVW grant normally we make our announcements by October the 1st and so we're going to try to stay as close as we can with that timeframe, and I don't have anything definitively, but that's what we're shooting for.

DAVID: Great. So, it'd be reasonable to expect that if you were invited for a full proposal that will be happening sometime in the summer.

DARLENE: That's correct. Exactly.

DAVID: Okay, great. Thank you.

ELAINA ROBERTS: And we have additional questions that are coming in. So, I will just go to the next one. Hillary would like to know why given the OVW is seeking--I'm sorry let me read this real quick. A good question here. "Why is OVW in the requirements for the proposals requiring that organizations train prosecutors and court personnel when the project is unaffiliated with the criminal system?"

DEBRA MURPHEY: I can jump in and answer that. So, the Restorative Practices Program in VAWA 2022 essentially provides for three purpose areas. One is grants to fund restorative practices. The second is funds grants for training, and the third is grants for evaluation. Under the training prong, the training is to be for eligible entities that are actually implementing restorative justice and for courts or prosecutors, the grants that will ultimately go in the future, the grants that are going to go toward organizations that are actually implementing restorative justice, those programs have those restorative justice programs have to adhere to the definition of restorative justice that's in VAWA that we reviewed on the slide. So, the training, again, the training portion will be for programs that are implementing RJ under the pilot program and courts and prosecutors. But ultimately, when we fund programs to implement RJ, those programs will adhere to the VAWA definition of RJ, which is going to not include programs that are unaffiliated with the criminal justice system.

DARLENE: Sorry, can I just ask a follow-up?

DEBRA MURPHEY: Uh-hmm.

DARLENE: What is it that we will be required to train them on?

DEBRA MURPHEY: Well, that's what you could put in your proposal -- what you would train them on. Ultimately, the programs that would be implemented in a particular community that we would be funding would be limited to the definition of VAWA. But the training for courts and prosecutors, that would be something you could propose what that's going to look like.

DARLENE: Okay.

ELAINA ROBERTS: Thank you, Debbie, for jumping in on that one. So, some other questions that have come through under this solicitation, "Is the funding received as a reimbursement for the activities being done, or will it be received completely upfront?"

DEBRA MURPHEY: These will be grants, or these will be cooperative agreement. Sorry.

AISHA BATTLE: Yes.

ELAINA ROBERTS: Okay. Just in case there's any confusion, cooperative agreement meaning that you all would decide what the activities would be. And then, as the recipient of the award goes through those activities, they'd be able to draw down the funds for the activities they were completing, is that right?

DARLENE: Yes, because a cooperative agreement means significant involvement, working collaboratively with OVW to implement project goals and objectives. And yes, you get the award, so you have access to the funds, and you draw then those funds based on the work being done at a given time.

ELAINA ROBERTS: All right. Thank you, Darlene.

DARLENE: Uh-hmm.

ELAINA ROBERTS: Aisha or Lashonde, maybe you can speak to this next question. "Can you provide examples--it's not exactly the question, but "what activities are allowed for the people to do during the 12-month planning period? The 12-month planning period, what exactly would that entail?"

AISHA BATTLE: The 12-month planning period -- which I'm not sure for those of you familiar with OVW funding -- all our TA awards come with a planning period. I think we see this 12-month planning period is really an opportunity for us to get to know you all. The restorative practices that whichever organization or organizations are funded are doing to bring you all together, as well as to plan out project activities for those next months. And so, we don't envision any on the groundwork, or necessarily formal TA with any grantees because we're supporting this TA project prior to them going and identifying in competing sites.

ELAINA ROBERTS: Great, thank you.

AISHA BATTLE: And I guess if somebody has additional--if they want to know if some activities won't be allowed, whoever asked that question, you can come up -- I guess there's a particular activity that you are thinking of.

JOHANNA THOMPSON: Oh, no. This is Johanna Thompson with the Florida Restorative Justice Association. And I was just trying to clarify if we would be convening with other people. You helped make it clear that we would be convening with other people to workshop some of the best practices across the field so that we can identify the most effective content to be building out for training. So, that's what I was curious about, what that looks like for that 12-month period, and that's...

AISHA BATTLE: Exactly. Yeah.

JOHANNA THOMPSON: ...exciting. Thank you.

AISHA BATTLE: Exactly. Uh-hmm. So, all about prep. Prepping, uh-hmm.

ELAINA ROBERTS: "Is OVW intending to fund three proposals, one that would be focused on domestic violence, one that would be focused on sexual assault, and one on DVSA and stalking?"

AISHA BATTLE: David that is a good question. This is all contingent upon what we receive, right? We do want to cover the full gamut of the crimes. So, you know, we're really interested in that. So, but I can't give you a definitive number of what that's going to look like. But we want to make sure we have a comprehensive somewhat approach to doing this work that addresses all the problems.

ELAINA ROBERTS: Uh-huh. Here's another – a maybe technical and logistical question. "Do we need to be SAMs"--oh, my gosh and now I'm drawing a blank, so someone jumps in. SAM what that stands for the System Award Management? No. Well, I'll let you all jump in, but "do we need to be registered with SAM in order to receive grant funds? And do any partner organizations need to be registered with SAM?"

DARLENE: As far as I know, jump in Aisha and Lashonde, if I get this wrong. But it's the applicant, right? That has a current SAM registration, again, we talked--yes.

AISHA BATTLE: And they do not need a current SAM registration to submit the call for concept papers.

DARLENE: Call for concept.

AISHA BATTLE: But if you are successful, you would need one in order to submit for formal funding.

DARLENE: And--yeah, exactly.

ELAINA ROBERTS: And once I read this next question, I will look up that website and drop that into the chat just so everyone has the link to that website. The next question is, "Do you anticipate that the awards that are made in response to the solicitation will be the only ones made in the restorative practices area for the next three years? Or do you foresee making other awards during that period? For instance, might you make awards under the campus program in the restorative justice--in the restorative practice area in the next three years or in some point in the future?"

DARLENE: Good question. Lisa, how are you? Yes. Under the Campus Program, there is a purpose area restorative justice. And as you know, our FY 2023 solicitation on the Campus is out on the streets as we speak and so we are eager and excited to receive applications to address restorative justice. This right here is only for the TA and the support of the site. So, if there's any other language that was involved while under any other program, we will be moving forward with those programs and the language as is as far as in those programs, if that makes sense. So, we're not putting the cart before the horse, so we are letting them go out as is and we will receive applications or activities focused on restorative practices, if that makes sense.

DEBRA MURPHEY: I think it's safe to say that we also anticipate making awards for the actual sites that would be implementing restorative practices under the pilot program on restorative practices. So, we sort of view the TA as kind of step one of implementing the new restorative practices program that's in VAWA 2022, but we will then be putting out a solicitation at some point, certainly within the next three years. I don't know exactly when,

but to solicit applicants for sites that will be implementing restorative practices, which will be receiving the TA.

DEBRA MURPHEY: That is developed under this solicitation.

DAVID: Sounds good.

AISHA BATTLE: I think you just answered...

DAVID: Thank you both.

AISHA BATTLE: I think you might have answered the next question too Debbie with that one.

ELAINA ROBERTS: Yeah, I was just going to say just so folks are clear in case you can't see the chat right now, but that the next question is "Who are the recipients of the technical assistance? Are they current folks doing the restorative practices? Will they be potential grantees in the future from OVW doing the restorative practices?"

DEBRA MURPHEY: For this solicitation, for this TA, this is TA that would be provided ultimately to entities that would receive awards to implement RJ programs consistent with the pilot program in VAWA 2022. So, those are the potential grantees and sub-grantees that we're referring to.

ELAINA ROBERTS: So, along those lines, Debbie, another question. "How many sites, then, would we anticipate making awards to? Meaning how many implementation sites are the TAs ultimately likely to support?"

DEBRA MURPHEY: I don't think we know that at this point.

DARLENE: That would likely be something we determined once the organizations were funded in conjunction with the TA.

ELAINA ROBERTS: These are all great questions, everyone. Keep them coming in. Now is the time to clarify while we have all the OVW specialists, including Debbie, our Attorney Adviser.

DEBRA MURPHEY: Yeah. I see another question. "If we participate with TA, would we be able to apply for RJ implementation funds?" I assume what that means is that if you become a TA provider on a restorative practices pilot program, would you then be able to also implement a program? We haven't discussed that, but I would guess the answer is probably no, but we haven't talked about that. Darlene, do you have anything to...

DARLENE: Probably not. That sounds like a little conflict, a little bit, right? To be a TA provider and then also apply for the grant. So, that's not a normal OVW practice to do both under the same program. Any other questions? Scratching your head. This is exciting. Thanks for your interest in the program. You...

DEBRA MURPHEY: I think if it takes too long to type a question in these last few minutes, if anybody wants to just unmute themselves and ask a question that's too difficult to type, I think that would be fine, too.



FEMALE: I have one quick question, just a clarification. Do you anticipate that the implementation grants will be forthcoming for the fiscal year 2023 grants or is this likely to be after like a 2024?

DARLENE: Based on our timeline and trying to get the awards out, it will probably be '24 as far as the site is concerned.

FEMALE: Okay.

DARLENE: Yeah.

FEMALE: Thank you.

DARLENE: Because we want to get TA up and running, we want to get prepared for the site. So, there's a lot of planning, possibly curriculum development, you know, assessment tools, all that type of stuff. We're going to be working with a TA provider to develop that. We don't want to be building the ship as we're trying to support the sites at the same time. So, we want to allow time for supporting diverse communities trying to do this work and so we just need to prepare for that.

FEMALE: Thank you, Darlene.

DARLENE: I can't wait to read the proposal. All these great ideas and all the good stuff. I guess, last call for questions. Oh, we got one. "Can an agency submit a proposal for some part of the work with the hope that they would be paired with partners?" Anne, when you say some part of the work, could you elaborate? Do you mean one of the crime areas or something else?

ELAINA ROBERTS: Anne types in the chat, "For example we train faith communities who may be involved, but we can't take on the whole piece."

DARLENE: So, this seems like a great opportunity. Hi, Anne. How are you? That you may want a partner with someone in your community that's doing the work.

AISHA BATTLE: Thank you all for all of your enthusiasm in the chat and Anne said thank you as well, Darlene. If we don't have any additional questions, we will let this webinar come to a close, and please check on the OVW website in 14 business days for this to be posted. Lashonde has included the restorative justice email address in the chat if anyone would like to send in a question there.

DARLENE: Now, we got one question for Abby. "Should the application be really broad or to cover many communities or more targeted specific communities?" Since this is a national TA project, you would want to demonstrate the breadth of your work, whether it'd be population specific or culturally specific -- it needs to really speak to meeting the needs of diverse communities.

AISHA BATTLE: And the breadth of those...

DARLENE: Yeah.

AISHA BATTLE: ...diverse communities should be reflected in your experience.

DARLENE: I love the questions. You can reach us at any time. Aisha and Lashonde mentioned the [ovw.restorativepractice@usdoj.gov](mailto:ovw.restorativepractice@usdoj.gov).

ELAINA ROBERTS: Restorative Justice.

DARLENE: Restorative Justice, sorry, @usdoj.gov. You can ask us any questions, clarifying questions. We will respond. You have a couple of weeks to really think about this as thoroughly as possible, and we look forward to all the exciting ideas and we will see you on the other side of this.

JOHANNA THOMPSON: Real quick before we go, Darlene, one last question. "When will notifications of success or non-success be given?" And I'm sorry if you might have talked about this earlier.

DARLENE: No, she said that we anticipated it in the summer because we would anticipate that for also successful applicants, they would submit a full proposal in the summer. And so, Johanna, we don't have a specific date since we are doing things internally and we may want to interview virtually or in person applicants and partners. And so, we are just shooting for the summertime, but we do not want to rush this process because we know it has been long wanted and coming and so we just want to make sure that we are being thoughtful and really being thoughtful with your applications as well.

AISHA BATTLE: Probably. Well, if I'm just looking at this answer. Yes. Yeah. So, like I said, we are hoping to make awards sometime in the fall. But we should have some clarity as to what direction we're going in, definitely by the end of the summer. Remember early in the presentation, we talked about like a two-pronged process. And that's it, everybody, enjoy the rest of your day and thank you so much for your interest in the Restorative Practice Project -- TA project.

JOHANNA THOMPSON: Thank you.

DARLENE: Thank you.

DAVID: Thank you.

JOHANNA THOMPSON: Thank you. Thank you.