



SEEKING SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERTS FOR PEER REVIEW

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, seeks qualified individuals to join its pool of subject-matter experts to participate in its peer review process to review applications for grant funding.

What is OVW peer review?

Peer review is the technical and programmatic evaluation of grant applications by a group of subject-matter experts qualified in a particular area relevant to the specific solicitation. The peer review process provides an objective, independent review of applications. Peer reviewers identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas of improvement for applications and rate them to assist with funding decisions. Peer review assessments are advisory in nature.

Each year, generally from February through April, OVW convenes panels (usually 3 individuals each) of experts and practitioners in the areas of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking to review more than 1,000 grant applications. Since 1995, OVW has awarded more than \$6 billion in grants and cooperative agreements to enable communities to support local efforts to respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking including: provide legal assistance and other services to victims; provide intensive training to police officers, prosecutors, and judges; and enforce protection orders.

Who are OVW peer reviewers?

OVW peer reviewers may include victim advocates, judges, prosecutors, police officers, legal professionals, and others with expertise on issues such as tribal communities, colleges and universities, rural areas, urban areas, disabled and elderly populations, and service provision to victims, including those provided by the faith community, as they relate to violence against women. Although some peer reviewers are expert consultants on violence against women issues, the vast majority of peer reviewers are active practitioners or recent retirees from the professions mentioned above. OVW does not use professional peer reviewers because it is our goal to have applications reviewed by individuals with up-to-date and on-the-ground knowledge of violence against women issues.

What are the duties of a peer reviewer?

Selected peer reviewers will be assigned to a panel to review and evaluate 10 or more applications and participate in either a 3-day or 5-day in-person review in Washington, DC, or in a consensus call panel review. Reviewers are required to independently review all assigned applications and then discuss them as a panel. The primary purpose of a panel is to discuss in detail how the applicant responded to the solicitation criteria, and to identify and resolve areas of stark disagreement. To the extent possible, reviewers should attempt to reach consensus on the merits of each application. Through the panel discussion, reviewers contribute to a written consensus report for each application.

Are peer reviewers compensated?

OVW peer reviewers receive compensation of \$125 per application. The experience of serving on a peer review panel provides reviewers further nonmonetary benefits in terms of professional experience and service. Because OVW is a government agency with a critical mission of strengthening the nation's capacity to reduce violence and hold offenders accountable, peer review also offers the opportunity to provide a valuable public service.

How are peer reviewers chosen?

Each year a number of factors determine the specific qualifications (i.e., area of expertise, profession, availability) and the number of peer reviewers needed by OVW. These factors include the Congressional appropriations for a given OVW grant program and the number of applications received in response to a particular solicitation. **Prior experience as a peer reviewer is not required.** If you are interested in becoming an OVW peer reviewer, please email a copy of your **current resume or curriculum vitae** and a completed **Peer Reviewer Recruitment Form** to ovwpeerreview@usdoj.gov. Note: Submission of this information **does not** guarantee that you will be selected. For additional details and to access the **Peer Reviewer Recruitment Form**, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/peer-review>.

Updated October 19, 2016

Office on Violence Against Women, www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs, (202) 307-6026