

## Transcript for “Pre-Application JFF Recorded Information Session

### **(SLIDE 1) Title: OVW Justice for Families: FY 2017 Pre-application Information Session**

This pre-application information session is for the Justice for Families Program solicitation that was posted on or about December 1, 2016. It is strongly recommended that you read the full solicitation prior to listening to this information session.

**(SLIDE 2)** Application submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on January 12, 2017. Applications will be submitted through Grants.gov.

**(SLIDE 3)** The Grants to Support Families in the Justice System program (referred to as the Justice for Families Program) was authorized in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2013 to improve the response of all aspects of the civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, or in cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse. The program supports the following activities for improving the capacity of communities and courts to respond to impacted families: court-based and court-related programs; supervised visitation and safe exchange by and between parents; training and technical assistance for people who work with families in the court system; civil legal services; provision of resources in juvenile court matters; and development or promotion of legislation, model codes, policies, and best practices.

OVW is interested in funding projects that take a coordinated approach to helping families victimized by sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as they navigate the justice system. In order to help achieve this coordinated approach, applicants may propose either a standard project or a comprehensive project.

**(SLIDE 4)** Purpose areas included are: 1—supervised visitation, 3—training for court-based and court-related personnel, 4—juvenile court resources, 5—court and court-based programs and services, 6—civil legal assistance, and 8—training within civil justice system.

**(SLIDE 5)** For projects addressing purpose area 6 (civil legal assistance) if more than 50% of the project activities and budget is allocated for civil legal assistance then it would be better suited to the OVW Legal Assistance for Victims Program, which applications are solicited annually.

**(SLIDE 6)** Standard Project: Applicants must propose activities under purpose area number 1 or 5. If an applicant is proposing to provide supervised visitation/safe exchange services (purpose area 1), the applicant must also propose activities under at least one additional purpose area. The Courts purpose area (purpose area 5) can be addressed on its own, or in combination with another purpose area.

Comprehensive Project: Applicants must propose activities under purpose areas 1 (supervised visitation), 5 (courts), and 6 (civil legal services).

**(SLIDE 7)** OVW Priority Areas: Applications proposing activities in the following areas will be given special consideration during the review process:

1. Strengthen and revitalize coordinated community response and multi-disciplinary teams, prioritizing those that meaningfully involve organizations and programs that focus on marginalized communities.
2. Meaningfully increase access to OVW programming for specific underserved populations (based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or age)
3. Increase the use of promising or evidence-building practices, where available

An underserved population means populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the Attorney General or by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate. Additionally, while there is no standard definition associated with this priority (2), the priority invites a meaningful response demonstrating an authentic commitment to better reaching populations in the applicant's community that face greater barriers to safety and justice than others. Applicants targeting the priority area should clearly document why the particular population is marginalized in their community and show that they have the capacity to address the priority effectively.

**(SLIDE 8)** Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery: Please review carefully for all purpose areas and applications that propose activities that compromise victim safety and recovery may receive a deduction in point during the review process or may be eliminated from further consideration entirely.

Out of scope activities: Please review carefully and note that an application that is deemed to be substantially out-of-scope, proposes a substantial number of activities that are unallowable, or proposes activities that pose a significant threat to victim safety or a serious breach of confidentiality will not be considered for funding.

**(SLIDE 9)** The Summary Data Sheet should include all information requested. Please note the difference between #5 (Appendix E) and #7 (Appendix D). Appendix D is a summary of all current and recent OVW-funded projects. Appendix E is a summary of current and pending non-OVW grants to do the same or similar work. Additionally, for #10 (percentage of grant activities addressing the issues) the total percentage of grant activities should not exceed 100%. Additionally, please be sure to include whether your project is a standard or comprehensive project in #11. For #12 and #13, please state if either is not applicable, because the lead applicant is such an entity for the nonprofit domestic violence or sexual assault victim service program or court.

**(SLIDE 10)** The grant award period is 36 months. Budgets must reflect 36 months of project activity, and the total "estimated funding" on the SF-424 must reflect 36 months. Generally, the award period will start on October 1, 2017.

Funding levels under the Justice for Families Program for FY 2017 are as follows:

1. Standard projects: up to \$550,000
2. Comprehensive projects: up to \$700,000

OVW estimates that it will make up to 18 standard grant awards and 3-5 comprehensive grant awards for an estimated \$11,000,000.

**(SLIDE 11)** For the types of applicants, please pay particular attention to the types of applicants as this has changed from previous years.

Those considered new applicants are those that have never received funding under the Justice for Families Program, including current and former Safe Havens and Courts grantees.

Continuation applicants are those that have an existing or recently closed (within the last 12 months) award under the Justice for Families Program (i.e. FY 2014 Justice for Families grantees) and meet the eligibility requirements. Continuation funding is not guaranteed.

Additionally, continuation applicants with a substantial amount of remaining funds, more than 50%, at the time of application submission without adequate justification may not be considered for funding in FY 2017.

Please note that Grant recipients that received funding under the Justice for Families Program for 36 months in FY 2015 or FY 2016 are NOT eligible to apply.

**(SLIDE 12)** Eligible applicants are limited to: states, units of local government, courts (including juvenile courts), Indian tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, legal services providers, and victim service providers.

**(SLIDE 13)** Certification requirements are outlined for all purpose areas and Appendix F has a chart identifying which types of projects require which statutory certifications. Appendices also have sample certification letters for each requirement. Certification letters should be separate documents and each signed by the authorizing official.

**(SLIDE 14)** The Justice for Families Program requires partnerships. All applicants for the Justice for Families Program must include formal partnerships with both 1) a nonprofit domestic violence or sexual assault victim services provider and 2) a court. Applications that do not include a victim services provider and a court, either as the lead applicant or as partners, will not be eligible for Justice for Families Program funding.

**(SLIDE 15)** Please keep in mind that a victim service provider is defined as a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization, tribal organization, or rape crisis center, including a state or tribal domestic violence and/or sexual assault coalition, domestic violence shelter, faith-based organization, or other organization, with a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Victim service providers should meet all of the following criteria: 1) provide direct services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking as one of their primary purposes and have a demonstrated history of effective work in this field; 2) address a demonstrated need in their communities by providing services that promote the dignity and self-sufficiency of victims, improve their access

to resources, and create options for victims seeking safety from perpetrator violence; and 3) do not engage in or promote activities that compromise victim safety.

**(SLIDE 16)** Applicants intending to apply for FY 2017 funding under this program are strongly encouraged to submit a letter of registration. The letter should state that the applying organization is registered and current with SAM and with [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov). The letter should be submitted to OVW at [OVW.JFF@USDOJ.GOV](mailto:OVW.JFF@USDOJ.GOV) by December 22, 2016. This will ensure that the applicant is well-positioned to successfully submit a proposal by the application deadline. This letter will not obligate the applicant to submit an application. Interested applicants who do not submit a Letter of Registration are still eligible to apply. See [Appendix B](#) for a sample Letter of Registration.

**(SLIDE 17)** Under the Application requirements please note that there are a few differences between standard and comprehensive projects. Standard projects have a 20 page limit while comprehensive projects have a 25 page limit. Additionally, budgets must include funds to attend OVW-sponsored training and technical assistance in the amount of \$20,000 for standard projects and \$25,000 for comprehensive projects for states and \$25,000 for standard projects and \$30,000 for comprehensive projects for territories, Hawaii and Alaska.

**(SLIDE 18)** Recipients of OVW funds must comply with applicable federal civil rights laws, which among other things prohibit recipients from discriminating on the basis of national origin and disability. This includes taking reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to grantees' programs and activities for individuals with disabilities, Deaf individuals, and persons with limited English proficiency. To meet this priority, applications must include activities designed to ensure accessibility and costs to support those activities. Additionally, applicants must include funds in their budget of a minimum of \$5,000 or include other resources available to support activities to ensure access for individuals with disabilities, Deaf individuals, and persons with limited English proficiency.

**(SLIDE 19)** Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): The MOU is a document containing the terms of the partnership and the roles and responsibilities between two or more parties. The MOU should be a single document with all appropriate signatures. Memoranda of Understanding must be current for this solicitation and the project you are proposing. Courts that are precluded from signing onto an MOU may submit letters of commitment in lieu of an MOU. If the court is the lead applicant, all project partners may also submit letters of commitment. If the lead applicant is not the court, the court then may submit a letter of commitment but all other project partners should sign the MOU.

Applicants must have formal partnerships, delineated in the MOU (or letters of commitment) with both 1) a domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim services provider and 2) a court. Applications without the required partnerships may be eliminated from consideration for funding.

Please follow the criteria for either the MOU or Letter of Commitment and include all required information. Note that letters of commitment submitted in lieu of an MOU by any entity besides a court as the lead applicant, project partners if the court is the lead applicant, or the court as a partner will **not** be accepted.

**(SLIDE 20)** Again applications are due 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on January 12, 2017. It is strongly suggested you start the submission process at least 48 hours but no later than 24 hours before January 12, 2017. Applications submitted after 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on January 12, 2017, will not be considered for funding.

**(SLIDE 21)** Please review the solicitation carefully and contact OVW with any questions regarding the solicitation by either calling OVW at (202) 307-6026 or email [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov). If you need technical assistance with Grants.gov please contact the grants.gov Customer Support Line at 1-800-518-4726.