



## U.S. Department of Justice

Office on Violence Against Women  
Washington, DC 20530

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February 9, 2017

Dear OVW Grantees and Friends:

I hope this email finds you well.

Although it is only one month old, 2017 has already been a very busy year as we transition from one administration to another. “Transition” can be stressful and anxiety producing, even for those of us who have been through a number of them.

As you know, as part of this particular transition the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) said goodbye to Bea Hanson and Rosie Hidalgo. When [Bea Hanson’s tenure at OVW ended on January 20, 2017](#), after more than 5 years at the helm of our office, I was honored to be selected to temporarily serve as Acting Director until new leadership is appointed. I will also continue to oversee grant development and management in my permanent role as Deputy Director.

Over the years, OVW has been fortunate to have been led by amazing individuals committed to ending violence against women. They have each inspired us and our work in different ways; and we look forward to welcoming our new leadership when they arrive. Although we do not know when new political appointments will be made, we do know that the work to end sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking continues with each one of us. Know that we continue to be a resource for you and a partner with you. In that regard, also please know that there has not been nor will there be a slowdown of work in OVW. We know that you depend on the funds that we are able to award in order to do the life-saving work that you do; and we are committed as always to making awards in as quickly and efficiently as possible.

With our mission in mind, OVW continues to move forward on our FY 2017 grant award processes. As you may have realized over the last several years, we have been making an effort to release our solicitations on a timeline that better ensures that grants awards can be made before the end of the fiscal

year and that budgets can be cleared as early as possible. In this spirit, we began releasing our FY 2017 discretionary solicitations in November 2016 as we have done for the last few years. At this writing, all of our FY 2017 discretionary solicitations have been released. We hope to release our formula solicitations slightly earlier than we have in recent years, and formula grant recipients will be notified of those dates. At present, federal agencies, including OVW, are operating under a “partial” Continuing Resolution (CR), which provides pro-rated funding through April 28, 2017, based on the agency’s FY 2016 appropriation. As always while operating under a partial CR, our final award decisions will depend upon the appropriation for the remaining, in this case, five months of the fiscal year. In order to ensure that we are ready to make awards whenever the final FY 2017 appropriation is passed, OVW program specialists are moving forward with our timeline as planned. Solicitations have begun to close, and we are gearing up for the first peer reviews in just a couple of weeks.

Also, I know that some of you are still waiting for your FY 2016 budgets to be cleared. Please know that both our financial analysts and program specialists are working diligently to clear budgets. Our Grants Financial Management Unit (GFMU) suffered a slight staffing set back this year, but for all of the best reasons. We have three new additions to the GFMU family. Unfortunately, all three are still not eating solid food, sleeping through the night, or allowing their parents to sleep through the night. The remaining GFMU staff are plugging away, and the team should be back at full strength in another month. So please bear with us. As always, if there is an urgent need, particularly one that impacts someone’s employment or pay, please reach out to your program specialist or someone else on the OVW staff, including me.

Finally, I’d like to announce some changes to OVW staff. As January 2017 came to an end, we also came to the end of Lorraine Edmo’s time with OVW, as she retired from federal service. As many of you know, for more than 10 years, Lorraine served as OVW’s first Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs. She worked with 6 different Directors; and, with each one, she ensured that they were informed about the needs of Tribal communities and Native women. Over the years, the Tribal Division, like the rest of OVW, has struggled with staffing shortages, but Lorraine persevered – never shirking from managing grants herself if that was what was needed. We at OVW will miss her always calm demeanor and endless knowledge about Indian Country. We know that you join us in wishing her all the best and in hoping that we will be working with her again in her next venture.

Because of Lorraine and Bea’s shared commitment to Indian Country and concern about leaving OVW without a Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs, they worked diligently to identify Lorraine’s potential successor. I am very happy to announce that as of February 6, 2017, OVW has a new Deputy Director for

Tribal Affairs - Sherriann C. Moore. Sherriann brings with her a wealth of experience at both the federal and tribal government levels. Her chosen career path exemplifies the commitment to the needs of Tribes and Native women that Lorraine exemplified and that we all feel is so critical for someone serving in this role. Sherriann has spent the last decade working for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In 2004 she joined HHS Indian Health Services (IHS) as the Deputy to the Chief Executive Officer of the IHS Service Unit in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. In 2010 she moved to the IHS headquarters in Rockville, Maryland where she most recently served as the Deputy Director of the Office of Urban Indian Health Programs. We are very excited and fortunate to have Sherriann join the OVW family.

We have also had some internal movement. Last year we re-created the position of Training and Technical Assistance Team Lead, and that position is now held by Neelam Patel, formerly of the Legal Assistance for Victims Unit. Neelam will be reaching out to grantees and TA providers alike to explore TA needs. I am also happy to announce two other Team Leads, Latinisha Lewis and Melissa Schmisek. Latinisha will be focusing on our discretionary programs in her Team Lead role and Melissa will be focusing on the needs of our formula programs.

I am sure that you have many more questions than can be answered in one email. As the new administration settles in, we will provide answers as they become available. I encourage you to reach out to your OVW program specialist or someone else on OVW's staff, including myself, and we will do our best to answer your questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nadine M. Neufville', written in a cursive style.

Nadine M. Neufville  
Acting Director