

DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone. And welcome to today's webinar, FY 2023 Field-Generated Solicitation: Increasing Options and Expanding Access for Victims of Crime, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime.

At this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Silvia Torres, Victim Justice Program Specialist with OVC to begin the presentation. Silvia? Oh, your line is muted, Silvia.

SILVIA TORRES: Thank you, Daryl. Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Silvia Torres. This--I am a Victim Justice Program Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime, and I am overseeing this solicitation. I thank you for your interest in joining us today in this webinar. And I appreciate, you know, obviously your time.

We are going to start by looking at the--give you a little overview of OVC's mission and the highlights for the solicitation. Talk a little bit about the processes and the tools available to you, and then we'll turn it over for questions. And, hopefully, I will have the answers. But if I don't have the answers, we'll be sure that they are answered through our systems.

So for those of you that are--may not be familiar with OVC or--that's our acronym. That stands for the Office for Victims of Crime. We are committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for victims of crime. To that end, we have several programs, including programs for tribal communities; state and victim compensation programs; training and technical assistance; as well as information resources. We assist also victims of international terrorism and mass violence; as well as survivors of human trafficking; and other projects such as this, which fall under our discretionary programs.

For fiscal year 2023, it's anticipated that, obviously, we'll receive close to \$2 billion. And this is kind of the distribution of what we do with those funds. As you can see, the yellow part is for discretionary programs, which is this little part of the pie, yet we are able to do fantastic work, such as this field-generated solicitation.

So I'm going to talk a little bit, like I said, a little bit before, about the eligibility, how to apply, and the processes to apply.

For eligibility for this funding opportunity, as you can see in this slide, it encompasses almost all institutions, except individuals. We do encourage applicants to consider partnering with other organizations that may complement the experience or the competencies required to apply under this solicitation, and that will be done through normally subawards. And just as a reminder, all institutions must forego any--the--any profits.

Again, this is a field-generated solicitation to address or--any challenges that--or gaps in victim services and to propose solutions to those challenges and gaps in service through--and the most important thing, innovative, cost-effective, and/or pragmatic

solutions. So it's really wide open to your identification of those gaps in your communities or in the communities that you serve, and to address and propose solutions to those gaps. There's no limitation as to what you can propose under the-- under this solicitation.

Again, the idea behind this program is to increase the access to victim services, especially for underheard or underrepresented communities or just to improve the way the information is delivered to those crime victims. We're looking for, perhaps, new or promising practices for the field. And--like last year, we--for example, we funded a program to look for diversion programs for victims of domestic violence that may again commit other misdemeanor offenses, so that they don't go through the system, instead that victim can be provided the services that they needed in order to, kind of, give them a second chance or a third chance, whatever chance that is, and not go through the system, but address the issues underlying those offenses as a result of the trauma of going through DV. That's just one of the examples that I can think of, but it is obviously up to you to come up with any proposal that you may see feasible under this program.

These are--in this slide, these are the areas of particular interest to see. We want to, as I said before, increase access to victim services, but in particular our interest is with persons with disabilities. Also, kind of a specialized services that address victims of crime or culturally relevant and culturally specific services for those communities. And, like we are saying, demonstration programs or innovative programs to increase the service options or expand the access from other disciplines. And the slide just has those, examples of what those disciplines may look like. Again, that's just amongst others.

Talking about the objectives and the deliveries--deliverables. I'm sorry. So, if your project narrative demonstrates the need and there has been assessments conducted previously, you can cite those assessments. But if you need to conduct that survey or that instances to support the data and the research, then you would need--you would--that would be one of your objectives. You can also take a look at the existing services in identifying the problem intended to be addressed. I have to highlight that or call to your attention that project evaluation is a requirement under this program. So you may want to partner with a university or a consultant to conduct that evaluation. We also expect you to have a steering committee that will advise you throughout the implementation of the project, provide input. And sometimes in that it's great as you are implementing the program and you can see that there might be some tweaking to do to the program to just enhance it or to ensure that the program is successful. As with any of our OVC awards, you would have to produce a final report. But the difference is, in this final report, would document how you implemented the program, the strategies, and if the project met the goals that you had proposed initially.

Now, let's switch over to priority areas. Under Executive Order 13985, we have, obviously, two--I'm sorry. Not obviously, but two consideration areas, as you can see, A and B. A is to promote racial equity and the removal of barriers to access and provide opportunities for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized,

and adversely affected by inequality. And the second one is to demonstrate the capabilities and competencies for implementing their proposed project by including a recipient in--via--which is going to be demonstrated via your budget, because you would have to devote, at least, 40 percent of the requested award amount towards that subagreement.

In terms of our expected awards, we expect to make about, give or take, four awards, and the maximum amount for each of the awards will be \$500,000. We--and the--normally, we start our awards on October 1st of the current fiscal year. So in this case October 1, 2023, for a 3-year period. And, obviously, that total amount under this solicitation is \$2 million.

So how do you submit your application? How do you apply for this application?

So the application is comprised of three major components. The first one is your Abstract. The second one is your Proposal Narrative. And the third is your Budget, your Budget and your Budget Narrative. All these are done on a web-based form through our software system for grants management that is called JustGrants. As you can see, the purpose of that is--one of the most important pieces of these application components, because the--what you see in parentheses, for instance, the Statement of the Problem under the Proposal Narrative, has 15 percent. That means when the reviewers are going through your applications, 15 percent of that score that the reviewer assigns will be for the Statement of the Problem. The Project Design and Implementation, we assign 45 percent of that score. The third is Capabilities and Competencies, comprising 20 percent of that total score. And then the Plan for Collecting Data has another 10 percent. The Budget Worksheet is 10 percent. However, even though it's 10 percent, the budget also has to be aligned with what you're trying to do, right? So--even though it's 10 percent of the--of that review award. I must emphasize also that all three components have to be submitted in order for the application to move forward to peer review. If any of these three components are not included, then the application will not be reviewed.

The Proposal Abstract. I think you can--if you take a look at the solicitation that were featured for this program, it talks--it has this detailed information as to what a Proposal Abstract is and as shown in this slide. So, if you need to, just get--go back to that solicitation for pre--for information about that.

Again, the Proposal Narrative, as I--as I talked about it earlier, this is pretty important because this is when--your opportunity to describe what problem you see, what communities need to be served, what gaps in service do you see, and how would you identify those underheard or underserved communities. You will talk about your geographic area and the--include that data or evidence to support the proposed project. And keep in mind that if there is no data to support that--sometimes, you know, there are newspaper articles, citings through journals or commentaries, right, that demonstrate that need. So, so many topics are so relevant yet don't have that strong

data. But still, you know, take a look at all possibilities, if you don't have that data readily available.

These are some suggestions as to how to write your project narrative, meaning your--describe your design and your implementation. So, obviously, writing is a part of it. But, also, when you're concise and clear, you're brief, that is easier for the reader to follow and to understand your ideas clearly. And please remember to address which--if you're applying for a priority area, which priority area you're applying for in this section as well.

Your--In this section, your capabilities and competencies. This is where you describe, obviously, the experience that as an organization or the staff that you're having as key personnel to conduct the project. And if you are also partnering with other organizations, it's also very important to include their experience, their competencies, and if they have assigned--or not assigned, but personnel already in mind for this project, by all means, please include their resumes. And describe that experience and that skillfulness that they have that makes them a great partner for you.

The--in the--still, we are talking about the Proposal Narrative and we are doing the data collection. So in the solicitation, you will see that there is a reference to where you can find the performance measures for this particular program. So in this section, you will be describing who is going to be collecting that data. If you have a subawardee, how that subawardee or subrecipient is going to share that data with you. And how are you going to utilize that data to describe or evaluate the project's impact? And, also, if you have somebody or a system to do quality and assurance, also, please describe that in that--in that section of the solicitation.

Now, moving on to your budget. We always say use the SMART approach, right? So be specific. Use computations, obviously, to ensure that the costs are measurable. That they are attainable. That they are relevant. Relevant in terms of--also, again, to your narrative, right? And make sure that it's time-bound, meaning you have to include a budget. So if you are proposing to conduct this project for 36 months, that budget has to have a 3-year budget. Individual budgets. Year one, year two, year three. That's key to that as well.

So what additional documents do you need to apply? I recommend looking at the application checklist, the submission checklist and follow--make sure they follow all the recommended documents to attach to that application. The documents, by the way, are--as an attachment, right? They're not to be a part of any of these three components that we just described.

This, just for your own information, these are the common reasons why reviewers may score applications somewhat low. And, again, we talked about how important it is for you to be concise and to be really like--attainable goals. So when that doesn't happen, when we don't find that in the applications, the reviewers, obviously, tend to score those applications a little low. That's just something to think about.

In terms of the application process...

We have a two--a two-step process to apply for any of our funding opportunities. So the first one is comprised of the submission of your SF-424 and your SF-LLL. I believe that's lobbying. That part--And you can kind of create like the application skeleton as you call it. And that's done through Just--through Grants.gov. That part is due, and this is a key date, June 5, 2023 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time. Once you submit that, that's part A.

Part B or part two is to submit your full application with all the components that we have described, plus your attachments. And that's done through our system that I mentioned, called JustGrants.gov. That application is due June 12th. And please keep in mind, the timing is different. Time for that--full applications to be submitted in JustGrants is 8:59 PM Eastern Time.

So, as a reminder, before you can--if you are a new entity applying for DOJ grants or any government grants, I mean, for--at this point, you must be registered in SAM.gov. That's your first step prior to even being able to submit the part one through Just--through Grants.gov. The application may take a little bit, so I recommend giving yourself time, at least a week--10 days to register in SAM.gov or to renew that registration. So take a look at--depending on where you are, your institution is a new or an existing institution, but just double-check that date that your registration in SAM.gov is valid.

Then this--and I think the--yeah. A couple slides that I'm going to be going over, just provides you with key contact information for technical assistance. Technical assistance for SAM.gov, Grants.gov.

As well as technical assistance with JustGrants. I have to admit, the system is a little bit tricky, if you're not familiar with it. I, myself, still struggle sometimes with some of the steps that I have to do in many of the pre- and post-award. So we have one for technical assistance to help you with any of those issues as well.

And if you have any issues, for instance, when you are about to submit your application, you run into a technical issue that prevents you from submitting your application in time, I encourage you to please get in touch with the OJP Response Center and document that you--that call and everything. Because if you need to ask for a waiver, we need evidence that you did, it was in fact a technical assistance issue--a technical issue, and that you have that documentation about your contacting the technical assistance program for that.

Again, most of our forms now are web-based, through JustGrants. So all your Abstract, your solicitation, budget, and your Disclosure of Duplication Costs are all done web-based.

Resources. We have tons of resources available for you.

There is the DOJ--I'm sorry. OJP, the [Grant Application Resource Guide](#). It's a wonderful resource full of guidance as to what--for every step of the application process. It's pretty good. Pretty easy. Sorry. Let me go back. I find it very well-done; simple and with lots of good information about that.

Then we have--you also have information about performance measures. Each program has performance measures. So this is where you can get information as to what you need to do, what data you need to gather, and--as well as the progress report, how are the performance report done and how to do it. That is scored.

Then there is also--I think there are pre-recorded webinars that we did. There are-- There is a three-part webinar in particular that talks about what to do to get ready to apply for any of our grant opportunities, how to build your budget, and how to put your application package together, and then what are the next steps after you submit that package.

We also have resources about our [current funding opportunities](#).

And this one is pretty important, [News From OVC](#). That's a really good resource. I don't know if many of you already have subscribed, but this is just to keep up with our funding opportunities and [webinar](#) schedules, etc.

And along with that is also the [DOJ Program Plan](#). That gives you an idea as to what programs are going to be funded in that particular fiscal year. So if you subscribed to that or if you take a look at that, you're kind of well-informed and, you know, well-prepared for any funding opportunity that you may see yourself applying for.

And here is ways to get--you know, stay connected with us, OVC, through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#).

And I think it's time for me to turn it over to Daryl for any questions that you may have. Thank you for your time again.

DARYL FOX: Thanks so much, Silvia. And for everybody on today's webinar, just a reminder that the PowerPoint, the transcript, and recording will be posted to the OVC website, so you'll be able to go back, reference what was spoken to today. You'll receive an email where and--when and where to locate those. If you do have a question, far bottom right, three dots, hit Q&A, select All Panelists, and we'll be able to get through those with the plenty of time we have left.

So the first question is, "Can the proposal be submitted by a 501(c)(3) research organization as the prime with the service provider as a subrecipient?"

SILVIA TORRES: Yes. It depends on the proposal. In your proposal, if you see that the research organization should be first and the service provider as a subrecipient; however, please keep in mind that by statute--by our funding statutes, we cannot fund

research. So if you're--even though you--it sounds like you are a research organization. You may conduct non--and your proposal will not be for funding any type of research, then by all means. That's--we defer that to you. Any other questions, Daryl?

DARYL FOX: That's the end of the queue at this time, but we'll go ahead and just hang on. If you do have a question, please enter that in. And while we're waiting, I'll also--oh.

"For this award, is OVC imagining the assessment of a current program and the development of additional resources for it? Or to better understand an approach more broadly, not from a specific program standpoint and then develop resources to respond to the identified needs?" That question is in the chat, Silvia. I don't know if that's...

SILVIA TORRES: Could he--could you--hmm. I'm trying to understand a little bit better. Could you repeat that question to make sure I understood that correctly?

DARYL FOX: Certainly. And two parts really. "So for the award, is OVC imagining the assessment of a current program and the development of additional resources for it?"

SILVIA TORRES: It depends. It depends what you--if you are conducting a current assessment and, for some reason, you want to expand on that assessment, that could be a possibility. Obviously, not to duplicate or to repeat the same assessment, right? That would not be something that we would fund. As long as it's--I could see the expanding assessment, and you would have to explain why you need to expand the current assessment. And, Daryl, you say--could you please repeat the second part of that question?

DARYL FOX: Yeah. The second part is, "Or is the OVC imagining to better understand an approach more broadly, not from a specific program perspective, and then develop resources to respond to identified needs?"

SILVIA TORRES: I think, obviously, this program is primarily designed for your second statement. But the first one is still feasible as long as you can support with data why you would need to assess the current program. So as long as you can describe the need and the gap in services, you could make that proposal. If you feel the need--the--or you can propose that new component, that would be preferable but not required, obviously. Daryl, I--from the--what I can see in the chat, when I answered about the research organization, I see that they had a followup question. May I answer it?

DARYL FOX: Oh, certainly. Yeah.

SILVIA TORRES: Okay. So I think they are asking, "if they can be the primary applicant."

The research organization can be the primary applicant, because--if they fall within the eligibility criteria, which I believe I--it's pretty comprehensive; except for individuals. So unless you're an individual--but I don't think so because you said you are a research

organization. Because by statute we cannot fund research, if you're proposing something other than research, then, yes, obviously, you can apply as being the primary applicant with--and come in with a partner, if that's what you think will best implement the project that you are proposing. I hope that's clear. Daryl any other questions?

DARYL FOX: Yeah. A few. "Are current grantees on the F--OVC FY '22, Enhancing Access to Victim Services, eligible to apply for this particular opportunity?"

SILVIA TORRES: So--yeah. So if you take a look at the application, we did not include--or preclude fiscal year 2022 grantees under this program to apply. So, as long as you are proposing a brand new project, totally different from what the project that you received funding for, yes, you can apply.

DARYL FOX: This may be a little too specific into one's proposal. I may have to refer to the OJP Response Center. But, "Implementing a new social work position within a police department, we have a complete community needs assessment, then evaluating the effectiveness of that position, is that something that would fall under eligibility for this solicitation?"

SILVIA TORRES: I believe all institutions are eligible to apply under this solicitation. And, again, if you can justify that in your proposal, that would be perfectly fine to apply for that.

DARYL FOX: Yeah. And, also, you know, as mentioned, if we do conclude today and you have additional questions, the OJP Response Center--for anything programmatic-related. So grants@ncjrs.gov is who you'll need to contact. And, oftentimes, they'll work directly with OVC program staff in creating those responses. So that's the official medium to contact for specific questions regarding the proposals.

Nothing else in the queue at this time. We still have a few more moments today.

"Is there any parameters of--with OVC seeking in relation to this as far as innovative ideas or anything like that or is it more broad in scope?"

SILVIA TORRES: No. No. The--again, we have this program a few years ago and then we were able to bring it back. The idea is to be your ideas, because you are in the field, you are in touch with communities, you know what gaps exist. So this is your opportunity to tell us what those needs are and how you see like a feasible solution to address those needs and those gaps. But it's also like coming up with new models and new programs. Right? It doesn't have to be anything within a certain limitation. I think the only limitation, like I mentioned earlier in this Q&A session, is that we cannot fund research. And we also must--going a little bit outside, but in terms of, for instance, legal services, we can only fund civil defense. So those are the parameters. But I--this is very, very open in terms of the scope and in terms of the topics that you can propose. I love this type of program because it really brings--it's out of the box. Let's put it that way. And in has brought--like I am--I am managing three programs that applied and

were selected. And very unique. And, you know, I can see the need for those type of programs. So if you see something that hasn't been funded yet or you do see the need, you know, this is the opportunity, through this program.

DARYL FOX: That's all the questions in the queue at this time. So anything in closing, Silvia, you wanted to mention?

SILVIA TORRES: No. I think--again, I appreciate your interest in this program. I hope you apply for this program. And I hope you find the information through this webinar useful as you prepare your applications. And, you know...

DARYL FOX: Actually...

SILVIA TORRES: ...we look forward to receiving them. Thank you for your time. Thank you, Daryl.

DARYL FOX: And actually, Silvia, there's a couple questions that did come in during...

SILVIA TORRES: Oh, sure. Yeah.

DARYL FOX: ...that we can get to. "So just clarifying, OVC is not--will not fund programs that handle criminal cases. Is that correct?"

SILVIA TORRES: Only civil cases.

DARYL FOX: And--well, related. I'll just ask it again. "Can a victims unit at a prosecutor's office apply for this solicitation?"

SILVIA TORRES: It all depends on the type of cases that they handle. Like we cannot fund tort or criminal offenses.

DARYL FOX: And I went ahead and put the eligibility slide back up, Silvia. Where they can reference that.

SILVIA TORRES: Yes. Thank you. Okay.

DARYL FOX: Okay. So on behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime and our panelist, we want to thank you for joining today's presentation. This will end today's webinar.