

DARYL FOX: Good afternoon everyone, and welcome to the OVC FY 2022 “Pre-Application Education Webinar Series Part Four, Upcoming Funding Opportunities,” hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, it’s my pleasure to introduce Jessica Andrew, Victim Justice Program Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime with some welcoming remarks and introduction. Jessica?

JESSICA ANDREW: Thank you, Daryl. And as Daryl mentioned, my name is Jessica Andrew, and I have the honor of working with OVC’s Tribal Division, and will be assisting today with the polling questions and monitoring the Q&A.

Before we get started today’s webinar, we would like to get an idea of who is in the room and your experience working with OVC. So we have two polling questions up on the screen. The first question is asking, what category best describes your position. Department, or agency, or Administrator, Manager, are you a Victim Service Program Manager or staff, a Grant Writer, Grant Consultant, a Federal Staff member, or other, so if you could please select the best option. And if your title is not listed, feel free to answer that into the chat as well. Our second question is have you applied for OVC funding before? And the responses are, yes, my agency has successfully received funding, yes, however, my agency has not received funding before. Or you can also select no, my agency has never applied for OVC funding, and if you’re unsure, you may also select I’m not sure if my agency has ever applied. And we’ll give that about another 15 seconds or so to enter in your responses. Great. Thank you so much.

And we’re going to be closing the poll now. And great. Now, we can see the polling results. So we do have a large group that are joining us with today, many Grant Writers, people serving within the Victim Service Program, and other staff, so thank you for that. And we also see that a lot of who are joining us today have experienced working with OVC and managing OVC before, and a few newcomers, so welcome and we hope that this webinar is very informative.

On the next slide, we have our presenters, and today’s presenters are going to be Allison—or Alissa Huntoon and Kristin Weschler. Alissa is a Senior Advisor and Law Enforcement Coordinator with the Human Trafficking Division. And we also have Kristin, who is a Victim Justice Program Specialist, and they’ll be walking you through today’s presentation.

Before we begin, I did want to go over the overall webinar series. So today’s webinar is part of a larger series about providing potential applicants, like yourself, with information about upcoming funding opportunities, and providing guidance on how to apply and, of course, answering the questions that you have, so each of these webinars are designed to

provide comprehensive overview on a specific topic. And today, we're really going to be focusing in on the Upcoming Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2022. And we want you all to succeed, and you're already taking the right step by joining these webinars today. And if you've missed one of our sessions, please don't worry. As Daryl mentioned, these sessions are going to be recorded and the presentation material is going to be posted online within 10 to 15 business days on the OVC website, which we will provide a link in the chat for you.

On the next slide, we're talking about the process for today. So as I mentioned, the overarching objective for today is to make you aware of the upcoming funding opportunities, some of which are already available now, and others that are anticipated to come in the coming weeks. And given concerns on time, we're not going to be able to go in-depth about each program, but we're going to be able to provide you with enough information so that you can identify and flag certain funding opportunities that may be of interest to you and your community. And then towards the end of the presentation, and most importantly we are going to be providing some tools and resources that are going to be important as you start the application process. And at the end of the presentation, of course, have a short Q&A if time allows.

On this next slide, and before we begin, I just wanted to send out a few reminders that I would like to go over. So the information provided in this presentation is going to be based on the projected operational plans that we have for fiscal year 2022. And this information is going to become available on the DOJ Program Plan website in the coming weeks. And it's under—and it's important to understand that this information that is shared today, as well as the information that is shared on the Program Plan website, may be updated frequently, including the addition, subtraction, and cancelation of projected solicitations without any advance notice. And if there is a discrepancy or a mix of words between what is said on these slides and said today during today's presentation and the solicitations, once they're posted, always defer to the solicitation. Again, if there is ever a discrepancy between the presentation and the solicitation, always defer to that solicitation.

This webinar, as you know, is 90 minutes, and there is not going to be enough time to discuss all the proposed solicitations. So for that reason, as I mentioned earlier, we are only going to be talking about a select few. Some examples that will not be included are anything that is a formula program or non-competitive award solicitation, so those will not be discussed. And you are encouraged to review the program plan website, again, once it becomes available online, and we'll provide that link in the chat for you.

One of the big questions that we get is when are the solicitations going to be posted? Solicitations will be released on a rolling basis, and we cannot provide exact dates during

this time. So to stay up-to-date on when a solicitation will be posted or about any information about pre-application webinar that will occur, I strongly encourage you to sign-up for the OVC announcement, and that link is on the screen, and again, we'll place that into the chat. When it comes to budget categories, and this means projected funding for each award and overall solicitation. Those are subject for—are subject to fiscal year 2022 appropriations and the availability of funding. So those may change depending on the appropriation. And lastly, while we would like to answer all of your questions, the presenters can only share information in detail that are going to be available online and accessible to all potential applicants. So for that reason, we're unable to provide specific information about upcoming solicitations, but we do recommend that if you do have questions about a solicitation that has been previously funded, check out the previous solicitation and post-webinar material, so you get an idea of what has been funded in the past.

And again, if you're interested in the solicitation, definitely take note, like I said, research the previous funding announcement and sign-up for OVC updates so we can get that information to you.

And next, what we're going to be doing and to start today's session is that we wanted to provide an overview of the Office for Victims of Crime, and to provide additional information about the work that we do, and some information about the crime victims fund. So what we're going to do is to play a short video, and Daryl is putting that up on the screen. And then after that, Alissa will begin the presentation. So, thank you.

[VIDEO CLIP]

JESSICA ANDREW: And I will now pass it over to Alissa to talk a little bit more about OVC.

ALISSA HUNTOON: Great. Thank you so much Jessica and to everyone for joining today. Excited to talk to you about a lot of the—excuse me—potential programs OVC hopes to fund and to support you and your communities with. The video touched a little bit on the Crime Victims Fund, but this slide here is demonstrating that OVC administers the Crime Victim Fund and it's financed through a variety of fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders. And the breakdown of these funds is listed here on the screen, so there's an offender-based revenues, you can see primarily a significant chunk is criminal fines, and there's a few handful of others on smaller amounts, and that's representing funds from and penalties and fines for offenders in the federal system only.

Next slide. This chart here shows you the range of fluctuations in the fund itself, starting in fiscal year 2000, in response to just generally large fluctuations in deposit of these funds. Congress placed a cap on the funds that were available for distribution, and these annual caps were intended to maintain the fund as a stable source of support for future victim services program. And that fund itself, from anywhere—almost 20 years varied annually from \$500 million to more than \$4 billion. There's significant fluctuations there, and in FY 21, the cap was set at about \$2 billion, and as of January 2022 the fund balance is over \$2.8 billion. Next slide.

The fund that OVC administers supports a broad array of programs and services that focus on helping victims in the immediate aftermath of a crime, and also just continue to support them as they work to rebuild their lives. Millions of dollars of these are invested in these victim compensation and assistance programs in every state and territory, in addition to training, technical assistance, and a variety of other capacity building programs that really serve to enhance service providers' ability to support victims of crime. And this slide here provides examples of the types of programs that that fund supports. So tribal, international terrorism, human trafficking, national-scope programs, training and technical assistance, and others. Next slide.

Generally, OVC makes awards in two types of categories, formula and discretionary. There are three boxes here. Within the formula program, OVC administers two different kinds of formula grant programs that are a part of the Victims Crime Act which we referenced as VOCA. One is the compensation formula grant program, and that's physically supplements state compensation programs, and that provides a lot of financial assistance and reimbursement to victims. And the VOCA assistance formula grant program also supports thousands of victim assistance programs throughout the country, and there some examples there, the type of support that formula funds. And then the discretionary program, those are used to fund more national-scope, demonstration project, a lot of training and technical assistance partners that can enhance the expertise of victim service providers, and other assistance stakeholders that are involved in victim service programming. These funds can also be used to fund, like, legal assistance, program evaluation, fellowship, and services for victims of a federal crime. So, next slide.

So really, what is the difference between these two? Discretionary grants, typically those are applicants would apply directly to OVC for those and they're competitive. And the awards given out are based on a predetermined review process. And also, the availability of funding every year, that changes as Congress passes budget. And generally, most programs, OVC receives way—certainly more applications than we actually have the ability to fund and that's just demonstrating that there is a big demand and big need out there. We do our best to fund the strongest proposals—strongest proposals that we have

based on objective review criteria, and we will be talking a little bit about peer review and how that works. And formula grants are different, in that they're typically awarded on a non-competitive basis, so every applicant might receive some particular amount of funding, sometimes based on a calculation. It can vary based on a variety of factors, sometimes that includes population crime rates, other considerations. Most often, these funds are administered by your state administering agencies or an SAA, so if you don't know who that is, you don't have an active relationship with that entity or agency, we encourage you to do so, and if you don't know who that is you can find a complete list on the OVC website. Next slide.

When OVC does make an award through a discretionary award, those will be made—there's two main vehicles to do that. They'll be made as either a cooperative agreement or a grant. And so most of your—probably some of your grants, you may not be as familiar with the cooperative agreement, so this chart is there to demonstrate the differences and the similarities between the two.

A grant is generally used when we, OVC, or the awarding agency anticipates no substantial programmatic involvement with that recipient during the performance of those activities. Some examples you'll see there, the set-aside program, the tribal victim services, or housing assistance grants for victims of human trafficking. Whereas a cooperative agreement assumes that there will be substantial involvement between the federal awarding agency, OVC, and the entity that carries out the activity, so—or the fiscal agent, the recipient, and what do we mean by substantial involvement? That really refers to the degree to which the entity and the grant manager work together to sort of manage those overall award resources between deliverables, subawards, partnerships, program activities, timeline, award conditions, et cetera. The main difference between them is that a substantial involvement from your federal agency. Next slide.

And with that, we're going to move into the OVC Program Plan. Next slide.

And as a reminder, as Jessica pointed out, and I'll pop it to her in a second, pointed out this information is on projected plans, and she talked a lot about the purpose of the DOJ program plan, and we'll make sure there's only there as well, so I'll turn it over to you, Jessica.

JESSICA ANDREW: Before Alissa goes into information about the various programs that we plan to roll out, we wanted to get a sense of what you're interested in. The polling question says which of the following programs and topics would you like to hear more about? On the screen, we have just a few, and you may click all that apply. Human trafficking, state compensation, and victim assistance, tribal victim assistance, serving

victims of color, elder abuse, elder fraud, enhancing law enforcement responses to victims of crime, and child abuse and youth victimizations. And if I didn't say a topic that you're interested in, feel free to enter that into the chat, and we'll give folks about another 15 seconds or so, and again, click all that apply.

Excellent. Thank you all so very much. We see so many responses rolling in, and we're going to close the polling now, and then give it a second so that we can see on what you all are most interested in learning about. Give them another second, I have to wait for these polling results. Okay. Great. Thank you all for your patience. I think there's a little bit of delay, but we'll see the results here in a second. I don't want to delay the program even more, so I will pass it back to Alissa to where you can find information about the proposals. Alissa.

ALISSA HUNTOON: Great. Thanks, Jessica. And I do see the results popping up, hopefully you guys do too. Quickly on the program plan, Jessica talked about it before. Here on this screen, just note, it's got the website where the program plan will be announced and that, again, it's just a tool to help you understand sort of the funding opportunities which we call—often on a solicitation that we plan to release, always might—always can change. If ever in doubt, look at the information or refer to that solicitation that finally gets posted on the OVC website. Next slide.

For each of the programs that we're going to talk about, very high-level, as Jessica mentioned, each one though we're going to get sort of the standard overview and then the funding estimate, so how many awards do we expect, average award amounts, and total solicitation award amounts. So that will be consistent throughout, and the first one here is advancing the use of technology to assist victims of crime, so OVC has been continuing to encourage use of technology to respond to and expand upon the growth in technology and the capacity it can provide to help with service provision. This particular program OVC is going to support national-scope initiatives also regional. They just need to be able to be replicated nationally to maximize the use of technology and we will be providing up to three awards. The average award amount \$500,000 total solicitation amount there, and here we are encouraging applications that focus on addressing online gender-based abuse and harassment those that offer programming, or services, that could prevent or respond to online—an online facilitated gender-based violence as well as the use of technology that can make services safe and more acceptable to reach under certain communities, next slide.

Bridging Inequities Legal Services and Victims' Rights Enforcement for Underserved Communities. This program is really getting to what we have been hearing from survivors, service providers, advocates, state administrators, a whole host of other professionals in

the field and in this work. But this really is the number one need to help survivors rebuild their life after crime, so the goal of this particular program is to provide Black, indigenous people of color, who are victims of crime and getting them access to legal services and help to enforce victims' rights.

This program supports coordinating lead organization to select 20 legal fellows that will be hosted by organizations from around the country. Located in underserved communities and to provide with legal services, this applicant will also then select or the successful applicant will then select a technical assistance provider to help expand those 20 legal fellows. Help expand their knowledge on legal issues in particular and victims' rights enforcement and provide some peer learning opportunities as well, one award, solicitation up to \$5 million next slide.

Building Capacity of National Crisis Hotlines. This is going to support expanding the capacities of these hotlines that do provide essential crisis intervention services, safety planning, information referrals in every states territory across United States. It is designed to build the capacity in infrastructure of national call centers to offer more continuity and stable hotline support without interruption. Work to sustain uninterrupted services, access to services and resources especially during a national crisis and enhancing training and support for hotline personnel and allowing service providers to transition to teleservices when possible. So here you'll see that would be up to three awards and each of those up to \$2 million each, next slide.

Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance Grant Program. That is a short version of—oh, no. That's the right title, so this one is to provide funding for shelter and transitional housing and other assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, etcetera, and their companion animals that provide that critical service and emotional support for these victims. This is up to fifteen awards and average—there's two different categories here, so—and you'll see large and mini. Up to \$400,000 or up to \$100,000, next slide please.

Transforming America's Response to Older Victims. And in an effort to—well, in an effort for this elder justice build as its ground as the professional community of practice OVC is going to offer funding for state-wide Elder Justice Coalition that can help build their members capacity and grow—inform victim service providers and improve services specifically for older victims. This will be through this new national training and technical assistance program and it will be a cooperative agreement, one award of up to \$3.75 million and it also notes here in the second box, please note that it will be also sub-awardees to establish and expand state-wide Elder Justice Coalition as well, next slide please.

Expanding Access to Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations. This program is going to support the development and expansion of the sexual assault examination program also SANE program which is the nurse examiner program and SAFE program, Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner that focuses on improving provision of sexual assault care using a community-based approach, such as through a campus community, a nonprofit, could be community based and/or child facility victim services provider.

There are two different purpose areas here. One is to establish or expand these individual programs and the other purpose area is training and technical assistance. Funding under this program may also support SANE education, mentorship program, multi-disciplinary teams that would respond to sexual assault cases, any sort of emerging technology-based model, a variety of different projects that will—could potentially fall under this program. For that purpose area one, you'll note up to six awards of \$500,000 each and then one training and technical assistance awards of up to \$1 million, next slide.

Advancing Hospital-Based Victims Services. This initiative link—created link between the victim fields and hospitals through the promotion of a multi-disciplinary victim centers, and trauma-informed approach to providing victim services. This one award, you can see which will be up to \$1 million to support hospital-based violence intervention programs that seeks to improve support for victims of gun and community violence, next slide.

Enhancing Access to Victim Services. The goal of this program is to remove barriers and enhance the work of community-based organizations and programs that would help victims with disabilities, report crime and access critical services needed to heal.

There are two different categories here. Category one, funding victims serving organization, seeking to expand their capacity here and as you can see there'll be up to 11 awards under category one with each of those awards being up to \$400,000 each and then the second category is again training and technical assistance to support them up to \$1 million, next slide.

Mass Violence Needs Assessments Project. This project is going to expand on some earlier work, as it mentioned here, needs assessment surveys, interviews, some analysis, and other activities that the Medical University of South Carolina had completed in a previous award. A National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center, so this is working to build upon that knowledge that OVC had funded in the past. In general, the overall goal of this project is to collect new data to better inform OVC's mass violence program on the field about these events. There will be one award up to \$2.2 million, next slide.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide. So to be released in 2023 or the Crime Victims' Right is in April of 2023, so we are going to be offering a cooperative agreement to help us develop and produce a resource guide for crime victims advocacy field to help increase public awareness of crime victim issue nationwide during this week in April 2023. And also to work a little bit on preparations for the next year 2024 theme. This will be one award of up to \$400,000.

Field-Generated Solicitations, I think these are always really exciting because we're asking you to tell us at the field, what you think is needed and necessary and this one is increasing options and expanding access. This is to support programs that will develop or enhance a variety of promising practices models programs etcetera to build capacity of service providers to increase service options or expand access points for victims of crimes specifically in underrepresented communities. And again these are going to be field generated proposals that hopefully offer a variety of innovative solutions, in particular to increase service options. Applicants will be asked to state the problem they are aiming to solve and present that innovative solution that will generate new or promising practices for the field. For this particular program there is a research partner that will be involved with helping to identify some measures and implementing some level of an evaluation component and preparing a final report of this work. This will be one award for—up to \$1 million.

Measuring the Impact of Victim Services, also known as the improved project, Implementation, Management, and Sustainment of the IMPRoVE project. So OVC as many of you know, I found in our earlier poll, a lot of you are past grantees, you've received funding before, so you know that we regularly collect performance measure data across all of our grants and in 2019 the National Institute of Justice in partnership with OVC and OVW funded something called Measuring the Impact of Victim Services and that resulted in the development of a Victim Outcome Satisfaction Survey, so this program in particular is going to support the implementation and sustainment of that survey also referenced as VOSS. The implementation is going to focus on outreach distribution and training of the VOSS and its data collection platform to victim service providers across the country, so it's also going to include outreach to new victim service providers to increase the reach of this distribution and those that are willing and able to complete the survey. This will be one award for up to \$1.5 million, next slide.

Fellowship, the VOCA Victim Compensation Fellow. This program is going to fund a fellow to work within OVC's State Victim Resource Division. This fellow will work closely with members of that team and will follow recommendations in a Office of the Inspector General's report. So what we're asking this fellow to do with—will be to work with us and

Compensation Administrators to identify what we can be doing to better support state, in the administration of these programs and provide recommendations to OVC and OJP to help improve that coordination and communication. This will be one fellowship award up to \$400,000, next slide.

Law Enforcement-Based Victim Services Technical Assistance Program. It's a competitive program that makes subawards to—for direct victim assistance services, to state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies and small, mid-size, and large jurisdiction, particularly focusing communities that have been affected by violence and improving care and services to these crime victims. This will be one cooperative award and it will be up to \$3.75 million. Here you can see law enforcement basic and service programs also has its own acronym LEV or L-E-V, and there are currently as I mentioned a large community of previously funded website, so there's a lot of knowledge already here in this program. Next slide.

Responding to Transgender Victims of Crime Toolkit. This one is really working to update and expand upon a previously released guide from 2014, so this will be one award in the amount of \$750,000, next slide.

Resources for Victims of Criminal Justice System-Related Harm. This is going to be supporting entities to help them develop tools, resources, technical assistance in a variety of training that can help service providers respond to people who experience harm as a result—specifically as a result of the criminal justice system error or a failure that may have occurred. Some examples of this might be individuals or families of people who may have been injured or shot during a police encounter. Or people who maybe their rape kits were not tested, victims and survivors in exoneration cases. Justice-involved individuals who might have been experienced victimization while incarcerated. This is getting specifically to victims of those who have been harmed, as a part of the Criminal Justice System or related to that.. This will be up to five awards, average amount of up to \$400,000, next slide.

The next several slides are going to focus on our programs that support trafficking. And I know from the poll as well, there was almost half, a good chunk of you that were on—or that responded were interested in trafficking. This is just a snapshot of the eight that I'm going to go through. And I did just want to point out as the slide notes, it's providing funding for services as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Here's that distinction versus the Crime Victims Fund. These programs are being funded through different legislations statutory authority as part of the TVPA, next slide.

The first one is Services for Victims of Human Trafficking, and it will be offered in three different categories, which are focusing on a variety of aspects in supporting service providers to better offer a wide array on access to services to victims of all forms of trafficking. Purpose area one is developing capacity, purpose area two is maybe enhancing that scope of services, and purpose area three is very unique specialized services for human trafficking. There isn't a specific, exact number of awards that are going to be, that we know of at this point. And the award amount for these varies, as you can see it can be from \$400,000, anywhere to \$950. It just depends on that purpose area, and the scope of work involved, next slide.

Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking. This program, as it notes is going to provide funding for housing opportunities to victims of human trafficking, to include a variety of options such as emergency housing, transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, we know that there is a huge need here. We're really glad that we can offer—hopefully offer this opportunity, we hope to make up to 18 awards, and each of those will be up to \$800,000 each. That's a significant chunk of that \$15 million, next slide.

Enhanced Collaborative Model Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking. This funding goes to support developing, expanding, or strengthening a multidisciplinary approach to fight human trafficking. And there are two categories here. Category one is the development of human trafficking task forces. So newer task forces those that are starting to form and category two which is existing human trafficking task forces, so those who have been established or perhaps been a previous recipient of funding.

Here, we hope to make up to 30 awards. With the average award amount individually being \$750 and this flotation in particular is a unique one and can be a little confusing because it is a joint application. So that slide says up to 30 awards which would actually be 15 task forces. Apologies for the typo here, because each task force gets two awards, a lead service provider and a lead law enforcement entity of which each can apply for up to \$750,000, next slide.

Preventing Trafficking of Girls. Here OVC is looking to support prevention and early intervention services and treatments. That includes mentoring and other direct support services for girls who are at risk of—or are victims of sex trafficking. The goals of this program are to replicate and scale up prevention and early intervention programs for girls, to implement or enhance efforts to identify and provide services to girls, and also the recipient of these awards will participate and provide annual peer-to-peer learning opportunities for the field as well. There's going to be up to four awards here, cooperative agreement average amount is up to \$500,000 each, next slide.

Field-Generated Strategies to Address the Criminalization of Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking. This program is—the goal here is to end the criminalization of minor victims of sex trafficking, and to develop, expand, or strengthen service programs to support victim-centered, trauma-informed, and evidence-based responses to minor victims of trafficking. Organizations funded under this program will provide services either directly or through partnerships that address the needs of minor victims of sex trafficking, through a continuum of care to help them heal. There are two—there's going to be—yeah, two categories here. Sorry, it's a little tricky on the slide. Ten awards there and category one, these are the actual sites, the organizations themselves who will be implementing these programs, and there'll be nine of those and then one training and technical assistance award which is going to be up to \$1 million. Next slide.

Services to minor victims of labor trafficking, obviously, is designed to enhance the quality and quantity of services available to assist minor victims of labor trafficking by providing high-quality services that are developmentally-appropriate and tailored for the individualized needs of trafficking—young trafficking victims. Organizations funded under this program will provide services that minor victims of labor trafficking are often required to, again, address their unique needs and will integrate their programming, again, with development—developmentally-appropriate and evidence-based practice. So up to three awards here and up to \$600,000—\$655,000 for each of those awards. Next slide.

And improving outcomes for child and youth victims of trafficking. This is to help improve statewide responses for child and youth victims of trafficking. And, again, here the focuses on that coordination at the state level and/or tribal jurisdiction level to basically create change across those systems. And there's two different categories here. The statewide or tribal jurisdiction response. There will be up to three awards here. Each of those is \$1.5 million. And the second, of course, will go to a training and technical assistance provider. One award there of up to \$1 million to help those selected sites be successful with that award. Next slide. Next slide. And I think I'll be handing it off to my colleague, Kristin, at that point as well. I don't know if anyone's muted.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Alissa, it's Kristin. So, yeah, the final solicitation that we're going to be offering under Human Trafficking Division is a specialized training and technical assistance opportunity, and OVC will fund really three specific projects under the solicitation. So, again, it's broken down into three purpose areas. The first one will focus on employment and economic empowerment. The second purpose area will be supporting survivor engagement in anti-trafficking programming. And the third purpose area, we'll look at developing standards of care for services—for trafficking—or, sorry, not trafficking survivors. Service providers. This is, again, one of the larger opportunities for training and technical assistance versus a direct services award.

There'll be three awards each will average between \$900,000 and \$1.2 million depending upon the purpose area with a total of \$3.5 million being offered.

Okay. So that gets through to human trafficking. We've covered about 24 opportunities thus far. We're about two-thirds of the way through. You'll see there's a wide diversity. Your head might be spinning right now. You might have a little bit of whiplash. So, again, I just want to remind folks that the program plan will be posted publicly and that link is provided in the chat and we'll certainly provide it again at the end. I'm going to now pivot a little bit to some tribal-specific programs that will be made available this year. Note that the Tribal Set-Aside Victim Services Formula Program is intentionally not going to be addressed today because it is a noncompetitive award. All right.

The first one is the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, otherwise known as CTAS. And this is a really large overarching program and contains several purpose areas that are managed by various DOJ components, such as cops, BJA, OJJDP, and OVW. This specific purpose area, the Children's Justice Act, is specifically managed by OVC. So that's why we're highlighting it today. And the CJA is—focuses on improving the prosecution and investigation of child abuse cases.

Under this purpose area, OVC will be providing funding to tribal communities to develop and operate programs that improve investigative, prosecutorial, and judicial practices to minimize the trauma to victims of child abuse and neglect. And the goals of the program are to, one, improve the handling of child abuse cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse in a manner which limits additional trauma to the victim. And, two, improving the investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse, particularly child sexual abuse. Planned awards will focus on trauma-informed, multidisciplinary approaches to the investigation, prosecution, and management of cases by improving coordination among tribal, state, and federal professionals. This program will make approximately—have approximately \$3 million available annually to drive the nonprofit tribal grantees to support this effort. Each program cycle for this solicitation is three years. And this solicitation is currently open. This solicitation is currently available.

Our next tribal solicitation we're going to look at is Alaska Native Crime Victims' Center of Excellence. This is a pilot program. And what—funding will support the development of a multifaceted approach to engaging with the 231 federally-recognized tribes throughout the State of Alaska to identify gaps, promote best practices, and using experience from the field to build an evidence base that is relevant for Alaskan native tribes. This will be one award with an estimated award amount of up to \$3 million.

Now, we're going to touch on children and youth crime victimization in the next three program areas. The first one is called Protecting Futures, where we're looking at building capacity to serve children and youth impacted by America's drug crisis. The goal of this program is to support children, youth, and families who have been victimized due to America's drug crisis by expanding, enhancing, and formalizing innovative, field-generated projects tailored to meet the needs of children and youth crime victims and their non-offending family members. The grantee will both manage a subaward program to competitively select up to 14 sub-recipient sites to implement the project, to serve and support crime victims and provide overall project management, technical assistance, and oversight to the selected community sites. This will be a three-year cooperative agreement up to \$2 million for a lead entity. Within that \$3 million, the entity would use up to \$750,000 to provide overall project management, technical assistance, and oversight to the community site.

In partnership with OVC, the lead entity will competitively select the 14 community sites across the country with awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000, but those projects will only be for one or two years. This TTA award, again, three year but the engagement with the community sites will be for one to two years. And the sub-recipients will work towards creating replicable crime victim services, including multidisciplinary community response approaches for children, youth, and families impacted by America's drug crisis.

All right. Next one is reducing child—I'm getting tongue-tied this afternoon. Reducing child fatalities and recurring child injuries caused by crime victimization. This proposal is to conduct an implementation study during the third year of a current award on child fatality demonstration initiative. In 2019, our office launched the demonstration initiative entitled Reducing Child Fatalities and Recurring Child Injuries Caused by Crime Victimization. This is already an existing demonstration initiative but it requires a national evaluation. That is the purpose of this solicitation. It will be for one award for up to \$116,925. And the study is to summarize the work done by five demonstration sites to reduce child fatalities due to neglect. The evaluation will be grounded in the theories of change developed by the demonstration sites during the planning year, the demonstration sites' own evaluation plans, as well as overall theory of change and evaluation of the technical systems and learning exchange module that sit at the alliance level.

The next one for child and youth is entitled Safety Support and Services for Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Youth Detention. The purpose of this project is to develop a solicitation to support the development and enhancement of partnership between juvenile detention centers and community-based victim service providers with the goal of increasing access to outside support services for incarcerated juvenile survivors of sexual assault. So, here, you will see that, again, there are two categories. Again, one will be a larger training and

technical assistance award and then there will be specific projects sites. The number of awards will be up to five with one being the TTA award for up to \$750,000 and the four project sites for up to \$500,000. Okay.

That is the quick summary of—again, that's just some of the solicitations that will be included or hoped to be included in the programs plan. As Jessica indicated, it is subject to change. It's not yet posted. But this is certainly what has been proposed. So what's next?

Once you've applied, if you—for those of you who've already have awards, you know, there can be quite some time between when you submit your application and when you are notified so the grant application review process can take up to nine months to complete. And this graphic kind of demonstrates all the different steps. I'm not going to go into each one of those. You can look at it in the materials that will be posted. But, generally, we want to make you aware that award notifications are made by the end of the current fiscal federal year which is September 30th. And that OJP sends award notifications by email now through JustGrants, which is our new grant management database. And the individuals who are listed in the application as the application submitter and the authorizing official will be the ones receiving the notification. The email notification includes detailed instructions on how to access and view the award documents, as well as steps to take in JustGrants to start the award acceptance process. Unsuccessful applicants will automatically receive peer review comments with their notification. But if you do receive a grant award and wish to receive feedback about your application, please contact the point of contact listed in the solicitation. And for those who are unsuccessful, those notifications will be going out by December 31st of each fiscal year or calendar year. Okay.

So now some resources that we're going to highlight for you specific to peer review. This is a great opportunity to get an understanding of the process but also what your possible engagement could be. So what is OVC peer review? Every year, for all of our competitive solicitations—OVC receives applications from all over the country and we are required to go through a peer review process that includes panels of criminal justice and victims service professionals who are either retired or currently providing services, as well as practitioners to evaluate grant proposals based on the requirements outlined in each program solicitation. Peer review is the technical and program evaluation of grant applications by a group of subject matter experts qualified in a particular area related to supporting victims of crime.

OVC conducts peer review through an external or internal peer review process, which can be conducted either in person or online. The peer review process provides an objective

and independent review of all applications received. Subject matter experts are required to identify strengths and areas of improvement of the application and write them for further consideration for funding. Then reviewers meet in panels to discuss strengths and areas of improvement to reach consensus on the merits of each application. Peer reviewer recommendations are advisory in nature. Peer review offers the opportunity to provide a valuable public service in advising our office on the strengths and areas of improvement of grant applications. Now, OVC peer reviewers are compensated for each application that is read and scored. And the experience of serving on a peer review panel provides you with further nonmonetary benefits in terms of professional experience and service, which we'll discuss on the next slide—or, actually, we're going to do a poll next, which I'm going to pass it over to Jessica.

JESSICA ANDREW: Thanks, Kristin. We're going to give you all just a slight break and, again, just do a quick polling question to see who in the audience has peer reviewed for OVC in the past. The question is "Are you a current OVC peer reviewer?" So please select the best answer, yes, no, or that you have peer reviewed in the past but you're not currently a reviewer. We'll give everyone a couple of seconds or so to input your information into the chat. Again, this is just to get an idea of if you have any experience being a peer reviewer. And just so you know, for peer reviewers, we are looking for new and experienced reviewers, which Kristin is going to provide a little bit more information in a second. And it looks like most of you have responded so we're going to wrap up the polling question and give it about 10 seconds or so that you all can see the results. And this may take a little bit longer than expected. We'll have those polling results there on the side. And I will pass it back over to Kristin.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Thanks, Jessica. And—oh, wow. I'm excited to see no, but I'm interested. Fabulous. I love to see that. There's 232 of you that could potentially be new peer reviewers for us. I'm going to talk about kind of what is a peer reviewer, again, and kind of the qualifications or experience that we're looking for. So, again, for—many federal agencies rely really heavily on volunteers from the academic community to provide expertise and impartiality to their review process. This isn't just unique to OVC but also it could be OVW, OJJDP, or other OJP programs where you could serve in this capacity.

For OVC, the vast majority of peer reviewers for our office are active partition—active practitioners or recent retirees from the justice system or victim service field profession. OVC does not use professional peer reviewers because it's our goal to have applications reviewed by individuals with up-to-date and on-the-ground knowledge of both the challenges and best practices in serving victims of crime.

Potential peer reviewers may include victim advocates, judges, prosecutors, representatives from victim service providing agencies, community-based and faith-based organizations such as those that are providing housing assistance or serving underserved populations, communities of color, or LGBTQ. It can law enforcement, legal professionals. As you can see, it really is very broad, just like our solicitations are broad. What we're looking for are individuals with experience who are really connected to the field. We may also seek reviewers with substantial knowledge in working with tribal communities, other culturally-specific populations, college or university community—communities, rural areas, urban areas, those working with disabilities or people over the age of 50. We maintain a database of potential peer reviewers, including their specific expertise relevant to each grant program. It is important to note, however, that if you are a current OVC grantee whose salary is currently funded a hundred percent under one of our grants, that you must take annual leave or unpaid leave in order to serve as an OVC peer reviewer. I know there's been some questions about, yeah, multiple awards or anything, so in regards to peer reviewer, we just want to make sure that you're aware of that if your position is funded at a hundred percent. So why become a peer reviewer? So, again, we really look to the field to bring your expertise to the review process. Alissa and I are stuck in an office, and Jessica, more often than we like to, so we really rely on the field to bring your experience and insight to us. The quality of the review process depends on the experience and expertise of our reviewers. And reviewers who understand sustainable victim service programs recognizes and funds projects that advance the goals of the program. And participating in a peer reviewer is an excellent way to gain experience to grow and sustain your funded research profile.

So, what is the time commitment? Peer review normally starts around mid-February but can go through June of each year. It's really dependent upon how our solicitations are released every year. You can estimate about reviewing 10 applications per panel over a 10-day, two-week period. It could range up to 12 or 15 applications per panel. It really depends on the number of applications received. And it's really important to allocate sufficient time to carefully read, evaluate, and score each application. All the reviewers are given a rating form which provides detailed directives—detail—or sorry. Detailed writing form which are detailed and directly related to the scoring criteria for that solicitation. Additionally, reviewers should not use personal opinions or outside information to score applications. We do assessments at the beginning to also see if there's any conflict of interest. For most programs, peer reviewers will have one week to read and score their assigned applications with available guidance and supervision of OVC staff. Once you complete your individual review of the applications, the second week consists of coming together as a peer review panel where you will try to come to consensus of the scoring of each of those individual applications. The peer review panels will convene and discuss

each application reviewed and scored in order to provide strengths and areas of improvement during the consensus discussion.

In addition, these programs will ask reviewers to discuss one or two initial applications at the beginning of rating week in order to identify any challenges with the scoring forum and to ensure that the panel members all understand the process. This also provides peer reviewers and OVC staff with the opportunity to see the reviewing styles of all members of the panel and to estimate how long the panel will take to discuss all of the applications assigned to that panel. So, this is a great opportunity for first-time reviewers to become familiar with the review process, and we are here as OVC staff to support you through that.

To apply to become an OVC peer reviewer. We're always looking for new reviewers to provide their expertise and help us expand our peer review database. If you're interested, please dust off your resume, take a look at the information here, and provide an up-to-date resume or CV to the email address that you see here on the screen. When you do submit that, we ask that you please put peer reviewer candidate resume in the subject line so it's very clear what the intent and purpose is of your email. We want to thank you in advance if you're able to support us in this capacity. We routinely expand our database and really look to expand our expertise and knowledge in the evolving areas that we continue to support to our funding opportunities. Okay.

Now, another set of resources we're going to talk about once we finish another poll question for Jessica.

JESSICA ANDREW: Thanks, Kristin. So now we just want to have a little bit of an understanding about your experience with applying for OVC awards. If you wouldn't mind just letting us know will this be your first time applying? Has your agency applied for at least one OVC award or has your agency applied for multiple awards or is this going to be the first time? If you could submit your answer into the polling question box and hit submit. And we'll give it about another 15 seconds or so. So, again, we're wanting to know what your experience is with applying for OVC awards. All right. We're going to close the poll. Looks like everyone has responded for the most part. And for the sake of time, I know that we have about 15 minutes left in our webinar, we're going to move forward to the next slide and proceed and provide a little bit of information about the various resources that we have to help you throughout the application process. So, Kristin, back to you.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Right. Thanks, Jessica. So, yeah, this last section, we're just going to look at maybe some sites or things you can do to prepare if you're considering federal funding. So the first is if you have not heard of SAM.gov, you need to become familiar with

SAM.gov. This is really the U.S. government system for award management, and you have to register on this site in order to receive grants from the U.S. government. So there is no fee or charge to register, but this is a very quick, simple step, and it's actually required if you ever think you're going to apply for federal funding. So it's literally the website, SAM.gov, and then it'll walk you through the steps to get yourself registered. Next slide.

So this is some information about the DOJ application submission process. So, as I noted earlier, we are now submitting applications in our JustGrants app—database, but it really begins in Grants.gov. Again, another platform. So you're going to get to know SAM.gov and then you're going to get to know Grants.gov. And once you have located a funding opportunity in Grants.gov with DOJ, then you will submit what we call an SF-424 and an SF-LLL in Grants.gov. That basically tells you—it's a lobbying form, and then just the SF-424, some general information about your application. If you're applying for funding—that doesn't apply to us, so I'm not going to report on that. Most of your application is entered in JustGrants though. Outside of those two forms, then all the rest of your application will be submitted in JustGrants, and your entity information is populated based on entries made in SAM.gov and used in Grants.gov. So it's very important to make sure that your information is accurate in both SAM.gov and Grants.gov because all of these systems are connected and talk to one another.

You will have two application submission deadlines noted in every single OVC solicitation. One of the application deadlines will be for Grants.gov to submit those two initial forms and then you will have a second deadline for JustGrants where the rest of your application will be submitted. It's highly recommended that you check the due date in Grants.gov and to try and submit your application at least 72 hours prior to the deadline to provide you with enough time to correct any errors and resubmit if necessary, especially if you have technical difficulties. Next slide.

I might need to have Jessica or Alissa step in. My screen is frozen and I have a technical glitch right now.

ALISSA HUNTOON: As Kristin was talking about, all the systems that you're going to become really good friends with, and to include Grants.gov. Here, this is just some tips in terms of submitting that application. And Grants.gov here. Like it says, this is where—across the federal government, right? There's multiple federal funding opportunities that are going to be there and it talks—it walks you through a variety of steps in that in terms of registering, who has what role or what—needs what role, how to search, and how to apply in Grants.gov too, because, again, it is a two-step process. Next slide.

For those who might already have funding from OJP, or the COPS Office, or the Office of Violence Against Women, you know that our grants management system, it's called JustGrants, so—and that is the system by which you will also be submitting applications. And here are some helpful resources for you. The website and some of the links are also being added to the chat. I can't recommend or refer you enough to the JustGrants website. I go there frequently myself. A lot of the training materials are really helpful, user-friendly, a variety of formats, job aids, training videos, trying to provide snapshots and bites of information that are really helpful to you based on the specific action or activity that you're trying to do. There's an entity user experience. There's some training and reference materials there, as well as one specific to submitting applications. And that user role guide is really important too because with that system, only certain people have the authority to do certain things, so—as an application submitter or as an entity administrator. So there are those different roles. So spend some time reviewing that and understanding what those different users are and who has the ability to do what, and, again, doing this now and doing it early before most of these solicitations post. Next slide.

A variety of upcoming training sessions, specifically on JustGrants. You can see there's multiple dates there for the four key topics. And this slide also gives you some helpful information in terms of who is that key audience. So that first one—hopefully it's helpful. It's by the day. On Monday's, there's information about post-award management. If you have an existing award, if you're just curious if you were to receive an award, what does that mean? You know, you apply and then we say, "Hey, we'd love to give you this funding," now what? So those are really helpful and being held on Mondays. Tuesdays, we have entity management, which is you as the entity, you've got this federal award now or you're applying for a federal award, how do you navigate through the system? How do you assign things? How do you take certain actions? So that's really a critical one as well. Wednesday is application mechanics, which may be of the most interest to the crowd here today at this time. The last, on Thursday, is award acceptance. So, again, you apply, you go through that whole process, and then hopefully you're successful and you get a notification saying, "We're offering you this award." There's a process by which you're going to want to review that information and officially accept that award in the system. So on Thursdays there, starting at the end of February through March, there's training through JustGrants about how to actually accept that award. Next slide.

More resources to find out about other funding opportunities. You know, OVC is just one program office within the Office of Justice Programs. We have multiple other funding opportunities. So there is a link to the Application Resource Guide, which provides just more helpful information, right, about how to submit a grant application. We've already referenced Grants.gov. A lot of people want to know who receives the award. So after you

go through the process and you're curious who received awards, we do list all of that information online. How soon or how quickly that comes after awards are made can vary.

If you don't know, OJP processes thousands and thousands and thousands of awards every year, so—and then the CrimeSolutions.gov website, which is really interesting if you're looking—even outside of the application process. Here, it's kind of a clearing house of a variety of programs that have gone through sort of a rigorous process of understanding what was the outcome and what was the impact of that program from a variety of different criminal justice issues. So if you're curious how other programs have been set up and how were they successful, CrimeSolutions may be of interest to you if you want to do some research and gather some information. Next slide.

And, Kristin, I'm just checking in. Feel free to holler. The next one is more resources around specifically submitting that application. And its breaking it down, there's two different ones from OJP specifically. That resource guide. Again, sort of what are all the materials and things that you'll need to have in place in order to successfully submit that application. I would look at that early and often so you know and—well in advance kind of what system do you need to register numbers for or do you need to get a signature from a certain city official or not—our county official, what are all the things that you need to have in order to submit that application. And then there's another OJP funding resource center that just generally talks about here are the open announcements that we have, various forms and worksheets. And then, again, when you're successful and you're offered an award, what are some of those critical instructions right away to help you accept that award and begin to manage that.

And there is also the very important DOJ Grants Financial Guide. So anyone who receives an award agrees to comply with and follow all of the rules and regulations that affect managing a federal award, specifically with OJP. So many of you are probably very familiar with that already. And it's online. They also have it as a PDF version so it can be more easily searchable as well. Next slide. Jessica.

JESSICA ANDREW: Thank you, Alissa. Our next polling question is going to talk about what you would like more information about? In the polling question, please let us know and click all that apply, would you like more information about the registration process and how to use JustGrants, how to draft a narrative and a timeline, information about the Budget Detail Worksheet, Budget Narrative, or would you also like information on the application requirements and the solicitation checklist?

Again, this is to help us gauge additional training opportunities in the future. And we'll give it another 10 seconds or so. All right. Great. We're going to wrap up that polling question.

And, Alissa, I'll give you a little bit of a breather and I can round out the rest of the slides. We have about five minutes left for our presentation, just to give everyone a heads-up. We should be wrapping up here at 4:30.

On the next slide, we have how to stay connected with OVC. If you haven't already done so, find us on Facebook, check us out on Twitter, and see the various videos that we have on YouTube, like the one that you saw earlier in the presentation. On the next slide, again, staying connected with us. Sign up to hear about the new funding opportunities that will be available through OVC, and the best way to do that is to sign up for our announcements. We will insert that link in the chat so that you have the opportunity to hear what's new and coming.

On the next slide, so National Crime Victim's Rights Week will become commemorated April 24th through the 30th of this year. So please join OVC in raising awareness for the victim's rights and services by celebrating the progress that's been achieved in honoring the victims and the professionals who, of course, serve them, just like yourself. So feel free to use the artwork to help inspire your community and, again, raise awareness for victim's right.

On this next slide, this is, again, just a reminder that if you missed one of our sessions, no worries whatsoever, a recording of the webinar and a PowerPoint material is going to be posted on the OVC website in about 10 to 15 business days.

And, last, we have our final polling question, and this is, again, just to gauge what kind—what kind of training and technical assistance and additional trainings that we can provide. So OVC provides training and technical assistance to all OVC grantees. And the question is what type of TA would your victim service program benefit from? And you may select all that apply. Is it assistance with the federal or—I'm sorry. The financial grant requirements, programmatic requirements, expanding knowledge about victim service issues and victimization, program staff sustainability, or is there something else? And if so, please feel free to write that into the chat.

So, again, just trying to gauge what type of TA that we can provide in the future. And we'll get that polling question just about another 10 seconds or so. Thank you all so very much for inputting your information. Perfect. And now we're going to close the slide—or I'm sorry. Close the polling question. And for the sake of time, we're just going to post those results on the side. And to wrap us up on just some considerations and tips for you all, so when you do receive—when the funding opportunities are announced and you find a solicitation, definitely check to see if you are eligible to apply, if there's cost share

requirements, what the limitations of funding are, what are the required documents, and making sure that it's meeting the needs of your community.

On the next slide, we have just a little bit of more considerations and tips. Please don't be intimidated by the process for the things that you need. Whether you're experienced or not, we definitely welcome and encourage you to apply. We want you to succeed. So the first step is doing what you're doing today, starting early, joining the webinar series to be educated on upcoming funding opportunities and how to draft a strong proposal.

When you are drafting your proposal, definitely check, recheck, and check again about those eligibility requirements, grant requirements, and other details that are very important. And what—also that Kristin mentioned is be prepared to submit your grant application before the deadline. We definitely recommend doing that up to at least 48 hours in advance or even earlier because you never know when an emergency might occur or, again, you might have technical difficulties. And when in doubt, definitely please check the solicitation or check in with the solicitation POC. That is incredibly important.

We are now at time, and we appreciate your time and do not want to go over what we've already taken of your time, so we would like to thank you all again for joining today's webinar. Thank you to our presenters for sharing your time and knowledge with us and thank you to our attendees for joining us today. We hope that you can join us again for future webinars. And, again, the presentation and material will be posted on the OVC website in about 10 to 15 business days. Thank you again and have a wonderful afternoon.