OVC FY 2021 VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant

Overview
The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), is seeking applications for funding under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program.

This solicitation incorporates the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide by reference. The OJP Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to applicants on how to prepare and submit applications for funding to OJP. If this solicitation expressly modifies any provision in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in this solicitation as to that provision.

This solicitation expressly modifies the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide by not incorporating the “Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver” provisions in the “Financial Information” section of the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide or the “Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation” provisions in the “Application Attachments” section. It also deviates from the “Application Elements and Formatting Instructions” section of the Guide, as described below in Application and Submission Information.

Eligible Applicants:
State governments, Other

Other
Territories and possessions of the United States.

All states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible to receive an annual VOCA victim assistance formula grant. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements specified in VOCA, 34 U.S.C. § 20103(b).

All recipients and subrecipients (including any for-profit organization) must forgo any profit or management fee.

Contact Information
For technical assistance with submitting the SF424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800–518–4726, 606–545–5035, at Grants.gov customer support, or email at support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Support Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

For technical assistance with submitting the full application in DOJ’s Justice Grants System (JustGrants), contact the JustGrants Service Desk at 833–872–5175 or JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov. The JustGrants Service Desk operates 5
a.m. to 9 p.m., ET Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., ET Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

An applicant that experiences unforeseen Grants.gov or JustGrants technical issues beyond its control that prevent it from submitting its application by the deadline must email the contact identified below within 24 hours after the application deadline to request approval to submit its application after the deadline.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact the Response Center by telephone at 800–851–3420 or TTY 301–240–6310 (hearing impaired only), or by email at grants@ncjrs.gov. Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. ET on the solicitation closing date.

Pre-Application Webinar
OVV will conduct one pre-application webinar during which OVC staff will review the solicitation requirements and conduct a question and answer session with interested potential applicants. Participation is optional. When the webinar has been scheduled, the details and registration information will be available at https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/funding-webinars.

Submission Information
In FY 2021, applications will be submitted to DOJ in a NEW two-step process.

**Step 1:** Applicants will submit an **SF-424 and an SF-LLL** in Grants.gov at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html. To register in Grants.gov, applicants will need to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration or renewal.

**Step 2:** Applicants will submit the **full application** including attachments in JustGrants at JustGrants.usdoj.gov.

To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants Application deadline.

OJP encourages applicants to review, the “How to Apply” section in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.
### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact Information</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Description</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Authority</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Information</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence-Based Programs or Practices</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Award Information</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards, Amounts and Durations</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of Funds</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of Awards</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Management and System of Internal Controls</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on Costs Associated with Language Assistance.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility Information</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application and Submission Information</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget and Associated Documentation</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Management Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Statement Regarding Use of Administrative and Training Funds</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Rights Compliance Reporting</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring of Subawards</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OJP Financial Management and Grant Administration Training Certificates</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement Regarding Plan to Subgrant Funds</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disclosures and Assurances</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disclosure of Lobbying Activities</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOJ Certified Standard Assurances</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Apply</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission Dates and Time</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Review Information</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Process</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Award Administration Information</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Award Notices</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Description

Overview
The Department of Justice is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights, increases access to justice, supports crime victims, protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.

Under this solicitation, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) will award each eligible state and territory victim assistance program an annual grant to support eligible crime victim assistance programs in that state or territory. Eligible crime victim assistance programs are those that are “operated by a public agency or nonprofit organization, or a combination of such agencies or organizations or of both such agencies and organizations, and provide services to victims of crime,” and that meet the other requirements set out in 34 U.S.C. § 20103(b)(1).

Statutory Authority
34 U.S.C. § 20103

Specific Information

For federal FY 2021, the amount available to OVC for obligation from the Crime Victims Fund is $1.093 billion.

All states and most territories receive an annual VOCA victim assistance grant. Each state, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico receive a base amount of $500,000. The territories of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa each receive a base amount of $200,000. Additional funds are distributed to states and territories based on population according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Each applicant, in the award acceptance process in JustGrants, must agree to the following award condition, which satisfies the VOCA requirements at 34 U.S.C. § 20103(a)(2), and 34 U.S.C. § 20110(h), that states make certain certifications:

VOCA Requirements
The recipient assures that the State and its subrecipients will comply with the conditions of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984, sections 1404(a)(2), and 1404(b)(1) and (2), 34 U.S.C. § 20103(a)(2) and (b)(1) and (2) (and the applicable program guidelines and regulations), as required. Specifically, the State certifies that funds under this award will:

a. be awarded only to eligible victim assistance organizations, 34 U.S.C. § 20103(a)(2);

b. not be used to supplant State and local public funds that would otherwise be available for crime victim assistance, 34 U.S.C. § 20103(a)(2), or for administering the state victim assistance program, 34 U.S.C. § 20110(h); and

c. be allocated in accordance with program guidelines or regulations implementing 34 U.S.C. § 20103(a)(2)(A) and 34 U.S.C. § 20103(a)(2)(B) to, at a minimum, assist victims in the following categories: sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, and underserved victims of violent crimes as identified by the State.

Award funds will be used only to provide services to victims of crime, except for a maximum of 5 percent that may be used for administration and training. See 34 U.S.C. § 20103(b)(3), 28 C.F.R. 94.107.

States and territories have the sole discretion to determine which organizations will receive subawards, subject to the requirements of VOCA, the Victim Assistance Program Rule at 28 C.F.R. part 94, subpart B, government-wide grant rules at 2 C.F.R. part 200 (as adopted by DOJ), and the DOJ Grants Financial Guide.

The Victim Assistance Program Rule describes the program requirements, and types of programs and activities that states and territories are able to support with VOCA Assistance grant funds. Questions and answers regarding the rule and the VOCA Assistance Program are available on the OVC website at VOCA FAQs | Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Administrators | OVC (ojp.gov).

OVC strongly encourages SAAs to use the VOCA Assistance funding within the program parameters to affirmatively advance equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity. The following practices may advance SAA efforts toward these goals:

- Include diverse and frequently marginalized perspectives in any process to identify victim service needs (e.g., strategic planning).
- Consider funding organizations that in the past have not received VOCA funds.
- Review the SAA criteria for determining the organizational capacity of subrecipient applicants (see 28 C.F.R. 94.122 (b); 34 U.S.C. § 20103(b)(1)(B)), and selecting subrecipients for funding, to ensure that these criteria do not
unnecessarily exclude or deter from applying organizations serving traditionally underserved communities.
- Support victims of violent crime through community-based crime victim intervention projects.

**Goals, Objectives, Deliverables, and Timeline**
States and territories shall use funds to support eligible crime victim assistance programs that provide direct services to crime victims; retaining up to 5 percent of their total grant for administrative and training purposes.

The Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables are directly related to the performance measures that demonstrate the results of the work completed, as discussed under Content of Application Submission.

**Evidence-Based Programs or Practices**
OJP strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policymaking and program development in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. For additional information and resources on evidence-based programs or practices, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

**Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities**
OJP may conduct or support an evaluation of the programs and activities funded under this solicitation. For additional information, see the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) section entitled “Information Regarding Potential Evaluation of Programs and Activities.”

**Federal Award Information**
**Awards, Amounts and Durations**
**Anticipated Number of Awards**
56

**Anticipated Maximum Dollar Amount of Awards**
$1,093,332,726.00

**Period of Performance Start Date**
10/1/20 12:00 AM

**Period of Performance Duration (Months)**
48

**Anticipated Total Amount to be Awarded Under Solicitation**
$1,093,332,726.00

**Availability of Funds**
This solicitation, and awards (if any are made) under this solicitation, are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law. In addition, nothing in this solicitation is intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

**Types of Awards**
OVC expects to make awards under this solicitation as grants. See the “Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements” section of the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for a brief discussion of important statutes, regulations, and award conditions that apply to many (or in some cases, all) OJP grants (and cooperative agreements).

**Financial Management and System of Internal Controls**
Award recipients and subrecipients (including recipients or subrecipients that are pass-through entities) must, as described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.303, comply with standards for financial and program management. The “Part 200 Uniform Requirements” means the DOJ regulation at 2 C.F.R. Part 2800, which adopts (with certain modifications) the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200. See [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information.

**Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement**
This program does not require a match at the recipient level. (The Victim Assistance Program Rule does require SAAs to require a match for most subrecipient projects.)
Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs)
See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on Pre-agreement Costs (also known as Pre-award Costs).

Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs
See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs.

Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)
See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on Costs Associated with Language Assistance.

Eligibility Information
For eligibility information, see the title page.

Application and Submission Information
See the Application Elements and Formatting Instructions section of the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on what happens to an application that does not contain all the specified elements or that is nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation.

Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
The SF-424 will be submitted in Grants.gov. The SF-424 is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information on completing the SF-424.

In Section F of the SF-424, please include the name and contact information of the individual who will complete application materials in JustGrants. JustGrants will use this information (email address) to assign the application to this user in JustGrants.

Intergovernmental Review: This solicitation (“funding opportunity”) is not subject to Executive Order 12372. (In completing the SF-424, an applicant is to answer question 19 by selecting the response that the “Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.”)

Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)
The Standard Applicant Information section of the JustGrants application is pre-populated with the SF-424 data submitted in Grants.gov. Applicants will need to review the Standard Applicant Information in JustGrants and make edits as needed. Within this section, applicants will need to: add zip codes for areas affected by the project; confirm their Authorized Representative; and verify the organization's legal name and address.

Budget and Associated Documentation
Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)
Applicants will submit their indirect cost rate agreement by uploading the agreement as an attachment in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

If your program does not charge indirect costs against the VOCA Assistance award, you do not have to submit anything for this item.

Note: Indirect costs, to the extent that they include administrative costs, are limited by the statutory cap on administrative (and training) costs. See 28 C.F.R. 94.107; 94.109.

Financial Management Questionnaire (including applicant disclosure of high-risk status)
Applicants will download the questionnaire in JustGrants and submit by uploading the completed questionnaire as an attachment in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

A Statement Regarding Use of Administrative and Training Funds
Applicants should provide OVC with a general statement about how they intend to use the 5 percent of the award amount
allowed for administration and training. See 28 C.F.R. 94.107.

If you propose subawards or procurement contracts from your administrative funding allocation, and these meet the criteria for OJP review set out in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide (e.g., proposed non-competitive contracts over $250,000), you should describe them in this submission, if the details are known at the time of application.

**Civil Rights Compliance Reporting**

Applicant will submit through JustGrants the name of a civil rights contact person who is responsible for ensuring that all applicable civil rights requirements are met and who will act as liaison in civil rights matters with the OJP Office for Civil Rights.

**Monitoring of Subawards**

Please describe your subaward monitoring plan for FY 2021. Please explain whether you met your monitoring goals for FY 2020. If you did not meet or are not meeting your monitoring goals, please explain.

**OJP Financial Management and Grant Administration Training Certificates**

Please attach the required current training certificate(s) for the Grant Award Administrator and Financial Manager for this formula grant application. Both the Grant Award Administrator and Financial Manager for this award must have successfully completed the "OJP financial management and grant administration training" within 3 years prior to submission of this application.

A list of OJP trainings that OJP will consider "OJP financial management and grant administration training" for purposes of this condition is available at [https://www.ojp.gov/training/fmts.htm](https://www.ojp.gov/training/fmts.htm).

**Statement Regarding Plan to Subgrant Funds**

Applicants must upload the following to JustGrants:

a. A copy of the documented methodology for selecting subrecipients that will apply to FY 2021 VOCA Assistance funding.

b. A copy of any completed strategic plan applicable to FY 2021 VOCA Assistance funding.

c. A document that describes (to the extent not already addressed in the items above) the following:

   - Efforts to assess victim services needs in the state or territory; and whether these efforts actively seek to include diverse and frequently marginalized perspectives in identifying these needs, and, if so, how.
   - How subawards will be made, including the extent to which new awards will be made and the extent to which awards to existing subgrantees will be modified. If a planning process is underway or anticipated regarding the delivery of victim services, please describe that process.
   - How the state or territory will use its funding to affirmatively advance equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity, including by incorporating any of the practices described below and any others that your jurisdiction uses or plans to use.
     - For this item, please refer to the definitions used in the January 20, 2021 “Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.” The term ‘equity’ means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; and persons with disabilities. The term ‘underserved communities’ refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, and geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, including isolated rural areas, particularly tribal communities and Alaska Native villages; communities affected by persistent poverty or inequality; and communities exemplified by the list in the preceding definition of ‘equity.
   - How the state or territory will ensure that subrecipients meet the VOCA organizational capacity requirements. See 28 C.F.R. 94.112(b); 34 U.S.C. § 20103(b)(1)(B) (requiring subrecipients to show a record of effective services to victims of crime and financial support from non-Crime Victims Fund sources, or, in lieu of this record, show substantial financial support from non-Crime Victims Fund sources). OVC encourages states and territories to consider funding organizations that traditionally have not received VOCA funds, and, within the parameters of the
program rule, to set flexible criteria for demonstrating organizational capacity. To the extent that your jurisdiction will
(or has) reviewed its process for determining organizational capacity to broaden access to VOCA Assistance
funding, please describe what changes you intend to make (or have made).

It is understood that the plan for FY 2021 is a preliminary plan that may change as the planning process unfolds.

**Disclosures and Assurances**
Applications will complete the following disclosures and assurances.

**Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**
Applicants will complete and submit the SF-LLL in Grants.gov. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for
additional information.

**DOJ Certified Standard Assurances**
See DOJ Certified Standard Assurance on the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

**Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items**
Applicants will complete the JustGrants web-based Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items form. See the OJP
Grant Application Resource Guide for additional information.

**DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements**
Applicants will review and accept the DOJ Certified Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements. See OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

**Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable)**

If applicable, applicants will submit as an attachment in JustGrants. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for
additional information. A DOJ High Risk Grantee is a recipient that has received a DOJ High Risk designation based on a
documented history of unsatisfactory performance, financial instability, management system or other internal control
deficiencies, or noncompliance with award terms and conditions on prior awards, or that is otherwise not responsible.

If your organization has not been designated as a High Risk Grantee by DOJ, you do not have to submit anything for this
item.

**How to Apply**

Applicants will submit the full application including attachments in JustGrants at https://justgrants.usdoj.gov/.

For additional information, see the “How to Apply” section in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

**Submission Dates and Time**
The SF-424 and the SF-LLL will be submitted in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m., eastern time (ET) on July 6, 2021. OJP urges
applicants to submit applications at least 72 hours prior to the application due date to allow time for the applicant to
receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that
may have caused a rejection notification.

The full application will be submitted in JustGrants by July 19, 2021 by 11:59 p.m., eastern time (ET). To be considered
timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline.

**Application Review Information**

**Review Process**
OJP reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable,
achievable, and consistent with the solicitation. See the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for information on the
application review process for this solicitation.

Pursuant to the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, before award decisions are made, OJP also reviews information related
to the degree of risk posed by the applicant. Among other things to help assess whether an applicant that has one or more
prior federal awards has a satisfactory record with respect to performance, integrity, and business ethics, OJP checks
whether the applicant is listed in SAM as excluded from receiving a federal award.
In addition, if OJP anticipates that an award will exceed $250,000 in federal funds, OJP also must review and consider any information about the applicant that appears in the non-public segment of the integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently, the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System, FAPIIS).

**Important note on FAPIIS:** An applicant, at its option, may review and comment on any information about itself that currently appears in FAPIIS and was entered by a federal awarding agency. OJP will consider any such comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in its assessment of the risk posed by the applicant.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, the Assistant Attorney General will make all final award decisions.

**Federal Award Administration Information**

**Federal Award Notices**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on award notifications and instructions.

**Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements**

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the OJP-approved application, the recipient must comply with all award conditions, and all applicable requirements of federal statutes and regulations (including applicable requirements referred to in the assurances and certifications executed in connection with award acceptance).

For additional information on these legal requirements, see the “Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements” section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#).

**Information Technology (IT) Security Clauses**

An application in response to this solicitation may require inclusion of information related to information technology security. See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on information technology security.

**General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements**

In addition to the deliverables described in Program Description, any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to submit certain reports and data.

**Required reports.** Recipients typically must submit quarterly financial reports, annual progress reports, final financial and progress reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with the Part 200 Uniform Requirements or specific award conditions. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent. (In appropriate cases, OJP may require additional reports.)

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for additional information on specific post-award reporting requirements, including performance measures data.

**Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

For OJP contact(s), see Contact Information.

For contact information for Grants.gov, see Contact Information.

**Other Information**


**Provide Feedback to OJP**

See the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for information on how to Provide Feedback to OJP.

**Application Checklist**

OVC FY 2021 VOCA Victim Assistance Grant Program
This application checklist has been created as an aid in developing an application. The DOJ Application Submission Checklist is another resource.

What an Applicant Must Do:
Prior to Registering in Grants.gov:

- Acquire a DUNS Number (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Acquire or renew registration with SAM (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

To Register with Grants.gov:

- Acquire AOR and Grants.gov username/password (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Biz POC (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

To Find Funding Opportunity:

- Search for the Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov
- Access Funding Opportunity and Application Package (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Sign up for Grants.gov email notifications (optional) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Read Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov
- Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/PostawardRequirements/chapter3.10a.htm (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

Overview of Post-Award Legal Requirements:
Review the “Overview of Legal Requirements Generally Applicable to OJP Grants and Cooperative Agreements - FY 2021 Awards” in the OJP Funding Resource Center.

Scope Requirement:

- The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of the state allocation table.

Eligibility Requirement: See the title page.

- Submit SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov

After SF-424 and SF-LLL submission in Grants.gov, Receive Grants.gov Email Notifications That:

- Submission has been received in Grants.gov
- Submission has either been successfully validated or rejected with errors (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

If No Grants.gov Receipt and Validation, or Error Notifications are Received:

- Contact Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726, 606-545-5035, at Grants.gov customer support webpage, or email at support@grants.gov regarding technical difficulties (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

Receive email notification to complete application in JustGrants:

- Complete application in JustGrants

Content of Application Submission

- Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) in Grants.gov
- Standard Applicant Information (SF-424 info from Grants.gov)
- A Statement Regarding Use of Administrative and Training Funds.
- Civil Rights Compliance Reporting
- Monitoring of Subawards
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
- OJP Financial Management and Grant Administration Training Certificates
• Statement Regarding Plan to Subgrant Funds

Disclosures and Assurances

• Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
• Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
• DOJ Certified Standard Assurance (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
• DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)
• Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees (if applicable) (see OJP Grant Application Resource Guide)

Submit Application in JustGrants:

• Application has been successfully submitted in JustGrants

If JustGrants Application Submission, Validation, or Error Notifications are Received:

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