

[Transcript from the [OVC Fiscal Year 2021 Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance Grant Program](https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/funding-webinars) pre-application webinar, which was held May 20, 2021. The archived webinar can be found at: [https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/funding-webinars.](https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/funding-webinars)]

DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar, FY 2021 Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance Grant Program, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. This time, I'd like to introduce today's presenters, Victoria Jolicoeur, Program Manager, and Lori Gardner, Grants Management Specialist, both with the Office for Victims of Crime. Victoria's going to be starting things off today. Victoria?

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Hello, everyone, I'm Victoria Jolicoeur and I'm one of the Program Managers for this program. Thank you for joining us today.

LORI GARDNER: Hello, everyone.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Lori?

LORI GARDNER: This is Lori Gardner. I am also a Grants Manager on this program, and I'm very pleased to be here today. Thanks for joining us.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: So today, we're going to go over the OVC overview and the mission, we'll breakdown the solicitation, the project purpose, goal, and objectives, eligibility requirements, application and award timeline, required documents, the application process, and any questions and answers that we can provide.

The Office for Victims of Crime administers the Crime Victims Fund (the Fund), which is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders, and not from tax dollars. OVC channels that money towards victim compensation assistance throughout the United States, raises awareness about victims' issue, promote compliance with victims' right laws, and provides training and technical assistance and publication and products to victim assistance professionals. Through the Crime Victims Fund, OVC programs support victims in tribal communities, state victim compensation and assistance program, provide training and technical assistance, and information resources to support victims of human trafficking, and then the national scope demonstration and service projects.

Some timeline. Timeline dates, important dates. The solicitation closes Tuesday, June 29, 2021. Department of Justice expects the awards--expects to award grants no later than September 30, 2021. Please note, all project start dates should be on or after October 1, 2021. It's important to keep in mind that successful applicants may not begin work until the budget has been reviewed and officially approved by OJP. Additional information and/or restrictions may be outlined in the award package.

Eligibility requirements. Who's eligible? States and territories; units of local government; Indian tribe' any other organization that has a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, which include a domestic violence and sexual assault victim service provider, domestic violence and sexual assault coalition, and community-

based and culturally specific organization, and any other nonprofit, non-governmental organization. Also, any organization that works directly with pets, service animals, emotional support animals, or horses, and collaborates with any organization referred to in one through four above, including an animal shelter and an animal welfare organization.

Program Description is this. The program will provide funding for shelter and transitional housing and other assistance to victims of domestic violence and their companion animals, which under this program means pets, service animals, emotional support animals, and horses.

The term domestic violence victim means a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as established in Public Law 115-334. The definitions, set out in 34 U.S.C. 20127(b)(9), domestic violence victim, emotional support animal, pet, service animal.

The purpose of this program supports projects that provide: emergency and transitional shelter and housing assistance for domestic violence victims with companion animals; short-term shelter and housing assistance for domestic violence victims with companion animals; support services designed to enable persons who are fleeing a situation of domestic violence to locate and secure safe housing with the victim's companion animal, safe accommodations for the victim's companion animal, or provide the victim with companion animal-related services such as transportation, care services, and other assistance; training for--and also training for relevant stakeholders. Please note, minor modifications or renovations to existing structures are permissible under this program. Construction, however, involving the breaking of new ground is not permissible.

We have some prohibited activities. Applicants shall not propose any activities that may compromise the safety of a domestic violence victim, including background checks of domestic violence victims or clinical evaluations to determine the eligibility of such a victim for support services; to require mandatory services for victims or that a victim obtain a protective order to receive proposed services. These are prohibited activities.

The goal of this program is to provide shelter and transitional housing to victims of domestic violence and their companion animals.

The objectives. Increase the number of shelter beds and transitional housing options to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence who need shelter or housing for them and their companion animals. Also, to provide training on, [1] the link between domestic violence and abuse and neglect of companion animals, [2] the needs of victims of domestic violence, [3] best practices for providing or referring support services to such victims, and [4] best practices in designing and delivering services that protect victims' confidentiality. These are the objectives of the program.

Deliverables. Program deliverables include the following services for victims of domestic violence with companion animals. Emergency, short-term, and transitional shelter and housing assistance. Assistance with expenses incurred for the relocation or temporary shelter, housing, boarding, or fostering of companion animals that are incidental to securing the safety of the companion animal. Support services designed to enable a victim who is fleeing a situation of domestic violence to locate and secure safe housing for the victim and the victim's companion animals. Delivery of training for relevant stakeholders on the link between domestic violence and the abuse and neglect

of animals, the needs of victims of domestic violence, best practices for providing support services to such victims, best practices for providing such victims with referrals to victim services, and the importance of confidentiality.

OJP Priority Areas. In Fiscal Year 2021, in addition to executing any statutory prioritization that may be applicable, OJP will give priority consideration to applicants--applications as follows. Applications that will advance the promotion of civil rights, access to justice, support to crime victims, protecting the public from crime and evolving threats, or building trust between law enforcement and the community. Applications that demonstrate that the individuals who are intended to benefit from the requested grant reside in high-poverty areas or persistent-poverty counties. To receive priority consideration under the poverty priority, the applicant must provide information to demonstrate that the individuals who are intended to benefit from the requested grant reside in high-poverty areas or in persistent-poverty counties. For purposes of this priority consideration, the term high-poverty area means any census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2013 through 2017 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Census Bureau. And for additional information on high-poverty areas, please see the solicitation.

So OVC, in certain cases, [may] provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this solicitation through continuation awards. OJP will consider, among other factors, OJP's strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award, and progress of award-funded work when making continuation decisions. It's important to note that all awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law. OVC intends--expects to make 5 awards, the maximum number of awards to this program, the maximum dollar amount for each award is \$500,000. Total amount anticipated to be awarded under this solicitation is \$2.5 million. As stated earlier, the project period of performance start date would be October 1, 2021. Period of performance duration is 36 months.

Types of Award. These awards will be made as grants, [a] legal instrument of financial assistance, awarding agency maintains an oversight and monitoring role, without substantial involvement with awarding agency. If you need more information on that, you can see the "Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements" under the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#). But these awards will be made as grants.

And with that, I'm going to turn it over to Lori Gardner.

LORI GARDNER: The next 10 slides or so, we're going to talk about the required elements of the application.

So these listed here are the minimum requirements in order for your application to proceed to the peer review and to be considered for funding. Please make sure that you cover each of these sections in your application and please do so in the order of the solicitation. I think it's important to note, if something seems repetitive to you, from one section to the next, you should still cover it in each section.

The Proposal Abstract should be no more than 400 words. It should cover the name of the applicant. It should also summarize the proposed project, including any primary activities that you'll be conducting, any products or deliverables from the project, the service area, and then who's going to benefit from the proposed project. The abstract will be completed in a form in Just--in the JustGrants system.

Please make sure that you adhere to the proposal formatting requirements. This is very important. If an applicant fails to comply with the requirements of the format, OVC may choose to not consider the application for peer review and funding. So you want to make sure that the application does not exceed 15 pages, that you use, you know, 12-point font, and 1-inch margins.

So these items here, listed on the slide, are what should be included in the narrative portion of your application, and we're going to go through each one individually.

The Proposal Narrative includes your Description of the Problem. This is an opportunity for the applicant to demonstrate your understanding about the dynamics of sexual and domestic violence, as well as stalking, and also to discuss any unique challenges or barriers that you face in your community, and how those are going to be addressed by your project.

The Project Design and Implementation is your opportunity to discuss what your program is going to be doing with these funds. This is one of the most important parts of your application. You want to be sure to be as clear and as concise as possible. You also want to make sure that what you propose here is in alignment with the rest of your application. For instance, if you have an advocate listed in your budget, then you should also be sure to discuss what the advocate will be doing in this section, as well as the next section that we'll be talking about. Applicants should create goals and as well as SMART objectives. Meaning, those objectives are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-bound. So, if you're going to provide a shelter to 50 victims, you want to be sure to state how many victims you're going to serve and by when. And using the data from your community, you want to be sure that you are stating something that is realistic for you all to be able to serve.

Under the Capabilities and Competencies, you will want to describe how your organization is capable of carrying out the grant, such as experience that your organization has with other grants, whether it's federal or state or other; also your experience with partners in the community that you'll work with; and then any specific expertise that your organization has. You'll also want to highlight any key staff that are on the--on the project and describe any roles and responsibilities of either staff or the partners that will be working on the project.

You should also discuss the qualifications of the individuals that will be working on the grant to provide services to victims of domestic and sexual assault. Any new staff that you're going to be hiring, you will want to describe how you're going to hire new staff, provide some job descriptions for each of those staff, and then last but certainly not the least, how you will keep the animals in your care in your program safe.

Applicants that are funded under this award will also be required to submit regular performance data that demonstrates the results of the work carried out under the award. You'll want to highlight

the position that's going to be responsible for reporting requirements in the grant, what method your organization will use to collect the data. For instance, if your organization has some sort of database collection system, you will want to talk about that. And then, if you'll be collecting any data beyond what is required by the grant. You can find out more about the performance measures by following the [link](#) in the solicitation that is under Plan to Collect Data.

The Budget Worksheet and the Budget Narrative is now a web-based form in JustGrants. So, you'll need to complete that form whenever you get to the JustGrants submission part of your application. You'll want to remember to break out your costs for your award by year and reflecting a project period of 36 months. The Budget Worksheet should provide a detailed computation for each budget line item, listing the total cost and then showing how it's calculated. For example costs for personnel should show the annual salary rate and the percentage of time devoted to the project for each employee that will be paid with the grant funds. And on that note, please make sure that the items in the budget, such as personnel item--personnel costs relate back to anything, any positions that are mentioned in the narrative. You just want to make sure everything is consistent throughout your application. Applicants can see the "Budget Preparation and Submission Information" section in the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for details on budget and other documentation such as information on proposed subawards and contracts under the award. For questions pertaining to budgets and examples of what's allowable and unallowable, you'll want to visit [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) at the website listed. I believe Tammy is going to listed that in the chat. The DOJ Financial Guide is a really important document. I can't stress that enough. One tip I always give people, something I do myself, I will download it as a PDF. And that way, I can easily do a word search for, you know, anything I want to know, whether it's allowable or not.

This screen lists of the documents that are to be included--that are mentioned in the application checklist and the solicitation. I can't stress enough that you should go through this checklist in your review prior to submitting your application just to make sure you've included everything. So, you can make sure your application is submitted correctly and will be considered for review. And I am going to turn it over to Victoria for the next few slides.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: The Application Process. Applicants should consider reviewing [Application Mechanics: Submitting an Application](#) training materials, which is posted on JustGrants--[Justice Grants Training Application Submission](#) page. A number of other eLearning Videos are also available there. Like Lori mentioned, it's really important to go through what should and should not be included in the application. You want to make sure you've submitted a complete application.

Review the Application Submission Webinar. The recording is also available there. Applicants should consider reviewing the pre-recorded [Application Mechanics: Submitting an Application](#) webinar. There, it will explain the steps you need to take prior to applying for funding, how to find open DOJ funding opportunities in Grants.gov, how to apply for funding using JustGrants, the JustGrants roles and their responsibilities, and requirements/actions--and required actions, also how to navigate and use JustGrants to submit your application, and where to find training materials, job aids, and other resources. Additional application submission training materials are posted on the [Justice Grants Training Application Submission](#) page.

Also there, we have a [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#). You want to review the checklist. The checklist covers all necessary steps to complete the two-part application process in Grants.gov and JustGrants. The checklist includes how to prepare to apply; completing the abbreviated application in Grants.gov; entity onboarding and JustGrants access; completing, reviewing, certifying and submitting your application in JustGrants; and helpful user tips. Please note that when you submit in Grants.gov, please make sure you get an email. Don't wait 2 weeks, the 2 weeks before the JustGrants date. We want to make sure that everything was submitted correctly. And if you have any issues with that, you're able to troubleshoot that with our user support.

JustGrants Training and Resources. There, you can access a recording and a slide deck from previous webinars, which I promise will be super helpful. Refer to the [JustGrants Training Application Submission](#) page for additional information on [the] application submission process. And most certainly, bookmark the [JustGrants Training](#) page for updates. Lots of good stuff there.

So, Submission Information. And Fiscal Year --For Fiscal Year 2021, applications will be submitted to DOJ in a new two-step process. Step one, applicants will submit an SF-424 and the SF-LLL in Grants.gov. And I think Tammy probably put it in the chat, but it's at [Grants.gov/web/grants/register.html](#). To register in Grants.gov, applicants will need to obtain a DUNS number, Data Universal Numeric System number, and a SAM, System of Award Management registration or renewal. Step two, applicants will submit the full application, including attachments in the JustGrants in the--at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](#). Please note to be considered timely, an application must be submitted by the application deadline using Grants.gov and the applicant must have received a validation message from Grants.gov that indicates successful and timely submission. OJP urges applicants to submit the application at least 72 hours prior to the application due date to allow for time--for the applicant to receive valid--the validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov. And to correct, in a timely fashion, any problems that may have caused a rejection notification. OJP encourages applicants to review the "How to Apply" section in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

And I think Tammy probably dropped this link in the chat. But, the [OJP Grants Application Resource Guide](#) will be very helpful to you. And with that, I'm going to turn it over to Lori.

LORI GARDNER: Here we go. Can you hear me? Okay, I worry about that whenever...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes.

LORI GARDNER: ... we're switching over. Thank you. Yes, as Victoria mentioned just a moment ago and as I mentioned earlier, this solicitation incorporates the Grant Application Resource Guide. I can't stress enough what a great guide this is as you are preparing and submitting your application, definitely recommend bookmarking this as you are developing your application.

This slide is just a list of websites that are really helpful for you as you're developing your application. The [OVC website](#), of course, you're probably already familiar with, tells all about the different programs of OVC. I already mentioned the [DOJ Financial Guide](#) would be a great website to bookmark and download the PDF, if you can. That's always a really helpful thing to do. Also, the [JustGrants](#) and [Grants.gov](#) websites, which you will be using in submitting your application.

One website, not mentioned yet, is the [OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center](#) or as we call it, TTAC. They have a lot of information on their website related to victim services. They have some web-based trainings and just a lot of different information about victim services that might be helpful to you in this process. And if you want to know more about [performance measurement reporting](#), you can go to the [ojp.gov](#) performance website. And last but not least, the [OJP Resource Center](#) tells you a lot. It provides a lot of different resources that OJP puts out each year, as well as different events that OJP holds.

The important dates, I know Victoria already mentioned, but it definitely bears repeating. Part one of your application is just the SF-424 and the SF-LLL, which is basically a lobbying disclosure form; you will need to turn that in to [Grants.gov](#) by June 15th. And then part two is really the full part of your application. It is the entire rest of your application that is submitted to JustGrants by June 29th.

So now we have time for some Q&A. Please know that we are hopeful that we can get to all of your questions, however, we may not be able to get to all of them today. So if we are not able to get to them, I think Daryl is going to put the slide back up with resources for you all to be able to contact different folks at OJP to ask your questions. So just know that today is not the only opportunity for you to ask questions. Okay.

And I'm going to see, try to get to the first question. "I am here today because I'm seeking assistance and have a service dog. I'm confused as to whether or I'm an applicant seeking help or does applicant mean I'm someone who offers to help people, if that makes sense."

So an applicant, Victoria showed a slide I think early on in the presentation that covered all of the different organizations that are eligible to apply. So those organizations would be the applicant. Victoria, do you have anything that you want to add?

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: No.

LORI GARDNER: "We have a partner--" Next question, "We have a partner that would donate tiny homes for this project." Sorry. I just--my screen is moving around on me. "...that would donate tiny homes for this project. If awarded, can we use funding to purchase land upon which to place the tiny homes?"

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: That's a good question. I don't know about the land--purchasing of the land under the--using this funding.

LORI GARDNER: Yeah. Construction is now allowable...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Because...

LORI GARDNER: I would say. For the purchase of land, you might need to reach out to the technical assistance--the Technical Assistance Center with the--that helps with programmatic requirements.

“What is the--” Next question. “What is the definition of transitional housing? Does it include short- and/or long-term rental assistance?”

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Well, I’m going through the solicitation, but transitional housing is typically short-term. Yeah, so, that would be emergency short-term.

LORI GARDNER: And I think that’s going to be different for, you know, each individual and each shelter.

Next question. “Is there an award floor or a minimum request?”

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: I don’t think so. But that would be a question you could submit to the OJP Response Center, but I don’t believe there is a floor. We have--we haven’t--we haven’t set a floor, previously.

LORI GARDNER: Up to 500, [\$500,000] but no floor.

Another--next question. “Must the organization also address stalking if it provides services to domestic and sexual assault?”

And, no, you do not. You can...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: No.

LORI GARDNER: ...you know, the organization that just serves domestic violence and not sexual assault. Although, obviously, those are crimes that are often very much related.

Let me read the next question. Sorry, these questions are moving around a little bit on me.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yeah.

LORI GARDNER: “Could these funds be used to expand an existing transitional housing program to include new housing that allows companion animals?”

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes. We have expansion--have had expansion projects. Yes.

LORI GARDNER: Yes, we currently have some grantees that have done just that.

Next question. “Can increases in insurance cost to cover having pets in the shelter be charged to the grant?”

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: I want to say that’s a question for the Technical Assistance Center, the OJP Response Center. But I think so. Lori, I don’t know if we’ve had that?

LORI GARDNER: I think that--I think that that is probably allowable, but I would double check...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: But that sounds allowable.

LORI GARDNER: ...with the technical...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yeah. Just to be certain.

LORI GARDNER: Next question.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: But I believe that is allowable. Yeah.

LORI GARDNER: “If--” Next question. “If health certificates are required to transport pets, can these be covered by the vet--by the vet--or by the grant?” I’m so sorry. So let me read that one more time just because I messed it up. “If health certificates are required to transport pets, can be costs covered by the grant?”

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: I would--I want to say yes, because you have--that would be part of the transporting which, you know, sometimes could include how you’re--you--the pet being fostered or...

LORI GARDNER: Right.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: ...sheltered somewhere else. But, yeah, I would say yes. But you can, for certainty, email us at the OJP Response Center.

LORI GARDNER: “Our shelter residents are designated homeless by the McKinney-Vento Act. Our shelter is located in a low income area. Due to the increase in domestic violence and to maintain social distancing, we use extended stay hotels as an extension of our congregate shelter. Once victims and children are moved into our shelter, they reside there. Do we qualify as a high priority area, if our shelter is in a low income area but the hotels are not? We need these hotels to be able to shelter people.” So the program is in a low income area but, the motel or hotel isn’t necessarily going to be.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yeah, I don’t--I think it’s where--I would say let’s email the OJP Response Center. But it sounds like that’s something that would be allowable, because it doesn’t say that the sheltering has to be in the low income area. But that’s where you put--that’s where the program is going to be run from.

LORI GARDNER: All right. And that’s a model that has been expanding a lot recently due to the changing circumstances of COVID. So...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Right.

LORI GARDNER: Give me a second to find the next. Next question is, “How long has this grant been around?”

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Well, this is the--This is the second year that we are funding this program. So Fiscal Year 2020 was the first--those grantees were the first cohort of this program.

LORI GARDNER: So you all would be the second...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: ...this grant program. And this will be--yeah.

LORI GARDNER: And this question goes along with that. "And is there a list of previous recipients?"

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: I believe that there is. I can't say for certain, but I think it might be on the--on OVC's website.

LORI GARDNER: Right, yeah. It's on our website. So...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Okay.

LORI GARDNER: You should be able to visit our website and see the list of recipients as well as a short description.

Okay. Next question. "We have a building that we have a plan to remodel into a long-term shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence and their pets. Is the grant something that we can help with the remodeling of that building?"

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Well, the--see remodeling, yeah, remodeling... Let's email to the OJP Response Center, but there's no breaking ground allowed, no construction allowed under this grant. But the--you are able to expand your program and--programs and, you know...

LORI GARDNER: Yeah. Repairs and that type of thing.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: ...if the building needs work, repairs, right.

LORI GARDNER: So I think you would need to maybe email the technical assistance center with some more specifics. Because what one person might call remodeling and other one, you know, it might actually be construction. So I think you would need to get some more specifics there.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Agreed.

LORI GARDNER: "You mentioned the five grants would be awarded. Is this the maximum number or the expected number of grants that you'll provide?"

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: It's the maximum number of grants that we will provide. It's the expected amount, based on the \$500,000 maximum.

LORI GARDNER: "Is there any way--" next question, "Is there any way we're going to have access to the PowerPoint presentation so we can catch up on anything that we may have missed?"

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yeah, I think these sessions are being recorded. So you should have...

LORI GARDNER: Yes.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: ...would have that. Yes.

DARYL FOX: That's correct, Victoria. So the recording, the PowerPoint, and the transcript will all be made available on the OVC website, in the funding section, and then the webinars--prior webinars section there.

LORI GARDNER: Okay. Next question. "If construction is not allowable, will the purchase of pre-fab homes, such as manufactured homes, be allowable?"

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: I want to say that would be a question for the Technical Assistance Resource Center. I mean, what do you think, Lori? I don't want to say we can purchase homes and not quite sure.

LORI GARDNER: I believe that's allowable. Yeah, I would definitely reach out to the technical assistance center, as well there. But that should be allowable.

"We are hoping to--" Let me make sure this is not one that we already covered. "We are hoping to build a pet shelter for our clients in a domestic violence shelter. I saw that it said construction involving breaking ground is not permissible, so I wanted to clarify. Would that mean we wouldn't qualify, if we are wanting to use it towards building a pet shelter?"

Well, construction is not allowable. You could qualify and submit an application but it just needs to be for services and costs that are allowable, rather than construction.

Next question is, "I'm confused about the scope of services. Does the applicant have to provide housing for both the victim and pet together or can the applicant simply provide shelter services for pets of victims of domestic abuse?"

I think it depends on the program. We currently have six programs and they have a variety of different models. Some of them house the domestic violence victims within the shelter and they work with a local rescue organization and, you know, work with, you know, foster parents that foster those animals. Some of them have the animals and the survivor in the same shelter together. I think every community's a little bit different. So it's going to depend on, you know, what resources you have available. You would certainly want to continue to provide services to the victim of domestic violence, but if you have some different resources, you all may have, you know, a little bit of a different model. Victoria, do you have anything that you wanted to add to that?

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: No, that--that's spot on.

LORI GARDNER: “Regarding the question about short-term rental. The F--RFGA mentions emergency and transitional shelter and housing assistance. Can that be interpreted as short-term rental?”

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes. Housing assistance, yes.

LORI GARDNER: Next question. “What is the difference between--what is the difference between high-poverty areas and persistent-poverty areas?”

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: So, you might--you want to--You want to refer to the solicitation and there are links to the Census Bureau, the data there that can clarify that for you.

LORI GARDNER: All right. Okay. Next question is, “Can the shelter include renovation costs to shelter rooms and into a shelter residence, pet co-living arrangement, not new construction?”

Yes, I would say that’s allowable. Victoria, would you agree?

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes, yep. That is--yes.

LORI GARDNER: Okay. Next question. “Can we use funding to replace carpeting in transitional housing units with hardwood floors to lower the long-term costs of housing companion animals?”

And, yes, that would be allowable.

“Does the grant cover getting pets up-to-date on vaccinations needed to house a pet?”

I would say yes and I would also say that that would be--especially if you’re housing pets together, you know, in one congregate shelter with other residents, that that would be quite necessary.

Next question, “Could an applicant use a portion of the award to set up an emergency fund from which it would award microgrants to survivors to cover emergency bills, pet shelter, or pet-friendly short-term housing?”

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes, we have some--we have--I think one of the grantees is doing something like that. I don’t know that they’re necessarily called microgrants, though.

LORI GARDNER: I think yes. This would be allowable. I think I would probably reach out to the technical assistance...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Technical assistance, yeah.

LORI GARDNER: ...at OJP about setting up the emergency fund aspect of it just to make sure, you know, because you said microgrants would be the way you’re--the way you have planned would be allowable.

“How are--” Next question, “How are you defining care services for pets? Can the grant include daily care provided by animal care technicians provided by a rescue partner and medical care as well as behavior--behaviorist and pet therapy services?”

And yes, that is--those are all allowable costs under this grant.

Next question, “If we are an animal shelter that offers free-of-charge temporary animal boarding for victims of domestic and other types of violence, can we apply to fund the cost of housing for these animals for us? This is an existing program that can get very costly.”

So I think it depends on what funding you’re using, currently. You cannot use any federal funds to supplant. So I think it--I think your situation, it may depend on your current funding. And that might be something you reach out to the Technical Assistance Center. Unless, Victoria, you have anything additional you’d like to add?

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: No, I would agree. And Lori, I can read the questions going forward. You’ve been at it for a little while.

LORI GARDNER: Okay. Thank you. They’re jumping around on me. I hope I’ve done okay, with that.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yeah, yeah, I’m like let me--okay, so I’m going to--I’ll take it from here. I think the next question is, “If we already have property, could we use this grant to place the tiny homes on?”

Okay, this is a question for Technical Assistance Center, because I know, this has come up before where it’s not like we’re not breaking ground, but it starts to get a little tricky with strips that you’re placing the homes on. So, email the Technical Assistance Center with that because I think we would need some more information.

Next question, “We do not provide direct service, human or animal services, but do provide grants to human and animal serving organizations to create pet programs for DV survivors. Would we be eligible to apply for these funds that would then distribute to human animal service organizations creating/expanding these programs?”

I would--I don’t know about that. I would say reach out to the Technical Assistance Program, the OJP Response Center. Lori, what would you be inclined to say? This sounds like a pass-through or something.

LORI GARDNER: Yeah, I would--I would reach out to them with the specifics about that, as well.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Okay. Will, this--will--oh, gosh. Will this--it jumped up. I’m sorry, I hope I didn’t skip one. “Will this grant be a line item or a reimbursement grant?”

I don’t know that I’m following, but your budget should be by line item.

LORI GARDNER: And it's for every, you know, based on reimbursement.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: "Can you direct us to where we might find best practices for training stakeholders?"

LORI GARDNER: Well, I think--I can't remember the name of the specific website. But Allie Phillips is...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Allie Phillips? Yeah.

LORI GARDNER: ...a wonderful leader in this--in this field and I mean, you can Google Allie Phillips and definitely find some information there. The Animal Welfare Institute is another great resource. Those are two that I can think of off the top of my head.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yep. "Can this funding be used to create adult career training programs as long as the training is for survivors?"

I want to say that sounds like not what this program is about. Lori?

LORI GARDNER: Yeah, I would say that's outside of the scope of... You know, the intention of this program is to support survivors and their companion animals. So, I think that's the intention of this of this--of this funding.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Next question, "Going back to defining high priority area, if an organization is located in an area that wouldn't be considered high priority, but does serve--service a region including high priority areas, would they be eligible to apply?"

Again, I would refer you back to the solicitation to get some more--some more clarity on high priority--high-poverty areas and the like. There are links there to help you flush it out a little bit more. And also email the Technical Assistance OJP Response Center. Lori, do you want to add anything to that?

LORI GARDNER: No, I don't have anything else on that.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Okay. "What would monitoring and site visits look like and how would they ensure confidentiality of client information under VAWA, VOCA, and family violence protection?" I'm not sure what that fully is. FVPSA I think it's like family violence.

LORI GARDNER: FVPSA.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: FVPSA. Oh, okay. It sounds like you're an awardee already or you may be familiar with grants and site visits. So, if monitoring site visits look like--do you mean because of COVID or just in general? But site visits include reviewing programmatic and financial information. Then, what the program proposed they were going to do, versus what they are actually doing, and trying to discern whether or not the program or the grantee needs some technical assistance. How--what are the best ways OVC can help move the grantee along in meeting their

goals and objectives? So we will be looking at where you are in terms of the objectives that you set out to, in the proposal. So the monitoring is--monitoring and site visits, would--we do annual desk reviews. We do onsite and enhanced programmatic desk reviews.

LORI GARDNER: And I would also add that ensuring confidentiality is an award condition for this project. And you're also--programs are required to certify that they have policies that address the confidentiality of survivors.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes. And we're at 1:56. So we're going to do a hard stop at 2:00. So we're going to try and get through the rest of the questions as best we can.

Next question, "Can the funding be used to purchase a vehicle for transporting pets or mobile grooming vehicle for career training program?"

Well, I know--I believe we can--you can purchase the vehicle for transporting pets or the mobile grooming services. I'm not too sure about the career training program. Lori, would you--do you...

LORI GARDNER: I'm not sure what they mean there, mobile grooming vehicle for a career training program. I'd have to have more specifics on that. I'm not sure what they mean.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yeah, so you can email the OJP Response Center.

"Would fence..." Oh, okay. "Would fencing and shelter for animals be allowable?"

Well, if you're going to put it up in the shelter, yes. Purchasing fencing in shelter, that would--that would be something that would be allowable. Lori?

LORI GARDNER: Yes.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yeah.

LORI GARDNER: Absolutely.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Okay. Thank you. For the next--oh, that's not a question.

"Can you purchase a prefabricated--a prefabricated outdoor kennel under the grant? No groundbreaking required for installation."

That's, yeah.

LORI GARDNER: Yes, that's allowable.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: "Could an applicant--Could an applicant use a portion of the award to set up an emergency fund for which it would award microgrants to survivors to..." --

LORI GARDNER: Oh.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yeah, I mean...

LORI GARDNER: Sorry. I think I/we've read this one. I had jumped ahead earlier. So, I'm sorry about that.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Oh, okay. You read that one. Okay. All right. Cool.

So, "Is there a recommended amount to request in our applications?"

No.

LORI GARDNER: Depends on, you know, what your program is going to do.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Right. I mean, you want to take advantage of the opportunity and see what you need against what we are allowing.

Okay. It's 1:59. And I think we have time for one more. "We are an existing low barrier emergency shelter with a pet hotel for our guests to board their pets. Can we apply for this grant in order to hire a case manager, dedicated to working with our guests who are domestic violence victims, which is a percentage of our total guests?"

That sounds like something that would be allowable under this grant. Lori, you want to add?

LORI GARDNER: Yes, I agree.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes. Okay. Okay. "Is that--I meant both general and in COVID-19. Just want to see about the..." Oh, okay. Lori answered that.

And I think the next question is, "Is there a goal we should try to meet for people served?"

I don't know that we listed anything specifically like that, but you want to make sure you go to the solicitation and review the goals and objectives that we have laid out there and see where your program fits.

LORI GARDNER: And I think it's also important to, you know, look at your community and what the needs are there and what's realistic for your program. You know, and just look at any data available in your community to, you know, see what is realistic for you all.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: And it looks like we're at 2:00.

DARYL FOX: Okay. Wonderful. Thank you both.

Just another reminder, this slide here is the important contact information. So if you do have questions regarding Grants.gov, JustGrants, or technical assistance with the programmatic requirements, your contacts will be here both phone numbers and emails.

And then once again, also these PowerPoint slides, the transcript, and the recording will be available on the OVC website within about 5 to 10 business days. So be on the lookout for that, if you want to go back for a reference.

And with that, on behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime and our panelists, we want to thank you for joining. This will end today's presentation.