

DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar: FY 2024 Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance Grant Program, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Victoria Jolicoeur, Program Manager with OVC, to begin the presentation. Victoria.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Thank you, Daryl. My name is Victoria Jolicoeur and I am the Program Manager in OVC's Discretionary Programs Division. I'm pleased you are joining us today to receive an overview of OVC's Fiscal Year 2024 Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance Grant Program. Lori Gardner is a Grants Manager at OVC and will be helping today with the Q&A. Lori also manages a couple of the Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance grants.

Today, we will talk about OVC's mission, the solicitation including the opportunity focus, eligibility, and required documents, then we will talk about the application process and resources, and there will be time to answer your questions at the end of the presentation. It will be helpful if you are following along with the solicitation and taking notes to help when you are submitting your application by the deadline.

OVC's mission is to enhance the nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime. The Office for Victims of Crime administers the Crime Victims Fund, referred to as 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 and assistance throughout the United States, raises awareness about victims' issues, promotes compliance with victims' rights laws, and provides training and technical assistance and publications and products to victim assistance professionals. This funding supports formula programs to states, territories, and Tribes, as well as many OVC discretionary grant programs for victims of crime.

Under the leadership of Jasmine D'Addario-Fobian and Sharron Fletcher, the OVC Discretionary Division is a small but mighty team of passionate professionals dedicated to enhancing access to services serving all victims of crime. We have several solicitations currently open and soon to be opening, so please be sure to check our Funding Opportunities page. And if you have a program that provides emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance, you are in the right place and will want to apply under this solicitation.

Before we dig into the solicitation, please mark your calendars with these dates. The Grants.gov deadline for this solicitation is July 15th, 2024, 11:59 PM Eastern Time. And the JustGrants deadline is July 22nd, 2024, 8:59 PM Eastern Time, with awards expected to be made by September 30th, 2024. These are 36-month awards beginning October 1st, 2024.

Please reference the solicitation on place--sorry, on page four for more information on eligible applicants which are listed on this slide. OVC will consider applications under which two or more entities, project partners, would carry out the federal award.

However, only one entity may be the applicant for the solicitation. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients or subgrantees. See the Application Resource Guide for additional information on subawards. OVC may choose to fund applications submitted under this Fiscal Year 2024 solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on many other considerations, the merit of applications, and the availability of appropriations.

With this solicitation, OVC seeks to 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 pet--emotional support animals, and horses. This information is described in detail under the specific information section. The term "domestic violence victim" means a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking as established in the Public Law 115-334. The following definitions set out in 34 U.S.C. 20127(9) apply to this solicitation. "Emotional Support Animal." The term emotional support animal means an animal that is covered by the exclusive--exclusion specified in 24 CFR, Section 5.303 or a successor regulation, and that is not a service animal. "Pet." The term pet means a domesticated animal such as a dog, cat, bird, rodent, fish, turtle, or other animal that is kept for the pleasure rather than for commercial purposes. "Service Animal." The term service animal has the meaning given the term in 28 CFR, Section 361--36.104 or its successor regulation. "Other terms." Except as otherwise provided, terms have the meaning given such terms in Section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, 34 U.S.C. 12291.

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

The objectives are listed on page seven of the solicitation. As you can see, 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 themselves and their companion animals. Also, to provide training for service providers on the link between domestic violence and the abuse and the neglect of companion animals, the needs of victims of domestic violence, best practices for providing or referring support services to such victims, and best practices in designing and delivering services that provide [protect] victims' confidentiality.

Deliverables on page--pages seven to eight. Grantees will make the housing and supportive services described above available to a victim for a period of not more than 24 months, which may be extended an additional six months if a victim has made a good-faith effort to acquire permanent housing during that 24-month period but has been able [unable] to do so. Under this program, grantees will be bound by the nondisclosure of confidential information requirements of Section 40002--(b)(2) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, 34 U.S.C. 12291(b)(2). Nothing in this solicitation shall be construed to require grantees to breach client confidentiality. Nothing in this solicitation should be read as requiring domestic violence victims to participate in the criminal justice system in order to receive services. An organization or an agency receiving funding must certify in its application that it will inform the victim of any

mandatory duty it had to report instances of abuse and neglect, including instances of abuse and neglect of companion animals before providing services or assistance to that victim.

Activities prohibited by 34 U.S.C. 201272(b) are any activities that may endanger the safety of a domestic violence victim, including conducting background checks of domestic violence victims, or evaluations to determine the eligibility of such victim for support services. Requiring mandatory services for victims or requiring that a victim obtain a protective order in order to receive services.

Grantees will provide data to OVC on the number of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking with companion animals provided with grant-funded assistance, and the purpose amount, type, and duration of such assistance.

OJP considerations. To receive this--I'm sorry. OJP considerations. In order to further OJP's mission, OJP will provide priority consideration when making award decisions to the following. 1A, applications that propose projects that are designed to meaningfully advance equity and remove barriers to accessing services and opportunities for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, adversely affected by inequality and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization. To receive this consideration, the applicant must describe how the proposed project will address identified inequities, and contribute to greater access to services and opportunity for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, adversely affected by inequality, and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization. Project activities under this consideration may include but are not limited to the following: improving victim services, justice response, prevention initiatives, reentry services, and other parts of an organization's or community's efforts to advance public safety.

1B, applicants that demonstrate that their capabilities and competencies for implementing their proposed projects are enhanced because they, or at least one proposed subrecipient that will receive at least 40% of the requested award funding, as demonstrated in the budget web-based form, are a population-specific organization that serves communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, adversely affected by inequality, and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization. Please be sure to note in your application abstract if you are requesting these--this priority consideration. Please note, addressing these priority areas in--is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration for one or more priority area does not guarantee an award.

Application and submission information. Okay. So now, that we have a better understanding of the intent of the program, let's jump into the application process. New applicants and entities interested in applying should apply for a UEI, Unique Entity Identifier number in SAM.gov as soon as possible. Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management, SAM. You must renew and validate your registration every 12 months. If you do not renew your SAM

registration, it will expire. An expired registration can delay or prevent application submission in Grants.gov and JustGrants. Registration and renewal can take up to 10 business days to complete, so be sure to get started early. Delays are being--are also being experienced by entities that have changed their legal business name or physical address. There have been extensive delays with the entity validation service process in SAM, and you should not wait until the last minute.

Applications must include. To meet the basic minimum requirements to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding, your application must have these elements: SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov, Proposal Abstract in JustGrants, Proposal Narrative in JustGrants, a description of the issue, statement of the problem, project design and implementation, capabilities and competencies, plan for collecting the data for the solicitation's performance measures, a budget web-based form including budget details and budget narrative in JustGrants. Remember, if you fail to submit any of the required documents, your application will not be considered for funding.

Budget web-based form, 10% merit criteria. The application--the applicant will complete--I'm sorry, the JustGrants web-based form. Break out costs by year, reflecting a 36-month total of project activity. The applicant will complete the JustGrants web-based form--budget form. For additional information, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide and complete the application in JustGrants. Budget training and the resource guide is in the chat. Funds awarded through this program are designed to support cost for key program activities. And there is a JustGrants training available on application submission, Completing the Budget Detail Work Form, and the link is in the chat.

Attachments if applicable. Beginning on page 26, look closely at the list of additional application components and be sure to submit all that are applicable to your application. And be sure to reference the application checklist before you submit.

Additional documents to apply. The application checklist at the end of each solicitation will list other documents to include. Use this checklist in your review prior to submitting your application to ensure you have attached all the documents. Other resources to aid in your develop--in developing your application include the DOJ Application Submission Checklist, and the link is in the chat. JustGrants quick reference about application attachments, they'll insert the link in the chat. And there's a large application submission job aid covering potential attachments that you may be asked to provide. We'll also drop the link in the chat.

Application submission overview. The process of submitting an application in JustGrants begins in Grants.gov. Once you have located a funding opportunity with DOJ, you will submit an SF-424 and an SF-LLL in Grants.gov. You must submit the required documents by the Grants.gov deadline to be considered. We suggest you try to submit at least 72 hours prior to the deadline to provide you with enough time to correct any errors and resubmit if necessary. It's okay to enter preliminary information in Grants.gov if you haven't fully determined your budget or project scope. You will be able to edit and update all of your entries in JustGrants.

Once the application has been submitted and validated in Grants.gov, it will be sent to JustGrants for completion. It may take several days for Grants.gov to complete validations and release it to JustGrants. The rest of your application is entered into JustGrants. JustGrants streamlines the process by allowing the ability to use web-based budget detail worksheet, streamline validation of your budgets allows for the process of clearing new budget much faster. The JustGrants submission should include all items that are required in the solicitation and is final. Your organization, specifically your assigned entity administrator, can control users and award assignments and does not require intervention from DOJ to make updates to those assignments. The entity administrator defaults to your organization's EBiz POC. But that person can reassign the response--the responsibilities to another user as needed. Please review the entity management training in JustGrants and we will drop the JustGrants training entity management resources in the chat.

Now, we will explore the different resources available to you and information on the different systems you will touch in your application process. To learn about OVC history and funding, find products, and register for upcoming events, visit the OVC website. [<https://ovc.ojp.gov/>] There is also a four-part pre-application webinar series which OVC provided in 2022 that may be helpful in preparing your application. You can find the funding at Funding Webinars--funding--under Funding & Awards Office for Victims of Crime under OJP, the link will be in the chat.

The Office of Justice Programs, OJP Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding. We'll also drop the link for that in the chat. [<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide>] It addresses a variety of policies, statutes, and regulations that apply to many or in some cases all OJP program applicant or grants and cooperative agreements awarded in the Fiscal Year 2024. Some OJP programs may have program solicitations that expressly modify a provision of this guide. In such case, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in the solicitation as to any such expressly modified provision.

Moving on to system tools. We'll insert the SAM.gov in the chat. [<https://sam.gov/>] Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System Award for-System [for] Award Management, SAM. As I mentioned earlier, this is a vital step as registration and renewal can take up to 10 days to complete, so be sure to get started early.

Moving on to system tools, we dropped the link in the chat for it. Grants.gov is your first stop in starting your application. [<https://www.grants.gov/>] Under applicant tab, you will find training and information on applying, the Grants.gov system, and the funding opportunity process. Please be aware that all OJP solicitations have two deadlines that must be met to be considered for funding. The first is in Grants.gov and then a few days to a few weeks later, you will need to submit your full application in JustGrants. Once you submit in Grants.gov, please keep an eye out for an email confirming you have

successfully submitted. If you do not successfully submit in Grants.gov, you will not be able to complete your application in JustGrants, your--complete your JustGrants application. It's very important.

The next system you will use in just--is JustGrants. [<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov>] JustGrants is intended to be an end-to-end grant management system that applicants and grantees will access and use throughout the grant cycle, from application through award to closeout. And JustGrants offers training resources on the DOJ website. Register for upcoming weekly training webinars. The JustGrants team hosts four weekly sessions: Post Award Management Weekly Training Webinar, Entity Management Weekly Training Webinar, Application Mechanics, Submitting an Application Weekly Training Webinar, and Award Acceptance Weekly Training Webinar--sorry, my apologies, such as JustGrants Office Hours on Application Mechanics every Wednesday, 2:30 to 4:30 PM, Eastern Time. These live virtual sessions discuss everything you need to know to submit an application. The next sessions are listed here. Listed are--at the website. Bookmark this page and check back regularly for session date and registration link. The link is in the chat. And you can--you'll see the link on the website, I mean, on the PowerPoint.

[<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/application-submission>]

A DO--the DOJ Financial Guide. A good starting point for applicant is the DOJ Grants Financial Guide which serves as the primary reference manual to assist OJP, OVW, and COPS Office award recipients in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility to safeguard grant funds and ensure funds are used for the purposes for which they were awarded. It compiles a variety of laws, rules, and regulations that affect the financial and administrative management of your award. References to the underlying laws and regulations have been provided in the guide as much as possible. This guide should be the starting point for all recipients and subrecipients of DOJ grant and cooperative agreements in assuring the effective day to day management of award. The top 10 topics in the guide as listed here such as Financial Management Systems, Allowable Costs, Unallowable Costs, Federal Financial Reports, among others.

Important contact information. Please be sure to start your application in JustGrants as soon as possible to confirm you have access, and do your best to submit your application well before the due date. OJP will only accept late applications if an applicant can demonstrate that there is a technical reason they could not submit. So you will want to ensure that you have plenty of time to address any technical issues you may encounter. JustGrants can be reached by phone at 833-872-5175 or email JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov. When contacting any of these system helpdesks, please be sure to request a tracking number so you can document that you sought assistance with your issue. This will be very important in the event you need to document that you had a technical issue that prevented you from submitting your application.

Finally, the OJP Resource Center is available to provide technical assistance and answer questions about problematic requirements of the solicitation. They can be

reached by phone at 800-851-3420 or email grants@ncjrs.gov. If you are a current grantee, we appreciate your understanding that your grant manager and OVC staff cannot answer questions about an open solicitation directly. For purposes of fairness and transparency, if you reach out to us, we will have to refer you back to the OJP Response Center so that your question can be documented and addressed officially. Finally, please keep in mind that O--the OJP Resource Center is also who you need to contact within 24 hours of the Grants.gov or JustGrants solicitation deadline should you experience any technical issues that prevented you--your application submission. Also, keep in mind, you will need to be able to document any technical issues, which is why starting your application early and maintaining any tracking numbers if you have reported an issue is critical.

All right. You can go social with OVC and stay up to date with news and happenings on Facebook, X, and YouTube. The links are there for you. And, finally, thank you for your time and attention today. Now, we will take your questions, if you have any that haven't already been addressed in the chat.

LORI GARDNER: Hi, Victoria. We have quite an engaged audience today and a number of questions have been addressed in the Q&A. However, one person is asking if funds can be used for property acquisition.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: I would say not at this time.

LORI GARDNER: All right. Sorry. Go ahead.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes, not at this time. Well, not using grant funds to purchase property, land and property acquisition, not at this time.

LORI GARDNER: Right. And construction projects, under this solicitation, are not allowable but funds can be used to modify existing facilities.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: That is correct. No breaking ground under this solicitation.

LORI GARDNER: Right. We have a lot of folks asking about if this funding can provide services to other victims of crime. However, this--the purpose and goal of this funding is to provide services to victims of domestic violence and their companion animals.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: That is correct. For other types of resources, they can check the OJP Funding Opportunities website.

LORI GARDNER: And, Victoria, regarding the one mandatory meeting that applicants must budget for, is there a required or general amount that should be allocated for that meeting?

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: No. You just use a formula to calculate your travel, lodging--your travel and lodging. I mean, we know it will depend because we don't have a set

time of when that annual convening of grantees will occur. Some years will be in-person. Some years may be virtual. It's not set in stone, but--so you want to use your--you can use, I guess, an average--they can use an average cost for flying and for lodging.

LORI GARDNER: Okay. And then also, Victoria, are counties eligible for this funding?

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: So, counties would be considered for funding because I believe we allow townships and--townships, which I think count--townships fall under counties, if I'm not mistaken. But if--also, if it's going to be under "other" on the--in the solicitation, we break down what other means, so is--what is the county doing?

LORI GARDNER: We have another question. "If there's a new domestic violence shelter being built, can funds be used to add pet-friendly accommodations on to the construction plan?"

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes. As long as it's not breaking ground.

LORI GARDNER: "Can a nonprofit 501(c)(3) apply for funding?" Yes. If those programs are part of the eligible entities such as a rescue organization or a domestic violence organization.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Thank you for pulling that PowerPoint up.

LORI GARDNER: One question is, "I work for a police department and we are part of the city but we do our own grants. Would we be eligible?" Yes, as a part...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes.

LORI GARDNER: ...of a city government, you are eligible.

And, "Can funds be used for a temporary shelter, in other words, pet-friendly hotels?" Yes, they can.

And someone asked, "Can you partner with local law enforcement to identify victims of crime?" I'm not entirely sure what that means. It might be helpful to elaborate a little bit. I think maybe you're talking about referrals from law enforcement, which would certainly be a good way to partner with a local entity.

Victoria, one question. "Our transitional housing organization is a for-profit, community-based organization. One population focus for us is women fleeing domestic violence situations. Are we eligible?" And I think probably the key there is the for-profit, community-based organization.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yeah. We don't--I don't--if we go back to eligibility, I don't--I don't think...

LORI GARDNER: I don't think...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: ...we excluded them. It's about what the organization is doing, but I don't think we excluded for-profit. Oh, maybe we did.

LORI GARDNER: Can funds--oh, sorry.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: No, go ahead.

LORI GARDNER: "Can funds be used to help victims of domestic violence acquire new housing by paying a pet deposit?" Absolutely, yes.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes.

LORI GARDNER: That is allowable.

"If we can't use the funds to acquire a property, can we use the funds to lease a facility or home?" You can use funds to--for transitional housing for domestic violence victims, which, you know, would be through a lease. I'm not sure though if this person was asking about leasing a facility for the domestic violence program. So it might be helpful to clarify that.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Agreed.

LORI GARDNER: "Can funds be used for staff salaries?" Yes, if it is a staff member that is involved in the coordinating of this program, of course.

"Can you partner with one or more organizations? So one organization would handle housing for individuals and the other would house the companion animal." Yes. So...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes.

LORI GARDNER: ...for instance, if you're a domestic violence organization and you're providing shelter for individuals, you can partner with a rescue organization or a vet to board the companion animals. Yes, that is allowable.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: And you want to have your MOUs and stuff in place.

Yes. Good point. So someone clarified the earlier question. "Yes, we--it would be to lease a new home specifically for domestic violence survivors, residents, and their companion animals." And, yes, transitional housing...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes, transitional housing.

LORI GARDNER: ... is part of the program.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: What--it looks like there's a question about--I don't know if you--if this was answered somewhere along in the chat. "What does breaking--where--what does not breaking ground mean?" So breaking ground, digging into the ground.

LORI GARDNER: One question is, "Can funds be used for things like U-Haul or other moving expenses a victim may incur?" Yes. Absolutely. Funds can be used to help a domestic violence victim and their companion animal that is fleeing domestic violence, for moving costs. And funds can be used to pay for veterinary care for animals that are owned by a domestic violence victim in an emergency situation.

I think we may have gotten to most of the questions. One question I think we missed towards the beginning, Does the organization--nope. That's a different one. Sorry about that. "Are applicants required to include an allocation for language access?"

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: I don't believe we have that as a requirement in the solicitation.

LORI GARDNER: Not a requirement but...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: I don't see it, no. But...

LORI GARDNER: ...would it be allowable?

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes, for the purposes of providing services to the victim.

LORI GARDNER: Yup.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yup.

LORI GARDNER: Someone asked, "What about building a kennel or a stable on property?" So using these funds for purchasing a kennel or kennels for animals at a shelter is allowable. I think building a stable would qualify more as construction. But, Victoria, you may want to break in on what...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: No, I--yeah, I agree. And, yeah, building a stable--like if you're not breaking ground and you're putting up, I don't know, walls and you're create--you're--you have the space and you're--honestly, I don't know exactly how a stable--what is required for a stable. Is it just like for--would it be four walls up, fences? What?

LORI GARDNER: Yeah, that's--maybe that's a question to send to the OJP Response Center with just a little more detail.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yea.

LORI GARDNER: That might be helpful. "Can funds be used to--for a fence for animals around an existing shelter?" And that is--yes, that is allowable.

Okay. I think that might be all of the questions we have right now. Just, again, a reminder that you can certainly ask more questions after today by contacting the OJP Response Center at the phone number or email address listed on the slide. And, yes, this webinar is being recorded.

Victoria, there's one question. "For veterinary care, what constitutes an emergency situation to use funds for veterinary care for a companion animal for a victim of domestic violence?" Can you weigh in on that?

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: I'm not sure what the ask--is it allowable, emergency...

LORI GARDNER: I think what--what's considered an emergency, I guess, may--might be the question.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: It's--I guess I'm not sure how to answer that. I don't know what the ask is. What's an emergency for--so they want to send the pet to get vet care and it's an emergency situation. What's the emergency? Because we do allow for vet...

LORI GARDNER: Oh.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Go ahead.

LORI GARDNER: No, you--I was going to a different question. Please continue.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yeah, because we do allow for veterinary care for them--for the pet.

LORI GARDNER: Patricia French, you said that you've asked a question twice but have not received a response. I'm so sorry. Can you repeat the question? We have a very long list. Oh, I see it. "We provide support for children who are victims of domestic violence and have been placed in foster care. Do we qualify?" I think we would need a little bit more information about the organization. Again, the organizations that are eligible are listed on page four of the solicitation, which includes domestic violence organizations, as well as animal rescue organizations, state and local government entities, and Tribal government organizations.

"Regarding veterinary care, would that include updating animal vaccinations?" Yes, that can include updating animal vaccinations.

"If we use funds to house pets at a partner for boarding, veterinary care, usually as necessary, medication, minor surgery"--medications and any type of minor surgery that is needed is allowable.

Someone asked, "Is all veterinary care for companion animal of a domestic violence victim or is it just companion animal needs, life-saving care?" And it is not--the funds are not just for companion animal life-saving care. You can use the funds for a variety of different needs, including pet supplies, pet food for a domestic violence victim and including veterinary care.

Someone asked, "Are you able to do a prescreening of the vets—or prescreening of the animal via the vet to ensure the health of the animal?" I believe that might be related in terms of before the animal comes to shelter. And if that is the case, I believe that would be allowable. But, Victoria, can you weigh in on that? I think perhaps they're wanting to know if it's okay to prescreen the health of the animal before staying in shelter.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yes, that's—because that's allowable.

LORI GARDNER: "Is it allowable to fund legal services for agencies who need letters written to landlords about allowing emotional support animals?" So staff time can be funded for employees who are working negotiating with landlords about allowing emotional support animals.

I'm not seeing any new questions. I'm scanning through older questions.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Oh, okay. Can--I think you just read the last one. "Can funds be used for legal fees in securing protection orders?" Is that the one you just read? I'm not sure.

LORI GARDNER: "Can legal--can funds be used for legal fees in securing protection orders for victims and their animals?" So I think they're asking if they can perhaps contract with an attorney to do a protection order. And I believe this would be allowable. Victoria, what do you think?

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: I mean, I think that would be allowable. I was trying to go through the solicitation, but--yes. Let's see. The question--[indistinct].

LORI GARDNER: This one I'm not sure that we answered. "Is each DV recipient in our program required to have an animal?" And, yes, this funding is--the specific purpose is to serve domestic violence victims and their companion animals.

One question is, "Would we need to expend all funds evenly over the three years or could the bulk be in year three?" I think that would be allowable, but we'd need a little bit more information about that, if you want to contact the OJP Response Center.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: "As an emergency shelter, would this grant cover shelter, getting a therapy animal, and it's training care?" Is that the question, will this grant-- yes. I'm not sure to be fair to the question asker. Can you submit this question to the OJP Response Center with a little more detail about getting a therapy animal and its training care?

LORI GARDNER: Emergency shelters could certainly use funds to train animals that are companion animals that are staying in the shelter, but, yeah, I think we need more information about the therapy animal.

"Are grant funds issued as reimbursements or dispersed upfront?" They are dispersed as reimbursement. This is a, I think, Darryl question. "Will the chat answers and questions be available as well in addition to the webinar recording?"

DARYL FOX: Well, the PowerPoint and recording for today will be posted along with the transcript.

LORI GARDNER: Okay.

DARYL FOX: And everybody that registered will get an email when that is posted and where to access that. If you do have a question, then...

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: "Is this grant also..."

DARYL FOX: Sorry, Joli--or Victoria.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: No, no. You're good.

DARYL FOX: If you do have a question that wasn't answered or additional, once we conclude the Response Center is going to--who you're going to need to contact and that's listed here at grants@ncjrs.gov.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Someone asked, "Is this grant offered every year? If we aren't awarded this year, will we have an opportunity to apply next year?" We cannot say for certain at this time.

LORI GARDNER: Okay. I'm not seeing any new questions. You know, just a reminder that you can ask additional questions at the OJP Response Center on the slide that is currently up. Here's one more. "Can funds be used to move shelter operations to expand capacity?" I'm not sure if they're asking if moving expenses are allowable so they can move to a larger facility that would be used to increase the number of victims served. But if that is the question, then, yes, that would be allowable.

This question is, "Should the budget cover the 36-month period or is this an annual budget?" You should budget for a 36-month period. This is not a one-year project period or 12-month.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Did someone--or they're saying we are asking questions and they're not being answered. I'm not sure who--what questions you're ask--we--we're answering all the questions.

LORI GARDNER: If you've asked a question and we've missed it, I mean we certainly apologize. There have been many questions. So feel free to add your question again or reach out to the OJP Response Center.

Yes, there will be more specific guidelines given to recipients of the grant, including all of the information about reimbursements, reporting requirements. Yes, a lot of additional information will be forthcoming if awarded this grant.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: And the DOJ Financial Guide is also available to you. So it's one of your resources that you can scan through as well ahead of time.

LORI GARDNER: "Can you take victims with children? And if so, is this funding allotted for more than just the victim and animal?" I'm not sure about the second part of that but, yes, programs can certainly provide services to domestic violence victims and their children, as well as the companion animal. Yes, many domestic violence victims have children.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: It's 2:00. If your questions have not been answered or if you have any additional questions, please submit to the OJP Response Center. There is one. "Can you see my questions?" I'm not sure what questions you're asking.

LORI GARDNER: Oh.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Do you see that, Lori?

LORI GARDNER: I do. I think this one's related to counties being eligible and that one was answered. I believe, under townships, counties would be eligible. And certainly when working with one of the other organizations that are listed, such as--that was listed under "other," an organization with a documented history of working on domestic violence and organizations that work directly with pets and animals.

VICTORIA JOLICOEUR: Yeah. Page four of the solicitation.

LORI GARDNER: Okay. Well, thank you all so much for your attendance today and your many wonderful questions. We hope we were able to get to most of them, but please reach out to the OJP Response Center if you have other questions.

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