

DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar: FY 2024 Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act State-Run Hate Crime Reporting Hotlines, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Silvia Torres, Victim Justice Program Specialist with OVC, to begin the presentation. Silvia?

SILVIA TORRES: Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Silvia Torres and thank you, Daryl, for the introduction. I'm very happy to see that you have joined our webinar today and just to learn a little bit more about this funding opportunity. We will begin by giving an overview about OVC, the Office for Victims of Crime and followed by a brief overview of the program. I'll give you a little bit of background about it. And then we'll be joined by two special guests from the Department of Human Rights. They are award recipients of the Fiscal Year 2022 Hate Crimes Hotline, and they will be sharing their experiences in implementing the hotline. We will then go into more detail about the application process, we'll go over some resources available to you, and then we'll open it up for any questions that you may have.

So the Office for Victims of Crime is--excuse me. Our mission is to enhance the Nation's capacity to assist victims of crime and to provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all crime victims. As you may know, OVC administers the Crime Victims Fund, which supports formula programs, the states, territories, and Tribes, as well as many other OVC discretionary programs that benefit crime--victims of crime. OVC is also the largest federal funder of human trafficking programs. In addition, we have a myriad of technical and training assistance programs for all our grantees so that they can successfully implement the program.

As way of background, this is the third year that we run--open up this program for applications. And in the past two years, we have awarded--made four awards to support three hotlines or helplines. And last year, we also awarded a--made an award to provide technical assistance to--specifically to grantees under this program. So if selected--if you apply and you are selected for funding, you will not be alone. You will be assisted by this group of fantastic experts in running hotlines.

So this program was authorized under the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, and because of that, only state governments are allowed to apply. However, OVC welcomes partnerships between the state entity and private or nonprofit institutions so that they can help you implement their work. They--just please keep in mind that if you apply with a for-profit organization, you will be--they will be required to forego any profit or management fee.

So let's talk about--a little bit about the program goal. Obviously, its main purpose is to establish a hotline for potential victims and receive information about the rights, services available in their communities, and receive information about their reporting options to law enforcement. However, please do keep in mind that the act does not require the callers to report to law enforcement. The graph on the slide shows the statistics from California Vs. Hate Hotline. And this is their first year of data since their launching of the hotline last May. As you can see, out of the over 2,100 contacts, 1,000--a little over

1,000 of those report--calls were for reports of hate. So, unfortunately, hate crimes are on the rise, and that's why I think it's so valuable for communities to have a dedicated hotline where callers can call and receive that support.

So, turning now to the objectives of the program, they may be more than likely achievable through peer-to-peer learning collaboration on successful implementation of national or state hotlines from other national or state--other state-run hotlines as well. The second objective is that if nonexistent, it would be helpful to complete a resource map to identify the services available in your community to address the needs of the callers that may need services after a hate incident.

Now, the program requirements are very specific. They're outlined in the solicitation. Mainly--obviously the hotline will direct the victims or potential victims of hate crimes to available resources. The second program requirement is that the caller's personally identifiable information has to be protected, whether they were directly or indirectly disclosed. And in order to do that, they have to have the consent of that individual. They also have to ensure that the hotline is accessible to individuals with limited English proficiency and/or individuals with the other disabilities. Those have to have trained staff to operate the hotlines. And last but not least, as I mentioned before, report to law enforcement in cases where reporting--required reporting applies.

A little bit more about language access. Any institution receiving federal funds must ensure that clients, and in this case callers, with limited English proficiency or disabilities have access to translation interpretation services. So for that reason, you can include in the proposed budget line items for translation and interpretation costs. And we know that for certain languages, the cost may be beyond what OJP allows for the daily or the hourly rate for consulting services, as long as you would ask and obtain prior approval for that. So that's just something to keep in mind.

Now, under this award, we expect or to have applications and make two awards. Each award would be up to \$1,125,000. Our performance starts typically October 1st of that fiscal year, 2024 in this case. And our awards are normally for 36 months.

Now, without further ado and before going into details as to what you would need to apply in--for this funding opportunity, I want to welcome our special guest, Ms. Elana Kahn. She's the director--or Executive Director of the Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes with the Illinois Department of Human Rights. And Dr. Christina Smith, Director of the Training Institute in the Illinois Department of Human Rights. They're going to share with us their experience thus far in implementing a state-run hate crimes hotline in Illinois. Ms. Kahn, Dr. Smith, welcome and thank you for taking the time to join us in this webinar. I'd like to start by asking you to introduce yourselves and tell us a little bit about your agency and your role in this particular work.

ELANA G. KAHN: Okay. So I'm Elana Kahn. I'm--as Silvia said, I'm Executive Director of the Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes, which is--it's housed in the Department of Human Rights. It is, when it's at its capacity, a 21-person Advisory

Commission with the commissioners appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. It was reactivated in 2021. Do you want me to talk--just introduce sort of the context or you want me to talk a little bit about the background for the helpline, Silvia?

SILVIA TORRES: Sure. That would be helpful. And however, if you want to let Dr. Smith introduce yourself and then come back to it, that would be great.

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Great, thank you. So Dr. Christina Smith, I'm the Director of the Training Institute, which is embedded within Illinois Department of Human Rights. And we have the mission--our mission is to--so DHR is a regulatory agency that is responsible for the--being the stewards of the Illinois Human Rights Act across all the State of Illinois. So that's around, you know, protected classes. And we--the large part of our work is about responding to complaints and charges of discrimination that people experience in various forms and public accommodations and housing and employment. The Institute is about twenty years old, and our job is to actually support the prevention work of the department. And so that is how we offer training, education, development opportunities for employers across the State of Illinois to keep their workplaces safe from harassment, bias, discrimination. And we do that through training. We see anywhere between, you know, depends on a particular year, anywhere between 2,500 to 4,000 to 5,000 people a year across public, private sister agencies and tailored trainings. Thank you. And I'm glad to be here. Thank you for the invitation also, Silvia.

SILVIA TORRES: Thank you.

ELANA G. KAHN: So I can say a little bit about the commission. Like I said, it's housed in the Department of Human Rights, and I know we're one of the few states that has this kind of commission. And its role really is to, you know, in the simplest of terms to strengthen responses to hate, either directly or by supporting communities and convening communities, and also to develop proactive, preventative work to prevent the rise of extremism and expressions of acts of hate.

And so in--I just started in August and for the two years before that, the commission did a lot of study, and they came out in 2022 with a set of recommendations and just to be clear, it's hate crimes, but also bias incidents. And I think that's in--it's in the name, but it's general--writ large, we talk about acts of hate. So they came out in 2022 with a set of recommendations, and the top among them was to create a helpline that would be separate from law enforcement, totally in line with what DOJ--what this opportunity requires. And we understand the reason for that, because there are communities, of course, that don't trust law enforcement and maybe also government by the way. But really, the purpose of the helpline is to support victims of hate and also to gather data. So that was number one recommendation. And interestingly, another one of the recommendations that they came up with before my time is it to create a data hub, which is--I spent so much time reading it when I started thinking, "What does that even mean?" But really, what it means is to create a system that doesn't exist, because nobody it seems has figured out how to gather good dependable data about acts of hate, even just about hate crimes. So one of our longer term goals is to set up that kind

of system which will--for the purpose of identifying gaps, for the purpose of educating the public, educating law enforcement and prosecutors, and, you know, that whole enforcement community, also for the purpose for informing policy and then steering programmatic decisions. And as we've been doing this work, we're already identifying what we think are going to be gaps, and we're waiting for the data from the helpline to bear that out.

So one more story, is that before we launched the helpline we were contacted by a woman who was a bartender in Chicago, who reported to us that a customer threw a bottle at her head while using an anti-Semitic epithet. And she reported it to law enforcement and they said, "Well, that's too bad." And that's not really a hate crime. Like, too bad for you, you work in a bar. And she then reached out to us and said, "What do I do? They're not taking me seriously." And because of the relationships we had in the department, this is before we had the helpline, before--because of the relationship we had in the department, we knew, and I say we generously because, of course, I wasn't here. But we knew that we had to connect her with her local--it's the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, which does victim advocacy. And so, we were able to say, "Ah, we know who you should talk with, and they will be able to help you go back to law enforcement so that you get the right kind of attention." And that's what happened, and they're hate victim advocates. They have a different name for that department. What helped her go back to the police--and subsequently it was actually reported as a hate crime. That to us was really strong evidence. It was a real--it was a strong case study that told us that we are lacking, that there is space, there is need for someone to help steer people. People--things happen and they don't need to be responsible to understand was it a crime, was it a civil rights violation, or was it just awful. And so that we really can be in that sort of concierge position to help them understand what happened, help provide support, and then help steer them to the kind of resources they need.

I'll say two more brief things. This helpline is--we are just at the beginning but it's a high impact and very concrete way to provide something that's in need in the community. And the way that I know it's in need is that every conversation I'm in with people from community-based organizations, they're enthusiastic. They're eager for this helpline, because they're--because it's a gap. Maybe I will stop there. And do you have anything to add, Dr. Smith?

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Sorry. I don't. No. I just--I think that in terms of kind of paired with the anecdotal and the study data Elana talked about, you know, when we originally thought about the original proposal that was submitted, and then when we moved to bring that to life, we made some organizational changes, right, about how we want to act to implement the line. So, you know, we moved from thinking that we would actually develop a line and house everything internally, to--and meeting the deadlines that were, you know, real, right, as it related to the Department of Justice's timelines for the implementation of the hotline and have it ready--we then decided to do a contract with a subaward agency that was already--had been--we had been in relationship with, to Elana's point, staffing our sexual harassment prevention helpline, but also had a

really deep history already within--across the State of Illinois with managing helplines and deep infrastructure--technical infrastructure, staffing capacity and knowledge around what it means to run a helpline. So we decided to make a shift in terms of the original design of the model to use them as a way to partner with them to think about the delivery of service.

SILVIA TORRES: And that's totally allowable because sometimes when you think you are going to implement something one way and once you are into it, you're like, "Wait a second."

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Absolutely.

SILVIA TORRES: But that can only make the program even better.

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: It absolutely has. And which--absolutely. Yes.

SILVIA TORRES: So perhaps you're diving into my next question which is, what were the biggest challenges that you encounter as you prepare to launch your helpline?

ELANA G. KAHN: So maybe I'll start and then Christi can do the clean-up. We're a small agency that has not previous to this had a lot of experience with federal grants or with contracting, and even with certain kinds of procurement. So that was, you know, figuring out how the subaward and all of that process has been a growth experience for us. We also didn't have experience with helplines. So we--so sort of building the whole back end of it, you know, creating the forms that, like, what questions we want to ask people and how--where do we record the data and how do we have that--the--all of the sort of back end stuff, that whole system. And that would allow us to gather data and also ensure confidentiality.

I will note that we noticed that we had a lot of conversations about, is it--can we ensure confidentiality? Because we have this thing called the Freedom of Information Act, and so people can access data and how--and could they access reports? So we had a lot of conversation about confidentiality. And I'm really happy to say that our legal and policy folks added an amendment to a bill that made it through the legislature and as soon as it gets signed by the governor, will ensure that all reports that come through all of our helplines and hotlines, which really, it was just about this one, so--is all confidential. So that was new and we were able to respond quickly, which was incredible.

And then the next thing, and maybe this is the last because the list of challenges was significant but we have risen to meet them. But is--was creating the referral listing. Like the list--like to whom do we refer people? We're still trying to work out a contract so that--with someone else, with 211, so that, you know, they--this is their business, having lists of resources. But in the meantime, we created our own, which ended up being sort of a needs assessment, and was actually, I think a great benefit. So that was the challenge. And yeah, maybe that's it.

SILVIA TORRES: Dr. Smith. And your end?

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Yeah, you know, I think--yeah. Absolutely. I think that--so for me, my primary role was to support with--well, to support the development of the onboarding training for the call center specialist. And so I'm a person who is, as a part of my work, I have developed a curriculum. I certainly developed, you know, large scale training for statewide trainings and done at varying levels, but this was different. All right. And this was different because one of the things that, you know, I'm used to doing in our work is to reapply concepts and terms to help people do their jobs. One of the things that this required of us was to help train people to do their jobs. And so that meant that we really had to be really deeply connected to content around trauma-informed care. We needed to have some really deep roots around specific issues around how we help people think about critical thinking skills. How we then think about the content that needs to be included in such a curriculum. And the timeframe, right? So it's not just the, you know, a day-long training, it really is thinking through all the parts or pieces that relate to how you understand what a hate incident, acts of hate look like, what the impact looks like, what it means to them to actually be the respondents, maybe first-time responders for some people who may be calling, you know, into the helpline. And then how we support them along the way? How do we do the parallel process of being trauma-informed for both the callers and also for the staff? And so that really took us to the next level of growth around what this curriculum needed to look like and the kind of support that we were going to need to support that work over the last several months. So we can talk about that in some detail but, you know, it's not just a typical onboarding process is what I would--I would add.

SILVIA TORRES: And then--and then ...

ELANA G. KAHN: Oh, I'm sorry. I was...

SILVIA TORRES: Go ahead.

ELANA G. KAHN: I was going to add more what you--one more thing is that we have realized that to--that people don't know about this unless we tell them about it. And so, we're now at the point of building a larger plan for engagement and outreach and end marketing. And so--and that, I think is--it's all--it's new. It's new for us. I mean, the commission itself is young and this is a new kind of work for us. And that maybe that's the biggest challenge is that so much of this, including the training, including--is just new.

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Absolutely agreed.

SILVIA TORRES: Thank you. And as full disclosure, I am honored to be the grant manager for this award. So I know that--I think we were all lucky to have the technical assistance, right?--award made when you are in the kind of final stages of your training and everything, but from your standpoint, could you share your opinions how that

training and technical assistance helped you to get to the launching point of the helpline?

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Absolutely. I can start. So in every way, let me just start with that, in every way, right? So the very beginning. So the thing with technical assistance--and I've certainly experienced it and been a part of it, recipient in other places, it's a combination of providing technical skills, but also doing it in a way that feels like it's humane, right? And so that you are learning, you're growing, you're figuring out this body of work you're going to be engaged in. But the--am I allowed to say, who our technical partners are, Silvia or...

SILVIA TORRES: Sure.

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Okay. So 211...

SILVIA TORRES: Public knowledge.

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Okay. All right. So 211 LA, outstanding partners in terms of peer support. And in terms of just the training piece of it, so I can just speak to three big areas. So one of it was just conceptualization of what the training actually needed to look like. So they sent us their training, their guides, their outlines, their tools. And so they gave us access to all of their platforms so we can see their video assets, take a look at what they had and we could actually make use of. So it was all of that. And when we sent our original thinking about what we thought would be a good onboarding plan for staff, they said, "This is a good start. This is a good start, but you need more. And here are the things that we suggest that are--could be extra, but here are the things that are required." And so that meant that we had to go back to the drawing board and say, "Okay. You know, we need to expand this section out. We need to expand this particular content area out. We need to include mixed medium. We need to include speakers from other parts of the country who are experts in other areas." So that was one big, huge area. So they helped us to reshape the container which we're thinking about. And then we would--as we moved, they were really consistent and really involved along the way around, doing contact review. And so saying that this looks good, but we need to see it before you go live, and then giving really good feedback about, "Add more here, less here, make sure--you make sure you include this, and ensure that you're addressing all the areas that we know, from our long-term experience of doing call center hotlines, and specifically, this last year, you're going to need."

And then just in terms of the--when we were ready to--got to the curriculum-writing part of it and figuring out what the days was going to look like, they then really did another extra boost was to be present and to--and answer the call of, "Yes, we will actually join you as presenters." Talk about what it means to give us a year of your experience, and like what's the lessons learned from your year of running your help line. And then they talk about how the--and then provided a session specifically with the call center specialists on preparing, how to prepare for that first call. Are you nervous, you might be frightened, you might be expressing a whole range of emotions. So it's just really--just

added a huge robust lift to the training in all ways from conceptualization, all the way through to the actual implementation, which I think took us--I think totally about seven or eight days to get through implementation, so. Excellent. Thank you. And that's--yes. Go ahead, Elana.

ELANA G. KAHN: Did you finish your sentence?

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: No, that's it. Yeah. No, that's from the training perspective. I was thinking that's the way in which that they gave us far more than that as well.

ELANA G. KAHN: They did. They were--they really felt like partners, not--they were very generous with us and very responsive. I would sometimes say, "Hey, can you send this over?" And they were just--they were quick to meet with us and just incredibly generous. And they let us set the agenda. They still are letting us set the agenda. We're still meeting with them. We met with them last week because I wanted to really pick their brains about branding and engagement and communication, like I said before. And I'll probably continue to focus on that with them. We filled the right kinds of partner networks. And they specifically also have, you know, reviewed our forms and provided their knowledge, because 211 has more than just Cali--one year with California hotline, because they've been running LA Versus Hate. And, so they have just abundant experience. And...

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Forty-plus. Forty-plus years. Excuse me.

ELANA G. KAHN: And the last thing I'll say is that, it's--there's this community--there's a sense that we're--we are part of this small community of states that are providing this service, and there's a real sense of cooperation with the very few states that are--that have hotlines. And so, the folks at 211 who are the tech--providing technical assistance are generous. But also the people at the Civil Rights Department who conceived of it and run--you know, the larger program, there's just a sense of being part of a very cooperative--we're like allies in doing important work. And there's a real spirit of generosity. Actually, I was in LA last week and had lunch with the people from the Civil Rights Department and the people from--who run 211, the county there. And there's--they are just generous and wonderful.

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Fantastic.

ELANA G. KAHN: Like, our success is their success. It's really just, like...

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Absolutely. Absolutely.

ELANA G. KAHN: And actually, I felt that with Sylvia too...

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Yeah...

ELANA G. KAHN: ... our success is their success. I feel that--I feel that from her.

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Absolutely. And I would just add from the place of actually trying to develop and to get ready and move it across that finish line. They were really critical. And so--and really, when you need your cheerleaders and--they were excellent cheerleaders along the way and so you thought, well, I thought--"We think we're on the right page. What do you all think?" "Yes, this is great. But, do this and change that. And make that modification." And so just real-time feedback, and everything that they gave us, we use. We'll continue to use. Make use of.

ELANA G. KAHN: That's fantastic. That's fantastic. Yeah. We are very, very happy to be at this point and to--happen in this--for this program. Any other thoughts?

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: I would just say that being paired with 211 LA made it easy to ask questions that it--oftentimes professionals might feel vulnerable, otherwise vulnerable to ask. And so we didn't--again, it's important to feel like you are--you have professional expertise, you have skills that you bring into it, and you still have questions, and you still have questions. And so being able to ask those and feel like, "Okay. This is where--we're in the right direction or this--we need to consider these other things as well." And so they offered us this space that is really important for, you know, new potential and new grantees to think about asking the questions and having a place where you can--you can offload, you can ask, you can--and feel like that you will get those answers and you can still keep moving.

ELANA G. KAHN: Totally agree. That's a really good point.

SILVIA TORRES: Well, I am grateful for such a candid conversation and our listeners I'm sure they'll have a lot to think about. Yes indeed there are challenges, but as you just heard and from previous meetings, there are rewards. And especially when you have that partner to help you along the way. So I thank you so much for your time. You're more than welcome to stay. Elana, you wanted to say something?

ELANA G. KAHN: Yeah. I would also--I would say that, you know, I, sort of, realized that I could have been clearer in saying that--talking about the little community of states that have projects like this, that extends to those who come after us. So we're--while we're not technical assistance formally, we are absolutely willing to and planning to share whatever we have and whatever we can with the next states that...

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Absolutely. The next cohort, absolutely. Absolutely.

ELANA G. KAHN: Yeah.

SILVIA TORRES: Thank you. Thank you. Well...

ELANA G. KAHN: Thank you.

SILVIA TORRES: ...thank you.

SILVIA TORRES: I have no words, but more than welcome to stay or jump also if you have things to do. But we appreciate, you know, your participating in our webinar today.

DR. CHRISTINA M. SMITH: Thank you very much, Silvia.

ELANA G. KAHN: Thank you, Silvia.

SILVIA TORRES: Thank you. Well, with that, now, let's turn around and go over in details. I'll try to be brief because a lot of the information is in this solicitation which I recommend that you go over each of the components. So there are links, there are detailed information as to what needs to be in the application package.

So, there are the--these are the major, and the "must" items that you must include in order for your application to be considered--to complete and to, what we call, meet the minimum basic requirements in order to proceed to peer review and get it forward, right? So you have your forms that are submitted through Grants.gov, then you have your abstract, your narrative, and your web-based budget. The abstract must be completed now in JustGrants in the web-based form. And just as a disclosure, the--if your application is selected for funding, the abstract would be publicly available to anyone on the OJP and on the USAspending.gov website.

For your proposal narrative, this section deals with project design and implementation. We ask that you describe in detail, obviously the specific activities necessary for accomplishing each goal and objective of the proposed project. Include a timeline that identifies its timeframe for all tasks and activities to be completed. Describe any potential partnerships. As I've said before, even though the state entity is the only one that can apply for the award, the potential partnerships don't have to be those state entities. So if you decide to partner with a profit or a nonprofit application it would be important for you to describe in this section how in--the partnership will work in--you know, how the partner--the organization will help you to complete the goals of the award.

The next component under the proposal narrative is the capabilities and competencies. And in this section, this is your opportunity demonstrate that your organization and the proposed partners, if you choose to come with the partner, has the ability to implement the proposed outline. This has some of the tips and items for you to think about as you draft this section. Now, Dr. Smith and Ms. Kahn talked about that and, yeah, it's not only a reporting requirement, but it can also help you to assess if the program is on track or if there's room for improvement. So that's why we need you to describe how you plan to collect the data and who is going to collect or how the frequency, et cetera. If you make the list of questions, that will be required to gather--or to answer for this particular program, there's a link in the solicitation where you can see all the questions or the performance measures that will be required for this program.

With regards to your budget, JustGrants is the place to go for the web-based form. And again, the main takeaway is that your budget should align with your proposal. And the

budget narrative, it has to describe the computations used to arrive at the proposed amount under each budget line item. The SMART or the Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound aspects that you should keep in mind for the award, it's just to help you develop a very clear and concise project.

Now key dates. If you're not familiar with OJP and how it works, there are two--it's a two-tier process. So the first, as I mentioned, the two forms that are required, the SF-424, and the SF-LLL which is lobbying, is due in grants.gov by July 15, no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Your full application or the full application package is due in JustGrants.gov, that's our grants management system, by July 22nd, no later than 8:59 p.m. Eastern Time. We--just keep in mind, if you're a state entity, you might notice by now that you have to be registered in SAM or have a valid registration by the time you apply for this award. So we just recommend that you check those registrations, make sure they're active. And, you know, I always say--I encourage applicants to submit that application package as soon as possible and not wait until the last minute, just to prevent any technical assistance from stopping you to submit your full application by the date and time. However, these are the helpdesk for SAM.gov and Grants.gov in case you have any questions or you need to contact them for any--for any reason.

Now, I mentioned the JustGrants being our grants management system. If you encounter any technical issues submitting the full application, that will be the number to contact, the 833-872-5175. And if you experience any technical difficulties beyond your control and that prevents you from submitting your application in time, we urge you to contact the OJP Response Center. And also, when you contact them, please be sure to request a tracking number so you can document that you sought their assistance with whatever issue you encounter. And this will be very important in the event that you need to apply for a technical assistance waiver to submit your application past the due date, and that's not a given, it's a process for consideration on an attached waiver.

Now, I'm just going to go a little bit over the available resources. And this year, we are having, like, hours to go over, and these are live virtual meetings, to help you in preparing your application and answer any questions that you may have. [<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/application-submission>] The dates that you see are scheduled, they are every Wednesday, 2:30 to 4:30. And they keep adding them, so I recommend that you keep looking at that.

Now, there's also the--this is a very good resource, and the link is included, again, in the solicitation. [<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide>] The OJP Grant Application Resource Guideline [Guide], very detailed information about how to apply.

There is also a myriad of training resources for JustGrants. [<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov>] So there are videos and also written guidelines for every aspect of the award, from pre-award to close out.

The DOJ Grants Financial Guide also walks you through the topics, again, from pre- to post-award, and describes in detail all our processes, what is allowable, is not allowed, and it's a fantastic resource as well. [<https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm>]

And last but not least is the Grant Measurement Reporting or what we call the--for the data that has to be collected on this program, again, very detailed information, so I recommend that you look at that. [<https://ojp.gov/performance/>]

Now, I think I—this is the end of my presentation, so I will turn it over to Daryl to see if there are any questions from the participants. I thank you, again, very much for your interest and your participation in today's webinar. Daryl?

DARYL FOX: Thank you so much, Silvia. Just as a reminder that we mentioned earlier, that the recording, PowerPoint, transcript for today's webinar will be posted to OVC's website, so everybody that's registered will receive an email when and where to--that's posted if you need to look back on anything during your application process. So if you do have a question, add it in the Q&A box, select All Panelists, we'll get those queued up. We still have about eleven minutes or so today. So there are a few in there currently.

The first one is, "In the solicitation on page six, it states that OVC seeks applications from state agencies. On page seven, it states that the primary goal is for state agencies to establish and operate the hotline. Could grant funds be used to support operations for an established state-run hate crime reporting hotline? Or does it have to be a new one?"

SILVIA TORRES: Right. So the Jabara-Heyer Act is assigned to support the implementation of hotlines. That means, you know, new hotlines that want to go to, like, in our example of our guests today, the Illinois hotline, they went from ground zero to now having the soft launch of their hotline. And that is the directive under the Jabara-Heyer Act.

DARYL FOX: "So the deliverables listed on page 14 and 15, some of these items we will have completed prior to receiving the grant and would use for the hotline. Is it allowable to use those as deliverables to satisfy the questions in the grant about using any of the grant funds to pay for those items?"

SILVIA TORRES: Hmm. Okay. So the deliverables are part of the work that you would perform once--if your application is selected for funding. And in addition to that, you would have to--normally, most or major activities are commonly conducted after you receive a clearance for your proposed project from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. So essentially, the first couple months, I would say, until your budget is reviewed and hopefully approved, the activities that are expected to be conducted are just basic minimum hiring, setting an active program. But the actual full work, I would say, it should start after that budget is cleared and that you can have access to the award funds. There is, we call them award conditions, that typically only gives you access to 10% of your award until--from the time the award is issued--or I should say

from the start date of the award until your budget is cleared. You only have those--that 10% of the total award available. Again, just for basic personnel and fringe costs.

DARYL FOX: And Sylvie, I don't know if the next question's more for the OJP Response Center as far as eligibility. They're hoping to use the grant for a regional approach and a three-county pilot project, and that pilot project would expand to state-wide within two years. Does that satisfy the expectations of--under this grant opportunity?

SILVIA TORRES: Again, under eligibility, as long as it is a state entity, you know, you can propose whatever you feel is best, and that meets the goals of the solicitation. However you think it's best to complete that work.

DARYL FOX: And that kind of segues into the next question, probably the same answer. If they want to use grant funds to create small grant program within it to reimburse victims to such, you know repainting over hate language, change locks, fix broken windows, et cetera, are those allowable expenses within this grant?

SILVIA TORRES: No. Unfortunately not because, again, the main purpose in the allowable costs under this award are just to implement and support the hotline, and obviously the activities related to that as, you know, Illinois is--discussed earlier in their presentation, you know, the--you have to--it's not only implementing the hotline but also marketing the hotline so that the community become aware of their--that the hotline exists. So that involves marketing and make them involved, community awareness activities, right, to raise the presence of the hotline in that community. So other than that, the items you send like helping victims with changing locks or something like that, that sounds more like some of the items allowed under other VOCA-funded programs.

DARYL FOX: Thanks for that, Silvia. That's the end of the question queue at this time. We still have a few more moments today, so if you do have a question, go ahead and get that entered in, we'll answer that. And while we're waiting, I will go ahead and put this slide up as well. So once we conclude, if anything comes to mind, you have a question about OJP Response Center, that's who you're going to want to contact here, at grants@ncjrs.gov. They're very responsive and they'll work with OVC on any responses they need to.

SILVIA TORRES: Indeed.

DARYL FOX: Okay. So I think that's the end of the question queue at this time. So anything in closing before we conclude today?

SILVIA TORRES: No. Thank you again for--I see participants are still online, so thank you for staying. And, you know, we hope that this sparks some interest and that your state entity decides to apply for this funding opportunity. And thank you, Daryl, for facilitating this webinar today.

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