DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar, FY 2024 Meeting the Basic Needs of Crime Victims in Underserved Communities, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Sharron Fletcher, Deputy Division Director with OVC, to begin the presentation. Sharron.

SHARRON FLETCHER: Thank you, Daryl. Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you so much for being with us today for our second webinar--pre-application webinar for our Meeting the Basic Needs of Crime Victims solicitation. So this afternoon, you'll hear from myself and my colleague, Sydney West, as we will walk through the solicitation.

So a brief overview about what we will talk about. So we'll start with an overview of OVC's mission, and then we'll get right into the details of the solicitation and talk about the opportunities--the focus of this opportunity, as well as eligibility requirements and reviewing the required documents. We'll also take some time out to review the application process and provide a few tools that will be helpful as you develop your applications. And then we're going to have as much time as possible to answer questions in the chat. So we're going to save that for the end. and we'll be able to do some question and answers at the end of today's presentation. So let's get to it.

So 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. So what makes OVC unique is that we administer the Crime Victims Fund, which is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders. So our funding does not come from your tax dollars. And then with that money, OVC uses it to support victim compensation and assistance programs across the country. We use it to raise awareness about victims' issues, promote compliance with victims' rights laws, and provide a robust set of training and technical assistance options and publications, and other products that support and provide guidance to victim assistance professionals. And so that covers a wide array of victims, from those in Tribal communities, victims of human trafficking, victims of terrorism and mass violence, and a wide range of other types of victimization.

As I mentioned, today, we are here to talk about our Meeting the Basic Needs of Crime Victims in Underserved Communities solicitation. OVC is excited about this solicitation this year because we're doing something very different. You may notice that the solicitation looks different. We've tried to make it a little bit more visually appealing but more simply, we're trying to make sure that we are using plain language and making this opportunity as accessible as possible to support organizations that are providing needed services to support victims of crime and communities that are most impacted by crime. So through this solicitation, OVC plans to provide 25 awards of up to $200,000 to

organizations as I just described, those that are supporting crime victims in neighborhoods most impacted by violence. So dates that you should mark your calendars for and always keep in mind. The first is the Grants.gov date. And I'm mentioning these next two dates specifically because the application process is in two parts. First, we start with the Grants.gov deadline of July 29th, 2024, and--at 8:59 p.m. Eastern Time--Eastern Standard Time. The second deadline and date to remember is August 1st, 2024, and that's the JustGrants deadline. Again, 8:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. All the awards through this solicitation will be made by September 30th of this year. And these are 24-month awards that will begin October 1st of 2024.

So I know many people may be following along in there with the solicitations open which I think is great because it's a great way to note where things are in the solicitation, but this year another something different that we've done in OVC is we created a solicitation 1-pager. And this, we wanted to make sure that we highlighted because it goes through the How Do We Apply section and provides step by step what your--how you should go about applying for the solicitation. So we thought that this was particularly helpful to the field, since we've gotten a number of questions about what to do next after reading the solicitation. And so this was a good space for you all to review those steps so that you would know what--where to start and what to do next as you complete the application process. So--and I'm going to go through a little bit of that right now.

So, first, before you begin your application, and this is starting on page 2 of the solicitation, the first thing to do is ensure your organization is eligible to apply. So for this solicitation, OVC is looking for applications from Native American Tribal organizations and that's those that are not federally recognized Tribal governments, as well as nonprofit entities. And nonprofits are eligible whether or not they have the 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS. There are some exceptions for nonprofits. So nonprofits that are associated with institutions of higher education are not eligible. So I did want to make sure that is clear. So once you're able to determine if your organization is eligible, your next step is to register in SAM.gov. And there is a phone number on the screen you'll see, and there's a website as well for you to go to to make sure that happens so that you can register. What you will receive through that registration at SAM.gov is a Unique Entity Identifier number. And so that's the UEI. And you'll need that UEI number in order to register in Grants.gov, which if you recall I just mentioned is the first step in applying for this funding opportunity.

So once those steps are complete, your next step is to just review the funding opportunity carefully to make sure you understand the purpose and priorities, as well as what grantees are expected to do. It's also important to review the requirements of the award to make sure your organization is able to adhere and meet those requirements if

you do receive a grant. We encourage grantees that have questions about the application process to use the mbncv@usdoj.gov email. But you should also use this email to indicate, no later than July 29th, how you plan to apply for the solicitation because there are three different methods where we are accepting applications for this specific funding opportunity, and that includes being able to submit a questionnaire, being able to submit a video, or undergoing an interview for the solicitation--or presentation rather, I should say. For the present--and provide a presentation to apply. So after you send me that email, you should go to Grants.gov and search for the opportunity number so that you can begin the application process in Grants.gov.

So the goal of this specific funding opportunity is to increase the availability and accessibility of basic services and assistance to crime victims and survivors from communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, adversely affected by inequality, and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization. So this specific set of community--of set communities have been, from what OVC's been able to determine, have not--have been impacted by decreases in funding available to the field as the former funding has gone down. And so we want to--we saw a need to provide this solicitation to cover services in these communities and to support the organizations that are doing the hard work of supporting these victims. So some examples of how organizations can use this grant funding include providing temporary housing; transitional housing through funding; providing food through grocery gift cards or setting up a stock--or stocking food pantries; providing transportation expenses for victims such as funding for bus fare, subway, metro fare, or rideshare expenses; providing clothing for adults and children and families; preparing some--or covering some job readiness such as providing appropriate work attire or fees for apprenticeship programs or skill-building courses; of course, covering staff time or additional staff time to provide and oversee these services; as well as a host of other challenges related to meeting the basic needs of underserved victims. And when thinking about the types of services that you might cover with these grant funds, because we've received quite a few questions, we do emphasize that your organization should think about and prioritize the types of services that you're providing and that come up most often for victims in the communities where--that you're serving and to think about how you can best use the funds to support the most--the maximum number of victims during the 2-year award period. Because, as a reminder, there are a lot of services and a lot of needs in the field and we certainly understand that, but remember, this is a $200,000 award, and although it is a decent amount of money, it can only go so far in that 2-year period. So we do ask that you consider how best you can serve the most number or the highest number of victims during that 2-year period with the $200,000 that would be provided in the award. Around eligibility, again, we are accepting applications from nonprofit organizations, and that includes Native American Tribal organizations that are not federally recognized

Tribal governments. And those nonprofit organizations do not have to have 501(c)(3) status with the IRS in order to be eligible. However, nonprofits that are associated with institutions of higher education are not eligible. So this is another area where we received a lot of questions. So if you are in a nonprofit organization that does not have 501(c)(3) status, yes, you are able to apply. If you are affiliated with institution of higher education however, you are not. And this is not a space where we are funding our Tribal governments. And we specifically are targeting these nonprofits because we do know that there's other funding that does target organizations that are Tribal governments or-- for example, we have our Tribal Set-Aside Program through OVC and the VOCA subgrants to specifically support a number of local government organizations and nonprofits and institution of higher education. So that's why we are specifically targeting this more narrow group of nonprofit organizations with this solicitation.

So what will grantees do? And this is moving along to page 5 of the solicitation. During the 24-month project period, those grantees that receive funding will develop programmatic--either develop or enhance their programmatic and financial policies and procedures. They will submit four financial reports and two progress reports each year, and they will prepare an overall final report that describes the entire project, including what services were offered and most used, who was served, areas of success, challenges faced, and lessons learned. Once those programmatic and financial policies and procedures are in place, and your project staff are--have completed training, grantees will be able to use that funding to deliver culturally relevant victim services and supports for crime victims and collect data to measure project impact and inform improvements in delivery of services. Grantees will have the opportunity to work with OVC's Financial Management Resource Center, our National Center for Culturally Responsive Victim Services, and a few other technical assistance providers that OVC works with. And they'll support the grantee's efforts to build their capacity to manage their grant and their programs, develop programmatic and financial policies and procedures, complete the required financial management training, develop any formal agreements that are required, and build organization and programmatic capacity as necessary to support the project's implementation. So with that, I will pass it to my colleague, Sydney West, who will open …

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. Thank you so much, Sharron. Hi, everyone. I'm Sydney, and I'm now going to lead you through some of the application and submission information and process. So, first, I know we've said it before, but we want to reiterate when applications are due. So the first part of the application, that's your forms SF-424 and SF-LLL, are due in Grants.gov by July 29 at 8:59 p.m. And the second part of the application, which will include your project plan, your budget, and any other attachments, is due in JustGrants by August 1 at 8:59 p.m. One thing I want you all to

keep in mind is that the second step is predicated on the first step. Meaning, if you miss that first Grants.gov deadline, then you will not be able to move forward in JustGrants. So you want to get started actually on submitting those forms probably earlier than July 29th.

So, what must applications include? So when OVW reviews applications to meet what we call our basic minimum requirements or for us to even review your application in the peer review process, we must see these following things. We have to have that SF-424 and the SF-LLL. And, again, those are done in JustGrants. We have to have your project plan. And that will be done in one of three ways, and we'll talk about that in more detail in just a bit. And then we also must have your budget. And that's done in JustGrants on a form, and we'll talk a little bit about that as well. Again, if you don't submit these minimum documents, your application doesn't move forward and isn't reviewed during our peer review process. If you have questions about applying, we have so many resources to guide you and to help you. So I serve as one of those resources, and you can reach me via email at mbncv@usdoj.gov. I will happily answer your questions. Then we also have information at Grants.gov, How To Apply for Grants. And if you have questions on the different forms, the SF-424 or the SF-LLL, they can walk you through that or they can provide you with tutorials on how to complete those forms. We also have on our website the How To Apply section and there's a wonderful application resource guide located there. And then, lastly, and this is something I would highly recommend to everyone, we have an Application Submission Training that takes you through all of the steps for applying for this grant award. And that is--I think Daryl will put that in the chat box. But it's a--it is a great training, so I highly recommend everyone try and access that.

Okay. So let's talk about your project plan, and information regarding the project plan starts on page 8 of the solicitation. So it's--what we need you to understand is there are three ways in which you can submit your project plan. This time around for this solicitation rather than having organizations write a lengthy narrative, we came up with three different options for submitting the information that lets us know what you're going to do under this grant award. So your options are to, one, provide written answers to a questionnaire that is embedded in JustGrants. There are fields in which you actually write the responses in JustGrants. Some people have asked how long can we make our responses. We've purposely tried to make this very simple, so I don't believe that any of the textboxes are more than a thousand characters, which is about 200 words. So that's the questionnaire. The second way that you can submit your project plan is via a video that you create and you will send to us. And in that, you will describe your project plan. The video should be no more than 30 minutes. The third way to apply is to present your project plan to us at OVC during a live oral presentation. The live part, that will be

virtual. We'll do that over video. And, again, that would be no more than 30 minutes. Keep in mind that no matter which project plan option you choose that, one, no version is more highly regarded than the other. This is all up to you. And, two, no matter which option you submit, you answer the same set of questions that start on page 8. And we'll go a little bit into those questions. Last thing I would like you to know and keep in mind is that we need to know which format you're going to use no later than the Grants.gov deadline of July 29. And you can let us know by emailing me at the mbncv@usdoj.gov mailbox. Okay? So you will let us know which option you're going to choose for your project plan. One, the questionnaire in JustGrants, two, a thirty-minute video that you submit, or, three, presenting your project plan via presentation to OVC. This slide here is very dense. I'm not going to go through it in depth, but it's just--it provides a little bit of additional information regarding the project plan format options--information such as, you know, the word limit on the questionnaire or how long the video should be, no longer than 30 minutes, how long the oral presentation would be, no longer than 30 minutes. When you submit your options--we'll talk more about what happens when you submit your option in a couple minutes.

So as you start your application, as you move from Grants.gov where you've submitted those two forms, and you move into JustGrants and you start to actually answer the questions in JustGrants, there are four questions that everyone will need to answer. So the four questions are you want to tell us how you're going to submit your project plan, right? That's one of the three options. If you decide to submit via oral presentation, you need to let us know who are we--who should we contact to schedule. And it's helpful to us if you put that information. We need that in JustGrants, but it would also be helpful if you--as soon as you know, if you email me, so that we can get started on scheduling that presentation. We also asked--we would like to know, "Is your organization a population specific organization?" That's a yes-or-no question. And then in about 200 words, we just want to get to know a little bit more about your organization. So if you can describe, you know, who you are, who you work with, how you provide services, what is your mission--just an overview of your organization. So when you start to write your actual project plan or create the video around your project plan, again, you heard me say that starting--the questions are all the same and they start on page 8--and the questions fall in these three main areas. We want to know what needs your project will meet. We need to know how are you planning on providing these services for the victims? And then, of course, we want to know a little bit about how your project will be managed and staffed. Next slide please.

So in these next slides, we're going to go through, in a little bit more detail, some of those questions. We've also--for your help, we have put in the parenthesis beside the title of the area the percentage of weight for each section of the questions. We have the

questions on page 9. This weighting score that I am talking about, the merit score, is also on page 17 of the solicitation. It's all in one place. But--so for the first section, the What Need Will Your Project Will Meet, so we're interested in, you know, what is the goal of your project, what do you expect to happen in the project period. And we also want to know why is this the project you proposed and why is it needed? What is really the driving force in your community that is calling for this project? This section is worth 12--approximately, 12% of your application.

The next section. So, of course, we're interested in how are you going to do the work? How are you going to provide these victim services? This section is worth about 42% of the application. And the questions you'll see in this section are similar to where geographically will the services be provided; what populations do you expect to receive through your--through your project; what services, again, will you provide; will the services be culturally responsive, relevant, will it be provided in English or other languages; will the services be trauma-informed? And another question we have is what lived experience--does your staff who will be providing these services, do they have the lived experience? We just--we're trying to get--in a thorough yet succinct manner, we want to have an idea, a good picture of how you intend to provide these services. And then, lastly, at 30%, we want information as to how your project is going to be managed and who is going to be staffing your project. So in this section, you'll answer questions regarding who's going to lead the project and manage it and what experience and background do they have that makes them a strong candidate to manage the award and meet the terms of the grant. We'd like to know who's going to be providing the services to the victims and, again, what experience and background do they bring to the position. We'd love to know how your organization and your staff are connected to the community that you plan to serve. What roots do you have? You know, what organizations maybe do you already work with? We'd love to know, again, about the lived experience that any of your project staff may bring to the project that will enhance the victim services. We want to know about any training or supervision that you plan to provide to the staff that is handling this award and managing the services to victims.

And then lastly, and we've had questions on this, will you work with partners? If so, feel free to let us know which partners and what they will be doing. If you intend on sharing some of the funding with those partners, let us know. And, also, is this a partner in which you already have a formal agreement in place? If not, it's not necessary at this time, but we'd like to know what you've already planned. Next slide.

Okay. And then you will also be expected to provide us with a--an overview of a timeline for the services that you will cover. And we're interested in knowing the activities and

who is going to staff these activities, who's involved. And so, one way that we've arranged this--we've arranged this by quarter to hopefully be somewhat simple. But for each--for each quarter, we'd like to know the main set of activities that your organization plans to implement, and then who is responsible for driving those activities. If you are working in JustGrants--I think we can go to the next slide on this. If you're working directly in JustGrants, there's a table that you fill out. And this slide provides a table--I mean, an example of what you might write in the table, right? So for quarter 1, the first 3-month period, you might let us know that you're going to start by creating your program policies, maybe some on confidentiality, some on financial management of the grant funds, and it is the Project Director that will be doing that. In the same 3-month period, you may also--that's when you'll get started with our training and technical assistance providers, if necessary, to help you build your capacity, finalize any of your project plans, and most likely all of the project staff who are involved in the project will have some hand in this. Then maybe you recognize that some of your victim service providers could use some additional education or training on trauma-informed victim services. So you have that planned for the first quarter. And then lastly, in preparation for the data that we're asking you to collect, you may want to have someone complete a training on data collection and analysis. And that could be the Project Director or anyone else that you're thinking of. So that is the project plan, and I hope that was understandable.

The next thing that we're going to need to see as part of your application is that budget that we've discussed, right? Keep in mind, I think Sharron mentioned this, but the budget is for $200,000 total, that is over 2 years, so 24 months. Some people look at that as $100,000 per year. If that's how you break it up, that is fine, you know, it doesn't have to be exactly like that, but that could be an approximate. When you fill out the budget, and this is for everyone, everyone will fill out the budget using the JustGrants web-based form. And you want to keep some principles in mind when you fill out this form, right? So the personnel cost should relate to the key project personnel. The budget, we need to see the details. So it should include adequate funding to fully implement the project broken up by year. And again, it reflects the 24 months. And then lastly, the budget should be mathematically sound. I know that our finance people will ask. If you can, please double- and triple-check those budgets and that it corresponds with the information described in the project plan, and aligned with your project design. So as an example, if you, say, on the previous slide, when you mentioned that you were going to send two victim service providers to training, if we then don't see that training number in the budget, that's a disconnect, right? If you're sending people for training, we need to see the budget for that, if that's something you intend to charge under this award. Lastly, we do not have paper copies with the web-based form, but if you were to take the training, I think that Daryl has put into the chat box, it's the OJP--it's a training

on the budget in JustGrants, that will sort of walk you through the form and you'll get an idea of how it is set up. Okay. And then lastly, if it's applicable, you may be asked to upload or to attach in JustGrants any resumes of key personnel, those are those that, you know, are in charge of managing this project, as well as any pertinent staff, and then Letters of Support if applicable. So if for instance you have a partner and they have written you a Letter of Support, you can attach that. Okay.

We'll go through this very quickly. This is--as I mentioned before, we have a plethora of resources and aids that are available to guide you on this journey. Some of these will be put into the chat box. If you go to the solicitation website, some of them are linked there. They're also probably linked in the 1-pager that we've shared, but they include things like the DOJ Application Submission Checklist. That is a list that will--you know, you can literally check off, "Okay, have we done this?" "Have we--have we submitted our SF forms?" "Have we completed our project plan?" "Have we submitted our budget?" It will walk you through step by step. There's a JustGrants reference guide regarding the application--for the application. Sorry about the attachments, that's in JustGrants. And then there's a larger Application Job Aid for those people that are handy with being self-taught. They like to go through self-taught modules. This is another one of those aids that is a PDF that is basically pictures and, in writing, step by step, it shows you how to use JustGrants. And they're very good. They're very helpful. It's how a lot of the OVC staff trains. Okay. Because we can't say it enough, we just want to reinforce some deadlines. So again, your Grants.gov deadline is July 29 at 8:59 p.m. Your JustGrants deadline is August 1 at 8:59 p.m.

For your knowledge, we expect to award grants no later than September 30 of this year, and then all project start dates should be on or after October 1 of this year. One thing to keep in mind, if you receive an award, if you're notified that you have received an award, you should not begin project work until the budget has been reviewed and officially approved by OJP. Okay? That's because there's likely to be additional information or there may be changes in the award package or in the budget. So you don't want to get started until you have signed off from OJP. Okay.

And then this last slide, some very important contact information for you. So if you need technical assistance submitting your full application into JustGrants, you want to reach out to the JustGrants support team. There's their phone number and their email. If you have some sort of issue that has prevented you from completing the application, you want to reach out to the OJP Response Center. And then lastly, if you need some assistance with the programmatic requirements, you can reach out to me. There's my phone and my email. And then lastly, we'd love for you to help us get the word out about

the solicitation, so feel free to use these social media links and follow us, watch us, like us, and share this information. Okay.

I think at this point we're going to move into some frequently asked questions. These are questions that we've already seen come in to our mailbox or that were asked as part of the last webinar. So I'll start. First is, "Can you define population specific?" So--and this is in the solicitation itself, for the purposes of this solicitation, population-specific organizations are nonprofit, nongovernmental, or Tribal organizations that primarily serve members of a specific underserved population and have demonstrated experience and expertise providing targeted services to members of that specific underserved population. Another question that we've received is, "How is crime victim defined?" So in general, OVC defines a victim as a person who has experienced either mental, financial, physical, social, emotional, or even spiritual harm as the direct result of a specified crime committed on her or his person or property. Now, any family members, significant others, community members, and others who have been indirectly impacted by the crime are regarded as secondary victims. One question we've seen frequently is, you know, whether or not victims must report to law enforcement to be served by this award. That's not a requirement, and we are not asking for proof of whether or not the victim was actually--went to law enforcement or is a victim of that crime.

Some have asked--this is a question we've received multiple ways of asking this question, and it's regarding what services are eligible, right? So, "Are case management services eligible? What about mental health services? Can we subcontract or provide services in multiple locations?" So we want you to keep a couple things in mind as you're thinking about the services to provide. So one, we are focused on basic needs for victims of crime, right? That's our focus. And you also want to keep in mind that the award is $200,000 over 2 years. So you want to carefully prioritize essential victim needs and consider how to use the funds to support the most number of victims. Okay? So if you're thinking of having five subcontractors, that would--that would provide a real barrier to--and take up a lot of the money before the victims actually--you were able to provide services for the victims, right? We have--we also have provided some examples of allowable expenses in the solicitation and that's on page 4. Also, I would love people to keep in mind that if you have a cost that is not--I guess we could say allowable or questionable by OVC in your budget, that won't necessarily knock you out of consideration. What will happen is, is if you--if your--if your application is sound, OVC will come back to you after giving you the award, and we would ask you to take out that unallowable cost, or to revise your budget in some way. So we say that as a way we want you to not--you--the serve--like I said, we've provided some examples, and we also have our DOJ budget guide in stock that provides you--and answers questions

regarding what is allowable and what isn't allowable. But if you focus on serving victims of crime with their basic needs, that's going to provide you with the best guidance.

Okay. We've had questions around eligibility. "Are we seeking applications from culturally specific organizations? We are a hospital but we have an NGO, are we eligible? We are an NGO connected to our city, are we eligible?" So our--per the solicitation, we are seeking applications from nonprofit organizations that provide culturally responsive services to crime victims from marginalized communities. When it comes to some of that definition, we're looking to you to tell us about your organization, who you serve, and how the culturally responsive services are provided. And I think, as Sharron has mentioned, it must be a nonprofit organization. It doesn't have to be 501(c)(3), but you need to be a nonprofit organization. Sharron, I don't know if you want to add anything to those responses, feel free. And then we can also take more questions as they've appeared in the chat.

SHARRON FLETCHER: So I think with that, we can start answering questions from the Q&A. Let's see.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. I'll start with the Q&A. I see--can you please note the difference between the first application and the one in--on JustGrants?

SHARRON FLETCHER: Okay. So that's a good question. So the application process is--has two parts. First, you start in Grants.gov and register and apply a portion--I believe it's the 424 that goes into Grants.gov. And then once that step is completed, you go--move on to JustGrants and apply in that. So our--I know it's complicated but our application process has two steps. And so in order to submit the application, you do have to complete both the Grants.gov application as well as just the JustGrants application. The good news is that the Grants.gov portion of the application's process is shorter. It's mostly about your organization and making sure that you are sharing those UEI numbers and more information about your organization itself. And then the JustGrants portion is where you would be submitting any attachments and other pieces that are associated with the application.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. Next question. "I'm wondering if you might consider funding legal services for immigrants who are victims of crime, either in the U.S. or their home countries, helping them obtain or maintain legal status? Cases could include asylum and U.S. visas. And then again, do crimes need to be reported?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: Okay. So another good question. Legal services and civil legal supports are eligible expenses through this solicitation. And there is no requirement for

victims to report to police in order to be served by your organizations and we aren't--there isn't a mechanism that we wouldn't have a space where we're asking you to show us that you have--ask victims for that step.

SYDNEY WEST: "How does OVC plan to mitigate potential bias in reviewing video and oral project plans?" That's another good question. One of the ways that we will mitigate bias is everyone answers the same set of questions. And then we will also be having a training for our peer reviewers on mitigating any bias as they are reviewing—to--and/or listening to the oral presentations and looking at videos. Another question. "Are Letters of Support from partner organizations required or optional? Is there a place to upload them in the portal?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: It's going to…

SYDNEY WEST: Uh-hmm. Go ahead.

SHARRON FLETCHER: I was going to say, if I can answer, the Letters of Support are not required. However, if you do--if your organization has those, you are welcome to submit those as attachments in the JustGrants system. So you are able to provide those to support your applications.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. Is the cost of--sorry, I'm just--is the cost of--okay. Is the cost--I can't see it. Oh, if--oh, we did that one. "How are basic needs defined? Is there somewhere we can get guidance on what could be covered under this grant as a basic need?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: I can answer that. Good question. So we don't have a specific definition of that, but again, you can look to page 4 with examples of the types of services and support you can provide or that we would consider allowable. And again, we are open to considering what other services that your organization is already providing. So you are--OVC does look to the application to both tell us about their organizations, who they serve, and the types of culturally responsive services that they are providing. So you do have opportunity to do that. And as Sydney said previously, no matter what you put in your budget, that alone, line items in the budget aren't necessarily going to take you out of the running for funding because after the awards are made, we will have opportunity to review the budget again and make adjustments as needed. So there's no necessarily one thing that's going to take your--move your--move your application from being considered.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. Thank you. Another question we received is, "Is the cost of the site improvements and/or furnishings an allowable budget cost?" Was it--yeah.

SHARRON FLETCHER: I'll address it. I would say for things of that nature, I would be mindful of the cost. Because again, the award amount is $200,000, so if there are small things that need to be done that are inexpensive furnishings, I would say yes, that's fine. But again, we would ask that applicants are thoughtful about how they can, again, serve the most victims using this money, because again, it is only $200,000 for a 2-year period. So our goal is try to serve as many victims as possible with that funding.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. "Would the service provision of mental health counseling to victims of crime in underserved, marginalized areas align with this funding opportunity?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: I would say again, yes. And again, just being mindful that we do want organizations to be thoughtful about how they can serve as many victims as possible in that 2-year period with the $200,000 award.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. "Is there a match requirement for this program?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: That's an easy one. No, there is no match requirement.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. "What information should be included in the email for notifying you all how we will apply?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: Do you want to take that one?

SYDNEY WEST: Yes.

SHARRON FLETCHER: Yes.

SYDNEY WEST: Yes. So I need the name of the organization and which of the three formats you plan to use. That's sufficient for this email. If you elect to do an oral presentation, please also let us know the contact information for the person with whom we should do the scheduling. Someone asked, "Is this part of the RedRover grants regarding helping victims of domestic abuse and their pets?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: That is a separate solicitation. So no, this is not part of that program.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. Some of these questions are sort of repeats. Let's see. Questions on legal services, and that was covered. "Are child care expenses to support victims of crime in their healing allowable?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: Those services are allowable.

SYDNEY WEST: Uh-hmm. What--let's see. "What--could this funding be used for court fees and litigation expenses? They're often required to pursue legal services to ensure client safety and stability?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: I'd say yes, if those will be legal--civil legal expenses, yes. But again, always mindful that we are trying to--encouraging applicants to be as thoughtful as possible as--in planning to serve as many victims as possible in that 2-year period with the $200,000 award.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. "What about staff time needed to connect victims with direct resources?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: That is also an allowable expense, and that's both as regular staff time or overtime, if necessary. Now both, just to reiterate, both regular time and overtime expenses for staff are allowable expenses.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. "Can one organization submit multiple applications for different program locations?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: I guess if that is appropriate for your organization and you are nonprofit, then yes.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay.

SHARRON FLETCHER: But you would need to be clear in your application that it's for two different areas or two different locations.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. I see more questions. "When do we expect the funding to be available so we can answer when we plan to start our project?" As we mentioned, that would be October 1, 2024. Another question on providing furnishing, "Can funding be used to furnish temporary housing for victims?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: I thought--I think we've answered that one before. Yes. Transitional and temporary housing expenses are allowable. And again, it is important

for organizations to be mindful that we encourage you to really think about how you can provide supports for the most--for the highest number of victims in that 2-year period with $200,000. And specifically around that housing, it's a very expensive for all of us right now. So it is important for you to be thoughtful about some of the more expensive services that are provided and how you can best serve the greatest number of people.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. "If the budgeted program costs exceed $200,000, should the budget submitted with this proposal reflect total expenses over $200,000?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: No. You should submit a budget for $200,000 because that's the maximum amount that will be offered per award.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. "If you have similar programs in different counties, do you have to submit separate applications for each county?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: I think that would be up to the applicant to decide. But if they-- again, if one organization is working in multiple locations, they could foreseeably submit one application per location. You just need to be very specific in your--each submission to be clear that this is for a separate area. And also explaining, you know, any differences or any--making sure there's unique distinction between the two so it does not look like a duplicate submission.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. "Is this a reimbursable grant? Are funds distributed after receipts are provided?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: That's basically--most organizations set up that way. However, there are some--there are some limitations where you are able to draw down funds in advance for, like, a 30-day window if you require cash in advance to cover expenses. But those are some of the procedures in place and policies and procedures that will be reviewed and--by our Financial Management Resource Center, and they will be there to help all of our grantees do this solicitation, make sure that they are aware of how to operate in those spaces and able to do so successfully.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. Here's one we haven't received. "Does the crime have to be recent, i.e., same month, year, et cetera of support?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: We do not collect information on when the actual incidents of victimization happened. So that's something that your organization would be--would have to determine if this is someone you can support, then you would be able to provide whatever services that you're paying for through the grant to that individual.

SYDNEY WEST: Okay. Another quick question, "What if our funding--what if a civil awardee--we're an org but we wanted to partner with a Tribe, with an MMIP unit?

SHARRON FLETCHER: I'm not familiar with MMIP.

SYDNEY WEST: Oh, sorry. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons. But the question is basically, "Can an org have a Tribe as a subawardee?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: Well, I'm not saying that you can't support people from the Tribe and you certainly can but again, this solicitation is geared specifically to nonprofits that are not a part of a Tribal government, so you could still foreseeably do that work without actually having to be attached to that Tribe if you are an NGO--or a nonprofit, pardon me. So we're right at time.

SYDNEY WEST: Uh-hmm.

SHARRON FLETCHER: So thank you, everyone, for joining us. I would encourage you, if you have additional questions, to please use the email, the mbncv@usdoj.gov email. You'll see right on the screen, there's also some reminders about places you can go to for supports as you prepare your application or if you run into any technical difficulties accessing both JustGrants or deadline issues. So please be sure to keep these numbers and emails that you see on screen for the JustGrants support desk as well as the OJP Response Center in mind. And thank you so much for joining us today.

SYDNEY WEST: Oh, I just want to add, we will be answering the questions that did not get answered in an upcoming FAQ.

SHARRON FLETCHER: Yes. And the recording for today's pre-application webinar as well as the one we had on Tuesday of this week, on June 18th, will both also be added to the webpage as well. So there will be additional resources available to you for review.

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