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U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Office for Victims of Crime



The <u>U.S. Department of Justice</u> (DOJ), <u>Office of Justice Programs</u> (OJP), <u>Office for Victims of</u> <u>Crime</u> (OVC) is seeking applications for the implementation of the 2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) Community Awareness Projects. This program furthers the Department's mission by supporting public awareness and community outreach and education activities for crime victims' rights and services.

OVC FY2015 2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Projects

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are limited to nonprofit organizations (including tribal nonprofits), faith- and community-based organizations, and public agencies. A nonprofit organization that serves crime victims does not need to have 501(c)(3) status to apply for grant funding under this solicitation.

OVC may elect to make awards for applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

For additional eligibility information, see Section C. Eligibility Information.

Deadline

Applicants must register with <u>Grants.gov</u> prior to submitting an application. All applications are due to be submitted and in receipt of a successful validation message in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on June 15, 2015.

All applicants are encouraged to read this Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov.

For additional information, see <u>How to Apply</u> in section D. Application and Submission Information.

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800–518–4726 or 606–545–5035, or via e-mail to <u>support@grants.gov</u>. The <u>Grants.gov</u> Support Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

Applicants that experience unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must e-mail the OVC contact identified below **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. Additional information on reporting technical issues is found under "Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues" in the <u>How to Apply</u> section.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contapplivia Grew, Victim Justice Program Specialist, at 202–616–8893, or via e-mail to <u>Olivia.Grew@usdoj.gov</u>.

Grants.gov number assigned to this announcement: OVC-2015-4238

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2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Projects (CFDA #16.582)

A. Program Description

Overview

This cooperative agreement will support the provision of an organization to provide financial and technical assistance to approximately 60 communities nationwide to conduct public education and awareness activities on crime victims' rights and services in their jurisdictions during the 2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). All final decisions as to which communities will be funded by the intermediary will be made by the OVC Director. Depending on grantee performance and funding availability, additional funding may be provided for the planning and execution of the 2017 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Projects (CAP). Funding for this award is authorized under 42 U.S.C. § 10603 (c)(1)(A).

Project-Specific Information

OVC is committed to enhancing 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. True to its mission, OVC is responsible for implementing several important pieces of federal legislation that are intended to advance victims' rights and services, as well as improve the skills, knowledge, and abilities of crime victim advocates, service providers, and allied professionals who are responsible for intervening on behalf of victims and witnesses.

The four key pieces of federal legislation that guide and direct OVC funding activities are:

- The 1982 Victim and Witness Protection Act 18, at U.S.C. 1501, as amended, which promotes rights and services for victims of crime within the federal system and serves as the foundation of the *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*;
- The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA), as amended, at 42 U.S.C. 10601, which establishes the Crime Victims Fund and authorizes programs to support grants for victim compensation, victim assistance services, improvements in child abuse investigations and prosecutions, as well as discretionary grants for training, technical assistance, demonstration projects, and program evaluation;
- The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, at 22 U.S.C. 7101, as amended, which is intended to combat trafficking of persons through prevention, prosecution, enforcement, protection, and assistance to victims of trafficking; and, most recently,
- The Crime Victims' Rights Act of 2004, at 18 USC 3771, as amended, which is intended to protect federal crime victims' rights, including the following: the right to be protected from the accused; the right to be heard at any public proceeding involving the release, plea, or sentencing of the accused; the right to be treated with fairness and respect; the right to timely notice of any public proceeding involving the crime or any release or escape of the accused; the right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay; the right to confer with a government attorney; and the right to full and timely restitution.

Every April since the first NCVRW was observed in 1981, OVC has supported local communities throughout the Nation in their NCVRW observances. Victim service providers typically conduct rallies, candlelight vigils, and a host of other events during this week to promote awareness of victims' rights and needs. To support these activities, and to minimize the financial burden on victim assistance agencies, OVC distributes an annual Resource Guide that contains resources such as sample public service announcements, victimization statistics, camera-ready art files, and a short NCVRW educational DVD. The full Guide is also available online. Although many victim assistance agencies have conducted awareness activities, these initiatives have not always been successful in reaching out to the full range of victim service providers, or they may not have been focused on all types of crime victimization. Many victim assistance agencies have extremely limited funding and staff to support their public education and awareness activities. Consequently, these service providers have limited opportunities to expand the reach of their campaigns and to implement innovative outreach strategies for greater impact.

To address these issues, OVC implemented a competitive funding opportunity in 2004 that, through an intermediary, provides local communities with up to \$5,000 in funding for costs associated with NCVRW awareness activities. To date, this initiative has enhanced the ability of over 400 communities throughout the United States to raise awareness of and access to crime victims' rights and services. The after-action reports provided by the organizations receiving funding indicate that most were able to use this funding to take their activities to a higher level. They leveraged the funding from OVC to obtain in-kind support from their community business, civic, education, faith, mental health, medical, and media sectors. The awareness campaigns were more comprehensive and inclusive, integrating the efforts of other disciplines that serve crime victims and reaching greater numbers of crime victims, including victims in underserved populations such as ethnic and immigrant communities and victims with disabilities.

OVC is continuing this initiative and the selected applicant will serve as the technical assistance provider to the competitively selected subgrantees and will work cooperatively with OVC in the application review and selection process.

Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

The project goal is to financially, programmatically, and administratively support approximately 60 subgrants of up to \$5,000 each to communities and victim assistance organizations nationwide and to provide technical assistance to the recipient organizations to promote 2016 NCVRW in communities across the Nation. The approximately 60 recipient subgrant organizations will use this funding and technical assistance to support the following activities:

- Promote 2016 NCVRW events and victims' rights and services.
- Design and print educational materials.
- Purchase supplies and materials used in community awareness events and activities.
- Support NCVRW event speakers (not to exceed \$650 per speaker per day, based on an 8-hour day).
- Develop a broad, collaborative approach that highlights services for all types of crime victims.

Subrecipient Eligibility: Public agencies, nonprofit organizations, community-based victim service organizations, faith-based organizations, tribal organizations, and community coalitions committed to ensuring the rights of and services for crime victims will be eligible to apply for the reimbursable contract funding for the CAPs held during 2016 NCVRW. A

private nonprofit organization that serves crime victims does not need to have 501(c)(3) status to apply. VOCA-funded organizations are also eligible to apply. Applicants selected for funding will be required to submit an after-action report on their NCVRW activities, including data on performance measures and financial outlays.

A successful applicant for this project must be positioned to undertake a nationwide solicitation for proposals and the delivery of technical assistance to recipient organizations. The successful applicant must be capable of marketing the project so that it meets the goal of funding a project in every state. A group of expert reviewers who are familiar with NCVRW and the victim assistance field, and who are willing to volunteer their services to review every application received and be a part of the selection process, must be assembled.

Project activities and deliverables

- Develop and administer the community project outreach and application processes (final recommendations require the approval of the OVC Director).
- Establish a Review Committee to review, grade, and comment on each application submitted. The Review Committee should meet, either in-person or virtually, after all applications are scored to discuss and determine which applications move forward for final approval.
- Advertise and publicize the funding availability through OVC and other public venues.
- Establish an NCVRW CAP Web site to advertise the funding opportunity, provide FAQs for first-time applicants, link to the main OVC NCVRW Web site, and establish user names and passwords for the selected applicants to provide them with assistance to carry out their projects.
- Provide technical assistance to each selected subrecipient organization through use of an interactive Internet-based video conferencing program and individual consultation via e-mail and telephone.
- Send Certificates of Appreciation to all of the successful CAP applicants.
- Adhere to the OJP Financial Guide (<u>www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/</u>). CAP subrecipients may be approved for up to \$5,000 reimbursement under this funding for the following activities:
 - Purchase print media, radio, television, or outdoor advertising to promote NCVRW events and victims' rights and services.
 - Design and print promotional or educational materials.
 - Reimburse NCVRW event speakers' fees (NOT to exceed \$650 per day for each speaker). Supplemental funding from other sources cannot be used to exceed this daily limitation.
 - o Design and print posters, invitations, fliers, and other promotional materials.
 - Rent space to conduct NCVRW activities and events.
 - Purchase supplies, materials, and equipment used in public awareness events and activities.
- The following reimbursements will **NOT** be approved for subrecipients:
 - o Salaries.
 - Organizational overhead or operational costs.
 - Refreshment costs not associated with public awareness events or programs.
 - Entertainment (such as bands).
 - Costs associated with a fundraising activity or event.
 - Bar charges or alcoholic beverages.
 - Food and beverage costs associated with award events or ceremonies.
 - Construction costs.

- o Cash prizes, including gift cards, associated with contests, raffles, or drawings.
- Costs associated with promotional items, such as pins, buttons, or badges that are not directly tied to the 2016 NCVRW theme.
- Receive, review, and summarize after-action reports, including documentation and verification of expenses and requests for reimbursement.
- Submit quarterly financial and biannual progress reports.
- Prepare a final report for OVC on the overall project, including recommendations for improvement and a list of innovative practices for inclusion in future NCVRW Resource Guides.

Evidence-Based Programs or Practices

OJP strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policymaking and program development in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. OJP is committed to:

- Improving the quantity and quality of evidence OJP generates.
- Integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions within OJP and the field.
- Improving the translation of evidence into practice.

OJP considers programs and practices to be evidence-based when their effectiveness has been demonstrated by causal evidence, generally obtained through one or more outcome evaluations. Causal evidence documents a relationship between an activity or intervention (including technology) and its intended outcome, including measuring the direction and size of a change, and the extent to which a change may be attributed to the activity or intervention. Causal evidence depends on the use of scientific methods to rule out, to the extent possible, alternative explanations for the documented change. The strength of causal evidence, based on the factors described above, will influence the degree to which OJP considers a program or practice to be evidence-based. The <u>OJP CrimeSolutions.gov</u> Web site is one resource that applicants may use to find information about evidence-based programs in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.

B. Federal Award Information

OVC estimates that it will make one award of up to \$375,000 for a 12-month project period.

OVC may, in certain cases, provide supplemental funding in future years to awards under this solicitation. Important considerations in decisions regarding supplemental funding include, among other factors, the availability of funding, strategic priorities, assessment of the quality of the management of the award (for example, timeliness and quality of progress reports), and assessment of the progress of the work funded under the award.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Type of Award¹

OVC expects that it will make any award from this solicitation in the form of a cooperative agreement, which is a particular type of grant used if OVC expects to have ongoing substantial involvement in award activities. Substantial involvement includes direct oversight and involvement with the grantee organization in implementation of the grant, but does not involve day-to-day project management. See <u>Administrative</u>, <u>National Policy</u>, and other Legal <u>Requirements</u>, under Section <u>F. Federal Award Administration Information</u>, for details regarding the federal involvement anticipated under an award from this solicitation.

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls

If selected for funding, the award recipient must:

(a) Establish and maintain effective internal control over the Federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the non-Federal entity is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in "Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government" issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the "Internal Control Integrated Framework", issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

(b) Comply with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal awards.

(c) Evaluate and monitor the non-Federal entity's compliance with statute, regulations and the terms and conditions of Federal awards.

(d) Take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings.

(e) Take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity designates as sensitive or the non-Federal entity considers sensitive consistent with applicable Federal, state and local laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality.

In order to better understand administrative requirements and cost principles, award applicants are encouraged to enroll, at no charge, in the Department of Justice Grants Financial Management Online Training available <u>here</u>.

Budget Information

Cost Sharing or Match Requirement

This solicitation does not require a match. However, if a successful application proposes a voluntary match amount, and OJP approves the budget, the total match amount incorporated into the approved budget becomes mandatory and subject to audit.

¹ See generally 31 U.S.C. §§ 6301-6305 (defines and describes various forms of federal assistance relationships, including grants and cooperative agreements (a type of grant)).

Pre-Agreement Cost Approvals

OJP does not typically approve pre-agreement costs; an applicant must request and obtain the prior written approval of OJP for all such costs. If approved, pre-agreement costs could be paid from grant funds consistent with a grantee's approved budget, and under applicable cost standards. However, all such costs prior to award and prior to approval of the costs are incurred at the sole risk of an applicant. Generally, no applicant should incur project costs *before* submitting an application requesting federal funding for those costs. Should there be extenuating circumstances that appear to be appropriate for OJP's consideration as pre-agreement costs, the applicant should contact the point of contact listed on the title page of this announcement for details on the requirements for submitting a written request for approval. See the section on Costs Requiring Prior Approval in the Financial Guide, for more information.

Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver

With respect to any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation, recipients may not use federal funds to pay total cash compensation (salary plus cash bonuses) to any employee of the award recipient at a rate that exceeds 110% of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service (SES) at an agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year.² The 2015 salary table for SES employees is available at the Office of Personnel Management <u>website</u>. Note: A recipient may compensate an employee at a greater rate, provided the amount in excess of this compensation limitation is paid with non-federal funds. (Any such additional compensation will not be considered matching funds where match requirements apply.)

The Assistant Attorney General for OJP may exercise discretion to waive, on an individual basis, the limitation on compensation rates allowable under an award. An applicant requesting a waiver should include a detailed justification in the budget narrative of the application. Unless the applicant submits a waiver request and justification with the application, the applicant should anticipate that OJP will request the applicant to adjust and resubmit the budget.

The justification should include the particular qualifications and expertise of the individual, the uniqueness of the service the individual will provide, the individual's specific knowledge of the program or project being undertaken with award funds, and a statement explaining that the individual's salary is commensurate with the regular and customary rate for an individual with his/her qualifications and expertise, and for the work to be done.

Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs

OJP strongly encourages applicants that propose to use award funds for any conference-, meeting-, or training-related activity to review carefully – before submitting an application – the OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at <u>http://www.oip.gov/financialguide/PostawardRequirements/chapter15page1.htm</u>. OJP policy and guidance (1) encourage minimization of conference, meeting, and training costs; (2) require prior written approval (which may affect project timelines) of most such costs for cooperative agreement recipients and of some such costs for grant recipients; and (3) set cost limits, including a general prohibition of all food and beverage costs.

² This limitation on use of award funds does not apply to the non-profit organizations specifically named at Appendix VIII to 2 C.F.R. part 200.

Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)

If an applicant proposes a program or activity that would deliver services or benefits to individuals, the costs of taking reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to those services or benefits for individuals with limited English proficiency may be allowable. Reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services or benefits may include interpretation or translation services where appropriate.

For additional information, see the "Civil Rights Compliance" section under "Solicitation Requirements" in the OJP Funding Resource Center.

C. Eligibility Information

For additional eligibility information, see the Title page.

Cost Sharing or Match Requirement

For additional information on cost sharing and match requirement, see Section <u>B. Federal</u> <u>Award Information</u>.

Limit on Number of Application Submissions

If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, OVC will review <u>only</u> the most recent system-validated version submitted. For more information on system-validated versions, see <u>How to Apply</u>.

D. Application and Submission Information

What an Application Should Include

Applicants should anticipate that if they fail to submit an application that contains all of the specified elements, it may negatively affect the review of their application; and, should a decision be made to make an award, it may result in the inclusion of special conditions that preclude the recipient from accessing or using award funds pending satisfaction of the conditions.

Moreover, applicants should anticipate that applications that are determined to be nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation, or that do not include the application elements that OVC has designated to be critical, will neither proceed to peer review nor receive further consideration. Under this solicitation, OVC has designated the following application elements as critical: Program Abstract, Program Narrative, Budget Detail Worksheet, and Budget Narrative. Applicants may combine the Budget Narrative and the Budget Detail Worksheet in one document. However, if an applicant submits only one budget document, it must contain **both** narrative and detail information. Please review the "Note on File Names and File Types" under <u>How to Apply</u> to be sure applications are submitted in permitted formats.

OJP strongly recommends that applicants use appropriately descriptive file names (e.g., "Program Narrative," "Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative," "Timelines," "Memoranda of Understanding," "Resumes") for all attachments. Also, OJP recommends that applicants include resumes in a single file.

1. Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

The SF-424 is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of preapplications, applications, and related information. Grants.gov and OJP's Grants Management System (GMS) take information from the applicant's profile to populate the

fields on this form. When selecting "type of applicant," if the applicant is a for-profit entity, select "For-Profit Organization" or "Small Business" (as applicable).

Intergovernmental Review: This funding opportunity (program) **is not** subject to <u>Executive</u> <u>Order 12372</u>. (In completing the SF-424, applicants are to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 to indicate that the "Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.")

2. Project Abstract

Applications should include a high-quality project abstract that summarizes the proposed project in 400 words or less. Project abstracts should be—

- Written for a general public audience;
- Submitted as a separate attachment with "Project Abstract" as part of its file name; and
- Single-spaced, using a standard 12-point font (Times New Roman) with 1-inch margins.

As a separate attachment, the project abstract will **not** count against the page limit for the program narrative.

All project abstracts should follow the detailed template available at www.ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/ProjectAbstractTemplate.pdf.

Permission to Share Project Abstract with the Public: OVC will only be able to fund one application submitted under this solicitation, but it may have the opportunity to share information with the public regarding promising but unfunded applications, for example, through a listing on a webpage available to the public. The intent of this public posting would be to allow other possible funders to become aware of such proposals.

In the project abstract template, applicants are asked to indicate whether they give OJP permission to share their project abstract (including contact information) with the public. Granting (or failing to grant) this permission will not affect OJP's funding decisions, and, if the application is not funded, granting permission will not guarantee that abstract information will be shared, nor will it guarantee funding from any other source.

Note: OJP may choose not to list a project that otherwise would have been included in a listing of promising but unfunded applications, should the abstract fail to meet the format and content requirements noted above and outlined in the project abstract template.

3. Program Narrative

The Program Narrative should not exceed 25 double-spaced pages in 12-point font with 1inch margins. If the program narrative fails to comply with these length-related restrictions, OVC may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

The following sections should be included as part of the program narrative:

- a. **Statement of the Problem:** The Statement of the Problem must describe the need for the project and provide a clear statement of how funding will support the project's value to the victims field by meeting a stated goal.
- b. **Project Design and Implementation:** The Project Design and Implementation plan must describe the project strategy and discuss how the strategy will address the

identified problems and support the goals and objectives. The applicant's strategy or design must include a description of project phases, tasks, activities, and staff responsibilities, and clear descriptions of interim deliverables and final products. It must include a time-task plan that clearly identifies objectives, major activities, and products. The applicant must describe the strategy, tasks, and time-task plan for developing the services and products.

The applicant must develop a time-task plan that clearly identifies major activities and products for the duration of the project period. This plan must include the designation of organization responsibility, a schedule for the completion of the activities, and the submission of finished products. In preparing the time-task plan, the applicants should make certain that all project activities will occur within the proposed project period. The plan also must provide for the submission of financial and progress reports.

c. **Capabilities and Competencies:** The application must include a clear description of the applicant's management structure. Applicants must include a description of the current and proposed professional staff members' unique qualifications that will enable them to fulfill their grant responsibilities.

The applicant must describe how the program will be managed and include an organizational chart or information describing the roles and responsibilities of key organization and functional components and personnel. The applicant must also include a list of personnel responsible for managing and implementing the major stages of the project. If additional staff will be hired to complete the project, the applicant should identify the selection criteria. Applicants should also provide detailed information about staff committed to working on the project contingent upon receipt of funding.

d. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance

Measures: To assist the Department with fulfilling its responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), Public Law 103-62, and the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, Public Law 111–352, applicants that receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measure the results of their work done under this solicitation. OJP will require any award recipient, post award, to provide the data requested in the "Data Grantee Provides" column so that OJP can calculate values for the "Performance Measures" column. Performance measures for this solicitation are as follows:

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Data Grantee Provides
Increase public awareness of crime victims' rights and services nationwide during the 2016 NCVRW.	Percentage of states and territories represented.	Number of states and territories selected, compared to total number of states and territories identified.
Strengthen the capacity of victim assistance agencies to develop a broad,	Number of NCVRW events supported.	Number of NCVRW events supported.
collaborative approach that highlights services for all types of crime victims.	Number of educational materials developed (by type) by subgrantees.	Number of educational materials developed (by type) by subgrantees.

Number of collaborative partners involved in the NCVRW events.	Number of collaborative partners involved in the NCVRW events.

OVC does not require applicants to submit performance measures data with their application. Performance measures are included as an alert that OVC will require successful applicants to submit specific data as part of their reporting requirements. For the application, applicants should indicate an understanding of these requirements and discuss how they will gather the required data, should they receive funding.

Note on Project Evaluations

Applicants that propose to use funds awarded through this solicitation to conduct project evaluations should be aware that certain project evaluations (such as systematic investigations designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge) may constitute "research" for purposes of applicable DOJ human subjects protection regulations. However, project evaluations that are intended only to generate internal improvements to a program or service, or are conducted only to meet OJP's performance measure data reporting requirements, likely do not constitute "research." Applicants should provide sufficient information for OJP to determine whether the particular project they propose would either intentionally or unintentionally collect and/or use information in such a way that it meets the DOJ regulatory definition of research.

Research, for the purposes of human subjects protections for OJP-funded programs, is defined as, "a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge" 28 C.F.R. § 46.102(d). For additional information on determining whether a proposed activity would constitute research, see the decision tree to assist applicants on the "Research and the Protection of Human Subjects" section of the <u>OJP Funding Resource Center</u> Web page (www.ojp.gov/funding/Explore/SolicitationRequirements/EvidenceResearchEvaluationRequirements.htm). Applicants whose proposals may involve a research or statistical component also should review the "Data Privacy and Confidentiality Requirements" section on that Web page.

4. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative

a. Budget Detail Worksheet

A sample Budget Detail Worksheet can be found at <u>www.ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/BudgetDetailWorksheet.pdf</u>. Applicants that submit their budget in a different format should include the budget categories listed in the sample budget worksheet.

For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, see the Financial Guide at www.ojp.gov/financialguide/index.htm.

In addition to what is included in the Budget Worksheet, the Budget should also include line items for the following:

- Review Committee (if being held in-person). Must show the breakdown for each day of the in-person review committee meeting:
 - o Travel
 - o Lodging for approximately 2 nights in a central meeting location
 - o Per diem

- Other:
 - Review Committee meeting room rental
 - o Internet and video conferencing costs
 - o Printing
 - Postage and shipping
 - Costs associated with certificates of appreciation for the successful applicants
 - The Regional Financial Management Training Seminar sponsored by OJP's Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), unless the applicant has previously attended this seminar or plans to take the training online. Specific information about the dates and locations of upcoming OCFO events and information about the DOJ Grants Financial Management Online Training can be found at <u>www.ojp.usdoj.gov/training/training.htm</u>.

b. Budget Narrative

The budget narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe <u>every</u> category of expense listed in the Budget Detail Worksheet. OJP expects proposed budgets to be complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

Applicants should demonstrate in their budget narratives how they will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget narratives should generally describe cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the goals of the project. For example, a budget narrative should detail why planned in-person meetings are necessary, or how technology and collaboration with outside organizations could be used to reduce costs, without compromising quality.

The narrative should be mathematically sound and correspond with the information and figures provided in the Budget Detail Worksheet. The narrative should explain how the applicant estimated and calculated <u>all</u> costs, and how they are relevant to the completion of the proposed project. The narrative may include tables for clarification purposes but need not be in a spreadsheet format. As with the Budget Detail Worksheet, the Budget Narrative should be broken down by year.

c. Non-Competitive Procurement Contracts In Excess of Simplified Acquisition Threshold

If an applicant proposes to make one or more non-competitive procurements of products or services, where the non-competitive procurement will exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (also known as the small purchase threshold), which is currently set at \$150,000, the application should address the considerations outlined in the Financial Guide.

d. Pre-Agreement Cost Approvals

For information on pre-agreement costs, see Section **B. Federal Award Information**.

5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Indirect costs are allowed only if the applicant has a current federally approved indirect cost rate. (This requirement does not apply to units of local government.) Attach a copy of the federally approved indirect cost rate agreement to the application. Applicants that do not have an approved rate may request one through their cognizant federal agency, which will

review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant organization, or, if the applicant's accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct cost categories. For the definition of Cognizant Federal Agency, see the "Glossary of Terms" in the <u>Financial Guide</u>. For assistance with identifying your cognizant agency, please contact the Customer Service Center at 1–800–458–0786 or at <u>ask.ocfo@usdoj.gov</u>. If DOJ is the cognizant federal agency, applicants may obtain information needed to submit an indirect cost rate proposal at <u>http://www.ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/IndirectCosts.pdf</u>.

6. Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status

Applicants are to disclose whether they are currently designated high risk by another federal grant-making agency. This includes any status requiring additional oversight by the federal agency due to past programmatic or financial concerns. If an applicant is designated high risk by another federal grant making agency, you must email the following information to <u>OJPComplianceReporting@usdoj.gov</u> at the time of application submission:

- The federal agency that currently designated the applicant as high risk;
- Date the applicant was designated high risk;
- The high-risk point of contact name, phone number, and email address, from that federal agency; and
- Reasons for the high-risk status.

OJP seeks this information to ensure appropriate federal oversight of any grant award. Unlike the Excluded Parties List, this high risk-information does not disqualify any organization from receiving an OJP award. However, additional grant oversight may be included, if necessary, in award documentation.

7. Additional Attachments

a. Resumes of Key Personnel

Resumes of key personnel must be provided with the application. For positions that are vacant, provide job descriptions outlining roles and responsibilities and provide the selection criteria for the proposed new positions (required).

b. Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications

Applicants are to disclose whether they have pending applications for federally funded grants or subgrants (including cooperative agreements) that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation <u>and</u> that will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application under this solicitation. The disclosure should include both direct applications for federal funding (e.g., applications to federal agencies) and indirect applications for such funding (e.g., applications to state agencies that will subaward federal funds).

OJP seeks this information to help avoid any inappropriate duplication of funding. Leveraging multiple funding sources in a complementary manner to implement comprehensive programs or projects is encouraged and is not seen as inappropriate duplication.

Applicants that have pending applications as described above are to provide the following information about pending applications submitted within the last 12 months:

- The Federal or State funding agency;
- The solicitation name/project name; and
- The point of contact information at the applicable funding agency.

Federal or State Funding Agency	Solicitation Name/ Project Name	Name/Phone/E-mail for Point of Contact at Funding Agency
	CAL	
DOJ/COPS	COPS Hiring Program	Jane Doe, 202/000-0000; jane.doe@usdoj.gov
HHS/ Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration	Drug Free Communities Mentoring Program/ North County Youth Mentoring Program	John Doe, 202/000-0000; john.doe@hhs.gov

Applicants should include the table as a separate attachment, with the file name "Disclosure of Pending Applications," to their application. Applicants that do not have pending applications as described above are to include a statement to this effect in the separate attachment page (e.g., "[Applicant Name on SF-424] does not have pending applications submitted within the last 12 months for federally funded grants or subgrants (including cooperative agreements) that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application under this solicitation.")

8. Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire

In accordance with <u>2 CFR 200.205</u>, Federal agencies must have in place a framework for evaluating the risks posed by applicants before they receive a Federal award. To facilitate part of this risk evaluation, **all** applicants (other than an individual) are to download, complete, and submit this <u>form</u>.

9. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

All applicants must complete this information. Applicants that expend any funds for lobbying activities are to provide the detailed information requested on the form Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL). Applicants that do not expend any funds for lobbying activities are to enter "N/A" in the text boxes for item 10 ("a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant" and "b. Individuals Performing Services").

How to Apply

Applicants must register in, and submit applications through, Grants.gov, a "one-stop storefront" to find federal funding opportunities and apply for funding. Find complete instructions on how to register and submit an application at <u>www.Grants.gov</u>. Applicants that experience technical difficulties during this process should call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at **800–518–4726** or **606–545–5035**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays. Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, **processing delays may occur, and it can take several weeks** for first-time registrants to receive confirmation and a user password. OJP encourages applicants to **register several weeks before** the application submission deadline. In addition, OJP urges applicants to submit applications 72 hours prior to the application due date to allow time to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

OVC strongly encourages all prospective applicants to sign up for Grants.gov email <u>notifications</u> regarding this solicitation. If this solicitation is cancelled or modified, individuals who sign up with Grants.gov for updates will be automatically notified.

Note on File Names and File Types: Grants.gov <u>only</u> permits the use of <u>certain specific</u> characters in names of attachment files. Valid file names may include <u>only</u> the characters shown in the table below. Grants.gov is designed to reject any application that includes an attachment(s) with a file name that contains <u>any</u> characters not shown in the table below.

Characters	Special Characters		
Upper case (A – Z)	Parenthesis ()	Curly braces { }	Square brackets []
Lower case (a – z)	Ampersand (&)	Tilde (~)	Exclamation point (!)
Underscore ()	Comma (,)	Semicolon (;)	Apostrophe (')
Hyphen (-)	At sign (@)	Number sign (#)	Dollar sign (\$)
Space	Percent sign (%)	Plus sign (+)	Equal sign (=)
Period (.)	When using the ampersand (&) in XML, applicants must use the "&"		
	format.		

Grants.gov is designed to forward successfully submitted applications to OJP's Grants Management System (GMS).

GMS does not accept executable file types as application attachments. These disallowed file types include, but are not limited to, the following extensions: ".com," ".bat," ".exe," ".vbs," ".cfg," ".dat," ".db," ".dbf," ".dll," ".ini," ".log," ".ora," ".sys," and ".zip." GMS may reject applications with files that use these extensions. It is important to allow time to change the type of file(s) if the application is rejected.

All applicants are required to complete the following steps:

OJP may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the federal awarding agency is ready to make a federal award, the federal awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

- 1. Acquire a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. In general, the Office of Management and Budget requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal funds include a DUNS number in their applications for a new award or a supplement to an existing award. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and differentiating entities receiving federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point-of-contact information for federal assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, one-time activity. Call Dun and Bradstreet at 866–705–5711 to obtain a DUNS number or apply online at www.dnb.com. A DUNS number is usually received within 1-2 business days.
- 2. Acquire registration with the System for Award Management (SAM). SAM is the repository for standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. OJP requires all applicants (other than individuals) for federal financial assistance to maintain current registrations in the SAM database. Applicants must be

registered in SAM to successfully register in Grants.gov. Applicants must **update or renew their SAM registration annually** to maintain an active status.

Applications cannot be successfully submitted in Grants.gov until Grants.gov receives the SAM registration information. **The information transfer from SAM to Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours.** OJP recommends that the applicant register or renew registration with SAM as early as possible.

Information about SAM registration procedures can be accessed at <u>www.sam.gov</u>.

- 3. Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password. Complete the AOR profile on Grants.gov and create a username and password. The applicant organization's DUNS number must be used to complete this step. For more information about the registration process, go to <u>http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html</u>.
- **4.** Acquire confirmation for the AOR from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC). The E-Biz POC at the applicant organization must log into Grants.gov to confirm the applicant organization's AOR. Note that an organization can have more than one AOR.
- 5. Search for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov. Use the following identifying information when searching for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this solicitation is 16.582, titled "Crime Victim Assistance/Discretionary Grants," and the funding opportunity number is OVC-2015-4238.
- 6. Submit a valid application consistent with this solicitation by following the directions in Grants.gov. Within 24–48 hours after submitting the electronic application, the applicant should receive two notifications from Grants.gov. The first will confirm the receipt of the application and the second will state whether the application has been successfully validated, or rejected due to errors, with an explanation. It is possible to first receive a message indicating that the application is received and then receive a rejection notice a few minutes or hours later. Submitting well ahead of the deadline provides time to correct the problem(s) that caused the rejection. Important: OJP urges applicants to submit applications at least 72 hours prior to the application due date to allow time to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

Click <u>here</u> for further details on DUNS, SAM, and Grants.gov registration steps and timeframes.

Note: Duplicate Applications

If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, OVC will review <u>only</u> the most recent system-validated version submitted. See Note on File Names and File Types under <u>How</u> to Apply.

Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues

Applicants that experience unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must contact the Grants.gov <u>Customer Support Hotline</u> or the <u>SAM Help Desk</u> to report the technical issue and receive a tracking number. The applicant must e-mail the OVC contact identified in the Contact

Information section on page 2 within 24 hours after the application deadline and request approval to submit their application. The e-mail must describe the technical difficulties, and include a timeline of the applicant's submission efforts, the complete grant application, the applicant's DUNS number, and any Grants.gov Help Desk or SAM tracking number(s). Note: **OVC** does not automatically approve requests. After the program office reviews the submission, and contacts the Grants.gov or SAM Help Desks to validate the reported technical issues, OJP will inform the applicant whether the request to submit a late application has been approved or denied. If OJP determines that the applicant failed to follow all required procedures, which resulted in an untimely application submission, OJP will deny the applicant's request to submit their application.

The following conditions are generally insufficient to justify late submissions:

- Failure to register in SAM or Grants.gov in sufficient time;
- Failure to follow Grants.gov instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its Web site;
- Failure to follow each instruction in the OJP solicitation; and
- Technical issues with the applicant's computer or information technology environment, including firewalls.

Notifications regarding known technical problems with Grants.gov, if any, are posted at the top of the OJP funding Web page at

www.ojp.gov/funding/Explore/CurrentFundingOpportunities.htm.

E. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- 1. Statement of the Problem (20%)
- 2. Project Design and Implementation (40%)
- 3. Capabilities and Competencies (20%)
- 4. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (5%)
- 5. Budget: complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities). Budget narratives should generally demonstrate how applicants will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget narratives should demonstrate cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the goals of the project.³ (15%)

Review Process

OJP is committed to ensuring a fair and open process for awarding grants. OVC reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with the solicitation.

³ Generally speaking, a reasonable cost is a cost that, in its nature or amount, does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the costs.

Peer reviewers will review the applications submitted under this solicitation that meet basic minimum requirements. For purposes of assessing whether applicants have met basic minimum requirements, OJP screens applications for compliance with specified program requirements to help determine which applications should proceed to further consideration for award. Although program requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all solicitations for funding under OJP grant programs:

- Applications must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant.
- Applications must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable).
- Applications must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation.
- Applications must include all items designated as "critical elements."
- Applicants will be checked against the General Services Administration's Excluded Parties List.

For a list of critical elements, see "What an Application Should Include" under <u>Section D.</u> <u>Application and Submission Information.</u>

OVC may use internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination, to assess applications meeting basic minimum requirements on technical merit using the solicitation's selection criteria. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the subject matter of a given solicitation who is not a current DOJ employee. An internal reviewer is a current DOJ employee who is well-versed or has expertise in the subject matter of this solicitation. A peer review panel will evaluate, score, and rate applications that meet basic minimum requirements. Peer reviewers' ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only, although their views are considered carefully. In addition to peer review ratings, considerations for award recommendations and decisions may include, but are not limited to, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance under prior OVC and OJP awards, and available funding.

OJP reviews applications for potential discretionary awards to evaluate the risks posed by applicants before they receive an award. This review may include but is not limited to the following:

- 1. Financial stability and fiscal integrity
- 2. Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in the Financial Guide
- 3. History of performance
- 4. Reports and findings from audits
- 5. The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities
- 6. Proposed costs to determine if the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative accurately explain project costs, and whether those costs are reasonable, necessary, and allowable under applicable federal cost principles and agency regulations

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General, who may consider factors including, but not limited to, peer review ratings, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance under prior OVC and OJP awards, and available funding when making awards.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

Federal Award Notices

OJP award notification will be sent from GMS. Recipients will be required to log in; accept any outstanding assurances and certifications on the award; designate a financial point of contact; and review, sign, and accept the award. The award acceptance process involves physical signature of the award document by the authorized representative and the scanning of the fully-executed award document to OJP.

Administrative, National Policy, and other Legal Requirements

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the agency-approved project proposal and budget, the recipient must comply with award terms and conditions, and other legal requirements, including but not limited to OMB, DOJ, or other federal regulations which will be included in the award, incorporated into the award by reference, or are otherwise applicable to the award. OJP strongly encourages prospective applicants to review the information pertaining to these requirements **prior** to submitting an application. To assist applicants and recipients in accessing and reviewing this information, OJP has placed pertinent information on its <u>Solicitation Requirements</u> page of the <u>OJP Funding Resource Center</u>.

Please note in particular the following two forms, which applicants must accept in GMS prior to the receipt of any award funds, as each details legal requirements with which applicants must provide specific assurances and certifications of compliance. Applicants may view these forms in the Apply section of the <u>OJP Funding Resource Center</u> and are strongly encouraged to review and consider them carefully prior to making an application for OJP grant funds.

- <u>Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility</u> <u>Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements</u>
- Standard Assurances

Upon grant approval, OJP electronically transmits (via GMS) the award document to the prospective award recipient. In addition to other award information, the award document contains award terms and conditions that specify national policy requirements⁴ with which recipients of federal funding must comply; uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements; and program-specific terms and conditions required based on applicable program (statutory) authority or requirements set forth in OJP solicitations and program announcements, and other requirements which may be attached to appropriated funding. For example, certain efforts may call for special requirements, terms, or conditions relating to intellectual property, data/information-sharing or -access, or information security; or audit requirements, expenditures and milestones, or publications and/or press releases. OJP also may place additional terms and conditions on an award based on its risk assessment of the applicant, or for other reasons it determines necessary to fulfill the goals and objectives of the program.

⁴ See generally 2 C.F.R. 200.300 (provides a general description of national policy requirements typically applicable to recipients of Federal awards, including the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA)).

Prospective applicants may access and review the text of mandatory conditions OJP includes in all OJP awards, as well as the text of certain other conditions, such as administrative conditions, via the <u>Mandatory Award Terms and Conditions</u> page of the <u>OJP Funding Resource Center</u>.

As stated above, OVC anticipates that it will make any award from this solicitation in the form of a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreement awards include standard "federal involvement" conditions that describe the general allocation of responsibility for execution of the funded program. Generally stated, under cooperative agreement awards, responsibility for the day-to-day conduct of the funded project rests with the recipient in implementing the funded and approved proposal and budget, and the award terms and conditions. Responsibility for oversight and redirection of the project, if necessary, rests with OVC.

In addition to any "federal involvement" condition(s), OJP cooperative agreement awards include a special condition specifying certain reporting requirements required in connection with conferences, meetings, retreats, seminars, symposiums, training activities, or similar events funded under the award, consistent with OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting.

General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements

Recipients must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, final financial and progress reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report, in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.

Special Reporting requirements may be required by OJP depending on the statutory, legislative or administrative obligations of the recipient or the program.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For additional Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s), see the title page.

For additional contact information for Grants.gov, see the title page.

H. Other Information

Provide Feedback to OJP

To assist OJP in improving its application and award processes, we encourage applicants to provide feedback on this solicitation, the application submission process, and/or the application review/peer review process. Provide feedback to <u>OJPSolicitationFeedback@usdoj.gov</u>.

IMPORTANT: This e-mail is for feedback and suggestions only. Replies are **not** sent from this mailbox. If you have specific questions on any program or technical aspect of the solicitation, **you must** directly contact the appropriate number or e-mail listed on the front of this solicitation document. These contacts are provided to help ensure that you can directly reach an individual who can address your specific questions in a timely manner.

If you are interested in being a reviewer for other OJP grant applications, please e-mail your resume to <u>ojppeerreview@lmbps.com</u>. The OJP Solicitation Feedback email account will not forward your resume. **Note:** Neither you nor anyone else from your organization can be a peer reviewer in a competition in which you or your organization have submitted an application.

Application Checklist 2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Projects

This application checklist has been created to assist in developing an application.

What an Applicant Should Do:

(see page 17)
(see page 17)
(see page 18)
(see page 18)
(see page 18)
(see page 17)
ors
(see page 18)
(see page 2)

General Requirements:

_____ Review the <u>Solicitation Requirements</u> in the OJP Funding Resource Center.

Scope Requirement:

_____ The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of **\$375,000**.

Eligibility Requirement: Eligible applicants are limited to nonprofit organizations (including tribal nonprofit), faith- and community-based organizations, and public agencies. A nonprofit organization that serves crime victims does not need to have 501(c)(3) status to apply for grant funding under this solicitation.

What an Application Should Include:	
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	(see page 10)
Project Abstract	(see page 11)
Program Narrative	(see page 11)
Budget Detail Worksheet	(see page 13)
Budget Narrative	(see page 14)
Employee Compensation Waiver request and justification ((if applicable)
	(see page 9)
Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, plassing of the second s	anning, and reporting
available at ojp.gov/financialguide/PostawardRequirements/chapt	er15page1.htm
	(see page 9)
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	(see page 16)
Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)	(see page 14)
Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status	(see page 15)
Additional Attachments	
Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications	(see page 15)

_____ Resumes of Key Personnel (see page 15) _____ Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (if applicable) (see page 16)