

[Transcript from the OVC Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Enhancing Services for Older Victims of Abuse and Financial Exploitation preapplication webinar, which was held March 26, 2020. The archived webinar can be found at:

<https://www.ovc.gov/grants/webinars.html>.]

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Good afternoon everybody. I love the excitement over this solicitation. We have a lot of people that are still joining. We had a bunch of people registered, so it's very exciting. So welcome. Good afternoon and welcome to the OVC Fiscal Year 2020 Enhancing Services for Older Victims of Abuse and Financial Exploitation webinar, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, I would like to introduce today's presenter Laura Ivkovich, Policy Analyst with the National Program Division within the Office for Victims of Crime.

LAURA IVKOVICH: Good afternoon and good morning to those on the West Coast. I'm Laura Ivkovich at the Office for Victims of Crime and welcome to this webinar. We're really excited and thrilled to have everybody on. It's a--It's a large number of interest so that's always a good indicator.

Today we're going to cover--for my webinar presentation about this solicitation, a little bit about the Office for Victims of Crime and our mission and that how it relates to this grant solicitation. I'll break down the solicitation and cover the program focus area, the application deadline, the award amount, and timelines, and the required documents. We'll give you a lot of hints on that. And then the how we're evaluating the application and so how you can apply for the application. And then, as Mary Jo mentioned, we'll be handling your questions and answers at the end. Next slide.

So as it relates to this solicitation the Justice Department mission--this furthers the Department's mission by supporting victims of elder abuse and financial exploitation.

OVC's mission statement is that we are committed to enhancing the nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership and changing policies and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

So the program overview is--The program overview, if you're following along with your actual solicitation, is on page 4 and this program is intended to improve outcomes, minimize additional trauma, and restore safety and security to older adult victims of abuse and financial exploitation. Elder abuse, sometimes called elder maltreatment, includes any intentional or negligent act that causes harm or creates a serious risk of harm to an older person by a family member, caregiver, or other person in a trusted relationship. And typically I--it changes--it matters differently between each state, but often it's somewhere in the neighborhood of age 60 and older. I'm guessing that that's probably one of the questions I'm going to be asked so I'm covering it now. Next slide.

So the goal of this program is to support communities in providing services to older victims of abuse and exploitation. So this is a services grant. Next.

Also on page 4, here are the program deliverables. They include, as it's a direct services grant, direct services, those to older victims using a trauma-informed approach. Resources for service providers and criminal justice stakeholders. Advocacy, assistance, and safety planning within the criminal justice system and with social service agencies and community organizations. Efforts to support and promote opportunities to ensure older victims of crime are treated with dignity and respect. And then finally, a report--a final report describing the project activities any promising practices, challenges encountered, and solutions to help improve outcomes for older crime victims.

The priority areas--and this is found on page 5 for all of OJP's 2020 solicitations include--for this solicitation includes those challenges that are specific in rural communities--that those challenges are facing rural communities; as well as those that demonstrate the individuals who are intended to benefit the grant reside in high poverty areas or persistent poverty counties; and then, applications that offer enhancements to public safety and economically distressed communities also known as Qualified Opportunity Zones. More about that.

So, again, on page 5, it goes into greater detail and there are links on the website. It gives you website links for more information including maps. But applicants under the rural priority must describe what makes the geographic services area rural. Using U.S. Census or other appropriate government data, how isolated the area is from needed services, and how they will address specific challenges in rural communities. And then applicants under the poverty priority must demonstrate the individuals who are intended to benefit reside in high poverty areas or persistent poverty counties. And then lastly, applicants under the Qualified Opportunity Zones priority must specify how the project will enhance public safety in the Qualified Opportunity Zones.

Eligibility, which is always the questions that we are usually asked on webinars about solicitation funding, this is pretty much everything. Public agencies; institutions of higher education including tribal institutions of higher education; federally recognized Indian tribal government, those that are determined by the Secretary of the Interior; and then private for-profit and nonprofit organizations including tribal nonprofit and for-profit organizations. For additional information on eligibility, you can review the title page of the solicitation page 1.

So the submission date for this competitive solicitation is the end of the day on May 5, 2020. So 11:59 p.m., on May 5, 2020. OJP urges applicants to submit applications at least 72 hours prior to the application due date. This is helpful for you in case there are any issues that pop up that are unanticipated. So we really stress that you start and submit your applications prior to the due date.

So this competitive solicitation has--We anticipate making 12 awards. The information about this is found on pages 5 and 6. So, 12 awards and we're estimating the maximum dollar amount for each award would be up to \$500,000. And the period of performance start date would be October 1, 2020. And the period of performance would be 36 months. Therefore, the performance end date would be September 30, 2023. Because

this is VOCA funding there are no extensions possible beyond the end date. That is by statute. So 09/30/2023 would be the deadline. The end date, excuse me.

So on page 6, you'll see more about the type of award, this is going to be a grant. It's different than a cooperative agreement. A grant is a legal instrument of financial assistance, the awarding agency maintains oversight and monitoring but without substantial involvement by the awarding agency. You can see more about this and the legal requirements on the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide section for more information.

What applications must include? This is important and the word must is used for a reason. Check on page 7 and 11 to follow along, but the following application elements must be included in the application submission to meet the basic minimum requirements to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding. They are the Project Narrative, which includes a description of the issue and there's 20 percent of the entire application score is dedicated to that area; Project Design and Implementation, 40 percent of the application score is associated with that, very important piece of this; Capabilities and Competencies would be 20 percent of the application score; Plan for Collecting Performance Measurement Data is 10 percent; and then the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative would be 10 percent as well. If you do not submit documents noted with an asterisk, the application will not be considered for funding. So you really have to make sure that you have labeled Project Narrative and Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative so that we are aware and know that it is included. Otherwise, it will not be considered for funding.

Applications also must include a host of things. You can find this information on pages 15 and 16. And the first and foremost important is your SF-424. That is the application-- basically, a cover page for the application. It includes also who the legal entity is who is actually applying for it. And I want to stress because this have come up in the past. Please do not use your own name for the legal entity. Name, it would be the organization or the agency that is actually applying. The agency that is--has the legal authority to apply for funding, so that must be included on the 424. You also must include a project abstract; that's on page 7, more information about that. An indirect cost rate if you are going to use that. The financial management questionnaire. The Grant Application Resource Guide has more information about your Standard Form LLL. Any disclosure of pending other applications that you might have--that are pending. And disclosure of processes related to executive compensation that has to do with salaries. Request and justification for employee compensation. Your time and task plan, that's on page 8. Your job descriptions and resumes for key staff, that's on page 9. Again, these are things that must be included. Documentation of rural challenges, if applicable. Documentation of high-poverty area or persistent poverty counties, if applicable, page 10. And Documentation of enhanced public safety in Qualified Opportunity Zones if that applies and that information's on page 10.

So the--here is an example of an SF-424, Standard Form-424 where I was mentioning the type of application. New--it would be new but for the legal name you certainly have to enter the same name as the entity or organization that you are going to make the

award to, or that you would want to have the award made to. Do not use your personal name because this is not for individuals. This is for eligible applicants, which includes entities and organizations. The start date, again, you would have to include when the start date, for this specific application would be; 10/01/2020 and it cannot go past 09/30/2023. Again, that's due to our statute. You also need to include the estimated funding. It must match the federal request in the detailed Budget Worksheet; so those two things have to sync up and be the same dollar amount. And then the project description, use that which is the name of the solicitation under the project description, *Fiscal 2020 Enhancing Services for Older Victims of Abuse and Financial Exploitation*.

The Program Narrative format, information on that is on page 7. It needs to be double-spaced, using 12-point Times [New] Roman font, 1-inch margin, not to exceed 20 pages, and the pages should be numbered. This is really helpful for the peer reviewers. If the Program Narrative fails to comply with these length-related restrictions, OVC may negatively consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions. Next.

On page 9, you'll find information about Data Collection. We'll ask that you submit quarterly performance data through our Transforming Victim Services module in our Performance Measurement Tool or the PMT. Applicants should review the applicable performance measures and that can be found on our website, [ovc.gov/grants/pdfxt/TVS-questionnaire.pdf](https://www.ovc.gov/grants/pdfxt/TVS-questionnaire.pdf). Application should demonstrate the applicant's understanding of the performance data requirement for the grant program and detail how the applicant will gather the required data if funded. Next.

The Budget Detail Worksheet is very important because you have to explain what you're using the funding for. So there's more information on OJP's Grant Application Resource Guide about this. The Budget Information Associated Document in Budget Preparation and Submission Information section, you want to look at that. You want to use the DOJ standard form. And there is an Excel version, it's preferred but there's also a PDF, a fillable PDF. But we want you to use the DOJ standard because it really does help you through that process. If you've never done this before, the budget detail and budget narrative should be combined in one document. Personnel costs should relate to the key personnel for the project. And the budget should include adequate funding to fully implement the project, broken out by year, reflecting 36 months. The budget narrative should be mathematically sound and correspond with information in the Budget Detail Worksheet and that worksheet is available on our website. The web address is listed there. Next.

Here is a very handy guide in how to apply in Grants.gov. Also more information about this is on page 10 of the solicitation. All applicants should complete the following steps. You have to acquire a unique identifying number and that's usually called the DUNS number. You have to register or maintain registration in the System for Award Management or SAM database well in advance of applying. I want to stress this. In past years we had difficulty with people trying to apply late in the--in the game and they had not gotten their System of Award (SAM) registration, and so we really want you to make sure that you have a SAM registration. You have to acquire an Authorized Organization

Representative (AOR). and a Grants.gov username and password. You have to acquire your confirmation for an AOR from the E-Business Point of Contact or E-Biz POC. The search for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov. Select the correct competitive ID and then access the funding opportunity and application package in Grants.gov. And then, finally submit a valid application consisting with a solicitation--consistent with a solicitation by following the directions at Grants.gov.

As noted in the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide and as I stressed, it is important that the SAM.gov be addressed. If you are a new entity registering or an existing entity that needs to update or renew your SAM registration, you must submit an original, signed notarized letter appointing the authorized Entity Administrator within 60 days of the registration activation. Notarized letters must be submitted via U.S. Postal Service Mail.

Information about the peer review process is on page 11 and 12 on the solicitation. As is typical, peer reviewers can be internal, external, or a combination, and they will review the applications to ensure that they meet the basic minimum requirements, such as: that it will submitted by an eligible type of an applicant, that the application requested funding within programmatic funding constraints, and the application was responsive to the scope of the solicitation. Before award decisions are made, OJP will review information related to the degree of risk posed by the applicant. That usually has to do with if you are debarred or if you have delinquent progress reports on pre--prior grants that have been issued by the federal government; things like that. Next.

Federal award information, you could also take a look at the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide. It's very, very helpful, has lots of information and instructions. And so, the award notifications made by September 30, 2020 via email through GMS will be sent to individuals listed in the application as the point of contact and the authorizing official. Those detailed instructions on how to access and view the award documents and steps to take in GMS to start the award acceptance process. Please know that there are lots of legal requirements, as I've kind of gone over some of those but there's lots more. So please do read carefully. But that will give you more information about awarding and the administration of the--of the grant award. Next.

If there's technical problems or request for late submission, that information can be found on page 2. You want to look at the Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues in the How to Apply section of the Resource Guide. The following constitutes insufficient reasons to justify late submissions. So you can't ask for--you can't ask to be excused because there was failure to register in SAM or Grants.gov in sufficient time. Again, SAM's registration and renewal can take as long as 10 business days to complete and the information transfer from SAM to gov--Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours. So it is an involved process, and if you haven't gone through it, you want to start that process now. Failure to follow Grants.gov instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its website. Failure to follow each instruction in the OJP solicitation. And then technical issues with the applicant's computer or information technology environment, such as issues with firewalls or browser incompatibility. That basically

means start early, so that you know all these things are working and working well, so that you go find that out as you get too close to the deadline date of May 5th. Next.

So there's some tips for when you do it, make your attachments in your application. We strongly recommend that you use descriptive names when labeling the attachments. So a really good example would be for your Budget Detail Worksheet. Excuse me. So name it that, Budget Detail Worksheet and the example also would be like Letters of Support, if that were the case. A bad example would be just to name it Budget or File 7 or File 4. We really do want them to be descriptive that will help with our peer reviewers.

Also when adding attachments, see more information about this on page 2. Grants.gov has two categories of files for attachment, "mandatory" and "optional." OJP receives all files attached in both categories. Do not embed mandatory attachments with--in another file. Pay attention to the alert on page 2 for details on how to add, view, and delete attachments. Also see the alert on checking for errors with attachments in the registration and submission steps on the Grants.gov of the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide.

Additional tips there, if I haven't stressed it enough, there are a lots of steps and lots of things to have to do, so start early, don't wait until the last minute, please. Do register, make sure you have your DUNS, your SAM, and you're--and you're familiar with Grants.gov and its requirements. Identify any partners that you might be working with. Schedule planning meetings with proposed partners. You want to make sure that you're looking at the correct competitive ID number, for this solicitation; it is OVC-2020-18114. The due date is May 5th, 11:59 p.m., but don't wait that late to apply. You want to submit it at least 72 hours prior to the due date. And we request that you start even sooner than that. Using the Budget Detail Worksheet templates, we really stress that you do that. It's required. Applicants must follow the same format, headings, subsections, etc., if you're not using the template for this critical element. Ask for the amount of funding that is needed and it can't go over that which is allowable, up to \$500,000. Call the grants.gov--excuse me. The Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline and their number is 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035 for any technical difficulties that you might experience through Grants.gov. Next.

Remember, this is your first step of a very involved relationship with the federal government. There are lots of federal regulations associated with execution and management of a Grant, federal grant. And you must be willing and able to abide by all of these. Serious consequences are associated with not following these regulations. So do ask for help. Read everything and ask others to read and discuss with you so that you are prepared and ready, and able to submit a viable application for consideration.

I'm going to turn it over to Mary Jo next so that she can walk you through some of the other things that might be helpful.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: So we just have a few more slides to get to--or cover because we get to the questions. This is about OVC and how to stay connected with them. They do have an email that goes out announcing new publications and resources.

You can now text to subscribe to that email. If you'd like to do that you would text OVC--OJP OVC, insert your email address, and send it to 468-311. Just please note that message and data rates may apply. You also could subscribe to that email newsletter by visiting the OVC website, OVC.gov, and going to the pub order section and you can subscribe there, the URL is listed on this slide. OVC also has a presence on social media, and you may follow them on Facebook, Twitter, as well, as their YouTube channel. And the information on how to subscribe for those items that are listed on the slide.

As I believe Laura has mentioned, NCJRS, the National Criminal Justice Reference Service is available to assist you as you move forward through this application process. If you have questions about the application, they will work with Laura to respond to any questions that you may have. You can reach them at www.ncjrs.gov, you could call them at 800-851-3420, or email them at grants@ncjrs.gov. They are open Monday through Friday, 10:00 to 6:00, and the day that the solicitation closes, they are open until 8:00 p.m. However, as previously stated, it is highly recommended that you submit your application at least 72 hours in advance.

Please also note that they do have a web chat feature and you can access that through their NCJRS website and the URL is listed here on the slide. They also have two email--two newsletters that go out via email JUSTINFO, which comes out twice a month, and the funding newsletter from NCJRS that comes out each Friday. The funding newsletter in particular will announce any funding opportunities available from all the agencies within the Office of Justice Programs. It will notify you when they are webinars, such as this one, related to an opportunity as well as letting you know when items have been posted.

As Laura previously mentioned if you needed assistance with submitting your application or uploading files anything related to Grants.gov, you can reach out to their Customer Support Hotline. Again, that number is 606-545-5035 or 1-800-518-4726. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week except on federal holidays. You may also email them at support@grants.gov.

And the last slide before we get to the questions is a series of URLs. Most of these resources have been mentioned throughout the webinar. But this one slide is kind of a quick place to go to in order to access those URLs. The OVC website again is www.ovc.gov. We have links here to the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#), the DOJ Financial Guide or [Grants Financial Guide](#), as well as the [Budget Detail Worksheet](#). So this is a very handy resource that you can go to for any of the information that you're looking for.

Again, as a reminder, the slides, the--a transcript from this webinar, as well as the audio recording will be posted to the OVC website in approximately 5 to 7 business days. We are going to move forward to--with questions. As a quick reminder, questions are to be submitted to the Q&A box, and you should send those to all presenters. The Q&A box is located under the radio button with the three dots. And we do have quite a few questions that have come in. So we will start working with the first ones.

Basically, this one is dealing with the fact that, “government offices are closed state wide and it’s uncertain when they will reopen again, making it difficult to complete the application process. Will there be an application deadline or will the application be delayed to a later time?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: Thank you for the question. And we realize that these are uncertain times. But at this point, there’s no--there has not been a delay in--or an extension of the deadline date. It’s still May 5th. We did not put any extenders in that. But if one were to exist we would make sure that information would go out to let people know. We’re hopeful that as we’re doing with this webinar, people have the ability to call and check in with their offices, or their partners in developing an application, if that’s possible, and with today’s technology getting things signed electronically. All of those, we’re hopeful will be useful in anybody considering to apply for this competitive solicitation.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Page 1 of the solicitation states that all recipients and submit recipients including for-profit organizations must forego any profit or management fee. Does this mean indirect costs are not allowable?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: No, it does not. Indirect is different than profit.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: A question regarding the links. “Will all the links that appear in the chatbox be captured in the recording and on the slides?”

So if we read out the URLs, you would get them on the recording. But with the recording, it’s not just the audio. You would see the slides page through, so you would be able to view them that way. And we will insert them in the transcript, where applicable, and you will also have a copy of the slides that you can pull from, and that will be posted as a PDF.

“Are there any plans to open the call for a little bit longer considering the impact of COVID-19?”

So I’m not really sure if--what you mean by open the call for a little bit longer. The call will--this particular webinar will not be live again. But we will be posting that to the OVC website. And so that you can listen to it later.

LAURA IVKOVICH: Mary Jo, I think the person might be referring to a call, meaning a call for an RFP. “Would the call be open longer? Meaning will the deadline go past May 5th?” That’s my guess as what’s being asked. But that has already been answered.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Okay. Okay.

LAURA IVKOVICH: So, we do not know at this time. So--but at this time, expect that May 5th is the deadline. Thank you.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Sorry about that.

“Can we claim that we’re a rural jurisdiction if we border a region that’s covered by rural and that is a town of over 50,000?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: There are resources listed in the solicitation as to how to determine your viability as a rural community even--this information is on page 5 for receiving priority consideration under the rural priority. And you can go to www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html. So there are maps and other ways to identify what your priority area might include. So I would suggest that you go back to page 5 of the solicitation, and then go on, click on to those helpful links from our solicitation to find out if that--if you qualify.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Is this grant limited to direct services in the criminal context only?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: So, would you--would you repeat that, please? I’m not seeing any of the questions and the answers on the--on the board. So, say it again?

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Is this grant limited to direct services in the criminal context only?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: So the solicitation on page 4 does not exclude civil. The Program-Specific Information refers to elder abuse that includes physical, emotional, psychological (including threats), or sexual; neglect; and financial exploitation. It is to improve outcomes, minimize additional trauma, and restore safety and security to older adult victims of abuse and financial exploitation. The solicitation does not exclude types of services, but it does list the deliverables that must include direct services; resources for service providers and criminal justice stakeholders; advocacy assistance and safety planning within the criminal justice system and with social service agencies, community organizations, and in other--excuse me--in order to restore older victims’ lives and help to prevent further victimization; efforts to support and promote opportunities to ensure older victims of crime are treated with dignity and respect; and then a final report describing the project activities, promising practices, challenges encountered, and solutions to address those challenges to improve outcomes for older crime victims.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Are municipal law enforcement agencies considered a public agency?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: Municipal law enforcement agencies may be considered a public agency. And under page--excuse me, on page--let’s see. On page--which--where is it? The listing says public agencies, institutions of higher education, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, private for-profit and non-profit organizations. This pretty much includes everybody, but individuals.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “In creating resources for rural areas, we will be making resources available via internet for providers and victims and family members. That

ultimately makes resources available outside of the rural area as well. Is this a problem?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: I think I'm just going to refer you back to the solicitation in that you need to describe how you are going to address improved outcomes, minimizing additional trauma, and restoring safety and the security to older adult victims of abuse and financial exploitation. You need to look at--as well... Let me go to the page number that it is. On page 8 is the narrative--the program narrative. You need to describe the issue that you're addressing and you have to have a strong rationale for the project and provide a clear statement to how the funding will support the value to older victims of abuse and financial exploitation and to victims' field by meeting the stated goals and it should also describe any previous or current attempts to address elder abuse and financial exploitation and any related research for evaluation studies that contribute to the application--applicant's understanding of the unique needs of this victim population. So I would refer you back to that describing of the issue and it's up to you as to how you describe the needs for the program under that program narrative.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: This next question is regarding the deliverables. “Does OVC expect all proposals to include goals and objectives for each aspect of the five deliverables? Or can an applicant submit proposals to address specific deliverables (i.e., one, or two, and their elements)?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: I don't want to speak too much to the--to the individual ways potential applicants could craft their applications other than to say that the deliverables include those five items that I mentioned. And how you break those apart in your 20 pages of narrative is up to you, but you do need to include a time-task line, and it does need to show it for the 36-month period. And you need to use your goals, objectives, and deliverables in doing that. How you do that is up to you as an applicant.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Is there an evaluation component required in this grant?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: There is a performance measurement that is required in terms of submitting data, but there's not an evaluation component other than the final report describing project activities, promising practices, challenges encountered, and solutions to address those challenges to improve outcomes for older crime victims. But there is no specific evaluation component anticipated in the solicitation. It does not prevent a[n] evaluation component however.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Should the job descriptions describe employees' jobs as it relates to the grant only?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: The job descriptions can be--more information about job descriptions. Let's see, where is that on the--I know I have that. Just a second. I'm trying to find the page that it's on.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: And while Laura is looking for the page, I just want to reiterate that you are to please submit your questions to the Q&A box. Again, that is

located under the radio button with the three dots. Please do not submit them to the Chat Box.

LAURA IVKOVICH: Thank you. So, the page 9 of the solicitation talks about staff and project descriptions. Applications must include a clear description of the applicant's management structure and the current and proposed professional--current and proposed professional staff members' unique qualifications that will enable them to fulfill their grant responsibilities under the grant. Applicants must describe how the program will be managed and include an organizational chart or information describing the roles and responsibilities of key organizational and functional components and personnel. Applicants 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. The project director must have both the substantive expertise and experience to perform crucial leadership functions and sufficient time to devote to the project to provide the needed guidance and supervision. Applicants must also include a descriptive statement about the applicants, (1), knowledge and understanding of the needs of victims of elder abuse and financial exploitation, and (2), staff resources and capabilities to carry out all activities required by the--by the project. Job descriptions and copies of resumes for proposed key staff positions should be included as a separate attachment.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Title--on the title page of the solicitation, the first category that is eligible states public agencies. Would this include state agencies?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: A public agency would include--generally would include a state agency, yes.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Are we required to use the project abstract template on OJP.gov?

LAURA IVKOVICH: I don't require--I don't remember that there's a requirement that you must use that template, but that you do include--abstract is useful for both the peer reviewers who are looking at this as well as for management who are looking at this. So if you are contemplating whether or not you should use the template, I would suggest that you do.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "If our program intends to serve both rural and high-poverty individuals, however, they're--not exclusively, can they still apply under this--those two priority areas?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: Applicants can apply under the priority areas if they meet the eligibility requirements for being in those priority areas. You have to check the eligibility requirements for that.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Is there a preferred method of determining who may be appropriate partners for this grant?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: This solicitation is silent on that. Sorry.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Can the budget go over \$500,000 including indirect costs?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: No, it may not.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Is 60 years old the official minimum for an eligible program participant?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: The solicitation is silent on the age.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Do we have to meet all the deliverables on page 4?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: The solicitation language on page 4 that states the goal of this program is to support communities in providing services for older victims of abuse and exploitation and it lists "the deliverables include." It doesn't say could include or may include, it says "include" and it doesn't say "and/or." It says "include." Thank you.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Can you please describe the peer review criteria?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: The peer review criteria, that is on page 11. It's under E. Application Review Information. The review criteria is listed towards the bottom. Applications that meet basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers using the following review criteria. Description of the issue is worth 20 percent of the total award points. Project design and implementation is 40 percent of the total, so that's an important area. Capabilities and competencies constitutes 20 percent. Plan for collecting data required is 10 percent and budget is 10 percent.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Are priority areas taken into account when scoring the application?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: Priority areas are not taken in account when scoring the application. The score of the application, I just went over what the review criteria are and the points associated with the review criteria.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "With the pandemic causing heavy workload on service providers, can a service provider work with higher education and have higher education apply for the grant?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: On page... Under eligibility who may apply, it states eligible applicants are public agencies, institutions of higher education, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and private for-profit and nonprofit organizations. All recipients and subrecipients must forego any profit or management fee. So, however you want to work with or partner with is up to you. There is no prohibition on that in the solicitation.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Could we do work that is...” Excuse me. “Could we do work that is designed to prevent elder abuse and exploitation with a--at-risk populations or would we be required to only serve clients who have already been abused? How restrictive is this?”

So, it's prevention as opposed to victim services, I guess.

LAURA IVKOVICH: The Program-Specific Information and the Overview about this program is that we seek applications to implement projects that enhance services for older victims of abuse and financial exploitation. That's what the solicitation states. The program is intended to improve outcomes, minimize additional trauma, and restore safety and security to adult victims of abuse and financial exploitation. So that's the intended client community that this solicitation is designed to address the needs of, how you design your need for that and write up your need for how that might look is up to you. And I don't think I can really give much more information to you about that than to have you look back at the original solicitation language under Overview and Program-Specific Information.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Are letters of recommendation or commitments of partnership required or recommended?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: So, there is no requirement on--if you look on the last page of the solicitation, there is a--what an application should include. The following are critical application elements required to pass basic minimum requirements review and project abstract is one, project narrative is one, and the detailed budget worksheet, and the narrative. Those are the things that are required, critical elements that must be included to pass basic minimum requirements. Additional information that you wish to include, such as a letter of support or a letter of interest or MOU or any other thing that you want to attach as an attachment, label it correctly and--I mean, descriptively. And you're welcome to attach it. It will not count against your 20-page limit. But there is--the solicitation does not require that.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. We have about five minutes and we have quite a few questions. So, I'm going to try to get through these as quickly as possible. If for some reason we run out of time and we were unable to answer your question, you may submit it to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at the email grants@ncjrs.gov.

“Assuming one qualifies for more than one priority category, can you submit an application to provide services in two areas?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: There is no geographic requirement for when you submit your application. There's nothing in the solicitation that requires it be for a specific geographic area. It is up to the applicant to identify the gaps, the needs, and to design a[n] application that addresses the needs in that area, that--and that area is up to you to describe. The solicitation does not describe that area.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Can legal services be provided as part of the direct services to older victims? And can we assist in civil or administrative problems that relate to elder abuse?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: The deliverables include advocacy, assistance, and safety planning within the criminal justice system and the social service agencies and community organizations in order to restore older victims’ lives and help to prevent further victimization. Also, efforts to support and promote opportunities to ensure older victims of crime are treated with dignity and respect. So, there is no definition of what direct services or advocacy includes. It’s up to the applicant to align the services that are going to be provided, if funded, based upon the needs and the gaps, and the goals of the project.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “If multiple smaller grants are submitted, will there be more than 12 awards allowed under this grant? For example, say 24 people submitted requesting \$250,000, would there be more awards made?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: The--As with most any solicitation, it’s always a guess as to how many will apply. So we always list it as OVC expects to award or expects the number to be... So, we expect it to be 12 awards up to \$500,000. If for some reason OVC only got three applicants, it would still only be \$500,000. If for some reason OVC got 1,000 applications, it’s still probably only going to be 12 that will be awarded. But it’s up to OVC leadership to make those determinations based upon what comes in, because this is a competitive application process and we do have priority zones that are also--to take into consideration. But up to \$500,000 and 12 is the estimated tentative number of awards.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “In definition of exploitation regarding trusted relationships, can this include international financial crime and scams where victims believe they are in a trusted relationship or just those offenders physically closer to the victims?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: This solicitation mentions elder abuse may include abuse that is physical, emotional, psychological (including threats) or sexual; neglect; and financial exploitation. There is no clarification further on what that does and does not include.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Must applicants include any training and technical assistance costs in their budget? And if so, is there a minimum amount?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: There is no requirement that training and technical assistance be included in the budget.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Is this RFP issued every year?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: This is the first year that this RFP has been issued.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Is there a way I can find out if New Jersey has been funded in the past for this grant?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: This has been asked and then answered. This is the first year that this has been offered. So there has not been this grant offered in the past.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Are crime prevention activities allowed in this funding?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: Say again?

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Are crime prevention activities allowed under this opportunity?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: I’m going to refer back to page 4 in the deliverables. And it does state that item three, advocacy, assistance, and safety planning within the criminal justice system and with social service agencies and community organizations in order to restore older victims’ lives and help to prevent further victimizations. The deliverable does not state prevention activities but it does refer to advocacy, assistance, and safety planning in order to restore older victims’ lives and help to prevent further victimizations.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. Laura, we are now a minute after 2:00. The official end time was 2:00. We do have several questions. We could take another one or two or we can end the webinar and they could go ahead and seek out NCJRS for assistance.

LAURA IVKOVICH: I can take two more. That’d be fine.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Okay. “Are U.S. Attorneys’ offices eligible to apply to enhance services within their existing victim witness program?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: No, the federal government does not make grants to other federal government entities. This is public entities that are not federal.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Is it allowable to focus on elder victims of financial abuse only and not include other forms of elder abuse?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: On page 4, it says elder abuse may include abuse that is physical, emotional, or sexual; neglect; and financial exploitation. The general definition has to do with the state definitions and those can vary. So, some definitions may also include fraud, scams, or financial crime targeted at older people. So, it really has to do with the needs of that group in your area for which you are designing a[n] application to address. So, you know, you would have to make a case for what you’re--what you’re developing. There is no--there is no prohibition against focusing on one type versus another. But the program is intended to improve outcomes to minimize additional trauma and restore safety and security to older adult victims of abuse and financial exploitation.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: And this will be the last question. “Can this funding be passed through to our partners who have some skills that we lack? For example, toward bringing an expert in from NCEA, universities, etc.”

LAURA IVKOVICH: I believe the solicitation states that you can have partners. I believe the type of award under this solicitation is a grant. Only one application by any particular applicant entity will be considered. An entity may however be proposed as a subrecipient or subgrantee in more than one application. So, you could have a subrecipient or subgrantee as part of this application. I think that was it.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Yes, that'll be it. We apologize if we were unable to get to your question. Again, as a reminder, please you may submit it to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at grants@ncjrs.gov. They are open 10:00 a.m., to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, Eastern Time. And they are closed on federal holidays.

Thanks, everybody. I appreciate all the questions and the interest in this very needy and needed grant solicitation. We appreciate your efforts. Bye-bye.