

[Transcript from the OVC Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Specialized Training and Technical Assistance on Housing for Victims of Human Trafficking preapplication webinar, which was held March 30, 2020. The archived webinar can be found at: <https://www.ovc.gov/grants/webinars.html>.]

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to today's webinar, OVC Fiscal Year 2020 Specialized Training and Technical Assistance on Housing for Victims of Human Trafficking, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, I'm going to turn it over to today's presenter.

SILVIA TORRES: Hi, everyone. Thank you for participating in this webinar to discuss this competitive funding opportunity, currently available under the Fiscal Year 2020 competitive solicitation. My name is Silvia Torres. I am a Grants Management Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime and part of the team that oversees all human trafficking awards in our office.

So this webinar is intended to provide a general overview of the Office for Victims of Crime, our mission, and also address some of the key elements of the solicitation in going over how to submit the application for funding. And as Mary Jo indicated, towards the end, we will be answering any questions that you may have.

Let's begin by going over OVC's mission statement. OVC is dedicated to enhancing the provider's [Nation's] capacity to assist crime victims and provide leadership in changing policies and practices to promote justice and healing for all crime victims.

And that's to say, this solicitation is for training and technical assistance to assist in increasing that capacity. The purpose of this solicitation, in the slide before, is to develop, expand, or strengthen victim service programs for victims of human trafficking by supporting the delivery of specialized training and technical assistance, otherwise known as TTA, and to enhance the ability to provide appropriate housing for victims of human trafficking.

So who's eligible to apply for this solicitation? Basically, nonprofit organizations are the most--the only entities eligible to apply under this funding opportunity. We will consider applications that are submitted by two entities to carry out the project, but only one applicant can be identified in that application. The other partner has to be included as a subaward or--to aid in achieving those goals. Next.

Listed on the slide are the requirements that an applicant is expected to meet and describe in their funding application. Obviously, the primary goal is to assist service providers serving trafficking victims to identify the challenges and opportunities to meet the full range of housing needs of survivors of human trafficking. They have to, obviously, be able to assist on a national scale in leveraging any available federal, state, local, and private housing programs and also to identify--help identify all those opportunities and relevant housing stakeholders. Also, the participant--or the applicant, I'm sorry, has to demonstrate the knowledge in all these housing models and different type of housing

options like emergency, short-term, and long-term housing and shelter options. And particularly, they also have to describe how they intend to support organizations, particularly, OVC grantees. Including Fiscal Year 2019 Housing assistance grants for Victims of Human Trafficking program as they seek to meet the program goals.

Given that this is a training and technical assistance opportunity, the applicant's performance expectations are shown on this slide. And this is obviously not limited to the kinds of activities under this program. I should emphasize under resources that it indicates compliance with applicable federal civil rights statutes in housing programs, that's one of the mandatory requirements that the award recipients have to comply. And it--to protect the--and ensure that grantees have policies and procedures in place to--for instance for shelters, to reflect their adherence to these requirements, and their--obviously, the civil rights.

Next slide. So this is consistent with the goal of the solicitation, which is--and I think I mentioned before, to develop and expand or strengthen the victim service programs for victims of human trafficking and provided--by providing training and technical assistance to organizations serving those victims.

This is--goes along with the goal of this solicitation, which is obviously--the ultimate goal is to achieve the increased safety, self-sufficiency, and well-being of human trafficking victims.

Listed in this slide are some of the program deliverables that are to be met by the selected applicant. And that means the data that is gathered under this project and submitted to us semiannually and during the final progress report. And again, this solicitation has more information--detailed information on these deliverables on page 6 in that solicitation.

Our Federal Award Information, we expect to make only one award for up to \$2 million for a period of up to 3 years. And this is a cooperative agreement, which means that OVC has substantial involvement and--during the performance period.

I should also mention no cost share or match is required under these solicitations since it is a training and technical assistance funding opportunity.

So, the applications must include, and those are the main ones, a Project Narrative and the Budget Detail [Worksheet] and Budget Narrative. This is very, very important. And we say this because these are the items that are required and scored during the review of your application. If you do not have any of these documents included in your applications, you will not be considered for funding. And you will not--because you would not be meeting the basic minimum requirements, which is the first step in the review of your application, to see if you have all those documents. So, you know, I encourage you to take a look at each of the items listed in 7 pages--pages 7 through 12, and 14 in the solicitation.

The deadline is 11:59 p.m., on Thursday, May 14, 2020. But we do urge and strongly recommend that you submit your application at least 72 hours prior to that date. So that you would allow yourself some time to receive validation messages or any notifications rejecting your application from Grants.gov, and that you would have to--time to correct any problems that may cause that rejection.

And this is How to Apply. I'm sure some of you are very familiar with Grants.gov. So you must register and submit that application, that's a recommendation 72 hours prior to the application due date. And the phone number is listed for any technical difficulties that you may face during the submission of your application. And when you are going to apply for this particular funding the competition ID is OVC-2020-18292.

And these are--in this slide, are all the elements that must be included along with your application. I know there is the MOU listed or letters of intent, this may or may not apply to your application, but it may very well also apply if you intend to have a partner. So, that's what is expected with your application.

And next slide.

If you encounter any technical problems please note that there are very few waivers for a request for a late submission. So that's why we encourage you and it's very important that you prepare yourself and that you submit that application in advance of the deadline.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. Thank you, Sylvia.

SYLVIA TORRES: Thank you.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: So, we're going to get into the questions in a little bit here, but before we do that there are a couple things that I'd like to go over. So, if you want to stay connected to OVC and see what other opportunities that they may have available and resources that are coming out from OVC, you can subscribe to their mailing list and you can do that in two ways. A new text to subscribe was just created, and so you can send a text message to OJP OVC, insert your email address, and send that to 468-311. Just please note that there are message and data rates could apply. You can also subscribe to their email newsletter by going to their website, [ovc.gov](https://www.ovc.gov), and subscribing that way.

OVC also has a special media presence and you can follow them on Facebook, Twitter as well as YouTube. The links to those sites are located here, and you can subscribe to them.

If you have any inform--questions after today's webinar about this funding opportunity you can contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. And they are available at 800-851-43--excuse me, 800-851-3420. You can also email them at [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov). Please note, that they are open 10:00 to 6:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. They are closed on the weekends, as well as federal holidays. And they are open until 8:00 p.m., the date that the solicitation closes. However, please as you--has already been

mentioned by Sylvia, you should submit your application at least 72 hours in advance in case there are any technical problems that need to be addressed.

And speaking--oh, and one other thing. NCJRS has two newsletters, JUSTINFO, which comes out the 1st and the 15th of the month, as well as a funding newsletter that comes out every Friday. You can subscribe to that by going to the NCJRS website [www.ncjrs.gov](http://www.ncjrs.gov).

Any technical problems that you have submitting your application, such as uploading a document or anything of that nature, please contact Grants.gov. They are available at 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and they are closed on federal holidays. You may email them at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

And last slide before we get to the questions. This is a list of important websites. Some of them maybe I've mentioned throughout the webinar. This is one slide that we'll kind of collect everything that you might need as you go through the process. The OVC website is the first one listed, [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov). There are also links here to [the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#), the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), and the [Budget Detail Worksheet](#), all of which might be useful to you as you submit your application.

So without any further delay, we're going to start addressing the questions that were submitted. So give me one minute and we'll get to the first question.

"Will organizations be required to provide technical assistance for both labor and sex trafficking, or can they focus on one area?"

SYLVIA TORRES: So this solicitation focus--focuses on providing training and technical assistance on housing only, to service providers that are assisting victims of human trafficking.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Can you clarify what applicable federal civil rights you are referring to, is there a list?"

SYLVIA TORRES: Yes. As I mentioned, the--one of the mandatory requirements that service providers and that the trainer will have to assist those service providers is in the compliance with federal laws that protect the civil rights of program participants and staff by prohibiting discrimination in employment and the delivery of services or benefits based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, and disability. And in particular, one example is, for instance, the review of the policies and procedures for staff and clients at shelters. And for more information you can visit the [Office for Civil Rights at the Office of Justice Programs](#) and the website has more detailed information as to the civil rights requirements expected to be met.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Thank you, Sylvia. That actually appears to be our last... Oh, okay. We've got some more questions here.

“How many grants will be given out?” You did address that, but go ahead Silvia.

SILVIA TORRES: Yes. So we only expect to make one award and up to \$2 million for the 3-year duration of the program.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Our organization has a demonstrated history of serving survivors through referral services and direct programs, however, we are only 3 years old and this would expand beyond and fund new offerings. Would we apply under Purpose Area 1 or Purpose Area 2?”

SILVIA TORRES: I’m not really sure. This question belongs for this housing. There is no purpose areas under this solicitation. I’m thinking you may be thinking about the Enhanced Collaborative Model. Definitely, it’s--this award does not... This solicitation does not have purpose areas.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Yeah, I didn’t think so but I wanted to make sure that you addressed that. All right. At this time, there are no further questions.

I did want to quickly go back to the NCJRS slide. Again, if you do think of questions after today’s webinar, you may submit them to [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov) and they will work with Silvia to go ahead and get that answer to you.

Additionally, as I mentioned earlier, the slides and the transcript, as well as an audio recording for today’s webinar will be posted to the OVC website in approximate 5 to 7 business days and we will send you an email notifying you when that information has been posted.

You can also sign up for the funding newsletter with NCJRS. That does come out each Friday and it will notify you of new offerings from all the agencies within the Office of Justice Programs, alert you when there are webinars such as this one, as well as when information may have changed within the solicitation or when items from the webinars have been posted. So it’s a great way to stay on top of what is coming--what is going on within the Office of Justice Programs.

Also, you may have noticed some items being submitted to the chat box. Our host has been adding the URLs and links that have been mentioned throughout the webinar and they are in the chat box. You can go ahead and you can copy those, and save them to a word file so that you have them handy.

And again, you will get a copy of the slides, they will be posted. But if you want that information before they’re posted, it will be available to you in chat.

And I’ll give it another minute to see if you have any questions before we end the webinar. It’s a great opportunity to have a chance to have Silvia answer anything directly.

All right Silvia, I’m not seeing any other--oh. One more, I lied.

“Regarding the training content are there any limitations on what we present, other than housing and human trafficking focused?”

SILVIA TORRES: Yeah. So that would be up to your agencies for your proposal, but the guidelines are in the solicitation and we cannot provide any direct guidance on how, you know, how-- what you could propose under this application.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Is there a sense of what the total number of human trafficking grantees that would need to be supported?”

SILVIA TORRES: Currently we have, I think the number is a 170. I think it’s 175 or could be more, a little bit more than that, human trafficking grantees under all our programs. And they--this number does not include those awards under the housing solicitation that was closed a couple [of] months ago. But those would be awardees that you would have to provide technical assistance, particularly on housing.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Next question, “can you define technical assistance?”

SILVIA TORRES: I’m trying to look at the solicitation for a second. But it should be defined in the solicitation. I don’t have the definition right in front of me. And if you still cannot find the definition, you can contact obviously the National Crime Justice Reference Service, NCJRS, and they would be able to answer that either through me or they will do their own research to find you the technical definition for that. I’m sorry. I don’t have the answer right away.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: With regards to the “webinar recording,” again, another question about that. It will be posted and--on the OVC website [in] 5 to 7 business days and we will send you an email letting you know that information has been posted with direct links to the recording, the transcript, as well as the slides.

All right. While we wait to see if there’s any additional questions, I’m going to flip the slide to the Grants.gov slide. Again, this is who--This is where you will submit your application and their tech--their Customer Support Hotline is available for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, if you need any technical assistance with getting that application submitted that you can call them at 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035. And you can also email them at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

Let’s see, and here’s the information on how to stay connected to OVC. You can text to subscribe them at OJP OVC, insert your email address, and send that to 468-311. And again, OVC is on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

All right. I don’t see any other questions that have come in Silvia. So would you like to end this webinar?

SILVIA TORRES: Indeed. I just wanted to thank everybody for their participation and your interest and hope to get many applications here. Thank you for your time.