

DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone. And welcome to today's webinar, OVC FY 2023 Anti-Human Trafficking Programs, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime.

At this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Darian Hanrahan, Victim Justice Program Specialist with OVC for some welcome remarks and to begin the presentation. Darian?

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Thanks Daryl. Good afternoon, everyone or good morning, depending on where you are today. Like Daryl said, my name is Darian Hanrahan and I am a Victim Justice Program Specialist in OVC's Human Trafficking Division. We are so thrilled that you are going to be joining us today to receive an overview of our planned Fiscal Year FY 2023 Anti-Trafficking solicitations.

Before we get started, I just wanted to informally introduce you to ourselves. On this side, you are going to find all of the wonderful members of the OVC Human Trafficking Division. We are led by our director, Brecht Donoghue. And on today's webinar, I will be joined by my colleagues, Tiffany Graham and Olga Santiago. They will be presenting alongside myself. And Lindsay Waldrop and Kristin Weschler will be helping us answer some questions in the chat. We can move to the next slide.

Perfect. All right. So, just a quick overview of what we're going to be talking about today. We're going to be learning a little bit about OVC, our Human Trafficking Division, go over all of our planned FY 2023 solicitations for--with the Human Trafficking focus. This is going to include funding opportunity focuses, eligibility requirements, required documentation and we're going to through--going to go through a lot of the resources and tools that are available to you.

So, we see the main purpose of our webinar today is to help potential applicants really understand what funding opportunities might be of your interest based on the type of organization, the kind of work you do, and the population you serve. I will caveat this with that our funding opportunities, or solicitations as we'd like to call them, have not yet posted publicly. We are limited in the detailed information that we can share with you today. However, a lot more information will be available once our solicitations are public. So, with that being said, we do plan on holding more pre-application webinars in the month--in the next few months, ahead of some or all of our solicitations being posted. So, while the content is going to be similar in future webinars, we really encourage you to consider attending all of them once you have the chance to review our solicitations in more detail and come prepared with any questions. We can move to the next slide.

Perfect. So, just a very broad overview of OVC and the Human Trafficking Division. As many of you may know, the Office for Victims of Crime is part of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice of Programs, or OJP. And OVC is responsible for administering the Crime Victims Fund. And that's financed by fines and penalties that are paid by convicted federal offenders and not from tax dollars.

So, OVC channels that money towards victim compensation and assistance throughout the United States. We work on raising awareness about victims issues, promote

compliance with victims' rights laws, and we also provide training and technical assistance, as well as publications and products to victim assistance professionals. So, this funding supports formula programs to states, territories, and tribes in addition to many other OVC discretionary grant programs for victims of crime.

We are absolutely thrilled to also say that OVC is the largest federal funder of anti-trafficking programs in the United States. Currently, we oversee almost 500 active anti-trafficking awards, which represents over \$320 million. And we receive funding through a number of different anti-trafficking appropriations including funds authorized through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, or the TVPA. Now, the OVC Human Trafficking Division was formed in 2020 as an effort to centralize all of OJP's anti-trafficking efforts and activities within the Office for Victims of Crime. And our mission through the division is to enhance the capacity to identify, assist, and provide services to all victims of human trafficking. And we really see ourselves as leading the nation in supporting victim-centered and trauma-informed programs, policies and resources that are going to promote justice, access, and empowerment. Next slide.

So, this is a very broad overview of the funding that we have planned for fiscal year 2023. OVC has been appropriated over \$1.8 billion to help improve victim services throughout the country. As you can see on this pie chart here in gray, you'll see that the majority of this OVC funding is for Victims of Crime Act or VOCA funding. And that goes to states and territories as formula funding for victims compensation and victims assistance programs. However, we anticipate this year that about \$95 million in anti-trafficking funding is going to be available to us that we plan to disseminate to the field to really support these comprehensive victim services, multidisciplinary task forces, and statewide system improvement efforts, as well training and technical assistance for the anti-trafficking field. Next slide.

All right. So, I am going to start getting into an overview of all of the anti-trafficking programs we have on deck. There is a lot of information to go through. So, I will do my best to keep everything clear. And then we'll chat more about eligibility, required documents, and resources.

So without further ado--awesome. So this year, we are planning to have nine different anti-trafficking solicitations for Fiscal Year '23. I'll read them very quickly but we're going to go into more detail in future slides. So, that's the Services for Victims of Human Trafficking; Anti-Trafficking Housing Assistance Program, that's going to be offered for both services and Training Technical Assistance or TTA; the Enhanced Collaborative Model, or ECM, Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking; the ECM Task Force TTA Program; Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking; Preventing Trafficking of Girls both Program Sites and TTA; Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking Program; our Human Trafficking TTA Program; and lastly, our Human Trafficking Fellowship Program. It is important to note that this could, of course, always change and we really encourage you to check back in on our future pre-application webinars or sign-up for our social media to really keep up-to-date on our funding opportunities. Of course, you can also go to the OVC website or the DOJ

Program Plan to also see latest on what we have planned. And we'll throw some links in the chat to where you can access those sites. I will also say that many of our solicitations actually have multiple categories that are aimed to different types of programs and different types of the applicants. And these categories might actually have different eligibility requirements. This includes some solicitations that include categories for services and programs, as well as training and technical assistance.

So, for the purposes of clarity, in the next few slides, we have done our very best to group these solicitations into buckets based on similar focus areas and types of programming.

All right. Here are our solicitation buckets, which, like I said previously, it essentially just means they're grouped by type of programming. As a heads up, some of these solicitations actually fall into more than one bucket. And if that's the case, I will note so in my presentation. I realize it's a lot of information, but to keep things from being too confusing, we are going to talk about all of our Training and Technical Assistance or TTA, funding opportunities at the very end, regardless of whether they are included in the category of a certain programmatic solicitation or in a standalone solicitation by itself.

So for 2023, our bucket areas are Direct Services; our Enhanced Collaborative Model, or ECM Task Forces; Youth-Focused Programs; Fellowship; and Training and Technical Assistance Program. And another thing to note about the TTA is that this can either be for a specific cohort of OVC Anti-Trafficking Program Grantees or even broader TTA for the anti-trafficking field. As many of you probably already know, all of our funding opportunities are going to be posted to OVC's Current Funding Opportunities webpage. And we put that link in the chat as well.

We do anticipate that solicitations are going to be released over the next couple of months on a rolling basis. So likely not going to have all of them drop at the same time. And barring any unforeseen circumstances, we anticipate that all of these solicitations are going to be open for 60 days. In addition, unless it is stated otherwise in the solicitation, the project period for all of these awards is going to be 36 months. So next up, I am going to run through all of the solicitations in each bucket.

All right. So, our first bucket is Direct Services for Trafficking Survivors. And for this bucket, we plan to release three different solicitations that are really focused primarily on providing direct services to victims, which essentially means that funds can be used to provide really a wide variety of comprehensive service to survivors. And these types of services may include but of course are not limited to things like case management, mental health, substance use, housing, employment, education, and legal services. Now, some of the other solicitations that we will discuss later in the presentation may include some direct services, but they also have significant program elements or focus areas as well.

So first, on the slide here, we have our Services for Victims of Human Trafficking solicitation. And the purpose of this program is to develop, expand, or strengthen victim service programs for victims of human trafficking. This program is also going to respond to some of the more specialized service needs that have been identified by the anti-trafficking field. And this program is really intended for programs that serve adults, or a combination of adults and youths. I will talk more about our primarily Youth-Focused solicitation shortly, but if you do have a program that provides services primarily to youth, you would want to apply under our Integrated Services solicitations. In the same vein, if your program primarily focuses on housing services for survivors at any age, you should plan to apply under our housing-specific solicitation, which we will also be discussing shortly. Now, this Services for Victims of Human Trafficking solicitation is going to have multiple categories with award amounts that range up to \$440,000 to \$950,000. I will note that we tend to use the terms like category or purpose area interchangeably in our solicitation, but it essentially just refers to the specific section of the solicitation that you're applying under.

It is very, very important to note that when you apply, you should really double, triple check to be sure that you're applying under the correct category, because each one is going to have a unique competition ID on the first page of the solicitation. All right.

Next up. In our Direct Services bucket, as I mentioned, if you do have a program that focuses primarily on providing housing services to trafficking survivors, again, regardless of the age of those clients, then you would want to apply under our Anti-Trafficking Housing Assistance Program, under the housing services category or purpose area. Like I said, we use these terms interchangeably. If you are familiar with our housing programs, this one is going to be a little bit different than what we put forward last year. So, if you're pretty familiar with our housing solicitation, definitely be on the lookout for the changes in this one.

This program in particular supports transitional housing and short-term housing assistance for victims of all forms of trafficking. This solicitation is going to have multiple categories, which will include a category to fund the TTA provider. And depending on the category, applicants will be able to apply for housing services awards that range up to \$600,000 and up to \$1.2 million. And like I said, we will discuss the TTA category in a few slides.

All right. And our last direct services bucket solicitation is really for those who are looking for funding to provide direct services to a population that primarily comprised of children or youth sex and labor trafficking victims. And they should apply under our Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking. I will note that this solicitation is going to be different than our Youth-Focused Programs that we have put forward in previous years. So, definitely be aware of the differences there. And this program is designed to enhance the quality and quantity of the services that are available to assist victims of trafficking under the age of 18. And this really is an opportunity for programs that are serving these victims who were trafficked and begin receiving services while under the age of 18. And applicants here can apply for awards

up to \$950,000. I will also quickly note that this solicitation is also listed under our Youth-Focused bucket, but I'll get into that a little bit later on.

Shifting gears here. We are going to be releasing two solicitations related to the Enhanced Collaborative Model or ECM Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking. One is going to be geared towards the Task Forces themselves and another will be towards training and technical assistance, which I will be discussing once we get to that TTA bucket. So, under the ECM Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking Solicitation, both law enforcement and victim service provider applicants are both going to apply for funding to support the development or enhancement of multidisciplinary task forces--that are going to work to identify victims of sex and labor trafficking, ensure they have access to a comprehensive array of services, and conduct these trauma-informed investigations and prosecutions.

There will be multiple categories under this solicitation and awards are going to range between \$750,000 and \$1 million. The difference in these funding levels is due to the introduction, this year, of a new category that is going to be specific to statewide task forces. And that new category is going to offer slightly higher award amounts. Of course, there will be much more information on this when the solicitation is publicly released. And so since two awards are made per task force, remember that's one for the law enforcement agency, one for the victim service provider agency, the total funds will be around \$1.2 million to \$2 million per task force.

Okay. And shifting to our Youth-Focused bucket. So, the Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking, I already discussed. So, this one is comparable to our Direct Services for Human Trafficking Victims solicitation but, of course, the expectation here is that the applicants are proposing programs that are primarily going to serve child and youth victims. As I already mentioned, those awards will be up to \$950,000.

The next solicitation under our Youth-Focused bucket is our Preventing Trafficking of Girls both Program Sites and Training and Technical Assistance solicitation. So, this solicitation is going to have multiple categories that include both a Program Site Category and a TTA Category. With the rest of the TTA, we're going to be discussing that shortly, but right now I am focused on the program sites. And those are the organizations that are going to work to prevent or reduce the victimization of girls who are vulnerable to sex trafficking. I really want to highlight here that this solicitation differs from the Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking Program in that The Preventing Trafficking of Girls solicitation is going to be primarily focused on prevention and may serve girls at risk of human trafficking. This is going to be the only solicitation from OVC that allows these prevention activities to be the primary focus of project activities, as well as the only solicitation that allows programs to focus specifically on girls. And those awards are going to be up to \$500,000.

Moving on to our next Youth-Focused. So, we are also going to be releasing our Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking solicitation. And the purpose of this program is really to improve outcomes for child and youth victims of

sex and labor trafficking. I don't want to get too technical here, but Section 103 of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which was passed by Congress in 2015 really establishes the possibility of funding for victim-centered grants that are focused on creating or enhancing collaborative multi-stakeholder responses to identifying and assisting child trafficking victims, in addition to investigating and prosecuting human trafficking cases that involve children. Now because this work focuses on improving system responses at the state or tribal level, eligible applicants are really just federally recognized tribes and state government entities. Now, while some direct services may be proposed to fill any gaps, the primary focus of these funds should be on establishing partnerships and working to plan and enhance coordinated response to addressing child and youth human trafficking at a state or tribal level. And for this program, awards are going to up to \$1.5 million.

All right. We are finally getting to our Training and Technical Assistance bucket. So as I said earlier, some of our TTA funding opportunities are going to exist in standalone solicitations, while others are included as categories within a broader solicitation, you know, that has those--several categories. So we're--for the purposes of this slide, we will be offering our Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Program. And this program specifically is going to support the provision of TTA and the development of tools and resources that are going to be used to assist service providers and the anti-human trafficking field at large in ensuring successful outcomes for survivors of human trafficking. This year, we will be offering two different categories. One will be focused on enhancing responses to labor trafficking, and that has an anticipated \$1 million award. And the other category will be focused on legal services with an anticipated \$2 million award. I know this is a very broad brush overview of, you know, a really big solicitation, but there will be a lot more information once it is released.

Next up in our TTA bucket is our Anti-Trafficking Housing Assistance Program for Services and Training and Technical Assistance. Now, we already discussed this solicitation as it related to housing services categories, but this solicitation is also going to have a TTA category. And that will be funded to support OVC's human trafficking housing grantees and their partners in really meeting their award goals, objectives, activities. In addition, the provider will provide practitioner-driven, evidence-based TTA to any OVC-funded victim service partners and housing entities to develop, expand, or even enhance housing assistance for all victims of human trafficking. So this could also include any resources for other anti-trafficking programs that are providing housing service. And the TTA award here is going to be for up to \$2 million.

All right. Two more of our TTA awards. So the first one here is our Enhanced Collaborative Model, or ECM, Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking TTA Program. Now this is a standalone solicitation that's going to fund a pretty big project that is going to support the needs of all of our current OVC ECM Task Force partners to really step up and sustain a multidisciplinary approach that's going to increase their capacity to identify and support victims and hold offenders accountable. Just a little technical here, but the program is going to provide a TTA strategy that's going to clearly identify, define, and support the core elements, essentially, of a successful ECM Task Force model, and

really work with these taskforce sites to plan, develop, and implement a set of sustainable multifaceted strategies that are really working to identify victims of all forms of trafficking, connect them to high quality services, include investigative and prosecutorial methods that are really rooted in victim-centered and trauma-informed practices. So the successful applicant is going to be proposing a collaborative model of TTA. That includes a consortium collective of experienced technical assistance entities with nationally recognized practitioners that really have that expertise in the core areas of ECM program design. And this award will be for up to \$3 million.

I know that was a lot of information, I promise this solicitation is going to break it down a lot more.

And lastly, we have our Preventing Trafficking of Girls Program Sites and Training and Technical Assistance Solicitation that we already discussed. Now, this solicitation does include a category that's focused on supporting TTA for the program sites, really to assist them in preventing and reducing the victimization of girls who are vulnerable to sex trafficking. And that TTA award is going to be for up to \$1.5 million.

All right. The last of our nine solicitations, we made it. Now, this solicitation is very different from the rest of our solicitations. We will be releasing a Human Trafficking Fellowship Program solicitation this year. This is not one that we offered last year. But really, we are looking for applications for an individual, not an organization, an individual, to assist the anti-trafficking field in identifying and understanding human trafficking issues, promising practices for assisting survivors. The fellowship will find anywhere between a 1 to a 3-year fellowship that could be in person, virtual, part-time, full-time, really whatever the applicant proposes. And we have identified three potential areas of focus for the fellows. So that is Service Provision Program Model Analyses, Analysis of Human Trafficking Diversion Courts for Minors, and Forced Criminality Analyses. So the fellow is going to be expected to conduct an overall landscape analysis and/or a literature review on their area of focus. They will also be conducting qualitative interviews, or maybe even site visits with grantees and key stakeholders, assessing the availability, and collecting quantitative data, and they will also author a report that is intended for external publication. The fellow will also be assisting OVC with any requested research to practice and evidence integration activities. And this award is going to be up to \$400,000. And that really just depends on the level of effort and the amount of time proposed. So, again, anywhere between that 1 to 3-year fellowship.

And shifting gears, I do want to mention an OVC priority that you are going to see reflected in all of our anti-trafficking solicitations this year. Now, for much of the past two decades, a lot of the anti-trafficking efforts within the United States have really focused predominantly on sex trafficking. And there is growing recognition that there really needs to be more done to address labor trafficking. This was reflected in the 2018 reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, or the TVPA, which increased reporting obligations regarding prohibited goods that were produced through force labor. The need was also reflected in the 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report. And the top

recommendation there was actually to increase efforts to comprehensively address labor trafficking in the United States.

Now, while OVC has always worked to ensure that all victims of human trafficking are provided with the needed services, we're really committed to expanding the services that are available to labor trafficking victims, and ensuring that offenders are held accountable. In light of that, our FY '23 anti-trafficking funding opportunities are going to include some new language that emphasize that applicants should really propose meaningful responses to labor trafficking victims in their application. There will, of course, be a lot more information in our forthcoming solicitations about what the means, what the expectations are, and we do anticipate offering our grantees really robust training and technical assistance, resources and tools to assist them with these efforts.

So I know I ran through those very quickly. But shifting gears, I am going to pass the mic to my colleague, Tiffany Graham, to walk us through some eligibility and requirements.

TIFFANY GRAHAM: Hello, everyone. My name is Tiffany Graham. And now let's turn to Eligibility. If you want to check the eligibility listed in each solicitation, as each solicitation may have categories that have different eligible applicants, you can find basic eligibility information for each solicitation at the DOJ Program Plan. The example on the screen shows the eligible applicants for the direct services-focused OVC FY 2023 Services for Victims of Human Trafficking. Once solicitations post, there will be additional details about eligibility, information on eligibility will be available in the front of the solicitation, and then the eligibility section of the solicitation. Next slide.

Eligibility: Direct Services-Focused and Youth. Eligible candidates for all of the direct service-focused funding opportunities and most of the Youth-Focused funding opportunities, including educational institutions, federally recognized tribes, government entities, and non-government organizations. Note that TTA funding opportunities including TTA, which appears as a category in a broader solicitation, such as housing assistance and preventing trafficking solicitations, have different eligibility criteria, which we will discuss in a moment. Next slide.

Eligibility: Enhanced Collaborative Model ECM Task Force. For OVC FY 2023 Enhanced Collaborative Model, ECM, Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking Program, eligible applicants are federally recognized tribes, government entities, and non-government organizations. Again, we will remind you that the solicitation requires a partnership between a law enforcement agency and a victim service organization. Each partner applicant will submit their entity's application separately into JustGrants. If a task force does not submit two separate applications into JustGrants by the due date, the task force will be excluded from the consideration for funding. Next slide, please.

Eligibility: Youth-Focused. One youth-focused program has--that has eligibility that differs from other direct service-focused programs, is OVC's Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking Program. Eligible applicants are federally

recognized tribes and government entities. This is because the program supports state and tribal systems improvement programs. Next slide.

Eligibility: Training and Technical Assistance. Eligible applicants for all of OVC's Training and Technical Assistance funding opportunities, regardless of whether they are a category and a broader solicitation, or a stand--standalone solicitation, are educational institutions, non-government organizations, and small businesses, and for-profit organizations who agree to forego any profit or management fee. Those TTA solicitations are listed here as a reminder, the OVC FY 2023 Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Program, the OVC FY 2023 Enhanced Collaborative Model ECM Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance TTA Program, the OVC FY 2023 Anti-Trafficking Housing Assistance Programs Services and Training Technical Assistance, the OVC FY 2023 Preventing Trafficking of Girls Program Sites and Training and Technical Assistance. Next slide please.

Eligibility: for Fellowship. Eligibility for OVC's FY 2023 Human Trafficking Fellowship Program as an individual.

Now, we're going to move on to documents to apply. Each solicitation may have--sorry. Each solicitation may have additional required documents. Read each solicitation carefully, for if you missed any of the required elements, you will not advance to peer review. Generally speaking, to meet the minimum--the basic minimum requirements to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding, you must be an eligible applicant. The application must propose activities within the scope of the solicitation and your application must have these elements: proposal abstract, proposal narrative. Note that any elements of a narrative are listed on the slide, as you can see, which would be the statement of the problem, project design and implementation, capabilities and competencies, plan for collecting data for this solicitation's performance measurements. And the budget--the budget worksheet and budget narrative, which will be in a web-based form. Next slide.

Additional documents to apply. The applicant--the application checklist at the end of each select--each solicitation will list other documents to include. Use the checklist in your review prior to submitting your application to ensure that you have attached all documents. Other resources to aid you in the development of your application include the DOJ Application Submission Checklist, and you'll find that the link is in the chat; the JustGrants Quick Reference About Application Attachments. The link will also be in the chat for you to see. As well as there is a larger Application Submission Job Aid covering potential attachments that you may be asked to provide. And that link will also be in the chat. Next slide.

Match requirements. All OVC anti-trafficking solicitations are statutorily required to include 25 percent cash or in-kind match. The only exceptions to this is the Preventing Trafficking of Girls solicitation, the Human Trafficking Fellowship Program, and all of our TTA funding opportunities, regardless of whether they are a standalone solicitation or a category in a larger solicitation. In other words, federally funded awards award--

awarded under federally--sorry. In other words, federal funds awarded under solicitations requiring match may not cover more than 75 percent of total cost of the project being funded. There will be more information in the solicitation, including the formula you should use to determine the amount of match required for your project. Note that 25 percent match is calculated at 25 percent of the total project budget, including matching funds. It is not 25 percent of the amount you are requesting for a federal award. We often see applicants who are confused by this and who accidentally underestimate the match because they did not use the formula in the solicitation. So please review the solicitation carefully.

And now I will pass the baton over to my colleague, Olga.

OLGA SANTIAGO: Thank you, Tiffany. So hello, everyone. Olga Santiago. I'm going to be talking about the resources. So--now go back to the other--sorry. Go back to the other--yes. Right there. Now, we will be exploring the different resources available to you and information on the different systems you will be working with during your application process. Next.

Okay. So the first tool provides information on managing an OVC-funded human trafficking award. The OVC Human Trafficking Program Frequently Asked Questions, provides answers to many questions frequently asked by OVC Human Trafficking grantees, such as programmatic, administrative, or financial questions. So it is a great resource for helping you understand some of what you can expect if you receive an OVC Anti-Trafficking Award. Next slide please.

Information about OVC. To learn about OVC history and funding, find products, and registering up--upcoming events, you can also visit the OVC website. This is also where you can sign up for social media to keep up-to-date on the latest news from OVC. Next slide.

DOJ Grants Financial Guide. A good starting point for applicants is the DOJ Financial Guide, which serves as the primary reference manual to assist OJP, OVW, and COPS Office award recipients in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility to safeguard grant funds and ensure funds are used for the purpose for which they were awarded. It compiles a variety of law, rules, and regulations that affect the financial and administrative management of your award. Reference to the underlying laws and regulations has been provided in the Guide as much as possible. The Guide should be the starting point of--for all recipients and subrecipients of DOJ grants and cooperative agreements in ensuring the effective day-to-day management of awards. The top 10 topics in the Guide, as listed here, such as financial management systems, allowable costs, unallowable costs, federal financial reports, among others. Next slide.

The OJ--the Office of Justice Programs, OJP, Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding. It addresses a variety of policies, status, and regulations that apply to many or, in some cases, all OJP program applicants or to grants on

cooperative agreements awarded in Fiscal Year 2023. Some OJP programs may have program solicitations that expressly modify a provision of this Guide. In such cases, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in the solicitation as to any such expressly modified provision. Next slide.

Here, OVC anti-trafficking grant applicants and grantees will find an overview of performance measurement activities. While you will not submit performance measurements with your applications, this will give you an idea of the types of information that will be requested, if you are awarded. And the website can help you familiarize with the system you might use. Next slide.

Okay. So this slide is important. So pay attention to this one, okay? Moving on to system tools. Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management, also known as SAM. You must renew and validate your registration every 12 months. If you do not renew your SAM registration, it will expire. An expired registration can delay or prevent application submission in Grants.gov and JustGrants. Registration and renewal can take up to--on a normal basis, it will be like 10 to 12 business days to complete, but we know that there are some delays on the system and it's taking up to 30 days. So our recommendation now is that you, at least, submit or--a registration renewal up to 30 days prior of the expiration date. So make sure that you complete that timely--in a timely basis. Next slide.

Okay. So once you are all set with SAM and Grants.gov is your next--is your first step in starting an application. Under the applicants tab, you will find training and information on applying in the Grants.gov system and the funding opportunity process. Please be aware that all OJP solicitations have two deadlines that must be met to be considered for funding. The first is Grants.gov and then a few days to a few weeks later, you will need to submit your full application in JustGrants. Once you submit in Grants.gov, please keep an eye on your email confirming you have successfully submitted your application. If you do not successfully submit in Grants.gov, you will not be able to complete your JustGrants application. Next slide.

The next system you will use is JustGrants. JustGrants is the grants management system for the Department of Justice, including all parts of the Office of Justice Programs, OJP, the Office of Violence Against Women, and the Community Oriented Policing Services. JustGrants is intended to be an end-to-end grant management system that applicants and grantees will access and use throughout the grant cycle from application to award to close out. JustGrants offers a variety of training resources on the DOJ website. You can explore the resources by topic. Typically, you will find an in-depth job aid reference guide that provides step-by-step instructions with screenshots about a process and a short step-by-step video, which are meant to be used while you are working and can really help you if you are in the middle of a JustGrants task and want to verify next steps. You will also find a quick reference guide that will walk you step by step through specific tasks. The two quick reference guides related to the application submission topics are the Application Attachment Quick Reference Guide

and the Printing and Application Quick Reference Guide. Additionally, JustGrants offers live sessions each week on four topics. Next slide.

Such as JustGrants office hours on Application Mechanics every Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:00 PM Eastern Time. This live virtual session discusses everything you need to know to submit an application. The next sessions are listed here and at the website. And the website is <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-virtual-sessions>. Other topics covered on different dates include Entity Management Virtual Q&A on Tuesday; Award Acceptance Virtual Q&A on Thursday, and this is helpful for after you have been notified of an award; and even Post-Award Management Virtual Q&A on Monday.

Please be sure to start your application in JustGrants as soon as possible to confirm you have access and do your best to submit your application well before the due date. OJP will only accept late applications if an applicant can demonstrate that there is a technical reason they could not submit. So you will want to ensure you have plenty of time to address any technical issues you may encounter. Next slide.

To assist potential applicants in developing strong proposals in respond to our current funding opportunities, OVC has hosted educational webinars for interested stakeholders to learn more about the program's objectives and submission requirements. Each webinar had a question and answer session before the conclusion. You may--You may to review our previously held webinars for information on how to apply, and the links are on this chat. And sign up for the news from OVC to stay--to stay up-to-date on webinars as they are scheduled. And you can find OVC's funding opportunities and the other opportunities on the DOJ Program Plan. Links for both have been added to this chat. Next slide.

So here is a list of contact information that will--that will be important to you as you prepare your applications. This information will be in solicitation. So the first one is SAM.gov, for assistance registering or renewing your registration.

And next is Grants.gov, which is available to provide technical assistance when submitting the SF-424 or the SF-LLL. They can be reached by phone at 800-518-4726 or by email, support@grants.gov. Next slide.

Okay. Next is JustGrants, which is available to provide technical assistance on submitting the full application. They can be reached by phone at 833-872-5175 or email to JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov.

When contacting any of the system helpdesks, please be sure to request a tracking number so you can document that you sought assistance with your issue. This will be important in the event that you cannot--This will important--sorry--in the event you need to document that you had a technical issue that prevented you from submitting your application. So that tracking number, believe me, is very helpful. If you need one, please request one.

Finally, the OJP Response Center is available to provide technical assistance and answer questions about programmatic requirements of the solicitation. They can be reached by phone at 800-851-3420 or email to grants@ncjrs.gov.

If you are a current grantee, we appreciate your understanding that your grant manager and other OVC staff cannot answer questions about an open solicitation directly. For purposes of fairness and transparency, if you reach out to us, we will have to refer you back to the OJP Response Center so that your question can be documented and addressed officially.

Finally, please keep in mind that OJP Response Center is also who you need to contact within 24 hours of the Grants.gov or JustGrants solicitation deadlines should you experience any technical issues that prevented your application submission. Keep in mind, you will need to be able to document any technical issues, which is why starting your application early and maintaining any tracking numbers if you have reported an issue is critical. Next slide.

You can so go social with OVC and stay up-to-date with news and happenings. And it here it is. You can follow us on Facebook. You can also find our Twitter. And you can also like us on YouTube.

And now I'm going to leave you with Lindsay and she's going to be addressing some of the frequently asked questions or any question that has not been answered on this chat.

DARYL FOX: Thank you for that, Olga. Lindsay, I think your line is muted.

OLGA SANTIAGO: You're very welcome.

DARYL FOX: As you're getting things together, I just want to remind everybody, the PowerPoint recording and transcript for today will be posted to the OVC website. So anything you--we went over today, you'll be able to go back and reference.

LINDSAY WALDROP: Thank you, Daryl. And if you haven't had an opportunity and you have a question to write one in the Q&A, please go ahead and do so. We attempted to answer most of them during the call. But, also, if you feel like your question wasn't fully answered, please go ahead and drop it back in. One question that I think we received just--that's just worth underscoring is your ability to apply for multiple solicitations or focus areas. Once the solicitations come out, you'll be able to see the details. But I would notice--note that focus areas are often for a different eligibility or scope of work and it might not make sense and maybe allowable based on your specific parameters, organization, the type of work to apply for more than one--under one focus area. But it may--it is allowable to apply for more than one solicitation because the work does differ.

We have a question asking, "if we know when solicitations will first come out?"

We do not have the specific date on that, but they do come out anywhere between-- again, this is above all of us, sort of. But it does come out anytime between sometime in this month and the next few months. Springtime is our usual time to put out the solicitations. That information goes out via our LISTSERV or is on our website. So be sure to lookout for that.

I am going to toss a question to Darian about JustGrants accounts. The question is, "Should we create a JustGrants accounts now or should we wait to know if we've been accepted?"

DARIAN HANRAHAN: I think I would prioritize first setting up your SAM.gov account because before you can even go about submitting an application within JustGrants, you have to make sure the SAM or System for Award Management account is set up. And like Olga mentioned earlier, if--there's a pretty big backlog right now with the registration process, so I do recommend getting a jumpstart on that as soon--as soon as you can. Because if you don't have one, if it's expired, that can delay or prevent your application submission in Grants.gov and JustGrants. So I would definitely recommend starting there first.

LINDSAY WALDROP: Thank you, Darian. And I'm going to call on another member of our Human Trafficking Division, Alissa Huntoon. Alissa, we received a number of questions about, "the categories under the ECM solicitation. Are you able to speak to any of those or do you just suggest people wait until the solicitation hits?"

ALISSA HUNTOON: Thank you, Lindsay. Yes, there will be different categories included in the--in the solicitation, which will spell out who is eligible. It will be similar to previous years, where there are a category for new task forces as well as a category for previously funded task forces as well.

LINDSAY WALDROP: That's very helpful. Thank you so much. We have a question "related to VOCA."

And VOCA is supported by the Office for Victims of Crime on one of our first slides, where it showed the breakdown of our funding. The gray area was the majority of funding, which our office gives to the states and they give the VOCA funding. So we, on this call, cannot speak to how to apply for those grants and that's something you should probably look to your state VOCA administrator to find out more information about.

Alissa, we have another ECM question. The question is, "Do you know if ECM FOAs will be around the same deadline for the program side as well as the TTA?"

ALISSA HUNTOON: Thank you, Lindsay. Could the person who wrote that spell out FOA? I'm not sure what they mean by FOA.

BRECHT DONOGHUE: I think--I can--I can weigh in on this one. This is Brecht Donoghue talking. I believe they might be talking about a funding opportunity

announcement. And I actually would say--I do not think they will necessarily be released at the same time. As we said, our solicitations are going to be released at a rolling basis. So--But there will be sufficient information in each of the solicitations so that you hopefully would have sufficient understanding of what is encompassed within, for example, the training and technical assistance funding opportunity.

LINDSAY WALDROP: Thank you, Brecht.

And one more question. "Alissa, does the new--does the statewide ECM include a victim service provider applicant?"

ALISSA HUNTOON: Yeah. The--thank you, Lindsay. The requirements are the same for the ECM model, that there needs to be a law enforcement entity as well as a service provider, and the solicitation will outline that as well. So yes.

LINDSAY WALDROP: And, Alissa, I'm sorry to send all these questions to you, but there's another ECM one to address. It says, "Our program offers prevention services to law enforcement. They are the direct beneficiaries, law enforcement. The ultimate beneficiaries,"--oops. I lost the question. "...are those who are not trafficked. We've struggled to define the latter. Suggestions?" So I think they're asking, sort of, how when they're serving the community, are they sort of pulling out serving those who are trafficked in their law enforcement activities.

ALISSA HUNTOON: Yes. Thank you.

LINDSAY WALDROP: Is that something you can answer?

ALISSA HUNTOON: So, yeah, it's--if you have questions, technical questions or program--actually, more programmatic questions about the solicitation, as colleagues mentioned previously, I would submit them through NCJRS, as it notes here, so that we can be sure it's routed appropriately. So that's a very specific question to a very specific jurisdiction, so those would need to be routed through NCJRS.

LINDSAY WALDROP: Thank you, Alissa.

And I see a question about "how to get started," which I'm happy to answer.

Once the solicitation comes out, there will be details in the solicitation that will really help you go through everything you need to do. And at the end of the solicitation, there's a checklist, making sure you've covered everything that needs to be covered.

There is a question about the fellowship. And it says, "I'm a survivor. Can the fellowship be led by a survivor? Does it need to be a direct service provider?"

The fellowship is by any--can be held by any individual who has the background, who can do the work that the solicitation is asking in detail. So you do not need to be affiliated with a specific organization.

And, yes, the fellowship has three purpose areas and they--one of--the application needs to meet the request in those purpose areas of analysis and research. There are three areas that OVC is looking for more information on and the fellowship application should be responding to one of those areas.

BRECHT DONOGHUE: Lindsay, this is Brecht again. I'm just going to chime in and, you know...

LINDSAY WALDROP: Please do.

BRECHT DONOGHUE: ...while you're maybe--we can give you a second to look at questions and decide what you want to answer, I'm also going to thank the team for their terrific job on this webinar. You all did great. And just also thank all of our audience for your patience and understanding in that we have not yet released these solicitations. This really was intended to be, sort of, a sweeping, sort of, overview of what will be coming down the pipe in the next few months for us and being publicly released by OVC as far as our anti-trafficking works. So I know it can be frustrating to get a little piece of the information and feel like there's so much more that you don't yet have. However, I--as I said, I can assure you that our solicitations include a lot of information. And so once those solicitations are in fact released, we will be both much more able to answer questions. But also I think that there--you will just, by virtue of having access to them, have a lot of these questions answered. So that email address for the OJP Response Center, that's been up on the screen a couple different times--actually, it's up right now as I'm, you know, looking at the slides. It's a really good email address to have because as soon as you get that solicitation, you read through it, you have questions, you don't necessarily want to wait until the next pre-application webinar to ask a question, just shoot an email to grants@ncjrs.gov and those questions are then routed to OVC staff to answer. We answer them as much as we can. You know, obviously, it is a competitive solicitation. But that really is the best way for you to be able to get any questions answered that we cannot answer today.

So with that, I'll turn it back over to Lindsay to see if there are questions in the chat that we can--we can help you with.

LINDSAY WALDROP: I think that is it for today. And please follow up with us if you have a question that wasn't answered that you want to know more about. I will hand it over to Daryl to close us out.

DARYL FOX: All right. Thank you so much, everybody. And I'll just reiterate again, the PowerPoint recording and transcript for today will be posted to the OVC website. You will receive an email with the email address you registered with today when those

deliverables are posted. So on behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime and our panelists, thank you for joining today's webinar. This will end today's presentation.