

[Transcript from the OVC Fiscal Year 2019 Building State Technology Capacity and Elder Abuse Hotlines preapplication webinar, which was held June 11, 2019. The archived webinar can be found at: <https://www.ovc.gov/grants/webinars.html>.]

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to today's webinar, Fiscal Year 2019 Building State Technology Capacity and Elder Abuse Hotlines, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, I would like to turn the presentation over to Joel Hall, Victim Justice Program Specialist with the State Assistance and Compensation Team.

JOEL HALL: Good afternoon, everyone. This is Joel Hall and I am with OVC State Assistance and Compensation Team. What does that mean? We primarily work with formula grants and state agencies to provide services throughout our nation.

So the outline of the webinar, we're going to go over an overview of OVC. Number two, I'll break down the Building State Technology Capacity and Elder Abuse Hotlines solicitations, going over the purpose and goal, program focus areas, and eligibility, required documents, application and award timelines. Three, How to Apply. And four, questions and answers. I just wanted to repeat that I cannot answer any questions that relate to how you want to develop your solicitation, as this is a competitive process. But general questions in terms of what's in the solicitation, I can assist you with.

This program furthers the Department's mission by awarding funds to the Office for-- Victims of Crime Act [VOCA] Formula State Administrating Agencies to enhance states' access to technology for the purpose of providing innovative service to crime victims. This is actually--this solicitation extends beyond just the--as what we call, SAAs. It can also relate to other nonprofits who are out in the state community, but they must partner with pre-existing SAAs before--before they apply.

OVC is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership in changing policies and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

VOCA-Authorized Activities. OVC supports many types of programs through our three divisions. There are way too many programs to list in a short webinar, so I am only going to focus on these three. If you want more information on the many, many different types of programs we serve, please visit our website at [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov). Let's first start with the large grant program at OVC. Nearly 90 percent of the CVF, which is the Crime Victims Fund, is used to support the formula grants program, which provide lifeline services to help victims to heal in the aftermath of crime. There are two separate formula grant programs. They have--They're called the State Crime Victim Compensation Program and the State Victim Assistance Program. State Crime Victim Compensation Program formula grants supplements state funds for reimbursing victims of violent crime for out-of-pocket expenses that result from the crime. All states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands receive VOCA compensation grant dollars.

The history of this program solicitation. This discretionary program has been funded three times in the past. It originally was funded in 2014, part of the Vision 21 initiative. It's to enhance and build technology. It was offered again in 2015, '17, and '18. This is the first year though, that we'll include funding for statewide or local elder abuse hotlines. So many of you who are on the phone probably are more interested in this elder abuse hotline and how that will--how will that work. And now we'll talk about that. So we'll get, we'll get to that.

The goal of this initiative is to provide a competitive funding opportunity for VOCA formula state administrating agencies that have identified technology improvements that will, one, enhance their current system or build new systems to increase access to technology. Two, increase access to resources. Three, increase administrative reporting accuracy and/or, four, connect older victims to direct resources and referrals. So, this program is not just for elder hotlines, which it can be; but for state administrating agencies, it can be used to help support things like new databases and other things of that nature. Only state administrating agencies can provide--apply for a program such as building up their database near--their grant management systems or telemedicine. The only thing that is open competitively to the emphasis area, that's open competitively to outside agencies, found outside of the state administrating agencies, is the elder abuse hotline prior--emphasis or priority.

The application can select one or more of the nine focus areas. We talked about some of them. One, develop or implement innovative technologies to enhance outreach to crime victims. Develop and/or implement technology to establish or enhance statewide or local senior hotlines that connect older crime victims with direct resources and referrals. This is one where we want the states to partner with--states can do this independently, or the states can partner with other NGOs, nonprofits--however you want to say it--throughout the state to provide a statewide hotline or even regional hotline, if needed. You know, we'll let that--we'll leave that up to the solicitation or application. Number three, use technology to effectively communicate about, report, or monitor VOCA program activities. That again can get into databases or performance measure software. It really--it can go all over the place so be creative. This again has--this would only apply to state administrating agencies. Enhance the collection of performance measures related to provision of comprehensive services to victims of elder abuse and other types of victimization. This emphasis area is going to, of course, work and partner with the state. You can apply independently, as a state apply, which is my preference, but it really doesn't matter as long as you have an established relationship with the state prior to the application. This is probably the most important thing I try to--want people to remember. You need to have an MOU, subgrant, or some type of understanding ahead of the application process. Enhance the social media presented of SAAs or other victim service providers. Six, enhance victim competition technology to increase efficiency and reduce claim processing time. This is specifically for comp programs, but it could relate to administrative programs in certain ways. Seven, develop or implement technology to improve state and subgrantee reporting. Eight, develop or enhance statewide grant management systems. Nine, improve the security, confidentiality, and efficiency of such systems with regard to victims' data

stored within them (i.e. coming up with security--you might want security software to be attached to your database to reduce illegal entries by outside parties).

Those who are eligible to apply. Primary people are State Victim Assistance and Compensation Programs that are eligible to administer Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance or Comp dollars. This is designed by your state, assigned--the governor's office will assign somebody for this. This has already been pre-established so you'll only need to find out who that person is. When it comes to elder services that we talked about, in terms of hotlines, other organizations that--when such an application is in partnership with the VOCA Victim Assistance and/or Comp Program for state applicants. So, they can be eligible. So it doesn't have to be a State Administrating Agency for the hotline services.

OVC welcomes applications under which two or more entities would carry out federal award. However, only one entity, the SSA [SAA] may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed a subrecipients (subgrantees). The applicant must be the entity that would be primarily responsible for carrying out the award including administrating the funds and managing the entire project.

Award Amount and Project Period. Up to nine awards of up to \$600,000 per award, for a total not to exceed \$3.8 million. Awards two, up to \$5 million--up to five awards up to \$400,000 [\$440,000] per award to establish or enhance senior citizen hotlines, for a total not to exceed \$2.2. Project period would be total of 12 to 36 months. So there's two separate award categories, the hotline would be very different than the amounts for other database projects that the states may be interested in. And the project period cannot exceed 36 months. So if you are a State Administrating Agency, and you have a small project, such as a software upgrade maybe for a system that alerts victims that their compensation claims have been approved, I suggest making that small, you know, making it 12 months. But if it's a larger project, such as establishing an Elder Abuse Hotline, please make it 36 months.

The following application elements must be included in the application, Project Narrative, statement of the problem, project design implementation, capabilities and competencies, plan for collecting performance measurement data. Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative; this is the one that's usually not done very well. Make sure that you go to OJP's website. I think there will be links actually at the end of this PowerPoint. This is where you get the newest forms. A lot of people create their own Detail Budget Worksheet [Budget Detail Worksheet]. We have one we want you to use. With OJP and its required to use, and it can affect your--whether you receive the award or not. So make sure that you follow the links. You can either go to [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov) or follow the links on this PowerPoint. And a Logic Model, there will be links and information on what a Logic Model is, if you have not filled that out one before. We use this in determining performance measures and different things about where we want you to go.

Applications also must include the following information included in the application submission, the 424. When you go to [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov), which most of you will apply through that. You make sure you fill out--that the 424 is attached. The Grants.gov should direct

you and provide that information to you. Project Abstract, Information on Proposed Subawards or Procurement Contracts (if applicable). You may not know at this time what those would be but make sure you talk about them if you have, again, if you plan on subawarding to another agency to provide, say, elder abuse hotlines or visa versa, whatever you guys are planning on doing. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable). Tribal Authorizing Resolutions, Financial Management and System of Internal Awards Control Questionnaire, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL). So I want the actual form, again it will be provided in the links in the application, make sure you complete that. And then in those two boxes down below, make sure that you put N/A if it doesn't apply to you, if you don't have lobbying activities. Just don't leave a blank. Always put an N/A down. Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications, what that means is if you have other grant awards for similar activities. So, for example, if you are doing the Elder Abuse Hotline and you are submitting an application to OVC, OJP, but there's another grant opportunity for a similar hotline through another federal agency, you need to notify us of that. That doesn't necessarily mean you'll not receive the award, but we need to take that and to see if there's overlap or duplication in funding because if you receive both, there could be a problem. Applicant Disclosure and Justification, DOJ High-Risk Grantees, that means if you need to disclose whether you're already considered a Department of Justice high-risk grantee. If you're not, then please make a statement that you are not. Don't leave it blank or do not include that form, make sure you attach something that says that you are not. Request and Justification for Employee Competition; Waiver (if applicable). Other attachments (as needed) would be Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity, and Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation. This would very rarely ever fall under a State Administrating Agency, but if there are some nonprofits out there that intend to apply for the Elder Abuse Hotline, this may apply to you. Please follow the instructions on Grants.gov.

So, when you're attaching the attachments, we strongly recommend that you use correct names so that we know what attachments we have. "File number" or just saying, "Budget" or "Worksheet" or--this can be confusing. So, a good example would be "File 4: Budget Detail Worksheets," "File 6: Information on Proposed Subawards." Bad examples would be "Budget," "File 4," "Number 4," whatever you want to put, it confuses us. And this way we're able to process your application quicker and make--and hopefully we won't miss any important document--documentation that you did submit. If it's titled correctly, we should be able to see it.

Requirements for large projects. So again, I had mentioned earlier about smaller projects that may be software upgrades or increases to database capacity or maybe a small--there's a lot of small technology things, maybe to--also buy--yeah, there's a lot of small things. But some projects are going to be rather large, and generally history with this solicitation, especially in the past couple of years, is that a lot of people want to do some very large projects. So, if that is the case, please detail--read in detail the solicitation where it gets more into this, where you're going to have to talk about strategic planning, implementation, and evaluation. That's located in the solicitation. It'll give you more information on that, but please look at that, Section A. Goals, Objectives, Deliverables of

the solicitation. I just want to make sure people are aware of that. If that is not in a large project that's over \$100,000 and will be for 3 plus years, it will affect your scoring.

How to Apply in Grants.gov? Pages 27 through 28 of the solicitation, for additional information please review section D.5 of the 2019 State Tech Solicitation. I'm not going to over too much, but you need to make sure if--most state agencies have all of this already. However if you're nonprofit and this is your first time you are applying through the Office of Justice Programs, you will need to acquire a DUNS number. You will need to acquire a System for Award Management. You will need to register in the--in the SAM, what we call SAM, Systems for Award Management, or CCR, or what was formerly known as CCR. Check your ability to apply, Eligibility. That's also listed in the solicitation, however, Grants.gov asks additional questions because there could be other things that's not related too. You may be an NGO that is eligible to apply but you may be or it could be on the excluded parties list for some--for some reason. In your search for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov, if you use the exact title of the solicitation, copy and paste, you'll probably find it a lot easier than just using a couple of keywords. Make sure you register in Grants.gov, submit an application consistent with the solicitation but following the directions in Grants.gov.

How to Apply, continued. Important [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) alert. If you are a new entity registering in the System for Award Management (aka SAM), 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 30 days of the registration activity. This is very important for new applicants who want to apply and do not--and never registered with SAM.gov before. This could deal with--most again, most states, I can't think of any state agency that would run into this problem, but a non--an NGO, nonprofit may not have done their homework. So, one of the biggest things that we run [into] at OJP is when the discretionary grantees apply for grants and they haven't done their homework and they try to get their SAM registration 2 days before the close of the grant and they are unable to get funded. This will not be considered something that's a technical difficulty. You need to do your homework. So if you're interested in applying for the solicitation, please start now. This grant is not open for 60 days, as normal. Our grant process, we compacted that to 45 days and we're already a couple weeks in. So if you are going to apply for this grant, make sure you register for SAM.gov now.

Make sure you double check your SF-424. This will be the first form they'll make you fill out in Grants.gov. Errors that are most commonly made by grantees, new and old; as this application is new, make sure you put your legal name. Do not use abbreviations. For example, if you're the Rhode Island Department of Social Services, don't put RI, put Rhode Island down. But, if you've noticed on your legal documentation in the past, you put RI, make sure you're consistent with that. This throws us off sometimes. Start/end dates. The start date will be 10/01/19 and do not exceed 09/30/22, please. Estimated funding must match the federal request in the Detail Budget Worksheet [Budget Detail Worksheet], so make sure that you--yeah, so make sure your estimated funding matches your Detail Budget Worksheet [Budget Detail Worksheet]. Also, on your Program Narrative make sure--or Budget Narrative make sure those numbers match your Detail

Budget Worksheet [Budget Detail Worksheet]. Double check those numbers on your SF-424, with the Detail Budget Worksheet [Budget Detail Worksheet], with your Program Narrative; make sure you're asking for the same amount. That can impact your score, if you're slightly off.

Project description. Oh, sorry about that. Project description, make sure you put FY 19 State Tech Capacity and Elder Abuse Hotlines. Use this specific title. This helps us when we're cataloging and finding these applications, especially through Grants.gov. If you use different names, sometimes the system, we can--we can query the system easily by using that project description so we make sure we count your application.

Technical problems [or] requesting for late submissions. The following conditions generally are insufficient to justify late submission. Failure to register in SAM; I had mentioned that two sites previous. You need to register ahead of time. We will not reopen the performance--or the application period because of late SAM registration. Failure to follow Grants.gov instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its website. Failure to follow each instruction in an OJP solicitation. Technical issues with the applicant's computer or information technology environment such as issues with firewalls or browser incompatibility. The only thing I can say to everybody out there is it's good to start to the Grants.gov process soon. You may not have all that documentation that you need but if you go in, and register, and get all your things starting right after this webinar, you'll know if you run in to any technical problems. Sometimes you may have an old version of Explorer that doesn't like Grants.gov; it can be many different factors. People use Firefox. Sometimes it likes Firefox, sometimes it doesn't. So, work out these technical issues then. However, if it's an OJP or Grants.gov technical issue, where the system is down, we may extend the application period a day, so that you can apply.

For technical assistance with submitting an application, grant, contact Grants.gov Customer Service Support Hotline. And the number is below [800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035]. Do not contact me related to technical issue--issues related to Grants.gov. Please call the help desk. In fact, don't contact me unless there's some kind of--I can't provide too much feedback or support. In fact, we'll have NCJRS' number for contacting. So please try not to contact me directly or look me up. All information related to the solicitation needs to go through that channel, and then they'll get to me and we'll work it out, whatever your questions are.

Solicitation Requirements and General Application Assistance. For programmatic and general assistance, and I just talked about this, please go to [NCJRS.gov](https://www.ncjrs.gov) and--or here's the phone numbers [800-851-3420] or webchat. And they would provide any assistance that you need. That can be program questions. That can be financial questions. That can be some technical difficulty questions that you may have. You will go through them and then we, as a team, will try to vet them and help you answer your questions.

Tips. And I've said this many times. Start the application process early. Registrations, start them now. Identify Service Partner(s). Especially for the Elder Abuse Hotline, and this is can apply to different emphasis areas as well, but for the Elder Abuse Hotlines, those are



large projects. And if you need--if this is an outside NGO or other agency that wants to partner with the state to have--make this happen, you need to start meeting with them right now. It would be great if the state decided to initiate or apply for this grant. But technically, it's open to anybody who wants to apply for this Elder Abuse Hotline. But start--apply under the correct competition ID, OVC-2019-15289. Make sure you know that when you're in Grants.gov. Again, I went over the Budget Detail Worksheet template. I say that again, many times. And you'll be quite surprised. So, make sure you have the right paperwork. Ask for the amount of funding needed. Make sure you have--you put how much funding you needed and it's--it is a good estimate. Nobody really knows, especially if you're creating something new, but make sure you have a good estimate and that you can support what your request is in the documentation of your application.

Important Web Resources. This webinar will be available online. You can take your time and can take a look at these the best that you can. And they're all here to help support you.

This is to reiterate that on May 23, 2019, the solicitation is posted, and it will be staying open for 45 days. And it'll close on July 8, 2019, at like 11:58 p.m.--or a.m.--p.m. So, yes. It won't affect the most people in the lower 48, but if somebody is applying somewhere else, make sure you realize that's East Coast Time.

Q&A. So, now is the time to start asking questions. Please use the chat box that's to your right. Q&A, the Q&A Box--not chat box; the Q&A Box. And ask as many questions as you can. And then while you're doing that, Mary Jo here, will help with a couple pointers and tips, as well.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: So, I'm just going to, kind of, go over a couple of the slides that Joel pointed out. And during the Q&A I will rotate and keep these slides up so that you do have an opportunity to write the information down. As he stated, any kind of technical assistance that you need with submitting your application, contact Grants.gov. They do have an 800 toll-free number, 800-518-4726. They also have an email, [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). And you can reach them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on federal holidays.

Additionally, if you think of a question after the end of this webinar and you need to get it answered, submit it to NCJRS, that's the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. You can reach them at 1-800-851-3420, or you can email them at [grants@ncjrs.gov](mailto:grants@ncjrs.gov). They also do have a web chat capability and you can reach that using their website at [www.ncjrs.gov](http://www.ncjrs.gov). They are open 10:00 a.m., to 6:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. They are closed on federal holidays. And they do stay open late on the date the application closes. However, it is strongly recommended that you do not wait until the day the application closes to submit your application, and you should try to submit it at least 72 hours in advance. So, I'm going to rotate between these, as well as the slide with the resources so that you can write some of these URLs down that tend to be a lot longer. In particular, there is the [DOJ Financial Guide](#), which is the second bullet listed on this slide that you might want to write down and utilize as you move forward in your application

process. So, at this time, Joel is going to go ahead and start addressing some of the questions that came through.

JOEL HALL: All right. Thank you, everybody. I got one from Charlotte here. "Are there two different applications or can these be in the same application?"

They can be two different applications or the same application, whatever works best for you. It really depends on the size and scope of your project. Obviously--I'd probably say an Elder Abuse Hotline would be--and, you know--would be its own project. And then, if you wanted to have SMS texting feature, that might be a separate application. You could put them together. It could get confused because if one doesn't get funded and then your smaller feature, if you're a State Administrating Agency. So, you'll need to decide are they partnered or, you know, can it be put together, or if it's very different--if they're two very different things, you may want to separate them.

All right. Next one says, "Did I hear it correctly, if a nonprofit entity receiving a subgrant from the SAA through VOCA, the nonprofit may apply directly to Elder Abuse Hotlines? Is this correct or does the SSA have to apply or--and subgrants to the local nonprofit."

The answer is yes. The nonprofit can apply. However, the nonprofit must have already partnered with the SAA. In a perfect world, the SAA would apply first, and then maybe subgrant that out. But there could be cases where it could be a regional thing, a regional thing that wants to do an Elder Abuse Hotline. We're trying to be open and allow state partnerships and collaborations to happen. It doesn't necessarily have to go through the state. It could be through a nonprofit. We've done this before, in the past, with other things such as your training grants. So, the answer is yes, an NGO could apply externally outside of with the SAA. However, we will review in the application, to make sure that that NGO is--has already a pre-established relationship or at least has worked out with state to make sure that they're partnering with them to provide a statewide hotline or regional hotline. It could really depend. I mean, there's a lot of flexibility in the hotline thing. However, regarding to all the other emphasis areas that we talked about, such as data--state databases, compensation program things, telemedicine from the state, that is through the SAA only.

It says, "If an organization is applying for purposes of establishing or enhancing an Elder Abuse Hotline only, must an SAA be a partner?"

It doesn't have to be a direct partner. They have to have an understanding and a working relationship with that. So, if it's a pre-established Elder Abuse Hotline, we talked about this. So, you--you're free to apply. I would say that you have an understanding with the SAA related to that. But yes, technically, we prefer that you partner with them, but it's not--it's not in stone. We're allowing some flexibility. Our goal is to assist elders and--yeah, elder--to stop elder abuse and assist the elder abuse community with creating as many--you know, with this technology as best as we can.

"Can a nonprofit be an applicant as long it's with a partner?"



I'd say yes.

Okay. Let's see. What else is here? I think I already answered--

I think we're getting a lot of confusion around, "can a nonprofit apply for--NGO or nonprofit apply for the elder abuse portion of the solicitation?"

The answer is yes.

You mentioned--And another question was, "You mentioned that this was offered previously. Will the program be available in the future years?"

I do not know.

"And will the Elder Abuse Hotline be part of it?"

I do not know. It really depends on our federal funding. And historically, the CVF, which is the Crime Victims Fund, has been rather large in the past few years. And we've been able to do a myriad of different enhanced programs to allow some flexibility. Hopefully, that will maintain and continue, but I--right now, I'm just worried about 2019.

"What is meant in partnership with the SAA for the applicant state? What are you expecting this partnership to look like?"

I actually don't really have an answer for that, the reason being, I'm working with another solicitation. It can mean--literally, the state is overseeing the hotline to basically allowing the state--the state is having an understanding allowing the NGO to do what it wants to do in a reasonable... So, yeah, be as expressive as you want to, but we expect that there's some partnership with the state. I've seen MOUs, I've seen other things, but we want the state to be involved. It's very important. On what level? We're allowing that to be kind of open. We're going to let you take the flexibility. I've seen states involved very heavily, sometimes when we ask this, and sometimes states--or just have an understanding that the states turned over control to the NGO. So, there's a lot of flexibility in this.

"Can an organization that's already receiving VOCA funds for domestic violence cases also apply for the VOCA funding?"

Yes.

"Is there a specific definition of hotline regarding operating hours? Can it be regular business hours or does it need to be extended beyond that, 24 hours?"

There's no definition. Put that in your application. That could be something online, it could be something happens during the day. It could be 20--that could be an extensive, you know, 24-hour program. I think we would like to see 24 hours, but in rural areas and

different things, we understand that we're talking--there's large variants in the type of communities that we'd be working with.

Let's see. "Page 8 of the solicitation states, that this award will be a cooperative agreement with the OVC having substantial involvement in carrying out award activity. What is meant by substantial involvement?"

This allows us--this is slightly different from a grant program, in regards to where we just give--we would give the awardee the money and there are certain parameters that they have to do. But in general, they pretty much do what they want to with what we've awarded them in the application. Cooperative agreement basically means we need to agree kind of what--where you're going with and, you know, in your progress reports, we're allowed to say, kind of, what we think you should be doing to a certain extent. We generally don't. So let's say you're hiring--let's say you're getting a database, or let's say you're doing an Elder Abuse Hotline and we notice that maybe there's things behind or you're not following certain procedures, and it just gives us the right to be more proactive and to work closely with our awardee partners. So it doesn't necessarily mean we're going to come out there on a weekly basis, it just means that we have a little more flexibility as--in terms of saying "yes" and "no" in regards to progress, in regards to certain kind of things that we want you to do, than we would in a grant process.

"Where can we see a list of which agencies have administrated the Victims of Crime Act formula assistance comp programs in each state?"

That's a good question. If you go to our website, [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov), you go to--I think it says "Grant Funding," you click on the tab that's above--up above and it'll state, I think it says--I can't remember, I don't have it in front of me right now. But there is a portion which talks about state funding and there'll be a map will pop up. And then all you have to do is click on that state and--and/or territory, and it will tell you the name of the victim assistance agencies and their phone numbers and mailing addresses and email addresses and everything of that nature. So, again, that is in our website, under Grant Funding. It's in a few areas, actually, that--it'll take you back to that map. So. Hold on a sec. Let's see here.

"Is the hotline"--well, let's do this one. "What is the definition of age for elder?"

That--we have no definition. That can mean a lot of things to a lot of different people. It does mean--yes, you put that out there in your application. We have no definition that says the person have to be 65 years or older, or 55 years or older, and we leave that vague intentionally. I would look, you know, I would follow--My guidance would be to follow what your definition of elder is in your state. The state, you know, whatever state laws, practices, and procedures are, define elder at a certain age in your state, I'd probably follow that. We'll let you be--Because we don't want to say a specific age to allow you flexibility.

"Is the hotline generally for elder abuse like domestic violence hotlines or for a specific purpose, like a legal services hotline?"

I think it's probably more general purpose because you never know what you're going to get over the Elder Abuse Hotline, and the legal services hotline has very specific things. So I'm going to say more like domestic abuse--domestic violence hotline.

And I think that wraps up our questions.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Actually, it looks like we have quite a few questions being submitted in the chat box. If you wouldn't mind, please, to go ahead and resubmit those, if you haven't already done so, to the Q&A. It's much easier for us to ensure that we haven't missed anything.

JOEL HALL: All right, we've got a couple of--that just popped up here. "Is a State Administrating Agency defined as any state agency that provides victim services in conjunction with VOCA?"

No. A State Administrating Agency is designated specifically by the governor and its state office to administer formula funding under the Victims of Crime Act. An example would be the State's Department of Public Safety may work with a victim assistance and victim comp program, so that--those programs would be designed through the Department of Public Safety or Social Services. Just because you have a VOCA subgrant or another kind of grant through VOCA does not make you a State Administrating Agency. There is only one to two in the entire state related to VOCA.

"As far as definition of who we are serving through the Elder Abuse Hotline, is it limited to victims of abuse? Any kind of abuse, victim services, protective services..."

They'd have to be--if--victims of crime, and it'd have to be considered to be a crime. It doesn't mean a crime has to have exactly occurred where somebody has gone to jail, but it has to be considered a crime.

But, let's go back to that one. We can be a little flexible, you know, there--there's many levels of abuse. I'm a former social worker myself. So, the lens can be kind of wide but we can't make it too wide. So, we are the Office for Victims of Crime. This funding is under the Victims of Crime Act, so it has to be something that's considered to be a crime. Again, it doesn't necessarily mean that a person, you know--it could be a crime that hasn't been prosecuted yet, or maybe there wasn't a police report. You know, we're very open to that. We'll allow you to decide what you--what parameters you want to put on that. We're not trying to tie your hands. We want you to service many victims as you can.

"Can funding be used to screen all callers on a senior legal hotline for elder abuse?"

Potentially. Potentially. I'm not sure where--exactly what you mean by that, but it's possible. I'd really have to know more about that question. But it's very possible. Put that in your application.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: I think that might be the last question. Just give me a moment while I scroll through, to see if we've missed anything.

JOEL HALL: Scroll up to the top. National.

Question, "As NCEA, are we an eligible applicant?"

Potentially. If you partner with the state. I see a national reach. It's National Center of Elder Abuse. It's very possible, you'd have to--we're not--the money wasn't exactly designed for an Elder Abuse Hotline. In fact, for a national Elder Abuse Hotline in regards though, we have not provided enough funds for that because you have a cap limit of \$400,000 [\$440,000]. So, you might need to follow up more with OVC related to that on a national level. Obviously, if you want to do things on a state level and break it down to different states that you might have worked with, it's possible. Just because you're on the national level, a national provider or a national nonprofit, doesn't exclude you.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Okay. And it looks like we have a couple other questions that just came through.

JOEL HALL: Sure. "Can the hotline be used for reports of suspected elder abuse, financial abuse?"

Absolutely. We're going to let you--make those determinations. It's an Elder Abuse Hotline. Financial abuse is considered to be abuse. It could be emotional, financial, physical, sexual; there's so many different categories. If you've worked in the field as long as I have, that--there are many categories. So, put that in your application and we will review that and take that all into consideration.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: And somebody's asking for clarification of a previously answered question.

JOEL HALL: Yeah. I don't understand that question.

"As the definition of who we are, we are serving through the Elder Abuse Hotline, is it limited to the victims of abuse, any kind of abuse?"

I'm not sure. It's elder abuse. If that's--Not any kind of abuse. Victim services, protective services. Any of those related to elder abuse. If that answers your question. I'm not sure if that answers your question, but it's related to elder abuse, not any abuse.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: And that would be our last question.

JOEL HALL: Okay. Thank you. I'll look forward to seeing your applications. If you have any questions, please go to [NCJRS.gov](http://NCJRS.gov). Or if you're having technical difficulties with [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov), please talk to them.

And again, just for information, depending on the number of applications, I don't--I'm not the one who approves or denies. We have a peer review process. We have a very complicated government process of making sure that we were fair and balanced as much as possible.

And if--We got a lot of questions about nonprofits, partnering with the State Administrating Agencies, it's probably common to reach out to them as soon as you can and see, you know, either they will approve, support, partner, and, like, question about partnerships. I've seen many different variations and iterations with that. We're not trying to eliminate or reduce applications. The more applications we get, the better. So, you define what that partnership looks like. And if we like it, we'll fund it.

So, that's it. Thank you very much for attending. Have a--have a wonderful evening.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Goodbye.