
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE OVC FY 2012 SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION TELEMEDICINE CENTER SOLICITATION

What is the age of victims served by the program?

The program should focus on provision of sexual assault medical forensic examinations for adults and adolescents.

Are organizations that serve children and adolescents eligible for the program?

Yes, organizations that serve children and adolescents are eligible, but the application needs to focus on adults and adolescents, and the applicant (with partners) needs to demonstrate expertise on the adult and adolescent population.

How do you define “adult and adolescent”?

Normally, the definition of “adult and adolescent” is based on age (13 and up), but in the context of forensic medical examinations, the onset of adolescence is generally based on the onset of puberty, because the nature of the exam differs at that point.

Are universities eligible to apply for the program?

Public universities are eligible as “states.” Private universities may be eligible under one of the other categories, such as sexual assault examination programs or medical personnel.

Should we identify the pilot sites in our application?

No, during the first year of the award, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) will work closely with the recipient to develop a solicitation to select the subgrantees to operate the pilot sites.

Should we include funding for the pilot sites in our budget?

Yes, the budget should include funding for the pilot sites. It should also include funding for the evaluation and any necessary technology.

Does the budget need to be specific or can we guess a general amount for each pilot site?

The applicant should specify the needs of each pilot site, including staff, equipment, and travel.

Can the pilot sites all be one type (e.g., rural) or does there need to be one of each—rural, military, tribal, and correctional?

There should be one each of rural, military, tribal, and correctional; however, as discussed above, the specific pilot sites will be selected during the first year of the award.

Does the applicant need to have expertise in all four types of populations (rural, tribal, military, and correctional)?

The solicitation requires “sufficient partners to address relevant specific victim populations.” This means that the applicant and their partners should have expertise in all four populations. An applicant

that is missing representation for one of the populations will still go to peer review, but this gap will be taken into account during scoring.

Are the pilot sites to which the solicitation refers the remote sites that will receive support from the Telemedicine Center?

Yes, the recipient will set up the national Telemedicine Center, and the pilot sites will be the remote sites that receive support through the Center.

Do the pilot sites need to be places that do not yet have a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) or Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) program?

No, the pilot sites could be places that have existing SANE or SAFE programs, but where the providers are not getting sufficient cases to maintain their training and expertise.

What if some of the required partners (i.e., evaluation, specific populations, and/or technology) are already in the organization?

This should still be addressed within the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), but have the head of the relevant internal division sign the MOU. For example, if there is IT expertise in house, then the head of the IT division could sign the MOU, in addition to the executive director. It is possible that the MOU could contain both internal and external partners.

What does it mean to have “capability to provide national-scope training and technical assistance”? Is it necessary to have previous OVC, National Institute of Justice (NIJ), or other federal grant awards?

Previous national-scope training and technical assistance awards for similar topics, either from a federal agency or from a private funder, are one way to show capability to provide national-scope training and technical assistance, but they are not the only way. An applicant could also talk about other expertise and experience that they and/or their partners have on national (as opposed to statewide, regional, or local) issues related to the topic of sexual assault forensic medical exams. Because the pilot sites will be all over the country, OVC needs to be comfortable that the recipient is qualified to provide technical assistance at a national level.

What kind of licensing or qualifications do the medical providers at the Telemedicine Center need to have?

OVC is not requiring a particular license, but applicants should address the qualifications of their staff, and should have sufficient knowledge of licensing and practice requirements in their jurisdiction to ensure that their staff is acting within the scope of those requirements. Applicants should be prepared to address additional issues around qualifications of medical staff during the planning stage of the grant.

Does there need to be live support for all four of the pilot sites or is quality review (case reviews) allowable as well?

Many jurisdictions that use telemedicine for child sexual assault forensic medical exams use a model where quality assurance reviews or case reviews after the exam are completed by the local site. For this project, OVC and NIJ are not looking for that model, but rather, prefer a model where the Telemedicine Center is live during the exam to provide support and guidance.

How specific do we need to be about the equipment? In deciding what equipment to purchase, can we assume the pilot sites will have Internet access? Do we need to plan for encryption or other methods to protect information?

The applicant needs to provide a specific, detailed budget of what they plan to purchase if selected for this award. The applicant can assume the pilot sites have Internet access. In thinking about technology purchases, the applicant should consider the personal and private nature of the information that is likely to be transmitted and ensure that it is sufficiently secure.

Can the cost of professional liability insurance be included in the grant?

Yes, any additional costs for professional liability insurance due to the grant project can be included in the grant.

Do we need to develop standards for caring for the patients? Should these be part of the application?

Part of the planning year will be to develop protocols, standards, and operating procedures for the Center. These will be developed in close consultation with OVC, and OVC will approve them before the Center begins operations. At the application phase, OVC expects the applicant to identify key issues that may arise, such as informed consent or testimony in court, and how the applicant intends to use the planning phase of the grant to address such issues and identify others.

Who is expected to attend the onsite workshop with OVC within 60 days of the award?

The “key personnel” are expected to attend the onsite workshop. This includes the coordinator (or other lead on the project), the evaluator, the technology partner, and the experts on specific populations.

How do OVC and NIJ envision future funding of this project?

There is no indication whether there will be any federal funding for this project in the future. If it is successful, OVC hopes that this project could lead to a broader national center, possibly on a fee-for-service basis.

RESOURCES RELATED TO THESE FAQs

Webinar: Telemedicine Center to Support Sexual Assault Evidence Collection

<http://www.innovations.harvard.edu/spotlight.html?id=2571>

Solicitation: FY 2012 Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Examination Telemedicine Center: An Innovative Pilot Project (PDF 270 kb)

http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/grants/pdftxt/FY2012_SexualAssaultForensicMedical.pdf

For assistance with requirements of this solicitation, contact Marnie Shiels, Attorney Advisor, by telephone at 202-616-3609 or by e-mail at marnie.shiels2@usdoj.gov.