



# UNIFIED SOLUTIONS TRIBAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP, INC.

877.216.9914 | [unified-solutions.org](http://unified-solutions.org) | [contact@unified-solutions.org](mailto:contact@unified-solutions.org)  
[Facebook.com/UnifiedSolutions](https://www.facebook.com/UnifiedSolutions) | [twitter.com/USTCDGI](https://twitter.com/USTCDGI)

## FY2021 OVC Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside (TVSSA) Formula Grant Program Phase 1: Population Certification Webinar

February 10, 2021

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Office for Victims of Crime's (OVC's) Tribal Division Director, Katherine Darke Schmitt, facilitated the TVSSA Formula Grant Program: Phase 1 Population Certification Webinar. Ms. Darke oversees programs and services that help victims in the aftermath of crime and as they rebuild their lives.

Ms. Darke's responses to the questions posed during the webinar are detailed below.

#### APPLICATION PROCESS/ELIGIBILITY

1. Will Unified be able to provide assistance and support during the application process?
  - a. Yes, you can reach out to Unified or your Grant Manager for assistance.
  - b. If you are an existing OVC grantee and are assigned to Unified as your training and technical assistance (TTA) provider, Unified can provide technical assistance. Please contact [jesucita@unified-solutions.org](mailto:jesucita@unified-solutions.org).
  - c. If you are an existing OVC grantee and the National Criminal Justice Training Center at Fox Valley Technical College is your TTA provider, please reach out to Fox Valley at [ovctta@ncjtc.org](mailto:ovctta@ncjtc.org).
  - d. Those who are not current OVC grantees may reach out to [ovctribalsetaside@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:ovctribalsetaside@ojp.usdoj.gov).
2. How many Tribes applied last year?
  - a. You can find the allocations listed for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 at <https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/media/document/fy-2020-tvssa-formula-allocations.pdf>
3. When do Tribes need to submit a Tribal resolution during the application process?
  - a. OVC will request proof that the consortia or designee is authorized to submit the Population Certification on the behalf of the Tribe. OVC will request this proof before they run the formula in March. If OVC sees a Population Certification that lists several Tribes belonging to a consortium or a designee applying on behalf of the Tribe, OVC will follow up and ask where the Tribal resolution or the bylaw is that shows this was the Tribe's intention. OVC



will follow up and ask when you think you can submit the Tribal resolution or bylaw, so we know we are in good standing when we run the formula numbers.

4. If there is more than one victim service program within the Tribe, can they submit one application to support both programs? Or does the application only have to focus on the funding needs of the one program?
  - a. A Tribe can submit a project plan and budget that covers one project or many different projects. As long as the activities are focused on providing victim services, the Tribe decides how best to use the funds to meet the community's needs.
5. Are there any restrictions on how many years in a row a recipient may receive the TVSSA?
  - a. No, every federally recognized Tribe is eligible every year.
6. Our Tribe currently has an FY2018 Victim Set Aside Award. Are we eligible to apply regardless of how much funding we have left in our FY2018 award budget?
  - a. Yes, every federally recognized Tribe is eligible to apply, regardless of whether a previous award has a balance.
7. Are there any restrictions on how many years in a row a recipient may receive TVSSA Award?
  - a. Every federally recognized Tribe is eligible for funding every year.

## POPULATION CERTIFICATION

8. When is the final submission deadline for the Population Certification?
  - a. Friday, March 5, 2021, 11:59 PM
9. What is the Population Certification?
  - a. The Population Certification is both the number of persons the Tribe proposes to serve with your FY2021 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside award and the name of the [form](#) used to submit that information to OVC.
10. Do we need to upload the Population Certification to JustGrants or email it to OVC?
  - a. You do not need to upload the Population Certification to JustGrants. To submit the Population Certification, email it to [ovctribalsetaside@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:ovctribalsetaside@ojp.usdoj.gov).
11. Can we use the same Population Certification from previous TVSSA Grant applications for the FY2021?
  - a. Yes, you can use the same Population Certification from the previous year. Please make sure to redate and re-initial the form when submitting the FY2020 Population Certification for FY2021.
12. If we submitted a Population Certification last year, but the scope for the FY2021 funding will be different, will we need to submit a new Population Certification?
  - a. If you are serving the same population, you may use the same Population Certification.

13. I started in January, and I do not know if the previous employee sent in a Population Certification. Is there a way to confirm they submitted the Population Certification?
  - a. Yes! Please email OVC at [ovctribalsetaside@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:ovctribalsetaside@ojp.usdoj.gov), and we will look up what your Tribe submitted last year and send it back to you.
  
14. Is the funding amount determined based on Census Data?
  - a. The Population Certification determines the formula amount. Your Tribe can decide which number to submit on the Population Certification. They may choose to use the Census Data or choose a different number (e.g., number of residents living on the reservation, total enrolled members, etc.) depending on what they believe will accurately represent the population they will serve. The Tribe will share how they determined the population number on the Population Certification.
  
15. I can't find 2020 Census data, and the new Census website is confusing. Should we use Census Data from July 2019, the 2010 Census, or the data from the American Community Survey 2015-2019, in My Tribal Area, in the US Census to obtain our population number?
  - a. It is unnecessary to use US Census population if you find it does not reflect the population you plan to serve through your FY2021 TVSSA award. You might also base your Population Certification on your enrolled Tribal population, your reservation population, or the county or zip code population for the area you plan to serve. If you choose to use Census or American Community Service Data, use the most recent data you can find.
  
16. Is the Tribal Population Certification for our Tribe nationwide?
  - a. The Population Certification is for the population you plan to serve.
  
17. Does the population number include children?
  - a. Each Tribe must decide how they are documenting their population.
  
18. Can we use all enrolled members in the traditional boundaries, including children and nontribal members of the population that receive services?
  - a. Yes, you may count your entire service population. For example, if you plan to serve children, then children should be counted in the population. If you plan to make nontribal members eligible for services provided under your TVSSA project, then nontribal members living in the service area should be counted in the population.
  
19. We currently serve Native American victims of crime throughout one county. Do we use the census information regarding the population of Native Americans in our county or utilize the population on our Rancheria?
  - a. This is a nuanced question that may require discussion with your Grant Manager. It is up to the Tribe to determine the population number according to the population they plan to serve. The Tribe will share how they determined the population number on the Population Certification.

## FUNDING/BUDGET

20. Is the grant available annually?
  - a. Yes, funding is offered annually.

21. Is it non-competitive funding?
  - a. Yes, it is non-competitive funding. Tribes need to submit the Population Certification to receive funding.
  
22. Can a Tribe request a different start date for the award?
  - a. Tribes can pick a start month that works for them. For the sake of the financial system and its interaction with your bank, the start date must be on the first day of the chosen month (e.g., April 1).
  
23. If we received funding in 2018 for a project, our grant award runs out in April 2022, and we would like to continue with that project. Can we apply to do so? If we already have the fiscal year 2020 Tribal Set Aside Award, can we also apply for this year to supplement activities under the 2020 award?
  - a. Every federally recognized Tribe is eligible for TVSSA funds every year regardless of whether they have an open award, if that award currently has a balance in it, or if they have other OVC grant awards from other programs.
  - b. However, ensure you do not duplicate costs across grants or years when designing your project and your project budgets. Victim services you provide cannot be paid twice. If your goal is seamless, sustained services, be mindful of your start and end dates. If your goal is to use funds to expand services, you can change the scope of the services you provide or serve a new population.
  
24. Does the 60-month period to expend funds begin from 1/1/2022 or from when we propose to start? For example, if we start our project on 1/1/2023, do we have 60 months from 1/1/2023?
  - a. The 60-month period begins on January 1, 2022.
  
25. How can we find out the potential award amounts to plan for future programming and budgets?
  - a. This is a difficult question because the Formula Program's nature is that the award amounts are unknowable until all Population Certifications are submitted, and the formula is completed.
  - b. You can go to the TVSSA page on the OVC website [here](#) to find the awards from last year to ballpark the amount of funding you might receive. Keep in mind that the total amount of the TVSSA funding is smaller this year, which means the awards for Tribes this year will likely be less. By the end of March, OVC will know each Tribal allocation, and from there, Tribes will have 60 days to figure out the size and scope of their project based on the funding they receive.
  
26. Can we start our grant budget for October 2023 if we have current funding already?
  - a. It is recommended you look at your Award Document to determine your award start date.
  
27. Does the term crime victim include any crime victim (e.g., not specific to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking)?
  - a. Yes, the term crime victim refers to any victims of crime.

28. Do the set-aside funds available provide a base amount of \$400,000 to each Tribe? Will the remaining funds be distributed according to the formula?
- In FY2020 yes, \$400,000 was the base. The smallest TVSSA Formula award in FY2020 was just over \$417,000. The base may change in FY2021, depending on the number of participating Tribes.
  - In a mechanical sense, the base is part of the formula. After the base amount is allocated to an applicant, an additional “bump up” is added to the base to account for the size of the population being certified. You can find a more detailed description of how this works in the November 2020 Consultation Framing Paper [here](#).
29. If we want to do a program redesign of our current TVSSA funds and how they might be supported with the new funds, is that a conversation we need to have with OVC or our TTA provider?
- Your TTA Provider may help you think through how you might redesign your current project to expand its scope in the future with 2021 funds; feel free to draw on their expertise. Your Grant Manager will ultimately be responsible for reviewing your 2021 project budget and narrative and working with you to ensure that there are not duplicative costs.

## ALLOWABLE COSTS

30. Are there any new allowable or unallowable costs in the chart for this year?
- Outdoor furnishings and recreational equipment for serving victims of crime is now an allowable cost. Outdoor furnishings and recreational equipment include furnishing outdoor living spaces, play equipment, a smoking pavilion, and other outdoor equipment needed to create a welcoming, safe, and inhabitable living space. You cannot use grant funds to purchase food for meetings, trainings, or conferences. You can use grant funds to purchase food to provide meals and emergency groceries to victims of crime. You can also use grant funds to buy food in the context of a community healing event for victims.
  - If you included unallowable costs in your application, your Grant Manager would meet with you to reallocate funds.
  - You can find the Allowable and Unallowable Cost Chart [here](#).
31. How can applicants justify the purchase of food at a healing event?
- Purchasing food for a healing event is a gray line, and there may be more discussions about this. If you are having a meeting, training, or conference, you may not use funds to purchase food. If you have a potlatch, ceremony, or a gathering where sharing hospitality and food is in some way integral in culturally responsive services, you can use funds to purchase food. If you wrote it into your budget, you could use grant funds to buy food any time you use it to support victims directly.
32. Is emergency food an allowable cost?
- Yes, emergency food is allowed when providing services for victims of crime.

33. After the TVSSA Grant consultation, OVC said they would continue to explore opportunities for using Tribal Set-Aside funds. For example, the ability to use grant funds to support renovation and construction projects to support victim services. Is that still being explored, and is there any chance that these types of projects will be allowable in this fiscal year?
- Yes! We are actively exploring options for making construction an allowable expense in future years. To do so, OVC needs to work out how we will put technical assistance and other supports in place so that Tribes contemplating undertaking construction projects are supported with the environmental study requirements and other federal requirements involved in that type of project.
  - Currently, however, construction may not be an allowable cost. Your Grant Manager can help you work through the implications if construction costs become allowable.
34. Can this grant be used to secure physical space to serve victims?
- Yes, you can use grant funds to rent or purchase a space to serve victims.
35. Are modular buildings and homes an allowable cost?
- Yes, purchasing modular buildings purchase is an allowable cost. However, if you “break ground” (e.g., dig trenches, run cables, connect to a well), it crosses into construction, and it may not be an allowable cost.
36. Can you elaborate on site preparation and installation of mobile and modular buildings?
- Preparation and installations of mobile and modular buildings can be a grey area. It can also be a cost issue negotiated with your Grant Manager as you implement your award. A general rule of thumb is that you may purchase a modular building with grant funds, but any part of an installation that requires “breaking ground” may not currently be allowable under TVSSA grant funds.
37. Is remodeling an allowable cost? What is the difference between remodeling and renovation?
- If needed, your Grant Manager will help you navigate this topic. Renovations include updates to improve the living space. Renovations are an allowable cost. When you break ground, such as building an addition to a building, this is considered construction. Construction may not be an allowable cost.
38. Is a therapy dog an allowable cost?
- If the therapy dog’s purpose is to serve victims, it is an allowable cost.
39. Is a lawyer for victims an allowable cost?
- Yes, if your victims need a lawyer for civil legal services, you can use the grant to fund it. You may not use grant funds for criminal defense. More information about using funds for lawyers is found on the Allowable Cost Chart.