



# 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 17, 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. Who can I contact if I have questions?
  - 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. Is this a non-competitive award?
  - a. Yes, this is a non-competitive grant award. Funding decisions are based solely on the data of eligible applicants who submit their Population Certification. Even though the application process includes submitting a budget and project description to OVC, it is a non-competitive process. If an eligible applicant submits the Population Certification by March 5, 2021, they will receive a grant award.
3. How many total federally recognized Tribes are there?
  - a. 574



4. Is there a location that lists the federally recognized Tribes online?
  - a. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Website is a good place to start. You can find the website [here](#).
  
5. Will there be funds available in subsequent years (e.g., 2022, 2023, 2024, etc.)?
  - a. Every year that Congress authorizes a tribal set-aside under the Crime Victims Fund, this program will be available. While OVC cannot say with certainty what Congress will do in future years, we have no reason to expect that the set-aside will end.
  
6. Do we need to attach a Tribal resolution when submitting the Population Certification?
  - a. Tribal designees and consortia must submit a Tribal resolution or other evidence of legal authority from the Tribe(s) to apply. It is recommended that you submit the required documents with your Population Certification. If you cannot submit the required documents when you submit the Population Certification, it is recommended you note it in your submission email.
  
7. I am from a Tribal Housing & Community Development program. If we have an ongoing domestic violence (DV) program, can we apply for these funds to provide housing for victims of DV?
  - a. Yes. However, please note only one application per Tribe will be accepted.
  
8. In our community, we have ten federally recognized Tribes. Nine of those Tribes have resolutions to form a consortium. Can the consortium of the nine Tribes and the tenth Tribe apply for the award separately?
  - a. Yes, they can apply separately. The nine Tribes would submit a Population Certification as a consortium with a Tribal resolution specifying which Tribe is applying as the consortium's administering agency to administer the funds. The tenth Tribe would submit its own separate Population Certification and receive a separate award to administer for itself.
  
9. Can a consortium apply for the grant, and the individual Tribes that are part of the consortium apply separately as well?
  - a. If a designee or consortium applies on behalf of a federally recognized Tribe that has also submitted an individual application, OVC will deem the federally recognized Tribe as the eligible applicant, and the designee or consortium allocation will be correspondingly reduced.
  
10. Does the person/organization applying on behalf of the Tribe need to be a nonprofit organization?
  - a. Eligible applicants for this funding include the following:
    - i. Native American Tribal Governments (federally recognized)
    - ii. Native American Tribal organizations (other than federally recognized Tribal Governments)
    - iii. Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3)
    - iv. Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3)
    - v. Tribal consortia consisting of two or more federally recognized Tribes
  - b. More eligibility information can be found [here](#).

11. Are there restrictions on how many years in a row a recipient may receive the TVSSA award?
  - a. No, there are no restrictions on how many years in a row a recipient may receive the TVSSA award. Congress appropriated this money for victim service programs in Tribal communities to use. Every federally recognized Tribe interested in using the funds to serve victims of crime is eligible to receive funds and can apply every year. Tribes are eligible to receive funds regardless of if they received funds in the past, if they still have a balance from previous awards, if the end date of a received award is in the future, or if they have never received funds before. However, Tribes must ensure the new funds are not used for redundant expenses already funded with other awards.
  
12. Are applicants who were awarded TVSSA in FY 2020 eligible to apply for FY 2021 funding?
  - a. Yes. Please note, your FY 2021 application should only include costs and activities that are different and distinct from an existing award or pending application for funding.
  
13. We have TVSSA funds that expire on April 22, 2021 and we do not want to have service delivery interrupted. Can we apply for the same project (it will overlap by six months)?
  - a. Yes, you may apply for funding. Just make sure to note the overlap within your application.
  
14. If we are a nontribal organization but assist victims of human trafficking, are we still eligible to apply?
  - a. If you are a designee or consortia, you will need to submit documentation of your authority to apply for the grant on behalf of each Tribe listed on the Population Certification form (e.g., a Tribal resolution, consortium bylaws, etc.) when you submit the form.
  
15. Is it true that a Narrative is not required to apply?
  - a. It seems too good to be true, right? This is a new thing OVC is trying to reduce the administrative burden on Tribes in applying for these funds.
  - b. In 2021, Tribes may opt to either:
    - i. Submit a traditional project narrative
    - ii. Complete a checklist that will be attached to the solicitation (which will be available in April)
    - iii. Complete an interview with OVC staff based on the checklist to complete the checklist for you. Further directions about this will be published in the solicitation in April.

## POPULATION CERTIFICATION

16. When is the deadline to submit the Population Certification?
  - a. March 5, 2021
  
17. Once we submit the Population Certification, will we receive an email from OVC verifying receipt? If so, when should we expect the email notification?
  - a. Yes, you will receive an email notification typically within 48 hours.
  
18. Does the Population Certification need to be submitted annually?
  - a. Yes, Tribes intending to participate in the TVSSA Formula Grant Program need to submit a Population Certification each year. If a Tribe was awarded in FY 2020, and they plan to

serve the same population with the same services for FY 2021, they can submit the Population Certification from last year. If a Tribe is applying for the first time, they need to submit a new Population Certification. For the FY 2021 award, Tribes must submit the Population Certification by March 5, 2021.

19. Were there any changes on the Population Certification form from last year to this year? If a Grantee submitted a Population Certification for FY 2020, do they need to submit a new one for FY 2021?
  - a. Every Tribe that plans to participate in the FY 2021 award must submit a Population Certification form this year. If a Tribe participated in FY 2020, wishes to participate in FY 2021, and their population and plans for services have not changed, they can resubmit the Population Certification from FY 2020. There are two choices when submitting the Population Certification, Tribes can resubmit the Population Certification they submitted last year for FY 2020, or Tribes can submit a new Population Certification.
  
20. Is the Population Certification required if our current 2018 grant doesn't expire until FY2022 (We are not applying in 2021)?
  - a. If you are not applying in 2021, you do not need to submit a Population Certification this year.
  
21. Our awards end in 2022, and we didn't submit a Population Certification. Do we need to submit a Population Certification by March 5, 2021 for applications we may submit for FY 2022?
  - a. If your Tribe does not plan to participate in the FY 2021 TVSSA Program, then you do not need to submit a Population Certification. If your Tribe decides to participate in the FY 2022 TVSSA Program, then you will submit a Population Certification at about this time next year.
  
22. If a Tribe has not determined a population for themselves, how would they go about doing that?
  - a. It comes down to what services the Tribe plans to provide with the funds and where they intend to provide them. The Tribe may decide a number by determining the service provider's location and who will receive services. The group of people the Tribe intends to serve becomes the number reported on the Population Certification form. The population number does not need to be a total Tribal population; the population reported on the Population Certification form is the population the Tribe intends to serve with the FY 2021 award.
  
23. Can applicants include nontribal members in the population number?
  - a. The Tribe determines the population number based on who they intend to serve with the award. Tribes are welcome to serve nontribal members, but they are not required to offer nontribal members services. If the Tribe elects to serve nontribal members, they must be included in the population number reported on the Population Certification. Tribal governments can determine whether they will serve nontribal members due to familial or geographical affiliation with the Tribe. Tribes are also expected to explain how they determined the population number on the Population Certification.

24. Is the population number constrained to a jurisdictional boundary?
- The Tribe determines the population number based on who they intend to serve with the award. It does not need to be dependent on jurisdictional boundaries. A Tribe can choose to use a geographic distribution to decide a population number. Jurisdictional boundaries include the population residing on the reservation and the adjacent county or the town's population and adjacent city. The town, city, county, etc. populations can be used to represent the nontribal population the Tribe intends to serve.
25. If we serve both native and non-native victims of crime, how do we confirm the non-native population if they are not Pueblo residents?
- A Tribe can choose to use a geographic distribution to decide a population number. Jurisdictional boundaries include the population residing on the reservation and the adjacent county or the town's population and adjacent city. The town, city, county, etc. populations can be used to represent the nontribal population the Tribe intends to serve.
26. If our program serves Tribal and nontribal members county-wide (because OVC required we utilize our previous funding publicly), should we use county population numbers for the Population Certification?
- If your victim services are available county-wide, then a county-wide population would be a suitable number.
27. Can we combine Tribal enrollment, community population, and service population to encompass all service areas?
- As long as the combined number does not double count the individuals who are both enrolled tribal members and community members, yes, you can combine Tribal enrollment, the community population, and the service population.
28. Our Tribal Governor is confused about the Population Certification. Our Tribal Enrollment Department submitted three different locations.
- The population number you should certify in your Population Certification is the number of persons to whom services will be available under your 2021 victim services project. If services are available to anyone living in any one of your three different locations, those three populations should be added together to create your Population Certification number.

## FUNDING/BUDGET

29. Is funding determined by the Census Data or by the Tribally determined population?
- Funding is determined by the number on the Population Certification form. This number is determined by the population the Tribe intends to serve with the FY 2021 award. Tribes may choose to use the Census Data if they believe it adequately describes the population they intend to serve.
30. How can Tribes figure out the potential award amount to plan for future programs?
- OVC does not know what the range of awards will be for FY 2021 because of two factors. First, the amount authorized by Congress is slightly lower for FY 2021 than in earlier years, and as a result, there is a small pool of funds to allocate. Second, OVC cannot predict how many Tribes intend to apply or their population numbers.

- b. At the end of March or early April, OVC will notify Tribes of their grant allocations. Even though it will be slightly different, Tribes can use historical information to estimate their potential award allocation. In 2020, the minimum award was \$417,336, which went to the Tribe with the smallest population size. The largest award was just under \$3 million. A full list of the Tribes that received the award in 2020 and how much they each received on the OVC website. You can find the allocations listed for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 [here](#).
31. We are a consortium of four Tribes along the Columbia River. Our parent Tribes may apply for funds also. However, the service areas are entirely different. Will our award be reduced because of the four parent Tribes' applications?
- a. If a designee or consortium applies on behalf of a federally recognized Tribe that has also submitted an individual application, OVC may deem the federally recognized Tribe as the eligible applicant, and the designee or consortium allocation will be correspondingly reduced.
32. Can Tribes apply this year to supplement activities provided under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 award?
- a. Yes, Tribes can apply to use the FY 2021 to supplement activities or expand services provided under the FY 2020 award. However, when a Tribe submits its budget and application between April and June, the Tribe needs to strategically plan the budget to avoid duplicating expenses to ensure the FY 2021 award is not utilized for something already paid for by the FY 2020 award.
33. If our current award ends in April 2022, can the FY 2021 funds be used to continue our program?
- a. Yes.
34. If we have a 2018 grant we are utilizing to fund advocate positions and the grant does not end until April 2022, can we utilize the 2021 grant funding for these positions? If so, how do we do this?
- a. The only requirement is that you do not create a redundant funding situation where the same individuals' salaries are charged to more than one grant for the same period. For example, if your 2018 award will fund the advocate positions until 2022, your budget and project plans for your 2021 funds should not include those same positions until 2022, when the 2018 funding runs out. Alternatively, you could use the 2021 funds for an entirely different victim services purpose, or you could hire additional advocates if you need them. Your OVC Grant Manager can help you think through this if you need her assistance.
35. We have a 2018 OVC PA#7 grant that is ending on September 30, 2021. The positions in the 2018 OVC PA#7 grant will not be sustained with an OVC TVSSA grant start date of January 1, 2022. This is an issue and may result in the closing of our DV shelter due to lack of sufficient staffing. Is there any way the start date could be October 1, 2021? Or does OVC intend to permit No Cost Extensions (NCE's) on the 2018 CTAS OVC PA#7 grants to cover this period of three months between grants?
- a. Yes. Please communicate with your OVC Grant Manager via email and copy [tribalsetaside@ojp.sudoj.gov](mailto:tribalsetaside@ojp.sudoj.gov) and we will work with you on this.

36. We received \$505,000 in 2020. We will be applying for additional funds in 2021. Will these funds be combined into one award, or will we be required to track and report each year's funding separately, with two financial reports and two program reports?
- The awards will be separate and require separate reporting.

## ALLOWABLE COSTS

37. Where can we find what we can purchase for victims of crime?
- The allowable and unallowable chart is a great place to start! You can find the Allowable and Unallowable Cost Chart [here](#).

## PROGRAMMATIC QUESTIONS

38. Where can I find examples for policies and procedures?
- 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).
  - 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).
39. Where can I find examples of an intake for our victims?
- 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).
  - 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).