

SIX STEPS TO A STRONG GRANT APPLICATION



U.S. Department of Justice
OVW
Office on Violence Against Women
Working Together to End the Violence

Grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) help communities serve victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and hold offenders accountable for their crimes.

Here are six strategies to help you prepare a competitive grant application:



1. Assemble a Team

Coordinated community response—meaning collaboration across justice system components, Tribes, victim services providers, community-based organizations, and more—is the cornerstone of all VAWA grant programs. Communities benefit when people work together.



2. Identify Gaps

What does your team need to better serve victims and hold offenders accountable? Training for police? Legal assistance for victims? Transitional housing? Explore Justice.gov/OVW/Grant-Programs to determine which OVW grant program(s) may fund what you need.



3. Prepare

Review past years' notices of funding opportunity (NOFOs) to get a handle on the program eligibility, scope, and requirements to apply. Read an [OVW report to Congress](#) to learn what grantees accomplish with their funds. Identify resources and strategies that can help your team better respond to victims.



4. Make the Case

Use data and anecdotes to describe your community and the challenges it faces in combating domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Avoid jargon, write clearly, and use concrete examples. Be realistic about goals, objectives, and the potential impact of grant funding.



5. Prepare a Budget

Ensure your budget matches what you propose to do. Be realistic so that you do not overpromise and underdeliver. Consult OVW's [resources](#) for creating your budget.



6. Follow Instructions

Follow all of the instructions in the NOFO, paying special attention to scored sections. Failure to follow seemingly minor steps can result in an application being removed from consideration before it goes to peer review. Contact OVW if anything is unclear.