

FY 2019 Pre-Application JFF Recorded Information Session Transcript

(SLIDE 2) This pre-application information session is for the Justice for Families Program solicitation that was posted on or about November 6, 2018. It is strongly recommended that you read the full solicitation prior to listening to this information session. Application submissions are due by 11:59PM Eastern Time on January 8, 2019. Applications will be submitted through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

(SLIDE 3) The Justice for Families Program was authorized in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2013. The program supports activities to improve the capacity of communities and courts to respond to families impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and in some cases child sexual abuse with: court-based and court-related programs; supervised visitation and safe exchange by and between parents; training and technical assistance for people who work with families in the court system; civil legal services; and the provision of resources in juvenile court matters.

(SLIDE 4) Applicants may address the following purpose areas: 1-supervised visitation, 3-training for court-based and court-related personnel, 4-juvenile court resources, 5-court and court-based programs and services, 6-civil legal assistance and 8-training within civil justice system.

(SLIDE 5) OVW is interested in funding projects that take a coordinated approach to helping families victimized by sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as they navigate the justice system. In order to help achieve this coordinated approach, applicants may propose either a **standard project or a comprehensive project**.

Standard Project: Applicants **must** propose activities under **purpose area number 1 (supervised visitation) or 5 (courts)**. If an applicant is proposing to provide supervised visitation/safe exchange services (purpose area 1), the applicant **must** also propose activities under at least one additional purpose area.

The Courts purpose area (purpose area 5) can be addressed on its own, or in combination with another purpose area. You may apply to any or all of the subparts of the purpose area, however, OVW will not consider applications that only propose pro se victim assistance programs under purpose area 5(b) or only propose education and outreach programs under purpose area 5(e).

Additionally, Purpose areas 3 or 8 cannot be solely combined with purpose area 5e, but may be combined if other purpose areas or subparts of 5 area also applied for. A project that only proposes training and education will not be considered.

Lastly, due to the restrictions on providing civil legal services, no more than 50% of the proposed project, a project cannot propose activities solely from purpose area 6 and purpose area 5b, pro se victim assistance.

(SLIDE 6) *Comprehensive Project*: Applicants **must** propose activities under **purpose areas 1 (supervised visitation), 5 (courts), and 6 (civil legal services)**. Applicants may include additional purpose areas in a comprehensive project application if they choose, but are required to include purpose areas 1, 5, and 6.

(SLIDE 7) Projects addressing only pro se victim assistance programs under purpose area 5(b) and civil legal assistance under purpose area 6 must count all associated costs toward the 50% cap on civil legal assistance described under purpose area 6. A project in which the primary focus is on providing civil legal assistance is not appropriate for the Justice for Families Program and will be removed from consideration and would be better suited for the OVW Legal Assistance for Victims Program, which should be released on or about November 20th.

(SLIDE 8) Applications proposing activities in the following OVW priority areas will be given special consideration during the review process:

1. Reduce violent crime against women and promote victim safety. Examples of projects under this priority area include addressing Purpose Area 5a – developing specialized courts, consolidated courts, dockets, or intake centers.
2. Increase the response to victims of human trafficking. Examples of projects under this priority area include training judges, advocates, and others who work with victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking to recognize when those victims may also be victims of sex trafficking or other severe forms of trafficking in persons, or developing a specialized docket addressing these crimes.
3. Increase efforts to combat stalking.

(SLIDE 9) The solicitation lists specific activities that are outside the scope of the Justice for Families Program and will not be supported by the program's funding. Applications that propose activities that are deemed to be substantially out-of-scope may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be eliminated from consideration entirely.

(SLIDE 10) The grant award period is 36 months. Budgets must reflect 36 months of project activity, and the total "estimated funding" on the SF-424 must reflect 36 months. Generally, the award period will start on October 1, 2019.

Funding levels under the Justice for Families Program for FY 2019 are as follows:

1. Standard projects: up to \$550,000
2. Comprehensive projects: up to \$650,000

OVW estimates that it will make up to 15 standard grant awards and 3-7 comprehensive grant awards for an estimated \$11,000,000.

(SLIDE 11) New applicants are those that have never received direct funding under the Justice for Families Program, including current and former OVW Safe Havens and OVW Courts grantees or subgrantees, or Justice for Families grantees whose previous funding expired more than 12 months ago.

Continuation applicants are those that have an existing or recently closed (within the last 12 months) award under the Justice for Families Program and meet the eligibility requirements. Continuation funding is not guaranteed.

Additionally, continuation applicants with a substantial amount of remaining funds, more than 50%, at the time of application submission without adequate justification may not be considered for funding in FY 2019.

Please note that Grant recipients that received funding under the Justice for Families Program for 36 months in FY 2017 or FY 2018 are NOT eligible to apply.

(SLIDE 12) Eligible applicants are limited to: states, units of local government, courts (including juvenile courts), Indian tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, legal services providers, and victim service providers. Please note that a law enforcement agency is not considered a unit of local government. Also, prosecutor's offices are not considered courts and therefore cannot serve as the court partner or apply on behalf of a court.

(SLIDE 13) All applicants for the Justice for Families Program are required to submit a Certification of Eligibility. Applicants proposing projects under purpose area(s) 1, 4, 5, or 6 will be required to submit additional certification letters. Read the "Other Program Description Requirements" section of the solicitation very carefully to determine which letters may be required for an application. Contact the Justice for Families Program at OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov if you have any questions about certification letters.

(SLIDE 14) All applications for the Justice for Families Program must include formal partnerships with both 1) a domestic violence or sexual assault victim service provider and 2) a court. Applications that do not meet this requirement will not be eligible for Justice for Families Program funding and will be removed from consideration. Partnerships are formally demonstrated through an MOU and in some cases a Letter of Commitment.

(SLIDE 15) Here are some partnership scenarios to help determine what partnerships are required:

If a court is the lead applicant, it must have a domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider as a project partner.

If a domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider is the lead applicant, it must have a court as a partner.

If the lead applicant is neither a domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider nor a court, it must have a partnership with both a domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider and a court.

Applications that do not meet this requirement will not be eligible for Justice for Families Program funding and will be removed from consideration.

(SLIDE 16) Review the "Eligible Applicants" section carefully for the definitions "court" and "victim service provider". Please note that a prosecutor's office is not considered a court. In

addition to the definition provided in the “Eligible Applicants” section, victim service providers must also: provide direct services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking as one of their primary purposes and have a demonstrated history of effective work in this field; address a demonstrated need in their communities by providing services that promote the dignity and self-sufficiency of victims, improve their access to resources, and create options for victims seeking safety from perpetrator violence; and not engage in or promote activities that compromise victim safety.

(SLIDE 17) Under the Application requirements please note that there are a few differences between standard and comprehensive projects. Standard projects have a 20 page limit while comprehensive projects have a 25 page limit. Additionally, budgets must include funds to attend OVW-sponsored training and technical assistance in the amount of \$15,000 for standard projects and \$20,000 for comprehensive projects for states and \$20,000 for standard projects and \$25,000 for comprehensive projects for territories, Hawaii and Alaska.

(SLIDE 18) Recipients of OVW funds must comply with applicable federal civil rights laws, which among other things prohibit recipients from discriminating on the basis of national origin and disability. This includes taking reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to grantees’ programs and activities for individuals with disabilities, Deaf individuals, and persons with limited English proficiency. To meet this priority, applications must include activities designed to ensure accessibility and costs to support those activities. Additionally, applicants must include funds or other resources in their budget to support activities to ensure access for individuals with disabilities, Deaf/hard of hearing individuals, and persons with limited English proficiency.

(SLIDE 19) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Letters of Commitment: Applicants are generally required to submit an MOU, a document containing the terms of the partnership and the roles and responsibilities between two or more parties. However, courts that are precluded from signing onto an MOU may submit letters of commitment in lieu of an MOU. Note that letters of commitment submitted in lieu of an MOU under circumstances other than those described in the solicitation will not be accepted.

(SLIDE 20) The solicitation provides the circumstances under which an applicant may be required to submit an MOU, letters of commitment, or both. If the court is the lead applicant and unable to sign an MOU, all project partners should submit letters of commitment and no MOU is required. If the court is a project partner and unable to sign an MOU, the lead applicant should still submit an MOU signed by the applicant and any other non-court partners and the court partner should submit a letter of commitment. If the domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider is the lead applicant and the only project partner is the court, the court should submit a letter of commitment but the lead applicant is not required to submit an MOU or letter of commitment.

(SLIDE 21) The solicitation provides detailed guidance on what an MOU and/or letters of commitment should contain, including formal partnerships with both 1) a domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider and 2) a court. Contact the Justice for Families

Program at OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov if you have any questions about MOUs or letters of commitment.

(SLIDE 22) Again, applications are due 11:59 p.m. E.T. January 8, 2019. It is strongly suggested you start the submission process at least 48 hours before but no later than 24 hours before January 8, 2019. Applications submitted after 11:59 p.m. E.T. on January 8, 2019 will not be considered for funding.

(SLIDE 23) Please review the solicitation carefully and contact the Justice for Families Program with any questions regarding the solicitation by emailing OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov or calling OVW at 202-307-6026. If you need technical assistance with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) please contact the grants.gov Customer Support Line at 1-800-518-4726. This concludes the FY 2019 Justice for Families Pre-Application Information Session.