



---

## **OVW Fiscal Year 2023 Justice for Families Program - Solicitation**

**Assistance Listing Number #** 16.021

**Grants.gov Opportunity Number:** O-OVW-2023-171466

**Solicitation Release Date:** December 13, 2022 4:00 PM ET

**Version:** 1

**Application Grants.gov Deadline:** February 13, 2023 11:59 PM ET

**Application JustGrants Deadline:** February 16, 2023 9:00 PM ET

---

### **Overview**

#### **Eligible Applicants:**

City or township governments, County governments, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, State governments, Other

#### **Other**

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 in the United States or U.S. territories. For more information, see the Eligibility Information section of this solicitation.

#### **Letter of Intent**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a non-binding Letter of Intent to [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov) by January 12, 2023. Interested applicants who do not submit a Letter of Intent are still eligible to apply. For more information, see the Application and Submission Information section of this solicitation.

#### **Pre-Application Information Session(s)**

OVW will conduct an optional web-based Pre-Application Information Session. For more information, see the Application and Submission Information section of this solicitation.

#### **Contact Information**

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, email OVW at

[OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov). Alternatively, interested parties may call OVW at 202-307-6026.

### **Submission Information**

#### **Registration: OVW encourages first time applicants to apply for funding.**

Organizations applying for the first time for federal funding must complete a multi-step registration process with the following systems: System for Award Management (SAM), Grants.gov, and JustGrants (after successful SAM and Grants.gov registrations).

Organizations that have applied for funding previously must ensure their accounts with SAM, Grants.gov, and JustGrants are active and up to date.

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties with SAM should go to [https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd\\_sp](https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp).

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties with Grants.gov should contact [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties with JustGrants should contact [OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to begin the registration process or ensure that all accounts are active and up to date by January 23, 2023.

#### **Submission:**

Applications will be submitted to OVW in two steps:

**Step 1:** The applicant must submit by the Grants.gov deadline the required Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF-424) and the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form (SF-LLL) in Grants.gov - <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html>.

**Step 2:** The applicant must then submit the full application, including attachments, in JustGrants at JustGrants.usdoj.gov. To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline. OVW encourages applicants to review the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) and the JustGrants website for more information, resources, and training.

For more information about registration and submission, see the Prior to Application Submission and How to Apply sections of this solicitation.

#### **Notification**

OVW anticipates notifying applicants of funding decisions by October 1, 2023.

# Contents

Overview	1
Contact Information	1
Notification	2
Program Description	5
Overview of OVW	5
Statutory Authority	5
About this OVW program	5
OVW Priority Areas	7
Activities Requiring Prior Approval	9
Federal Award Information	10
Awards, Amounts and Durations	10
Availability of Funds	10
Type of Award	10
Types of Applications	11
Mandatory Program Requirements	11
Eligibility Information	11
Eligible Applicants	11
Cost Sharing or Matching	13
Other Program Eligibility Requirements	13
Application and Submission Information	15
Content of Application Submission	15
Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	17
Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)	17
Proposal Abstract	17
Data Requested with Application	18
Pre-Award Risk Assessment	18
Summary Data Sheet	19
Proposal Narrative	22
Budget and Associated Documentation	26
Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (attachment)	26
Pre-Award Costs	28
Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)	29
Applicant Financial Capability Questionnaire (if applicable)	29
Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation	29
Supporting Documents	30
Additional Application Components	32
Letters of Support	32
Letters of Nonsupplanting	33

Proof of 501(c)(3) Status (Nonprofit Organizations Only)	33
Confidentiality Notice Form	33
Disclosure and Assurances	33
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	33
Summary of Other Federal Funding	33
DOJ Certified Standard Assurances	34
DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements	34
Prior to Application Submission	34
How to Apply	35
Application Review Information	37
Review Criteria	37
Review and Selection Process	38
Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates	40
Federal Award Administration Information	40
Federal Award Notices	40
Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements	40
General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements	41
Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)	41
Other Information	41
Public Reporting Burden-Paper Work Reduction Act Notice	41
Application Checklist	41

## Program Description

### Overview of OVW

OVW is a component of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). Created in 1995, OVW administers grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation and provides national leadership on issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. OVW grants support coordinated community responses to hold offenders accountable and serve victims.

### Statutory Authority

34 U.S.C. 12464

### About this OVW program

This program is authorized by 34 U.S.C. § 12464. The Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program (referred to as the Justice for Families Program) (CFDA # 16.021) was authorized in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013) to improve the response of the civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or in cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse. The program supports the following activities for improving the capacity of courts and communities to respond to families affected by the targeted crimes: court-based and court-related programs; supervised visitation and safe exchange by and between parents; training for people who work with families in the court system; civil legal services; and the provision of resources in juvenile court matters. For additional information about this program and related performance measures, including how awards contribute to the achievement of program goals and objectives, see:

- OVW grant program information: [OVW Grants and Programs Webpage](#).
- Program performance measures under the Measuring Effectiveness Initiative: [VAWA Measuring Effectiveness Initiative webpage](#).
- Program-specific sections in OVW's [most recent report to Congress](#) on the effectiveness of VAWA grant programs.

### Program Scope

Activities supported by this program are determined by statute, federal regulations, and OVW policies. If an applicant receives an award, the funded project is bound by this solicitation, the [DOJ Financial Guide](#), including updates to the financial guide after an award is made, the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#), and the conditions of the award.

### Purpose Areas

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12464, funds under this program must be used for one or more of the six purposes discussed below. Although the statute contains eight distinct purpose areas, OVW is limiting applicants to addressing only purpose areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8. OVW is interested in funding projects that take a coordinated approach to helping families victimized by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as they

navigate the justice system. To help achieve this coordinated approach, applicants may propose **either** a standard project **or** a comprehensive project.

Standard Project: Applicants must propose activities either under purpose area 1 (supervised visitation) or 5 (courts). If an applicant is proposing to provide supervised visitation/safe exchange services (purpose area 1), the applicant must propose activities under at least one additional purpose area. The courts purpose area (purpose area 5) can be addressed in combination with another purpose area or on its own under any one or more of the purpose area 5 sub-categories. However, applications that address pro se victim assistance programs (purpose area 5(b)) or propose education and outreach programs (purpose area 5(e)) also must propose activities under at least one more purpose area 5 subcategory or other purpose area(s).

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 but are required to include purpose areas 1, 5, and 6.

(Purpose Area 1) Supervised visitation and safe exchange: Provide supervised visitation and safe visitation exchange of children and youth by and between parents in situations involving domestic violence, dating violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. Although the program statute allows for sliding scale fees (34 U.S.C. § 12464(d)(2)), to ensure accessibility of OVW-funded services, grantees providing supervised visitation and safe exchange services are not allowed to charge fees to parents served with OVW funds. **For a standard project, applicants proposing activities under this purpose area must propose activities under at least one additional purpose area. For a comprehensive project, this purpose area must be included.**

(Purpose Area 3) Training for court-based and court-related personnel: Educate court-based and court-related personnel and court-appointed personnel (including custody evaluators and guardians ad litem) and child protective services workers on the dynamics of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including information on perpetrator behavior, evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide, and on issues relating to the needs of victims, including safety, security, privacy, and confidentiality, including cases in which the victim proceeds pro se. **Applicants proposing activities under this purpose area must also propose activities under purpose area 1 and/or 5.**

(Purpose Area 4) Juvenile court resources: Provide appropriate resources in juvenile court matters to respond to dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault (including child sexual abuse), and stalking and ensure necessary services dealing with the health and mental health of victims are available. **Applicants proposing activities under this purpose area must also propose activities under purpose area 1 and/or 5.**

(Purpose Area 5) Court and court-based programs and services: Enable courts or court-based or court-related programs to develop or enhance: a) court infrastructure (such as

specialized courts, consolidated courts, dockets, intake centers, or interpreter services); b) community-based initiatives within the court system (such as court watch programs, victim assistants, pro se victim assistance programs, or community-based supplementary services); c) offender management, monitoring, and accountability programs; d) safe and confidential information-storage and information-sharing databases within and between court systems; e) education and outreach programs to improve community access, including enhanced access for underserved populations; and f) other projects likely to improve court responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. For a standard project, applicants proposing activities under purpose area 5 are not required to propose activities under any other purpose area. (However, OVW will not consider applications that only propose pro se victim assistance programs (purpose area 5 (b)) or only propose education and outreach programs (purpose area 5(e)). **Applicants may apply to implement additional purpose areas if they choose. For a comprehensive project, purpose area 5 must be included.**

(Purpose Area 6) Civil legal assistance: Provide civil legal assistance and advocacy services, including legal information and resources in cases in which the victim proceeds pro se, to:

- a. victims of domestic violence; and
  - b. nonoffending parents in matters:
    - i. that involve allegations of child sexual abuse;
    - ii. that relate to family matters, including civil protection orders, custody, and divorce;
- and
- iii. in which the other parent is represented by counsel.

**Applicants proposing activities under this purpose area must also propose activities under purpose area 1 and/or 5 for a standard project. This purpose area must be included in a comprehensive project.** In addition, 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. At least 50% of all proposed activities and budget items in the application must be targeted toward activities other than civil legal services. All costs supporting civil legal services, including indirect costs and pro se victim assistance programs that provide civil legal assistance proposed under purpose area 5(b), will be counted toward this cap on civil legal assistance.

(Purpose Area 8) Training within the civil justice system: Improve training and education to assist judges, judicial personnel, attorneys, child welfare personnel, and legal advocates in the civil justice system. **Applicants proposing activities under this purpose area must also propose activities under purpose area 1 and/or 5.**

## **OVW Priority Areas**

In FY 2023, OVW has five programmatic priorities, of which the priority areas identified below are applicable to this program. Applicants are strongly encouraged, but not required, to address a priority area. Applications proposing activities in the following areas will be given special consideration.

1. Advance racial equity as an essential component of ending sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. *To receive special consideration under this priority area, applicants must either be a culturally specific, community-based organization or tribal organization or formally partner with a culturally specific, community-based organization or tribal organization as a meaningful part of their project narrative, Memorandum of Understanding/Letter of Commitment, and in the budget. Applicants addressing this priority area are required to provide documentation, such as a mission statement, to prove they are or the project partner is a culturally specific, community-based organization or tribal organization.*
2. Increase access to justice for all survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, including through exploration of survivor-centered criminal justice system reform. *To receive special consideration under this priority area, applicants must address purpose area 5(a) by developing a voluntary, safe settlement process for child-related relief, such as parenting plans that account for survivor safety, in their project activities. Grantees implementing activities addressing this priority area will be required to engage in a planning period, in collaboration with OVW and the JFF technical assistance providers, prior to implementing the safe settlement process. Applicants addressing this priority area should refer to ["Defining Child-Related Relief in Civil Protection Orders to Enhance Safety,"](#) a document developed through the OVW Family Court Enhancement Project.*
3. Improve outreach, services, civil and criminal justice responses, prevention, and support for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking from underserved communities, particularly LGBTQ and immigrant communities. *To receive special consideration under this priority area, applicants must include project activities that advance meaningful language access beyond simply hiring a bilingual staff person or having materials translated.*

### **Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery or Undermine Offender Accountability**

OVW does not fund activities that jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions. Applications that propose any such activities may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be eliminated from consideration. Please note that OVW will support survivor-centered alternative pathways to justice and non-criminal approaches to accountability that fall within the statutory scope of this program. Information on activities that compromise victim safety and recovery or undermine offender accountability may be found in the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#).

### **Out-of-Scope Activities**

The activities listed below are out of the program scope and will not be supported by this program's funding. See also the list of unallowable costs in the Funding Restrictions section of this solicitation.

1. Research projects. Funds under this program may not be used to conduct research, defined in 28 C.F.R. § 46.102 as a systematic investigation designed to develop or



contribute to generalizable knowledge. Surveys and focus groups, depending on their design and purpose, may constitute research and therefore be out-of-scope.

Prohibited research does not include assessments conducted for internal improvement purposes only (see Limited Use of Funds below). For information on distinguishing between research and assessments, see the Solicitation Companion Guide.

2. Mediation requiring offenders and victims being physically present in the same place, in cases where domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking is an issue.
3. Parent education programs.
4. Individual, group, and family counseling.
5. Telephonic and/or virtual monitoring of supervised visitation. (OVW will grant temporary exceptions to grantees experiencing extreme impediments, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or a natural disaster, to in-person supervised visitation.)
6. Supervised visitation and exchange services unrelated to domestic violence, dating violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.
7. Legal representation in child protection cases, except for cases in which the legal services are provided to a victim of domestic violence and the proceedings relate to or arise out of the abuse or violence committed against the victim.
8. Legal representation in child sexual abuse cases, except for cases in which the legal services are provided to nonoffending parents and relate to family matters, including civil protection orders, custody, and divorce, and in which the other parent is represented by counsel.
9. Criminal defense of victims charged with crimes, except for representation in post-conviction relief proceedings with respect to the conviction of a victim relating to or arising from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
10. Support of law reform initiatives, including, but not limited to, impact litigation.
11. Direct victim assistance such as emergency housing and transportation not directly related to accessing supervised visitation or legal assistance services.

Applications that propose activities deemed to be substantially out-of-scope may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be eliminated from consideration.

### **Limited Use of Funds**

Grantees may use up to two percent of grant award funds to assess their work for internal improvement purposes only, such as by convening a listening session to identify service gaps in the community or surveying training participants about the quality of training content and delivery. Applicants considering such assessments must refer to the OVW research decision tree in the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) to ensure that the activity does not qualify as human subjects research. The Solicitation Companion Guide also provides additional information on federal requirements related to research, assessments, and surveys.

Grantees may not fund civil legal services and pro se victim assistance programs that exceed 50% of the total project costs and activities.

### **Activities Requiring Prior Approval**

Activities listed below will require prior approval in order to be supported by grant funds (see the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) for more information on relevant requirements).

1. Surveys, whether conducted as part of a program or needs assessment, or for any other purpose. Prior approval is necessary to determine whether the activity is within the scope of the award and meets the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act.
2. Renovations, including such minor things as painting, carpeting, or installing lighting. In addition to obtaining prior approval, recipients must follow all necessary steps to ensure that funded renovations are in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related laws, which may be time consuming and may include public notice and consultation.

## Federal Award Information

### Solicitation Categories

This solicitation does not include Solicitation Categories.

### Awards, Amounts and Durations

#### Period of Performance Start Date

10/1/23

### Availability of Funds

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law. There is no guarantee that funds will be available in the future. OVW may elect to make awards in a future fiscal year for applications submitted under this solicitation but not selected for FY 2023 funding, depending on the merits of the applications and the availability of funding.

### Type of Award

Awards will be made as grants.

### Award Period and Amounts

The 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. OVW anticipates that the award period will start on October 1, 2023.

This program will make awards in the range of \$600,000 - \$700,000. OVW estimates that it will make up to 20 awards for an estimated \$14,000,000.

Funding levels under this program for FY 2023 are:

1. Standard projects: up to \$600,000 for the entire 36 months.
2. Comprehensive projects: up to \$700,000 for the entire 36 months.

OVW has the discretion to make awards for greater or lesser amounts than requested and

to negotiate the scope of work and budget with applicants prior to making an award.

### **Types of Applications**

In FY 2023, OVW will accept applications for this program from the following:

**New:** Applicants that have never received funding under this program or whose previous funding under this program expired on or before February 16, 2022.

**Continuation:** Applicants that have an existing or recently closed (after February 16, 2022) award under this program. Continuation funding is not guaranteed.

**Note:** Current grantees with a substantial amount of unobligated funds remaining (50 percent or more of the previous award) as of March 31, 2023, without adequate justification may not be considered for funding or may receive a reduced award amount if selected for funding in FY 2023.

### **Mandatory Program Requirements**

Applicants that receive funding under this program will be required to engage in the following activities:

1. OVW-sponsored training and technical assistance (TTA).
2. Collection and reporting of performance indicators. Forms, instructions, training, and related tools for each OVW program are available on the [VAWA Measuring Effectiveness Initiative](#) webpage.
3. OVW may conduct a program assessment or evaluation necessitating grantee involvement. Therefore, recipients may be expected to dedicate some OVW-funded time and resources to participating in an assessment or evaluation.
4. A new grantee orientation unless exempted by OVW.

### **Eligibility Information**

#### **Eligible Applicants**

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12464(a), the following entities are eligible to apply for this program:

1. States, meaning any of the states and the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands (34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(37)).
2. Units of local government, meaning any city, county, township, town, borough, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a state (34 U.S.C. §12291(a) (47)). Pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 90.2(g), the following are not considered units of local government and are not eligible to apply as the lead applicant – police departments, pre-trial service agencies, district or city attorneys' offices, sheriffs' departments,

- probation and parole departments, and universities.
3. Courts (including juvenile courts), meaning any civil or criminal, tribal, and Alaska Native Village, federal, state, local or territorial court having jurisdiction to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, including immigration, family, juvenile, and dependency courts (34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(7)). This does not include prosecutors' offices.
  4. Indian tribal governments, meaning a tribe, band, pueblo, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation (as defined in, or established pursuant to, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq.)), that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians or the governing body of an Indian tribe (34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(43)).
  5. Nonprofit organizations, meaning an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code (34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(15)(B)(i)).
  6. Legal services providers, meaning entities that provide legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This does not include for-profit organizations.
  7. Victim service providers, meaning a nonprofit, nongovernmental or tribal organization or rape crisis center, including a state or tribal domestic violence and/or sexual assault coalition, that assists or advocates for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victims, including a domestic violence shelter, faith-based organization or other organization, with a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(50). Victim service providers must provide direct services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking as one of their primary purposes and have a demonstrated history of effective work in this field. Organizations that provide supervised visitation and safe exchange services to families with a history of domestic violence are considered victim service providers. Culturally specific organizations, Tribal organizations, and population specific organizations serving underserved communities that meet the definition of 'victim service provider' are eligible to apply.

#### Faith-Based and Community Organizations

Faith Based and community organizations, including culturally specific organizations, tribal organizations, and population specific organizations, that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this solicitation (see "Faith-Based Organizations" on the [OVW website](#) for more information).

#### 501(c)(3) Status

Any entity that is eligible for this program based on its status as a nonprofit organization must be an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code. See 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(15)(B)(i).

#### **Ineligible Entities and Disqualifying Factors**

Applications submitted by ineligible entities or that do not meet all program eligibility requirements may not be considered for funding. In addition, an application deemed deficient in one or more of the following categories may not be considered for funding: 1. activities that compromise victim safety, 2. out-of-scope activities, 3. unallowable costs, 4. pre-award risk assessment, 5. completeness of application contents, and 6. timeliness. Failure to comply fully with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements (see Application and Submission section for more information on these requirements) will result in removal from consideration. An applicant with past performance issues, long-standing open audits, or an open criminal investigation also may not be considered for funding.

**Note:** Any nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code is not eligible for a grant from this program. See 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(15)(B)(ii).

### **Cost Sharing or Matching**

This program has no matching or cost-sharing requirement.

### **Other Program Eligibility Requirements**

In addition to meeting the eligible entity requirements outlined above, applicants for this program must also meet the requirements below. All certification and other eligibility related documents must be current and developed in accordance with the FY 2023 solicitation.

Certifications must take the form of a letter, on letterhead, signed, and dated by the authorized representative. Failure to provide required certifications may disqualify an application from further consideration. At a minimum, an application missing the required certification letter will be required to submit a certification letter prior to receiving an award. The signed certification letter must be uploaded as a separate attachment in JustGrants. Sample certification letters can be found on the [OVW website](#).

#### Certification of Eligibility

Under 34 U.S.C. § 12464(d), **all applicants** for the Justice for Families Program must:

- Certify that the organizational policies of the applicant do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims being physically present in the same place, in cases where domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking is alleged.

#### **Applicants proposing projects under purpose area 1 (supervised visitation and/or safe exchange services) must also:**

- Demonstrate that adequate security measures, including adequate facilities, procedures, and personnel capable of preventing violence, and adequate standards are, or will be, in place (including the development of protocols or policies to ensure

that confidential information is not shared with courts, law enforcement agencies, or child welfare agencies unless necessary to ensure the safety of any child or adult using the services of a program funded by OVW).

**Applicants proposing projects under purpose area 4 (juvenile court resources) or 5 (court and court-based programs and services) must also:**

- Certify that victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking are not charged fees or any other costs related to the filing, petitioning, modifying, issuance, registration, enforcement, withdrawal, or dismissal of matters relating to the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

**Applicants proposing projects under purpose area 5 to support custody evaluation and/or guardian ad litem services must also:**

- Certify that any person providing custody evaluation or guardian ad litem services through a program funded under this program has completed or will complete training developed with input from and in collaboration with a tribal, state, territorial, or local domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victim service provider or coalition on the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault, including child sexual abuse, that includes training on how to review evidence of past abuse and the use of evidence-based theories to make recommendations on custody and visitation.

**Applicants proposing projects under purpose area 5(b) or 6 to provide civil legal assistance services must also certify the following (Note: Certification language has been updated due to VAWA 2022 Reauthorization):**

Delivery of Legal Assistance Certification

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12464(d) and 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b) (12), to be eligible for an award, any recipient or subrecipient providing legal assistance with funds awarded under this program must certify in writing that:

1. Any person providing legal assistance with funds through this program
  - (A) (i) is a licensed attorney or is working under the direct supervision of a licensed attorney; (ii) in immigration proceedings, is a Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative; (iii) in Veterans' Administration claims, is an accredited representative; or (iv) is a person who functions as an attorney or lay advocate in Tribal court; and
  - (B) (i) has demonstrated expertise in providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in the targeted population; or (ii)(I) is partnered with an entity or person that has demonstrated expertise described in clause (i); and
  - (II) has completed, or will complete, training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault and related legal issues, including training on evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide.
2. Any training program conducted in satisfaction of the requirement of paragraph (1) has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a tribal, state, territorial, local, or culturally specific domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victim service provider or coalition, as well as appropriate tribal, state, territorial, and local law enforcement officials.

3. Any person or organization providing legal assistance through this program has informed and will continue to inform state, local, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence, or sexual assault programs and coalitions, as well as appropriate state and local law enforcement officials of their work.
4. The grantee's organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or child sexual abuse is an issue.
5. Any person providing legal assistance through a program funded under the Justice for Families Program has completed or will complete training on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including child sexual abuse, and related legal issues.

### Required Partnerships

All applicants for the Justice for Families Program must include formal partnerships with both 1) a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault victim service provider (as defined in "Eligible Applicants" section) and 2) a court. 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.

If addressing priority area 1, "Advance racial equity," a culturally specific, community-based organization or tribal organization must be a formal partner delineated in the MOU (or LOC).

### Limit on Number of Applications

OVW will consider only one application per organization for the same service area. In addition, if an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, OVW will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted before the deadline.

## Application and Submission Information

### **Content of Application Submission**

#### **Address to Request Application Package**

The complete application package (this solicitation, including links to required forms) is available on Grants.gov and on the [OVW website](#). Applicants wishing to request a paper copy of these materials should contact 202-307-6026 or [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov).

#### **Pre-Application Information Session**

OVW will conduct a web-based pre-application information session. During this session, OVW staff will review this program's requirements, review the solicitation, and allow for a brief question and answer period. The session is tentatively scheduled for:

- January 4, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. ET

Participation in a pre-application information session is optional and not a requirement to be eligible to apply.

To register, contact the Justice for Families Program at [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov) or at 202-307-6026. Registration must be received at least two days prior to the start of the session. Participants are not registered until they receive a confirmation email. The webinar will be captioned in English and Spanish. Interested applicants needing additional language assistance should contact this program at [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov) or at 202-307-6026 as soon as possible, but no later than December 28, 2022.

### **Letter of Intent**

Applicants intending to apply for FY 2023 funding under this program are strongly encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent. The letter should state that the applicant is registered and current with SAM and with Grants.gov. The letter should be submitted to OVW at [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov) by January 12, 2023. This letter will not obligate the applicant to submit an application. See the OVW website for a sample Letter of Intent.

### **Formatting and Technical Requirements**

Applications must follow the requirements below for all documents attached to the application, unless otherwise noted. Points may be deducted for applications that do not adhere to the following requirements:

1. Double-spaced (charts may be single-spaced)
2. 8½ x 11 inch pages
3. One-inch margins
4. Type no smaller than 12 point, Times New Roman (TNR) or Arial font, except for footnotes, which may be in 10-point font
5. Page numbers
6. No more than 20 pages for the Proposal Narrative for standard projects and no more than 25 pages for comprehensive projects pages for the Proposal Narrative
7. Documents in the following formats: Microsoft Word (.doc), PDF files (.pdf), or Text Documents (.txt)
8. Headings and sub-headings that correspond to the sections identified in this section of the solicitation

### **Application Contents**

Applications must include the required documents and demonstrate that the program eligibility requirements have been met. For a complete checklist of the application contents, see the Application Checklist in the Other Information section of this solicitation.

OVW will not contact applicants for missing items on the list below. **Applicants that do not include all the following documents will be considered substantially incomplete and will not be considered for funding:**

1. Proposal Narrative
2. Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative
3. Signed Memorandum of Understanding or Letter(s) of Commitment (LOC) submitted in addition to or in lieu of MOU



## Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

### Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

Applicants must complete the SF-424 in Grants.gov. The SF-424 is generated when the applicant begins the submission process in Grants.gov. For Type of Applicant (box 9), do not select "Other". The amount of federal funding requested in the "Estimated Funding" section of this form (box 18a) must match the amount of federal funding requested in the budget of the application. This program does not require a match; therefore, the value for the Applicant line (box 18b) should be zero. The individual who is listed as "**Authorized Representative**" (box 21) must be an individual who has the authority to apply for and accept grant awards on behalf of the organization or jurisdiction.

**Intergovernmental Review (SF-424 Question 19):** This solicitation ("funding opportunity") is subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. Applicants must check the Office of Management and Budget's website for the names and addresses of state [Single Points of Contact](#) (SPOC) under Intergovernmental Review. If the applicant's state appears on the SPOC list, the applicant must contact the state SPOC to find out about, and comply with, the state's process under E.O. 12372. In completing the SF-424, such an applicant is to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 once the applicant has complied with its state E.O. 12372 process. An applicant whose state does not appear on the SPOC list should answer question 19 by selecting the following response: "Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the state for review."

### Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)

All applicants must complete and submit the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) form in Grants.gov. Applicants that expend any funds for lobbying activities must provide the information requested on the SF-LLL. **Applicants that do not expend any funds for lobbying activities should enter "N/A" in the required highlighted fields.**

### **Standard Applicant Information (JustGrants 424 and General Agency Information)**

This section in the JustGrants application is pre-populated with the SF-424 data submitted in Grants.gov. Applicants are required to review the Standard Applicant Information and make edits as needed, confirm the Authorized Representative, verify the legal name and address, and enter the ZIP code(s) for the areas affected by the project.

### **Proposal Abstract**

The Proposal Abstract must provide a short summary (no more than two pages double-spaced) of the proposed project, including names of applicant and partners, project title, purpose of the project (including goal and intended outcome), primary activities for which funds are requested, who will benefit (including geographic area to be served), products and deliverables, and how the applicant will measure progress in completing project goals and objectives. Applicants must not summarize past accomplishments in this section. The Proposal Abstract, which is to be entered into a text box in JustGrants, will not be scored

but is used throughout the review process.

Applicants are strongly encouraged, but not required, to use the following template for the abstract:

Through this [Choose one: new or continuation] Justice for Families project, [Applicant Legal Name], in partnership with [ list MOU Partners], will implement a [Choose one: standard or comprehensive] project addressing the following purpose areas: [list purpose areas being addressed including number and name of purpose area] for the [insert a brief description of the geographic area covered by the project]. [Optional: The project will address the following priority areas [Priority Area 1: Advance Racial Equity; Priority Area 2: Access to Justice; Priority Area 3: Underserved Communities].] Specific activities will include: 1) [list specific activities and products/deliverables that will be addressed for each purpose area listed].

### **Data Requested with Application**

All applicants must complete and submit, as an attachment, the Pre-Award Risk Assessment and the Summary Data Sheet in JustGrants. These documents are not scored.

### **Pre-Award Risk Assessment**

Each applicant must respond to each question. Do not submit responses from a prior fiscal year without updating them to be responsive to all questions listed in the questionnaire. This information will be used for a mandatory pre-award risk assessment. Failure to provide this information or to respond to questions from OVW regarding this information in a timely manner could result in the application being removed from consideration or a delay in access to funds. Provide complete responses that address all questions included for each numbered item.

1. Will all funds awarded under this program be maintained in a manner that they will be accounted for separately and distinctly from other sources of revenue/funding? Provide a brief description of the applicant's policies and procedures that ensure funds will be tracked appropriately.
2. Does the applicant have written accounting policies and procedures? How often are these policies and procedures updated? Provide a brief list of the topics covered in the applicant's policies and procedures. OVW may request a copy for review during the application/award process or as part of the grant monitoring process.
3. Is the applicant's financial management system able to track actual expenditures and outlays with budgeted amounts for each grant or subgrant? Provide a brief summary of the organization's process for tracking expenditures, including tracking budgeted versus actual amounts.
4. Does the applicant have procedures in place for minimizing the time between transfer

of funds from the United States Treasury and disbursement for project activities? Provide a short summary of the applicant's policy for requesting payments for grant awards.

5. Does the applicant have effective internal controls in place to ensure that federal funds are used solely for authorized purposes? Provide a brief description of the applicant's internal controls that will provide reasonable assurance that the award funds will be managed properly.
6. Does the applicant have a documented records retention policy? If so, briefly describe the policy and confirm that the policy complies with federal regulations. Information on Record Retention and Access can be found at 2 C.F.R. 200.334-200.338.
7. Does the applicant or any of its employees have any potential personal or organizational conflicts of interest related to the possible receipt of OVW award funds? Applicants are required to disclose in writing any potential conflicts of interest to their awarding agency. See 2 C.F.R. 200.112 and Chapter 3.20, Grant Fraud, Waste and Abuse, of the DOJ Financial Guide for additional information.
8. Is the individual primarily responsible for fiscal and administrative oversight of grant awards familiar with the applicable grants management rules, principles, and regulations including the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 C.F.R. Part 200)? Provide a short list of the individual's qualifications/experience. If the individual is not familiar with the applicable rules and regulations, the applicant must contact OVW's Grants Financial Management Division at OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov or 1-888-514-8556 immediately after the applicant is notified of its award to coordinate training.
9. Does the applicant have policies and procedures in place to manage subawards and monitor activities of subrecipients as necessary to ensure that subawards are used for authorized purposes, in compliance with laws, regulations, and terms and conditions of the award, and that established subaward performance goals are achieved (2 C.F.R. 200.331-200.333)? Provide a brief description of the organization's policies and procedures on subrecipient management and monitoring.
10. Does the applicant currently require employees to maintain time distribution records that accurately reflect the work performed on specific activities or cost objectives in order to support the distribution of employees' salaries among federal awards or other activities (2 C.F.R. 200.430)? Budget estimates do not qualify as support for charges to federal awards. Provide a brief description of the organization's established timekeeping policies and procedures.
11. Is the applicant designated as high risk by a federal agency outside of DOJ? (High risk includes any status under which a federal awarding agency provides additional oversight due to the applicant entity's past performance, or other programmatic or financial concerns with the applicant entity.) If so, provide the name(s) of the federal awarding agency, the date(s) the agency notified the applicant entity of the high risk designation, contact information for the high risk point of contact at the federal agency, and the reason for the high risk status, as set out by the federal agency.

#### **Summary Data Sheet**

The Summary Data Sheet must be uploaded as an attachment in JustGrants and should be

one to four pages in length and may be single or double spaced. The Summary Data Sheet does not count toward the 20-page limit for the Proposal Narrative. Several of the items below are required for every applicant for OVW funding and therefore may not be obviously relevant or specifically drafted for this program. Applicants should provide the most accurate answers. Responses to these items alone will not result in removal from consideration or determine eligibility for any funding priorities described in the solicitation for this program. Provide the following information:

1. Name, title, address, telephone number, and email address for the grant point of contact. This person must be an employee of the applicant.
2. Statement as to whether the applicant (the organization whose unique entity identifier/ DUNS number is being used for the application) will serve as a fiscal agent. A fiscal agent is an entity that does not participate in implementation of the project and passes **all** funds through to subrecipients, conducting only administrative activities. If this is the case, the applicant must include a statement acknowledging that, should an award be made, the applicant will be responsible for all applicable statutory, fiscal, and programmatic requirements, including those of 2 CFR Part 200, as well as all project deliverables. The applicant must also list all of the entities with which it will enter into subaward agreements to implement the project. **Note: The fiscal agent must be an eligible applicant for the program.**
3. Statement as to whether the applicant has expended \$750,000 or more in federal funds in the applicant's past fiscal year. If so, specify the end date of the applicant's fiscal year.
4. Statement as to whether the applicant is a nonprofit organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code. **Note: Any entity that is eligible for this program based on its status as a nonprofit organization must upload proof of 501(c)(3) status in the Additional Application Components section of JustGrants.**
5. Statement as to whether the applicant is a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.
6. Statement as to whether the applicant is a nonprofit organization that uses the Internal Revenue Service's three-step safe-harbor procedure to establish a rebuttable presumption that its executives' compensation is reasonable. For additional information about the safe-harbor procedure, see Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation in the Budget and Associated Documentation section of this solicitation. **Note: Applicants that use the safe-harbor procedure must upload the required Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation in the Budget/Financial Attachments section of JustGrants.**
7. Statement as to whether the applicant is a faith-based organization.

8. Statement as to whether the applicant is a culturally-specific organization (defined as a private nonprofit/tribal organization for which the primary purpose of the organization as a whole is to provide culturally specific services to American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts), Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, Blacks, or Hispanics).

9. Statement as to whether the applicant is a sexual assault victim service provider (defined as a victim service provider for which the primary purpose of the organization is to provide intervention and related assistance to victims of sexual assault without regard to their age).

10. Statement as to whether the application proposes to focus on a rural community or area (as defined by 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(32)).

11. Statement as to whether the applicant is a federally recognized tribe.

12. Statement as to whether the applicant is a tribal organization as defined by 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(45).

13. Statement as to whether the applicant is a partner/subrecipient on a current grant or pending application for this grant program. If a partner/subrecipient on a current award, provide the year of the award and the role of the applicant on the award. If a partner/subrecipient on another pending application, provide the name of the applicant organization.

14. Statement as to whether any proposed project partner(s)/subrecipient(s) on this application is also a recipient, or partner/subrecipient, on a current grant or another pending application for this grant program. If so, the applicant is required to provide the following information on the relevant project partner(s)/subrecipient(s):

- Partner/subrecipient name
- Year of award or pending application
- Role of partner/subrecipient

15. Statement as to whether the application proposes to address the following OVW Priority Area: Advance racial equity as an essential component of ending sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

16. Statement as to whether the application proposes to address the following OVW Priority Area: Increase access to justice for all survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, including through exploration of survivor-centered criminal justice system reform.

17. Statement as to whether the application proposes to address the following OVW Priority Area: Improve outreach, services, civil and criminal justice responses, prevention,

and support for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking from underserved communities, particularly LGBTQ and immigrant communities.

18. Identify the percentage of grant activities, should the application be funded, that will address each of the following issues (the total percentages should not exceed 100).

- Domestic Violence
- Dating Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Stalking
- Sex Trafficking
- Child Sexual Abuse

19. Statement as to whether the applicant will implement a Standard or Comprehensive project. The project type will determine which Statutory Purpose Area(s) the applicant should address.

Applicants proposing to implement a Standard project must propose to address either Purpose Area #1 and one additional purpose area or Purpose Area #5. Applicants may propose to address additional Purpose Area(s) if they are meeting the requirement for this project type.

Applicants proposing to implement a Comprehensive project must propose to address Purpose Area #1, Purpose Area #5, and Purpose Area #6. Applicants may propose to address additional Purpose Area(s) if they are meeting the requirement for this project type

20. State which purpose area(s) the application will address (see Purpose Areas section).

21. State the percent of civil legal assistance and pro se victim assistance activities and budget items supported by Purpose Area 5b and/or Purpose Area 6.

22. For eligibility purposes, all applicants must identify their applicant type. Identify the applicant type of the organization applying for funds (see Eligibility section).

23. All applicants must establish a formal partnership(s) with both 1) a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault victim service provider and 2) a court. See Required Partnerships in the Other Program Eligibility Requirements section of this solicitation.

Identify the required partner(s). Note: Applicant must list themselves if they qualify as one of the required partners.

A. Court

Identify name of partner

B. Victim Service Provider

Identify name of partner

C. If implementing priority area 1, identify the name of the culturally specific community based organization or tribal organization partner

## **Proposal Narrative**

The Proposal Narrative may not exceed 20 pages (standard project) or 25 pages (comprehensive project), double-spaced, and reviewers will not read beyond this page limit. The Proposal Narrative must include the three sections below. The total point value for the proposal narrative section is 65 **points**. Applicants must upload the Proposal Narrative as an attachment in JustGrants.

#### Purpose of the Proposal (10 **points**)

This section must:

1. Describe the communities in the service area, including, but not limited to, traditionally underserved populations, such as communities of color, individuals with disabilities, individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing, persons with limited English proficiency, older adults, and LGBTQ+ communities.
2. Describe the challenge(s) or need(s) faced by the community and how the proposal will meet the need. *If addressing priority area 1, "Advance racial equity," describe the challenges or needs of the identified culturally specific community and how the project will meet the need. If addressing priority area 3, "Underserved communities," describe the language needs in the community and how the proposal will meet the need.*
3. Identify the purpose area(s) the application is proposing to address.
4. Describe the gap in services and how the proposed project will complement and not duplicate existing services. *If addressing priority area 2, "Access to justice," describe the gaps related to child-related relief during the settlement process in civil protection orders.*
5. Describe any previous or current efforts (OVW-funded or not) to address the problem (s) the proposed project targets, and the effectiveness of those efforts

#### What Will Be Done (45 **points**)

The application must provide a clear link between the proposed activities and the need identified in the "Purpose of the Proposal" section above. The application must not include any of the activities listed as unallowable costs in the Funding Restrictions section of this solicitation.

This section must:

1. Describe the approach to addressing the challenge or need identified in the Purpose of the Proposal section above. *If addressing priority area 1, "Advance racial equity," describe the approach to addressing the specific needs of the culturally specific community identified. If addressing priority area 3, "Underserved communities," describe how the proposed project will address the language needs of the community.*
2. Explain how the applicant will measure its progress in achieving the proposal's goal (s)/vision. Identify targeted outcome(s) and describe any tool(s) the applicant will use to track those outcomes and report them to OVW. Tools may include OVW performance progress reports and logic model templates (both available at <https://www.vawamei.org/tools-resource/resources-available/>).
3. Describe the safety needs of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual

assault, and stalking, and the applicant's commitment to addressing those needs through the proposed project.

4. Describe project goals, objectives, activities, and products (if applicable), and provide a corresponding 36-month timeline. *If addressing priority area 2, "Access to justice," include a planning period of at least 12 months for activities related to the priority area.*
5. Describe how the proposed project will address the unique needs of the traditionally underserved populations identified in the Purpose of the Proposal section above.
6. Describe how the proposed project will be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities, individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing, and persons with limited English proficiency.
7. Describe how survivors and individuals with applicable lived experiences related to the project (such as involvement in the justice system, homelessness, or substance use) have been consulted to inform or otherwise contributed to the development of the proposed project and/or will be consulted as the project is implemented.

***For applicants proposing projects under purpose area 1 – supervised visitation and/or safe exchange services:***

1. Using concrete examples, describe the extent to which the applicant's or a project partner's supervised visitation and/or safe exchange services align—or will be aligned—with the [OVW's Supervised Visitation Guiding Principles](#).
2. Describe the applicant's or a partner's previous experience providing supervised visitation and exchange services to families affected by domestic violence, dating violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. If the applicant or partner has no prior experience providing supervised visitation and exchange services to families affected by domestic violence, dating violence, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, or stalking, describe the steps that have or will be taken to gain knowledge and understanding in order to be able to provide these services.
3. Provide a detailed statement of how the applicant will ensure that adequate security measures, including adequate facilities, procedures, and personnel capable of preventing violence, and adequate standards are, or will be, in place. Describe the layout and security features of the facility and where in the community the facility is located. Describe how the applicant will develop protocols or policies to ensure that confidential information is not shared with courts, law enforcement agencies, or child welfare agencies unless necessary to ensure the safety of any child or adult using the services of a program funded by OVW.

***For applicants proposing projects under purpose area 4 and/or 5 – court programs and services:***

1. Describe any specialized docket or court infrastructure that is currently in place or will be established as part of this project to improve the handling of cases involving domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. If no specialized docket or court infrastructure exist nor will be established through this proposal, describe how the court handles cases involving domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking.
2. Describe how the project will improve the judicial handling of domestic violence, dating



violence, sexual assault, stalking, and/or cases involving child sexual abuse; ensure offender accountability; and promote informed judicial decision-making.

3. If applicable, describe how the project will utilize technology, and explain how the project will address any victim safety concerns that could arise from the use of technology, such as confidentiality, safety planning, and informed consent.
4. *If addressing priority area 2, "Access to Justice," describe how victim safety will be addressed in developing a voluntary, safe settlement process for child-related relief in civil protection orders.*

***For applicants proposing projects under purpose area 6 – civil legal assistance:***

1. Describe the extent to which the applicant will provide legal services to victims of domestic violence; and/or to nonoffending parents in matters that involve allegations of child sexual abuse and relate to family matters, including civil protection orders, custody, and divorce, and in which the other parent is represented by counsel.
2. Describe how the proposed activities will protect victim confidentiality.
3. Describe how the applicant or project partner will provide a supervision and mentoring plan for attorney staff supported by this project (attorneys with less than five years of experience must be supervised by an attorney).
4. If the applicant is not a domestic violence or sexual assault victim service provider, explain how it will coordinate with a local domestic violence or sexual assault victim service provider when providing legal services to victims.

***For applicants proposing projects under purpose area 3 or 8 – training:***

1. Describe any training program or curriculum that is currently in place or will be established as part of this project.
2. Identify the agencies that will be trained, the estimated number of trainings and attendees for each training, and the purpose of the trainings.
3. Describe how the project will improve training and education for court-based and court-related personnel on the dynamics of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and/or improve training and education for those within the civil justice system.
4. Provide a detailed statement of how the applicant will reach the intended audience for training and education, including efforts MOU partners will engage in to encourage identified participants to attend the trainings.

**Who Will Implement the Proposal (10 points)**

This section must:

1. Identify the key individuals and organizations, including project partners (required court and domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider), involved in the proposed project.
2. Demonstrate that the individuals and organizations identified have the capacity to address the stated need and can successfully implement the proposed project activities; attach job descriptions of all key personnel.

3. Describe the applicant's and/or project partner's expertise in the areas of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child sexual abuse.
4. *If addressing priority area 1, "Advance Racial Equity," describe the applicant's and/or partner(s)' expertise in addressing the activities proposed for the identified culturally specific population(s).*
5. *If addressing priority 1, "Advance racial equity," provide the mission statement for the culturally specific, community-based organization or tribal organization.*
6. *If addressing priority area 3, "Underserved communities," describe the applicant's and/or partner(s)' expertise in addressing the language needs identified in the community.*

### **Budget and Associated Documentation**

Applicants must submit a detailed budget and budget narrative and must upload the applicable associated documentation as described below under each heading. OVW strongly encourages the use of a spreadsheet (e.g., excel, numbers, etc.) for the budget attachments. The budget worksheet and budget narrative are worth a total of **15** points and will be reviewed separately from the proposal narrative. The associated documentation will not be scored, but failure to include it may result in removal from consideration or a delay in access to funding.

### **Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative (attachment)**

Attach in JustGrants a detailed budget and budget narrative for all applicable cost categories. The budget narrative must describe each line item requested in the budget and explain all costs included in the budget, including how the costs of goods and services are determined and how they will fulfill the objectives of the project. See the sample budget and the Creating a Budget webinar available on the [OVW website](#). Keep in mind that budgetary requirements vary among programs. Applicants must submit reasonable budgets based on the resources needed to implement their projects in their specific geographic location.

### Award Period and Amount

Budgets should cover a project period of 36 months starting October 1, 2023 and ending on September 30, 2026. Budget requests should not exceed \$600,000 for standard projects and \$700,000 for comprehensive projects.

The budget must:

1. Display a clear link between the specific project activities and the proposed budget items. The budget should not contain items that are not supported by the proposal narrative.
2. Compensate all project partners for their full level of effort, unless otherwise stated in the MOU/LOC. For more information on compensating project partners, see the sample Budget Detail Worksheet on the [OVW website](#).
3. Include sufficient funds to fully provide language access or describe other resources available to the applicant to ensure meaningful access for persons who are limited in their English proficiency because of their national origin. See Accessibility under the

Federal Award Administration Information section of this solicitation for more information. *If addressing priority area 3, "Underserved communities," provide funds to address the language needs identified in the project narrative.*

4. Include sufficient funds to fully provide access for individuals with disabilities or who are Deaf/hard of hearing or describe other resources available to ensure meaningful access for such individuals. See Accessibility under the Federal Award Administration Information section of this solicitation for more information.
5. Compensate survivors and individuals with applicable lived experiences related to the project (such as involvement in the justice system, homelessness, or substance use) who participate as consultants, in an advisory capacity, in focus groups, or in other work activities.
6. Include funds to attend OVW-sponsored TTA in the amount of \$15,000 for standard projects and \$20,000 for comprehensive projects for applicants located in the 48 contiguous states and \$20,000 for standard projects and \$25,000 for comprehensive projects for applicants located in the territories, Hawaii, and Alaska. This amount is for the entire 36 months and NOT per year. Applicants also may budget expenses in excess of the required amount if they are aware of relevant non-OVW sponsored conferences or training for which they would like permission to use grant funds to support staff/project partner attendance.
7. If addressing priority area 2, "Access to justice," include at least a 12-month planning period for activities related to a voluntary, safe settlement process for child-related relief in civil protection orders.
8. Applicants that propose to fund civil legal services and pro se victim assistance programs must not submit proposed budgets where those costs exceed 50% of the total project costs and activities.
9. Distinguish clearly between subawards and contracts in allocating any grant funds to other entities. Pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.331, a subaward is for the purpose of carrying out a portion of the federal award, such as compensating an MOU partner, and a contract is for the purpose of obtaining goods and services for the grantee's own use. The substance of the relationship is more important than the form of the agreement in determining whether the recipient of the pass-through funds is a subrecipient or a contractor. The awarding and monitoring of contracts must follow the recipient's documented procurement procedures, including full and open competition, pursuant to the procurement standards and monitoring requirements in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.327 & 200.329. The issuance and monitoring of subawards must meet the requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.332, which includes oversight of subrecipient/partner spending and monitoring performance measures and outcomes attributable to grant funds. For more information, see the sample Budget Detail Worksheet and the Solicitation Companion Guide on the [OVW website](#).

OVW awards are governed by the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and the [DOJ Financial Guide](#), which include information on allowable costs, methods of payment, audit requirements, accounting systems, and financial records. For additional information on allowable and unallowable costs, see the Funding Restrictions section below and the sample budget on the [OVW website](#).

### **Funding Restrictions**

The following information is provided to allow applicants to develop an application and budget consistent with program requirements.

#### Unallowable Costs

The costs associated with the activities listed below are unallowable and must not be included in applicants' budgets.

1. Lobbying except with explicit statutory authorization.
2. Fundraising.
3. Purchase of real property.
4. Physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations (such as painting or carpeting) without prior approval by OVW.
5. Construction.

#### Food and Beverage/Costs for Refreshments and Meals

Food and beverages are generally considered personal expenses for which government funds should not be used. Exceptions may be made for working meals that are necessary to accomplish official business and enhance the cost effectiveness of the conference.

Recipients must receive prior approval before using grant funds to provide a working meal and/or refreshments at a meeting, conference, training, or other event. Examples of when OVW might grant such approval include, but are not limited to:

1. The location of the event is not in close proximity to food establishments, despite efforts to secure a location near reasonably priced and accessible commercial food establishments.
2. Not serving food will significantly lengthen the day or necessitate extending the meeting to achieve meeting outcomes.
3. A special presentation at a conference requires a plenary address where there is no other time for food to be obtained.
4. Other extenuating circumstances necessitate the provision of food.

Justification for an exception listed above must be included in the applicant's budget narrative. For additional information on restrictions on food and beverage expenditures, see [OVW conference cost planning](#).

#### Conference Planning and Expenditure Limitations

Applicants' budgets must be consistent with all requirements (including specific cost limits and prior approval and reporting requirements, where applicable) governing the use of federal funds for expenses related to conferences (which is defined to include meetings, retreats, seminars, symposiums, training, and other similar events), and costs of attendance at such events. Information on conference planning, minimization of costs, and conference reporting is available at [OVW conference cost planning](#).

#### **Pre-Award Costs**

OVW generally does not allow pre-award costs. Costs incurred prior to the start date of the award may not be charged to the project unless the recipient receives prior approval from

OVW. See the [DOJ Financial Guide](#) for more information on pre-award costs.

### **Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)**

Applicants that intend to charge indirect costs through the use of a negotiated indirect cost rate must have a current, signed, federally approved indirect cost rate agreement and must upload and attach a copy of the agreement to their application in JustGrants. Applicants (other than state, local, and tribal governments that receive more than \$35 million in direct federal funding per year) that do not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs, which may be used indefinitely.

Organizations that wish to negotiate an indirect cost rate should contact OVW's Grants Financial Management Division at [OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov) or 1-888-514-8556 for more information.

### **Applicant Financial Capability Questionnaire (if applicable)**

Applicant Financial Capability Questionnaire (if applicable)

All nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations that apply for funding from OVW and have not previously (or within the last three years) received funding from OVW must complete an Applicant Financial Capability Questionnaire and attach it to their application in JustGrants. In addition, applicants may be required to submit their current year's audit report at a later time.

### **Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation**

An applicant that is a nonprofit organization may be required to make certain disclosures relating to the processes it uses to determine the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees and must upload and attach a document with these disclosures to its application in JustGrants.

Under certain circumstances, a nonprofit organization that provides unreasonably high compensation to certain persons may subject both the organization's managers and those who receive the compensation to additional federal taxes. A rebuttable presumption of the reasonableness of a nonprofit organization's compensation arrangements, however, may be available if the nonprofit organization satisfies certain rules set out in Internal Revenue Service regulations with regard to its compensation decisions.

Each applicant must state at the time of its application (in the Data Requested with Application section) whether the applicant is a nonprofit organization that uses the Internal Revenue Service's three-step safe-harbor procedure to establish a rebuttable presumption that its executives' compensation is reasonable. If the applicant states that it uses the safe-harbor procedure, then it must disclose, in an attachment to its application (to be titled "Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation"), the process it uses to determine the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees (together, "covered persons"). See 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(15)(B)(iii).

At a minimum, the disclosure must describe in pertinent detail: (1) the composition of the body that reviews and approves compensation arrangements for covered persons; (2) the methods and practices used by the applicant nonprofit organization to ensure that no individual with a conflict of interest participates as a member of the body that reviews and approves a compensation arrangement for a covered person; (3) the appropriate data as to comparability of compensation that is obtained in advance and relied upon by the body that reviews and approves compensation arrangements for covered persons; and (4) the written or electronic records that the applicant maintains as concurrent documentation of the decisions with respect to compensation of covered persons made by the body that reviews and approves such compensation arrangements, including records of deliberations and of the basis for decisions. For a sample letter, see the OVW website.

For purposes of the required disclosure, the following terms and phrases have the meanings set out by the Internal Revenue Service for use in connection with 26 C.F.R. § 53.4958-6: officers, directors, trustees, key employees, compensation, conflict of interest, appropriate data as to comparability, adequate documentation, and concurrent documentation.

Following receipt of an appropriate request, OVW may be authorized or required by law to make information submitted to satisfy this requirement available for public inspection. Also, a recipient may be required to make a prompt supplemental disclosure after the award in certain circumstances (e.g., changes in the way the organization determines compensation).

### **Supporting Documents**

For purposes of this solicitation, the MOU is a document containing the terms of the partnership and the allocation of roles and responsibilities among two or more parties, and it must be included as an attachment to the application in JustGrants. The MOU and/or Letter of Commitment (LOC) documents are worth a total of **20** points. The MOU is not a substitute for a subaward agreement, which ensures that subrecipients adhere to the requirements of the award and 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (see 2 C.F.R. § 200.332). Partners receiving funds under the award generally are considered subrecipients because they are carrying out a portion of the federal award.

The MOU must be a single document and must be signed and dated by the Authorized Representative of each proposed partner organization during the development of the application. OVW will accept electronic signatures. MOUs missing signatures may result in a point deduction or removal from consideration, particularly if the MOU is missing the signature of a required partner. If necessary, an MOU can include multiple signature pages so long as each page includes the names and titles of all signatories to the MOU. A sample MOU is available on the [OVW website](#).

Applicants must have formal partnerships, delineated in the MOU (or LOC) with both 1) a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service

provider and 2) a court (as outlined in the "Required Partnerships" section under Eligibility Information).

If addressing priority area 1, "Advance racial equity," a culturally specific, community-based organization or tribal organization must be a formal partner delineated in the MOU (or LOC).

The MOU must clearly:

1. Identify the partners and provide a brief history of the collaborative relationship among those partners, including when and under what circumstances the relationship began and when each partner entered into the relationship.
2. Describe the roles and responsibilities each partner will assume to ensure the success of the proposed project.
3. Demonstrate how the proposed partnership can address the needs of the traditionally underserved population(s) identified in the Purpose of the Proposal section. *If addressing priority area 3, "Underserved communities," demonstrate how the proposed partnership can address the language needs identified in the Purpose of the Proposal section.*
4. State that each project partner has reviewed the budget, is aware of the total amount being requested, and is being equitably compensated for their work under the grant or is agreeing to be partially compensated or receive no compensation from the grant.
5. Demonstrate meaningful collaboration with a state, tribal, or local court system and a nonprofit, nongovernmental or tribal domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider.
6. Demonstrate a meaningful partnership among all signing parties.
7. Specify the extent of each partner's participation in developing the application.
8. Identify the individuals who will be responsible for developing and implementing project activities and describe how they will work together.
9. Describe the resources each partner would contribute to the project, either through time, in-kind contributions, or grant funds (e.g., office space, project staff, and training).
10. Demonstrate that the project has commitments from entities that will receive training if the applicant proposes training under purpose area 3 or 8 (training for court-based, court-related personnel or those within the civil justice system).

If a court is unable to sign an MOU, the court may submit a letter of commitment (LOC) in lieu of signing the MOU as described below:

- If the court is the lead applicant and unable to sign an MOU, all project partners should submit LOCs 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 an LOC.
- 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 an LOC but the lead applicant is not required to submit an MOU or LOC.

The LOC must clearly:

1. Identify the name of the organization and provide a brief description of the collaborative relationship with the applicant.
2. Highlight the expertise of the individual or organization's staff who will be affiliated with this project.
3. State the roles and responsibilities the organization would assume to ensure the success of the proposed project.
4. Demonstrate how the proposed partnership can address the needs of the traditionally underserved population(s) identified in the Purpose of the Proposal section. *If addressing priority area 3, "Underserved communities," demonstrate how the proposed partnership can address the language needs identified in the Purpose of the Proposal section.*
5. Demonstrate a commitment to work with the applicant and its partners to achieve the stated project goals.
6. State that the organization has reviewed the budget, is aware of the total amount being requested, and is being fully compensated for its work under the grant or is agreeing to be partially compensated or receive no compensation from the grant (not applicable to courts submitting LOC as lead applicant).
7. Specify the extent of the organization's participation in developing the application.
8. Describe the resources that would be contributed to the project, either through time, in-kind contributions, or grant funds (e.g., office space, project staff, and training).
9. Describe the collaboration, activities, and/or resources the partner(s) will contribute to addressing the identified traditionally underserved population(s).
10. Demonstrate that the project has commitments from entities that will receive training if the applicant proposes training under purpose area 3 or 8 (training for court-based, court-related personnel or those within the civil justice system).

Note: LOCs submitted in lieu of an MOU under circumstances other than those defined above will not be accepted.

### **Additional Application Components**

The following components will not be scored but must be included with the application. Failure to supply this information may result in the application being removed from consideration. Some components will be generated during the application submission process while others will be uploaded and attached to the application in JustGrants.

### **Letters of Support**



### **Letters of Nonsupplanting**

Applicants must attach a letter to OVW's Director, signed by the Authorized Representative, certifying that federal funds will not be used to supplant non-federal funds should a grant award be made. A sample letter is available on the [OVW website](#).

### **Proof of 501(c)(3) Status (Nonprofit Organizations Only)**

As noted under Eligible Applicants, an entity that is eligible for this program based on its status as a nonprofit organization must be an organization that is described in section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501 (a) of the Code. All such applicants are required to attach a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service recognizing their tax-exempt status. OVW cannot make an award to any nonprofit organization that does not submit a 501(c)(3) determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service.

### **Confidentiality Notice Form**

All applicants are required to acknowledge that they have received notice that grantees and subgrantees must comply with the confidentiality and privacy requirements of VAWA, as amended. Applicants must upload and attach, under Additional Attachments in JustGrants, the completed acknowledgement form available on the [OVW website](#). This form must be signed by the Authorized Representative.

### **Disclosure and Assurances**

Review, complete, and submit all disclosures, assurances, and certifications as described below.

### **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

All applicants must complete and submit the *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities* (SF-LLL) form in Grants.gov before beginning the application process in JustGrants.

### **Summary of Other Federal Funding**

Applicants must disclose all current and recent OVW awards (if applicable). If the applicant has a current grant or cooperative agreement under any OVW grant program or an award that closed within the 12 months before the date this solicitation closes, the information must be provided in a table using the sample format found on the [OVW website](#). The applicant must also provide the same information regarding any current OVW awards, as well as any pending applications, on which the applicant is a subrecipient.

Applicants also must disclose all other federal grant programs from which the applicant currently receives funding or for which it has applied for funding in FY 2023 to do similar work. Provide this information in a table using the sample format found on the [OVW website](#). Both tables, if applicable, should be uploaded as attachments in JustGrants.

### **DOJ Certified Standard Assurances**

Applicants must read and acknowledge the DOJ Certified Standard Assurances in JustGrants.

### **DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements**

Applicants must read and acknowledge these DOJ certifications in JustGrants.

### **Prior to Application Submission**

#### **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)**

Entities applying for the first time for federal funding must complete a multi-step registration process. Applicants must register with the systems listed below to successfully submit an application.

1. SAM. Registration with SAM includes receiving a UEI. (**Average registration completion time – 2-3 weeks**)
2. Grants.gov (**Average registration completion time – 1 week**)
3. JustGrants. Registration with SAM and Grants.gov must be completed before an applicant can register with JustGrants. (**Average registration completion time – 3 days**)

**Note:** registration time frames are estimates. Applicants experiencing registration challenges (including lengthy registration wait times) should refer to the “OVW Policy for Applicants Experiencing Technical Difficulties During the Registration and Submission Processes section of this solicitation for guidance on how to proceed.”

Please see the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) for additional details regarding SAM, Grants.gov, and JustGrants registration.

Entities that have previously applied for funding from DOJ must ensure their accounts with SAM, Grants.gov, and JustGrants are active and up to date.

**It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they are properly registered with SAM, Grants.gov, and JustGrants. OVW strongly encourages all applicants to begin the registration process, or ensure that all accounts are active and up to date, by January 23, 2023. Failure to do so may result in the application being removed from consideration for funding.**

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties with SAM should go to [https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd\\_sp](https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp).

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties with Grants.gov should contact [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties with JustGrants should contact [OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov).

Additionally, applicants experiencing technical difficulties with any of the systems listed above during the registration, account update, or application submission processes should refer to the OVW Policy for Applicants Experiencing Technical Difficulties During the Registration and Submission Processes section of this solicitation for guidance on how to proceed.

### How to Apply

#### Submission Dates and Times

All applications must be submitted electronically first in Grants.gov (SF-424 and SF-LLL) and then in JustGrants. **Applicants must make every effort to submit their application in Grants.gov and JustGrants. Note: the Grants.Gov deadline is 3 days before the JustGrants application deadline.** If an applicant must submit their application via email due to a technical difficulty, they must do so by the JustGrants application deadline, but **no earlier than 4 hours prior to the JustGrants application deadline.** Applicants experiencing technical difficulties during the application submission process should refer to the OVW Policy for Applicants Experiencing Technical Difficulties During the Registration and Submission Processes section of this solicitation for guidance on how to proceed.

**OVW strongly encourages all applicants to begin the application submission process at least 48 hours prior to the Grants.gov application deadline. Failure to do so may result in missing the deadline and therefore not being considered for funding.**

**OVW will not accept applications after the JustGrants deadline, except for severe inclement weather or natural or man-made disaster. See the OVW Policy on Late Submission Request Due to Severe Inclement Weather or Natural or Man-Made Disaster section of this solicitation.**

#### Submission Information and Other Submission Requirements

Applications will be submitted to OVW in two steps:

**Step 1:** The applicant must submit by the Grants.gov deadline the required Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF-424) and the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form (SF-LLL) in Grants.gov - <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html>.

**Step 2:** The applicant must then submit the full application, including attachments, in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://www.justgrants.usdoj.gov). To be considered timely, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline. OVW encourages applicants to review the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) and the JustGrants website for more information, resources, and training.

**Tip:** JustGrants functions better using a PC with Chrome or Edge web browser.

OVW Policy for Applicants Experiencing Technical Difficulties During the Registration and Submission Processes

Technical difficulties are issues that are beyond the applicant's control (e.g., JustGrants login issue, issue with the web-based budget). OVW can confirm when each registration and/or submission action began.

*Technical difficulties with SAM or Grants.gov*

1. Contact SAM or Grants.gov support as soon as the applicant is aware of a problem.
2. Maintain documentation of when the issue began and all communication with technical support.
3. Notify this program, via email at [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov), stating the applicant is experiencing technical difficulties with SAM or Grants.gov. The applicant should provide regular updates to this program via email at [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov)
4. If the technical difficulty cannot be resolved before the Grants.gov deadline, the applicant must notify this program via email at [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov) before the Grants.gov deadline.
5. Once the Grants.gov deadline passes an applicant will not be able to apply in JustGrants. Therefore, the applicant must email the complete application packet (Proposal Narrative, Budget and Budget Narrative, MOU/LOC) and all documentation supporting the technical difficulty to this program at [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov) by **9:00 p.m. E.T. on February 16, 2023**.

*Technical difficulties while applying in JustGrants*

1. Contact the OVW JustGrants Help Desk at [OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov) prior to the JustGrants deadline.
2. Maintain documentation of all communication with the OVW JustGrants Help Desk.
3. Actively work with the OVW JustGrants Help Desk to attempt to resolve the technical difficulty.
4. Contact this program, via email at [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov), prior to the JustGrants deadline (**9:00 p.m. E.T. on February 16, 2023**), indicating the applicant is experiencing technical difficulties with JustGrants and would like permission to submit an application via email. The email must include the following:
  - A detailed description of the technical difficulty the applicant is experiencing.
  - The contact information (name, telephone, and email) for the individual making the request.
  - The applicant's UEI number.
  - JustGrants application numbers and User Support tracking numbers.
  - The complete application packet (Proposal Narrative, Budget and Budget Narrative, MOU/LOC).

It is not guaranteed that applications submitted via email will be considered for funding,

even if the email is received before the JustGrants application deadline. OVW will decide and notify applicants of the decision within 30 days of the JustGrants application deadline. Applicants may be asked to coordinate with OVW to submit their application in Grants.gov and JustGrants later.

#### OVW Policy on Late Submission Request Due to Severe Inclement Weather or Natural or Man-Made Disaster

OVW will only accept applications after **9:00 pm ET on February 16, 2023** in cases of severe inclement weather or natural or man-made disaster. The information below provides the process applicants must follow in such a circumstance.

1. Contact this program at [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov) as soon as the applicant is aware of severe weather or a natural or man-made disaster that may impede the submission of an application by the deadline. The email should include a detailed description of the weather event or natural or man-made disaster. A detailed description includes when the event occurred, or is likely to occur, the impacted area, and the specific impact on the applicant and/or partners' ability to submit the application by the deadline (e.g., without power for "x" days, office closed for "x" days). If the application is complete and ready for submission at the time the applicant notifies OVW, the application should be included with the email.
2. Applicants impacted by severe weather or a natural or man-made disaster occurring on or around the deadline must contact OVW within 48 hours after the deadline or as soon as communications are restored.

**Note: OVW may not be able to accommodate all requests resulting from severe inclement weather or a natural or man-made disaster.**

OVW will review the request for late submission and required documents and notify the applicant whether the request has been approved or denied within 30 days of the submitted request.

### Application Review Information

#### **Review Criteria**

Applications will be scored based on the degree to which the application responds to each section and addresses each element in the section. Furthermore, applications will be scored based upon the quality of the response, capacity of the applicant and any partners, and the level of detail provided. Each element **must** be addressed in the section in which it is requested. Points may be deducted if the applicant does not include the information in the appropriate section regardless if it is included elsewhere within the application. Each section will be reviewed as a separate document and will be scored as such. Specifically, for the Justice for Families Program, scoring will be as follows:

1. Proposal narrative: 65 points, of which:

- A. Purpose of the proposal: 10 points.
  - B. What will be done: 45 points.
  - C. Who will implement the proposal: 10 points.
2. Budget worksheet and budget narrative: 15 points.
  3. MOU/LOC: 20 points.

Voluntary match or other cost sharing methods will not be considered in the evaluation of the application.

### **Review and Selection Process**

Applications will be subject to a peer review and a programmatic review.

#### Peer Review

OVW will subject all eligible, complete, and timely applications to a peer review process that is based on the criteria outlined in this solicitation. OVW may use internal reviewers, [external reviewers](#), or a combination of both.

OVW Peer reviewers may include victim advocates, judges, prosecutors, police officers, legal professionals, and others with expertise on issues such as, tribal communities, colleges and universities, rural areas, urban areas, disabled and elderly populations, and service provisions to victims, including those provided by the faith community, as they relate to violence against women. While some peer reviewers are expert consultants on violence against women issues, the vast majority of peer reviewers are active practitioners or recent retirees from the professions mentioned above. Because it is our goal to have applications reviewed by individuals with up-to-date, and on-the-ground knowledge of violence against women issues, OVW does not use professional peer reviewers.

#### Programmatic Review

All applications that are considered for funding will be subject to a programmatic review. The programmatic review consists of assessing the application for compliance with the program's scope, activities that compromise victim safety, and, if applicable, past performance and priority area review. OVW reserves the right to deduct points from applications for the following reasons:

1. Activities that compromise victim safety and recovery and undermine offender accountability (deduct up to 10 points).
2. Out-of-scope and unallowable activities (deduct up to 10 points).
3. Past performance (deduct up to 25 points).
4. Formatting and Technical Requirements (deduct up to 5 points).
5. Activities and budget items targeted toward civil legal services exceeding the 50% limitation described under Purpose Area 6 (deduct up to 10 points).

An application that is deemed to be substantially out-of-scope, proposes a substantial number of activities that are unallowable, or proposes activities that pose a significant threat to victim safety or a serious breach of confidentiality will not be considered for funding. **An applicant with considerable past performance issues may receive a deduction in**

**points as listed above or be removed from consideration entirely regardless of the application's peer review score.**

#### *Past Performance Review*

As a part of the programmatic review process described above, applicants with current or recently closed OVW awards will be reviewed for past performance and risk based on the elements listed below.

1. Adherence to the grant program's statutory purposes and requirements.
2. Implementation of the project according to plan, without significant obstacles and/or challenges.
3. Implementation of the project within the original period of performance.
4. Drawdown of funds commensurate with the level of program activities completed.
5. Management of award such that applicant has had uninterrupted access to funds.
6. Attendance at/participation in all required OVW-sponsored training and technical assistance events.
7. Timely resolution of issues identified during programmatic monitoring.
8. Completion of close-out of prior awards within 120 days of the project end date.
9. Timely resolution of issues necessary to close out prior awards.
10. Timely resolution of issues identified during financial monitoring.
11. Timely response to OVW requests.
12. Development of deliverables that support the project goals and objectives and are of acceptable quality.
13. Implementation of the project as designed without unjustified modification.
14. Timely submission of federal financial reports (FFR).
15. Timely submission of performance reports.
16. Submission of complete and accurate performance reports.
17. Adherence to the terms and conditions of existing grant award(s) from OVW.

Prior to making an award, OVW is required to review and consider any information about applicants included in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently the Federal Award Performance and Integrity Information System or FAPIIS until on or around December 12, 2022). Applicants may review and comment on information in FAPIIS about themselves that another federal awarding agency has previously entered. OVW will consider the applicant's comments as well as other information available in FAPIIS in making its judgment about the risk posed by making an award to the applicant as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.206.

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the OVW Director, who also may give consideration to factors including, but not limited to, reaching underserved populations, geographic diversity, OVW priorities, past performance, and available funding when making awards. All award decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

#### High-Risk Grantees

Based on DOJ's assessment of each grantee with regard to current or previous funding, unresolved audit issues, delinquent programmatic and fiscal reporting, and prior

performance, a grantee may be designated “high-risk.” Awards to high-risk grantees may carry special conditions such as increased monitoring and/or prohibitions on drawing down funds until certain requirements are met. High-risk grantees with substantial or persistent performance or compliance issues, long-standing open audits, or open criminal investigations may not be considered for funding.

### **Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates**

It is anticipated that all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by October 1, 2023.

### **Federal Award Administration Information**

#### **Federal Award Notices**

Successful applicants will receive OVW award notifications electronically from JustGrants (not Grants.gov). Recipients will be required to log into JustGrants to review and accept the award. The Authorized Representative must acknowledge having read and understood all sections of the award instrument and submit the required declaration and certification to accept the award; these steps will be completed electronically in JustGrants.

#### **Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements**

##### Information for All Federal Award Recipients

Applicants selected for awards must agree to comply with additional legal, administrative, and national policy requirements. OVW strongly encourages applicants to review the information pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting an application. This information can be found in the section of the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) entitled “Post-Award Requirements for All Federal Award Recipients.”

Terms and conditions for OVW awards are available on the [OVW website](#). These terms are subject to change prior to the issuance of the awards.

##### Violence Against Women Act Non-Discrimination Provision

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act prohibits OVW grantees from excluding, denying benefits to, or discriminating against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability in any program or activity funded in whole or in part by OVW. Recipients may provide sex-segregated or sex-specific programming if doing so is necessary for the essential operation of a program, so long as the recipient provides comparable services to those who cannot be provided with the sex-segregated or sex-specific programming. Additional information on the civil rights obligations of OVW funding recipients can be found in the Solicitation Companion Guide under “Civil Rights Compliance.”

##### Accessibility

Recipients of OVW funds must comply with applicable federal civil rights laws, which, among other things, prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and national origin. Compliance with these laws includes taking reasonable steps to ensure that persons who



are limited in their English proficiency because of their national origin have meaningful access to recipients' programs and activities. Recipients are also responsible for ensuring that their programs and activities are readily accessible to individuals with disabilities, including those with physical or cognitive disabilities, as well as individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing. OVW encourages applicants to go beyond minimum compliance with these requirements and allot sufficient resources to ensure programs and activities are fully accessible. More information on these obligations is available in the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) under "Civil Rights Compliance."

### **General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements**

OVW grantees are required to submit semi-annual performance reports and quarterly Federal Financial Reports (SF-425). Appropriate performance report forms will be provided to all applicants selected for an award. Forms will be submitted electronically. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent. For more information on post award reporting requirements, including requirements for certain recipients to report information on civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings in FAPIIS, see the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#) and the award condition on recipient integrity and performance matters available on the [OVW website](#).

### **Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact the following:

- Programmatic questions, contact this program at 202-307-6026 or [OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JFF@usdoj.gov)
- Financial questions, contact 888-514-8556 or [ovw.gfmd@usdoj.gov](mailto:ovw.gfmd@usdoj.gov)
- Technical questions:
  - Grants.gov Applicant Support at 800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)
  - OVW JustGrants Support at 1-866-655-4482 or [OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov)

### **Other Information**

#### **Public Reporting Burden-Paper Work Reduction Act Notice**

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OVW tries to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and impose the least possible burden on applicants. The estimated average time to complete and file this form is 30 hours. Comments regarding the accuracy of this estimate or suggestions for simplifying this form can be submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, 145 N Street, NE, Washington, DC 20530.

**Note: Any materials submitted as part of an application may be released pursuant to a request under the Freedom of Information Act.**

## Application Checklist

Applicants must submit a fully executed application to OVW, including all required supporting documentation. Prior to peer review, OVW will not contact applicants for missing items. Additionally, if an applicant plans to submit an application under any other OVW grant program this fiscal year, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that only documents pertinent to this solicitation are included with this application. OVW will not redirect documents that are inadvertently submitted with the wrong application (e.g., a Rural Program letter submitted with a Transitional Housing Program application will not be transferred to the Rural application).

<b>Application Document</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
1. Application for Federal Assistance: SF-424	
2. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	
3. Proposal Abstract	
4. Letter of Intent	
5. Pre-Award Risk Assessment	
6. Summary Data Sheet	
7. Proposal Narrative: a) Purpose of the Proposal b) What Will Be Done c) Who Will Implement the Proposal	
8. Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative	
9. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)	
10. Applicant Financial Capability Questionnaire (if applicable)	
11. Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation (if applicable)	
12. Memorandum of Understanding/Letter(s) of Commitment	
13. Letter of Nonsupplanting	
14. Proof of 501(c)(3) Status (Nonprofit Organizations Only)	
15. Confidentiality Notice Form	
16. Summary of Other Federal Funding	
17. Delivery of Legal Assistance Certification Letter (if applicable)	
18. Certification of Eligibility Regarding Mediation or Counseling (required for all applicants).	
19. Certification Letter Demonstrating Safe Operation of Supervised Visitation or Safe Exchange (only applicable to applicants proposing activities under purpose area 1).	
20. Certification Letter Regarding Filing and Other Fees (only applicable to applicants proposing activities under purpose area 4 or 5 that are court-based programs).	
21. Certification Letter Regarding Custody Evaluation and Guardian Ad Litem Services (only applicable to applicants proposing activities under purpose area 4 or 5 to support custody evaluation and/or guardian ad litem services).	