

[Transcript from the [OVC Fiscal Year 2021 FY 2021 Services for Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking](#) pre-application webinar, which was held May 21, 2021. The archived webinar can be found at: <https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/funding-webinars>.]

DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar, FY 2021 Services for Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, I'd like to introduce today's presenter, Cynthia Pappas, Senior Policy Advisor, Human Trafficking Division, with the Office for Victims of Crime. Cynthia?

CYNTHIA PAPPAS: Great. Thank you, Daryl. Good morning or good afternoon, and thank you all for joining us and taking time out of your busy, busy schedules. Again, my name is Cynthia Pappas. I am a Senior Policy Advisor with the Office for Victims of Crime. I've been with the Department of Justice almost 17 years within the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and most recently joined OVC, Office for Victims of Crime, in June of 2020, when the Office of Justice Programs consolidated the law enforcement, juvenile justice, and victim services human trafficking initiative into a new Human Trafficking Division, housed within OVC. And I'm honored to be here, spending this time with you today, talking through this solicitation, as I will be serving as the Program Manager for awards made under this solicitation, the OVC FY 2021 Services for Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking.

So the purpose of today's call is to provide a little bit of background information about our agency, to walk through the requirements of the--of the solicitation, to briefly discuss the application process, and then address any questions that you might have. It will be helpful if you're following along with the solicitation and taking notes to help when you're submitting your application by the deadline. And the link, Tammy, my colleague, just put the link into the chat. And please know, and my sincere apologies if you are really diligent and printed this out yesterday, we found an error in the solicitation as early as yesterday. There was a reference to Appendix B that was not included in the posting. So we redid that, and it is now Appendix A that talks about the types of victims that we serve. So the most recent solicitation, again, that link is in the chat now, and that is the one to use. That was the only change, but there--that was a pretty significant error, so apologies for that.

[\[https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/fy-2021/o-ovc-2021-04002.pdf\]](https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/fy-2021/o-ovc-2021-04002.pdf)

So the Office for Victims of Crime is one of six components within the Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice. And our mission is to enhance the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership in changing policies and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime. We support programs that support victims in tribal communities, state victim compensation and assistance programs, training and technical assistance and information resources, victims of international terrorism and mass violence, federal agencies' provision of victim services, demonstration and service projects. And likely, hopefully, the reason that you're joining me today, is our support for survivors of human trafficking. As of 2021, we manage approximately \$270 million in anti-trafficking funding. This represents over 400 awards dedicated to providing services to victims of human trafficking, and supporting human trafficking grantees in at least 46 states, 1 territory, and the District of Columbia. And our TTA providers work collaboratively to assist our grantees and the field at-large to develop, expand, and strengthen programs for victims of human trafficking.

So the FY '21 services for minor victims of sex trafficking solicitation closes on Tuesday, July 6th, with awards being expected to be made by September 30, 2021. These are 36-month awards beginning October 1st. And I'm going to say this repeatedly throughout our discussion this afternoon. While the solicitation closes July 6th, we are having significant issues with some of our recent transition into our new grants management system, also known as JustGrants. So I typically recommend submitting 3--72 hours, 3 days in advance. I would do it--certainly, look even further before the end--that end date, because if there are issues, you'd be able to get them resolved before the solicitation closes. And, again, I will say that often and repeatedly throughout the afternoon.

So this program furthers the Department's mission by enhancing the field's response to victims of human trafficking. It's designed to develop, expand, and strengthen assistance programs for minor victims of sex trafficking.

This is a competitive solicitation, and I believe we have approximately 100 attendees today, and we'll be funding eight awards, so this is going to be a really competitive solicitation. Here's a list of entities who are eligible to apply, and you'll see it's quite inclusive. Please reference the solicitation for more information on eligible applicants. We will consider application under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award. However, only one entity may be the applicant. So if you are that entity, you can propose the other partners are subrecipients or subgrantees, and the applicant must be the entity that will have the primary responsibility for carrying out the award, including administering the--administering the funding and managing the entire program. Grantees who received funding under the FY 2020 Services for Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking are also eligible to apply for this new solicitation, but would have to clearly articulate how this funding would enhance their effort without duplicating their currently funded program.

The purpose of this program is to, again, develop, expand, or strengthen victim service programs for minor victims of sex trafficking, whose victimization occurred when they were under the age of 18. This program will provide funding for services to victims of human trafficking as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the TVPA of 2000. Organizations funded under this program will provide, directly or through partnership, services that minor victims of sex trafficking often require to address their needs for safety, security, and healing. Again, we noticed the error yesterday in the solicitation, which referenced Appendix B. This is where we talk about the types of victim service and services that are provided, so that is now in the new solicitation. So, again, our sincere apologies for that. And while this program is focused on providing services to minor victims of sex trafficking, you should be aware that these victims could also have been exploited in labor trafficking. And those in the field, you do know this. I know I'm speaking to those who are doing the work. As--You should address how you would respond to the needs of victims who are subjected to both sex and labor trafficking. Services under this program could also extend to the victims' children and support of non-offending parents, caregivers, sponsors, and guardians, as these services impact the minor's safety, recovery, and success in healing.

Our objectives: to provide services to meet the individualized needs of minor victims of sex trafficking; to collaborate with and train local partners, now this can include service providers, criminal justice professionals, members of the judiciary, community- and faith-based organizations to ensure that minor victims of sex trafficking are properly identified and referred for appropriate

services; to provide assistance or referral to other essential services for minor victims of sex trafficking; and to collect data and participate in assessment activities to determine if the program is meeting stated goals and objectives.

The deliverables will be--to be provided are services, measured quarterly by service hours or units delivered, the type of service, the number of new and continuing victims served, and other key data points. If awarded, you will be required to submit performance measure data and a quarterly performance report in JustGrants. That is our grants management system. Further guidance on the post-award submission process will be provided, if you are selected for this award.

The solicitation clearly states funding that cannot be supported with grant funds. Holding beds, which means you may not hold beds in a housing facility by charging a cost to the grant and keeping them empty until a victim needs the bed when other victims need access to the bed, as this will be considered unallowable, contingency payment. And all this is written up in the solicitation, but these are the ones I really wanted to highlight to your attention as you are drafting your proposal. Stipends or incentives to victims to participate in services. Meaning you cannot provide cash or non-cash stipends or incentives to encourage their participation in services. However, you can use nominal cash or non-cash stipends for--to help them with the services they are receiving. So transportation is often one of our biggest concerns, and issues, and challenges. So you can do funding for taxis and rideshare vouchers, you can give funding for public transportation tickets or tokens. You can provide funding for--help them pay for child care if they need it, or gift cards for meals that are necessary when they're receiving services. So those are allowable. But you cannot incentivize them to participate in your services. And this funding, just as it's written in the statutory language, is not for prevention, this is not for primary prevention activities. The purpose is to support victim service programs. Therefore, applicants should not propose primary prevention activities under this program. Again, not understating the importance of prevention, however, this funding is dedicated to supporting victim service programs.

There's additional statutory language in this solicitation that's highlighted in detail, but I also want to call these out as well. Restrictions on programs, which means no funds may be used to promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution. Restrictions on organizations, we require grantees under this program to agree that you do not promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution, nor will you use grant funds or program match funds to promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution. We also strongly encourage that all grantees assist clients in complying with reasonable requests from local, state, federal, or tribal government agencies, with the authority to investigate or prosecute trafficking acts. Notwithstanding the victim's willingness to collaborate with law enforcement will not be used as condition of access to any services funded under this award. Again, much more detail is in the solicitation and links to where this legislative language came from, but highlighting those for your attention as well.

In FY '21, we are also giving priority consideration and award decisions. This is a piece of what we'll be using to make our decisions. But if you can demonstrate ways in which your project will advance one or more of these areas, it'll--we'll be giving priority consideration to these applicants. So, if you provide a sufficient narrative explaining as an--as an attachment that specifies how your project will advance the promotion of civil rights, access to justice, support to crime victims,

protecting the public from crime and evolving threats, or building trust between law enforcement and the community. Additionally, we are giving priority consideration, if applicable, to applicants who can demonstrate that the individuals who are intended to benefit from the requested grant reside in a high-poverty area or persistent-poverty county. So what we mean by that is also in the solicitation, the exact definitions of high-poverty area and persistent-poverty county. So, looking to see if you are serving clients and victims within those areas. You can add that as an attachment please, that indicates that you are submitting for priority area consideration.

So as I mentioned, it is really competitive. We have limited funding, and all awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modification or additional requirements that may be imposed by law. We plan to make up to eight awards, up to \$1 million each for a 36-month period, with the project beginning October 1, 2021. Please note, and I do need to articulate this several times, because I've had several confusions in the past, this is \$1 million throughout the length of the award, not \$1 million annually. And this is a 36-month award, so thinking about when you're developing your proposal and your budget, how you would use \$1 million throughout a 3-year time. And it doesn't have to be equally distributed across those 3 years, but thinking in that 36-month timeframe, how you would use that money. Again, this is not a continuation of the FY '20 solicitation and is actually being released under a different statutory authority. And all awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds, as I mentioned.

These awards will be made as a grant and I--again, I'm really excited to be serving as the Program Manager as I am for the FY '20 awards, and I'll be in an oversight and a monitoring role. For more information, if you're curious, the difference between a grant and a cooperative agreement, the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#), which is linked here and in the solicitation, can give you more information about that. And Tammy just put that--to go back, thank you, Tammy, just put that into the chat.

Okay. So now, you have a better understanding, and I will get to your questions. I see them piling up, I'm just not going to get distracted by them until we get to the end of all of this. But we're going to jump into the Application Process now.

Here we go. So these are the elements that must be included, and there's many things that can be, but these are the musts. If you don't have these three things, these three attachments, you won't even get through the basic minimum requirements or won't even advance to peer review. These are the three most important things we will look for once you submit your initial application, your application. The Proposal Abstract, the Narrative, and the Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative, which includes budget detail worksheet, which includes the Budget Narrative. I'm going to talk through all of those now.

So the Proposal Abstract should be no more than 400 words, and summarizing your proposed project to include primary activities, the products and deliverables, the service area, and who will benefit from the proposed project. This will be completed in JustGrants, and I'll talk through that process as well. It's a two-step process, we'll get to that in a moment. But this is where you just give us the abstract synopsis, and also if you are submitting for any of the priority areas, which I've mentioned earlier.

The Proposal Narrative must be double spaced, use standard 12 font, Times New Roman is preferred, have no less than 1-inch margins not to exceed 15 pages, and to be numbered. This is-- will also be submitted as an attachment in JustGrants. I know this seems kind of picky in the format but, again, this is so competitive. And it's really important to adhere to the Proposal Narrative formatting requirements. If you fail to comply to these lengths restrictions, OVC may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final decision-making.

So again, the Proposal Narrative is one of those three really important components to get into basic minimum requirements. And within the Proposal Narrative, there are four sections, which I'm going to go through in much greater detail now.

Statement of the Problem should identify the nature and scope of the problem of sex trafficking of minors within your targeted geographic area, including documentation of the number of minor sex trafficking victims identified or served each year during 2019 and 2020. Please describe the communities to be served. Describe previous and current efforts to address the service needs of minor sex trafficking victims in your geographic area, including programs possibly funded through OVC, the Department of Health and Human Services, or Victims of Crime Act, the VOCA state victims assistance funds, if this applies to you. Explain how the proposed project targets identified gaps and is not duplicative of other projects.

Design and Implementation, please detail how your project will operate throughout the funding period, again, which is 36 months. And describe the strategies that you'll use to achieve the goals and objectives identified in the previous section. We just spoke about the goals and objectives also listed in the solicitation. We encourage you to select evidence-based practices. And this section should also detail any leveraged resources, cash or in-kind from local sources to support the project. And discuss your plans for sustainability. How will you keep this project running once the grant funding is over? Submit a realistic timeline or milestone chart that indicates major tasks associated with the goals and objectives of the project, assigning responsibility for each and plot completion of each task by month or quarter for the duration of the award. Again, 36 months.

Capabilities and Competencies, this is where you tell us all about you and all the great work that you are doing out in the field. Describe your experience, your capability, and any--of your organization, as well as any contractors or subgrants that you may be proposing in this--in the application. Highlight previous experience, implementing projects of similar design or magnitude. Highlight your ability, capacity to manage subawards if you'll be using them. Management and staffing patterns should be clearly connected to the project design described earlier.

Please also describe the roles or responsibility of project staff and explain the program's organizational structure and operations. Please also include, as a separate attachment, a copy of your organizational chart, showing how the organization operates, including who manages the finances, how the organization manages subawards, if there are any, and the management of the project--management of the project proposed for funding.

Plan for Collecting Data, so this is where--again, we don't want you to collect the data, yet. But what is your plan for collecting all the performance measures data that will be required? Give a description of the qualifications of the key staff who will be responsible for collecting the data,

we'll be asking for, and reporting performance measurements in the JustGrants management system. Again, you're not required to submit performance data with the application, rather performance measure information is included as an alert that successful applicants will be required to submit performance data, once you are awarded.

The Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative is now web-based in JustGrants. Again, we're asking that you break out costs a year, reflecting this 36 months total of project activity. Highly recommend going into the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#), for details on the Budget and Associated Documentation, such as information on proposed subawards, proposed procurement contracts under the awards and pre-agreement costs; all of that information is there. Also going back to the beginning of this solicitation in what is absolutely unallowable for this funding.

So this is a lot of information. This is all of the other documents that may or may not be included, if they are applicable to your agency. And there is a checklist at the end of the solicitation to make sure that you go through and double check that you do submit everything that applies to you. Two that are not optional, the SF-424, so this is the information to complete the application for federal assistance, this is required. It's the standard form we use as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. So that one is really important, and you'll be submitting that in Grants.gov. Again, I will talk through which of the two-step process to submit your applications in a moment. But that's really important. It's important to get in early to Grants.gov. Again, I'll put a pin in that and we'll come back to it. The other one is the--is the disclosure of lobbying form, the SF-LLL. All applicants must disclose the existence or non-existence of lobbying activities. So you must submit this form as well. Complete that form and submit that also in Grants.gov. These are the two forms, the SF-424 and SF-LLL will be submitted in Grants.gov. If submitting a joint application as described under the eligibility, please include a signed dated letters of support or a memorandum of understanding for all key partners. If you have pending applications or active awards, so this would be all of my FY '20 grantees, if you have a pending applications or active awards as described above and providing--excuse me, please provide information about these applications that are submitted within the last 12 months that are still pending or active to include the federal state funding agency name, the solicitation name, or project name, the point of contact information at the applicable funding agency. Again, this is all in the solicitation. I'm pulling out a couple that I think you all really want to highlight, as I know many on the call are most interested in that. Please also disclose if you are currently designated as high risk by any federal grant-making agency. You will know that if you are. And use the checklist at the end to review prior to submitting so that you know that you've covered everything that is applicable to you.

All right. So we've gone over the intent of this funding and what you need to do. So now let's--how do we get it from you to us? And I will tell you I wish it was a little bit easier. There were definitely some hiccups, some technology issues that we've been dealing with. So please do get this in earlier than the deadline, for sure.

Also, strongly recommend that you review the application mechanics eLearning videos these are posted on the [JustGrants Training Application Submission](#) page, again, which Tammy's been fabulous in putting these direct links into the chat so you can copy them and get those open. Take a look at these before you even begin the application process and they will be tremendously helpful

and hopefully reduce some of the frustration that may otherwise occur. These are great resources. We'll walk you through how to get the application ready. Get them into JustGrants, and then get them to us.

Again, the pre-recorded [Application Mechanics: Submitting an Application](#) webinar will explain the steps to take prior. And the fact that you are all on and you're still sticking with me throughout the--this entire presentation, I sincerely appreciate it. So you're already taking some of the first great steps and I appreciate it. Obviously, you know how to find DOJ funding opportunities in JustGrants. You found this one. But this will also teach you how to submit the applications. Those two forms into JustGrants--sorry, into Grants.gov, and then how to apply for funding in JustGrants. It'll discuss the roles and responsibilities and required actions in JustGrants, how to navigate and use JustGrants to submit your application, and where to find additional training materials, job aids, and other references. So that recording is fantastic, I really, really strongly recommend. Don't do it on the weekend because it's going to be a beautiful one, certainly where I'm living, but do find time to look through that and get ready to apply for this solicitation.

Please also review the [Application Submission Checklist](#) for all necessary steps to complete the two-part process, which I'm going to get into in a second in applying to Grants.gov and JustGrants. I know we're throwing a lot of links at you, a lot of information. These are all to be helpful in getting this to us, because I know you're going to put a lot of time and effort in developing these and make sure that they get to us for review.

Additional links here, all of our JustGrants training and resources, and it might even be helpful to, as it says on the slide here, to bookmark the JustGrants Training page. This is constantly being updated with additional information, additional trainings, additional resources, truly to help you manage this system, which has been--we just trans--we just moved to the system in October of last year. And for those that are current grantees, know that it's been--it has been a process that we're all going through together.

So, here's the two steps. We are through--I'm sorry. In FY '21 is when this all began, application will be submitted in this new two-step process. So you'll submit the SF-424 and the SF disclosure of lobbying, the LLL, the two that I mentioned earlier, in Grants.gov. Here is the [Grants.gov register](#). Now before you can register on Grants.gov you'll need to obtain a Data Universal Numeric System, your DUNS number, and a System of Award Management (SAM) registration or renewal. Really, really important to get that in advance before you can submit into Grants.gov. And once you get in there, it'll walk you through what those processes are, if you need to do that. And that's why we say way before the deadline, get that process started, especially the Grants.gov because you will need to receive verification that they received it. And if they didn't, if you don't receive that or it's denied, then you'll have time to figure out what those issues might be to make sure that you can get into Grants.gov. Then once that's done, you can submit the full application, including all the attachments that we discussed, into JustGrants. So, again, a lot of information, those two forms, the SF-424, SF-LLL, Grants.gov; everything else into JustGrants. So to be considered timely, you--it must be submitted by the application deadline using Grants.gov. And I'm going to highlight those deadlines again at the end. And you must, as I just mentioned, have received a validation message from Grants.gov that you have successfully and timely submitted those two forms. So don't wait until that deadline. Get those in several days before that deadline

which is, again, I'll get to in a moment, to make sure that [if] there's any issues, you'll have time to fix those. I typically recommend at least 72 hours prior to the application due date. I would--I would extend it now maybe 5 days in advance just to make sure. Give yourself a little bit of wiggle room. Please also refer to the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for--in "How to Apply" section, that'll also be tremendously helpful as you're going through these processes.

And here is the link. I know Tammy's been putting that over in the chat as well. And, again, this is guidance for you to prepare and submit to OJP for this solicitation. [[OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#)]

Here are all of the important websites that are referenced throughout the solicitation all in one place for you. This is a link to our office, [Office for Victims of Crime](#). The [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#); that will become your new best friend when you're looking at the budget, and in developing your budget for this funding. [JustGrants](#) is where you'll be submitting the application. [Grants.gov](#) where you'll be submitting those two forms way in advance of the application. The [Grants Application Resource Guide](#) with all of the tips. Our [OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center](#), this is--this is who we use to assist our human trafficking grantees. And this is a--I put in here really just for your information. If you're not familiar with OVC TTAC, they have tremendous resources for you as service providers to share with your community. There's free trainings there, there's so much great information on OVC TTAC. If you're not familiar, please do get in there and use that, use those free resources that are available to support your efforts. The [Grants Performance Measurement Reporting](#), so this will be information about the performance measures that we will be asking you to collect, once you are funded. And then, of course, our [OJP Resource Center](#) with--if you have any questions, any technical issues throughout the life of this submission, you can contact them and they are standing by to support you.

Contacts to all of our support systems. So, if you have any issues in submitting the SF-424 and the SF-LLL, the disclosure of lobbying forms, which has to go into Grants.gov, this is your technical assistance number and support. If you have any issues submitting the full application into JustGrants, this is the number and the grants--JustGrants support desk email. And then any technical questions, so if things that I said here, I'm going to answer as many questions as I can but you're going to have more, for sure, as you're developing this solicitation--this solicitation response. So as you're developing your application and you need some clarity on something, contact the OJP Response Center. They tend--they triage them and typically they'll send them directly to me and I can help with the responses, if there are programmatic questions or clarities that need to be made--or clarifications that need to be made. So this is not your one and only opportunity to answer or to have your questions addressed. So please keep these numbers posted and we'll go through Q&A, we're going to probably come back to this since they're right there for you. But these will be your greatest support as you are drafting, submitting, and sending your application.

So these are the deadlines. Again, strongly suggest way in advance listening to the [Application Mechanics: Submitting an Application](#) session, I mentioned earlier, and we linked in the solicitation as well as Tammy did a great job in putting in the chat. Listen to that, go through that, and understand all of the steps that this will take. The SF-424 and disclosure of lobbying, Grants.gov by 11:59 PM, Eastern Standard Time on June 22nd. I would again mark your calendar 2

or 3 to 5 days before, because you will need to get the validation that they received it. If there's any issues, they will let you know immediately and then you can get those addressed in a timely fashion. Because if that's missed then you won't be able to go into the next phase, which is submitting the full application into JustGrants by July 6, 2021 by 11:59 PM, Eastern Standard Time. Once again, I would highlight my calendar maybe 3 to 5 days--at least 5 days in advance with that JustGrants, as we've definitely have been having some technical issues with that, so please consider not waiting to the absolute deadline.

Okay. I have talked a lot. I'm going to start going through some of your questions. But again, I do-- I do thank you for your time and attention. And as I mentioned earlier, this is not your only time to get your questions addressed.

Okay. So starting, "The RFP says the victimization had to have happened when they were under the age of 18. What if they're no longer minor but they were victimized when they were minor?"

So yes, that's a great question. If--the services must be provided at the time of service to a minor under the age of 18. Now if they age--if they start services, we're certainly continuing services past the age of 18, but they have to be the under the age of 18 to receive services with this funding.

"Are minors who are suspected or at-risk eligible services?"

Yes, so those who are treating clients who are at-risk for trafficking, this funding can be used--I'm sorry, I should've read the question.

"Are minors who are suspected or at-risk of trafficking eligible for services under this project? Or do they need to be confirmed?"

Yes, if you're providing services to two victims or those at-risk, that--hmm, actually, pause please. Let me make sure I'm getting the right--I--they must be confirmed victims actually under the TVPA.

Another question, "If trafficking occurred while the victim was a minor but they're over 18 now, are they still eligible?"

As I answered earlier, they are not eligible with this funding. They have to be under the age at the time--under the age of 18 at the time of services.

"A client is actively involved in the sex trade and currently not meeting the definition of a trafficking victim. Through disclosure, the client reveals they had previously met that definition based on age of entry, are they eligible for services?"

I would say yes, they are. If through disclosure, working with your clients that they had previously met the definition, I think we have indicators that they are likely or possibly still at-risk.

And another question about the age, I think I've answered that.

And the presentation slides will be available after the webinar. This will be posted on our site probably within a week or so. The recording will be available. Oh, Daryl, you answered that. Thank you very much, within 5 to 10 business days. Yeah. The recording, the PowerPoint, and the transcript will be posted.

Question, “Can an agency with a federal pass-through state Victims of Crime Act Grant still apply for this grant?” Let me say that again. And I think I said that incorrectly. “Can an agency with a federal pass-through state Victim of Crime Act, or VOCA grant, still apply for this grant?”

Yes. All we ask is through the disclosure of other applications, pending applications or awards, that you discuss--fairly articulate how this funding will be used differently so that it enhances the project and it's not duplicating federal funding efforts.

“Is the Department open to applications that is a new modeled service that the applicant has experience in delivering in a different country?” I'm going to read that again and if the person who posted this, if I'm not answering this correctly, because I think I'm understanding it but if I'm not, let me know. “Is the Department open to applications of new modeled service that the applicant has experience in delivering in a different country?”

So are we open to something that is not an evidence-based practice within the United States that you would like to consider implementing in the United States? So if that--if that is the question, absolutely. We certainly are looking for evidence-based models, but we also understand that this--they are everchanging and there are best practices out there that are also of interest and that can work. So yes, please do propose how you can best serve. And if you can clearly articulate who you're serving in your jurisdiction, how you're serving and with this new model, I'd be very excited actually to read that and see what this new modeled service is and how it has shown to be successful in other countries and how it might possibly be implemented here. So yes.

“Will you allow a preliminary expanding period for the first few months of the project or must services start day one?”

That's a great question. Thank you for that. So no, we understand that there may be ramp up time. There might be some onboarding issues even getting into JustGrants, so direct services do not have to start day one of the award. And in many cases, people submit a budget for hiring staff. So you might be even putting out job postings and job openings during those first few months to get the adequate staffing that you need to provide the best services to these clients. So no, direct services do not have to start on day one.

“Just to clarify, a--an MOU and Letter of Support is only required as a joint application. Otherwise, an MOU and Letter of Support are optional, correct?”

Yes. That is correct. If you are submitting a joint application, please include your partners with signature from the agency head or CEO, whoever that is. If there are others, it's certainly not a bad idea if you have other support within your community and would like to add letters of support, but it's only required if you're putting in your budget that you're doing a subaward or a contract that you have an agreement with them.

Question, “Does the listing of pending grants include requests to local or small family foundation or does this list pertain specifically to other federal awards or requests?”

Specifically to other federal awards or requests; that is correct.

“This application shares much with the OVC 2021 Services for Victims of Human Trafficking. What are some key elements to distinguish these opportunities?”

That’s also a great question, yes. Within our Human Trafficking Division, we’re actually a small division and we do work very closely with my other Policy Advisors and Program Managers, and also with the OVC TTAC as I mentioned. So there are--we have key elements across all of our human trafficking grants, what distinguishes this is clearly the focus on minors. So those under the age of 18, who are being trafficked; where the services for victims of human trafficking cuts across all ages and can be used for adult victims. Let me see if there’s any other greater distinctions I can pull out. And also thank you for asking that question. For those who are applying to this, we do on our website, we--this is solicitation season. As I’m sure you are aware, we have some other fabulous grant opportunities that are coming up that are available now. So continue to look back and bookmark the OVC funding page to see what other opportunities are available. But the key distinction in this service between this and the Services for Victims of Human Trafficking really is the age.

The question is “Will there be other opportunities for us to submit questions at a later date?”

Absolutely. Yes. There will be many opportunities. Any time you have a question, contact the Technical Assistance Center, which is our OJP Response Center. And that number is up on the screen now. The number’s there and the email is there. Again, they will--they’ll go through all your questions and if they cannot answer it, they can--they will send any more substantive questions directly to me. So those answers will be--will be addressed by me. So you can submit questions later and you will have them. As you’re drafting, you will absolutely have them. So please, use the resources and the contacts that we have here.

“There was mention if services cannot include prevention. Could they include ongoing treatment such as therapy, group, and psychiatric services?”

Absolutely. Yes. Absolutely. Once the clients are in treatment, any services that they need that supports their individualized needs that are trauma-informed and victim-centered, absolutely.

“We are interested in submitting to provide services for a county but will focus services on communities within that county that have higher rates of minor victims of trafficking. Can we submit the high-poverty data for specific communities within the county or just for the county as well?”

Oh. That is a great question. Let me go to the solicitation. If the comm--county in which--counties in which you will be providing services--maybe stand by for one second. I’m going to find an answer on how you look up that specifically. I believe--thank you for your patience while I’m

looking this up. I do want to get this answered for you. Okay. So the term high-poverty means--so yes. You need to look at the census track for the poverty rate and this would be of at least 20 percent, as measured by the 2013 to 2017 5-year data series. So we are asking that you go into the census track and look up those areas and then submit if it's a poverty rate of at least 20 percent. So that, if I'm understanding the question, providing services for a county but will focus services on communities within that county that have higher rates of minor victims... If you can articulate that the county--the communities in which the counties you're serving fall within the census track with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent, yes, you can submit the high-poverty data for that community within the county--or yes, you can do the county as a whole, as well because they'd be encompassing that community. I'm sorry. I know that was a--I find this confusing as well. That's why I'm taking a little bit of time and trying to be thoughtful on that. So I would say yes, submit that as a high-poverty. Submit that data for the county because I think that's the only way the census track pulls it. And that maybe one, as you're going through the application process, you can flip that question to the OJP Response Center as you--as you start to pull that data and they can provide a little more guidance too once you dig in to what exactly you're looking at.

Question. "What happens if we submit through Grants.gov but for some reason, we are not able to complete the full application? Do we need to cancel the request to Grants.gov?"

You do not, no. If you go through Grants.gov and find that you don't submit or choose not to submit the application in JustGrants, I don't--there's nothing you need to cancel. It will just be denied and it just will be not--yeah, it'll be rejected as not going through the entire process. There's nothing you need to do to cancel it.

"When filling out the SF-LLL, the disclosure of lobbying, how do you fill out lobbying that is non-existent?"

So that's what we're asking to respond to this question that you are certifying that you do not lobby. So there is an N/A, so just put not applicable and have that signed and then send it in. So it's just verifying that you do not. And if you do, then filling out the information as it pertains to the form.

"Does the 501(c)(3) matter whether they are listed as a private foundation or a charity nonprofit?"

So in looking at the eligibility, my answer to that is that it does not matter whether 503(1)(c) [501(c)(3)] are listed as a private foundation or charity nonprofit. The only--yes, so, yes. You can-- You can submit as a 503(1)(c) as a nonprofit, as a private foundation or charity nonprofit.

"Does OVC distinguish between victims of sex trafficking versus victims of commercial sexual exploitation for the purposes of this grant? Are both populations eligible for services?"

Yes, we do actually distinguish between the two, as commercial sexual exploitation can include things other than sex trafficking, it could be child pornography, could be a variety of other exploitations--commercial sexual exploitations, not necessarily victims of sex trafficking. So the intention of this funding, the statutory funding is victims--minor victims of sex trafficking, not the broader commercial sexual exploitations. Now those of you working in the field know there is a

tremendous amount of crossover and polyvictimization with these minors, with those in the this life. So it is--it'd be difficult to probably parcel those out, but it would not be funding specifically for those who are not victims of sex trafficking. I hope that answers.

“Can you confirm if there is a match?”

Let me double check that and I apologize, I should--I should have that at the top of my head. But I'm managing a couple of these and I'm trying to remember exactly if this one does. And this is-- This is quite a bit different than the FY '20 application so give me one second. I'm going to find that specific answer regarding whether this has a match requirement. And most of our human trafficking has a 25 percent match. I just want to confirm that this one does as well. Okay. If you look on page 8 of the solicitation that's posted now, so there is. There is a 25 percent cash or in-kind match. And then you'll see a link of [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for more information on this requirement. So that is just phase one, it's 25 percent cash or in-kind match, which is consistent with our other human trafficking grants.

“We currently operate two safe houses we lease and in the midst of campaign to purchase one home. Can any of this award be used towards that campaign?”

That is a great question. So again, the question is we currently lease in the midst of a campaign to purchase one home. Can any of this--yes. Yes, this award can be used. Let me pull this up. Let me make sure I'm giving you the absolute correct... So we cannot send--construction. Now I'm going to--I'm going to come back to that. I'm going to get into the--our financial guide and then I'm going to get your contact at the end and I'm going to get that answer for you.

“Minors rescued now in housing using medical and mental health services in nurse-managed clinics, does that population meet the award proposed guidelines?”

So minors rescued now in housing using medical and mental health services in a nurse-managed clinic, absolutely, that population meets the proposed guidelines.

“What are some examples of cost-sharing?”

Again, the link in the [OJP Application Resource Guide](#) as well as the [DOJ Financial Guide](#) gives examples--and actually, the DOJ Financial Guide will also give the answer to--if you can use funding to--for the campaign to purchase a home. So the answer to that question will be the DOJ Financial Guide and for exactly what is allowable and is not allowable, and as well as examples of cost-sharing. And examples of what you can use for cash or in-kind match, as that's an OJP Grant Application Resource Guide and the DOJ Financial Guidelines.

“And just to confirm, if they are under 18 when they start services, but turn 18 while receiving services, they will be eligible to continue services under the grant?”

Absolutely, yes. We would never want you to kick anyone, any client, out of treatment just because they aged out of the intent of this award. But they need to start services and certainly using other funding within your program, but the funding from this federal award is targeted towards those who

are under the 18 when they begin. But as long as they need the treatment, they can--and you have the federal funding, you--we would never ask you to kick them out.

“Do you expect the funding working with minor victims will be available yearly? If we choose not to apply this year, will there likely be an opportunity for funding application next year?”

Oh, it's my sincere hope. But we certainly don't know what appropriations will look like next year. Again, I'm certainly hopeful, this is so much for me, I think the most important work that I'm doing. I'm hopeful, but at this point, I would say there is absolutely no guarantee that this would be awarded again if this solicitation will be available next year. All right. And some of these questions, I've already answered.

“What are the expectations around partnerships and working in partnership with organizations that are--that are working in partnerships to be more attractive to the OVC?”

So it's less about what we would like to see, but really what makes the most sense in your communities. What are the multidisciplinary teams that you see within your communities that best serve the needs--the individualized needs of these minor victims of sex trafficking. We do--There is the priority consideration that there is a partnership with law enforcement so there's better understanding and cross-training between law enforcement and victim service providers. So that is one. I would say that--if the question is what looks more attractive to OVC, that that is certainly one that is of interest in really developing those relationships, if they're not there. But that is really--you tell us, who are you working with in your communities to support--to provide background services for these victims. Where are their gaps? That's also something that we could help you with through the OVC TTAC Center is--in establishing these relationships, and these partnerships to do again the very best that we can for these children.

There's a question, “Will the Q & As be posted for all? This is being recorded?”

So as part of the transcript and the recording that will be available in the next 5 to 10 days, these will all be--all be there as well.

“To clarify, minors must be confirmed victims and not at-risk, correct? So a program that shows both confirmed and at-risk minors would not be eligible for funding.”

Yeah, that is--that is such a tough one because of the way that it is written in here, through the statutory authority, it is focused on providing services to minor victims of sex trafficking. So this is intended for primary, for direct services to minor victims. So yes, they--the intention of this legislative funding is for victims.

“Is there a cap on how long services can continue, if a client under the age of 18 and then age out?”

There isn't and certainly this funding will not be indefinite. So as long as you're treating that client, that is fine. But the funding itself, there is--it's \$1 million over the 3 years. So thinking about that and then how you would--you would continue services for those children, you know, as they age

out and continue to need services would be something that you could write in your sustainability plan.

“I’d like to clarify, if an individual is trafficked at the age of 15 and they are 17--and are now 17, not currently being trafficking, are they eligible to receive services?”

I presume yes, as long as they under the 18--under the age of 18 when services begin, yes, absolutely. If they were a minor victim of sex trafficking and are still being treated and requiring treatment and services provided through your agency and they’re under the age of 18, they would be eligible for services.

“We have a program in which we’re in the process of building and opening a trafficked youth facility but it will not be open prior to the project start date. Are we required to have housing opened prior to that date or can we work on initial first steps first to build that? We have partners that can provide housing in the interim, but a facility, specifically to trafficked youth, be--will better meet their needs and is our goal.”

That’s fabulous. No, you do not have to have housing immediately ready. You do not have to be providing services on day one of this award. We understand that particularly, and maybe some of you are startups, that there will be a ramp up time, there might be--in this situation, to get housing in place, to develop partnerships, to use--to use this funding for the--to build those partnerships and they--and to get the housing that you need. We understand that that can take a tremendous amount of time, certainly with some of our current grantees that can take a lot of time and effort on your part to develop those relationships and those partnerships. So, no, you do not have to be--if you are up and ready to go on day one, you may not even need this funding. So we understand that it will take time and that you do--that the funding will be used to enhance throughout the life of the award, but no you do not have to be ready on day one.

“How would you consider services to reach high-risk youth population for trafficking including foster care youth? For example outreach and education, would this be considered prevention or intervention?”

Just in the brief description to reach high-risk, that sounds more prevention.

And thank you, Karen, there is a 25 percent match.

“Could you just clarify the first step uploading the SF-424 form into Grants.gov? Specifically, if the applicants who attach narrative documents into SF-424? For example, question 14 allows the applicant to add attachment regarding areas affected by projects. Does this attachment need to be included? And SF-424 question 15 allows the applicant to add supporting documents regarding description titled The Applicant’s Project, does the narrative need to be included?”

Great question. Thank you. No. All of the additional attachments will be part of the application process and uploaded into--I’m sorry. I just realized what time it was. Thank you for all for staying on. I will continue to answer questions, but I just looked at the clock and I know many--that this is scheduled for an hour. But I’m happy to stay on if you all are.

But I'm sorry, back to the question, the SF-424. That is just the, kind of, the cover sheet, that's all you need to upload into Grants.gov. And then, all of the other additional attachments can be added to the application in JustGrants.

And I actually--I will go for a next--I will go to 2:15 Eastern Standard Time, so probably another 5, 6 minutes. And then any questions I don't get to can be addressed to the Response Center.

Clarifying question, "The grant is not a continuation of the FY 2020 grant. Would it be considered a renewal of the FY 2020 grant?"

No, this is a completely new solicitation because it's under a new statutory authority. So it would not be a continuation. It would be a completely separate award too, if an FY 2020 grantee is selected.

"Just to clarify the question, we'll be using funding for non-residential services initially ongoing and the funds will be used for staff and services, not construction or the facility."

Oh, okay. Yes. Funding absolutely for staff and services not construction or purchasing a facility. Thank you for clarifying that. Yes. Funding for services and staff, absolutely 100 percent covered.

"Would the purchase of snacks, chips, candy bars, for rapport building be allowable or would that be considered an incentive?"

So, if things--as a--If it's part of their treatment, as they're coming in for a treatment, yes. They can--Purchasing snacks and gift cards for food as they're coming in for services, absolutely acceptable.

"Are eligible applicants statewide or nationwide?"

The list of eligible applicants are on the front page. It breaks down every eligibility in the solicitation on who is eligible to apply.

"Does--the first three sections--would a child need to personally identify as a human trafficking victim or is confirmation on the commercial gain in exchange for sex sufficient for eligibility for grant-covered services?"

Yes. As you as experts in the field can identify and knowing that the victim is--may take time in disclosing, if you--they do not have to self-identify as a victim, if they are receiving treatment services from you and there's indicators that they are exchanging sex for commercial gain, there is enough indicator there that they should be eligible for services under this award.

"SF-424 must include the exact funding request for federal funds. Does this mean the budget piece should be completed first before attempting to complete the 424? Is it okay if the 424 is an estimate of our request, it may not be an exact match to the request?"

That's a great question as well. By then, it's--you definitely start thinking about what your budget will be. Try to get it as close as possible. Again, these awards are up to \$1 million so have a--have at least the sense. It does not have to be an exact match. But it's best if it--if you do have your budget prepared in advance.

Okay. Oh my gosh, you all, I appreciate those of you that stayed. I'm sorry that I went over. I do want to answer as many questions as I could. Again, thank you for your time. Good luck in your application and thank you for the work that you do. It's important work and we appreciate you and all of your efforts. So have a great weekend.

DARYL FOX: This will end today's presentation.