

[Transcript from the OVC Fiscal Year 2021 Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking pre-application webinar, which was held April 14, 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 Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime.

At this time, I would like to introduce today's presenter, Kristin Weschler, Grants Management Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime to begin today's webinar. Kristin?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Hi, everyone. Thanks so much, Daryl. It's a joy to be with you this afternoon. This is a solicitation that is near and dear to my heart. So what we're going to go over today is just some brief information about the Office for Victims of Crime and the programs that we oversee in case you're not familiar with our office, then a breakdown of the main components of the solicitation. Some brief slides about the application process because there are separate presentations that have been recorded about that. So, the links will be provided at that point in time. And then I want to make sure that we provide a lot of time, as much as we can of course, at the end for Q&A. So you'll notice as I go through some of the slides, I'm not going to read over everything. Because as Daryl said, the PowerPoint presentation will be available online so you can later reference it. And it's also, as a heads up, when we get to Q&A, if you do have the solicitation available as we go through this and you can reference a specific page that your question might be pertaining to, that will be helpful as we enter into that time. Okay.

So, the Office for Victims of Crime we are committed basically, to assisting crime victims and to provide leadership in changing policies and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime. So, while this presentation is, of course, focusing on human trafficking and the solicitations that are available under our specific division, we do support all victims of crime. And I encourage you to look at information on our website.

We support programs in tribal communities. Some of you might be familiar with the State Victim Compensation and Assistance Programs, which we call VOCA. We also fund National Training and Technical Assistance agencies and entities to provide support to our grantees, international terrorism and mass violence, general victim services, human trafficking, and then also some very specific demonstration and service projects.

The timeline, excuse me, for this specific solicitation on human trafficking and housing provisions, you'll notice that the solicitation closes on April 30th. We have provided several extensions since it was originally posted back in December. But please note that the JustGrants deadline is this Friday, which is the 16th and that is when you must submit your SF-424 and lobbying documents. And we'll be going over that later in the presentation as well, but this is something new. For those of you who may have applied to our office for funding before, so I wanted to make sure I mentioned it up front. We expect that awards will be made no later than September 30th; that is a congressional deadline that we must face, with project start dates on or after October 1st of '20 or--'21. And you'll see we've put a note, a very clear note here in the slide, that basically successful applicants, even once you're notified that you were selected for funding, you may not begin work until the budget has been reviewed and officially approved by

our office or the Office for Justice Programs. So there would--there will be communication, you'll have an assigned grant manager, once you're notified and there will be correspondence back and forth as far as that budget status. But it is very important that you do not start any program activities or spending until your budget is cleared.

So for this applica--or this solicitation, we are looking for applications that support housing assistance for victims and all forms of trafficking throughout the United States. This program furthers the Department's mission by enhancing the field's response to victims of human trafficking. So we have specific funding set aside just for this purpose.

Eligibility is here. I'm not going to go through it. Please read the solicitation. Make sure that you fall into these categories. Otherwise, you would be deemed ineligible and I would hate for you to spend a significant amount of time to apply for a Federal grant, if you do not meet the eligibility criteria.

Program information, so there's a couple of things I'm going to highlight in this slide. The first is that you must provide 6 to 24 months of transitional housing with support services. So this is not an emergency shelter grant. You have to provide services and housing from between 6 to 24 months. And then the service model is pretty much up to your discretion. So transitional housing, some do scattered site, or what we call rapid rehousing. Some do what we call either clustered or where an agency or partner agency owns a building and people cohabitate in the same building. We don't have any parameters specific to that in the solicitation. This is up to the applicant to determine what model best serves the community that you are serving. So you'll see then, the second one is the Short-Term Housing Assistance, which we usually call Rental Assistance or other financial assistance with related expenses such as security deposits, utilities, or other costs incidental to relocation to housing, again, for the 6 to 24 months. Can't stress that enough.

Next are specific activities that are--we restrict funding for or limit funding for. These are legal services, a purchase or lease of vehicles, and services to children. So, if you are including this in your budget, you must have it justified and have a clear link to the demonstrated need for that. It should not--These costs should not be a predominant amount of your budget. This should be a minimal amount and justified.

So, the overall goal is to provide safe stable housing and appropriate services to victims of human trafficking. And again that is for all forms of human trafficking.

And the objectives are listed here. I, again, I'm not going to read through all of the objectives. But I would suggest that this is a good outline to have when you're developing your program narrative to ensure that the proposed project is within scope and responsive to the solicitation. So, this is a good broad view. Again, we're going to get to the specific parts of the solicitation as we go through the webinar. So you want to, of course, make sure you're responsive to each section. But this is a good overall view of what we are looking for in the proposed projects.

And then the deliverables. Of course you'll be measuring the services provided, you'll also have quarterly performance reports to submit to us, if you are selected for funding, and then semiannual progress reports, which is a narrative explaining how you're meeting your goals and

objectives throughout the 3-year award, as well as quarterly financial reports. So these are all things. Please make sure that you can fulfill these deliverables, have the appropriate staffing to meet these before you submit an application for funding.

So we do have some priority areas specified in the solicitation; they are outlined here. This does not mean that if you do not meet a priority area that you will not be funded. These are just simply areas that we are giving additional consideration to. So that includes rural communities, high poverty areas, and the Qualified Opportunity Zones. And you can find more information about the--what we ask for additional documentation in those priority areas in the solicitation. So you can't just claim that you are asking for priority in these areas. There are parameters within the solicitation that ask for the corresponding documentation that we ask, if you are choosing to meet one of these priority areas.

Then there are unallowable costs. So before--previously, I talked about limited funding, these are non-negotiables. So what you cannot use funding for is holding beds. What we mean by that is you cannot have a--maybe it's a domestic violence shelter or a home--homeless shelter and say, "you will set aside five beds solely for human trafficking," or maybe you are co-agency where you serve human trafficking and domestic violence, and you are going to say, "Okay, these five beds are only for human trafficking." And perhaps you don't get any requests for beds for victims of human trafficking. You can--That's what we mean by holding beds. Like, you cannot use grant funds to hold those five beds for them to become available. That's getting a little bit into the nuanced area. I don't want to go too far down that rabbit hole, but I wanted to provide an example.

The second unallowable cost for stipends or incentives to participate in services. We are very clear in several areas of the solicitation that services are not to be mandatory. We implement a voluntary services model. So any kind of stipends or incentives would work against that service delivery model. So, please do not include that in your budget or application.

And then finally, primary prevention activities; and that is actually within our statute. We cannot support primary prevention activities with grant funds under the solicitation.

So, some basic parameters about the funding under this, we expect to make 25 awards. Your maximum dollar amount for each award is \$600,000 and that is across the full 36-month period. So it is not \$600,000 per year. I'll repeat that. So it is \$600,000 across 3 years. Again, the performance start date, we anticipate, being October 1st of 2021.

And let's see. Next. Sorry, I'm scrolling. There we go, simultaneously. All right.

This award will be made as a grant. Some of you might be familiar, if you've had awards before, we sometimes also issue cooperative agreements. But a grant has less restrictions on it than a cooperative agreement, which is really the second and third bullets of this slide. So basically, we maintain an oversight and we monitor. We're not as much engaging intimately with your deliverables. If you get an award, we are trusting that you are meeting the goals and objectives of the grant award. And then, of course, you'll be meeting those deliverables with frequent reporting. But there is no substantial involvement with the awarding agency and that's usually

around hiring of staff. But all of this will be outlined in the award conditions. So, I stress if you are selected for an award, please, please, please read the award conditions because that is where all the details will be provided.

All right. So we're going to shift just briefly to application and submission information.

So, these are elements that an application absolutely must include. If you do not include these elements, you will not move forward for peer review or consideration of funding. We call these the basic minimum requirements. So those include the project abstract, the Proposal Narrative, and the Budget Worksheet that includes the Budget Narrative. And you will see here on the slide that the percentages of weighting for each of the categories is provided. So you can see during peer review where reviewers will be focusing in some areas more than others.

So then in each of these, I'll give a brief description. So that proposal abstract, it's basically a summary statement about your proposal. Very brief, no more than 400 words. And there are bullets on the slide to explain to you what that should include, which is your name of the entity or the primary applicant, the primary activities, any products and deliverables, and then the proposed service area and population that you will be serving. And then just, again, to reiterate, because this is a new process, this, the project abstract, will be completed in the JustGrants web-based form. So it--Usually it's been an attachment. This time, it is a web-based form that you will be completing.

Then the proposal narrative format. Again, there are parameters. Please use double-spaced 12-point font, Times New Roman is preferred, one inch margins not to exceed 25 pages. And I will emphasize that. Peer reviewers are not required to read anything beyond that 25 pages, which is critical because then you could be deducted points if some of the required elements fall outside of that 25-page limit. So please be mindful that you adhere to that. And then the proposal narrative will be submitted as an attachment in JustGrants.

And then the format, this was outlined in the previous slide as far as the percentages. So, you want to make sure you have a statement of the problem; the project design and implementation, specifically around your housing model and any partners or other entities you might be working with; then what your capabilities are as the applicant and your competencies of the staff as well as any partners you might be working with; and then finally, a plan for collecting the data that is required as outlined previously.

So now we're going to go through each of the sections very briefly. Again, not going to spend a lot of time. So, literally I'm going to just breeze through these. So the statement of the problem. The one thing I'll stress here is, please make sure you use data that is about your community or your state if you're a statewide response. We want data to come from multiple sources and extend beyond national hotline data. So, often what we'll see is Polaris hotline data that might speak to the general incidents of human trafficking nationally, but that does not give us an idea of what is happening in your area. So whether you use local hotline data or your own agency data, anything you can use, that is what we're looking for.

Next slide is the project design and implementation. Let's see. Here, I would stress, please make sure your information is consistent throughout your proposal. And that you set a realistic timeline. So what I often encourage is when we talk about consistent, make sure what is in your project design and implementation mirrors what you're asking for in your budget. Or what is in your budget is then simultaneously reflected in your project design and implementation. We don't want to disconnect between different parts of your application where it's going to raise questions from the peer reviewers.

And the realistic timeline actually, I'll just add, is I know a lot of people get anxious about numbers of victims being served. Really, what is most critically important is the quality of services being provided. I know sometimes foundations specifically will look more closely at the numbers to be served and certainly, you know, we want to certainly see more than five. I'm being extreme here. But we want to see more than five victims being served a year. But we want it to be realistic and we're focusing more on the quality of services and the support during that 6 to 24 months of service activity, than we are about a quick rotation. So, all right.

Capabilities and competencies. Again, this applies to both you as the applicant as well as any partner agencies that are going to be funded under this grant or included in your budget.

The plan for collecting data, the questions are here. Please make sure, again, you have a plan and that you clearly indicate that you're going to be able to fulfill this requirement, as it is an essential part of the deliverables, should you be selected for an award.

The budget worksheet and narrative. I will point out that this year in JustGrants, there is a web-based form. So that also is different from previous years. You are required to use that form. And if you have technical issues with using that form you need to call the JustHelp--sorry. The JustGrants help desk and their information will be provided at the end the seminar. But that is a technical issue that the program office cannot help you with, if you're--that--maybe the calculations are not coming through as clearly or there's an error. You need to work through the JustGrants help desk. The other thing, again, I will reiterate that the budget is broken out year by year, but reflects the full 36 months. So make sure that that full 36-month period does not exceed that \$600,000 federal funds.

And the other thing which is not on here, but it's just crossed my mind, is we have a match requirement and I can't remember if we come up against that. So, I just wanted to mention that. We do have a 25 percent match. So please make sure you adhere to that.

All right. This is a list of all the other documents that are required, as applicable, you'll see on some of them. So, it depends if you're asking for a priority area. But please those three required documents, again, are your project abstract, your program narrative, and your budget detail and narrative. These, some of them are required. Again, your SF-424 and the disclosure of lobbying activities will be submitted in Grants.gov by this Friday, the 16th. The others are then submitted in JustGrants.

All right. Now, Application Process. Quick Overview.

These have already been recorded and provided. I can't remember if it was earlier this month or in March, but there were two recorded webinars. And you see the link here, it says previous webinar sessions. [<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-application-submission#appln-mechanics>] So you can find that information.

This is the kinds of things it'll cover for you, how to apply. Again, a lot of technical issues that we're not covering in this webinar. Also how to find other funding opportunities, so if you're wanting to see of other programs or opportunities for funding through our office, this is another way you can find it.

There's also the application submission checklist, another great resource to make sure that your application is fully complete before submission. Can't stress that enough.

And, again, here are some links for the recording, as well as the slide deck from previous seminars. The one--That last bullet, bookmark the JustGrants training page for updates, critical. Even my current grantees, I ask them please check this website regularly. It is a new platform so we're still getting up to speed with it and we're always adding new content, new training opportunities through that site. So whether you get funded or not, if you're wanting to look at future opportunities, this is our new platform. So, it's going to be important that you get familiar with it.

Submission Information. Again, this is what I was--I've been repeating a little bit throughout the webinar, are the two separate steps for the application process. So, step one is to submit your 424 and lobbying disclosure in Grants.gov by this Friday, the 16th; and then your full application including attachments in the JustGrants platform. So you'll see two different portals here that you need to submit information in. Please make sure that you submit the appropriate information to the appropriate database.

And then here is a great resource guide. Applicable really to any application you might be working on for the Office of Justice Programs, which is even beyond the Office for Victims of Crime. So if you're looking at BJA, BJS, NIJ, the Office of Juvenile and--OJJDP, this would apply. So, again, another great bookmark to put in your browser.

[<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide>]

As well as what's on the next slide, which are some important web resources. The one thing I'm just going to clarify, because this solicitation was one of the first ones that was released, is I think it's on page 2 or 3, it asks if you have questions, it references an NCJRS Response Center. That is the same thing as the OJP Resource Center. It's transitioned since this solicitation was posted. So you'll see in the web link for the OJP Resource Center that it still has a reference to NCJRS, but I didn't want you to think those were two separate entities. That is one in the same. And they're a great resource, especially I would say if we do--I do not get through all the Q&A during the last half hour we have today, please submit your questions there and they should hopefully be able to help you or get in touch with our office for clarification.

Important Contact Information. Again, these are the critical ones, so Grants.gov. Again, that is for the deadline for this Friday for your 424 and lobbying disclosure. The next one is JustGrants,

that is for your full application. And then finally, your technical assistance or program requirements as the OJP Response Center, formerly the NCJRS Response Center, if you have questions that I don't get to today and you want [INDISTINCT] What I would stress is definitely make sure you meet step one by this Friday. Those are just two very simple forms. The rest you have until April 30th. Okay.

Which is then this final slide. So, again, meet that April 16th deadline and then you can ask additional questions to NCJRS or the Program Office until April 30th. But I would still encourage you, as always, to try and get your application submitted at least one or two days prior to that deadline, especially because JustGrants is a new platform and we're still experiencing glitches even on the post-award side. So, please, please, please, I don't want you to miss out on an opportunity for funding, so please be mindful of that. All right. I think that's it. Phew. All right. I'm going to take a glass of--or a sip of water while I bring up the Q&A.

DARYL FOX: Yeah. Thanks, Kristin. And yes, to everybody on the call webinar, as mentioned, please if you have a question, you can do that through the Q&A and we'll address those in order as they come. And we'll be noting those as answered as we go along the way just to be able to get those out of the queue. So, anything you have, please submit it there.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Thank you, Daryl. All right. So I'm going to start at the top. And if I come across something that's duplicated, I'll probably skip over it or give a very abbreviated answer just to make sure I have time to get through all the questions. Right now, we only have 14 so that's good. I might be able to get through all the questions, but there might be more that come up as I go through.

So the first question is, "Can the funding be used for new construction of a facility?"

No, that is something that we cannot use grant funding for brick and mortar. The only parameters that you can use grant funding for are, like, minor repairs. So--or ADA, if--for to accommodate for individuals with disabilities, of course, that's a federal requirement. So if you currently own a building or something and you're wanting to make it ADA compliant, it could be allowable because that is a requirement for federal awards. But we're really trying to stay away from brick and mortar. It would be more like, you know, as housing turns over and maybe you need to change locks. Or maybe, I don't know, just general wear and tear if you're renting units, you know, with private landlords or something like that. Or if you own your own properties, it would be the--like when you transition from tenant to tenant, there might be some minor repairs. But that's what we're looking for. All right.

"We are currently working on the services for traffic grant." Okay. So that's the other--that's another open solicitation right now. "But one of the services we want to provide is housing. Is there a way for us to go after both without having to write two entirely separate grants? We don't think we have the capacity or time to do both in the next two weeks."

Okay. So it depends on your purpose. So, if you are wanting to focus mostly on housing, I would say, apply for this grant because that is the pure intention of this grant, is housing. If you want to have housing as I would say an option of direct services, but not focus on that entirely, then I

would go for direct services. Housing or--and rental assistance is an allowable cost under the direct services solicitation that is currently open. However, we would not want to see half of your budget focused on housing because under the direct services solicitation, there are--you're committing to providing a wider range of services. I'm not as familiar with that solicitation, but if I recall in the past, we have had a checklist where, you know, you have to demonstrate you're providing housing, you're providing job training, you're providing maybe medical support, you're providing counseling or mental health therapy. So you need to have your dollars stretched a lot further in the direct service solicitation, versus the housing. So, that would be the difference. Now if you're wanting to apply for both, it doesn't sound like you have the capacity, but in case someone is thinking of doing it, I'm going to answer this question now. If you want to apply for direct services and housing, you are allowable. What will be important is that you're not duplicating costs across those two solicitations. Again, and also keep in mind that the focus of this solicitation is housing. So if you are including housing costs under the direct services, make sure it does not duplicate what you're asking for under this solicitation. Or it could be under the housing solicitation maybe you're asking for rental assistance, and under direct services you might focus more on emergency shelter, which is not allowable under this solicitation. So there's ways--or maybe you're serving a different population. There are ways to apply for both. You just want to make sure you're not supplanting funds. All right.

"Can we provide either transitional or short-term housing or does it have to be both?"

No, it does not have to be both. It could be transitional or short-term.

"We normally work with partners to secure permanent housing for clients and assist with security deposit rent under a Housing First Model."

Perfect. Housing First, we love--yeah. Housing First is allowable. So, no, you do not have to do transitional--or sorry, you don't have to do transitional housing and short-term housing. It can be one or the other.

"Can you provide a definition of public safe--"

Oh, wait a minute. I'm trying to--okay. I think the other one I answered. It looks like, Megan, you corrected--oh, yeah. Okay. I see what Megan did with her comments. Okay.

"Can you provide a definition of public safety?"

I'm wondering, Nicole, if you if you could--if you could put in the chat--or sorry not in the chat, in the Q&A under your question or put it further down, like, to put that into content for me. I'm wondering, like, are you--what is instigating that question or I don't know. Daryl, is there a way for individuals to come off mute at all?

DARYL FOX: Not within this room, no.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Okay.

DARYL FOX: Unfortunately.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: All right. So, Nicole, if you can put in the Q&A again, I'll scroll--I'll keep an eye on the bottom. Or Daryl, if--actually, if you could keep an eye on the Q&A and see if Nicole can--has responded, I'll continue going through the questions and come back to that one.

“Are we holding beds if we only work with victims of trafficking?”

So let me--I'm going to see if I can understand your question, Lindsay. So maybe you have a building that is transitional housing, because generally, if you're using rental assistance, you're not holding beds, of course, because you're doing a one-on-one rental assistance with independent partners or landlords. So if you own a building and you have 10 beds available, and you're only serving human trafficking, you are not holding beds. I hope that answers your question--in the sense that it's based on demand, of course. So if you've got 10 beds and, you know, no one is asking for those beds, then it's not “holding beds.” But perhaps maybe you're getting a referral from Polaris that's coming from out of state; we wouldn't want you to say, “no, we are not accepting this person from out of state because we are specifically holding for this specific county.” Again, this is getting a little bit into the nuances of depending upon how your grant is written. But in that situation, we would hope you would reach out to your grant manager saying, “Listen, we've gotten a request out of state, but our grant says we are specifically serving Sussex County. This individual goes outside of our geography. But there is a need.” So there--we want--We just want some compromise. We don't want you to, say, exclude anyone for any reason. And I'm happy to have more conversation about that if that's not clear.

All right. I'm going to scroll down to see if I've heard from Nicole. Oh, okay. No, that's a different question from Nicole. I'm getting to that one. Scroll down.

DARYL FOX: They're saying if they do put down...

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Okay, I see it.

DARYL FOX: Yeah.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Okay, so my--okay. Thank you, Nicole. So “your question is related to priority area, improving public safety in the Qualified Opportunity Zones.”

Interesting. It's not really our... The opportunity zones. It's not necessarily--It's not an OVC parameter, that's more of a DOJ parameter. So I can't really give you a good definition of public safety in that regard because that's not our--it's not something that we have created ourselves. I would suggest doing a search more broadly in Google, perhaps, about Opportunities Zones and what is public safety, or feel free to reach out to the NC--the Response Center. They might have had similar questions to that. But unfortunately, I don't have a good example or clarification on that because it's not something that comes from our office. Okay.

“Can you serve youth and young adults where the child is the victim and not the parent?”

Yes, if I'm understanding that. Now we have to get a little particular as far as minors. The young adults, absolutely. But we do not have parameters specifically about the age of the individual. I'll also direct you--we do have a very--a separate minors solicitation. So you might be interested in that one. But, no, we don't have specific age parameters for this.

Okay. Amy, question about match. Oh, one my favorite subjects. "I have a question about entering match in the budget section of JustGrants. There's no specific column for non-federal contribution as seen in JustGrants guide or toolkit. There is a section to add total match in the consolidated budget form. But no line item specifically. Can you speak to this? Should line item match be described in the narrative? Is that sufficient?"

I would do your best, Amy, to document and provide the narrative as much as possible. I would simultaneously suggest that you reach out to the JustGrants help desk about that because that may be a problematic issue for a number of applicants, given that all of our human trafficking awards require match. I would think this is a question that's going to come up more than once. So if you don't mind shooting them an email or giving them a call, I can promise you the wait time is significantly less for those of you that may have had to engage in--with JustGrants. I've been assured that you're not waiting for hours anymore. So unfortunate--but so Amy, I guess my response would be, do the best you can with what's in there. But please, please make sure that you--somehow it's clear you have met the 25 percent match, because that is a requirement of the grant and I would hate for any of you to be kicked out because you haven't met your match.

All right. And in the JustGrants budget worksheet. Oh, it's the same question from Nicole, I think. Let's see it's--okay. So, Nicole, yeah, for your match, I would reiterate what I just said to Amy's response. And, again, if you could also contact JustGrants. Again, because I think if it's raised more than once, it'll get more attention. So hopefully that's something that could be resolved.

And then your second question is, "If we are operating a county-wide program, do we need to provide ZIP codes for the entire county in JustGrants?"

Again, I'm not sure how JustGrants is functioning from the applicant side for applications. Like, you would certainly put that in your narrative, but if there's a field in JustGrants that's asking for ZIP codes, I would--and you are serving the entire county, I would include all of them. Again, I am erring on the side of caution, if anything, about JustGrants because it is a new system. And clearly, as you're indicating with your questions, there are some things that don't seem to be working as smoothly. But also, Nicole, you might--if you're calling JustGrants anyway, I would suggest that you bring that to their attention and see what they would suggest.

Oh, Amy, I'm sorry, they haven't been helpful yet. I know--I don't know when you called them if it's been recently, but, yeah, I know the history has not been great. If you do actually--I will say, if you do have concerns or are not getting a response from JustGrants, please then contact the OJP Response Center and indicate that as such. So then it can be elevated back to us. We certainly don't want you to be hindered from submitting a successful application because of a lack of response.

All right. Sorry, I'm needing to scroll down. All right. Elisa. "Does the 25 percent match requirement need to be reflected in the budget in any way or will match details be dealt with after the award is made?"

No. You need to be very clear in your application how that 25 percent match is being met whether it's through other grants awards. Again not federal, you can't use federal funds as match, but other federal grants. But if, whether you have foundation or state or local, or if you're using in kind, you have to demonstrate that in your budget upon submission.

All right. Megan says, "Minimal for short-term assistance, is there a guiding percentage?"

I'm looking at the question, it looks like it's--you're asking as far as a value of rental assistance. No, because it really depends on your geography, you know. It might be different if it's urban versus rural. It might be different--I know it'll be different if you're in LA versus if you're in rural Kentucky. So it really needs to be demonstrated based on the kind of rent of the area in that--you're servicing. The fair market rent. So if you can demonstrate that in your application of what that fair make--market rent is in your area, then hopefully that would then correspond to your budget. Let's see.

"Can you once again define what's transitional housing? For example, if we are finding an apartment for a client for one year, is that transitional housing or is it considered short-term rental assistance? Or short-term assistance?"

Okay. If--it depends, Regina, for that. Who is renting the apartment? Some--we have some programs that the agency takes the lease of the apartment because survivors have a bad credit history or a criminal history and therefore a landlord will not rent to that individual. So, sometimes it's the agency that takes that. In either one of those circumstances, I would call it more rental assistance or the short-term housing. The transitional housing is usually again, where it's an owned building where it's clustered. That's how I've generally seen it. I wouldn't say there is a fine line. And frankly, as long as you don't go outside of the parameters of those two purpose areas, we're not going to ding you for not labeling it correctly or wordsmithing it. So we're more looking at making sure that you are within the parameters.

"Will this grant opportunity be available each year or just this year?"

So this is the second year that this solicitation has been available. It--it's really based on Congress' funding and what their priorities are. So, I can't guarantee what is available year--a year. We're blessed to offer this again a second year. Our direct services has been our most long-term standing one, which has included housing but not sole focused. So I can't--I can't anticipate housing funds disappearing completely. They sometimes just might look differently, depending upon the population or the priorities of Congress.

Sorry, my Q&A just keeps jumping. Okay.

“Within the budget section, I see that conference costs are listed separately in the budget as needing pre-approval. Does that apply to official required conferences or any professional development that key staff might engage in?”

This is a good question. So when we--When say conference costs, that means if you, as an applicant, are putting on a conference and wanting to use grant funds to support that conference or training event; so you are hosting a conference, maybe a statewide conference or a statewide training. If you are wanting to use grant funds for that, that's when it--we're talking about you need prior approval. Often, we don't find that in these applications. Those are usually for our training and technical assistance awards. If you're just putting in money for professional development like the Freedom Network Conference we frequently see, or other training opportunities, those do not need--that's not what we're [INDISTINCT] you're not being comp...

DARYL FOX: Kristin, I...

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yep.

DARYL FOX: Oh, we've dropped--we dropped your audio, but you're back. Sorry.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Oh, okay.

DARYL FOX: Uh-hmm.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Let's see. Now any--and the other thing I'll add about the professional development, if you specifically name a conference that you're wanting to engage in, in your budget, and then that budget is approved, you're automatically approved to attend that conference. If you just put a professional development line at a \$1,000 a year, say, then you do need to engage with your grant manager before engaging in a conference or training because we want to make sure it's within scope of the work that you're doing under this grant. So that's a little bit of a detail.

Looking at the time. All right. I've got five more minutes.

“Can these funds be used to implement a new program or does the program need to be currently operating?”

Nope. As long as you're--If you're a new program, you need to make sure you're 501(c)(3) established or you're partnering with one and they take the lead. So you can be a new program.

“If we're proposing to have a subawardee as part of our program, do we need to provide the official subaward contract as an attachment or is LOI detailing sufficient?”

Okay. So for the application, an LOI is sufficient or a letter of intent. What we would then hope for, if you're selected for funding, we would then certainly want to see some kind of executed contract after the award is made.

“Holding beds, I’ve heard that programs say they cannot hold a bed for a survivor for a week or so to see if they return or change their mind. Is that true that you cannot hold beds in those situations?”

Yes. We cannot hold beds.

“If your 501(c)(3) application’s in process and you are working under the 501(c)(3) of a church, can you apply? If not, can you--can you apply under fiscal sponsorship?”

Yes. So you need, again, to have that established 501(c)(3), so maybe it’s the church that is the primary applicant or another entity, and then you would be like a subrecipient under the award. And then the church would be acting as the fiscal agent and then you would be doing a service delivery.

“Is there a minimum or maximum a person could ask or quality for?”

If you’re talking about rental assistance, Pedro, that again is on a discretionary of the--you, the program. Some might need more assistance than others, based on their employment, or lack thereof. Maybe they have child care issues. All of that is at the discretion. We do not have a set fee or amount per agency--I mean, per client.

“Will this recording be sent out?”

Yes. Oops. Skipped Kathryn’s. “Does the grant--” Ooh, I just jumped. Sorry, I’m having to go back.

“Does the grant have service in U.S. only?”

Yes. So it’s only for--we--yeah, but support emergency shelter. Yeah, we can’t provide funding for programs outside of the United States.

“Will spending be limited to U.S. or legal citizens?”

No. That’s an easy question. Let me see if I can get one or two more in.

“Provision of services, what type of capacity are you looking--” Oops, it just jumped again. I’m sorry. This is probably because they’re saying that the--I’ve answered the questions. Every time it does, it jumps. I’m sorry. Oh, there we--in terms of--okay.

“In other words, is it sufficient to offer recovery services and job training but referring coordinate services to other service?”

Yes. So we don’t--especially because this is a housing grant, that is where--that’s the bread and butter. That’s where we want to see your---Kathryn, that’s where we want to see the predominant of your funds focused on. That’s how this is different from the direct services solicitation that’s currently open. So you might then, in your example, also then include funding for recovery

services and job training, but then refer to other entities for counseling and medical services. Totally appropriate.

Let's see. Trying to get through them, because I...

"Would it be acceptable to use this grant to provide rental assistance vouchers with minimal staff and refer out to another program that already provides case management?"

Yep. Absolutely. Yeah. Feel free to do that. We just want to make sure they're supported. So, if you have a relationship and you're providing the rental assistance and partner agencies could provide case management, that is fine.

All right. I'm going to do one more and then which is--I'm going to--and then please reach out to the Resource Center, because I have a 2:00 appointment I--or meeting. I need to jump off.

But there was a question about shelter and transitional housing. "Is there any reason you use transitional housing instead of shelter? I presume they mean the same thing."

No, they do not. So shelter mean--generally is that emergency room crisis situation where you provide housing for 30 days or less. This solicitation, you must provide housing for a minimum of 6 months, up to 24 months. Now it doesn't mean that a survivor has to go through shelter in order to go into transitional housing or rental assistance. That's when we talk about rapid re-housing. They just go straight from the trafficking situation and straight into transitional housing or their own independent living. But, that's why I say transitional housing and not shelter. So I want to make sure that is clear.

All right. So I apologize if I did not get to your question. I would say if you do have more questions, please reach out to the Response Center. If they cannot answer a question, they contact me. So know that I will be your source of information through the Resource Center, if they aren't able to answer your question. And I appreciate your attention and interest. This is a great program of interest to me. So I'll hand it back to you, Daryl.

DARYL FOX: Yeah. And just on behalf of the Office of Victims of Crime and our panelist, Kristin Weschler, thank you all for joining today's webinar. This will end today's presentation. Thank you.