

[Transcript from the [OVC Fiscal Year 2021 Advancing the Use of Technology to Assist Victims of Crime](https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/funding-webinars) pre-application webinar, which was held May 12, 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, OVC's FY 2021 Advancing the Use of Technology to Assist Victims of Crime, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, I'd like to introduce today's presenter, Ivette Estrada, Grants Program Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime. Ivette?

IVETTE ESTRADA: Thank you, Daryl. Good afternoon and welcome to OVC's 2021 Advancing the Use of Technology to Assist Victims of Crime pre-application webinar. As Daryl said, my name is Ivette Estrada. I am a Grant Program Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime at the Department of Justice. A little bit about me, I've been with DOJ for about 16 years now, nine of those years has been with OVC. And my grant portfolio includes many of OVC's technology-based initiatives, including our Telehealth Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs. So I'm really excited that this program has been added to my portfolio.

Here are our topics that I'll go through today. So I will cover OVC's mission. I'll break down the solicitation and cover the major components of it. I'll touch on the new application process and then wrap up with Q&A.

The Office for Victims of Crime, OVC, we administer the Crime Victims Fund, which is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders and not from tax dollars. OVC channels that money towards victim compensation and assistance through the U.S.; raises awareness about victims' issues; and promotes compliance with victims' rights laws; and also provides training and technical assistance and publications and products to victim assistance professionals. Through the Crime Victims Fund, OVC programs supports victims in tribal communities; state victim compensation and assistance programs; training and technical assistance and information resources; support victims and survivors of human trafficking; and then national scope demonstration and service projects.

So here's an overview of our timeline for this solicitation. It closes on Monday, June 28th. DOJ expects to make awards no later than September 30th of this year, 2021. And if funded, anticipate that your project will have a start date on or after October 1st, 2021. One thing to note, is that if your award does have a start date of October 1st, please review your special conditions thoroughly as there may be conditions that restrict you from initiating grant activities. For example, if your budget was not approved through the award process, there will be a withholding special condition that has a hold on all your funds until your budget is approved. So my recommendation would be to read through all of your special conditions, if you are awarded.

Eligibility. Eligible applicants include state governments, city or township governments, public and state controlled institutions of higher ed., county governments, Native American tribal organizations, Native American tribal governments, nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status, and--other than institutions of higher ed., and then private institutions of higher ed. For purposes of this solicitation, we define state as any state

of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Program Description. Through this program, OVC is seeking applications that demonstrate innovative strategies to create, expand, or enhance the use of technology in innovative ways to interact directly with crime victims and/or to provide information, referrals, crisis assistance, and longer-term help. We are interested in applications that really maximize the use of technology to improve and increase access to crime victim services. This year, we've made some changes to this program by adding two purpose areas, which I will discuss in detail shortly. But for both purpose areas, funding may support technology development and maintenance; the staff required to operate, update and maintain the proposed platform or service; training and technical assistance on the purpose and the use of technology, this includes outreach and publicity activities; and staff engaged in coalition building activities regarding the use of technology. So for either purpose area, this funding should not supplant or duplicate currently funded initiatives in these areas. If you propose to use this funding for ongoing, rather than new initiatives, you must specify how these funds will be used to expand or enhance current services while not duplicating any existing efforts.

I'm going to touch on the goal for Purpose Area 1, which is for applicants who propose to develop innovative strategies that create, expand, or enhance the use of technology to improve response services and access for victims of crime. The numbers that you see at the bottom on this screen is the competition ID number for this purpose area. [C-OVC-2021-00016-PROD]

The objective of this program for Purpose Area 1 is to identify gaps in technology that can be enhanced to increase access and provide timely victim services that are sustainable, safe, and align with [OVC Model Standards](#). If you're not familiar with our model standards, they were developed for individual victim service practitioners and program administrators. It--The standards are really intended to promote the competency and ethical integrity of victim service providers in order to enhance their capacity to provide high-quality, consistent responses to crime victims and survivors. So we encourage you to check those out using that link.

The Purpose Area 1 deliverables include service provision using trauma-informed practices that protect the safety and confidentiality of victims and survivors; development of culturally and linguistically appropriate community outreach events and or materials and resources; and a final report describing project activities, promising practices, successes, and challenges encountered, as well as solutions to address those challenges in order to improve outcomes for crime victims.

The goal for Purpose Area 2 is for applicants to enhance or expand capacity of a national victim service hotline, and this excludes the National Elder Justice Hotline. And again, the numbers that you see at the bottom--or on the screen is the competition ID number for this purpose area. [C-OVC-2021-00017-PROD]

The objective for Purpose Area 2 is to enhance or expand the national hotline to interact directly with crime victims and/or to provide information, referrals, crisis assistance, and longer-term help. Again, OVC is interested in applications that staff hotlines with experienced case managers that can provide direct service provision and personalized support using trauma-informed practices that protect the safety and confidentiality of victims. Hotlines should incorporate the following

approaches, using skilled case managers who can assess the needs of victims and identify relevant next steps. Identify appropriate reporting agencies and provide information to callers to assist them in reporting, or to connect callers directly with an appropriate agency. Provide resources and referrals to other services as needed. And to provide contact information to national and local level resources, per the needs of the caller.

Purpose Area 2 deliverables include the development of culturally and linguistically appropriate community outreach events and or materials and resources for service providers and criminal justice stakeholders; as well as engagement in public awareness campaigns and easily--and easily accessible webinars to increase awareness of the assistance available.

OJP Priority Areas. In Fiscal Year 2021, OJP will give priority consideration to applications as follows. Applications that 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. And the other area is applications that demonstrate the individuals who are intended to benefit from the requested grant reside in high-poverty areas or persistent poverty counties. To receive priority consideration under the--under the poverty priority, applicants must provide information to demonstrate that the individuals who are intended to benefit from the requested grant [reside] in high-poverty areas or persistent poverty counties. So for more information on this consideration, you can see page 3 of the solicitation under priority areas.

The Federal Award Information, OVC expects to make a total of four awards under this program, three awards under Purpose Area 1 and one award under Purpose Area 2. Under Purpose Area 1, applicants may request funding up to \$1 million. Under Purpose Area 2, applicants may request funding up to \$1.5 million. These are 3-year awards, so--with an anticipated start date of October 1st. OVC may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this solicitation through continuation awards. And OJP will consider, among other factors, OJP strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award and progress of award-funded work when making any continuation award decisions. And all awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Type of Awards. We expect to make awards under the solicitation as cooperative agreements, which will include a condition in the award document that sets out the nature of what we define as substantial federal involvement and what that means in carrying out the award and program. Generally stated, under OJP's cooperative agreement awards, responsibility for the day-to-day conduct of the funded project usually rests with the recipient. OVC, however, may have substantial involvement in matters such as coordination of technical efforts and site selection, as well as review and approval of project work plans, research designs, data collection instruments, and major project generated materials. In the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#), you can look for the section under Administrative, National Policy, and Other Legal Requirements for more information about cooperative awards.

Application and Submission Information.

The applications--they--the following--these are the following--These are the application elements that must be included in your applications to meet the basic requirements to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding. There's the project abstract or the proposal abstract; the proposal narrative and there's four sections within the narrative; and then the budget worksheet and budget narrative. Applications that meet the basic minimum requirements will be evaluated by peer reviewers. On this slide, under the proposal narrative and budget, you'll see the review criteria. For example, the statement of the problem is 20 percent, the project design is 40 percent, and so forth. So that gives you an idea of what the review criteria is.

So I'll get into a little bit of the proposal abstract. A proposal abstract is a requirement, and it should be no more than 400 words, summarizing the proposed project, including the primary activities, products and deliverables, the service area, and who will benefit from the proposed project. The abstract will now be completed in the JustGrants web-based form.

The proposal narrative should be submitted as an attachment in JustGrants. The attached document should be double-spaced, using a 12-point Times New Roman font, have no less than 1-inch margins, and should not exceed 25 pages. Pages should be numbered. So you'll want to adhere to the proposal narrative formatting requirements. Any proposals that fail to comply with these length restrictions could negatively be impacted and could be determined as noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

The Proposal Narrative Format. So, the following sections must be included as part of the proposal narrative: statement of the problem, project design, and implementation, capabilities, and competencies, and a data collection plan. Each section has a review criteria, so it's really important to address all four of these sections.

The Proposal Narrative. So I'll start with the first section which is statement of the problem. Here, you'll want to describe the significance and value of your proposed project. You'll want to include data to provide evidence that the need for the effort exist, as well as demonstrate the scope and size of the need. You'll also want to describe how this funding opportunity will help address the issues that you've stated in this section. And you'll also want to address how your proposed project will address gaps in services and not duplicate any existing efforts.

The--this is the second section, which is a project design and implementation. Your proposed strategy should address the needs identified in the statement of the problem and include goals, objectives, and activities that are aligned with the solicitation's goals and objectives, which I covered in the previous slides. You'll want to create solid goals and ensure that your objectives are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound. Again, your objective should relate directly to the issues that you described in the statement of the problem section. And with regards to the--your timelines, you'll want to set a realistic timeline to inform--to implement your strategy. And remember that your timeline should cover the duration of the 36-month project period.

The third section of the proposal narrative is the capabilities and competencies section. Here, applicants should describe its capabilities and competencies to accomplish the goals and objectives of their proposed project, such as describing the management structure of your program, how your program will be managed, and background information of personnel responsible for managing and

implementing the project. You'll want to include an organizational chart or information describing key personnel that are on--that are on the project. You should also include a list of the proposed staff members that will be involved in the project. And if any additional staff will be hired, make sure that you identify the selection criteria for those positions. The project director for the program should also have both the substantive expertise and experience to perform crucial leadership functions and have sufficient time to devote to the project to provide the needed guidance and supervision. Job descriptions and copies of resumes for proposed key staff positions should also be included as a separate attachment.

The final section for the proposal narrative is your data collection plans, and this is your plan on how you will be collecting and analyzing the performance measures. So, in this section, you'll want to describe the process for measuring project performance; identify who will be responsible for collecting data and performance measurements; describe how the data will be collected and how it will be used to guide and evaluate the impact of the project; and then describe the process to accurately report data.

The Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative is now a web-based form in JustGrants. So, you will complete this form in JustGrants. You'll want to remember that personnel costs should directly relate to the personnel that were identified in your project. You'll want to break out costs by year, reflecting 36 months total of project activity. Applicants can see the Budget Preparation and Submission Information section of the [OJP Grant Application and Resource Guide](#) for details on the budget and associated documentation, such as information on proposed subawards, proposed procurement contracts under awards, and pre-agreement costs. For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, you can have a look at [DOJ's Financial Guide](#). And I believe a link to that will be provided at the end of this presentation.

This screen here, lists other documents that should be included as part of your application. There is an application checklist in the solicitation. I would--I would strongly recommend utilizing that checklist prior to submitting your application.

So now, we're going to go over the Application Process.

As many of you may know, we are now using a new system, JustGrants. They--The JustGrants team have put together webinar sessions on how to submit an application. So, I would encourage our applicants to review the [Application Mechanics: Submitting an Application](#) training materials, which have been posted on the Justice Grants Training Application Submission page.

You should consider reviewing a recording of any previous webinars as well, which are on this webpage. To provide targeted assistance to applicants applying for DOJ funding opportunities, again, DOJ's JustGrants team is offering webinar sessions on the application submission process. These--This pre-recorded webinar will explain the steps to take prior to applying for funding, how to find open DOJ funding opportunities in Grants.gov, how to apply for funding using grants--Just--using JustGrants, the JustGrants roles and responsibilities, how to navigate and use JustGrants to submit your application, and where to find training materials, job aids, and other resources. The webinar session, just so that everybody knows, will--is approximately 90 minutes and the same content will be covered in each set--in each session with time set aside for Q and A. Registration

for each session is limited to allow for the JustGrants team to respond to questions. Additional session information and application materials are all posted on the JustGrants Training Application Submission page.

Again, the [DOJ Application Submission Checklist](#), this covers all the necessary steps to complete the two-part application process in Grants.gov and JustGrants. So, we encourage you to review the checklist.

JustGrants Training and Resources. Again, there's a lot of training and resources to help you navigate and use JustGrants to submit your application. So please refer to these resources on the [JustGrants Training Application Submission](#) page.

Submission Information. This fiscal year applications will be submitted to DOJ in a new two-step process. So Step ONE, applicants will submit an SF-424, which is the standard application information form and an SF-LLL in Grants.gov. To register in Grants.gov, applicants will need to obtain a Data Universal Numeric System, (a DUNS) and a System of Award Management (SAM) registration or renewal. Step two will be for applicants to then submit the full application including all of your attachments in JustGrants at [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](#). To be considered timely, an application must be submitted by the application deadline using Grants.gov. And the applicant must have received a validation message from Grants.gov that indicates successful and timely submission. We strongly urge applicants to submit applications at least 72 hours prior to the application due date to allow time for the applicant to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion, any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

Again, there is the [OJP Application Resource Guide](#), which I believe is the link on--is a link-- There's a link to this on the screen. Again, just review the section on how to apply.

This is a list of important websites and resources referenced through the solicitation that may be helpful for you as you prepare your application. We have linked--we have links here to our website [OVC's website](#), the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) that I had referenced a little earlier. [JustGrants, Grants.gov](#). The [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) that I have referenced several times. The [OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center](#) for additional TA resources. [Grant Performance Measurement Reporting](#) and the [OJP Resource Center](#).

Here is a list of important contact information, as you prepare your applications. First is Grants.gov, which is available to provide technical assistance when submitting the SF-424 and the SF-LLL. Again the SF-LLL is the disclosure of lobbying activities form. I didn't--I didn't explain what that was earlier. But both of these--excuse me. So the Grants.gov technical assistance can be reached by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or by email to support@grants.gov.

Next is JustGrants, which is available to provide technical assistance on submitting the full application. They can be reached by phone at 833-872-5175 or email to JustGrants@usdoj.gov.

Finally, is the OJP Response Center, which is available to provide technical assistance with programmatic requirements. So that's any questions that relate to the programmatic requirements of

the solicitation. And they can be reached by phone at 1-800-851-3420 or email to Grants@ncjrs.gov.

These are important dates. As a reminder, I would--we would encourage you to review one of the previously recorded [Application Mechanics: Submitting an Application](#) session. Submit part one by the deadline in the solicitation, which is due--which is June 14th at 11:59 PM, that's Eastern Time. And submit part two, which is the full application, by June 28th at 11:59 PM, and that is Eastern Time.

I know that was a lot of information to cover. So hopefully, I think we have some time for questions.

DARYL FOX: Thank you, Ivette. So several questions have been coming in throughout the webinar. Thank you to everyone entering those. Just to reiterate first, a recording and transcript of this particular webinar will be posted to the OVC website in approximately 10 business days. So you'll be able to reference this and click the links within them as needed.

But for today, one of the questions here is, "Can you define direct service provision? Does this mean legal services? If so, can this be on a contract basis or would the award recipient be required to provide the direct services themselves?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes. So direct service provision could include legal services. It can include other services such as advocacy; we said legal services; other critical services that are--that may be identified by a victim or a survivor. And you--I think the question was--there was a second part to that. Let me see. "Can this be on a contract basis or would the award recipient be required to provide direct services themselves?" It can be both. We've had grantees that have the capacity to provide specific direct services, and if they don't have the capacity to provide that service, then they can contract out those services. So it actually could be both.

DARYL FOX: Next question is, "Is Purpose Area 2 to going to fund one centralized hotline or multiple grants for different hotlines?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: There is going to be one award under this purpose area. So again, it really depends on the type of proposals that come in. If there is a proposal that will--that is proposing a centralized hotline and we decided to fund that, then we would. But if there is a proposal that is proposing to--that is proposing multiple hotlines or different hotlines, then that could also be awarded. But it should be national in scope.

DARYL FOX: Next question regarding the eligibility, "Does state government include any state government agencies or does it have to be the VOCA grant administering agency? In Wisconsin our DOJ administers and awards the VOCA funding, and our Wisconsin DOC is the recipient. So is the Wisconsin DOC eligible for the grant or do we have to go through DOJ, Wisconsin's DOJ?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: Any state agent--any state government agency can apply. However, I am aware--I want to say it might've been--oh, there is this--I know there may be states where you have to go through the VOCA administrative--the VOCA grant administrator agency. So I would just--I

would just double check within your state to make sure that there aren't any restrictions about that. But if there are none, then any state government entity can apply.

DARYL FOX: "In the RFP, the statement of the problem section identifies that statement of the problem, if research is involved. Does this mean that it should be completed only if research is involved? If not--If we are not incorporating research, do we skip this section? The score identifies that it is 20 percent of the score, but suggests not to respond if research is not involved."

IVETTE ESTRADA: So the same problem section identifies that statement of the problem, if research is involved. If we are not incorporating research... I'm not sure that I understand, but my recommendation wouldn't--would be to not skip any section because there is a review--there is a review criteria for those sections. So if you are not incorporating research, then I would--I would describe--I would state that and describe your reasons for not incorporating research. But I would definitely not skip a section.

DARYL FOX: "Under Purpose Area 2: national hotline, can the national hotline incorporate other means of communication like text or online chat handled by a call center? Or does it have to be a call center?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: No, it does not have to be a call center. And it--yes, it can incorporate other means of communication like text or online chats.

DARYL FOX: "For the national hotline, can we request funding to cover costs for existing staff who will be providing expanded enhanced services?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes, as long as you are describing that those existing staff members will be part of the enhanced services, then yes, you can.

DARYL FOX: And the next question, "Can one apply for the grant if requesting NGO and technology company are in the U.S., but the application is outside of the U.S.?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: Can you repeat that?

DARYL FOX: Yeah, it's a...

IVETTE ESTRADA: Sorry, I can't...

DARYL FOX: It's a little jumbled--yeah, it's a little jumbled. "Can one apply for the grant if the requesting NGO and technology company are in the U.S., but the application is outside of the U.S.?"

Sure.

IVETTE ESTRADA: But the application is outside the U.S.? I mean, the agency that is applying for the grant, so this is going to be the primary recipient of the grant, needs to be in the U.S. So it has to be within the U.S. and the--those territories that I described.

DARYL FOX: Just a reminder...

IVETTE ESTRADA: I'm not sure if that answers--I'm not sure if that answers the question, but it--hopefully it does.

DARYL FOX: And just a reminder for those that are--do want to ask questions, please if you can do so within the Q&A box, not the chat. Just trying to reserve chat for more technical assistance questions as they arrive, so we can get these all in queue and get these answered. So definitely, thank you.

The next question, "Would an elder abuse service project delivered via telehealth targeting low income, high crime, low resource areas be appropriate for this call? Specifically would telehealth be techy enough and would elder abuse in these groups to be appropriate?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: I would assume that they are interested in applying for Purpose Area 1. It sounds as if that's what they might be proposing. Because if you come in for an elder abuse hotline under two, you wouldn't be eligible. But if it is for Purpose Area 1 and you are proposing an elder abuse service project, you--yes, you can incorporate telehealth approaches to your proposal.

DARYL FOX: "Is information regarding previously funded organizations and projects available?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes. It's--It is on OVC's website. And it would be under "Awards Made by OVC" and you can filter through the name of this project. So you would just enter, "Advancing the Use of Technology to Assist Victims of Crime," and it will pull up all of the previous awarded projects and recipients of those awards.

DARYL FOX: "Are there any match requirements for this solicitation?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: Good question. No. There are no match requirements. I did not mention that. So thank you for asking.

DARYL FOX: Next question, "Is there a particular format for the resumes that's required?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: No. No particular format.

DARYL FOX: And regarding application, "Applicants, do we apply to the OVC website or through our state grant office?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: So, you're going to be--if--Again, the application process is a two-step process. You're going to be applying in Grants.gov first, and then submit your full application in JustGrants. So you should not be--well, there's probably no way to apply through the OVC website because we'll just--we may just direct you to Grants.gov or JustGrants.

DARYL FOX: “Under Purpose Area 1, would consideration be given to proposals focused on technology designed to enhance the capacity and access to information for victim service providers, rather than specifically supporting victims of crime?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes. Absolutely. Because it would--it would go back to supporting the scope of this solicitation, which is to improve and increase access to crime victims. And so that can be through direct services or it could be by providing information, referrals, or other assistance as needed. So yes.

DARYL FOX: “Does the summary on the SF-424 need to match the abstract submitted to JustGrants? One would be submitted before the other.”

IVETTE ESTRADA: The SF-424 is going to--that is where you’re going to include some basic information about your organization. There is--There is a section where it does ask for a brief description of the project. So I would--I would say that they should definitely align. In the abstract, you will have the opportunity to elaborate on the summary that you provided on the SF-424, if that makes sense. And one thing that I just remembered, as well and I just heard about this on one of our trainings, the--one of the application trainings, is that the--in the SF-424, the amount that you put in for funding... So let’s say that you are interested in applying up to the max. Let’s just say for the sake of the conversation \$1 million. That amount should also match exactly to your amount in the budget. So in other words, the amount that you include in the SF-424 needs to match your budget. Otherwise, you will receive an error message. So I just want to point that out because we have been getting a lot of questions about that.

DARYL FOX: “Is this solicitation geared to promote one innovate project, rather than smaller projects to fill in gaps in technology?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: ...Rather than smaller projects? I mean, I would just say that we’re really open to just seeing what comes in and what innovative projects are submitted to us. If your proposal is focusing on--is a smaller project, I mean, again, it could--we would still consider that. So I think that what we equally consider projects that are larger in scope and smaller in scope.

DARYL FOX: Next question is, “Are there any parameters around the types of crime that could be addressed? Assuming violent crimes like domestic violence, but could this be expanded to other lesser violent crimes?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: The scope of this project for any crime. So it’s to improve and increase access to all crime victims.

DARYL FOX: “If we wish to collaborate with another organization, must we submit an MOU?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: I think it’s great to come in with an MOU. I don’t believe that it is required in the solicitation, but I think that an MOU can certainly go a long way in providing evidence of the relationship that you have established with a community partner. So I would certainly say that if you have an MOU, I think it--I think it’s great to attach that as supporting evidence or documentation for your project. So...

DARYL FOX: “Regarding the award amounts for Purpose Area 1, are each of the three awards up to a \$1 million each, or altogether the three will equal \$1 million?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: So it’s--so it’s--So each award can be up to \$1 million each, for a total of \$3 million under Purpose Area 1.

DARYL FOX: “Does the grant have to include both purposes or just one? And if Purpose [Area] 1, can the technology just be for a local jurisdiction, not state or federal?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: Can you repeat that again?

DARYL FOX: “Does the grant have to include both purposes or is it just one that is needed? Purpose Areas...”

IVETTE ESTRADA: You can--You can apply for either Purpose Area. So if you are interested in Purpose Area 1, you do not need to apply for Purpose Area 2. Or if you are interested in applying for both purpose areas, you can apply for both.

DARYL FOX: “Can funding be used to provide computers, tablets, phones to victims of crime? The technology could be preloaded, etc., topics such as job readiness, housing, health, wellness, etc.”

IVETTE ESTRADA: That’s a good question. I would say that you--that it could be an allowable cost as long as you are able to justify the need. And as long... Again, I would just say as long as it can be justified, then I think it could be an allowable cost. As long as it, again, is supporting the overall intent of your project.

DARYL FOX: “This application requires service to specific victims of crimes? If a program that I’m working on provides services to intimate partner violence, are we required to expand those services to other victims?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: No, they’re not required. I would just say that as long as it’s not--as long as it’s not duplicating any existing efforts, then you should be okay.

DARYL FOX: Next question is on eligibility. “Is a private LLC company excluded?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: A private LLC company? I am not sure what that--what they would fall under. So would that be... I’m trying to think would that fall under--would that fall under a nonprofit?

DARYL FOX: What slide? I can go back to that eligibility slide.

IVETTE ESTRADA: It sounds like they might fall under one of the 501(c)(3) statuses if I’m not mistaken.

DARYL FOX: “Would a focus on victims of sexual and/or domestic violence be broad enough for this proposal?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: I’m sorry, can you say that again, Darryl?

DARYL FOX: “Would a focus on victims of sexual and/or domestic violence be broad enough for this proposal?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes, absolutely.

DARYL FOX: “And can it support mental health therapy on telehealth for crime victims?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes. That would be an allowable service.

DARYL FOX: Then there was a question on “JustGrants being new. There’s some guidance needed.”

And I’ll just go ahead and reiterate from this slide here, the JustGrants technical assistance, telephone, website, and email is a great reference. So anything specific to JustGrants, [you] definitely want to reach out to them. As Ivette mentioned, too, there are some mechanics webinars on how to apply. So that’d be a great start, especially getting used to the new system.

There’s another question. “Are there more details about how existing technology can be used to enhance or expand victim services as opposed to creating entirely new technology?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: I would say that you are more than welcomed to look at the previously funded projects under this solicitation to give you an idea of some of the type of technology that other applicants have used, to give you an idea.

DARYL FOX: “For those with current OVC grants that run through, say, 2022, are you able to--are they still eligible to apply?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: They would still be eligible to apply, but again they would have to show how these--how these funds would be used to expand or enhance their current project that’s supported under an open award.

DARYL FOX: Next question is, “Does the recipient need to provide direct services? This particular entity received an award in 2018 under this program to build a cloud-based intake system for agencies working with survivors of domestic violence. They would like to apply under Purpose Area 1 to continue the development as well as help agencies pay for it. Is it applicable under this solicitation?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: I would say as long as you are able to demonstrate that that technology is going to improve the response or improve services or access for victims of crime, then it would be--it would fall under the scope and could be considered.

DARYL FOX: “Can you be a participant in someone else’s grant and also apply for your own under this grant?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: Meaning they would come in as a subrecipient on one application and then apply as the primary recipient on another? That’s what I’m assuming this applicant is asking. Yes, that’s--that can be done and I’ve seen that done. But you have to remember, that as the primary-- whoever the primary recipient is, they are responsible for the administration and the management of the grant. But yes, you can come in as a--as a subrecipient or a subcontractor under another proposal.

DARYL FOX: “For Purpose Area 1, would you say that the goal is to develop a technology to help victims that could be replicated, used in other jurisdictions?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: That would be ideal. I think OVC is--would definitely be interested in those types of proposals where that strategy or that model can definitely be replicated.

DARYL FOX: “Is there an example of demonstrating the promotion of civil rights within this?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: If there’s an example, not that I’m aware of, unfortunately. I’m not aware of any examples. Sorry about that.

DARYL FOX: This may have been touched on, Ivette. “Can the funding be used to enhance and upgrade an existing statewide notification system, or does it have to be a brand new system or project?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: No, it does not have to be a brand new project. And this can certainly--The funding can be used to enhance an existing--yes, it can be used to--for any technological enhancements or development. It could be both.

DARYL FOX: “Can we apply for only a portion of the funds? For example, if we only want to create recorded and live webinars, as an example.”

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes, you do not have to apply for the \$1 million. It--you can apply up to \$1 million. So if you--if your project--if you--if you think your project is only going to need--excuse me, \$500,000, then yes, you can--you can come in for that amount of funding.

DARYL FOX: “Is this a recurring grant? Would there be another one available in 2022?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: This is--this is all based on our appropriations, so it is subject to our appropriations. And this year, we had funding to support another year for this program. But, you know, it all--it really depends. Every year is different. So it just really--it’s really dependent upon the appropriations.

DARYL FOX: “Part of this particular organization’s work includes maintenance of an online database used by service providers to confidentially track services to victims. Would upgrades to the system be allowable use under priority one?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes. This--yes, funding under this initiative can support technology maintenance. Yes.

DARYL FOX: Okay. "Being that the project doesn't require match, but is it beneficial to demonstrate the other expenses that are covered by the partners who are contributing to the project in the budget?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: I will--the--What I will say on that is if you do include match in your budget, just remember that it will become mandatory and subject to audits. So once the grant--if you are awarded and the grants ends, you will--that will be a mandatory part of your budget. So if--So you can if you want to choose to; but again, there are no matching requirements.

DARYL FOX: "Does Purpose Area 1 have to be national, or can it be regional in scope?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: It could be regional, it could be national, it could be local.

DARYL FOX: And Ivette, we're coming up on 4:00 now. There's a few more questions in the queue, if you wanted to keep going or...

IVETTE ESTRADA: Sure, I can take--I can take a few more.

DARYL FOX: Okay. "For Purpose Area 1, if the applicant partnership involves in academic institution developing the technology, how does the ownership of the technology work?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: That's a great question. I think they will have to figure that out between the institution that they're partnering with. That's actually a really good question. Yeah, the--I think that is--that is really--That will be determined by the relationship between the two. And...

DARYL FOX: "Would a hotline that is culturally specific, for example LGBTQ survivors of violence, would that be enough for Purpose Area 2, or would it need to be broader than that?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: What's--I would--For me, I would ask what crime victims are they supporting? Is it--I--They probably need to go a little bit deeper with that and just make sure that they are aligning with the scope of the solicitation and address what crime victim services will be provided under that project.

DARYL FOX: Next question, "Can there be multiple small projects aimed at various purposes? For example, a more comprehensive approach including legal assistance, advocacy, counseling services, etc."

IVETTE ESTRADA: I'm not sure I understand. Can you say that one more time? Can you repeat that to me?

DARYL FOX: “Can there be multiple small projects aimed at various purposes? For example, a more comprehensive approach including legal assistance, advocacy, and counseling services, among others.”

IVETTE ESTRADA: And is the applicant saying that they’re--they would app--that they would apply under--you said multiple--they said different purpose areas or--I’m not sure I understand that.

DARYL FOX: Yeah, perhaps expanding their services other than what was, you know, required in the program.

IVETTE ESTRADA: Well, if they are--I mean, if they’re looking to expand their services using technology, then yes, I would certainly say that that would fall under this scope.

DARYL FOX: “If we decide to apply for both purpose areas, would--will we need to submit separate grants requests?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes. So that would require two separate applications. One application for Purpose Area 1 and one application for Purpose Area 2.

DARYL FOX: “For Purpose Area 1, can the technology be just for a local jurisdiction? For example, for counties in a particular state.”

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes. It can--it can be for a local jurisdiction. Yes. Or it could be statewide or national. There is no--there’s no restriction on the--on the geographical area.

DARYL FOX: “Can funding be used for language-based technology? For example, acquiring a simultaneous translation program for crisis line chat services.”

IVETTE ESTRADA: Well, that sounds really interesting. As long as they demonstrate that--again, it just--it needs to fall--it needs to tie back to the scope of the--of the solicitation. So as long as they’re able to demonstrate that that technology is going to improve and increase access, then yes.

DARYL FOX: “Can for-profit organizations apply directly or they need to apply with under a nonprofit organization?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: I don’t believe for-profits--I don’t believe for-profits were on the list of eligibility. Let me--Let me just quickly check.

DARYL FOX: Ivette, if you have that slide number, I can put that up onto the screen.

IVETTE ESTRADA: Oh yes, if you would, that would be great. I don’t recall seeing for-profits on there. If they’re not on that list, then yes, they would have to come over under a nonprofit. Yes, so they would have to come under a nonprofit. They’re not on the list.

DARYL FOX: “Is there a focus on victims--American victims taken hostage globally, more on global aspect?”

Not sure what that's specifically asking, though.

IVETTE ESTRADA: I'm not--I'm not sure I understand that either.

DARYL FOX: Yeah.

"Can you define what is meant by the term innovative? Is that--Is there a definition? Or is it more broad?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: It's a broad--it's just broad. We don't have a definition for it. But we're just looking, again, just for creative strategies and new ways to create or expand or enhance the use of technology.

DARYL FOX: "We have an existing VOCA program that funds existing direct service advocates. Can we use this grant to cost-share salaries for them? It will play integral roles in the program we're proposing. Or would this be considered a duplication of services?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: It could. It may and it--and it may even touch on supplanting. I would--I would--I would just make sure that your--that you're definitely not duplicating or supplanting.

DARYL FOX: Okay. Thank you. Ivette, I think that's going to be it for today. Is there anything else, Ivette, that you had to share?

IVETTE ESTRADA: No, I'm--thank you for joining us on this webinar. And if you have any additional programmatic questions that are not technical, again, you can--you can contact the--what is it, Daryl? Is it the OJP Resource Center? Can you put that slide up again?

DARYL FOX: Yes, the slide's up now. It is the OJP Resource Center. Either their 1-800 number or their email certainly.

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes, there it is. The last one here, the OJP Response Center. So if you have any additional questions that relate to the programmatic requirements, feel free to call the Response Center or email them. I think, sometimes some of those questions may funnel through to me. But yeah, no, other than that, thank you for being on the webinar and for joining us today.

DARYL FOX: And just a few more items. I know there were several questions on the prior awardees. And as Ivette mentioned, through the OVC website you can go in and sort as you need to look at the past programs and awards.

And also, a reminder, this will be--this presentation will be posted to the OVC website. The recording and the full transcript for your reference, so you can go back as you need to.

So with that, you know, on behalf of the Office of Victims of Crime and our panelist today, thank you for joining the webinar. This will end today's presentation. Thank you.