DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to today's webinar, "Project Beacon: Increasing Access to Services for Urban American Indian and Alaska Native Victims of Human Trafficking Program," hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Kimberly Woodard, Senior Tribal Affairs Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime to begin the presentation. Kimberly?

KIMBERLY WOODARD: This slide outlines the topics that we're going to cover during today's webinar. I strongly encourage you to have a copy of the solicitation open and to take notes as we proceed. I have time—as Daryl mentioned, I have time reserved for questions and answers at the end of the presentation. However, please feel free to enter your questions in the chat as we go along. I will answer the questions entered in the chat once we get to the Q&A portion of the agenda.

Let's start by taking a look at OVC's history and mission. OVC administers the Crime Victims Fund, which we refer to as the fund. It is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders not from tax dollars. Federal revenues deposited into the fund also come from gifts, donations, and bequests by private parties. OVC channels funding for victim compensation and assistance throughout the United States, raises awareness about victims issues, promotes compliance with victim's rights laws, and provides training and technical assistance and publications and products to victim assistance professionals. OVC is dedicated to a constant improvement in the national response to crime victim by identifying emerging needs and gaps in existing services, enhancing the skillsets of service providers to better meet these needs, promoting greater public awareness of the issues that crime victims face.

Next, we're going to take a look at some of the operational definitions for the solicitation so that we all have the same understanding about the victims of crime who are the target service population for this program. Here we have three important definitions. The target populations for this program are members of federally recognized Indian tribes who are victims of sex trafficking, meaning they are either under the age of 18 and have been involved in commercial—in commercial sex activities, or over the age of 18 and engaged in commercial sex as a result of fraud, force, or coercion and the activities took place in a city with a total population of 50,000 or more, or the individual who has engaged in such activities is present in a city with a population of 50,000 or more. Now we're going to take a look at what we mean when we refer to labor trafficking.

This year's solicitation includes an expanded emphasis on labor trafficking. While Project Beacon grantees have always been able to spend their funds to address the specific needs of victims of labor trafficking, this year, we wanted to underscore that labor trafficking should be given parity in terms of resources and attention under Project

Beacon. Applicants should consider the partner organizations that they might need in order to help them identify and assist victims of labor trafficking as they develop strategic partnerships.

Next, we'll look at the purpose of the Project Beacon Program. Project Beacon has two primary goals, to increase the availability of services for American Indian and Alaska Native victims of sex trafficking in urban areas, and increase by increasing the capacity of urban Indian centers to meet the needs of these victims. OVC recognizes that urban Indian centers have a long history of developing programming to meet the emerging needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives who have migrated to urban population centers. We believe that these organizations are well suited to helping this most vulnerable and oftentimes invisible population of crime victims. As we'll see next, there are two purpose areas in this year's Project Beacon solicitation that are designed to achieve the program's overarching goal.

This year, OVC will be accepting applications for funding from applicants who wish to provide direct services to American Indian and Alaska Native victims of sex trafficking under Purpose Area 1. We are also soliciting applications from qualified organizations who are interested in providing training and technical assistance to the direct services award recipients under Purpose Area 2. Applicants can only apply to either Purpose Area 1 or Purpose Area 2. OVC will not accept applications from a single applicant for both purpose areas. Applicants to Purpose Area 2 are prohibited from using their funds to provide direct services to victims. Because we have interested potential applicants for both purpose areas participating in today's webinar, I will alternate discussing the requirements for Purpose Areas 1 and 2 as we look at the program requirements during today's webinar. Now we'll look at how much funding we will award by purpose area.

This slide summarizes OVC's plans for this program. We will award up to eight grants totaling up to $475,000 each under Purpose Area 1. Under Purpose Area 2, we will make a single award totaling up to $550,000. All awards will cover a 36-month period of activity. Next slide, please.

So now we're—think about who—we'll talk about who's eligible to apply under each purpose area. Under Purpose Area 1, applicants must be nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations whose primary purpose is to specifically provide services that meet the health, safety, and general for—general welfare needs of urban American Indian and Alaska Native individuals. This includes urban Indian centers to provide social services programming, such as case management services, education or workforce development programming, and other services intended to promote the general welfare of urban American Indians and Alaska Natives. That also includes healthcare facilities

to provide medical and/or behavioral health and other services to urban Indians and organization to provide victim services to urban Indians. Purpose Area 1 applicants must demonstrate that they're—the primary mission of their organization by submitting a copy of their organizational mission statement as an attachment to their application for funding. Applicants are also encouraged but not required to submit brief biographical sketches of the members of its board of directors, steering committee or senior management team to demonstrate that the organization is led by individuals who have knowledge and expertise in meeting the needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives who reside in urban areas. I want to underscore that Purpose Area 1 applicants do not need to have experience in serving victims of crime. The Project Beacon Program is intended to be a capacity building program. So that Purpose Area 1 applicants who have no prior experience with serving victims of crime will be able to develop their capacity to meet the needs of those victims through the receipt of training and technical assistance.

What's most important for Purpose Area 1 applicants is that they are able to demonstrate that their organization has a history of developing programming to meet the emerging needs of urban American Indians and Alaska Natives. For example, if your organize—if your organization recognize that the native population in their community needed an emergency shelter or transitional housing assistance or a GED program and identify resources and develop their capacity to meet those services, that is what we are interested in having you demonstrate in your program narrative.

Now we'll take a look at eligibility for Purpose Area 2. As detailed here, there are several legal entities who are eligible to apply for Purpose Area 2, the most important bullet point here is the last one. Any applicant under Purpose Area 2 must demonstrate that they have experience providing training and technical assistance, so organizations or agencies who are providing direct services to urban native.

Now we're going to take a look at the required activities for both purpose areas. Under Purpose Area 1, award recipients are required to develop a victim services program that is based on a four-part comprehensive services model for the delivery of services set to human trafficking victims. Purpose Area 1 applicants are not expected to have the capacity to fulfill all of the needs of native victims of human trafficking. With training and technical assistance, OVC expects Purpose Area 1 award recipients to develop a plan to meet the comprehensive needs of the victims that they will serve through a coordinated community wide response that relies on collaborative partnerships and cross referrals for services. Purpose Area 1 applicants must execute an MOU which outlines the roles and responsibilities of each collaborative partner with key community stakeholders. These stakeholders include organizations or agencies who are necessary

to develop a coordinated community response to meet the needs of native victims of human trafficking. These organizations and agencies include criminal justice responders at the federal, state, local and tribal levels, as well as state or tribal child welfare agencies, victim services providers, mental health agencies, correctional agencies and other social services providers. The list of potential stakeholders here is not comprehensive. This list may change based on each individual award recipient's own mission and/or current programming and the resources available in the recipient's community. Purpose Area 1 award recipients who need help developing MOUs will receive training and technical assistance with this—with this task post-award. Next, we will review the expected out approach to service delivery.

Under Purpose Area 1, recipients must develop a victim-centered approach to delivery of services. This means adopting a trauma-informed approach, so that victims are not re-traumatized by seeking assistance, and assisting each victim with developing a recovery plan that will meet his or her individual needs, as well as working collaboratively with victims so that they are able to build their ability to make educated informed decisions about their lives. The victim-centered approach to service delivery is an important aspect of helping the victims you're likely to encounter, and direct services develop or regain their confidence in exercising autonomy, and coping with potentially— with potential ongoing psychological and emotional stress.

Next, we'll discuss the intensive case management services that are required as part of this model. As all victims under Purpose Area 1 require a case management plan regardless of where they reside. This includes, for example, minor victims who are in foster care or residing at home, as well as adults who are residing in a temporary shelter or an inpatient substance abuse treatment program or a correctional facility. The case management plan must also be holistic and focused on the resources and support a victim may need across multiple domains of their lives.

And so looking next that they require victim services, this list of required services for the comprehensive services model can be found on pages eight through nine of the solicitation. In the interest of time, I won't read through each individual service. However, I want to underscore that no Purpose Area 1 applicant is expected to have the ability to provide all these services in-house. As I mentioned previously, having MOUs and other informal agreements with the community stakeholders will enable Purpose Area 1 award recipients to develop referral network, so that victims that they serve have access to the services through the recipient's collaborative partners if they do not offer those services themselves.

You can find a list of the activities that OVC has determined will compromise victim safety and recovery on page nine of the solicitation. Please be sure to avoid including any of these practices in the plans for your proposed projects. If they are included in your proposal, your application may be removed from funding consideration. Or if your application is selected for funding then you will be asked to remove them from your Program Narrative and/or budget post-award.

Now we'll review the community outreach and training requirements for Purpose Area 1 applicants. Purpose Area 1 applicants should include an outreach and training plan that addresses each of the elements on the slide as an attachment to their application for funding. The plan includes—should include itemized calculations organized by OJP approved budget categories to illustrate how the applicant will spend between two and five percent of their total award amount on outreach and training activities.

Purpose Area 1 applicants should also submit a Program Evaluation Plan as attachment to their application for funding. The plan should include itemized calculations organized by OJP approved budget categories to illustrate how the applicant will spend two to five percent of their total award amount on program evaluation activity. Notice that I use the word "should." So what that means is that we anticipate that there will be first-time applicants to this program who do not have such plans. If you do not already have a plan that you developed to meet these requirements under a previous project seeking solicitation, do not worry about attaching anything to your proposal. Instead, OVC and the training and technical assistance provider will help you to develop those plans post-award. So again, if you don't have them right now, don't worry about attaching it. For those of you who are previous Project Beacon grant—Project Beacon grantees, you can use this as an opportunity to update your existing plans and attach them to your application for funding.

Now we'll look at Project Deliverables. This slide includes the required Project Deliverables for each purpose area. Purpose Area 1 applicants will have 18 months from the receipt of their award to comply with this requirement, and will have access to training and technical assistance to assist them with completing the deliverables. The completion of these deliverables should be included in your project timeline. Please keep in mind that Purpose Area 1 award recipients will only be able to access one-third of their award funds, and will not be allowed to provide direct services until OVC approve their required Project Deliverables. If, however, you are a previous Project Beacon grantee and you have already developed these materials, you can update them as needed, and attach the existing document to your application for funding. If you are in that situation of being a previous grantee who already has developed these materials, you—and you attach that to your application for funding, you will not be issued an award

with a hold on two-thirds of the funding, instead, you would have immediate access to the funding that you received under this award program.

Purpose Area 2 applicants should also note this slide and should include the delivery of the required project—Purpose Area 2 Project Deliverables to OVC in their project timeline.

Now we'll take a look at the Goals and Objectives for the Project Beacon Program. The slide offers a reminder of the goal of the Project Beacon Program, the goal—the goals applicants identify in the Project Design and Implementation portion of their Proposal Narrative in their application for funding should be consistent with the goal for their respective purpose area.

Now we'll review the Objectives for each purpose area. Looking at Purpose Area 1, as I've mentioned previously, the objectives of Purpose Area 1 include implementing a plan for the provision of services using the comprehensive service delivery model, working collaboratively with key stakeholders, participating in training and technical assistance provided by OVC and the Purpose Area 2 award recipients, and developing and implementing plans to collect performance measurement data, as well as program evaluation and outreach and training activities.

So looking at Purpose Area 2, the Objectives identified in the Project Design and Implementation section of your Program Narrative should be consistent with the objectives outlined on this slide.

Now we'll take a look at the application submission process—or I'm sorry, not application submission, Resource Coordination. This is a requirement that I want to highlight. Page 12 of the program solicitation outlines the requirements for Purpose Area 1 applicants to ensure that their proposals are not duplicating existing federally funded human trafficking services in their community. You can use the links on page 12 of the solicitation to look at existing OVC and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, human trafficking projects by geographic region. If there are no existing federally funded human trafficking services in your proposed service area, then please say so in the Project Design and Implementation section of your Proposal Narrative for Purpose Area 1. If there are already federally funded human trafficking services in your proposed service area, you need to justify your funding request by either explaining how the services proposed in your proposal narrative are different or distinct from existing services, or justifying how your proposal will fill in a gap in services if you're requesting funding to provide services that are already available.

Purpose Area 1 applicants must also address how they will coordinate with existing federally funded human trafficking, victim services providers, and the Project Design and Implementation section of their Proposal Narrative. If your organization will be using other federal or state funding to support your proposed project, please disclose this information in the "what will be done section" of your Proposal Narrative.

Now we're going to take a look at the application submission process, starting with the application content requirements. So at a minimum, the three documents on this slide must be included in your application in order for it to proceed to peer review and must— and receive funding consideration. So keep in mind, however, that the requirement to submit the organizational mission statement applies only to Purpose Area 1 applicants. So, you can submit this as an attachment by taking a screenshot from your organization's website, you can submit a copy of previously published materials, or you can just submit a Word document that says organize—that says what your organizational mission statement is.

So we'll next look at the Proposal Abstract requirements. All applicants should attach a 400-word abstract, which meets the solicitation requirements to their application for funding as a Word document. It is extremely important that you attach a proposal abstract. This information, if your application is selected for funding, will be posted publicly on OJP's website to inform the public about what your—what your project is intended to do. So again, please attach a proposal abstract. It does not carry any weight in terms of how your proposal will be scored. But if you do not have one, we will need you to write one on the back end, so please do it now.

Now, we'll look at the Proposal Narrative Sections. In the interest of time, I will not review each of the sections required by the solicitation, instead, I encourage you to read the requirements for each purpose area for which you intend to apply and develop your proposal to address each of the bullet points listed under the subheading sections of those two purpose areas. This slide also indicates how much weight is assigned to each section of the Proposal Narrative. Keep in mind that the Proposal Narrative accounts for 85% of how your application will be assessed.

Next, we'll look at formatting for the Proposal Narrative. If the Proposal Narrative fails to comply with this length related and format requirement restrictions, OVC may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in the final award decision-making process. Moreover, if the font and margin size render the document difficult to read, this may also affect how your application is evaluated, because reviewers may miss important details in your narrative if it is not easy to read.

Now we'll look at the Budget Requirements. Or excuse me, we'll look at Proposal Narrative Tips. I apologize. OVC offers these tips to guide you in producing a program narrative that meets the solicitation requirements and helps you to make the most efficient use of the space allocated to the Proposal Narrative. We strongly encourage you to use the Proposal Narrative subheadings in your narrative. Not only will this help you to organize your writing, but it will also make it easier for reviewers to find the information that they need to properly evaluate your program narrative. Now we'll look at the budget requirements.

On page 19 of the solicitation, you can use the link for the OJP Application Resource Guide to access a user-friendly fillable Microsoft Excel-based document that will assist you with organizing items of cost by OJP approved budget categories, calculating budget items, and generating the required OJP budget summary page. Applicants without access to Excel or who experience technical difficulties with the Excel document can also use the same link to access a 508-compliant accessible Adobe portable document, or basically a PDF version of the OJP Budget Worksheet and Narrative using the same link. I do want to underscore that while you are not required to use those documents, we strongly encourage you to use them so that there is no confusion on our part about what it is you're requesting to do with the funding. And that using one of those two documents will also help you meet the technical requirements for OJP's budget process.

So we're going to look a little bit more at the Budget Requirements. This slide briefly summarizes the Budget Requirements for both purpose areas. You will need to use Washington, D.C. as the travel destination for purposes of estimating travel costs because the exact location for these events is not known at this time. You are expected to use the FY22 GSA lodging and per diem rates for Washington, D.C. to calculate lodging and meals and incidental costs. Purpose Area 2 applicants will also need to illustrate in their personnel and fringe benefits calculations that they will hire a 1.0 full-time employee—equivalent employee who will be dedicated to coordinating training and technical assistance for Purpose Area 1 applicants, as well as costs associated with hosting annual in-person Project Beacon grantee meetings, and onsite training and technical assistance visits for up to eight Purpose Area 1 grantees. Again, when calculating costs for travel, we are asking that the Purpose Area 2 applicant use Washington, D.C. as the destination.

So now we'll look briefly at other attachments that you may include with your application for funding. So here on this slide, you'll find a summary of those additional attachments. Again, please note that if you plan to compensate an employee, meaning—compensation meaning salary, plus any bonuses, at a rate which exceeds 110% of the

maximum annual salary payable to a member of the Federal Government Senior Executive Service, you will need to provide additional information. You can use the information in the OJP Application Resource Guide to access the FY22 Senior Executive Service pay table. If applicable, again, you will be required to submit a request for a waiver of this restriction as part of your application for funding. Each of the documents here should be attached to your application for funding in JustGrants.

Next, we'll take a look at the required standard forms that you submit—you must submit as part of your application. As detailed by this slide, most of the required forms that you must submit can be completed online in either Grants.gov or JustGrants. There is one exception. The financial management and systems of internal controlled questionnaire must be downloaded from the OJP website, completed and attached to your application for funding in JustGrants. You can access the form using the link for the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide next to the financial questionnaire heading on the application checklist on page 25 of the solicitation. That's the easiest way to find that form.

Now we'll look at the Application Process. So keep in mind that you will have two application submission deadlines. One is for Grants.gov and the other is for JustGrants. Aside from the SF-424 application for federal funding and the SF-LLL lobbying disclosure form, most of your application content will be submitted in JustGrants. Your entity information is populated based on upon entries in the SAM.gov database and that is what is used in Grants.gov. Each solicitation has an application submit—submission deadline in Grants.gov, which is roughly one or two weeks before the JustGrants submission deadline. After this date, the solicitation is removed from Grants.gov and no one will be able to initiate a new application for this solicitation. We highly recommend that you initiate your application in Grants.gov at least 72 hours prior to the May 31st Grants.gov deadline in order to provide you with enough time to correct any errors and make a resubmission if necessary. Once the application has been submitted and validated in Grants.gov, it will be sent to JustGrants for completion. It may take several days for Grants.gov to complete validations and release your application contents to JustGrants. It's okay to enter preliminary information in Grants.gov. If you haven't fully determined your budget or project scope, you will be able to edit and update all of your entries in JustGrants. The JustGrants submission must include all the items that are required in the solicitation. So again—next slide please. The Grants.gov submission deadline is May 31st, 2022 and the JustGrants deadline is June 6th, 2022. Next slide.

So the first step in the process is again, to apply in Grants.gov. Before attempting to register in Grants.gov, however, make sure your system of award management or SAM.gov registration is up to date. Next slide.

To complete the second step of the process, you must apply in JustGrants. Once your registration in Grants.gov has been received and validated, you can proceed to the next step in submitting your application and all required attachments in JustGrants. Please contact the JustGrants Help Desk if you need assistance with resolving technical difficulties with the application submission process. In order for your application to be considered complete, you will need to attach all of the mandatory attachments in JustGrants by the application submission deadline. Next slide.

On this slide, there is information about how you can participate in a live JustGrants training on how to submit a grant application. It is going to be held next Wednesday, April 27th, 2022 between 2:30 and 4:00 PM Eastern Time. You must register at the JustGrants website in order to participate in this live event. The target audience for this training includes any individual who will be serving in the application submitter role in JustGrants, as well as anyone who is anticipated to serve as an Entity Administrator and/or authorized representative. This is the last scheduled date for this training, so please register ASAP if you're interested in participating. And again, the URL to register for that event is can be found in this slide that we're looking at now. Next slide.

If you cannot make next Wednesday's live training, you can review the JustGrants e-learning videos, a Job Aid Reference Guide, a DOJ Application Checklist, and other resources to learn more about how to successfully navigate the application process in JustGrants. All this information can be found on the JustGrants website. The training resources also detail the mechanics of locating the application in—application in JustGrants, completing each of the application requirements, how to upload your attachments in JustGrants and confirm your application has been successfully submitted. You can access the training resources using the hyperlink in the title of this slide. Next slide, please.

Every applicant will receive an automated email notification from JustGrants on or before September 30th, which indicates that all of the applications submitted in response to the solicitation have been reviewed. The Entity Award Administrator is the individual who will receive an award notification in a separate automated email if your application is selected for funding. That email will include instructions on how to accept the award in JustGrants. If your application is not selected for funding, you will receive a letter from OVC along with a summary of comments from the application reviewers identifying how your proposal could be improved. As outlined here, your organization may receive other notifications about the status of your application, including changes in the application submission deadline, notice of successful transmission of your application from Grants.gov or to JustGrants. Please note, if you log into JustGrants at

the—after the application submission deadline has passed, you may see a banner message indicating the application is past due. But if your application status is submitted, it means that DOJ has received your application and you may disregard this message.

Next slide. Here's a list of the contact information that will be important to you as you prepare your application. Contact the Grants.gov or JustGrants Help Desk as needed to resolve technical difficulties with either system. Contact the OJP Response Center with questions about the solicitation or grant program requirements.

Next slide. In the event that you have unforeseen technical issues, in order for OJP to consider an applicant's request for a waiver to submit their application after the submission deadline, the applicant must document that it has encountered unforeseen technical issues with either SAM.gov, Grants.gov or JustGrants.gov. Keep in mind that simply missing key deadlines such as the Grants.gov registration deadline will not be sufficient to demonstrate that the circumstances were beyond the applicant's control. The waiver must be submitted to the NCJRS Help Desk within 24 hours of the June 6th JustGrants submission deadline. It must include all the information outlined here in the bulleted list and on page 21 of the solicitation. OJP will review each request for late submission and the required supporting documentation and will notify the applicant whether the request has been approved or denied. Next slide.

This slide includes resources that may be helpful or useful in helping you prepare and submit your application for funding. This concludes the formal presentation. Now I will answer your questions. And all right. I see just one question pending right now. "Will we be able to access these slides?" Daryl, I believe they will. Will they be posted on the OVC website, is that right?

DARYL FOX: That's correct. So, the PowerPoint, the transcript, and the recording for today will all be posted. There'll be a message sent to the registered list when that happens, so keep an eye out for that and be posting hopefully sometime next week.

KIMBERLY WOODARD: Okay. Great. Thank you. Are there any other questions at this time? "I am struggling to obtain the Entity Registration and…"—okay, I'm having a hard time reading this question. Okay. Better. "I'm struggling to obtain the Entity Registration and there is a notification that there is a delay in processing incidents, is there any way to find out when they will get to my incident to register on SAM.gov?" So that is a question that is best posed to the SAM.gov Help Desk. So what—if you have not done so already, definitely contact them and get a ticket number because again, when I was talking a moment ago about unforeseen circumstances, a lot of that depends on your

ability to document that you have encountered technical difficulties and that you have attempted to resolve them in a timely manner. So, if you have a problem accessing anything in any of these systems, you're getting error messages, always call the Help Desk, get a ticket number and save the email. That's the documentation that we'll be looking for.

Any other questions right now? "Are there any restrictions on how long an organization has existed in order to get this grant?" There are no explicit restrictions set forth in the solicitation. However, you know, again, we're looking at organizations that have a—and depending on that, for—I'm not sure which purpose area you're referring to. But for both purpose areas, we are looking for organizations who do have a track record of providing the type of programming that we are interested in supporting under this solicitation. So, if you are for example applying for Purpose Area 1 and you are a newer organization, we are again looking to see that you meet the technical requirements under this solicitation in terms of demonstrating a track record of developing innovative programs to meet an unmet need, or having a track record of providing victim services. "My organization is the first year." Okay. Got you. Purpose Area 1, yeah. So again, just looking to see that your organization, we would be looking to see that your organization meets the technical requirements under Purpose Area 1. Any other questions at this point?

DARYL FOX: Kimberly, one came in through the chat. Specifically, "Is there a list of current grantees available on the OVC website?"

KIMBERLY WOODARD: Yes. Again, if you—if you think—when I was talking about the coordination section of the solicitation, there is a link there that if you click on it, it will take you to a website that will show you existing OVC grantees who are working on human trafficking programming. There's also, I think, another link on there that will take you to an HHS website that has some information about HHS grantees who are working on human trafficking services. So, the best way to find that information is to use that link under the section on coordination in the solicitation.

Other questions or concerns that can be addressed right now? Keep in mind that if you think of questions later on, again, you want to submit those to OVC for a response at the NC—using the Technical Assistance and Programmatic Requirements contact the OJP Response Center, so the NCJRS Response Center. The slide that Daryl has gone back to has the 800 number that you can call or—and/or the email address where you can submit your question in writing, if that's what you prefer to do. If there are no further questions at this time, then we can go ahead and wrap things up. I do want to thank you again on behalf of OVC for participating in today's meeting. And again, if you have

questions or concerns after this meeting, submit them directly to the NCJRS Response Center. Thank you.

DARYL FOX: Great. Thank you, Kimberly. So on behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime and our panelist, we want to thank you for joining today's webinar. This will end today's presentation.