

DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone and welcome to today's webinar, Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime.

At this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Kristin Weschler, Victim Justice Program Specialist, with the Office for Victims of Crime to begin the presentation. Kristin?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Good morning. Good afternoon, everyone. Wherever you may be today, I want to thank you for joining us for the OVC Human Trafficking and Housing solicitation overview.

Today, what I will be doing is giving a brief overview of the Office for Victims of Crime and our mission for those of you who might not be familiar with our office. And then most of our time together today we'll be looking through the solicitation and the components and then, at the end, some Q&A time. I do strongly encourage you to have a copy of the solicitation with you. There will be paper--page references made throughout the session today. And during the Q&A session, I might also be referring to specific pages. So I encourage you to have that with you. Let's get started.

For those of you who may not be familiar with us, the Office for Victims of Crime is a component of the Office of Justice Programs. The mission for the Office of Victims of Crime is to enhance the nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

And if you're not aware, the Office for Victims of Crime does administer what you may know as VOCA funds. And basically, those are penalties paid by convicted federal offenders, not from tax dollars. And basically, what that money is used for is victim compensation assistance through the United States through your state's administrator. And they're used to raise awareness about victims' issues, promoting compliance with victim rights laws, and providing training and technical assistance, as well as publications and products to victim assistance professionals in the field, like yourself. The OVC Crime Victims Fund also supports victims in tribal communities, victims of human trafficking, as well as national scope demonstration and service projects.

So for this solicitation, there are some key timelines or deadlines that you need to be mindful of. The first is June 9th. This is your very first deadline, whereby you have to be registered in Grants.gov in order to submit the first two required documents, which are the SF-424 and the disclosure of lobbying activities or the SF-LLL. And you submit those when you register in Grants.gov. But in order to register at Grants.gov, you need to make sure that your Systems for Award Management registration is current. So, you may have heard of SAM.gov; you have to make sure that your registration is current. So that means if you are a brand new federal applicant, you're applying for your very first federal award, please register with SAM.gov as soon as possible. We are already hearing it is taking longer than the anticipated seven to 10 days to get a registration approved, which is the very first step. Even before Grants.gov, if you're a new federal

applicant. So again, please start registration at SAM.gov immediately, if this is your first federal award.

So then, after you submit your two documents at Grants.gov, then the second deadline you need to be mindful of is the JustGrants deadline, which is where you will submit the remaining required documents such as your abstract, project narrative, and budget. And that deadline is June 16th. Again, our--We anticipate notifications going out no later than September 30th, with a project start date or--on or after October 2022.

You'll see that we do note that successful applicants even though you may be notified of your award, accessibility, you may not begin work until the budget has been reviewed and officially approved by OJP. Additional information or restrictions are outlined in the solicitation.

All right, so eligibility listed in the solicitation. I am not going to go through this too much. The one question I know that we get a lot are about new entities or nonprofits. Make sure you have your 501(c)(3) status. If you don't have that, I'm going to defer you to submit your question to the help desk, which we'll get to at the end. We need to track all the questions that we receive outside of the solicitation, but that is one thing that I wanted to highlight. Okay.

Then next, we are going to get into a program description for the solicitation. So for this solicitation, we are focusing, of course, on housing and providing trauma-informed policies, programs, and resources. Now, this is--gosh, this is the program description for all of OVC. It's a little deceiving. But--so, the program description for OVC is that, we as an office, support victim-centered and trauma-informed programs, policies, resources that promote justice, access, and empowerment. And you will see the statutory reference here as 22 U.S.C. Section 7102(11) that are--is specific to victims of human trafficking.

So here is the goal of this specific solicitation, which is to provide safe and stable housing and appropriate trauma-informed, victim-centered services by organizations with the capacity to implement collaborative, coordinated, and comprehensive service models. Organizations are to engage with appropriate local resources to address the needs of victims of human trafficking that will lead to increased autonomy, self-sufficiency, and increased safety and well-being.

So basically, what this is saying is, this is what our expectations are in the--under the solicitation but surely, there are sometimes needs or--things that your agency may not provide themselves. So therefore, please partner with other service providers in your area in order to meet the needs of victims.

So the objectives then for the solicitation, again, I'm not going to go through all of them. They are listed in the solicitation, but there are a few that have been added or modified from previous years.

So you'll see number two, we say collaborate with and train local partners to improve their knowledge and ability to identify and appropriately respond to human trafficking victims. So we want to make sure that you are sharing your experience to local partners and service providers, law enforcement, prosecution, anyone who may need to--or may interact with victims of human trafficking and to really increase their knowledge in identifying and responding to human trafficking victims.

And then number four is to develop and implement housing policies and training that incorporate low barrier victim-centered, trauma-informed, and collaborative approaches. So, perhaps maybe you don't have a housing program fully established. That is okay. You can still apply for funding if you are wanting to create a housing program, but know that you will be expected and required to develop and implement housing policies under this solicitation. If you're already a current housing provider, you may already have those housing policies and procedures in place.

And then finally, we want to make sure, number five, that you inform federal state, and local frameworks, and collaborative models to meet the housing needs of victims of human trafficking. Okay.

So deliverables, basically, are service-focused. We want applicants to be able to track data that whereby you measure quarterly, by service hour, or units delivered, by type of service, number of new and continuing victims served, and other key data points. So at this point in time, all you need to be mindful of is that you have a database, a tracking system, in order to track client and service data. We will get to a few links later in the presentation about performance measures.

All right, so the priority areas. We do have two priority areas identified this year in the solicitation. So OJP is committed to advancing works that promote civil rights and racial equity, increases access to justice, and supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system. We're also mindful of strengthening community safety and protecting the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.

So the first priority area, which comes under Executive Order 13985 is giving priority consideration to applicants that include projects that will promote racial equity and the removal of barriers to access and opportunity for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality when making award decisions. To receive this consideration, the applicant must describe how their proposed project will address potential inequities and barriers to equal opportunity and/or contribute to greater access to services for underserved and historically marginalized populations.

The second priority area gives priority consideration to applicants that can demonstrate that their capabilities and competencies for implementing the proposed project are enhanced, because you have at least one proposed subrecipient that will receive at least 30 percent of the requested award funding, which you will demonstrate in the

budget worksheet and narrative, identifying a culturally specific organization. To receive this additional priority consideration, applicants must describe how being a culturally specific organization or funding the culturally specific subrecipient organization will enhance their ability to implement the proposed project and should also specify which culturally specific population or populations are intended are--or expected to be served or have their needs addressed under their proposed project.

To clarify, what we mean as far as the culturally specific organization, we are defining it as defined for purposes as private, nonprofit, or tribal organizations, whose primary purpose, as a whole, is to provide culturally specific services to, among others, Black people, Hispanic and Latino/Latina people, Native American and other indigenous people of North America, including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts, Asian-Americans, Native Hawaiians, and/or Pacific Islanders.

We do want to be mindful though, however, that addressing these priority areas is only one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration for one or more priority areas is not a guarantee of receiving an award.

All right. So what we're looking at as far as the number of awards this year will be a maximum number of 18 awards. You will see that the maximum dollar value for each award has been increased from previous years. So this year, under the solicitation, you can request up to \$800,000 for the full 36-month period. The total amount to be awarded is \$15 million and the start date is anticipated to be October 1st of 2022.

Now, OVC may, in certain cases, provide additional funding in future years to awards made under the solicitation through continuation awards. OJP will consider among other factors OJP's strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award, and the award funded work's progress when making continuation award decisions.

This solicitation and awards, if any are made, under the solicitation are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law. In addition, nothing under the solicitation is intended to and does not create any right or benefits substantive or procedural, enforceable at law, or inequity by any party against the United States, its department agencies or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person. All right.

So the type of the award, if you're familiar with federal funding, this will be made as a grant, not a cooperative agreement. So basically, if you want to know the difference between the two, you can check out the Resource Guide. But it's basically the main difference is a grant does not have substantial involvement with the awarding agency. We do have monitoring requirements, but we do not have substantial involvement. All right.

So now we're going to get into the Application and Submission Information.

If you keep in mind, nothing else in addition--other than the deadline, these are the three critical criteria you must submit for this application, is your proposal abstract, your proposal narrative, and the budget worksheet and budget narrative, which is a web-based form this year in JustGrants. You will see on this slide, under the proposal narrative, we have given you the weighted percentages for each section. This, of course, is in the solicitation. But we encourage you to use this as a good guide of where peer review will be placing their emphasis of the review. And then, of course, if your application is missing any of these three critical elements, your application will not be considered for funding. So please, please make sure that before you hit that submit button, you have these three documents included and uploaded successfully.

So the proposal abstract is really a very basic, straightforward summary statement about your proposal. It's meant to be no more than 400 words, and should include the purpose of the project, primary activities, expected outcomes, the service area where you will be implementing the project, as well as then intended beneficiaries and subrecipients. This is also a web-based form. And it is also very important that in the proposal abstract, if you are choosing any of the priority considerations, please make sure you do clarify that clearly in the abstract, so it is clear that you are asking for priority consideration for one of those two that we have already discussed.

The program narrative format then, these are basically your formatting instructions. I'm not going to go over that. The one thing I'll emphasize is do not exceed your 25-page limit. Reviewers are directed to stop reading at that point. So, be mindful of that when submitting. And, of course, follow the other directives, as provided.

The narrative format, so now we're getting into the sections of your program narrative. As previously stated, there's the statement of the problem, your project design and implementation, capabilities and competencies, and then finally, your plan for collecting the data, as required. And make sure you respond very clearly to each of those sections. These next subsequent slides will detail what each section should cover.

I'm not going to read everything here because I want to make sure we have time for Q&A at the end. But I guess the one thing I would emphasize in your statement of problems section is really to have the multiple sources of data that extend beyond national hotline data. So we need to get a good solid understanding of the service area that you are serving or proposing to serve and any--the population you intend to serve. So please use data outside of Polaris hotline data. And the more specific you can get to your region or your county, even the better understanding that the reviewers will get and we will get of the proposed intention of your award, so that's very important.

Then the project design and implementation, there's a lot that we ask you to cover in this. And I did note, when the solicitation was posted in the PDF form on our website, that there's a formatting issue on this section. So if you look on page 14 of the PDF, there are two different lists. There's items listed one through six, and another list of items one through seven. This section is to cover all of that. So you have 13 elements or 14. Yeah, 14 elements that you have to include in this one section. So please be brief

and concise. If you think that something, you know, can be linked to another section, you'll see sometimes in the capabilities and--section, that you might feel there's a little bit of overlap. Please read each item under this solicit--or this part of the solicitation and be responsive as clearly as you can. Because your page limit is going to go very, very quickly. Hopefully, the SMART objectives, if you're not familiar with that, the Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound, will help you keep that specificity and conciseness in your response.

All right. And then we'll go to the capabilities and competencies.

Oh, actually, it's not in my notes. Maybe it's coming up. It might be coming up. But I want to just mention it here, while I'm thinking about it. Is under your project narrative, if you're under--no, sorry, we're coming to it. I'm going in my slides. I'll be--sorry for any confusion.

So capabilities and competencies, again, just make sure you demonstrate your experience as an agency as well as any key personnel, especially your experience in handling federal awards, as well as your experience in human trafficking and direct service. Here it is on the next page, then.

If you are seeking priority consideration under Priority B, which is the second priority, whereby you are identifying a subrecipient for 30 percent of your budget, this is the section that you will want to make sure that you're addressing.

Now if you're going under Priority Area 1 where you are seeking Priority A, then you need to address in sections--in the project design section, how the proposed project will promote racial equity and/or the removal of barriers to access and opportunity and/or contribute to the greater access for services.

So, remember this, Priority Area 1 goes under your project design, under the purpose. If you're doing Priority B or the subrecipient, you note that under the capabilities and competencies. All right.

Then we go to the plan for collecting data. I will try, if I can do this simultaneously, put in the chat. There are a couple of links that sometimes people find helpful. Here we go, all attendees. I am going to put in there is one for the OJP performance information, if you--which is more general. And then--oh, my mouse isn't working, sorry. Then there's also one for the human trafficking. I know we get a lot of questions about performance measures. So I encourage you to check out these two resources first. There we go. And hopefully that will be helpful.

Again, I really just want to emphasize, at this point in time, you just need to make sure that you have a plan and ability to track client and service data. That is the first--the most important thing but those two links that I provided in the chat will give you a little bit more information of what is being asked of grantees at this point of time. So OVC will require award recipients to submit performance reports data and performance reports in

JustGrants and that we will provide further guidance on the post award submission process, if you are selected for an award.

All right. Budget narrative and worksheet. If you have applied before, sometimes you have attached an Excel document as an attachment with your application. That is not the case this year. So all budget information will be submitted directly into JustGrants using a web-based form. I would encourage you to start looking at that. Once you get past your Grants.gov submission and you're able to access JustGrants, start looking at the web-based forms, so you know what kind of format that they're going to be looking for. Excuse me. It looks like you break out your cost year by year. It will reflect the full 36-month program of your award period. It should be mindful of including adequate funding to include all of the 36-month period. And please, include in the Budget Narrative, how you will be applying match. I'm not yet quite sure. Last year, we did not have the ability to break that down in the budget detail. So if you do not see that ability, please make sure you put it in the budget narrative of how you're addressing match. And then, also as noted on the slide, be sure if you're asking for that Priority 1B consideration that you include your subrecipient cost in your budget.

Here, just kind of mirroring the SMART acronym, how to create a SMART budget. I'm not going to go into details with that. It's, kind of, follows the same principle. All right.

But I am going to go over match. So if you are new to federal awards, this will be new to you. If you--received awards under Human Trafficking Division before, this is no surprise; but we are statutorily required for applicants to provide match. A lot of people don't know that, but it is under the statute. So unfortunately, it comes with the TVPA, that all applicants must provide a 25 percent match under this solicitation. We do give examples in the solicitation and as well on this slide how to calculate your match. Now match can be either direct funds, like a cash match, which sometimes people use other state funding or foundation funding, or you can use what we call in-kind match, which is in-kind donations, maybe equipment. You need to be mindful though, that you are able to document that match. Documentation is key. All right.

So the next slide, again, just wanting to focus on those three critical required documents, which we've previously talked about, which is your program abstract, your program narrative, and your budget detail and narrative. This slide lifts a lot of other attachments, which may or may not apply. So for instance, the first item listed here is your SF-424. That would have already been submitted in Grants.gov. As well as your disclosure for lobbying activities, which is in the second column, your SF-LLL. Both of those would already be submitted by the time you get to JustGrants to submit your application. Some of these you will see "if applicable," such as your indirect cost rate agreement. If you have an indirect cost rate, you'll need to attach that; if you don't, then you wouldn't. It wouldn't be applicable. So please read through this list, read through the solicitation, and see what is applicable, so that you have a fully successfully submitted application. All right.

So a few tidbits of hallmarks of outstanding applications. Peer review--if you've served on peer review, you understand the importance of these tidbits. So please use simple and concise language. Ensure your information is presentable and organized. It is very, very difficult. We've got peer reviewers reviewing hundreds of applications. Sometimes they serve on multiple peer reviews and your eyes get tired. So the easier you can make it for a reviewer to follow the components of your--of the solicitation and make the information clear and presentable, it is so much appreciated. It makes a lot easier to read and to make sure that you have responded to all the elements of the application. You can add tables, or graphs, other images. Just be mindful of the grant guidelines as far as your page limit and stuff, but that's one option that you have. Please be realistic about how you will achieve your goals. Do not over promise anything. We do encourage our reviewers to make sure that your budget matches what you are committing yourself to in your narrative. So you need to make sure what you are asking for in your narrative is mirrored in your budget and likewise, that your budget is supporting your narrative--your program narrative. So don't overcommit yourself and then not be able to meet the goals and objectives, as was presented.

Get feedback. This is a great idea. Get feedback from those who may run the project. So I--when I did grant writing, always talking between your program staff and your financial staff. And this is a collaborative process. Ask your case managers or advocates, "What are people asking for?" You'd be surprised sometimes what gaps are missing in your service delivery. Make sure the proposal is consistent with the solicitation.

And then finally, check, recheck, and check, and check again. We have received applications that have acronyms to other funding agencies or other solicitations. I know it's easy to cut and paste into--or copy and paste, but please make sure that your language is appropriate for the solicitation you're applying for. All right.

What are some indications of a weak application? Basically, again, you're being too ambitious or lack focus. So be intentional about who you're serving, how many counties or service areas that you're serving, and don't overcommit yourself. Make sure that you have the expertise as an entity and as staff or partner agencies in order to carry out the proposed project as submitted.

Also, don't assume that peer reviewers are familiar with who you are, or who you're serving, or your area. Basically, assume they know nothing. I sometimes encourage people to have someone who doesn't know your agency read the application before its submitted and see if they have any questions or maybe something's not clear.

And then finally, as the example I gave before with other federal acronyms, is poor writing and lots of errors. So again, you can have someone review for clarity and then another one for almost editing. All right.

So we're going to quickly go through the Application Process because JustGrants is a new system. I think this is our second year submitted--or receiving applications in JustGrants. So there is a, again, two-step process. Don't forget. Here we go.

Submission Grants.gov June 9th, you cannot miss that deadline. If you miss that deadline, you cannot submit in JustGrants. So make sure that you have these dates, you have the people enrolled, who have the authority and the ability to submit this information in the different platforms.

And then, of course, your full submission's final due date is June 16th.

And again, if you are a new federal applicant, please make sure you're registered in SAM.gov as soon as possible. That is the critical first step in any process.

All right, Application Submission Overview. Again, two-step process, Grants.gov, JustGrants. It is okay to enter preliminary budget or program data in Grants.gov and update later in JustGrants. And then make sure before final submission that your JustGrants thing is fully submitted. But reminder that the process begins in Grants.gov. Once you have located--You need to locate the funding opportunity within DOJ in Grants.gov, then you will submit your 424 and lobbying form. Then aside from that, again, everything else is submitted in JustGrants.

So step one, here we go. I feel like I'm a broken record, but we're trying to really remind you what the steps are because they're so critical and we don't want you to miss a step. So again, in Grants.gov, these are the specific steps when you go in. So you will look for your funding opportunity. You select "apply for grants" under the applicant column. Then you enter your email address to be notified of any changes that--of the solicitation. There are times, in previous years, where there have been changes in the solicitation once it's been posted. So it is critical that if you want to know if there's any changes, you enter your email address in Grants.gov. Then you click the workspace icon to use Grants.gov. And you submit your two forms. Within 48 hours you should receive two notifications; one confirming the receipt of both of those submissions and the second stating whether you were--both of those forms were successfully validated and submitted, or if they were rejected due to errors with an explanation.

So be mindful of anything that might get kicked back. I would encourage you always check your spam folder during grant application season. Sometimes your receiver may not recognize an email address; put it in your spam or junk folder. Please look in those folders just to make sure that nothing is kicked back. Once you have been determined that a funding opportunity--or once you have determined a funding opportunity and applied, again, you'll receive that confirmation.

All right. Then you apply in Grants.gov. Again, this is where all other applications will be submitted. So it's [JustGrants.usdoj.gov](https://www.justgrants.usdoj.gov). And everything is web-based.

So as I indicated, the budget is web-based, the abstract is web-based, even your narrative is web-based. So my guess is most will probably create information, maybe in a Word document or something like that, and then you will be copying and pasting everything into JustGrants. So as noted on the slide, be mindful of where you're copying and pasting into the required sections, because you don't want to put your--maybe capabilities and competencies in your statement of need. So it's going to take a little bit of attention to detail as you transfer your information into JustGrants.

All right. So what to expect after submitting? You will be notified that you've received an award when all applications for the solicitation have been reviewed, before September 30th. But upon submission, this is where the role assignments are critical. It's the Entity Administrator and the Authorized Representative that will be notified when the deadline for applications has changed. Furthermore, the Application Submitter, Entity Administrator, and Authorized Representative will be notified when the application is received in JustGrants from Grants.gov. And then finally, the admin--Entity Administrator will be notified when the award notification has been sent.

So when you go into JustGrants, there are four critical roles you must have assigned. It is the Entity Administrator, the Application Submitter, Authorized Representative, and then your Grants Award Administrator, I don't know if that can be assigned pre-award but that will be your fourth, if you do get selected for funding.

Let's see. JustGrants training resources, plenty of resources. So they are available on the DOJ website if you have a specific topic, so that, you know, you can sort in a myriad of different ways. So I just encourage you to check out their website. They also have great videos and job aid guides.

They also have office hours, so they have three sessions left. But this is a great opportunity to engage directly with JustGrants tech people. So, you'll notice here on the right-hand side of the screen, May 11th, May 18th, and May 25th are upcoming sessions.

And I am going--oops, I was going to try and copy and paste the link. Here we go. Into--copy the chat, JustGrants office hours. There we go. So you can click on that link and register for any of those. Okay.

Then another great resource for any federal grant under OJP is the Resource Guide. It provides guidance to applicants for the preparation and submission of OJP applications for funding.

Pre-application webinars, you can review, actually, previous webinars that we have recorded that apply to any kind of submission to OVC. So you'll see here there's four parts. I actually helped--I can't remember with what one it was; I think it was part four. But we have different entities presenting on different aspects of each part, so you'll hear from JustGrants representatives. I believe we have contacts from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer about the budget. So, you can check out these webinars using the

links on our webpage. They are great resources. Also, you'll have a link on our website for current funding opportunities, if you want to see other funding opportunities for human trafficking or other discretionary awards. And then finally, you can sign up for our news from OVC to stay up-to-date with other solicitation releases or resource developments.

This is a list of a variety of different websites, from our website to the Financial Guide, which actually just got recently updated this year. So even if you've recently or in the past received awards from our office, I would encourage you to check out the new Financial Guide. I know that it was just released a few months ago. And then again, links to the JustGrants web page resource guide, except--oh, the grants performance measuring reporting system, etc.

All right, contact information. If you have technical difficulties with the various platforms, this is really good information to have. So you'll get copies of these slides, but each platform has their own helpdesk. The Grants.gov, JustGrants, and then, if you have questions specific to the solicitation outside of what we're covering today, please contact the OJP Response Center. They will get in touch and provide a response or if they are unable to respond--provide a response, they will reach out to the program office for further information and clarification. All right.

Again, important date, June 9th is your Grants.gov deadline and June 16th is JustGrants.

And this is your signup connection, if you want more information.

Just, if you weren't able to participate in our National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which was April 24 through the 30th, you can check out the Resource Guide and artwork, as well as awardee materials on our website. It was a great evening, lots of great awards that were made.

And stay social with OVC through Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

All right. I am done.

DARYL FOX: Okay. Take a drink of water there, Kristin. Very informative. And as we get into the Q&A portion, just a reminder to everybody that the caption recording, the transcript, and PowerPoint will be posted to the OVC website. You will get a notice in your email with the registration email that you did for this webinar when those items are posted to go back and reference. So if you do have a question, the far right corner three dots, hit Q&A and go ahead and send that to all panelists and we'll try to get to as many as we can with the last 10 or so minutes.

So the first one, "Are we able to access the JustGrants portion of the application before we submit our required documents in Grants.gov?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Good tech question. I would add--I am not a tech person for either of those platforms, so I would encourage you to reach out to one of the helpdesks. I would assume yes, but I can't commit. So please reach out to either the Grants.gov or the Just--I would call, actually, the JustGrants helpdesk.

DARYL FOX: "Can we apply, if our 501(c)(3) is pending or do we have to wait until that's approved?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Submit that question through the Response Center. I think I'm going to need to get some more information about that specifically.

DARYL FOX: "Can this grant be used to compensate counselors?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yes. So when we talk about direct services, so while the focus of the solicitation is on housing, we do make reference to supportive services or direct services. So counselors would be an allowable cost under that. We don't break it down like we do under our direct services solicitation, but counseling would be an allowable cost. In fact, if you look at Appendix A, it lists types of victim services that OVC funds. Again, mindful of what the purpose is of the solicitation, which is a focus on housing. But anything on that list would be an allowable cost.

DARYL FOX: "There's a mention of housing policies needing to be in place as part of the project. Does that mean that they must be completed and included in the grant proposal or created as a part of the project if the grant is awarded?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: So for the policies and procedures in the solicitation, I believe it does ask, I'm scrolling up for, yeah, housing rules and regulations. If you're a new program and you don't have like a manual or anything yet, we need to have at least a general idea of what that would look like. So maybe you have an intended model, maybe it's not fully developed yet, that's fine. But you need to still be responsive to that element within the solicitation. And then, if you are selected for an award, then post-award that is something that you would then be expected to develop in full.

DARYL FOX: A couple of questions on this actually. "Can this funding be used to leverage already existing HUD funding or HUD-funded programs?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: You can't--well. You can use it. Yes, of course, you can't supplant funds or duplicate funding across. But yes, we do have grantees currently funded under HUD and under OVC under this solicitation. So you can complement services. So maybe HUD is funding rental assistance, or some kind of housing, but then you want to either have a different form of housing or direct services under this solicitation; that would be allowable. I would say, if you are leveraging though, make sure you mention that in the solicitation, so it's clear. Especially if, for instance, I'll use an example. If you're saying you're going to provide housing under your OVC award for six people, but then your proposed services are maybe for 40. Well, then that's significantly more than what the intended six housing is that you're funding under this.

But it's because you're using HUD funding to support other housing opportunities, which would then maybe you'd want to use the direct services under this to supplement that. So be very clear in the amount of housing you're making available, especially if you're going to tap into OVC funding for direct services.

DARYL FOX: "Do you have an estimate on how many applications you anticipate receiving this year?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: I have no idea because we made a few changes this year with the scope, so we've expanded allowable costs. So, yeah, I don't know how many applications we're going to get. Last year, I think we got 120.

DARYL FOX: And then similarly to the HUD concurrent funding, "Are entities able to apply for more than one OVC grant in Fiscal Year 2022?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yes. So if you've looked at our website, we have multiple solicitations under human trafficking. It's one of our largest programs. So you can apply for, for instance, either, whether it's task force, direct services, housing, minors. Just be mindful of what the eligibility criteria are for that solicitation. Sometimes it depends on the solicitation, if maybe you already had a housing award in 2020 or 2021, a solicitation could say then you're not eligible. That's not the case for this solicitation this year. In fact, if you have housing under 2020 or 2021, you're still eligible. But each solicitation will outline specifically what limitations there may be. But you are, as long as you meet those eligibility criteria, you can receive multiple awards in one year, if you're successful.

DARYL FOX: "Are the program participants we intend to serve required to be homeless? And if so, is there a definition?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: There is not a definition of homelessness. Not this--there is for HUD. So I know where the question is coming from. So basically, the premise under this is that--I'm looking for the language. But you don't need to document homelessness. I'll say it that way. And if you need more information--and we don't have a definition for homelessness. Basically, it's similar to VAWA where, you know, they're fleeing for domestic violence or sexual assault. This is meant to provide housing support for individuals who are in a trafficking situation. So it could be that they're in a trafficking situation and not technically homeless. Maybe they're needing to separate themselves from the trafficking situation, but not "homeless;" they are still eligible under this program.

DARYL FOX: And then, a couple of questions on this actually, Kristin. "Was--Is there an age limit listed on the age of victim supported? Is it adults and youth, or adults only?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Nope, that is up to the discretionary of the applicant. We have no age restriction.

DARYL FOX: And then definitely up to the funds appropriated by Congress. "Is this a grant likely to be available for application next year, as well?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: We certainly hope so. Well, I hope so. This is my bread and butter. So this was--yeah. This started--all I can say is we started in 2020, this is our third year of solicitation. So yeah, it'll just depend upon Congress appropriations.

DARYL FOX: Great, thanks. And with that, we are at 2:00 PM. Kristin, is there anything in closing you wanted to mention?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: All I will say is I didn't even get a chance to look at the chat because I was so focused on my comments. But if you didn't get your question answered or if you think of questions as you're developing your solicitation, if it's technical, again, please reach out to either Grants.gov or JustGrants for their corresponding platforms. If it's a programmatic--solicitation--about the content of the solicitation, please reach out to the OJP Response Center.

DARYL FOX: Okay, great. Thank you so much. So on behalf for 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.