DARYL FOX: Good afternoon everyone, and welcome to today's webinar, "Fiscal Year 2022 Enhancing Access to Victim Services," hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime.

At this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Sharron Fletcher, Lead Victim Justice Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime, for some welcoming remarks and to begin the presentation. Sharron?

SHARRON FLETCHER: Thank you, Daryl. And hello everyone and thank you for joining us. I'm Sharron Fletcher. I'm a Lead Victim Justice Specialist in the Office for Victims of Crime and I'm going to walk us through our Enhancing Access to Victim Services solicitation this afternoon.

So first, we are going to go through to outline what we are going to talk about. We're going to go over the mission and overview of OVC. Then we're going to walk through the solicitation and break down the different parts of the solicitation and that would include our project purpose, eligibility, application and award timelines, as well as the required documents that must be submitted with the application. Then we'll have some time to talk about the application process and there will be time at the end for questions and answers. Of course, as was just mentioned, you will also be able to submit your questions in the Q&A function and Q&A box in the webinar, so please feel free to do that throughout the webinar. And also a quick tip is to make sure you have a copy of the solicitation available to follow along and take notes.

So we will start by saying that OVC is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and providing leadership in changing the attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims. And we do this by administering the Crime Victims Fund, also called the Fund, which is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders and not from your tax dollars. OVC channels that money towards a number of supports including victims--supporting victims in tribal communities, supporting state victim compensation and assistance programs, providing training and technical assistance and information resources for the field, supporting victims of international terrorism and mass violence, supporting other federal agencies' provision of victim services, as well as supporting survivors of human trafficking and a number of demonstration and service projects, like the one we're here to talk about today.

So we'll next go over timeline. So those of you that have been applying for grants before may have noticed that we now offer a two-part deadline for all our solicitations. So our first time-- deadline in Grants.gov will be on Wednesday, June 29th and that's by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time. The second deadline, where the majority of the application information is submitted, is Wednesday, July 6th by 8:59 p.m., Eastern Time. And we'll go over more--in more detail later in the webinar what those application process entails. Applicants should expect that DOJ will make all of the awards issued through this solicitation by September 30th of this year and that all project start dates will begin on October 1st.

Please note, as you see on the slide, that applicants are not allowed to work--begin working on those projects that are selected for funding until their budget receives final approval. And those details will be submitted with the--I mean, shared with the successful applicant after the time of award.

So we are using this solicitation to make awards in two separate categories. Category 1: Direct Services will be used to issue 10 awards of up to $400,000. Category 2: Training and Technical Assistance will have one award made for up to $1,000,000. Both--all of the awards, All 11 awards in total that are made will be open for a duration of 24 months.

As far as eligibility, under Category 1, eligible applicants include city, town, and county governments; Native American tribal organizations, other than federally recognized tribes. So you do not have to have federal recognition as a tribal organization. Native American tribal governments that are federally recognized, colleges and universities and that would include tribal institutions of higher education, as well as nonprofits that have their 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education. Those institutions of higher education are required to have 501(c)(3) status if they are nonprofit. And again, nonprofits that do not have 501(c)(3) status are also able to apply under Category 1: Direct Services.

Under Category 2, the training and technical assistance component, eligible applicants include Native American tribal organizations, other than federally recognized tribal governments; Native American tribal governments that are federally recognized; colleges and universities that again include tribal institutions of higher education. And again, the same caveat for those nonprofit organizations. So nonprofits that have 501(c)(3) status with the IRS are able to apply under Category 2 and not--as well as nonprofits that do not have 501(c)(3) status. So we are offering a broad array of eligibility for both categories.

A little about the background of this program. So our Enhancing Access to Victim Services Program was designed to remove barriers that may prevent individuals from reporting crimes and accessing supportive services when they are harmed--when they are harmed by crime or violence and expanding the availability of accessible victim-centered trauma-informed services for crime victims who are disabled, deaf, hard-of-hearing, limited English proficient, blind, and/or visually impaired. OVC will use this solicitation to fund accessible direct services for these victims. Provide dedicated training and technical assistance to support victim-serving organizations and developing and implementing accessibility plans and identify innovative approaches to serving these victims for replication within the field. Those of you that may be familiar with OVC may realize that--or remember that this solicitation has been issued in the past on Enhancing Access in 2018 and 2019. And you'll notice that in this year, 2022, the solicitation has been expanded to also cover victims and survivors who are disabled.

A little bit more background about the solicitation. So what we have learned through the years is that those victims who are disabled, LEP, deaf, hard-of-hearing, that we just discussed, often run into barriers that prevent them from accessing critical services when they are harmed and impacted by crime. And that inability to report crime and receive services due to accessibility barriers can isolate these victims and really intensify their fear and distrust of the criminal justice system. And as we all know, that causes that disconnection, in not being able to receive services and becoming a crime victim with unaddressed needs, can lead to long-term physical, emotional, social, and financial problems for survivors. And we also have learned that survivors are more inclined to seek services from organizations that operate within their community that understand and are skilled at addressing challenges they face. Crime victims from these specific communities present unique accessibility needs and likely have a relationship with trusted organizations that are known for their accessibility work. So I share all of this to say that this solicitation is really looking to connect to those organizations that might already be working to serve these populations, in their respective communities, and providing them with some additional funding to expand their efforts, to reach these victims when they are harmed by crime, and provide accessible services as well as provide training and technical assistance for these organizations so that they are operating and developing accessibility plans to better reach and serve this population.

And so, of course, all of that pretty much ties to our goal through this solicitation, which is to increase the availability of accessible victim-centered, trauma-informed victim services in the field.

So we'll start with reviewing some of the goals and objectives for our Category 1: Direct Services grantees. And for those of you that might be following along on the solicitation, these specific objectives and goals begin on page 6 of the solicitation. So the goals and objectives for our Category 1 applicants include: delivering culturally relevant services to disabled, LEP, deaf, hard-of-hearing, and blind and/or visually impaired crime victims; developing and implementing disability and language access plans to address the needs of these victims; working with the TTA provider that will be funded under Category 2 to train staff and community partners on best practices to serve these victims. And lastly, connecting data collection and evaluation or action research activities to measure grant performance, of course, but it's also to generate internal improvements in the delivery of direct services.

Priority will be placed on organizations with a history of serving crime victims that propose to expand and increase access to services for crime victims within these communities. Because as I said, we are very focused on supporting those organizations that might already be working with these specific victim populations, because they are trusted, and we want to make sure that victims are in that supported and trusted network. Grantees funded under this project of course will work to strengthen those referral networks and collaboration between community-based organizations, law enforcement and other public agencies with the purpose of improving that community response to crime victims, specifically those victims from the communities identified in the solicitation. And we are also trying to increase our training. So our Category 1 applicants will be allowed to budget up to 20 percent of their funding to build the capacity of staff and community partners to provide accessible direct services to victims.

Deliverables for our Category 1 applications, which of course built upon those goals and objectives that we just went over, include: accessibility plans and developing those accessibility plans that outline how the organization will provide victim-centered, culturally relevant, and trauma-informed services for these populations and, of course, submitting our reports, so that would include quarterly financial reports and semiannual progress reports; participating in conferences and meetings hosted by that TA provider that we're intending to fund under Category 2; as well as submitting a final report to describe how the grantee implemented its overall project.

Moving to our Category 2: Training and Technical Assistance category, goals and objectives for this category include expanding the capacity of the field to address the accessibility and service needs of all crime victims, particularly those from disabled, LEP, deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind, and visually impaired communities. Identifying promising practices and disseminating resources and lessons learned from this project to the field. And then a big piece of our TA is going to promote our OVC-funded [Supporting Crime Victims with Disabilities Online Training Toolkit](#). So you'll see that this toolkit is linked on this slide. It's also linked in the solicitation. I encourage applicants for Category 2 to be sure to review the toolkit online to make sure they are familiar with its contents and strategies because that will definitely be useful and helpful to developing a strong application for providing TA in the space.

Moving on in our Category 2 TTA category, the successful applicants will be asked to deliver an array of TTA resources and guidance to support our Category 1 grantees as well as the field in general. And some of the examples of what might--we have in mind in that area include providing diverse subject matter expertise, of course, to ensure those--our grantees are

developing solid plans; working with the direct service sites to engage partners and strengthen their projects; identifying and providing comprehensive, coordinated, culturally relevant TA; as well as facilitating peer learning exchanges among the grantees and other organizations engaged in similar work to promote problem solving and innovation.

Some of the activities that we anticipate being conducted by our Category 2 applicants would be: identifying the project lead and expert consultants to support the effort, developing a plan for the comprehensive delivery of TA to the sites including any site-specific support because we anticipate those individual grantees will have their own unique needs and we want our TA provider to be responsive to those needs. Of course, developing a marketing plan for the Supporting Crime Victims with Disabilities Online Training Toolkit and sharing that with the field and how--providing training at national conferences on that toolkit and on accessible services, in general, including training for our VOCA Victim Assistance and Compensation Administrators to raise awareness in this area. Of course, performing all logistical supports for the TTA activities. Evaluating the effectiveness of the TTA provided to make sure that we are meeting the needs of the grantees. A nice--one important piece, of course, is developing online resources and tools and products to help improve the capacity of our grantees and the field generally. And then, of course, sharing that information about the initiative, about the toolkit, about ongoing needs and issues to support these victims with the field and providing regular updates to OVC.

Deliverables for our Category 2 include and builds upon what we just went over. So, some of these things will, of course, sound repetitive but specifically those deliverables will be around providing that array of TTA resources that were just mentioned. Developing that final marketing plan for the Supporting Crime Victims with Disabilities Online Training Toolkit. Providing that diverse subject-matter expertise that was mentioned for the grantees in the field. Facilitating the peer learning exchanges among the sites and other organizations doing similar work. Participating in conferences and meetings. Keeping OVC updated through regular monthly calls and reports. Submitting those grant reports. of course. And then, of course, the final report at the end of the project.

So OJP, if you have reviewed any of our OVC solicitations, you may have noticed there are priority areas included in almost all of our solicitations, I believe. So, OJP is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights and racial equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens community safety and protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community. And these priority areas are in place in compliance with--in supporting Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. So consistent with this Executive Order, we are providing priority consideration to applications 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, applicants must describe how the proposed project will address potential inequities and barriers to equal opportunity and/or contribute to greater access to services for underserved and historically marginalized population. Our second Priority Area B will give priority consideration to applicants that can demonstrate their capabilities and competencies for implementing their proposed project are enhanced because the applicant (or at least one proposed subrecipient that will receive at least 30 percent of the requested award funding, as demonstrated in the Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative) identifies as a culturally specific organization.

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

So I will also note that addressing these priority areas is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration from one or more priorities is not a guarantee of an award. And there is, of course, additional out--information outlined in the solicitation, so please be sure to review that information for more details on the priority areas.

So as I mentioned, OVC will make awards in two categories with this solicitation. Category 1: Direct Services, we will make 10 awards of up to $400,000 each. And Category 2, we will make one award of up to $1,000,000. And all of these awards will be made for a 24-month period--will be open for that 24-month period.

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

And all of the awards made through this solicitation will be made as cooperative agreements. This means there will be substantial involvement between the awarding agency, in this case that will be OVC, and the recipient during the performance period. And that awarding agency, or OVC, will closely participate in the performance of the program. So that just means that OVC will have final approval of any deliverables and other project pieces.

So next, we'll take a few moments to go over the Application and Submission Information.

So all of the applications for both categories must include the pieces you see on--outlined on this slide. And these parts are what is required to meet the basic minimum requirements to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding. So those parts include the Proposal Abstract; the Proposal Narrative, which is comprised of four pieces and that's the statement of the problem, the project design and implementation, capabilities and competencies, and the plan for collecting data for the solicitation performance measures. I will also say that--and share that the solicitation itself has specific requirements for each of these pieces that are outlined in the solicitation for both Category 1 and 2. And they are outlined on pages 12 through 15. And I encourage everyone that is applying to make sure they go through those pages thoroughly to review the various requirements for each of those sections. And then, lastly, the Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative as well as other attachments. So these four pieces all--again are what must be submitted for applications to advance to peer review because they have met the basic minimum requirements of the solicitation. So if applicants do not submit all of these pieces, they will not be moved forward for consideration. So that's why we, kind of, linger in this space to make sure everyone is clear of the requirements.

A few words about the budget. You will be prompted to use the JustGrants web-based form for the Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative. They also ask that breakout--that you breakout costs by year, reflecting the 24 months project period. Personnel cost, of course, should relate to the key personnel for the project. And your budget should include adequate funding to fully implement your project, again, broken up by year, for the 24-month period. Your budget should be mathematically sound and correspond with the information described in the Proposal Narrative. So make sure those two pieces align. That's important. And do remember, applicants

that are interested in Priority 1B, do need to outline in the budget and specifically identify where the 30--at least 30 percent of their funding is going to a culturally specific organization.

One last word about budgets is that we would encourage you to create a SMART budget. And so, of course, that's an acronym. Because we are the Federal Government and we enjoy acronyms. So we encourage you have to a--for you to be specific when listing all of your expenses. Make sure that the computations column of the budget is filled out and that costs are measurable. If you have your timeline next to the budget, make sure that the items are accounted for and relevant. And also make sure the budget is time-bound and broken down by year. Normally, we don't do month to month, although it says so on the slide, unless there are things that are specifically--or there are activities are specifically for only a portion of the month. But definitely, make sure that everything included is clear and to the point.

So there are additional pieces of your application. So this screen lists a number of other documents that will be included and are outlined on the application checklist of the solicitation. And that application checklist is on the last, like, two pages of the solicitation. You can use this checklist in your review prior to submitting your application. It, kind of, mirrors the information on the DOJ application submission checklist. That is also another resource that you can use to aid--just to help develop your applications.

So a few hallmarks of an outstanding application that we would love to share with you. Remember to use simple and concise language. Information should be presented and as organized fashioned as possible. Be realistic on how you will achieve your goals. Get feedback from those who may run your project. They often have different insights and can let you know if you are missing a step. Because we do understand that the people who run the project often differ from the folks who are developing and submitting their proposals. And again, check, recheck, and check again to make sure that all of your information for your budget, your grant requirements, references, and other details are together and ready to upload into the system, and that you have the correct versions of everything available to submit.

A few reasons we want to share why applications might be submitted--I mean, cited as weak. Sometimes reviewers have found that the applications were too ambitious or lack focus. So that's where we really think it's important to try to be as clear as possible. Applicants lack appropriate expertise to carry out the proposed project. So this is where it's important for you to be clear about the skills and experience of key staff and make sure that it's outlined in your capabilities and competencies. Also make sure that it's supported in the resumes that might be submitted to support the application. Also make sure that expertise that is brought to bear from different partners are outlined in your capabilities and competencies section. And again, supported in any MOUs are letters of support that are submitted with the application, so making sure that you really are highlighting those skills and expertise that are brought to bear by your proposal. Another reason might be no evidence of feasibility. So this is where we found and we want to remind everyone not to assume reviewers are as familiar with the project as you are. So the reviewers might not have the same experience and, particularly, for those of you that might be proposing more innovative ideas that have not--are not known as broadly in the field. And then, poor writing and a lot of errors. And this is again why we remind you to make sure that you have checked and reviewed all of your documents and also make sure that you're using the appropriate versions. We know it takes a lot of work to pull all of this information together. So it's always there until you need it, right? So just makes sure you have everything with you at the time of application and when you're ready to upload to Grants.gov and JustGrants.

So that segues us into talking about the Application Process.

So as mentioned, there's a two-step application process now that we have moved to working with JustGrants. So the deadlines in that two-step process, is first, we will submit in Grants.gov by June 29th. And then, you submit the full application into JustGrants by July 6th.

So applicants again, there's two steps. So the Grants.gov deadline at that point of application, you'll be submitting the SF-424 for your organization as well as the SF-LLL. The LLL is the lobbying and debarment notification. And so, in that process--in that process, you'll be submitting the web-based forms, as well as attachments, requested on the require--requested in the solicitation. It's okay to enter some preliminary budget or programmatic data into Grants.gov because you will have opportunity to update that information later in JustGrants. But do note that at that second deadline for JustGrants, all of the application information is include--should be submitted at that time as is outlined in the solicitation.

So step one, again, for the Grants.gov deadline, you will first select the apply--select apply for grants under the applicants column in the funding opportunity and application package on Grants.gov. Enter your email address to be notified of any changes to the opportunity. And then, you click on the workspace icon to use Grants.gov. So once those steps are completed and you've submitted the SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov, within 48 hours of submitting those, you should receive notifications from Grants.gov that either confirm the receipt of those two forms or informs you that there was a validation issue or errors. So this is a good space to remind everyone we encourage people--or applicants to submit in Grants.gov at least 48 hours prior to the deadline to allow time to correct any errors and also make sure you're able to respond appropriately, if needed. Because you--we do not allow--you won't be able to correct those errors after that application process--I mean, after that deadline in Grants.gov has passed.

And that second deadline, step two, is applying in JustGrants, that's when you submit the full application including all of the attachments we each went over on previously in JustGrants.

So there are certain web-based forms that must be submitted directly into the system. And that would include your Proposal Abstract, as well as some other solicitation specific data submitted with the application, goals, objective, deliverables, and timelines, as well as your Budget Detail Form. I will note that if you have any issues with the online or web-based Budget Detail Form, we do allow--OVC is allowing applicants to submit the Excel spreadsheet that was previously used for the Budget Detail Worksheet. So you do have that flexibility. But please make sure that you submit everything, both either as the online form or as an attachment. And be sure to make--pay attention to the required sections. Because you cannot upload documents instead of--most of those, I believe, the Budget Detail Form is the only one that might allow you that extra flexibility. Everything else is requiring that you use those web-based forms. So do pay attention to those different requirements in the system.

What to expect? So after you've submitted your application, you're probably wondering what's next. So once all of the application information for the solicitation is reviewed, the entity is notified. And all of that will happen before September 30th. So we do ask that you remember your Entity Administrator and Authorized Representative are notified when the deadline for applications--if the deadline for applications is changed. So it's important to make sure you know who those two individuals are for your organizations and that you stay in contact with them. The system will also notify the Application Submitter, the Entity Administrator, and Authorized Representative when the application has been received to JustGrants from Grants.gov. And the Entity Administrator will receive notification on when the award notification

has been sent. If you submit your application, the status will be "submitted." You may also see a banner that indicates that it is past due. This banner indicates that the submission deadline has passed, not that your application is past due. So it looks a little deceiving, so apologies for that confusion. That's why we called that out, so that you have that clarity.

So there are few resources I want to make sure that everyone is aware of as well. For JustGrants, you'll see on the screen here, there are three different areas where there are a number of training resources available so that you have better understanding or able to familiar yourself--familiarize yourselves with how to work the system. There are a number of training topics that are organized by topic, a number of micro-learning videos and job aid references and guides. These are all very useful. Most are set up so that you can have a quick reference and walk you through specific tasks. And they will also--A great reference when you are in the middle of the task and want to verify the next steps on how to complete.

Our JustGrants office also has office hours available on application mechanics. Those are every Wednesday, from 2:30 to 4:30, Eastern Time. These are very useful. Office hours, they go over all kinds of issues and tips on submitting an application. So I do encourage folks to participate, if they have time, or to find time to participate.

Our [OJP Grants Application Resource Guide](#) that you see linked here on the screen is also a great resource. You'll see it referred to quite a bit in the solicitation itself. And it's, again, very useful. So I encourage you to review it before you begin developing your applications or as you--use it as a reference as you develop your solicit--your applications. Pardon me.

This year, OVC was also--did something different. We held a series of webinars earlier in the year on the various steps of how to prepare an application. So these recorded [webinars](#) are available on the OVC website. And you can also sign up for [News From OVC](#) to stay up-to-date on webinars as they are scheduled.

This slide lists a number of important web resources that are referenced throughout the solicitation and definitely serve as a resource for you as you develop your applications.

And on this slide, I want us to make sure that we are highlighting that this is a list of comp--contact information for our--I'm sorry, a list of contact information for our various support office, various pieces on the application. First, Grants.gov, which is available to provide technical assistance when you're submitting that SF-424 and SF-LLL. They can be reached here using their phone and email. Also, please note there's separate support available for JustGrants. So you have to call them separately or email them separately to obtain support on accessing JustGrants. Their information is here. And last, if you have programmatic questions specific to the solicitation, so not a tech question about the systems but a specific question about the programmatic requirements of the solicitation, you would need to contact our OJP Response Center. And their contact information via email and phone are here on the screen as well.

Now again, just to go over our application deadlines, step one in Grants.gov, we want to submit that 424 and SF-LLL by June 29th. And then, we are going to submit our full application in JustGrants by July 6th.

And again, we do encourage you to stay--to [sign up](#) and stay connected with OVC. You can use the link here on the screen. I think Tammy just put it in the chat as well so that you can join our listserv at OVC.

And we would love, of course, for you to stay connected with us and go social. So OVC is available on [Facebook](), [Twitter](). And we encourage you to follow us and subscribe to our [YouTube]() channel as well.

And with that, we have reached the time for Q and A. So I'll turn it over to Daryl, so we can start taking the questions.

DARYL FOX: Thanks so much, Sharron. Just a reminder, the PowerPoint, transcript, and recording for today will be posted to the OVC website. So if you do need to go back, reference anything today, that will be available. And you'll get sent an email to the one you registered with today. So if you do have a question, bottom right side of your screen, three dots. Select Q&A, send to all panelists and we go through those with the remaining 15 minutes we have today. There's already quite a few in the queue. So with that, Sharron, we'll go ahead and get started.

First one, "do organizations' sole purpose have to be serving underserved communities to apply or can organizations serve other populations as well, and create a program that focuses on these underserved populations?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: Okay. So to answer that question, the short answer is no. Organizations, I think, that's kind of a--that question is a little--is--kind of combines the two purposes. So what we are trying to do with the solicitation is make sure we are supporting organizations that are already working with those victims who are blind, disabled, LEP, or visually impaired, deaf, or visually--blind and deaf--visually impaired. So you don't necessarily have to be working just in underserved communities. The underserved communities' piece is only connected to the priority areas. So applicants that are interested in applying under those-- or receiving those priority considerations would need to address those requirements outlined for priority areas A and B. So, you--basically, organizations that are victim serving are able to apply for funding under that Category 1 area. You don't have to only serve underserved communities to apply.

DARYL FOX: And that, kind of, takes us into our next question. "On the priority consideration component, does that have to address both A and B, or just one of those?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: You are able to address just one priority consideration area. You do not have to address both.

DARYL FOX: "Do you know if there's a copy of the budget form available, so that one can review it prior to deciding whether to apply?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: Well, the budget form is just the budget detail worksheet. It's the same form that we've used. It's not a separate one. So that should be just available by Google-- Googling it. I'm not sure if it's still on the OJP website or not.

DARYL FOX: "The solicitation mentions including MOU or letter of intent, but does that mean that MOUs are not required for this grant unless one is doing Priority 1B and have a 30 percent subaward?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: No. The MOUs or letter of intents are not required. They are just there for those projects that might have supporting partners that are submitting those MOUs or letter of intent. The Priority 1B subaward information would be actually included in your budget, and outlined in your budget and your proposal narrative, and not necessarily via MOU.

DARYL FOX: "We are a cultural-specific organization with experience providing victim services. Do we need to be partnered with a victim service provider to be eligible?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: I would say you need to make sure that you are a victim service provider, because I don't believe that one--being one would exclude you for being the other. So I guess our target audience would be a culturally specific victim service provider. But you are able to apply for this direct services Category 1 funding, if you are a victim serving organization that works with the populations identified in the solicitation.

DARYL FOX: "Are there specific requirements for the time-task plan attachment mentioned in the solicitation? What do you expect applicants to include with that?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: Those requirements are outlined in the solicitation under the project design section. So I encourage you to go there for more details.

DARYL FOX: "Does this solicitation cover services for victims?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: Yes. So this solicitation covers direct services for victims in Category 1. So those Category 1 applications should be submitting proposals that will outline how they are going to provide direct services as well as, you know, increased training for staff around providing those services and developing those accessibility plans for their organization. So they're doing all of those things, not just one.

DARYL FOX: That's the end of the questions at this time. If you do have one, we'll have a few more moments today, enter that in the Q&A, we'll go ahead and get to that. In the meantime, I'll keep this slide up here. If you do have any questions once we adjourn for today, regarding Grants.gov, JustGrants or anything programmatic with the solicitation itself, the OJP Response Center is a wonderful resource for you.

Okay. And Sharron, just a follow up to that last question, thanks for the clarification to whoever entered this. "Does this solicitation cover services not specifically listed in the solicitation outside of protective orders, immigration remedies, such as divorce, custody, etc.?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: Yes. Again, those were just listed as examples of known services because there are, of course, would be an array of services that we anticipate victim service providers will be--an organization would be providing for victims. So it's not meant to be a menu. Those were just listed as examples.

DARYL FOX: "Is--Was this funded in the past or is this a new solicitation for this year?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: No. I believe I mentioned at the beginning, the solicitation has been issued before by OVC in both fiscal years 2018 and 2019. And in this year, in 2022, we expanded to also cover victims with disabilities.

DARYL FOX: You know, this question is more specific on "how many--how many proposals or applications do you expect this year, if that's available?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: Again, that's listed in the solicitation. We anticipate making 10 awards under Category 1, of up to $400,000 each; and 1 award under Category 2, that's the training

and technical assistance, of up to $1,000,000. And all of the awards would be open for 24 months.

DARYL FOX: "Can we include prevention/education to underserved populations, the healthy relationships to those with disabilities to prevent victimization?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: I would say you can do some of that, but your primary focus should be providing direct services to victims.

DARYL FOX: "Is there a way to view previous funded projects or applications?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: Unfortunately, no. You are able, if you go to the OVC fund--OVC web page, they do show what awards are made every year and to the organizations. But it doesn't show you their application. It just shows you a description of the project. There's--you'll see like an award number, a description of the project, and how much funding was received.

DARYL FOX: "Should the capabilities and competencies section be included in the proposal's narrative or attached as an attachment?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: The capabilities and competencies section is a part of the proposal narrative. And again, that's outlined in the solicitation. That proposal narrative sections, those are all the pieces that comprise the proposal narrative.

DARYL FOX: "Is the $400,000 to be spent over the 2-year period, or is it a single year of funding?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: The $400,000 is available for the 2-year period. That's why it's 24 months, 2 years.

DARYL FOX: "We are not a culturally specific organization, as defined in the solicitation, and have a small LEP population--minority population. Our focus would be more on those with disabilities. Does that put us at a disadvantage in applying?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: No. You do not have to serve all of those--all of those categories of victims. We do understand that it's a big ask. We just have this funding specific to organizations that are serving those victims. But that does not mean that you have to serve all of those categories. So you are not in a disadvantage because of that. We always, of course, consider your proposals, even if they are only addressing a small segment of those populations.

DARYL FOX: This is more of an application process question. "Should the goals and objectives be set out in the project narrative?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: Yes. The proposal…

DARYL FOX: The proposal.

SHARRON FLETCHER: Yes. The proposal narrative should cover the goals and the objectives of the project. And it would be included in the proposal narrative. Again, all of the pieces and the sections outlined in the proposal narrative piece and the solicitation should all be--should all flow together and come together as one document for the proposal narrative.

DARYL FOX: And for reference as well, I'll go ahead and put this slide back up, the important dates. So, definitely want to meet the Grants.gov deadline of June 29th, 11:59 p.m., Eastern, and then the JustGrants for the full application July 6th at 8:59 p.m. So note that designation there.

SHARRON FLETCHER: Yes.

DARYL FOX: "Needs--The needs assessment can be part of the grant proposal for year one?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: You're able--Applicants are able to submit or propose a number of projects. I guess that's if you intend to do one, you can. If you--if you would like to do a needs assessment you can. It's not required that you do a needs assessment to--or have that as a part of the proposal. But if that is an activity that you would like to do, you can.

DARYL FOX: "Can consortiums apply for this opportunity?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: If the consortium meets the eligibility requirements of the specific category they intend to apply under. And again, those eligibility requirements are listed on the front of the solicitation. I don't know what type of entity you would call the consortium. I'm going to--I'm going to guess that one of the organizations that comprise that consortium would have to be the lead organization that is applying and receiving the funding. And the others would apply as partners that would probably fall under subawards. So that's something that would have to be worked out--worked out amongst those partnering agencies.

DARYL FOX: Okay. So great questions. And with that, Sharron, we are almost at time here. Is there anything in closing you wanted to mention?

SHARRON FLETCHER: Just thank you everyone for your time this afternoon. I wish everyone the best of luck with their submissions. And again, please be sure to access the OJP Response Center, if you have additional programmatic questions or solicitation questions.

DARYL FOX: Actually, Sharron, one more came in that hopefully we can address. "While not required, MOU/letter of intents are preferred? Will they be given more weight, if they are included?"

SHARRON FLETCHER: No, they aren't given more weight. They are just used to basically reflect the support of the partners and to show any commitments from partners that are supporting the project.

DARYL FOX: Okay. Thanks so much. And with that, 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.