

DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar, OVC FY 2024 Housing Services for Victims of Trafficking Orientation, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. So at this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Rachel Ostergaard with the Freedom Network Training Institute to begin. Rachel?

RACHEL OSTERGAARD: Hi. Hello, everybody, good afternoon. I'm going--my name is Rachel as Daryl said, and I will be kind of walking you through this webinar today--not kind of, just actually walking you through this webinar today.

I first want to get this started--like, we like to start all of our webinars every time we are in a shared space together to just acknowledge--do a land acknowledgement. It's important that we, I think particularly in the fall, as we just had Indigenous Persons Day and heading into the season of Thanksgiving that we just are aware of the people who came before us in the spaces that we're in and the lands that we're on. Here at Freedom Network, our main offices are in the DC area and the--so those are on the traditional lands of the Piscataway and the Nacotchtank People. I'm coming to you live from Chicago and we are the--in the--on the aboriginal lands of Peoria, the Potawatomi, the Kaskaskia, and the Kickapoo people. So there is, as you see, Abigail did just drop in the chat a link for you to find out if you're wondering where you're--the indigenous folks of your lands, where you are from. I encourage you to check it out, it's pretty interesting. Also, you see this map, and I love maps, so I think it's pretty cool to see where the folks' original lands were.

But also, we like to--the other thing we'd like to start with is just some community agree--da, da, da. Welcome to Rachel. Community agreements, things that we want to make sure we are keeping in mind as we enter into the shared space. So we want to make sure we are creating a space that's welcome, that it includes all voices and ideas, so that's the inclusivity, confidentiality, the information that we speak out about remains confidential and don't speak for others without their explicit permission. And a lot of these things, like, aren't necessarily going to be that, like, poignant or important in this phase because we're not, like, going to be sharing a lot of, probably, personal details in the breakout session, maybe. But it's still, I think, an important way to, like--that we as Freedom Network want to frame the work that we do, the presentations, the webinars that we do, it's pretty effective close-distance assistance that we will provide moving on, so it was still, like, an important framing for us even though--so I don't want you to hear that and be like, "Oh, my gosh. Is she going to start, like, asking me a bunch of personal information?" No. But it's still, like, I think, an important way to frame the time that we will have together.

Also, just to stay engaged and take of yourself. I know this is not a cameras-on meeting, which is fine, we all need a break from cameras from time to time. But do--just do your part to stay engaged, whatever that means. Sometimes, for me, that means, like, I need to pace around a little bit. As you can see, I'm kind of, like, a wobbly, fidgety, pacing person anyway. Just do what you need to do to try and stay present.

Also, this is a safe space to learn and ask and grow together, there are no bad questions here. I also guarantee you that if you have a question about something, there's probably a decent chance that somebody else also has that question. So please keep all these things in mind as we move through this webinar today.

And with that, I will pass it over to--and I'll do a full introduction of myself and the rest of the Freedom Network team after--in a couple slides, but at this point, I'm going to pass it over to Kristin from OVC.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Hi, good afternoon, everyone. My name is Kristin Weschler and I am a Victim Justice Program Specialist at the Office for Victims of Crime, on the Human Trafficking Division. And I am your program lead for the HT Housing Program. So I want to first of all congratulate you on your FY24 award, especially to our new grantees. I know several of you have received housing grants in the past or maybe another OVC human trafficking award, but I know we have some brand-new grantees and I'm always excited to incorporate new programs into the space, so welcome. What I'm going to do during my brief time with you today is just go over a few items specific about the human trafficking division, the housing program, and then some resources.

Hopefully, you've already attended some of the other orientations that we've provided in the last few weeks. We had one about OVC at large, we had one about the human trafficking division, and then we're having one specific to each of our human trafficking programs, which housing today. If you missed those orientations and you're interested, I believe they were recorded and you'll be able to find them on the OVC website. If you have trouble locating that information, please feel free to reach out to your grant manager.

So just a little bit of information about OVC's human trafficking program. We are the largest federal agency for human trafficking grant funding, so it's a privilege to be working in this space and to be able to support so many of you across the nation. Currently, we have about 421 active open awards under our human trafficking division. We have--oh, my goodness, I--it always changes depending upon the fiscal year, but I think we have about 12 to 14 different programs under our division of which housing is one, so you are part of a larger group. Out of that 421 active awards, that's over \$336 million right now covering almost every state. So 120--I'm sorry, 102 awards were made across our division in 2024. And most of our programs support direct services. So that can be anything from case management to counseling and mental health support, transportation, and then of course this one that's specific to housing support.

And then we also cover a range of different populations, so as you can see in the description, some of them are state-wide efforts, some of them are youth-specific, some are multidisciplinary teams between law enforcement and victim service providers, and then we also have training and technical assistance awards such as Freedom Network who is with us today, and they will be serving as your training and technical assistance support for the housing program. Next slide please, Rachel.

So, a little bit more about the human trafficking housing program. Right now, we have, give or take, 72 active housing awards. So some of those are 2020 or 2021 awards that are closing out, and then of course 14 of you just joined us as 2024 award recipients, so it's always a fluid number, but based on my last run about a month ago, there were 72 awards. You can see the list of different states there so there's fewer representation for housing, like, across the United States. So there's 28 different states that have received housing awards, but that doesn't mean that there's not human trafficking funding in the other states. If you want a list of all of the human trafficking awards, they are also on our human--OVC website if you go to the human trafficking program. We have a lovely map that kind of covers and lists all the different programs that have received funding across the United States. So that's sometimes interesting, it can also be a good resource to collaborate with other programs in your state or if you're having to do a referral to another state.

As I mentioned in FY24, there are 14 of you that received housing awards. There were four under Purpose Area 1, which we--is a new category we introduced last year, and it's for those programs that are either new to providing services to human trafficking victims or they're new to providing housing services, or this is their first federal award. So the approach to Purpose Area 1 is a little different than Purpose Area 2, which is those of you who have been providing victim services or housing services or have federal experience in managing grants. So 10 awards were made in Purpose Area 2. And as you can--it was very competitive this year, so we received 103 applications and then we made 14 awards. So, kudos to you for receiving an award this year. Only 13% had to get--were able to get funded, and that was a significant increase over last year. My theory or speculation is, as you're probably aware of, the amount of funding of other sources has decreased such as VOCA, and then of course housing is going up in price and is not readily available for affordable or safe housing. So this is one of the few programs that provides specific funding to victims of human trafficking for housing, so. Again, I'm honored to be able to provide this program to the field, it's just sad we can't provide more, but we do what we can.

So my last slide is just a few resources that you may have already seen in different webinars that you've attended for our division, but I just kind of hit it home for you. So first is the housing solicitation, and it's important to look for the year that you were funded. So for most of you that are on this call today, it'll be the fiscal year 2024 solicitation. The reason we say that is because there are sometimes nuances and tweaks that are made from one fiscal year to another. So please make sure that you look at the fiscal year that the solicitation you're funded under.

Of course, the DOJ Financial Guide is, like, a resource that should be used by both your grant award administrator and your finance manager. We're grateful to have a contract with the OVC Financial Management Resource Center, the website is here. [<https://www.ojp.gov/training-and-technical-assistance/fmrc>] You'll be getting some training and technical assistance available through them, specifically around financial management of your federal award. Of course, make sure you read your award conditions, you need to be familiar with your program narrative and budget.

The OVC HT FAQs are updated regularly. And this is questions that we receive from you as our grantees that we kind of give a response to because it's--they're common questions that are asked over and over again. So if you think you have a question that's not answered by the DOJ Financial Guide or the solicitation, please use your FAQs. They--we put them together for a reason. [<https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/human-trafficking/ovc-human-trafficking-program-faqs>]

And then finally, the last link is a document that was created by our office that lists a number of different office--OJP, which is what OVC is under, the Office of Justice Programs, that might--supports that you could reach out to for other insight or guidance. So it might be, for instance, OCFO, which is the Office of the Chief Financial--Office of Chief Financial Officer. They're the ones who clear your budgets. So it could be that there's something there or there's other resources that are listed to help support you on the management of your award, so I encourage you to also check out that link when you receive the PDF file. [<https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/awards-help.pdf>]

And with that, I am going to hand it back to Rachel, who's going to walk you through the training and technical assistance support that you'll be receiving as a housing grantee under the OVC HT Housing Grant Program.

RACHEL OSTERGAARD: Thank you, Kristin. Yeah. Thank you for doing that overview, especially I'm sure that was really helpful for folks who might be new to OVC. Like, OVC is such a large entity that does so many things, it's helpful to kind of narrow in on the little spaces that we're involved in.

Again, my name is Rachel Ostergaard, I'm the Senior Housing Project Manager here at Freedom Network. I've been here--I'm relatively new here at Freedom Network, I've been here since April, so six months or however many months that is, I don't know, time is weird. And I'm really excited to be in this space. I have been doing anti-trafficking work for almost 20 years which makes me feel very old, that's fine, that's the way things go. And for many, many years of that, I was an OVC grantee. So I--I'm--like I said earlier, I'm from the Chicago area and I ran programs here for many years. So we had a drop-in space, we had case management. We were actually an OVC housing grantee. So I've definitely been--very recently very much in the work on a programs level, and I want to point that out because I, like, have very much been in this space of trying to stand up a housing program, navigate all the things that come with that from the, like, technical things and JustGrants, and, like, OVC related stuff to--there's sort of complicated dynamics that come from providing housing to survivors of trafficking with the level of intense complex trauma that many folks have, stuff can come at you sideways and I have definitely been there--through some of that. And so I'm really excited to be in this position and help provide support for you all as you all are either continuing to provide housing for folks or even--or just getting started.

I also want to say that I fully acknowledge that the folks--there's many folks on this call and throughout our work as technical assistance providers. There's a lot of expertise out

in the field already, so I don't approach this as if coming in to, like, tell you how to do things or whatever, but rather to work alongside folks to provide whatever support and additional assistance that might be helpful. I know when I was providing services, you know, and I would--stuff would go wonky with the housing that we were providing, sometimes it is just really helpful to have someone who wasn't up in their eyeballs with my housing problems to just bounce stuff off of, and that's partly what we can provide. More official ways to talk about that. But that is how I think about it.

So I--some of you have already done this, but it's--as we're going through these introductions, I would love to know who all is in the proverbial room. So if you were--if you're up for it, if you're interested, put your name, which organization you're in, anything about your program in the chat just to get to know a little bit more of who's in the room. We will be having breakout rooms later and don't panic, I know sometimes breakout rooms make people panic, and it's going to be very chill, but just another space to, like, get to know who the other grantees are, getting to know our--us as Freedom Network, et cetera. So there will be a lot of opportunities for that as well.

So a little bit more about Freedom Network. Our--the Housing TTA project is housed within Freedom Network's Training Institute. So Freedom Network is a member-based human rights-based anti-trafficking organization that started inviting new members for the organization, so--or, like, attorneys, social workers, folks who are doing the work got together and wanted to think creatively how to continue to do the work, and people who were like-minded and wanted to, like, continue to do the work together in this space. So very, like, super briefly to talk about Freedom Network broadly. And the Training Institute is an entity within that that we do this training and technical assistance piece, you'll hear a little bit in a minute from one of my coworkers, Meg who's--does other--provides other training through the FNTI programs, so this is just one element within Freedom Network.

And so I--as--part of our job is to help provide support to you all. I wanted as many of our teammates as could be here today to be introduced themselves, tell you a little bit about them, how they got into the work, how long they've been involved with Freedom Network. I will--two of my coworkers are here, but Beraly is not with us today because she is finishing out her family leave and snuggling a baby for a couple more weeks. She is from the DC area and spent a number of years delivering direct services with a specialization in housing and special education, she then worked in the courts in the DC area for a while, and then--and now joined us this summer. And we're really excited to have her as part of our team. And Sade also is finding out a vacation, which--I love vacations, I'm glad that she got to do that. And she is originally from the Bay Area but now is in the Atlanta area, and has a lot of great experience working with youth involved with this--systems involved youth. She's done some work with domestic, minor sex trafficking survivors and residential facility. So she's got some great specific expertise around there.

And with that, team, can we manage to get off mute, and come and briefly introduce yourselves? Also, I thought this is important because the rest of my team will be the

folks who are the team, I'm not the owner of anybody, will be the folks facilitating through the breakout session. So I see you, Meg.

ABIGAEL SOGBESAN: Hello. Hello, everyone. Hi, my name is Abigael Sogbesan and I am the Housing Coordinator. You've probably seen my email with Rachel for invoices or anything like that. I've been with Freedom Network USA for, I think, it's a year and two months now. My past background, I've worked with Freedom partners, mostly with youth, helping them read, and also with the reading habits. And late--I haven't really had much experience in human trafficking but I'm willing to learn and hearing from everyone. So right now, I'll popcorn this to Meg.

MEG HUGHEY: Thank you, Abigael. Hi, everybody. My name is Meg Hughey. I am our Associate Training Manager here at the Freedom Network Training Institute. So I do a variety of things behind the scenes aside from assisting my colleagues here on the housing team. I am the person kind of behind our annual conference as well as any of the paid trainings and webinars we do, and also outside trainings that we organize and do for other conferences. So do a lot of things behind the scenes. I've been here about four years at Freedom Network as of next month and I've been in the anti-trafficking field for a decade now. Prior to this, I was doing education and outreach, and also more direct service work at my local YWCA, working with survivors of human trafficking, sexual assault, domestic violence, and we also had a housing program there and a few different shelter programs. And so really looking forward to chatting with you all today, hearing your experiences, and also talking about some things that I've seen and my colleagues have seen in the field. And I'll be finally passing it over to Jamie.

JAMIE KIMBROUGH: Thanks, Meg. Hi, everyone, I'm Jamie Kimbrough. I am the newest Training Specialist on the Housing Training and Technical Assistance team. I have been here for about five weeks, so very new. I joined Freedom Network from a background in homelessness and housing. So most recently, I worked for the lead agency for the Atlanta, Georgia Continuum of Care and bringing that experience with me to Freedom Network. I'm looking forward to learning more about the human trafficking space and also working with each of you on your housing projects.

RACHEL OSTERGAARD: Thanks, everybody. Yeah, we are--I'm excited to have this team, we're excited to be here with you. Generally I'm an excited person. And kind of dorky, which you will find out soon enough, which also--then this next slide may not become a surprise because it's also a little bit dorky. But look at that cute little pup.

So we're going to do a couple quick icebreakers. This is in part--because this first one is very, like, chill, low-hanging fruit to just kind of get used to using Slido. So you can either take the Q--use your phone or device of your choice and take a picture of the QR code, and go to Slido. It should take you to where you need to go in that case. Or you can go to [slido.com](https://www.slido.com) and put in that code there like I'm pointing at, as if you can see where I'm pointing. At the bottom, that 2288604. And that should take you to the polls and that way, we--the first poll is very timely because I need to know, what is your all-time favorite Halloween candy? So this one really is to make--to, like, get used to using

Slido. We'll do a Slido here and another one at the end. We'll do one more icebreaker after this and another one at the end.

And I'm--actually, I'm going to do it too. Hmm. Snickers, Sweet Tarts, oh, anything gummy, I hear you. Wow. Almond Joy is making a showing here. I'm not going to lie, I'm a little bit surprised because there's a--there's this many--oh, no shade, everybody can like their own candy, but I feel like, normally, we've got, like, Twix and Reese's, and Kit Kat that are, like, making the biggest splash. I want anything sour personally, which works out because my kids don't love anything sour so I just get to eat whatever they don't want to eat. I also don't like chocolate, weird but all right. Everyone can like what they want. All right. Thank you for that. And I hope you all are getting excited or not about Halloween. I'm not excited about talking about candy for the next three weeks with my children.

So the next one, this one's a little more, like, apt, right. This is a--an icebreaker that's actually kind of getting more to the point of why we're all here. Like, "What part of providing housing for survivors are you most excited to contribute to or to see in an action?" I think--you know, as Kristin mentioned in the sort of--in her, like, OVC introduction, housing is just such a, like, growing area of need because rent keep on rising everywhere. Also, when it comes to service provision, funding is being cut in other places, and I think there's really a great space that, like--or very great niche that we are in to be able to have the opportunity to provide housing for folks. And those of you who have been doing it--and the trafficking work, like, know that very often, having housing is, like, the biggest--or not having housing, not having stable or safe housing is, like, the single most--biggest barrier to someone getting out of a trafficking situation. I can't tell you how many times I worked with clients--and so I was a case worker for many years, how many times I worked with clients and they stayed in very unsafe situations for a long time because that was the only--what they needed to have a place to stay, right? They needed a place to--but--and, like, having to balance, like, "Well, I have three kids. Do I really want to uproot them, put them in a shelter for three months?" And so really taking into consideration and all that, so yeah. Seeing survivors get back on their feet, self-determination, success--oops, oh, goodness. That button does that. Providing safety.

Oh, these are all great. Yeah, and I hope that you will be able to--I hope and then I--and I trust that you will be able to really actualize these for folks. Great. I will see if there's any--I don't want to cut anybody off if any--one thing that--two things that are great about Slido, it's anonymous, so if people don't feel like sharing things in the chat because it feels too not anonymous. Also you can see if people are still participating. It's great. If you haven't used Slido, check it out.

All right. So what does TTA entail? Like, I feel like--so here is a graphic, right. And here are some things. So training and technical assistance can entail a lot of different things. So obviously, there's a training piece of it, like that's written into the word, so we as Freedom Network do provide housing, Meg talked--or [INDISTINCT] webinars. Meg talked about the webinars that she's providing and she is, like, behind the scenes

getting to facilitate. Also, we as the housing team will be providing at least quarterly webinars and also getting--hopefully getting folks connected to other training that might be out there in the field. Also, like, the connections are really important. So I can't tell you--there's been oftentimes that people come to me and they have a question or need, and the best thing I can do is to try and connect them to someone who has experienced that exact thing before, or some iteration of that thing and make that connection to other service providers, other folks who might have that specific space of expertise. And that's also one of the reasons I'm excited about our team is all the--all the folks who work on our team in the Freedom Network TTA team have different buckets of experience. And so that's wonderful.

Also, problem solving and information, like I said at the beginning or at some point, like, sometimes it's just really helpful to, like, talk to someone who's not up in--all up in the minutia of whatever situation you have going on and to really talk through a situation and do some, like, collective problem solving. So we--you know, we can facilitate some of that ourselves, we can get you connected to folks who can help facilitate that as well. Also, hopefully provide you information, we have quarterly newsletters. And I'm just getting ahead of myself because I'll get to some of these on some of the slides. But to, like, pass out resources and get you connected to other information that's out there, and that might be helpful as you are either continuing to provide housing for folks or starting on the journey of providing housing for folks.

And hopefully to be a support, right? We want to--as someone who developed programs and, like--I--some of the programs I worked on here in Chicago, I developed basically from scratch. I was told, "Hey, here's the thing--well, two things, the housing program and our drop-in spaces." It's like, "Oh, so, by the way, you're going to do this now." I was like, "Oh, okay, right." And--can be sort of overwhelming to get--to have--just to embark on that and also know that I poured my life and my soul and my like--so much of myself into this--building these programs that I know what that can feel like. And so we really want to be a support to you as you are going through that in a way that honors the work that you've done and like is life-giving in that support, and not just trying to tell you to do things differently or whatever but really honoring the work--in our support, in our feedback, honoring the work that you've done.

I should probably take a breath. I sometimes talk really fast. When I first started doing trainings, it was a long time ago, but it was like I had five minutes to do roll call trainings for beat cops and C--and Chicago police and tell them everything they needed to know about sexual assault response. So I got really good at speaking really fast and getting lots of information out there. So it's been a 15-year process of dialing it back.

So goals of the Housing TTA Project. I mean, you can see what it says up here. It's like, one, support the grantees and explore and learning what housing options are for folks. This also is like words that go with that last graphic slide. To facilitate connections and partners in allied fields, like housing and homeless services, additional resources. Like one thing that I know for sure is that providing housing isn't as simple as just giving someone an apartment all the time, right? Like sometimes that is enough and

sometimes you want to make sure they're connected to other folks, other services in the community, other folks who can provide, meet other needs that they may have. So we want to help try and facilitate part of that as well. Also, we can help and assist in collaborating with landlords and guiding folk--guiding folks through--their participants through the leasing process. For a lot of folks, this might be the--at least, I'll speak from my experience here. Like for a lot of the folks that we worked with, this was their first time ever handling a lease, you know? And not every program is built the same, right, so not everyone will be leasing up with landlords. But it was the first time they'd ever had to interact with that like legal document that is a lease, and there's somewhat of a learning curve there. So we really want to help work with folks as they think about how to make that--make those connections and do those collaborations in the ways that make the most sense for their communities. And also share best practices for housing--in housing for survivors of trafficking.

Some of the frameworks that we use here and this is a framework that OVC also is like embedded in what OVC wants us to do but also things we truly believe in. It's voluntary services. If you haven't already, you will get to see a voluntary--a webinar that really kind of lays out what voluntary services is as a model and what it looks like and can look like when it comes to housing provision. It is an approach that supports autonomy and self-determination in a survivor's decision-making. Housing that is not conditional. So not saying, "In order for us to have--you to have housing, you need to do A, B, and C or I will take that housing away." Really wanting to support autonomy and self-determination. And I think--I think voluntary services are very, very important. I also fully acknowledge that it can feel complicated and messy at times, and so we will walk you through all that.

Also, trauma-informed services. So a framework that ensures programs are not re-traumatizing through controlling practices. And some of the ways that I've seen this in programs I've been--interacted with over the years is like requiring a curfew or any sort of monitoring or communication like those. You don't want to do things that like--monitoring of communication. Excuse me. You don't want to do things that might accidentally, inadvertently mirror the power and control dynamics that the--they might have had with their trafficker. So you really wanting to think critically and carefully about programs and about how you run a program to make sure that we are steering away from that and acknowledging, in whatever way we can, the trauma that folks have experienced and doing what we can to mitigate that and not re-traumatize folks.

Also, person-centered services. So really prioritizing the services--the survivor's needs and wishes. So these are some of the frameworks that we will take into the housing TTA we provide and that we will take into like policy and procedure reviews with you all moving forward and things like that.

So one piece--I just did a nice segue for myself. One piece of this is the policy and procedure review. So as you're building up your program, some of you who might have been doing this work already and this just might be your first OVC award, you might already have policies and procedures in place and you're like, "Sweet, I'll just send it in,

see what happens." Also, this might be the--or this might be the--if you're Purpose Area 1, this might be the first time you really have to think about, put together, and craft policy and procedures. So, either way, we are here for that process. So part of it is that OVC grantees are required to submit those policies and procedures as outlined in the award conditions to ensure that the policies and procedures align with those things I just talked about, voluntary, trauma-informed, and person-centered practice, right? That's the point of this.

And the process, this is just--like this is a very simplified version of the process. We are like tweaking it from what we did this last year. But, in short, you will provide your policies and procedures to us. As TTA providers, we will schedule an introduction call with you with your assigned training specialist, the person who's going to kind of walk with you through the process--the policy--the policy and procedure review process, so we can get a--get to know the program a little bit more, ask questions that we may have based on what we saw in the policy and procedure review--or policy and procedure documents, and then we'll provide a written summary and like some written feedback to you and your OVC grant manager.

I do want to make sure that I'm saying that like if this is--the whole thing is new and you're maybe a Purpose Area 1 grantee and is like, "I don't even know where to start," let us know and we can help walk you through that process. We will also be sending some--before this process really kicks off, we will be sending some documentation to help you navigate it, whether you're Purpose Area 1 or Purpose Area 2. We try--we want to be as supportive and helpful through this process--you know--pushed a weird button. As we can.

Also, if you are a previous grantee, then this process will be abbreviated. It won't be as long or as lengthy. If there haven't been any massive substantive changes, then you may not need to submit things at all, but that'll be--that'll be a conversation that we have moving forward. But know that if you just went through a full--if you went through a full policy and procedure review a couple years back, last time maybe in FY21, then you wouldn't necessarily have to do that whole process again. Fully acknowledge that, you know, it may not have changed much.

One little example is we--there's a grantee from this last year--or from FY23, who had a full--they're re-awarded from 2020. And they didn't go through a full policy and procedure review process but rather they scheduled a call with me and with some of the specialists and we just talked through some of the small tweaks they changed, things that--tweaks they made with the policy and procedure reviews and just--they didn't need to fully submit but we just--but they wanted to check some things with us. So let us know and we'll figure out the process for you.

Also web-based trainings and a Resource Library. Our Resource Library has a bunch of fact sheets. We'll drop a link in the chat here so you have access to that. You will also--it'll also--there'll be links to it whenever you get newsletters and things like that from us. But there's a lot of information and stuff has been developed by Freedom Network as

well as from some of our partners over the years, so there's a lot of information on that Resource Library. So I would really recommend you taking a look through those documents, through that material because it can be really helpful when trying to support and stand up a--or move forward a housing project.

Also, we do have quarterly webinars that look at the intervention of service survivor and their housing needs. We have--they'll be a--like a QR code to register, excuse me, at the end of this webinar. But we have one that's on December 10th that's looking at kind of the intersection of disability and housing, providing housing for survivors, things to consider and some accommodations-related stuff. Really excited about that one. Quite honestly, I think that we have some really great presenters lined up.

And then housing summits. So these are another two--two other pieces of our TTA or potential TTA. One is the housing summit. So regional summits, so this is--could be a good opportunity for folks who might, within their community, have what--have the capacity and also the community to gather local service providers, stakeholders, etcetera to discuss the current needs of trafficking survivors in the--in their community. And the goal of this is to really like increase the capacity of providers and to really like kind of grow like the net, right, to make sure that--so folks are able to identify housing resources in the community and provide insight. And really kind of digging into local challenges to housing success and trying to figure out a plan for those local service providers and stakeholders to work together and address some of those challenges.

And there's on tech--onsite technical assistance. So this is individualized in-person training and technical assistance. So maybe if there's something that--in particular that you are--a challenge that you all are coming up with as you are trying to--as you're working towards and providing housing for folks, we can provide specialized support and address certain specific challenging things that you might be facing. So we really work closely with the folks with who--to whom we provide the onsite TA to fashion that, to really meet the specific needs of an organization or a program. And these are things that--if you're interested on these things--sound like things that might be of interest to your program or your community, just send me an email and we'll kind of start the conversation about whether or not--about getting something like this off the ground.

So like I don't usually talk this long without pausing for questions but I know that there's opportunity for questions in the TA box and you'll have time in the breakouts--let's see.

Peer learning can [INDISTINCT] at the beginning and I fully acknowledge that there are folks--there's a lot of expertise in this room and also like within the grantees overall. And so the peer learning communities or PLC calls are an opportunity--a space and opportunity to share some of that knowledge with each other. Also, to do some troubleshooting, to like share ideas, implement trauma-informed practices, troubleshoot implementation challenges, discuss with other OVC grantees. There's a lot of space to ask questions and learn. And we use this last one, last month, I think, to really like get feedback from folks about what kind of support and--support that the people are interested in and also kind of gauge what kind of expertise is out there and what--how

can we--it's a good opportunity for us also to like get to know grantees and get to know who's out there so we can more effectively connect folks in the field moving forward. Really designed to be--and also it really can kind of shift based on what the needs of the community, what the needs of you all, need that you all have. So I know in the past, they've also done like--you know, had previous grantees who had gone through the policy and procedure, who came in and shared their experience and added--provided some support for folks who are about to embark on that experience. Or I know another one that's happened in the past has been on like landlord engagement. So maybe having a grantee come and share a little bit about how they've navigated tricky landlord situations and provided some support for that, and then as well having some--as well as having breakout rooms for folks to really share with one another some of the challenges and some of the wins that they've experienced throughout this process.

Oops. I keep doing that, eh? So some of the key takeaways to kind of wrap this section up before we go into breakout groups. A big part of this technical assistance piece is collaboration. Collaboration between grantees and us as the TA provider. Collaboration between us, TA provider, and OVC and you all. Collaboration between you all as grantees. Like that's a big part of this. Over the years since they've started to provide--OVC started providing the housing grants, there's just been--as Kristin indicated earlier, just an increase of awards granted over the years. And with that, there's been a growing level of expertise out there and a growing like network of folks who have done this work or is starting to do this work, have done really innovative things, and part of our jobs to get you connected to each other and to help and support you along that process. Also, we can help you improve--develop your policy and procedure documents, if--again, if that's something that you think would be helpful. And connect on general housing project capacity-building things.

There will be a way--at the end, you can sign up for our listserv if you want notifications. Also, as OVC grantee--housing grantees who will be put on--I promise you we don't spam you, but we'll make sure you're on the list so you get information about when our upcoming webinars are, what else we have going on, newsletters, and things like that.

Without further ado, breakout groups. So we will be broken into--a couple--one housekeeping thing, at least four breakup groups. Again, it's--there'll be some--I think some of you might remember Jamboard. May you rest in peace, Jamboard. But Canva Whiteboards, which kind of--that serves the same purpose. List of questions on it. This space is really designed to be an opportunity to get to know the other grantees that are there, for us to get to know you, for us to like, you know, see what kind of support might be helpful for you moving forward, and then ways we can connect you with other people or support you.

So you will need--your facilitator for your room will need to go through and unmute you because this is a--because of the webinar platform we are using. So we will be unmuted. If you need to mute yourself to go to the bathroom or walk away or cough a lot, which was me last week, had a bad cold, no problem. But then your facilitator will need to come back and like re-unmute you. So--just so you know. So you can just drop

a message in the chat of your breakout group--breakout room and let your facilitator know that you need that to happen.

And with that--do I need to--breakout groups. I don't think--I think--Daryl, you'll be putting us in there, right? You'll be...

DARYL FOX: Yeah. We're ready to go if you are. We'll get everybody set.

RACHEL OSTERGAARD: I'm ready.

DARYL FOX: All right. Rachel, it automatically muted everybody as they came back in.

RACHEL OSTERGAARD: Including me. I said--we all got snatched back all of a sudden, you know? Even with the warning, I get caught every time. Even though--like with this and other platforms, it's like, "You will be going back to the main room in one minute," and I'm all ready for it and then it still just hits me. All right. I'm going to go ahead and share my screen again. Is that screen shared? Breakout groups? Is this breakout groups?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yes.

RACHEL OSTERGAARD: I'm just going to share that for every--and I know there was some significant technical challenges in some of the rooms, so that's--we kind of wrapped things up early because I know some people were having trouble getting unmuted or just generally having some trouble. So actually I would love--but I would love to hear if anything--like anything that came out--maybe for the facilitators, it might be easiest for you just pop off and just say any themes that you saw or heard from your group. Also, folks who are in the groups could put stuff in the chat as well. We will give it a minute here. I know one of the folks in our group was just excited about--new to the--their program has been around for a minute but it was new to the work, it was just excited about seeing folks getting--gaining independence. Their program is set up to be apartments after a transitional thing, putting them into more longer term apartments, and excited to help folks towards independence in that way.

Anything else that folks want to--I fully acknowledge that there were some tech--applications--technology, man. You love it until it turns you on.

MEG HUGHEY: Rachel, I can share a bit about what we spend some time on in in my groups. So...

RACHEL OSTERGAARD: That'd be great, thank you.

MEG HUGHEY: Yeah. So there were some new folks but also some returning grantees, and so I got to hear a little bit about both of those programs that people were able to discuss, which is very exciting. We heard from the returning grantees about some of the successes that they've had and kind of being able to meet even more markers than they

had hoped for when they first started getting this funding, which is very exciting. And then they shared a bit in the room and with me about the ways that they have been able to work with their local COC, what that has looked like to sort of build a relationship with them. And we had a little bit of a conversation about any kind of tips that they had on ways to make those connections. So I think that was really helpful. They brought up just being persistent with their local COC, building relationships and kind of having conversations with them, and then finding ways to sort of work together on grants or applications as well. So that was a great conversation.

RACHEL OSTERGAARD: That's great. Yeah, great to hear about those connections with the COC. And I feel like that could be a good thing for us to keep in mind, as other folks--that organization, that program, those folks--as other organizations are maybe starting the process of navigating to involvement with their COC. I know we're--yeah. So that's great. Thank you, Meg.

Anything else? Any--from the breakouts? Going once. Going twice. Oops. All right. So I want to just put like--you know, we're kind of to the point of--we're wrapping this up. I can no longer see where the question box is, so if there were any questions there, someone who could see them could let me know. And then also if you do have other questions for us as a TTA team here, if you wouldn't mind, just dropping that in the chat box...

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Right.

RACHEL OSTERGAARD: ...because this--yeah?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yeah. Sorry, Rachel. It's Kristin. So there is a question--comment more in the Q&A.

RACHEL OSTERGAARD: Great.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: "We would love advice on educating landlords about housing protections for victims while not outing our clients. I know we've heard a lot about--at least in the history of the program, about protection confidentiality of survivors, but then how do you navigate that and establishing leases, especially if it's in the survivor's name?"

RACHEL OSTERGAARD: Oh, yeah. That's a great one. And I'm not going to have a massive response for you now, but I think that is something that's a really important thing to keep in mind, and I do know there are some folks who had some creative ways to try and work around that. Also, that's a question, excuse me, that will rely somewhat on wherever you are locally, which I'm not necessarily going to speak to it directly because I know different jurisdictions, different cities, counties, states have different levels, ways to protect survivors of various types of violence and protect the confidentiality of folks who--from types of violence while having to navigate some of those relationships or dynamics. That's a great question. And we--there will be--we will

get back to you. I'll follow up. Unless someone else on the call has something more specific they want to say. If you can unmute, team.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Well, I'm already unmuted, so--this is Kristin again. I will say we do have a new TTA award made under the Human Trafficking Division this year, made to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, specifically on confidentiality and the new VAWA provisions. And it's--you may have already seen some reference to that in your award conditions as far as the confidentiality provision. So it is a new award. It's just getting started. Their budget may not even be cleared, like many of you. So all that to say is more information will be shared. I'll make sure I share it with Rachel so she can also get it out to all of you. But there may be some assistance or guidance through that TA award as well.

RACHEL OSTERGAARD: Yeah. I feel like, generally speaking, when I was providing services, I was always having to try and think in very creative ways to figure out how can I get folks connected to services they might need without outing them. So I think that's a very important question, for sure. Any other questions? Going once.

All right. Well, lastly, I just want to make sure you have info on this upcoming webinar. December 10th, 12:00 PM EST. Registration is required. You can either do the QR code, take a pic. I don't know what--like activate the QR code and register that way. Also, there will be an email going out, registration with this, within the next day or so with this information, so we can--you can get this--access this information that way. But we are very much looking forward to this webinar.

And then also some more information. So keeping in touch. So you can contact us through housing@freedomnetworkusa.org. There's--there has already been--and Abigael just dropped the link again to the resource--to the Resource Library. There is a lot of information that--the Landlord Engagement Resource is there as well. I don't know off-hand if it goes into the question of confidentiality. I don't know, Lauren, if it'll--like specifically will speak to your question but there is some information out there about that.

And--sorry. I'm trying to close. And then--yeah, thank you. Really appreciate your time and your attentiveness on bearing with us on some of the tech issues. I know once we did get people unmuted, we did get some good conversation going. But I--you know, technology, it does what it does.

There are also some other resources here. General OVC resources. Some of these have been dropped in the chat earlier throughout the--throughout the webinar. This will also--we can also get this information to you elsewhere as well. It can go in the chat here as well.

Yes, we can get that link to the training.

The disabilities webinar is not required. It is required to register for it, but you do not--it is not required to attend this one. But, yes, we'll get that link to you.

All right. We'll give it one more--another second for any last questions, comments, anything, as I'm also getting you that link. Yeah, we will--we--Kristal, I see your question. We will follow up with more specific--the--more of the specifics for the ins and outs of what we expect or need from you, from policy and procedure reviews, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. I can't seem to stop sharing my screen. Just kidding. Figured it out. It's not the prettiest link but it should work. Wow. It's really not. All right. Thank you so much everyone for your time. And I think that's it.

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