

DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar, OVC FY 2024 Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking Orientation, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. So at this time, it's my distinct pleasure to introduce Natalia Aguirre, Victim Justice Program Specialist with OVC to begin the presentation. Natalia?

NATALIA AGUIRRE: Thanks so much, Daryl, and good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for joining the FY24 Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking Orientation. Yay. Congratulations. As a reminder, this is an orientation intended for grantees that were awarded under this FY24 program. So if you are not a current FY24 Improving Outcomes grantee, just know that this webinar is not required and you can log off at any point. You're also welcome to stay on and listen into the conversation or if you want to learn more information just generally about the Improving Outcomes program, feel free to reach out to me or Lindsay and we can send you some additional information.

I would also like to encourage all of our FY24 Improving Outcome grantees to speak up and chime in. This orientation is really a time for you to meet all of those that you were-- you will be working with in this program, both on the TTA side and also OVC. And finally, it's really a time for you to get any questions that you have answered. I--we know that you have joined a series of orientation webinars, so this is not meant to be repetitive or repeat the material that was introduced in any of those webinars, but really a time to focus and hone in on the specifics of the Improving Outcome program. If you have any questions throughout the webinar, as Daryl mentioned, please feel free to drop it in the chat or raise your hand on Webex so we can unmute you.

We have also included a list of resources that were covered in previous webinars at the end so that you can find everything in one place. And while we will briefly cover these, we will not be going into great lengths or depth on these materials as they have been previously covered.

And so just as a tip or a reminder for those FY24 grantees, this is a great presentation to share with your new staff as you onboard them. I know they may not be onboard right now, but as they join your team, please remember to share this webinar and recording with them. And again, the link will be posted, as well as the recording, so you'll have all of that to share with your new staff members. So again, feel free to jump in, ask questions during the webinar. And to get us started, I'll turn it over to RTI to help lead some introductions. Next slide.

BRIANNA D'ARCANGELO: Great. Thank you so much, Natalia. This is Brianna D'Arcangelo speaking. I'm a Project Manager with RTI. We're going to do a fun little icebreaker here in just a moment. I've dropped some instructions into the chat, we'll be using mentimeter.com, which is just a fun platform we like to use at RTI, it's interactive. So there's a few different ways to access it here, you can either just click the link that I put in the chat directly. If you have a smartphone, you can use your camera to scan that QR code or you can just go to menti.com and then input the code that's on the screen

right now, I also dropped it in the chat, which is 15629030. So this question here that we have is what are you most looking forward to in autumn? So I'm just going to give folks a moment here to respond.

I know we're making our way through the fall season now, so maybe these are things you've already done. So we have some seasonal veggies. Ooh, sweater dresses, that's a great one. Hiking, hot cocoa, chili, apple picking, pretty colors. These are all, like, the best things about fall for sure. I personally was most looking forward to pumpkin picking and pumpkin carving, which I did this past weekend with my family, which is just a fun fall tradition. Leaves changing. I hope everyone's getting some colorful leaves where they're at. I know this is such a beautiful time of year. Awesome. Chilly weather, Halloween party for kids, that's so great, I'm excited for trick or treating tomorrow. I can't believe Halloween's already here. Can't wait to see all the costumes. Fall fashion. Yeah. So many great things to look forward to. I know sometimes it's a bummer when summer ends, but look at all the great things we have to look forward to in autumn. Crunchy leaves. Awesome. I'm loving seeing all these responses. Makes me feel very thankful for the fall season.

All right. Well, thank you all so much. It's fun to hear what folks are looking forward to and enjoying about fall. I think I will go ahead and pass it back to Natalia.

NATALIA AGUIRRE: Yeah. Thanks so much, Brianna, that was great. And good to hear all the things you're excited about. All right. We're going to do some quick introductions of the team that will be supporting you through this program. We'll start with our OVC team. And so I will formally introduce myself. My name's Natalia Aguirre, I'm a Victim Justice Specialist in OVC's Human Trafficking Division. I'm also the lead for this Improving Outcomes program, so you all will be hearing from me often, and I look forward to working more closely with all of you. I live in Virginia and based out of Washington, D.C., so East Coast time zone for our new grantees. And then a fun fact about me is I'm currently trying to learn to do watercolor painting. It is way harder than I thought, but I really liked the idea of spreading color on paper and that's been a lot of fun to kind of get into.

Just so you all know, in terms of Improving Outcome sites that I manage, I manage RTI, the TTA provider that you all are hearing from today, as well as Ohio, Louisiana, Maryland, Delaware, Michigan, and I will be managing both new sites, Illinois and Virginia. So I look forward to working with all of you--or both of you closely.

My expertise that I bring is around polyvictimization and really work within collaboratives, so did a lot of work with Family Justice Centers, and used to be a former training and technical assistance provider, so really come at the work with that lens of being a former OVC grantee.

And then a fun fact, I'm wondering what you all think, was whether we arrived to the airport two hours prior to our domestic flight, yes or no. And having just returned from vacation yesterday, I can tell you that I arrived to the airport earlier than two hours. I

don't like being stressed, I'm always scared something's going to happen, I won't be able to find a gate or something will change, or there will be an accident, and so I like to cut down on the stress as much as possible and get to the airport at least two hours ahead of my flight. I will turn it over to our other OVC colleague that manages Improving Outcomes sites, Lindsay.

LINDSAY WALDROP: All right. Thank you so much, Natalia. I'm so glad to have you back from vacation. Hi, everybody. Thanks for joining us today. My name is Lindsay Waldrop, I'm a Senior Advisor at OVC, and I focus on coordination of our training and technical assistance efforts. I also am a grant manager for several of the programs--of the grantees on this program, Minnesota, Oregon, and Colorado. A couple things about me, I love cheese of all sorts, but as I'm getting older, it's not loving me back. I don't know if any of you all can feel the same.

I lived in D.C. for many years, but currently I'm a full-time employee working remote--full-time remotely in Florida. And a little bit about myself, again, I'm very up on all of our training and technical assistance, I work to coordinate our different types across human trafficking, as well as across OVC and with federal government, so if you have any TTA questions, I might be your person.

I've worked with OVC on children and youth victimization issues for many years, like in particularly with human trafficking and children and youth, the intersection. And I'm going on my 10th year at OVC as a government employee, but before then, I was a fellow, a human trafficking fellow, and before then, I was a TTA provider. So I have been around with our trafficking program for going on--I don't know, many years. So I can give you a little bit about sort of what we've done and where we've been.

I too, Natalia, I'm going to arrive about three hours early. I would rather have lunch, sit there and relax, you never know, you know? So I do not want to be running down the corridor trying to make my flight, that's just too stressful. So yup, I'm there early too. And I'm going to toss it over to the next slide, I think, for our TTA team to introduce themselves.

DR. STACEY CUTBUSH STARSEED: Thank you so much. My name is Stacey, and I'll introduce myself in a moment. But first, I just want to say we're so excited to have you here, our new grantees, Virginia and Illinois. As a friendly heads up, we're going to be passing the mic to you in just a moment in case you are in the middle of eating lunch or something like that, late lunch. But before I do that, I just want to really give a shout out to Lindsay and Natalia. I think we all hit the jackpot getting the both of them as stewards of this grant program. It's such an honor to work with them and I know that you all have the same experience I do in so far as they are incredibly supportive, they want us all to succeed and are so invested in ensuring this grant program is successful. So just huge shout out to you, Lindsay, for your vision in generating this grant program, and then also Natalia for shepherding it along now.

My name is Stacey Cutbush Starseed. I work for RTI International and we function as your training and technical assistance provider for the Improving Outcomes grant program. I direct the Violence Prevention and Harm Reduction Research Program at RTI and I do a lot of work in human trafficking research, evaluation, and training and technical assistance. In addition to functioning as a project director for the Improving Outcomes TTA project, I also serve as an individual TTA provider for a couple of your sister states, one of them is Oregon and one of them is Louisiana. So a beautiful part about this grant program is that you will not be operating out on your own, you'll have a cohort of stuff to learn from, other states to learn from and you'll learn more about that in a moment.

I'm going to very briefly introduce my team members so you will have the opportunity to get them--get to know them, of course, much better, on subsequent calls and they are not all here on this particular call today. Sam Charm is the Associate Project Director for this grant--or this project, rather, and she also functions as a TTA provider. And I will spare you listing out--well, maybe I could. She functions as a TTA provider for the State of Maryland only. Next slide, please.

So we have Shani Bacy, she's our task lead for the Resource and Dissemination Activities. We produce a lot of resources and--to support you and others in this grant program, but also to other states that are not currently funded by this grant program. And Shani will be working with the Illinois team.

Hannah Feeney serves as our Group TTA Lead, so you'll be seeing her a lot at our group functions, whether those are webinars, we have an upcoming round table next month on familial trafficking. And she'll also be facilitating our quarterly grantee check-in calls, the community of practice that we have, as well as our annual in-person meeting. Next slide, please.

Brianna, I will turn it over to you to briefly introduce yourself.

BRIANNA D'ARCANGELO: All right. Thank you so much, Stacey. I'm Brianna D'Arcangelo, really nice to be on the call with you all, and I serve as a project manager for RTI's TTA project.

DR. STACEY CUTBUSH STARSEED: Thank you, Brianna. And then lastly, we have our Individual TTA Lead, Leanne McCallum Desselle. And a fun fact about Leanne is that she used to be in your seats, managing an Improving Outcomes grant out of the State of Louisiana, but has since joined our team, lucky for us. So again, you'll have the opportunity to work with each of us integrally over the life course of your grant, we're so excited about that.

I'm going to turn now to--thank you for advancing the next slide. And we are getting ready to pass the mic to you, Illinois. But first, just to share with other participants on the call, yes, you can advance the slide. Thank you so much. We're excited that the State of Illinois is joining our cohort, our team of Improving Outcomes grantees that we get to

work with. So as you all know, this grant work is led out of a state agency in Illinois, it's the Department of Human Services in partnership with the Bureau of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking. So we're excited to see that you'll be working with your Department of Children and Family Services, your state police, your advocacy centers. And I will turn it over--or to the next slide to showcase some of your key strategies, but actually, pass the mic over to you at this time to briefly introduce yourselves. So could we have our Illinois folks please raise your hand and we will unmute you so that you can come off and tell us a little bit about yourself. So on the bottom of this screen, you'll see the raise hand feature.

ERICA KOEGLER: Sorry.

DR. STACEY CUTBUSH STARSEED: Go ahead.

ERICA KOEGLER: Okay. My name's Erica Koegler, I'm the Bureau Chief of Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking. We're really excited to have this opportunity. We're at a good point in the state. We've had a working group between these entities, us at DHS, Illinois State Police. We've been meeting weekly for many, many months. And this grant will help us advance the coordination in the state. So do you want me to walk through these strategies or is that sufficient or do you want something else?

DR. STACEY CUTBUSH STARSEED: I think that's good. If you just want to really briefly just, you know, in a minute or two highlight some of these key strategies without going into depth.

ERICA KOEGLER: Absolutely. So yeah, the main thing we need a coordinated response. We've identified that, you know, state police might identify a victim but then all the protocols and procedures aren't in place for the best thing to happen for that survivor. So we're going to start with our strategic plan and creating trauma-informed protocols and procedures for all entities. We have buy-in from top leadership. We're going to identify the, you know, existing challenges and gaps and figure out how to improve these, develop screening tools appropriate for different sectors, establish trauma-informed training standards, and then improve our current data collection system both for youth--both for children and then youth. That includes adults. Thank you.

DR. STACEY CUTBUSH STARSEED: Thank you so much, Erica. Is there anyone else on your team who would like to say hello or are you representing your entire team today?

ERICA KOEGLER: Yvonne is probably on and maybe Britney. I'm not sure.

DR. STACEY CUTBUSH STARSEED: Okay. Yvonne, I see you're on. Would you like to raise your hand? Yep you've raised your hand. Thank you. The mic is over to you now.

YVONNE GLASSCOCK: Hi. I'm Yvonne Glasscock. I'm a planning and support specialist at DHS in the Bureau of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking. And I am working under Erica on this--on this grant. And right now working on just the beginnings of our strategic plan, getting some of our budget lines, figure it out how we want to run with that. And just, you know, we're excited to get started and we're still learning, I'm still learning a lot of this. This is my first federal grant that I've been involved in and it's exciting. So thank you.

DR. STACEY CUTBUSH STARSEED: Thank you so much, Yvonne. We're so excited to have you onboard and you will be in good company. We are all learning at various places, various moments in our growth spurt here so you'll have a lot of support. Is there anyone else from your team on from Illinois or are we ready to transition to Virginia?

Okay. If we could go to the next slide, please? I'm excited--we're so excited, Virginia, to have you onboard as well. Working with the Office of the Attorney General is going to be an exciting way to coordinate this work on a statewide level. We want to acknowledge your partners also, The Center for Public Policy at the Wilder School within Virginia Commonwealth University, and ImPACT. We're so excited to have you. If you want to--would please advance to the next slide and then we can pass our mic over to our new Virginia colleagues. If you are from the Virginia team if you would please raise your hands. We can unmute you to speak very briefly top of the trees overview of your statewide strategies here.

Do we have anyone on from our Virginia team? Okay. Well, we--if you are here and you're having a difficult time finding the raise hand feature or--please just enter a chat and we can circle--or enter a note in the chat and we can circle back to you shortly to allow you to introduce yourself. In the meantime, we're really excited about the statewide working group that will be happening within your state and also just a statewide needs assessment to identify gaps and promising practices. We're especially excited about your focus on labor trafficking victims and male victims who are, you know--because this is such an important component of focusing and advancing the work not just on sex trafficking but labor trafficking and making sure that we're focusing on our under identified population such as males.

We're excited to learn more about your human trafficking toolkit and support you in updating that, and the provision of additional resources. We're excited about your work designed to train staff at your juvenile facilities to improve and increase the identification

and support for trafficking victims once again for especially male and labor trafficking. And I'm very excited that you're planning on hosting five regional trainings designed to support coordination and collaboration on referral processes. So thank you so much. And we can move on to our next slide now.

I'll be passing the mic back over to OVC. Natalia, I think it's over to you.

NATALIA AGUIRRE: Yeah. Thanks so much, Stacey. And welcome to our Illinois team. And Virginia, if you are on the call, we're all looking forward to working closer with you. And so now we're just going to get into the nitty-gritty on the Improving Outcomes Program. Again, if you have any specific questions about any of these portions, please raise your hand or drop a question to the chat. Again, this is really meant for you and we're really hoping to answer, clarify any parts of the solicitation or program development as we work through this. And this won't be the last opportunity we can do so, so no worries if questions come up as we move along or at the end of this.

All right. So a little bit about the overview of the program, which I think many of you have likely heard in your application process, but as a reminder, this program was established in fiscal year 2016, and it is funded under the TVPA and the JVTA. And the reason this program is unique is that the focus of this program is not on direct services, but rather on coordination and collaboration at the statewide or tribal jurisdiction wide level. And to that end, we require that lead applicants be state or Tribal government representatives. And Illinois and Virginia, you are helping us round out our grantees to 10 for this period of time. And I will show a map of our current grantees in the coming slides.

And so to tell you a little bit about our program goal--next slide, please. The goal of the program is to improve the response to child and youth victims of trafficking by focusing again on coordination at the statewide and Tribal jurisdiction level and creating change across systems. So a lot of what Stacey and you all have highlighted as far as your activities and goals really kind of achieve this or reach this program goal. And again, what is particularly unique about this program is that OVC does not prescribe a model. So you all are really tasked with identifying the greatest barriers to identifying and assisting child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking and then developing a program to address these barriers. And so that really means that some aspects of your programs may be similar to other states, but it also means that the strategies you implement, or approaches you implement are completely different. And so for this reason, we encourage a lot of dialogue across state programs as well as close work with OVC and RTI. I just want to give them a big shout out because the amount or the level of work that they have to produce to be able to tailor and customize TTA for each

of you is huge and they've done a great job at creating programs or resources and form spaces for communication across these programs to allow you all to discuss these things. And so it's a big charge to have to do TTA for very specific approaches and state differences for a program like this. Next slide, please.

Here's a map of our current and past grantees. And so those in the light orange are past grantees while those in the brighter orange are current grantees. And you'll see the black texts are the lead offices for each of those state programs. And again, as Stacey mentioned earlier, as did I, you will have an opportunity to meet and hear from all of these grantees soon starting in November with a community of practice call that RTI will be hosting. And so this is a reminder that as your program progresses, we will be encouraging and intentionally building space for you to network and meet with various staff from these programs because there is so much value and learning their lessons learned as you implement your program.

Next slide. And so while there may be some differences in your approaches into your programs, note that all program should address both the needs of sex and labor trafficking for child and youth victims in your jurisdictions. And these strategies should address the barriers across systems. And so some of the strategies that address the identified challenges and barriers in your state may include, but are not limited to developing or enhancing MDTs, task forces, or steering committees. Again, looking at screening and identification, research, evaluation and data systems, enhanced investigation and prosecution, conducting needs assessment or resource mapping, training and outreach, and developing policies, practices, and guidelines. And we recommend with RTI--that you work with RTI and your stakeholder to identify the strategies and your approach as you continue to move forward.

And RTI has a lot of resources that maybe helpful as you are planning during this time. In particular I'll call out the Compendium that I know Stacey will also talk about in her section later on in this presentation.

Now, I just want to talk a little bit about the program objectives. So again, the objectives of the program are to develop a jurisdiction-wide strategy or strategies that tackle the greatest identified challenge in your application. And to develop protocols and procedures within and across systems to ensure appropriate services and that you also work towards strengthening data collection and information sharing, that you develop a unified strategy for training professionals across your jurisdiction, and that you identify and fill service and coordinating response for youth-serving agencies. And I will now turn it over to Lindsay.

LINDSAY WALDROP: Thanks, Natalia. I'm going to go over some mandatory program requirements that can be found in your solicitation. OVC is committed to ensuring that all victims regardless of immigration status, gender, age, race, ethnicity, or form of trafficking receive support in accessing services they need. To this end, we have built mandatory program requirements which guide grantees to addressing some common gaps in the trafficking field. These requirements are intended to expand access and reach to vulnerable communities across the country. TTA will be addressing different aspects of these program requirements throughout their engagement with you and can support you in better tailoring strategies for your program. These requirements are components that should be integrated into your various strategies and approaches.

And they include ensuring civil rights, federal civil rights laws that prohibit recipients of funding from discriminating and the delivery of services. Specific expectations on strengthening response to labor trafficking, which we'll discuss in more length in the next slides. We've included new language on ensuring access for male victims which we'll also touch on more briefly in the next few slides. Working to better involve individuals with lived experience and programming. OVC's expectations that its grantees will engage in practices that remove barriers to receiving services and support survivor autonomy. There's important new FY24 and moving forward requirements on privacy and confidentiality for those that provide direct services. So this includes your subawards, so please take note. OVC programs serving child and youth services that must be tailored to ensure that these are developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive, victim-centered, and trauma-informed. OVC encourages the use of shared decision making model and other evidence-based and evidence-informed practices when working with children and youth. And finally found on your solicitation are requirements on yearly training around DEIA.

Beyond grant, or OVC expectations are your civil rights expectations which are legal requirements. So it's important that your policies and procedures follow applicable federal and state laws to protect and uphold these civil rights. Some actions that this might look like in practice, they're not limited to, but are ensuring program participants and employees, perspective employees, that you do not discriminate in the delivery of services based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and age, as well as sexual orientation and gender identity. You may develop written policies or procedures for notifying employees and applicants how to file complaints alleging discrimination. Establish steps to meaningfully provide access to programs and activities to persons with limited English proficiency. And provide services to eligible participants regardless of religion, religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice. You might find more training information on our website to support you with this or with our TTA provider.

The next one is describing ongoing efforts for labor trafficking, to enhance your efforts for labor trafficking. Some of these actions that--it might look like in practice include making sure you're--you continue to include updates and conversations with RTI and OVC on your labor trafficking efforts. Include a section in your semi-annual report on what you have done to improve your staff knowledge, your internal knowledge, your outreach, et cetera. And weaving labor trafficking into your strategic planning process and identifying stakeholders who focus on labor trafficking. This might include nontraditional partners such as the Department of Energy, unions, trade organizations, or the Department of Labor.

A new year--new language that we added this year in our solicitation is about ensuring support for male victims. Applicants and grantees should consider the needs of these victims in their proposal narrative and proposed community partnerships or collaborations that are required to respond to this population. If you did not do this in your application, there is always an opportunity to revisit. What this looks like in practice might be partnering with stakeholders who are serving male victims of crime as part of your strategic planning process. You may include a working group or a goal or objective related to serving underserved victims of human trafficking that focus on male victims, or you may consider conducting a needs assessment or surveys to understand gaps or challenges for providers and/or male survivors of human trafficking in your state.

OVC encourages grantees to propose and implement intentional and sustainable engagement with individuals with lived experience and/or members of impacted communities to enhance their trafficking programming. We do say that, upon award, you may use some of your funding and time to reach out to our TTA team, which is the Survivor Engagement TTA team to request specific training and technical assistance on this. So while your RTI team is available to help you with all things Improving Outcomes, should you need additional TTA specifically on working with survivor engagement in your programming, we have additional resources for you. So for--if you're saying what this might look like on your state Improving Outcomes program, that might be ensuring that lived experience experts have been part of your project from the beginning. They're helping to look at your proposal or your strategic planning. You might want to review current material that's out there on the topic. Or, again, work with our TTA team to see how they could help you enhance your efforts. I'm tossing it to you, Natalia.

NATALIA AGUIRRE: Thanks so much, Lindsay. And so, in this solicitation, another mandatory program requirement is to enhance access to services and promoting survivor autonomy. And this can be approached in several ways in practice and in the application of this requirement. So, for example, one of your strategies or approaches that you may choose to use is to implement or identify standards of care in your jurisdiction. Similarly, you may choose to review policies and procedures that ensure that they do not require victims to take certain actions to be eligible for services. And in this PowerPoint, I know you'll see links and you'll get a link to this PowerPoint, but those links will lead you to various definitions, to terms that we often hear such as trauma-informed care or victim-centered, survivor-informed, et cetera. And those can be helpful

in thinking through how you're actualizing or implementing these definitions across your jurisdiction. Next slide please.

Regarding privacy and confidentiality, in January 2023, Congress amended the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which governs the majority of OVC's anti-trafficking programs to include a provision to help protect victim confidentiality. So accordingly for FY '24 grantees and beyond who are funded under the TVPA authority, OVC has implemented new confidentiality policies to help strengthen confidentiality protections on behalf of trafficking survivors. So please note that this applies to direct service providers, and so while this may not have any direct implications for you as an agency, it may be required for your subrecipient agencies that are providing direct services. So this chain means for direct service providers, subrecipients, that they will need to comply or implement privacy and confidentiality policies and procedures that conform with the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, referred to as VAWA Confidentiality Provisions. And if those subrecipients or you all need help kind of thinking through this or you have not had these conversations at a statewide level, OVC has funded a training and technical assistance provider, NNEDV or the National Network to End Domestic Violence, to assist OVC grantees in the development and implementation of these changes. So please let us know if you have any questions. You can reach out to RTI or myself or Lindsay and we're happy to put you in touch with NNEDV for this specific requirement.

And then there's also guidance on the service provision of youth as Lindsay had mentioned. And so this program requires that direct service programs offered to children and youth be tailored for victims. And so, to this end, we encourage you to review the materials on shared decision-making model and to use this project to consider how your program supports the creation of developmentally appropriate programs and responses to child and youth. And so how this has looked in practice, in some states have integrated ways to incorporate feedback from children and youth into their program development and their strategies through things like advisory boards or lived experience expert consultants, of which some Lindsay has also mentioned previous to this. So just being creative about how we're engaging youth and how programs are being developed. Next slide please.

Thank you. Finally, there is a deliverable or a required training that all grant-funded staff need to undergo a annual DEIA training. And this may be something that your agency already does in-house or you have a community partner that does this annually, and so this could be something that you already attend. It does not have to be something new specifically developed for this. Or it can be a training that you and staff-funded--grant-funded staff attend that has been developed by another OVC provider. And so we know, for example, the Human Trafficking Collective, another OVC TTA provider, has developed a series specifically on this topic that is available to you and that you're able to do this. Just make sure that you are documenting this in your semi-annual reports. And, again, if you have any questions about this requirement or mandatory program requirement, please let us know. We're happy to talk about this in our monthly conversations.

And, finally, while this is a minimum requirement, we do encourage you to think about how you're incorporating DEIA-based strategies, approaches into your entire project and program activities. And this is something that RTI has spent a lot of time thinking about and is weaving through all of their TA. Next slide please.

Here is a quick snapshot of the deliverables that are required by the end of your award period. So just to make it really easy for you all, a reminder that in year one, a written strategic plan and a training plan should be submitted to OVC. There needs to be an ongoing documentation of lessons learned. And states have done this in different ways, whether this is through your semi-annual reports or if you produce a report of that end that has kind of a compilation of this or we're talking about these lessons learned and you're submitting this in various ways.

Also, written protocols and procedures should be developed and submitted, outreach and awareness materials as well as submission of your regular performance reports. And again, just to emphasize, you should be working with RTI and OVC to finalize all of these products. And if you ever need an adjustment on the deliverables, the timing of submission, et cetera, please make sure you discuss this with us at a--in a sufficient time, as Stacy mentioned early in the introduction. Lindsay and I and this entire team really wants you all to succeed and we want to make sure we give you the resources and the tools and the time to do that. And so as long as we have an open line of communication, we can always work with you all on the timelines of submission for these deliverables.

All right. Now I'll turn it over to RTI to talk a little bit more about training and technical assistance.

DR. STACY CUTBUSH STARSEED: Thank you so much, Natalia. Okay. We can move to the next slide. Here you will see a menu of some of the strategies and activities that we engage in to provide all Improving Outcomes grantees a strong wraparound support. We will be engaging with you--your assigned TA provider will be engaging with you on a monthly basis. You'll have a call with that TTA provider, as well as OVC, either Lindsay or Natalia, depending on who is assigned as your grant program officer.

We also have a required community of practice quarterly grantee meetings and we'll be sending you that calendar invite series so that you've got it on your calendar and can plan ahead. At those convenings, you'll have an opportunity to engage with other Improving Outcomes grantees on a variety of topics. We have a quarterly newsletter. We will be sure to also get you signed up for that. In that newsletter, you can learn more about what's happening from OVC's viewpoint. You'll learn more about different upcoming human trafficking-related events or resources that will become available. We have an expert corner to try to continue to engage and connect you with other experts in the field.

In--related to that, I'll actually jump down to subject matter experts. We have a panel of subject matter experts that are a part of this project. They provide training and technical assistance to you at no cost. We'll be able to provide some information about who does what and the expertise they command so that you can engage them to support whatever different strategies you're engaging at your state.

We similarly have webinars and roundtables throughout the year on a variety of topics. We regularly poll grantees to find out what is most challenging for you, what are you struggling with right now? As a team, we regularly discuss some of the key challenges we see coming up across grantees and try to respond to that in ways that can support you.

Related, we really promote and facilitate a lot of peer-to-peer engagement. You will be functioning in a cohort of grantees, some of whom have had this grant for up to three iterations, they're on their third round of Improving Outcomes funding. Some of them have two. Some of them--this is their first round but they may be a year or two ahead of you. And there's a really strong sense of belonging and a sense of sharing, right? This is all work that's being federally-funded and for that reason--you know, public taxpayer dollar. And for that reason, folks are very, very willing to share. And that's the whole point of the work that we do, right, to reduce duplication of activities and to support you. So if somebody else--if another Improving Outcomes grantee has already designed a training that you have in mind, you can use it, you know? Use it as a springboard and build out any additional concept that you need to tailor specifically to your particular state and challenges you're facing.

So related to that, we have a compendium of resources. And this contains every single resource that every one of our grantees has produced and that has been approved by OVC. So, once again, you will have a comprehensive document that links to all of these materials that you can beg, borrow, and steal, for the lack of a better word.

We've also recently unveiled an Improving Outcomes website. My colleague Brianna is going to drop that website in the chat here for us, and you can navigate there to start learning about other Improving Outcomes grantees and some of the work that they're engaged in.

Finally, we have an annual grantee meeting, and that meeting will be--we'll actually be announcing at our next December grantee Community of Practice check-in where that annual meeting will be. Two people from your grant team are required to attend that meeting on an annual basis, and each year we take volunteers from Improving Outcomes grantees who are interested in potentially hosting. That's never a requirement, but if it's something that you decide you're ever excited or interested in doing, we can have that conversation. At that two-day meeting, we are responsive. We bring everyone together in an attempt to be responsive to some of the needs that you are facing. We'll move on to the next slide please. I'll go over these next two slides much more quickly.

I'll briefly mention something Natalia just mentioned and that is a Strategic Planning document. This is an annual deliverable that you are required to complete and submit in JustGrants. As Lindsay is fond of saying, if it's not in JustGrants, it didn't happen. We are in the process of having, approved by OVC, a Strategic Planning Guide, if you will, that can walk you through the process of developing a strategic plan that is responsive to OVC's vision and need. So we'll be working with you to support that, but I do want to plant that seed that it's something you'll need to do and then update annually.

Another dimension of this work that we really try to focus on supporting you with is planning for staff turnover. That can--we've seen that happen with a lot of grantees, either--you know, sometimes the entire team gets turned over, if, for example, the state agency who's leasing that work is, you know, affiliated with any political administration. But, hopefully, that's not the case for you. We will find that out and do what we can to help support you in planning for any staff turnover so that you don't lose any momentum that you established in your work.

Finally, we--not finally but, you know--there's so much more we'll work with you on. But we'll also be working very early on sustainability planning. Hopefully, these congressional appropriations stick around for a long time. Hopefully, you are successful and continue to successfully apply for additional awards or rounds of funding as some of our grantees have. But we do want to start planning for sustainability planning. We've had several grantees that have been effective in using the Improving Outcomes money and work that they've done as a--sort of a point of departure to get policy change to happen at the state level to mandate, if you will, or provide legislative funding for ongoing sustainability of some projects that are happening. So that's something we'll work with you on. Of course, you know--and I did just mention about congressional appropriations. This is federal discretionary funding, so it could go away at any point. We sure hope it won't. Open--over to my last slide please.

Looking at resources. We will be providing this list of resources to you in very short order. We'll be reaching out and provide links to all of this. I know it's a lot of information right now, but, like I said, we do have the website that Brianna dropped in the chat. We--I mentioned to you the compendium of resources that you can pull down and use to get started. We have also developed several other resources. For example, a recent one was a human trafficking screening tool metric, in which we--matrix, in which we identified every single screening identification and assessment tool related to human trafficking that we can find so that you can better identify tools for the populations you're serving. We also have grantee spotlights where we highlight each--you know, the different strategies that each state or grantee is engaged in, and we'll be working with you to develop one of those for your state as well. We've also developed several survivor engagement resources, and we have an onboarding guide, and, as I mentioned, our Strategic Planning Guide that will be coming your way very soon.

So, hopefully, you're not feeling overwhelmed at this point. As a reminder, we'll be here to walk through this with you every step of the way. I will turn it back over to you, Natalia, to bring us home.

NATALIA AGUIRRE: Thank you so much. So the remind--the remainder of the PowerPoint...

DR. STACY CUTBUSH STARSEED: I think it's you, Natalia, or is it you, Lindsay?

NATALIA AGUIRRE: That's me. Thank you. Thanks, Stacy. So the remainder of the PowerPoint, we will be focusing on some reminders, some next steps, and then we'll be recapping some resources at the end that you've already seen. So, hopefully, no surprises there.

As a reminder, this orientation and several others prior to this one were required and mandatory for FY24 grantees. So please make sure that you are documenting which trainings and who is attending what trainings from your team. As you all may have heard or seen, OVC has created a template tracker that you can use and email or upload to JustGrants. Once you have finalized it, you can find the link to that in this yellow--or in the middle box there. And thank you. Daryl just posted that into the chat as well, so make sure you are working on that.

As Stacy said, we have covered a lot and you have heard a lot since you've become a grantee, so in the next slide, we just wanted to give you a quick list of recommended next steps. So, number one, everything that we've kind of mentioned here in terms of objectives or mandatory program requirements, you can find all of that in your FY24 Improving Outcome solicitation. So, hopefully, none of that was a surprise. Make sure you review that solicitation, that you review your application and your award conditions one more time, and make sure that you share these with new staff and your partners as your onboarding folks and creating your team. Make sure that you review all of the OVC and RTI resources that are included in this presentation. As you saw Brianna dropped in the link for the--for RTI's website and make sure you can start reviewing materials there, the compendium. Make sure you document and list the trainings, the mandatory trainings that you have already attended and send them to your OVC grant manager or keep your list and make sure you submit that, you know, towards the end of the year for your semi-annual report.

Next, you'll be setting up a monthly call with OVC and RTI. Those calls happen together. So they're not two calls. It'll be one call. We'll get those on the calendar. If you haven't already, make sure you sign up for RTI's newsletter and for OVC's listserv. Make sure you're getting all of the up-to-date information and reminders.

And then, finally, if you are the grant award administrator or the financial point of contact on JustGrants, make sure you review and complete the Financial Management Training and then email that certificate to your OVC grant manager or upload that into JustGrants and let us know so that we can check that special condition as completed.

Then I wanted to just quickly talk a little bit about expectations with OVC and RTI, and they're really around communication, collaboration, and documentation. Our

expectations as far as communication is that you set up check-in calls with RTI, the TTA provider, and your OVC grant manager, that you discuss ideas for project amendments and/or timelines, and that we document those things as required in JustGrants. And if you have any questions that you ask them. We're here to clarify or answer any questions that you may have and to support you and help you succeed in this project.

Around collaboration, our expectations are that you participate in TTA meetings and OVC required meetings, both in-person and virtually. And that you provide RTI and OVC at least two weeks to review and provide meaningful input for any resources or materials that you may have developed. And, finally, that you work with RTI and OVC to share your programs' outcomes, lessons learned, or processes as requested in conferences, webinars, or presentations, or community of practices. So you may get a request from Stacy or myself to co-present at a webinar or co-present at a conference, and the hope and the expectation is that you will be there to participate.

And then documentation. That's a key part, especially if you are a new grantee, federal grantee. If it didn't happen--or if it's not in JustGrants, then it didn't happen. So a reminder that you should be submitting deliverables on JustGrants after RTI and OVC review. And I'm happy to walk you through that process or send a link on how you can do that once you've developed things. Just a reminder that your semi-annual report should be detailed and thorough and that, finally, you retain training and conference documentation, per DOJ Financial Guide, for any conferences that you do attend.

And then a little bit more about our expectations around the development of training materials and material review. Just a reminder to consider accessibility as you are developing training materials, that all materials be trauma-informed and victim-centered, that you utilize existing resources and materials. As Stacy mentioned, there's no need to recreate the wheel. If there is a training that exists, you're more than able to start that as a starting-off point or jumping-off point for your specific deliverables.

Reminder that you have to use the TVPA definition of human trafficking in addition to your state's if they differ, and ensure that you have the adequate citations for any data in your presentation and that we're not conflating or confusing human trafficking with CSEC. And that, of course, is an ongoing conversation with Stacy and OVC, and we will always provide kind of input and reminders about these specific things in materials that you submit for review.

And then, finally, in regards to that material review, again, reminder the request to, at least give folks--or give us two weeks to review for OVC and RTI and just be mindful of those program end dates and internal timelines and that you plan that review process into, you know, the finalization of your project. All right. I'll turn it over to Lindsay to close us out with the resources.

LINDSAY WALDROP: Goodness. So much in so little time, so I'm going to go rapid fire. Just to say, we have a lot of resources on our website. Please check them out. One that you can find on our resource--on our website or through the links provided is

Understanding Human Trafficking. It's a 101 training that OVC has sponsored and endorsed. And we just really want to let you know about this because we see so many grantees putting a lot of their time and resources into creating 101 trainings when we have that. We could provide this to you and sort of give you that baseline and then you could spend your resources elevating that. So just to plug, if it's something you're interested in. Next slide please.

DOJ Grants Financial Guide. [<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedoj>] Just want to, again, continue to say, I, as a grant manager, if I ever say what's allowable, what's not, this is my first stop. It is an incredibly important resource for you if you have questions about anything relating to your grant. If you have a question, you're going to want to ask your grant manager, your TTA provider, here is the first stop to just go ahead and check it out first. Next slide.

Also on JustGrants, there are training resources on this site where they can--they have a lot of information specific to your JustGrants needs. They have information based on topic, based on sort of different stages and elements of the JustGrants process. They have reference guides as well as open community office hours when you want to pose specific questions to them. So please follow this link to learn more about how to get your JustGrants questions answered. [<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov>]

And then we provided contact information here for the JustGrants Help Desk. [833-872-5175; JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov] OVC is your program support, admin support, but we do not administer JustGrants. We can give you a lot of help, but they are really--JustGrants--the JustGrants support team are going to be your best assistance if you have JustGrants questions. Also, attached is your PMT team information. [1-844-884-2503; ovcpmt@usdoj.gov]

Finally, we got to plug our socials and just--if you want to stay in touch with us and other stuff that OVC is doing at large, not just our human trafficking work, please follow us on our social media. And with that, we are at time. Natalia.

NATALIA AGUIRRE: Perfect. Thanks so much, Lindsay. Just wanted to open the floor for any last-minute questions or clarifications that you all may have. Again, this is the start of a conversation, so if anything comes up, please feel free to kind of email us, ping us, talk about this during the setup, the--our one-on-one calls. Anything else from our attendees? If not, just want to welcome you again to the Improving Outcomes program. Big thank you to RTI Stacy, Brianna, and, of course, Lindsay for this presentation, and thank you all for your time.

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