

# Office on Violence Against Women Research and Evaluation Initiative Program

FY 2024 Pre-Application Information Session

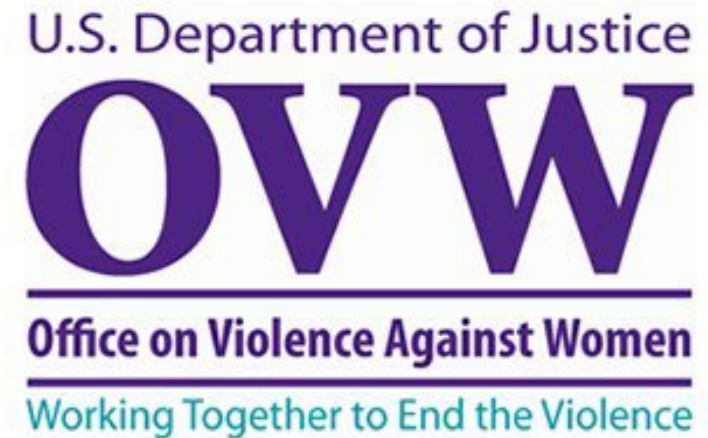
February 21, 2024

# Overview

- Overview of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
- Overview of the Research and Evaluation Initiative (R&E) Solicitation
- Federal Award Information
- Eligibility Information
- Mandatory Program Requirements
- Registration, Application Components, and Key Submission Information
- Application Review Information

# Office on Violence Against Women

- OVW is a component of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ).
- Created in 1995, OVW administers grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation and provides national leadership on issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- OVW grants support coordinated community responses to hold offenders accountable and serve victims.



# OVW Priority Areas

In FY 2024, OVW is interested in supporting the priority areas identified below:

Advance equity and tribal sovereignty as essential components of ending sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking by improving outreach, services, civil and criminal justice responses, prevention, and support for survivors from historically marginalized and underserved communities.

Increase access to justice for all survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, including through exploration of survivor-centered criminal justice system reform.

Strengthen efforts to prevent and end sexual assault, including victim services and civil and criminal justice responses.

Expand economic justice and financial advocacy for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, including as a tool for violence prevention.

# Overview of the R&E Initiative

- Program Description
- What's New About the Program
- Purpose Areas: Topics for Research and Evaluation
- Areas of Study
- Out-of-Scope Activities

# Program Description

The purpose of the Research and Evaluation (R&E) Initiative is to research and evaluate approaches to preventing and addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The initiative is designed to support researcher-practitioner partnerships to study VAWA-funded strategies for serving victims and holding offenders accountable.

# What's New About This Program

The budget cap is increased to \$500,000.

Topics under which OVW is inviting proposals are updated since last year's solicitation.

The Expected Products section is updated since last year's solicitation.

# Purpose Areas

Topics for R&E include:

- Evaluations of VAWA-funded interventions
- Evaluations of trainings, strategies, policies, practices, tools, and other means of fostering trauma-informed law enforcement and prosecutorial responses to sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking.
- Restorative practices
- Research and evaluation on LGBT-specific services, outreach, training, education, and prevention.



# Purpose Areas (slide 2)

Additional topics for R&E include:

- Research and evaluation on ways of ensuring language access in responses to gender-based violence.
- Evaluation of training curricula, tools, and other technical assistance (TA) resources developed and implemented with OVW grant funds.
- Secondary data analyses related to domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking.
- Research, evaluation, and data analysis related to domestic violence homicide prevention.

# Purpose Areas (slide 3)

## Evaluations of Emerging Innovations

- Flexible financial assistance or other ways of mitigating survivors' financial insecurity resulting from victimization and/or offsetting costs related to their safety, stability, and healing.
- Strategies for serving justice-involved, incarcerated, and/or formerly incarcerated survivors.
- Means of supporting survivors' recovery that cover a wide range of healing interventions, including but not limited to somatic interventions, art therapy, writing workshops, yoga, massage, animal-assisted interventions, self- defense/martial arts classes, community engagement, and ways of healing that are rooted in cultural traditions.

# Purpose Areas (slide 4)

## Evaluations of Emerging Innovations

- Connecting community violence intervention (CVI) strategies that address gang and gun violence with efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.
- Approaches to addressing the safety, healing, and justice/legal needs of survivors from historically marginalized and underserved communities whose lives intersect with the child welfare system.
- Engaging culturally specific organizations, community-based organizations, youth-serving and youth-led organizations in prevention and response programming.

## Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery or Undermine Offender Accountability

OVW does not fund activities that jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions.

Applications that propose any such activities may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be eliminated from consideration.

Please note that OVW will support survivor-centered alternative pathways to justice and non-criminal approaches to accountability that fall within the statutory scope of this program.

# Out-of-Scope Activities

The activities listed below are out of the program scope and will not be funded under this program. See also the list of unallowable costs in the Funding Restrictions section of the FY 2024 R&E solicitation.

**Applications that propose activities deemed to be substantially out-of-scope may be eliminated from consideration.**

- Proposals to conduct needs assessment activities exclusively for the purpose of program improvement. (Refer to the OVW research decision tree in the Solicitation Companion Guide.)
- Proposals primarily to purchase equipment, materials, or supplies. (A budget may include these items if they are necessary to conduct the proposed study.)
- Proposals that are not responsive to this specific solicitation.
- Implementation of an intervention unrelated to the scope of the proposed research project.
- Training in support of programs or direct services unrelated to or, unassociated with, the proposed research project.

# Areas of Study

OVW is interested in funding research and evaluation topics that will contribute to knowledge in the six areas of study listed below:

Justice

Victim's Needs

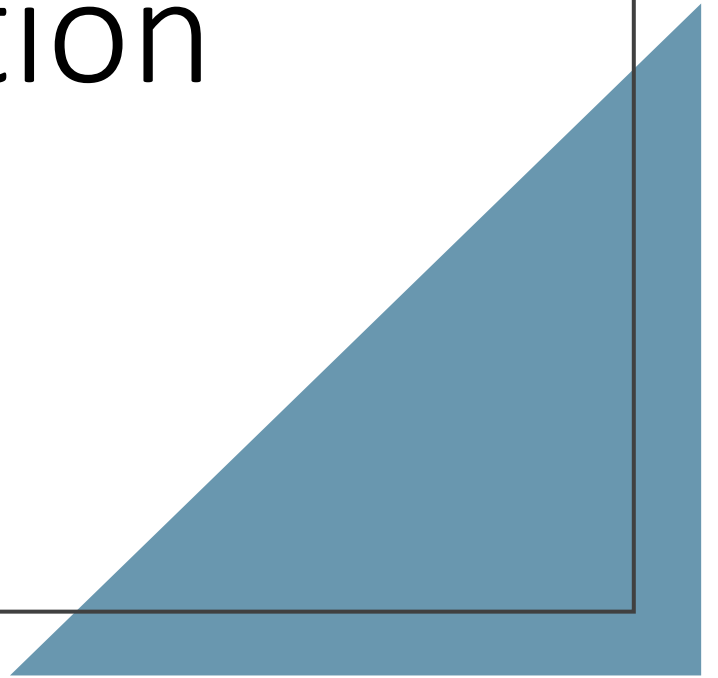
Impact

Cultures,  
disparities, and  
access

Indicators of  
Success

Promoting  
desistence and  
reducing  
recidivism

# Federal Award Information



# At a Glance

| Grants.gov Number                                              | O-OVW-2024-171921                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| CFDA Number                                                    | 16.026                                            |
| Award Period                                                   | Up to 3 Years (36 months)                         |
| Funding Levels                                                 | Up to \$500,000                                   |
| Registration: System for Award Management (SAM) and Grants.gov | Immediately<br>(but no later than March 19, 2024) |
| Grants.gov Closing Date                                        | April 9, 2024 – 11:59 p.m. ET                     |
| JustGrants Closing Date                                        | April 11, 2024 – 8:59 p.m. ET                     |
| Period of Performance Start Date                               | November 1, 2024                                  |



# Award Period and Amounts

- The budget cap of \$500,000 includes direct and indirect costs.
- Budgets, including the total estimated funding requested on the SF-424, must reflect the requested project duration (no more than 36 months)
- R&E awards typically are in the range of \$300,000 to \$500,000.
- All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.
- Budgets should include funding for accessibility and compensation for project partners and research participants.

# Eligible Applicants

The following entities are eligible to apply for R&E Initiative funding:

- Nonprofits, including culturally specific and population specific organizations, with 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS
- Nonprofits, including culturally specific and population specific organizations, without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS
- Private institutions of higher education
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- City or township governments
- County governments
- State governments
- Tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)
- Faith-Based and Community Organizations (must meet eligibility requirements)

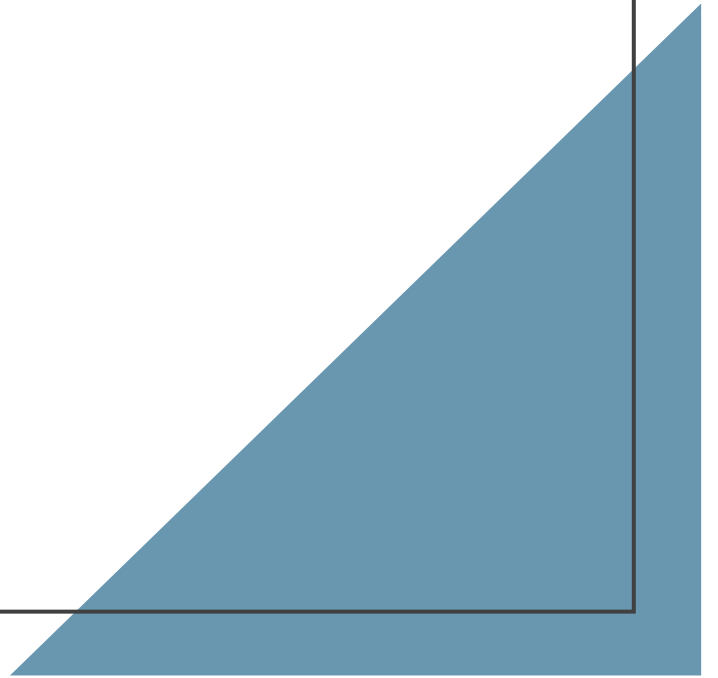
# Ineligible Entities and Disqualifying Factors

**Applications submitted by ineligible entities or that do not meet all program eligibility requirements will not be considered for funding.**

An application deemed deficient in one or more of the following categories may not be considered for funding:

- Activities that compromise victim safety
- Out-of-scope activities
- Unallowable costs
- Pre-award risk assessment
- Completeness of application contents
- Timeliness

# Program Requirements



# Methodological Principles

**Any project funded under this solicitation must adhere to the methodological principles listed below. OVW will only support research methods that:**

- Are well-matched to the purpose of the research and build on existing evidence;
- Uphold victim safety as the paramount objective, with the understanding that scientific progress is always subordinate to that objective;
- Are likely to yield findings that have practical utility for victim services providers and justice system professionals;
- Are developed collaboratively between researchers and practitioners;
- Place as minimal a burden as possible on crime victims, offenders, and systems;
- Operate from a cogent theoretical framework; and
- Have been approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) if they involve human subjects research.

# Methodological Principles cont'd.

## **OVW will not support research that:**

- Prioritizes scientific rigor over practical value or ethics. Ethics being broadly defined and not limited to published standards;
- Is minimally useful to practitioners;
- Offers minimal cost benefit;
- Lacks a clear theoretical foundation; and/or
- Is designed to generate descriptive findings that emphasize vulnerabilities and neglect strengths of specific populations.

# Confidentiality and Human Subjects Protection

Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to comply with DOJ regulations on confidentiality and human subjects' protection. See Human Subjects and Privacy Protection, at: <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/human-subjects-and-privacy-protection>.

# Expected Products

OVW expects products to result from each award under this solicitation, taking the form of all the following:

## **Presentations**

- One or more presentations made via webinar or conferences.

## **Scholarly products**

- Peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles, and/or law review journal articles, conference papers, book chapter(s) or book(s) in the academic press.

## **Research briefs**

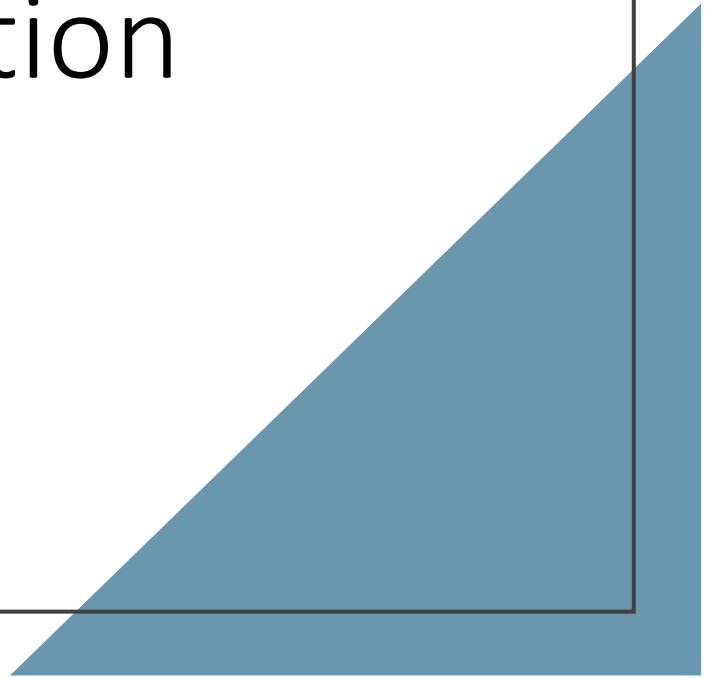
- 1 to 2-page research brief(s) written in plain language and intended for practitioners and/or the public.
- The brief should include a summary of the study, goals and objectives, research questions, methods, results, key findings, and limitations.

## **Final Research Report**

- The final report should include a cover page, summary of the project, including goals and objectives and methods, outcomes, and artifacts.



# SAM and Grants.gov Registration



# Registration

Applicants must register with the systems listed below to successfully apply. The two-step registration process includes:

**Step 1:** Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) includes receiving a UEI, and Grants.gov no later than **March 19, 2024, 11:59 p.m. ET**

**Step 2:** Register with JustGrants no later than **April 9, 2024, 8:59 p.m. ET**

**NOTE:** Registration with SAM and Grants.gov must be completed before an applicant can register with JustGrants. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to begin the registration process or ensure that all accounts are active and up to date by March 19, 2024.**

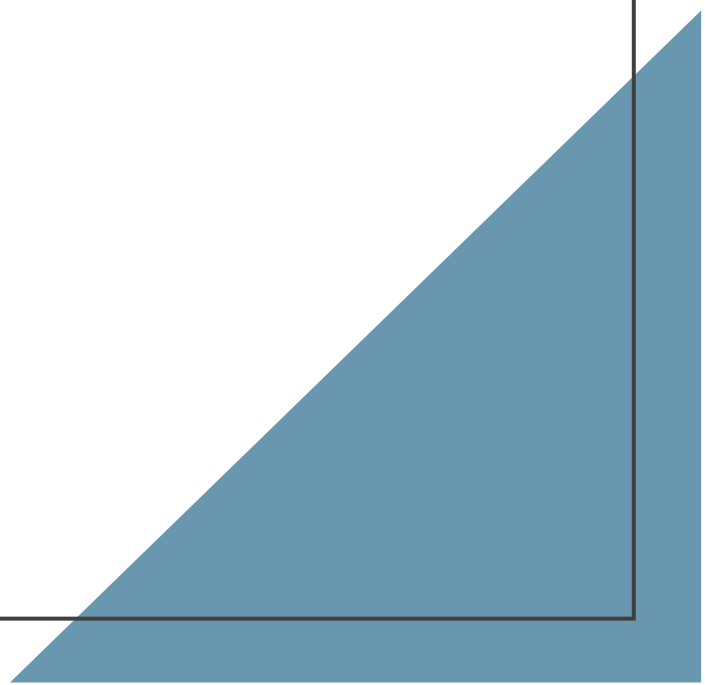
# Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance

**Applicants must complete the following forms in Grants.gov:**

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)

**Note:** The Standard Applicant Information section in the JustGrants application is pre-populated with the SF-424 data submitted in Grants.gov.

# Application Components



# Letter of Intent (LOI)

Potential applicants are encouraged to submit a non-binding letter of intent by March 1, 2024, to [OVW.Research@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.Research@usdoj.gov).

Interested applicants who do not submit a Letter of Intent are still eligible to apply.

# Application Contents

Proposal Abstract

Proposal Narrative

Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative

Appendices (required)

# Proposal Abstract

- The Proposal Abstract (no more than 400 words) should summarize the proposed project in plain language, including the project title, purpose of the project, goals and intended outcomes, primary activities, intended beneficiaries, and subrecipient involvement (if known).
- If the application is funded, the abstract typically will become public information and may be used to describe the project.
- The abstract does not count against the page limit for the Proposal Narrative.

# Proposal Narrative

The proposal narrative must include these five sections:

## I. **Statement of the problem (10%)**

- The topic the proposed project will address.
- The need for research in this area.
- Purpose, goals, and objectives of the proposed project.
- A review of relevant literature.
- A statement as to how the study is expected to contribute to one or more of the six Areas of Study.

## II. **Project design and implementation (50%)**

- An explanation of the theoretical foundation on which the proposed study is based. A description of a sound research design and appropriate analytic methods, including research questions, hypotheses, description of sample, and analysis plan, all of which must align with the Methodological Principles in the Program Requirements section of this solicitation.
- A discussion of potential pitfalls of the proposed project design and how the applicant will minimize and/or mitigate them.
- An explanation of how people with direct experience with the issues being studied, and connection to the communities being studied, are involved in project design and implementation (other than as study participants).



# Proposal Narrative cont'd..

## **III. Potential impact (15%)**

- Implications for practice and policy in victim services and the justice system's response to gender-based violence.

## **IV. Capabilities and Competencies (20%)**

- Description of the applicant's qualifications and the qualifications of key staff and partners.
- An approach and a management plan that reflect a strong researcher-practitioner partnership.

## **V. Dissemination plan (5%)**

- A brief description of a plan to produce expected products and make findings available to broader audiences, including practitioners, through written materials and interactive formats, such as conferences or webinars.

# Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative

- Applicants must submit a detailed budget and budget narrative and must upload the associated documentation as an attachment in JustGrants.
- The budget narrative must describe each line item requested in the budget and explain all costs included in the budget, including how the costs of goods and services are determined and how they will fulfill the objectives of the project.
- Budgets, including the total estimated funding requested on the SF-424, must reflect the requested project duration (no more than 36 months)

# Required Appendices

Appendices can be submitted as separate attachments or in consolidated files in Just Grants. Required appendices include:

**Appendix 1:** Bibliography/references

**Appendix 2:** Tools/instruments, questionnaires, tables/charts/graphs, or maps

**Appendix 3:** Curriculum vitae or resumes

**Appendix 4:** Letters of commitment

**Appendix 5:** Documentation of Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity (*see page 23 in the solicitation for additional requirements*)

# Required Appendices cont'd

**Appendix 6:** Applicant disclosure of pending applications

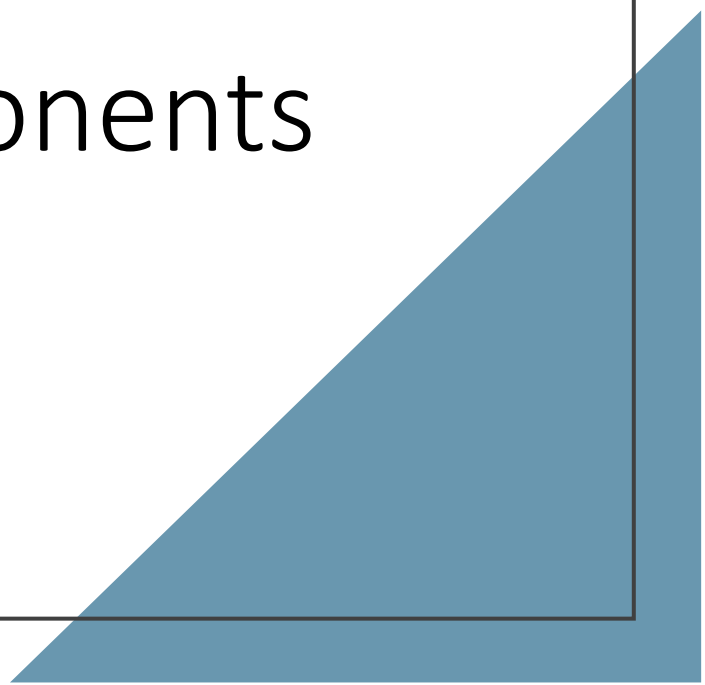
**Appendix 7:** Data archiving plan

**Appendix 8:** Human Subjects Protection paperwork

**Appendix 9:** Privacy Certificate

**Appendix 10:** Project Staff, Affiliation, and Roles Form

# Additional Application Components



# Additional Application Components (slide 2)

## **Letter of Nonsupplanting**

- Applicants must attach a letter to OVW's Director, signed by the Authorized Representative, certifying that federal funds will not be used to supplant non-federal funds should a grant award be made.

## **Confidentiality Notice Form**

- All applicants are required to acknowledge that they have received notice that grantees/subgrantees must comply with the confidentiality and privacy requirements of VAWA, as amended.
- Applicants must upload and attach, under Additional Attachments in JustGrants, the completed acknowledgement form available on the OVW website. This form must be signed by the Authorized Representative.

# Additional Application Components (slide 3)

## **Pre-award Risk Assessment**

- Each applicant must submit a Pre-award Risk Assessment.
- Do not submit responses from a prior fiscal year without updating them to be responsive to all questions listed in the questionnaire.
- Provide complete responses that address all questions.

## **Summary Data Sheet**

- Each applicant must submit a Summary Data Sheet.
- Quick synopsis of key aspects of the proposal.
- Answer each criteria included.
- Data is used in the initial review of the application.

# Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

- Applicants that intend to charge indirect costs through the use of a negotiated indirect cost rate must have a current, signed, federally approved indirect cost rate agreement, and must upload and attach a copy of the agreement to their application in JustGrants.
- Applicants rate may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs, which may be used indefinitely.
- Organizations that wish to negotiate an indirect cost rate should contact OVW's Grants Financial Management Division at [OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov) or 1-888-514-8556.



# Summary of Other Federal Funding

- Applicants must disclose all current and recent OVW awards (if applicable)
- If the applicant has a current grant or cooperative agreement under any OVW grant program or an award that closed within the 12 months before the date this solicitation closes, the information must be provided in a table using the sample format found on the OVW website.
- Applicants also must disclose all other federal grant programs from which the applicant currently receives funding or for which it has applied for funding in FY 2024 to do similar work.
- A determination by OVW that an award under this solicitation would duplicate other federal funds received by the applicant may be removed from further consideration.

# Applicant Financial Capability Questionnaire (if applicable)

**All nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations** that apply for funding from OVW and have not previously (or within the last three years) received funding from OVW must complete an [Applicant Financial Capability Questionnaire](#) and attach it to their application in JustGrants.

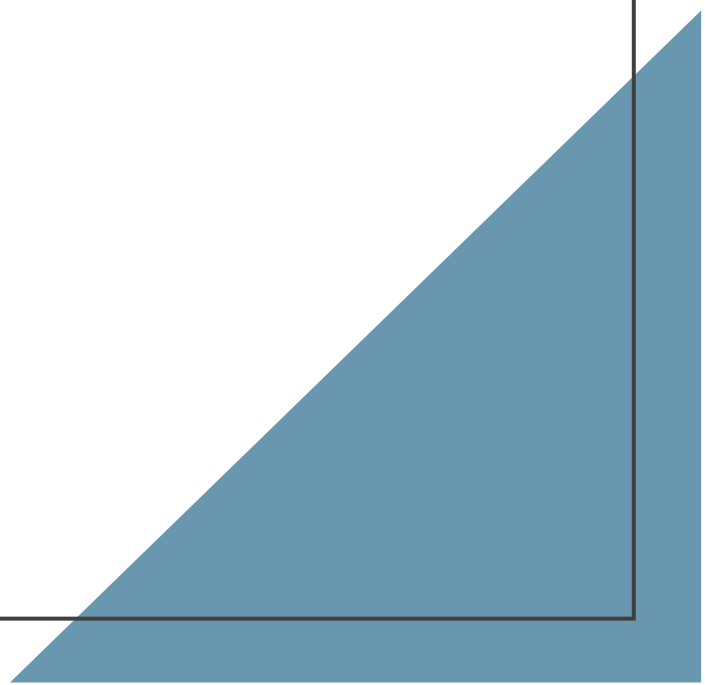
**Note:** Applicants may be required to submit their current year's audit report at a later time.

# Disclosures and Assurances

**Each applicant must review, complete, and submit all disclosures, assurances, and certifications a described below:**

- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurances
- DOJ Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements
- Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation

# Key Submission Information



# Formatting and Technical Requirements

1. Double-spaced (charts may be single-spaced)
2. 8½ x 11-inch pages
3. One-inch margins
4. Arial font, type no smaller than 11-point, except for footnotes, which may be 9-point
5. Correctly numbered pages
6. No more than 30 pages for the Project Narrative (excludes the title page and table of contents and figures)
7. Documents in the following formats: Microsoft Word (.doc), PDF files (.pdf), or Text Documents (.txt)
8. Headings and sub-headings that correspond to the sections identified in this section of this solicitation

# Submission Information

- The complete application package (this solicitation, including links to required forms) is available on Grants.gov and on the OVW website.
- All applications must be submitted electronically first in Grants.gov (SF-424 and SF-LLL) and then in JustGrants.
- OVW will not accept applications after the JustGrants deadline, except for severe inclement weather or natural or man-made disaster.
- The Grants.Gov deadline is 2 days before the JustGrants application deadline.

# Submission Information

Applications will be submitted to OVW in two steps:

**Step 1:** Submit the required Application for Federal Assistance standard form (SF-424) and the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form (SF-LLL) in Grants.gov.

**Step 2:** The applicant must then submit the full application, including attachments, in JustGrants at [justicegrants.usdoj.gov](https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov) no later than **April 11, 8:59 p.m. ET.**

**NOTE:** For the application to be on time, the full application must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline. JustGrants functions better using a PC with Chrome or Edge web browser.

# Contact Information for Technical Issues

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties with SAM should go to:

[https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd\\_sp](https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp).

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties with Grants.gov should contact:

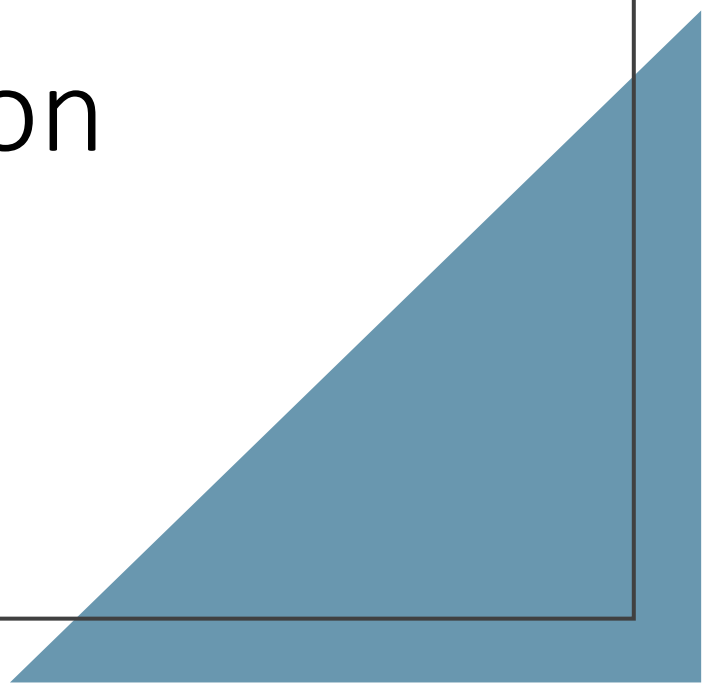
[support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties with JustGrants should contact:

[OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov).



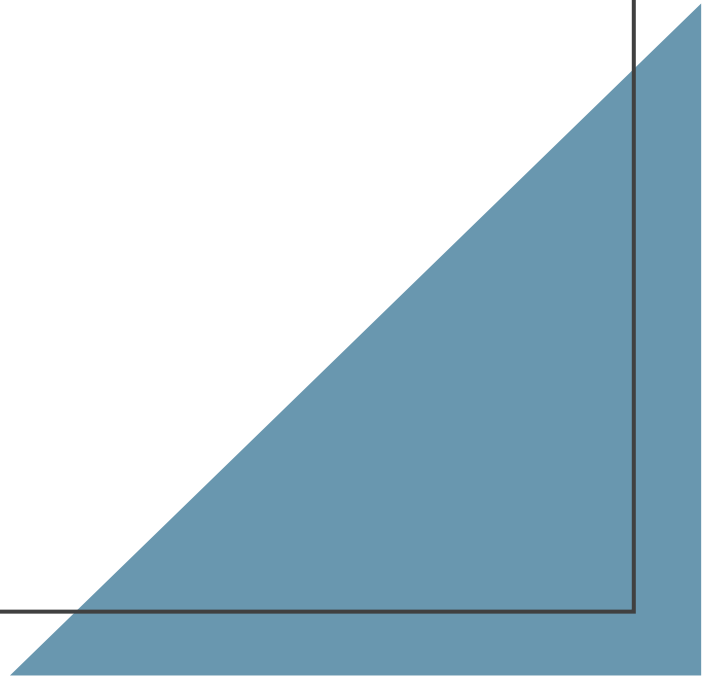
# Application Review Information



# Review Criteria

| Statement of the problem          | 10%                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project design and implementation | 50%                                                                        |
| Potential impact                  | 15%                                                                        |
| Capabilities/competencies         | 20%                                                                        |
| Dissemination plan                | 5%                                                                         |
| Budget and budget narrative       | <i>Not scored by required for an application to be sent to peer review</i> |

Resources



# Resources (slide 2)

- FY 2023 Solicitation Companion Guide- <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1557501/download>
- Resources for Applicants— <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants>
- OVW Conference Cost Planning- <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/conference-planning>
- Program Specific Solicitations – <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/open-solicitations>
- OVW Youtube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@OVWJustice>

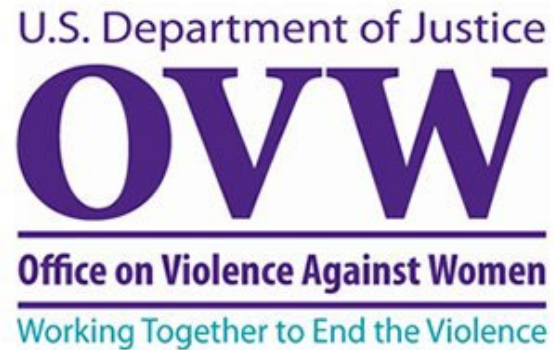
# Financial Resources

- Training for OVW Applicants: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants>
- Budget Information and Sample Budget Detail Worksheet: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1107316/download>
- Creating a Budget: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/video/creating-budget>
- Uniform Guidance - 2 CFR Part 200: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200?toc=1>
- DOJ Financial Guide: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1575616/dl?inline=>



# Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

- Financial questions, contact 888-514-8556 or [ovw.gfmd@usdoj.gov](mailto:ovw.gfmd@usdoj.gov)
- Technical questions: Grants.gov Applicant Support at 800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)
- OVW JustGrants Support at 1-866-655-4482 or [OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov)



# Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, email [OVW.Research@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.Research@usdoj.gov). Alternatively, applicants may call OVW at 202-307-6026.

R&E Program Point of Contact:

Kia Jackson, [Kia.Jackson@usdoj.gov](mailto:Kia.Jackson@usdoj.gov)