

OVW Fiscal Year 2024 Outreach and Services for Underserved
Populations Grant Program
Pre-Application Information Session Transcript

BETTY MCENTIRE: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the Office of Violence Against Women Outreach and Services for Underserved Populations Grant Program Fiscal Year 2024 Pre-Application Session. My name is Betty McEntire, and I am an Underserved Grant Manager Specialist. I also have my colleagues as part of my team here in the background. Kara, Daisy, would you like to introduce yourselves?

KARA MOLLER: Hello, my name is Kara Moller, and I am one of the three program specialists on the Underserved Program.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Hello, everyone. My name is Daisy Jones-Brown and I'm one of the three program specialists on the Underserved Program.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Great. Thank you so much. I just want to say welcome again to everybody. As we go through this presentation -- this webinar -- there are a couple things I want to highlight in from the solicitation. Please know that not everything will be discussed today in today's webinar that is contained in the solicitation. Unfortunately, there's not going to be enough time for us to go through every single thing. So, I really encourage you to read the solicitation in its entirety. It does contain detailed information about eligibility, application requirements, and instructions on how to apply. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that a complete application is submitted. I will also be stopping a couple of times for questions. You can put your questions in the Q&A box, or please hold your questions for each break, so we can make sure that we have everybody's questions and answers. If you still have questions after this session, please send them to the underserved email at ovw.underserved@usdoj.gov.

All right. As I said, this application pre-session is to highlight certain aspects of the solicitation. I just want to reiterate that we want everyone to read the solicitation in its entirety, and there will be questions at the end of each section. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 outlines the program for outreach and services for underserved populations, which we call the Underserved Program. The purpose of our grants is to develop and implement outreach strategies targeted at victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in underserved populations, and to provide victim services to meet the needs of those victims. Awards this year will range in the amount of \$550,000 to \$625,000, with Deaf-focused projects receiving 25,000 for communication and accommodations. We anticipate 15 awards for a total amount of \$9 million, and each award is for 36 months.

The solicitation outlines the purpose areas for this grant. I wanted to just go over these purpose areas. There are six of them. And you can call them purpose areas or

strategies and they are obligations stated in our statute. So, the first one is working with state, local, and federal agencies, and organizations to develop or enhance population-specific services, strengthening the capacity of underserved populations and traditional victim service providers to provide population-specific victim services. The third purpose area is enhancing the criminal and civil justice system response by training them about the needs and specific issues faced by victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking from underserved populations. The fifth one is working in cooperation with an underserved population to develop and implement outreach, education, prevention, and intervention about specific issues faced by victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking from underserved populations. The last purpose area is providing population-specific training to social and human services providers. The purpose areas are the things that you can do under this grant program. Please review the purpose areas carefully as they are project activities funded through the Underserved Grant Program, and they must fall under at least one of these areas. These are the types of activities that can be done as connected to the overall purpose of providing or enhancing population-specific outreach and victim services, or survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking in the targeted underserved community. Please note if you intend to provide legal services, you will need to submit a certification. This can be found in the solicitation on page 12.

So, what do we mean by population-specific services and underserved populations? Well, population-specific services are defined in our statute, and it says that victim-centered services that address the safety, health, economic, legal, housing, workplace, immigration, confidentiality, or other needs of victims and services are designed primarily for and are targeted to a specific underserved population. Underserved populations are populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services. The Underserved Program has one priority area this year. The priority area is to strengthen efforts to prevent and end sexual assault, including victim services and civil and criminal justice responses. The Underserved Program will give priority to applications that focus 100% on sexual assault with an emphasis on non-intimate partner sexual assault, including adult survivors of child sexual abuse. The priority area is not required, but we do encourage you to address the priority area. Remember, this is entirely optional. All right, this is the time we're going to take a quick break for some questions.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: When you were reading number three, I was reading along with it, but it seemed that you mentioned something that I didn't see on the screen. Could you just go over that point again, number three?

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yes, ma'am. And you're talking about the purpose areas?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Yes.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay. I can definitely go through the six purpose areas again.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay.

BETTY MCENTIRE: The first one is working with governments, agencies, and organizations to develop or enhance population-specific services. The second one is strengthening the capacity of underserved populations and traditional victim service providers to provide population-specific victim services. The third one is enhancing the criminal and civil justice system response by training them about the needs and specific issues faced by victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking from underserved populations, working in cooperation with an underserved population to develop and implement outreach, education, prevention, and intervention about specific issues faced by victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking from underserved populations. And the last one is providing population-specific training to social and human services providers.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay, thank you.

BETTY MCENTIRE: You're welcome. Thank you. You can go ahead and lower your hand if you have a question -- perfect.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Daisy, next one.

PARTICIPANT 1: For the purpose areas, do we just need to do a minimum of one of those activities in our proposals, or do we have to do more than one? Does that make sense?

BETTY MCENTIRE: Sure. It does make sense. So, the question is, do you have to do more than one or can you just do one? And the answer is...

PARTICIPANT 1: Yes.

BETTY MCENTIRE: ...you can do just one.

PARTICIPANT 1: Great. Thank you.

BETTY MCENTIRE: You're welcome.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay, Betty, so, we have a total of 14 questions, and I will go ahead and start asking you those.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, the first question is, how are traditional victim service providers defined?

BETTY MCENTIRE: Great question. Traditional victim services providers in the context of this grant are non-underserved victim service populations. I want to stop because I want to make this very clear. We'll be going over eligibility, so this is going to be a little bit clearer. Traditional victim services are victim services that are not specifically focused on one population. That's how we're going to define traditional services. And like I said, this will make much more sense when we get to eligibility.

KARA MOLLER: I'd like to add that there's a definition of a victim service provider that must be met -- it's in the solicitation itself, if that's the question as well.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Perfect. And please read your solicitation as well. Thank you, Kara. All right, Daisy.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Hi. Thank you very much. "I have a really quick question. You had mentioned that priority would be given to organizations that primarily focus on..." and then my screen went out.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay. So, the one purpose area is that the Underserved Program has one priority area. That is different from the purpose areas. The priority area is to strengthen efforts to prevent and end sexual assault, including victim services and civil and criminal justice responses. The Underserved Program will give priority to applications that focus 100% on sexual assault with an emphasis on the non-intimate partner of sexual assault, which includes adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

PARTICIPANT 2: Could you clarify? So, you're saying preference will be given to...

BETTY MCENTIRE: Applications...

PARTICIPANT 2: ...organizations--go ahead.

BETTY MCENTIRE: I'm sorry. I apologize, Isis, go ahead.

PARTICIPANT 2: Applications that primarily serve underserved populations but focus on victims of sexual assault? Is that what I'm hearing correctly?

BETTY MCENTIRE: That is correct.

PARTICIPANT 2: Okay. Thank you.

BETTY MCENTIRE: You're welcome. And Daisy.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. So, the next question is, "Can you explain how this opportunity compares to the Culturally Specific Services opportunity? And when will the Culturally Specific solicitation come out?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Let me answer the second part first. I do not know when the Culturally Specific Services Program grant will come out, but when it does, the solicitation will be posted on our website and will go out through Grants.gov. The first part of your question is how this is different; this program, the Underserved Program, is specifically for those programs that do not meet the eligibility for the cultural and specific program. And we're going to go through that here in the next section.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: All right. The next question is, "Do we need a sub-award agreement policy if the partnership is an MOU, and no money is exchanged?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: We're going to talk about partnerships here in a second, but yes, an MOU is required whether or not the partner will be receiving funds from the grant. I would ask questions later to the GMFD, a representative who will be speaking about the no funds being exchanged, but an MOU is required between the partner and the applicant. Next question, Daisy.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Yes. "Do a hundred percent of those served need to be survivors of sexual assault? If not, what is the expectation?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Your application does not have to address the priority area of sexual assault in the strengthened efforts to prevent and end sexual assault, including victim services and civil and criminal justice responses. So, the expectation -- I'm going to go back -- is to provide services targeting outreach, education prevention, any one of those six purpose areas of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or dating violence.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Thank you. "Are there any match requirements regarding funding?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: No. There's no match requirement for the Underserved Program.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: "The RFP states the notification date is the same as the program start date, October 1."

BETTY MCENTIRE: I don't understand that question.

KARA MOLLER: This is Kara. If I may answer that one?

BETTY MCENTIRE: Sure.

KARA MOLLER: That's notifying you that we will make all award notifications no later than September 30th and all grants will go out with an October 1st start date.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Thank you, Kara. So, the next question is, "Can you speak more about the stipulation regarding non-IPV services?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: That is the priority area again that we talked about here a couple of minutes ago. If your application will focus 100% on sexual assault with emphasis on non-intimate partner sexual assault including adult survivors of child sexual abuse. What we mean by that is if in your application, you choose to focus on the priority area and on sexual assault survivors, it does not mean that you cannot serve survivors of sexual assault that come from IPV, but the emphasis of the project should be on non-intimate partner violent sexual assault, meaning non-domestic violence. There's no relationship to the victim and the perpetrator. But it also includes adult survivors of child sexual abuse where there isn't an intimacy there because there's no romantic relationship. I hope that answers that question.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. Thank you. "Does a partner organization have to be a direct service provider?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: That's an eligibility question.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: That is all that's with that question. I'm pretty sure...

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay. Can you repeat it? That was the question, Daisy. Was that eligibility or is that just a general question? I'm sorry.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: It's a general question.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Can you repeat it, please?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: "Does a partner organization have to be a direct service provider?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: No, it does not. And we will actually go into partnership here in this next section.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: "Can we apply for this grant if we have much lower budgets than \$550,000? If yes, what would be the lowest budget range?"

KARA MOLLER: Question will be where.

BETTY MCENTIRE: And I want to make sure I'm understanding this question, if you believe the budget for your project will take less than \$550,000, can you still apply? If that's the question, yes, you can.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: That seems to be the question. Yes.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yes. You can still apply. But the range that we will be providing for an award is anywhere from \$550,000 to \$625,000 with \$25,000 of that range being for Deaf-focused programs for accommodations and access.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Oh, thank you. So, the next question is, "Is there a chance that sample project examples can be made available?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Kara, can you jump in on this one?

KARA MOLLER: Anyone from the public has a right to request a copy of a proposal that has to be done through the FOIA, Freedom of Information Act process, which can be found on our website. But we, individually, cannot share information like that publicly. You have to submit a request through our legal department for the Freedom of Information Act. You need to go to the OVW website to get that information and that process.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Thank you, Kara.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Thank you. The next question is, "If we are a direct service provider with at least three years' experience, is a partner agency required? If so, what is the purpose of having this partner agency? What must that agency provide for this application program?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Another great question. I'm going to answer part of it right now. Yes, partnerships are required, even if you're a victim service agency. The rest of that question, I will answer in the partnership section in the next segment.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. I still have a couple more.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: "Does that imply that the IPV/DV isn't applicable unless they are at least co-occurring violence involving DV and sexual violence?" I think that's to the previous question.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Can you repeat the question?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, we're going to hold that one.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay.

KARA MOLLER: I'm sorry. Can I just clarify because I feel like the--I know where this is going? If you want to address sexual assault priority to meet the sexual assault priority which is optional, you have to address sexual assault beyond intimate partner violence. But any application -- if not being a priority area, just applying for this grant -- can apply for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking in any way that comes out. I hope that's just clear. Thank you.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, the last question is, "Will you be eligible to use these grant funds for its current work and/or to expand a program that you currently have that serves this group? E.g., expand to add services, other purpose areas."

BETTY MCENTIRE: Kara, can you help me on this one?

KARA MOLLER: If you are currently serving one of the five eligible communities for this program, which Betty will go over in the next section, and you would like to take this grant to add on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking, again, remember this grant is only to address those four areas. If you would like to add on to your programming through this grant, you can do that. If you're currently providing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking services, you can also use this grant to expand those services. So, you can either add on new programming or expand the programming you have. But the only way you can use this grant is to address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Thank you, Kara.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: And that's it for questions, Betty.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay. Layla, did you have a question? I saw that you popped up on the screen. No? Okay. All right. Okay. All right. So, no more questions, Daisy?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: No. We can move forward. The other three questions -- we will answer at the next break.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Great. Thank you so much, Daisy. So, now we're getting to the part that everybody's here for, as we can tell from those questions -- who can apply? First off, the first thing is nonprofit, non-governmental organizations are eligible to apply. We're now going to review the second part of that eligibility.

So, we just said that it has to be a nonprofit, non-governmental organization that also is either a Deaf program, an organization serving underserved religious populations, a disability program, or an organization where the primary purpose of the organization is to serve certain underserved racial and ethnic populations. I'm going to go now and define each one of these. This, again, is included in the solicitation on pages 10 through 11 of the solicitation.

So, what do we mean by Deaf programs? These are programs run by and for Deaf individuals. They're standalone Deaf, domestic violence, and sexual assault victim service programs, general Deaf services nonprofits, non-governmental organizations, or Deaf domestic violence, sexual assault program housed within a hearing victim service provider. The second category is the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans organizations. These are organizations for which the primary purpose of the organization is to serve LGBT individuals. The third eligibility category is organizations serving underserved religious populations, organizations whose primary purpose is to serve an underserved

religious population who faces barriers accessing and using services because of their religion. This category, the underserved religious populations, has been updated from previous solicitations to provide additional clarity to avoid any confusion. The fourth category is disability programs. The disability service provider organizations or victim service providers that have received two continuation disability grant program awards are not eligible to apply for the disability grant program cycle and would be considered a disability program for this grant. The last eligibility category is organizations, where the primary purpose of the organization is to serve certain underserved racial and ethnic populations. This includes populations underserved due to special needs, such as language barriers and immigration status. The second part of this definition is that these organizations are not eligible--not eligible for OVW's Culturally Specific Service Program. I want to reiterate. It's not you're not eligible versus not awarded. So, you don't have to have been denied a CSSP grant award, but it's whether or not are you eligible to apply for the Culturally Specific Services Program. If you are not, then you would--then you could potentially meet the eligibility of certain racial and ethnic organizations.

Just to be clear, applicants must be a nonprofit, non-governmental organization and they must demonstrate how they meet the eligibility definition for one of the five applicant types listed in the solicitation. Simply stating in your application that you are one of these categories is not sufficient. You must clearly demonstrate your qualifications for the eligibility category in the Program Narrative section of the application. Also, I want to just make a note that fiscal year '22 and fiscal year '23 award grantees are not eligible to apply for this fiscal year's solicitation either as a lead applicant or as a partner. However, new applications and continuation applicants are eligible. Lastly, I want to just note that partnerships are required, and this is one of the questions I want to answer: within this eligibility solicitation, they must be a victim service provider, or must you partner with a victim service provider?

Now we're going to go into partnerships, and this was a lot of the questions we had as well. At least one partnership is required, and we have three different types of partnerships to review. The first type of partnership is an applicant must partner with any type of organization if the applicant has at least three years of demonstrated experience and expertise in providing direct services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking from the targeted underserved community. The second type of partnership is if your organization has less than three years of demonstrated experience and expertise in providing population-specific services, you must include and work in partnership with a victim service provider. And then, the last category is for our disability program applicants. For these applications -- former disability grantees -- the partnership must be comprised of, at a minimum, the following: at least one victim service provider and at least one nonprofit, non-governmental organization, or Tribal organization serving individuals with disabilities and/or Deaf individuals. All applications should include the organizations necessary to meet the goals of their proposed projects and those needed to implement the proposed activities. Once again, one partner is a minimum requirement. More than one partner is allowed. And partners must be organizations, not individuals. I strongly encourage you to review the definitions of the eligible applicant types and partnership requirements in your

solicitation carefully. As I stated previously, this can be found on pages 10 and 11 of the solicitation. Because you must demonstrate which category you are in and you simply cannot state, "I'm one of these categories." The application must show that you either have a minimum of three years of experience providing direct victim services for the crimes of domestic violence and sexual violence, or the application must demonstrate how the partner organization meets the OVW definition of victim service provider. Again, the application must clearly demonstrate how all eligibility requirements are met. This includes how the applicant is an eligible applicant and how partnerships have been met. I know that there's a lot of information and we had a lot of questions regarding eligibility and partnerships in the prior section, so I want to give us time to go through this and ask if anyone has any questions.

KARA MOLLER: This is Kara. I just want to jump in because there's lots of confusion and questions that about where to find the definition of culture specific. If somebody puts it in the question box, the question goes away, so I want to comment that I put a link to where you can find that in the chat box. When you get to that question, please keep referring back to the chat box. Thank you.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Thank you, Kara. Daisy, do we have any questions?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Yes, we do. So, I will start with one of the ones we had before—you probably answered it. "But what if we do not serve the Deaf population, will we lose points?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: No, it's not whether or not you serve the Deaf population. Remember, there are five different eligibility categories, so if you are a nonprofit, non-governmental organization, and one of the five categories. That is the minimum requirement for this grant. So, if you are not a Deaf program, but an LGBT organization, then you would be eligible for this program and your application would address LGBT and so forth.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. So, the next question is, "Does underserved population include refugees and forcefully displaced communities?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: The eligibility clearly states that to be eligible, you have to meet the nonprofit, non-governmental organization, and one of the five categories. And the project under the funding must address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. Thank you. So, the next question is, "Can organizations whose primary purpose provides direct services to underserved populations, but is currently physically sponsored by another nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: This is a very nuanced question that takes a lot of other back and forth. So, unfortunately, I don't feel like this is the venue where we can actually answer that because that would be a situation where one of us, as team members, would need

to be able to go to discuss with the person asking the question. I would like to reiterate that you have to have a 501(c)(3) in order to be awarded funds. If you do not have your 501(c)(3) at the time of application, that is okay, but you will, if you are awarded funds, you must be a 501(c)(3) by then.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. Thank you. So, the next question is, "Is an LOI required?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: A letter of intent is not required.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, this is probably some of what Kara is referring to for the next couple of questions. "What is the eligibility for the Culturally Specific Population grant that has not been posted?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yes. I would refer you to the link in the chat box. Please check out that definition.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, the next question, "Can you elaborate on the difference between this program and the CSSP program as to how to know if you are a program that will be ineligible for CSSP and eligible for this program?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: I feel like we've already asked and answered this question, but I will go over it again because it is important for folks to know which grant they should apply for. What I would encourage anybody who is questioning on this category, go review first the CSSP definition, their eligibility criteria. Go there first. And if you meet that eligibility, by all means, when that application comes out, apply for it. They got a lot of money. The second thing, so, if you don't meet that eligibility, then you want to come over to the underserved application and then review the five categories within our eligibility. And that's how you would determine whether or not you are eligible for a CSSP, which is the Culturally Specific Program or the Underserved Program.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. Thank you. So, the next question is, "I currently work for a nonprofit mental health agency in Galveston, Texas. We provide services to victims of crimes through the VOCA program. Would we be eligible to apply for this grant funding opportunity?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: You would need to determine your eligibility based off of the factors that we just mentioned that you're a nonprofit and you're one of the five categories, and that you're going to be providing services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. So, this next question is similar to what you answered, but you may dive a little deeper, so I'll read it to you. "Organization serving certain underserved racial and ethnic populations. If an organization's primary purpose is to serve low-income community members and the majority of clients, in fact, belong to

underserved racial and ethnic populations, but services are not exclusively reserved for such population, is the organization eligible?”

BETTY MCENTIRE: So, the organization needs to meet -- and I want to emphasize the definition -- you will see this of the eligibility within the solicitation. The organization must--I'm going to find it again, so I make sure I say exactly how it is. The category of that organization as a whole, its primary purpose is to serve one of the five eligibility categories, either Deaf, LGBT, underserved religious populations, disability programs, or organizations where their primary purpose is to serve underserved racial and ethnic populations that are not eligible for the CSSP grant.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay.

BETTY MCENTIRE: So, if you're a mental health organization and you meet one of those five criteria and you're a nonprofit and you meet the eligibility or you believe you meet the eligibility for underserved racial and ethnic populations, then you would apply. But you have to remember this is about providing services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. I hope that clarifies that a little bit more.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. Thank you. So, this is similar -- “How do you demonstrate that your organization qualifies as one of the five applicant types?”

BETTY MCENTIRE: Applicants need to clearly explain how they meet that definition. That's what we mean by demonstrate and tell us how you meet that. When we go into the Program Narrative here in the next section, you'll understand a little bit more what we mean by that, but we're really talking about explaining to us how you meet that definition and illustrating in words on that.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. So, I'm going to try and combine the next two questions together. They're very similar.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: “Can you please link the previous RFP for the Culturally Specific Program if our organization would be eligible under this grant, confirming that readiness as ineligible here? And then the other one is for organizations that serve underserved racial and ethnic population. Does a mission statement have to reflect this as a priority?”

BETTY MCENTIRE: That's a good question. The mission statement. Kara, I would say no. It's about what the organization as a whole...

KARA MOLLER: We will--we will...

BETTY MCENTIRE: ...that population.

KARA MOLLER: This is Kara speaking. We will double-check the organization's mission to verify that they indeed can demonstrate. You must demonstrate in your answers to the application that you meet the definition, but we will also double-check the mission statement to verify that's one of your primary purposes. Because again, the definitions of the five categories all say, as Betty keeps saying, one of your primary purposes or all of your primary purpose is to serve one of these five populations.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Regarding the link for the previous solicitations, we'll definitely have one of our team members post the link where you can find the solicitations.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. Thank you. Our next question is, "We are a victim service agency with a Deaf service program. Would it work to partner with another social service agency serving Deaf people?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Hopefully this will clarify. If your program is a Deaf victim services program, so you're a victim service, and you provide services to Deaf survivors, then you would need to go back to and determine whether or not you need partner one or partner two within the solicitation.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Thank you. Our next question is, is a partnership required if your agency already provides direct service victim services as a solo nonprofit organization?

BETTY MCENTIRE: I'm sorry. Can you read that again, Daisy?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Yes. I'm sorry. I may not be close. "Is a partnership required if your agency already provides direct victim services as a solo nonprofit organization?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yes, a partnership is required. You would need to determine if you meet partnership number one or partnership number two. But partnerships are required.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, the next question is, "As a Deaf organization, we understand that the involvement of previous partners from the disability grant program award is required for our project. Could you please provide guidance on where we can find information about these previous partners?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Kara?

KARA MOLLER: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I don't want to interrupt, Betty, but I could see what this question was getting at. So, you can be eligible at a Deaf program to apply for underserved if you meet the definition of a Deaf program as outlined in our solicitation. Or you can be a prior disability grantee who serves the Deaf community and is eligible in that category. If you're coming in as a disability grantee now eligible for the disability grant program serving the Deaf community, your collaboration should just be the same as it was last year because you're just coming out of that program. If you're a Deaf

program not associated with the disability program, this question is confusing the two definitions. So, again, if you're a Deaf program coming in just straightforward, you do not have to have anything to do with disability program. If you're coming from a disability program, that's considered that category. If you want to ask Betty about that more specifically, your nuanced question, please email her at the OVW underserved email box, and she can explain that in more depth.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Thank you, Kara.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Thank you, Kara. So, the next question is, "Is limited English proficiency considered a disability for the purpose of this opportunity?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: The disability section, once again, I want to make sure that we're clear. It goes to what Kara was just talking about. The disability criteria is for the fourth category. It is for organizations that are coming from the disability grant program and are no longer eligible for that funding. They're now eligible to come into the underserved, but they have to meet with their same partners from the disability grant program in the Underserved Grant Program. So, it's either Deaf or the disability grant, former grant program recipients.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. So, the next question is, "Can a program under the umbrella of a 501(c)(3) partner with another program under the same nonprofit if they provide different services?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: I think I'm going to kick back until we get to Alanda's part.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. The next question is, "Can a government organization be a partner?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: No. Applicants must be a nonprofit, non-governmental organization.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. Thank you. The next question is, "If our program is located within a safety net hospital and has more than three years of experience, are we still eligible for funding if our hospital is under the umbrella of a municipal corporation?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: The organization that's applying must be a nonprofit.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. So, this is a long one. Let me see if I can...

BETTY MCENTIRE: And hold on real quick, Daisy. For that person who asked that question, that is a question we can also talk with Alanda about when we get to the budget side of things, the GMFD side, okay?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. So, this one is, "We are just confused as to whether we will be eligible to apply for this grant because right now, our primary goal as a 501(c)(3) is to serve, primarily and secondarily, victims of sexual assault regardless of their underserved status. However, we want to start creating programs focusing on the trans population because that population is already underserved in Mississippi. We see this need and want to be able to provide these services. I see that on page six, number three, reflects, 'Strengthen the capacity of a traditional victim service provider to provide population services.' Will our situation apply to be eligible to apply for this grant?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Great question. So, I'm not going to answer the question to the specifics, but in a more general term, if you provide victim services for more than three years, then you would want to partner with an underserved population that meets one of the five categories. So, that's where you're going to want to go into the eligibility and the partnerships to determine how you're going to apply and what your project is going to be. It's probably easier to put it this way. You would want the LGBT organization to apply, and then you, as the victim service provider, would be their partner. That's probably a better way of explaining that.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. And this is similar, and this may involve the question to the right, but I want to read it to you. "Both opportunities appear to say that the primary purpose of the organization must be to provide services to a specific population. Our organization's purpose and mission are broader than that, but we serve almost exclusively 98% women of color. We provide services to victims/survivors of DV and SA. Are we truly not eligible to apply for either of these if our purpose is not stated specifically to serve those populations?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: I really want you to go back to the eligibility of that. And then the second piece I think that's really important is how you--how the applicant demonstrates they meet the eligibility. So, that's a very important piece of this. So, you have your eligibility, you have your partnership, and then you have to explain to us and illustrate how you meet that eligibility. So, that's going to be one of the biggest factors. And this goes back to what Kara was saying in the last segment around--when we were talking about the eligibility and demonstration of--within the application. Kara, would you come back on and reiterate what you were saying on that previously?

KARA MOLLER: This is Kara speaking. Betty, can you, one more time, directly ask me the question that's being discussed?

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yes. This organization primarily serves women of color, I believe, is what they said. But it's not in their mission, organizational structure...

KARA MOLLER: Got you. Yeah.

BETTY MCENTIRE: So, what I was explaining was that they have to determine their eligibility and they can demonstrate their eligibility and how they meet that specific eligibility in the application.

KARA MOLLER: Right. Right.

BETTY MCENTIRE: But you also gave another example previously and I wanted you to jump in on that.

KARA MOLLER: I'm not remembering the previous example already, so I apologize. But I just want to reiterate, based on that question, a few things, is, one, I'm going to repeat the thing that Betty keeps saying over and over so that we're very clear, is that as you're answering your application, as you're putting together the 20 pages that you're going to be required for the narrative that Betty will talk about next. The questions that we have listed will provide you an opportunity to demonstrate that you meet one of these five categories and definitions. And when you talk about women of color, I want to remind you that the fifth category talks about one of your primary purposes -- serving a racial or ethnic minority that would not be eligible for the OVW Culturally Specifically Service Program. So, I would encourage this applicant to look at that program first to see if you're eligible there. And then, again, if your primary purpose or 98% of the people you're serving there, like, that information, for example, could be used to demonstrate that that's your purpose. The questions we're going to ask you later on that Betty will go over will ask you what services you are providing and who you are serving. Like, these are answers you can provide that would demonstrate it. But, again, I would look very carefully at the culture specific definition to see what racial/ethnic minorities are eligible there to see if you're not eligible there, then you can apply in underserved. And, Betty, I know we keep repeating it, I know we get lots of questions about that, but there's no other answer but to look at that definition in their program and then very specifically, again, repeatedly look at the underserved page on eligibility where the definitions that Betty has read out loud are listed. We cannot tell you, based on your question, yes or no, you're eligible. It's just not going to work that way. But you can keep probing her if you need to.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Thank you, Kara, for pointing that out. Yes, we cannot specifically say whether or not you're eligible, but you're more than welcome to keep probing and asking us questions.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. "I am confused by the required partnership on page 12 of the solicitation. They say all applicants must have at least one formal project partner as described. As a direct service provider, we meet all other requirements. So, I'm confused about why we require a project partner."

BETTY MCENTIRE: Why are you required to have a project partner?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Yes.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Under the partnership? Is that what the question is?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Yes.

BETTY MCENTIRE: I want to be very specific, to understand what this person was trying to say, okay? So, I want to make sure I'm clear in explaining. So, the first partnership type is the applicant must partner with any type of the five organizations if listed in the eligibility category. If the applicant has at least three years of victim demonstrated experience in providing direct services. The second partnership is if your organization has less than three years of demonstrative experience in providing population-specific--you need to meet with a victim services provider. So, if you are a--let's say, a Deaf program that provides victim services and you've been providing it for over three years, we still want you to have a partnership with, let's say, a mainstream hearing traditional victim services because this is about building a community. And that's why we're having partnerships, is because we really want to make sure that we are reducing barriers to access and services for the underserved population, and the partnership piece of that is to make sure that we're doing that correctly in our communities and then creating better communities within our partnerships. I hope that answers that question.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. Thank you. So, these next two questions are very similar, so I will ask them together.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: "If approved to receive funds from this grant but we are eligible for the Culturally Specific grant serving one of the specific cultures listed in the RFP, will we be able to apply for that grant when it comes out?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: If you're eligible for the Culturally Specific Services Program grant, then yes, if you feel you're eligible, you can definitely apply to that program. But if you apply to that, if you qualify for CSSP, then you're not eligible for this underserved grant.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Thank you. So, the next statement is -- and this is from a previous question. "Let me reiterate. Our organization was founded to address disparities based on race and gender. All of our services are designated to serve women of color, primarily Hispanic and Black."

BETTY MCENTIRE: Uh-hmm.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: This is the follow-up to the question you answered a couple of questions ago, I think, based on eligibility.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay. I feel like this has been asked and answered. You would want to go back and see if you meet the Culturally Specific Program services first, and then if you don't meet that criteria, then you want to come back to this grant and determine whether or not you would meet the eligibility under one of the five categories that we listed, and then just demonstrate in your application, how you meet that.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. This next question is pretty similar to what you just answered. "Previously, we were not eligible for Culturally Specific Programs as we are not ECBO. Does that mean we qualify for this grant?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: So, if you are not eligible for the Culturally Specific Services Program grant, you would go back to the eligibility of those five categories in your nonprofit. Once again, we cannot say yes or no, specifically, regarding your organization.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. So, the next question is, "It sounded like you said that the mission statement does not reflect that you fall within one of the five categories, you would not be considered eligible for funding. Can you verify or say more on that point?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: I don't believe we said that if your mission statement does not reflect that. What we said is that if you feel you meet the eligibility criteria under the solicitation, we would ask you to demonstrate how you meet that eligibility.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, the next question is, "We currently have an OVW LAV grant that does not fully fund our work to serve immigrant survivors of DV, dating

violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Would we be able to apply for this grant to supplement our unfunded work if the work meets the eligibility requirements under both?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: If you do not meet the Culturally Specific Services Program eligibility, then you can come and see and determine if you meet our eligibility. You can if you are expanding your project or creating a new project.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, we'll take one more, and then we'll take Brandon. The next question is, "Under partnership type one, it says any type of organization. This is kind of vague. Is there more information? Would there be another nonprofit, a government agency?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Once again, it's got to be nonprofit and what we mean by organization is one of the five categories of organizations that within the eligibility.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, right now, we'll take Brandon. If you will unmute, Brandon, for his question.

BRANDON: Hi. Thank you so much for your time. I had asked my question and, honestly, because I felt maybe there were other organizations that could fit in that category. So, Betty, back to your clarification about the Culturally Specific -- I'm sorry to ask so many questions about it. Our organization, specifically UTOPIA Washington, was able to justify and clarify that we are both an LGBTQ organization, but we also provide services culturally specific to Pacific Islanders, specifically queer and trans Pacific Islanders. So, I just wanted to clarify your answer because we're able to prove that we are an LGBTQ org for this grant; if we were to receive funding for this grant, would we be then eligible to also apply for Culturally Specific because we're able to also justify that grant?

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yes.

BRANDON: Oh. Oh, okay. So, we can--okay. Thank you. That helps.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yeah. As long as you, Brandon, are coming in under this grant as the LGBT program.

BRANDON: Uh-hmm. Okay.

BETTY MCENTIRE: And then as a Pacific Islander -- is that what you said, I believe?

BRANDON: Yeah. Yeah.

BETTY MCENTIRE: You could then go to CSSP, you know, for their eligibility under--I think that falls under the Asian category. Asian...

BRANDON: It is Native Americans, Native Hawaiians. Isn't that what...

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yeah. Yeah.

BRANDON: Okay. All right. Thank you. That helps so much. Thank you so much.

BETTY MCENTIRE: You're welcome.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: "So, if we are a legal service provider organization applying, can we partner with a government organization, a police department for example?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: If you are a nonprofit, non-governmental agency and you meet one of the five eligibility categories, the question is, can you meet with a government? Can your partner be a government? And...

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Yes. Absolutely.

BETTY MCENTIRE: No. It's every--everyone's got to be a nonprofit.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. "So, is there a limit on the amount budgeted for legal services?" I will leave that one.

BETTY MCENTIRE: And just real quick, I want to let you all know that Brandon literally just put in the chat the Culturally Specific Services grant eligibility criteria, so you all know. From the 2023 RFP is what he said.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. So, I have two more, Betty.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. "So, we have a project within our organization where we meet with the immigrant survivors of DV, SA, and stalking, educating them about their rights and providing them with needed information. So, it's very much a face-to-face cooperation between the organization and the survivors. Does this sound like a fit

for purpose area five, working in cooperation with an underserved population to develop and implement outreach, education, prevention, et cetera?

BETTY MCENTIRE: I want to be clear. The organization that's underserved is the one that needs to apply. So, if you're a legal services agency and your organization meets one of the five criteria, then you can apply under this grant. But if you are not an underserved organization, you know, providing legal services, then you would want to gather with someone in your community and have them as a lead applicant for these services. You would want to talk about that within your community.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. Thank you. So, "Hi. I don't think this question was answered. Can a program under the umbrella of a 501(c)(3) partner with another program under the same nonprofit if they provide different services?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: I think this is the question that would really need to go to our Grants Management Financial Division. You can either ask that with Alanda when she gets back in, but she also put in the chat the email where you can ask, the nonprofit, you know, financial questions directly to the Grants Management Financial Division in order to better serve you on your determination within this application.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. So, our next question is, "If you are eligible for both CSSP and underserved, can we apply to both?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: I'm going to go back and say if you're eligible for CSSP, then it's kind of like what Brandon's question was. So, are you coming in in one of the other categories or are you coming in under the same? Because if it's underserved, racial, and ethnic? No, you cannot, if you qualify under CSSP. But if you're coming in here in one of the other categories, then, yes, you're eligible to apply. All right. So, thank...

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. So, I have two more and then we can move on. We have...

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: I have one written and one live and then we'll move on.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay. Perfect.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, the written question is, "We are not a population-specific organization, but we do offer services to underserved communities and DV survivors from diverse backgrounds and context. Is this grant applicable to us or is it..."

BETTY MCENTIRE: Once again, I've got to reiterate that the eligibility of the categories is that you are an organization whose purpose is to serve one of these underserved populations.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. And so, we will have Chris's live question, and then we will move on.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Thank you. Chris.

CHRIS: Thank you so much. I'm going back to the partnership thing because I'm really vexed by this. We fit perfectly under option number five – an organization serving certain underserved racial and ethnic populations. So, we fit that, but would we need to then partner with one of the other four types of organizations -- the Deaf programs, LGBTQ, the underserved religious populations, or disability?

BETTY MCENTIRE: You would want to identify with any of the other organizations, so it doesn't have to be one of the other four.

CHRIS: Okay. So, just trying to understand, we would need to partner with another organization.

BETTY MCENTIRE: An organization within the five categories.

CHRIS: Okay. Okay. Thank you.

BETTY MCENTIRE: You're welcome.

CHRIS: That clarifies it.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Thank you.

KARA MOLLER: I'm sorry, Betty, to me, you just said that they had to partner with another underserved -- one of the four categories. I don't think that's what you meant.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay. Would you...

KARA MOLLER: If he comes in as category five, does he have to partner with a Deaf, LGBT, or religious minority, and the answer is no. If he comes in on category five, he would partner with, based on his experience, either another organization of any type or he has to partner with a victim service provider.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Correct.

KARA MOLLER: Okay.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yes.

CHRIS: And when you say any type of organization -- again, I'm just trying to clarify -- what exactly does any type of organization? You know, clearly a nonprofit, but does it have to necessarily be a DV organization? Could it be a legal services organization or something like that?

BETTY MCENTIRE: Kara, do you want to jump in because I think it may be best if they hear it...

KARA MOLLER: I think it's hard because also Betty can't see the questions, so we're trying to read them through her, so the nuances are getting--sometimes getting lost. So, I want to clarify that you don't have to partner with a nonprofit. You have to be a nonprofit to apply. So, I just want to verify that one. I think that there was a little bit of confusion about that. And you have to be a nonprofit that meets one of those five categories, as I heard you, that you believe that you are a racial/ethnic minority who's not eligible for class. So, that would be something you're interested in applying as. You would have to determine and demonstrate whether you have at least three years of experience providing direct services to domestic and sexual violence. If you have provided--if you have that experience and you can demonstrate that to us, you can choose to partner with a victim service program, with a social service organization, with another culturally specific organization, like you can decide that on your own. But if you do not have three years of experience providing direct services for domestic and sexual violence, then you're required to partner with a victim service provider, and that organization must meet the definition of a victim service provider as specified in our solicitation.

CHRIS: Okay.

KARA MOLLER: Is that clear?

CHRIS: That is much clearer now. I really appreciate that because we are number five and we've been around a long time, a lot longer than three years, providing these specific services, so I just want to clarify. Just one more. So, we could partner with somebody with certain areas that might actually enhance our proposal? Does that make sense?

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yes. Yes.

CHRIS: Okay. All right. I got you now, finally. Thank you. I'm a little thick today, but I appreciate it.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yes. It's okay. . No problem. And I appreciate that, because sometimes we all need to hear it just from a different lens, and so if it helps other people, that's good. All right. Daisy, can I go on now?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Yes.

BETTY MCENTIRE: All right. Okay. Now, we're going to get into what I call the substance of the solicitation of the application, the Program Narrative. There are three sections to be completed within the application. The Purpose of the Proposal is the who, what, why, when, and how of the project that you're proposing to complete with the underserved award funds. So, when we're looking at the narrative, we really want to know what are you going to be doing. Who are you going to be working with? What will you be doing? And how are you going to do it all? And then, within that project, remember, the lens is how are you going to address the barriers underserved, specific populations face? Because what we're trying to do is ensure that these projects are survivors from underserved, specific populations are centered, leading, or involved in the project to ensure that they--we can reduce barriers to accessing and receiving victim services. So, I just want to reiterate that. The next thing is that there are going to be different questions in this solicitation than were in previous solicitations. And here, I'm going to highlight a few of those questions.

One of the questions is actually going to ask you how your project will address the barriers survivors from underserved, specific populations face. Here's another question. What is your organization proposing? It has several parts. What are you guys going to do? How are you going to take those purpose areas and address the barriers that survivors of underserved populations are facing? Here's another example within the project narrative questions. We want you to identify what barrier you're going to be addressing to help underserved population survivors. We also want you, in your Program Narrative, to describe the solutions and the strategies your project is going to

implement to address these barriers that you just identified in your Project Narrative. And who or what are the critical elements of the stated solutions and strategies for survivors from underserved populations to access and receive services? It may feel like we're being really redundant here, but we want to make sure that everyone understands that this grant is about how your project is going to address the barriers and reduce the barriers that underserved population survivors are facing.

The other thing I want to mention within this grant, and you'll see this in the solicitation in some of the questions, is about the intersectionality of serving underserved populations. As we all know, underserved populations are not monolithic communities. So, therefore, in the What Will Be Done section, we're going to ask you to tell us how the project is going to be accessible to Deaf and hard of hearing survivors. How is your project going to help survivors with disabilities or who have limited English proficiency? Additionally, we're going to want applicants to describe in detail how the project will be accessible. Once again, the Project Narrative is your opportunity to describe to us what your project is going to do, why you want to do it, what you're going to do, how you're going to do it, to address and remove the barriers that underserved populations are facing from accessing and receiving services. Daisy, do we have any questions on this?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: We have a couple of questions. So...

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: The first question is, "Would a needs assessment help address the specific service needs of a population and help address the barriers, would a need assessment be an allowable piece of this proposal, basically? Is this an allowable cost?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Oh, is a needs assessment allowable cost?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Yes.

BETTY MCENTIRE: I feel like I'm going to get this wrong, so, Daisy or Kara, do you know? Because I know research is unallowable.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: No. No.

KARA MOLLER: I apologize. I was in the chat box. I was replying to somebody that put a Q&A question to you.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Research is unallowable, but is a needs assessment allowed under this funding?

KARA MOLLER: So, research is unallowed.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yeah.

KARA MOLLER: What you can do is use client satisfaction surveys to improve your programming. But for the research aspect, I wouldn't put it in your application, and if you get funded, I would talk to you. I'd talk to your grant manager afterward, to be honest. If it even looks like research, it will look like you're putting in unallowable activities. But once you are funded, you can talk to your grant manager and talk about what you're trying to get at.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yeah.

KARA MOLLER: That's the honest answer.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yeah.

KARA MOLLER: Yeah. But I wouldn't even suggest putting it...

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yeah.

KARA MOLLER: ...in there, because it's going to look like research, and it could flag you out because it's a really big deal and a big government-wide thing. The only thing that you're allowed to do is client satisfaction -- quick questions about people who are coming to you. But if you want to delve deeper into something, it would be something that you could talk to your OVW grant manager once you're funded. It's the easiest way to deal with this.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yeah. I would also just add the Department of Justice Financial Guide is another area where you can go and get the specifics on the unallowable costs, but those unallowable costs are also within the solicitation itself. All right. Thank you, Daisy. Next question. Thank you, Kara. I'm sorry. Daisy?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Yes. So, I'm going to combine these. Basically, it's "Will the recording slide deck all be available, and how do we access it? Will it be emailed to us?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: The--this recording, this pre-app session, is that what you said, Daisy?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Yes. "Slide deck recording and how would we access it?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yes. So, this pre-application session is being recorded and it will be uploaded onto the OVW website in a couple of days. And it'll also have a transcript.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, I do not see any more questions for this area.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Okay. Well, wonderful. So, now is going to be the time when we're going to focus on the application of your application that relates to the documents that our financial team, the Grants Financial Management Division, reviews. And today, we have Alanda Thomas from GFMD here to talk with you about the budget section of the application. So, Alanda, I'm going to come off and you can come on.

ALANDA THOMAS: Hello, everyone. Again, my name is Alanda Thomas, and I will be discussing some items that GFMD has identified from prior years' applications that could help with expediting our review process. Before I begin, I wanted to share the contact information with you. If you have any questions about the GFMD information discussed during today's presentation, please feel free to contact the GFMD help desk at ovw.gmfd@usdoj.gov. We have a group of knowledgeable financial analysts ready to answer your questions and concerns. I'll also put the email address in the comment box.

For today, we're going to highlight certain aspects of the Pre-Award Risk Assessment and provide you with a link to a detailed webinar on how to develop the budget that will be included in your application. First, we'll highlight the items identified in the Summary Data Sheet, which is completed by all applicants. Specifically, three items that we would like to discuss are the nonprofit requirements, the Single Audit response, and the IRS three-step safe-harbor procedure. If you are an eligible victim service provider to receive Underserved Program, you are required to submit a determination letter from the IRS recognizing your tax exempt status. OVW cannot make an award to any nonprofit organization that does not submit a 501(c)(3) determination letter. We highlight this specifically because applicants are not including this as part of their application, and this further delays our review. Please ensure that this document is included if applicable.

OVW requests that all applicants provide a statement as to whether they have expended \$750,000 or more in federal funding during their last fiscal year. If they have, then they indicate that and also specify the end date of their last fiscal year. However, GFMD is finding that applicants do not always include all of this information. Please

ensure that this question is answered in its entirety on the Summary Data Sheet, specifically question number three. Another item that we'd like to highlight from the solicitation is specifically for nonprofit organizations. If you use the IRS three-step safe-harbor procedure to determine your executive's compensation, you are required to provide a disclosure letter. Please refer to the solicitation for further details and a link to a sample letter. Note that there are four required parts of this disclosure letter. The sample letter provided outlines all four parts of the disclosure. Please ensure that you follow the sample and provide a response to each of the four pieces.

The next item that we'd like to discuss is the pre-award risk assessment questions, which assist GFMD during their pre-award risk assessment review for all applications. Each applicant must prepare a response to all 11 questions. And each question has multiple parts. We've noticed from prior years that applicants do not always fully answer all parts of the question, which in turn requires GFMD to reach out to the applicant, and which may delay funding decisions. Some of the most common issues that we've encountered have been, for example, question number two, where the applicant indicates that they do indeed have internal policies. However, they don't provide a brief list of topics covered in the policies and procedures. On question three, some applicants fail to provide a brief summary of the organization's process for tracking expenditures, and more specifically whether or not it tracks budgeted versus actual expenditures. These are just a few examples, but in general, please make sure that you read each piece of each of the questions and provide a full and comprehensive response.

This next slide will quickly highlight some resources that are available as you're creating the budget to be submitted with your application. Over the last couple of years, GFMD has developed a detailed webinar presentation on how to develop a budget to be submitted with OVW applications. This presentation addresses some of the challenges that you may face with your budgets and provides some insight into OVW's budget review process. This webinar can be found at the link on this slide.

Next up is the uniform guidance, which can be found at 2 CFR 200. Use your favorite search engine for this one. Other resources include the DOJ financial guide and the solicitation itself. So, we know this can be a lot to process and a lot of information to be had. So, if you have any questions about the GFMD information discussed, please feel free to contact the GFMD helpdesk at 1-888-514-8556 or by email at OVW.GFMD@usdoj. We have a group of knowledgeable financial analysts ready to answer your questions and concerns. I'll also put this information in the comment box. We have someone monitoring the helpdesk right now, so if you have any questions, you can send them directly to us, and you should receive a response either today or no later than early morning. I hope this answers all of your questions. Back to you.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Thank you, Alanda. Would you be able to stay for a couple of minutes and we can move some questions right here for you that some of the folks may have?

ALANDA THOMAS: What I will say is, I'm not entirely sure that I'll be able to answer all of the questions because some questions may come through. Sometimes we have to do research, and it just depends on how complex the question is. So, you can ask a couple of them because I do have another meeting coming up at 4:00, but it depends on how complex the questions are.

BETTY MCENTIRE: All right. So, why don't we do this? We'll throw the questions to you, and then you let us know if it's too nuanced, and we'll have folks email you. How does that sound?

ALANDA THOMAS: That sounds good.

BETTY MCENTIRE: All right. Thank you. Okay, Daisy. Do we have any easy questions for Alanda?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, there's four questions. I'll ask these and see what happens. The first one is, "Is there a requirement that the partner identified in this application come to the TTA training? If so, is the amount for the TTA training to be split evenly between the applicant and the partner on the budget?"

ALANDA THOMAS: So, it all depends. It doesn't have to be split evenly. It just has to be used appropriately depending on the program. And that would actually be better discussed with the Program Manager, with the program office. Sometimes some of the budgets that I see, I see some more of the funding in the direct recipients' travel as opposed to the sub-recipients, so it's not a rule that it has to be split equally, but I would definitely look at the big picture of how many people did you want to bring from your organization and how many people did you want to include from the sub-recipient. You should definitely include your partners, but it does not have to be split equally.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Thank you. So, the second question is, piggybacking off of that question earlier, "Is the TTA training an annual training, how many days? If the trainee and the partner are not required to come and there's money left from--over from the \$5,000 budget for the TTA training, can those funds be reallocated elsewhere on the budget after completion of the training?"

ALANDA THOMAS: That's more of a programmatic question. Generally, you would go to the Program Manager to discuss that. Most of the time, you would have to discuss it prior with them and then submit a programmatic GAM to make the request -- can you move funds from travel since it's in a solicitation that is a requirement? Some Program Managers allow you to do that after it's been some time in the grant and you've met all of the requirements. They may decide that the money would be better spent in another category. It can be done, however, you would discuss that with your Program Manager.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. Thank you.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Well, is it an annual training and how long is the training?

ALANDA THOMAS: Again, that's another programmatic...

BETTY MCENTIRE: I'll give it here up now -- real quick, Alanda. So, TA trainings are required, and they--there is the new grantee orientation you must go to, and then there's also the summer institute that you must attend as well.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: "What determines if you need to complete the IRS three-step process?"

ALANDA THOMAS: Okay. That's a question I would like emailed to the helpdesk because there's a lot of information that I have to pull up and consolidate.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. Thank you. Back to the question on legal services, there is no limit amount, for whoever asked that question. And then there's one more question. "I understand we need a MOU with a partner, but the question is, with an MOU partner, do we need to have a sub-award agreement and do we need to provide a sub-award policy mentioned in the NLFO?"

ALANDA THOMAS: That would be a programmatic question.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. "So, do we need to have a sub-award agreement?" That will be part of the sub-award that you have with your MOU partner will be part of your budget. I'm not sure how much it will be in agreement other than you do--discuss that with your MOU partner.

KARA MOLLER: Can I just jump in right here? For the purpose of your application, when you submit the narrative, the budget, and the Memorandum of Understanding, which is a project document that you're submitting as part of your application. If you are funded, these questions can come later in terms of how you will work with your partner. So, for the purpose of just right now, focus on your application. If you are then funded, you can work with the financial and program division to determine the method of how you will contract that, if you have questions at that point. But you don't have to answer that right now.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. Thank you, Kara. And that is all of our questions.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Wonderful. Thank you so much, Daisy. Thank you so much, Alanda, for coming in and chatting with folks here at the pre-application session.

ALANDA THOMAS: Thank you for having me.

BETTY MCENTIRE: All right. Remember, the email to our helpdesk is in the chat and they're great, and they will respond. I promise. As someone who's learning, they help me out. So, we just have a couple more slides to go through. These are just a couple of important things to know. This is a newer solicitation but I just want to highlight them briefly. I'm going to go through this list right now. All applicants must have a DUNS number. You can find information on how to access a DUNS number and create a DUNS number within the solicitation. I also want to point out that all applicants must register online with SAM and Grants.gov. So, both of them have to be registered. Another thing I want you to know is that if you ever have technical difficulties while you are doing the application and submitting the application, please, please keep documentation of your correspondence because if it comes to the point where you're having technical difficulties and you're at the deadline, that correspondence is going to help us at OVW be able to make a determination of whether or not we can accept your application. So, I really want you to know, keep that correspondence, maintain that correspondence, and we'll work with you all.

And then, I want you to know that your DUNS, your SAMs, your Grants.gov, please make sure that you complete that as soon as possible. And that's because it can take several weeks. We don't want you to delay that and then not be eligible for the funding or receive an award if granted. So, those are some really important things to know. I want to point out that there is a two-step process for the application. And once again, this is in your solicitation. You're going to submit the S4-424 and the SF-LLL in Grants.gov. Please submit this no later than 48 hours before the deadline, super important for you. And then, you're going to also know that submitting your application and your attachments in the JustGrants system.

And then lastly, but certainly not the least important, are the deadlines. March 5th is your deadline to register your SAM. March 26th is your Grants.gov submission. March 28th is your deadline for the JustGrants system submission. So, those are some important dates you want to put on your calendar as it relates to applying for the Underserved Grant Program. If you run into any problems or if you have any questions, here is our technical support phone number and/or email. Also, here's the JustGrants support and email if you have problems with the JustGrants system when you're applying. If you have any other questions, please email the Underserved team at underserved@usdoj.gov. You can also find additional resources on our website at justice.gov/OVW/resources-applicants. So, I just want to say thank you all so much for coming and attending today's pre-application session. I want to reiterate that we are here to answer any questions that we can. Please email us and this recording of this

session will be uploaded and placed on our website, I believe, in a couple of days. So, with that, are there any last minute questions?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Yes, there are two last minute questions. So, "Our SAM is up for renewal in May, does a renewal take several weeks?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yes, I would go ahead and get that on SAMs right away.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. The next question is, "To confirm, there are only two forms required for Grants.gov?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: So, Grants.gov is going to be for your application and any attachments. It's going to also be the same for within JustGrants.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. So, the last question, "To confirm, this grant is to add or expand services and does not support continuing existing services?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: Kara?

KARA MOLLER: I just want to make sure because I don't want anyone to turn away hearing wrong information, and sometimes, the questions being asked can get a little confusing for us. If you are already providing services, you can use this grant to continue providing those services. I want to make sure I'm answering correctly because I feel like Betty answered this, and I want to make sure we're not limiting people by them not hearing correctly. So, if you want to ask it differently by going on camera and asking, because if I hear you saying, "Is it okay to use this grant to continue services we're already providing?" Yes, you can continue the service you're already providing. You don't have to add more stuff if you don't want to. It just gets more in the nuance about supplanting and that's a whole other thing about budget stuff. But if you're saying, "I provide domestic violence services, I'd like to use this grant to provide more domestic violence services or just continue what I'm doing," yes, that is allowed. I hope that was clear. I'm sorry. Betty, thank you.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: So, now we have two other questions. "So, UEI has replaced DUNS?" That's a yes or no.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yes.

DAISY JONES-BROWN: Okay. "Back to my LAV question, if our unfunded work is \$1 million and LAV only funded \$600,000, does the \$400,000 count as an expansion of the project?"

BETTY MCENTIRE: I want to make sure I'm understanding this question. I want to go back to what Kara just said. If the person is comfortable, can you pop up so I can understand it correctly. Because what I think I'm hearing is that you are currently providing victim services, LAV pays for a portion of it and you're wanting to know if you

apply, can Underserved cover the other \$400,000 of that project that's already happening?

PARTICIPANT: Yes, this is Beth Ann Hellert. I'm with the Tahirih Justice Center. So, yes, that is my question. We are an immigrant services provider. And my question is, when you define the project, is funding unfunded work an expansion of the project?

BETTY MCENTIRE: Well, that's a great question, and it goes exactly to what Kara just said -- if you're already providing the services, you can apply for funding to pay for those services. You do not have to expand or create a new project.

PARTICIPANT: I'm sorry, say that again?

BETTY MCENTIRE: So, you do not have to create a new project if you're currently already doing these services. You can apply for that project to pay for those services.

PARTICIPANT: Right.

KARA MOLLER: I'm sorry. This is a really nuanced question about legal stuff, too. What I'm trying to make sure that I'm understanding is you're not supplanting because that will get you in trouble. If you have a domestic violence advocate funded by VOCA, you can't...

PARTICIPANT: None of our staff are fully funded.

KARA MOLLER: Right, right. So, here are two examples -- if you have a half-time advocate whom you all have money for, and you want to use our grant to pay the other half of the advocates to do services that are in scope with this program, you can do it that way. Or you have a full-time domestic violence advocate, and you want to add a second advocate to do the exact same thing with her or with them -- sorry -- you can do that as well. But yeah, you can continue doing the program you already have. You just want to look at the information about what supplanting is and that's about how you're funding your staff.

PARTICIPANT: Yeah, no. I think we have one staff member who's fully funded under a grant, under an LAV grant, but most of our staff are funded from cobbling together funding from eight different grants to get us close, but most of our staff are not fully funded by government grants, so...

KARA MOLLER: As long as you are very specific about what you want to use this grant for and that it is in the scope of what Betty has just outlined. It has to be domestic violence, dating violence, sex assault, or stalking, and activities must fall in those six areas of purpose areas.

PARTICIPANT: Yes, yes. We meet those criteria.

KARA MOLLER: And if you have any nuance questions like this, I also would encourage you to email the OVW.Underserved email box. If you want to ask about anything and delve deeper. But from what I'm hearing you say, it's really hard to say yes or no based on just what you're saying. I don't want to answer you incorrectly. You can continue doing what you're doing and use the funding for it if it's in scope as long as you're aware of what supplanting is.

PARTICIPANT: Yes.

KARA MOLLER: Okay.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Yup.

PARTICIPANT: Yeah, like I said, since none of our staff are fully funded, then I don't think we would have a supplanting problem.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Great.

PARTICIPANT: Okay. Terrific. Thank you so much.

BETTY MCENTIRE: You're welcome, Beth.

PARTICIPANT: Bye-bye.

BETTY MCENTIRE: Bye-bye. Daisy, next question?

DAISY JONES-BROWN: That was the last question.

BETTY MCENTIRE: All right. Well, thank you guys so much. Once again, this recording will be uploaded onto our website in a couple of days. And if you have any additional questions, even if it's a clarifying question and you can go back, and watch this video again, or you don't want to watch this video again, just send us an email at OVW.Underserved@usdoj.gov, and we'll be happy to help you with what we can.