

Office on Violence Against Women Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Program

FY 2024 Pre-Application Information Session

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Pre- Application Webinar Overview

What's New with the Rural Program

Solicitation Process & Key Dates

Rural Program Scope

Rural Program Eligibility

Application Information

Helpful Hints and Answer Questions



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The Office on Violence Against Women



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The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) provides federal leadership in developing the national capacity to reduce violence against women and administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.



Learn more about our grants at:
www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs



www.justice.gov/ovw/



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Overview of Rural Program

- Enhance the safety of children, youth, and adults who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by supporting projects uniquely designed to address and prevent these crimes in rural jurisdictions.
- Sexual Assault Set Aside: 25% to 40% of funds
- In Fiscal Year 2023, the Rural Program funded 51 projects, totaling more than \$36 million. Since 1996 the Rural Program has awarded over \$845,000,000 supporting 1,361 grants.



Overview of Rural Program (continued)

75% of funding must support projects in rural states.

- Per VAWA, the definition of a rural state is “a State that has a population density of 57 or fewer persons per square mile or a State in which the largest county has fewer than 250,000 people, based on the most recent decennial census.”
 - Rural States: Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming
 - Rural Territories: American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and Virgin Islands

Sources: [Population Density of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: 1910 to 2020 \(census.gov\)](#); [2020 Population and Housing State Data \(census.gov\)](#)



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What's New with the Rural Program

FY24 Rural Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Initiative

The Rural SANE initiative seeks to address the shortage of SANEs and sexual assault medical forensic exams in rural communities by supporting the creation of sexual assault medical forensic exam services in rural communities and increasing the number of trained SANEs in rural areas.

Successful applicants will establish hospital-based and/or community-based programs that offer sexual assault medical forensic exams and sexual assault victim services using coordinated community response strategies.

Updated Priorities

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, particularly those facing disproportionate rates or impacts of violence and multiple barriers to services, justice, and safety.



Key Dates

Task	Deadline
Begin registration in SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants	IMMEDIATELY
Pre-Application Information Session I	Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 3:00 pm ET
Pre-Application Information Session II	Thursday, March 7, 2024, 2:00 pm ET
Letter of Intent	Tuesday, March 12, 2024
SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and JustGrants accounts active	Tuesday, March 26, 2024
Deadline to submit SF-424 and SF-LLL in Grants.gov	Friday, April 12, 2024, 11:59 PM ET
Deadline to submit full application in JustGrants	Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 8:59 PM ET



Submission Process (pg. 29)

Applications for this program will be submitted through a **two-step** process:

- 1) submission of the **SF-424 and SF-LLL** in **Grants.gov** by **Friday, April 12 by 11:59 pm ET**; and
- 2) submission of the **full application**, including attachments, in **JustGrants** by **Tuesday, April 16 by 8:59 pm ET**.



Websites to Know

System	Task	Note	Support
SAM.gov	Register for a Universal Entity Identifier (UEI).	Registration takes an average of 2-3 weeks.	https://sam.gov/content/help
Grants.gov	Submit SF-424 and SF-LLL.	Cannot initiate an application in JustGrants until this step is completed. Registration takes an average of 1 week.	1.800.518.4726 support@grants.gov
JustGrants.usdoj.gov	Submit full application, including all attachments.	Ensure that all accounts are active and up to date by Thursday, March 21, 2024.	1.866.655.4482 OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov

Rural Program Eligibility

Purpose Areas

Strategies

OVW Priority Areas



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Purpose Areas (pg. 6)	Strategies (pg. 7)
<p>1) To encourage collaboration to identify, assess, and respond to adult, youth, and child victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking in rural communities.</p> <p>2) To establish and expand victim services in rural communities.</p> <p>3) To increase the safety and well-being of women and children in rural communities.</p> <p>4) To develop, expand, implement, and improve the quality of sexual assault forensic medical examination or sexual assault nurse examiner programs.</p>	<p>1) Cooperative efforts to investigate and prosecute domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and multidisciplinary teams to prevent domestic and dating violence homicides in high-risk cases.</p> <p>2) Short- and long-term victim services and population specific services, including assistance in immigration matters.</p> <p>3) Develop education and prevention strategies in cooperation with the community.</p> <p>4) Programs addressing sexual assault, including forensic examiner programs, response teams, law enforcement training, and addressing rape kit backlogs.</p> <p>5) Programs addressing the challenges posed by lack of access to quality forensic sexual assault examinations by trained health care providers, shelters, and victims services, and limited law enforcement resources and training, and providing training and resources to Community Health Aides involved in the delivery of Indian Health Service programs.</p>

Purpose Area and Strategies - Purpose Area 3

Projects addressing Purpose Area 3 ***must address both 3a and 3b.*** These cannot be addressed separately.

3. *To increase the safety and well-being of women and children in rural communities, by-*

a. dealing directly and immediately with domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking occurring in rural communities; and

b. creating and implementing strategies to increase awareness and prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Furthermore, projects addressing Purpose Area 3 ***may not dedicate more than 30% of the project budget and activities*** to prevention and awareness activities.



OVW Priority Areas (pg. 7-9)

Applications proposing activities under the following priorities **will be given special consideration.**

1. **NEW in FY24: 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, particularly those facing disproportionate rates or impacts of violence and multiple barriers to services, justice, and safety.
2. **Strengthen efforts to prevent and end sexual assault**, including victim services and civil and criminal justice responses.

Applicants are not required to address OVW Priority Areas, but both priority areas fall in line with our Rural statutory requirements.



I. Advance equity and tribal sovereignty (pg. 7-8)

A) NEW in FY24: OVW will give special consideration to applications from Indian tribes, particularly those in Alaska and other tribes subject to criminal jurisdiction by a state (i.e., tribes subject to mandatory Public Law 83-280).

By increasing tribes' access to public safety-related funding, particularly those in PL-280 states, OVW seeks to enhance the ability of tribes to implement tribal solutions to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in their communities.



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I. Advance equity and tribal sovereignty (slide 2)

B) OVW will give special consideration under this priority to applications in which the applicant or its partner is an organization that ***has a demonstrated and distinctive history of using culturally appropriate and linguistically specific strategies to serve communities that have been historically marginalized and face barriers to accessing mainstream systems and service providers.***

At a minimum, to meet the priority, an applicant should describe these barriers and how the applicant builds on the unique help-seeking strategies and sources of resilience found in its historically marginalized community. In addition, an applicant may provide data regarding disproportionate rates or impact of violence in its community.



I. Advance equity and tribal sovereignty (slide 3)

B) OVW will give special consideration under this priority to applications in which the applicant or its partner is an organization that ***has a demonstrated and distinctive history of using culturally appropriate and linguistically specific strategies to serve communities that have been historically marginalized and face barriers to accessing mainstream systems and service providers.***

EXAMPLES:

- Be or partner with a population-specific organization focused on serving historically marginalized and underserved populations.
- If partnering with another organization to meet the priority, equitably compensate and actively collaborate with the partner throughout the project and support the partner's participation in OVW TA.
- Implement activities that engage, promote, and serve historically marginalized and underserved populations, such as:
 - Creating population-specific outreach and educational opportunities in their communities
 - Providing population-specific services
 - Hiring staff with experience working with underserved populations
 - Hiring staff from underserved populations



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2. Strengthen efforts to prevent and end sexual assault (pages 8-9)

A) OVW will give priority consideration to applications that focus primarily (75% or more of proposed goals, objectives, activities, and budget) on ***responding to non-intimate partner sexual assault, including sexual assault across the lifespan.***

This includes prevention, outreach, offender intervention, medical forensic care, civil legal assistance, and victim services. Applicants are encouraged to provide comprehensive services that address the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of survivors of sexual assault and their families.



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2. Strengthen efforts to prevent and end sexual assault (slide 2)

A) OVW will give priority consideration to applications that focus primarily (75% or more of proposed goals, objectives, activities, and budget) on ***responding to non-intimate partner sexual assault, including sexual assault across the lifespan.***

EXAMPLES:

- Providing relevant, accessible services to survivors across the lifespan, regardless of when the incident(s) and disclosure(s) take place;
- Providing long- and short-term evidence-based, holistic healing services;
- Building organizational capacity to enhance sexual assault services;
- Developing policies and procedures directly related to serving sexual assault victims;
- Collaboration among relevant organizations/ community partners to address sexual assault;



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2. Strengthen efforts to prevent and end sexual assault (slide 3)

A) OVW will give priority consideration to applications that focus primarily (75% or more of proposed goals, objectives, activities, and budget) on ***responding to non-intimate partner sexual assault, including sexual assault across the lifespan.***

EXAMPLES:

- Legal and medical advocacy;
- Addressing the intersection of sexual violence and substance abuse, human trafficking, and/or incarceration;
- Sexual assault focused prevention, intervention, and awareness/outreach;
- Expanding sexual assault advocate positions; Enhancing existing SANE and SAFE programs and services;
- Addressing challenges posed by lack of access to quality sexual assault services, such as transportation, childcare, and housing;
- Group or individual counseling;
- Culturally relevant, trauma informed care.



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2. Strengthen efforts to prevent and end sexual assault (slide 4)

B) OVW will give priority consideration to applications that focus primarily (75% or more of proposed goals, objectives, activities, and budget) on *improving the criminal justice response to sexual assault, including the investigation, charging, and prosecution of sexual assault crimes*.

These programs must include a partnership with sexual assault service providers to ensure that survivors receive comprehensive support throughout the criminal justice process.



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2. Strengthen efforts to prevent and end sexual assault (page 8-9)

B) OVW will give priority consideration to applications that focus primarily (75% or more of proposed goals, objectives, activities, and budget) on ***improving the criminal justice response to sexual assault, including the investigation, charging, and prosecution of sexual assault crimes.***

EXAMPLES:

- Providing sexual assault training for law enforcement and prosecutors;
- Sexual violence training for judges
- Supporting sexual assault investigator or prosecutor positions;
- Enhancing or creating law enforcement and/or prosecution sexual assault victim advocate positions;
- Developing or expanding Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs);
- Supporting the apprehension, relinquishment, and storage of firearms, to include education and training on this topic;
- Minimizing barriers to accessing sexual assault services through assistance with transportation, housing, mental health needs, and related financial assistance, and improving accessibility of services; and/or
- Providing criminal legal advocacy training for advocates.



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Funding Restrictions

Activities that
Compromise Victim Safety

Out-of-Scope and
Unallowable Activities



Funding Restrictions (2)

- Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery (pg. 9)
- Out-Of-Scope and Unallowable Activities (pg. 9)
- Unallowable costs (pg. 23-24)

Applications including out-of-scope or unallowable activities may receive a deduction in points during the review process or may be removed from consideration. Also, information about these activities can be found in the Solicitation Companion Guide.



Rural Program Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Applicants

Service Area Eligibility Requirements

Required Partnerships

Legal Assistance Certification



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Eligible Applicants

- States and territories
- Indian tribes
- Local governments
- Nonprofit (public or private) entities, including tribal nonprofit organizations

For definitions of entities, please refer to page 13 of the solicitation.



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Service Area Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed project will serve a rural area or rural community.
- Applications (other than those submitted by federally recognized Indian tribes, which are statutorily defined as “rural”) must include the proper printed documentation demonstrating that the proposed service area meets this eligibility requirement.
- Instructions to complete the (“Rural Eligibility Documentation Process”) can be accessed through the link on page 15 of the solicitation, as well as the [DOJ website](#).
- No other forms of documentation will be accepted, and OVW will not contact applicants who do not submit this documentation.



Service Area Eligibility Requirements (2)

- 1) **Determine whether the county to be served by the project is rural using the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) tool:**
- 2) **If the county to be served is not entirely rural (per the HRSA tool), determine whether there are rural census tracts within the county using data from the US Census:**

<https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health>

<https://data.census.gov/>

data.[HRSA](https://data.hrsa.gov).gov

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Home > Tools > Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer



Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer

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Census
Bureau

Explore Census Data

Learn about America's People, Places, and Economy

Find Tables, Maps, and more ...



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Service Area Eligibility Documentation

STEP 1: Determine whether the county to be served by the project is rural using the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) tool.

data.HRSA.gov

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Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer

<https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health>



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Service Area Eligibility Documentation (2)

Searching by county with the HRSA tool will return one of three messages:

Message 1: Yes – All locations in this county ([county name], [state or territory]) are eligible for Rural Health Grants.



No further documentation is needed for this county.

Message 2: Yes – Some parts of this county ([county name], [state or territory]) are eligible for Rural Health Grants.



Proceed to Step 2 to document eligible census tracts.

Message 3: No – No location in this county ([county name], [state or territory]) is eligible for Rural Health Grants.



Proceed to Step 2 to document eligible census tracts.

Note: This process must be completed for every county that the applicant proposes to serve. Therefore, if the applicant plans to serve additional counties, the applicant must complete the process above for each county and attach the documentation to their application.





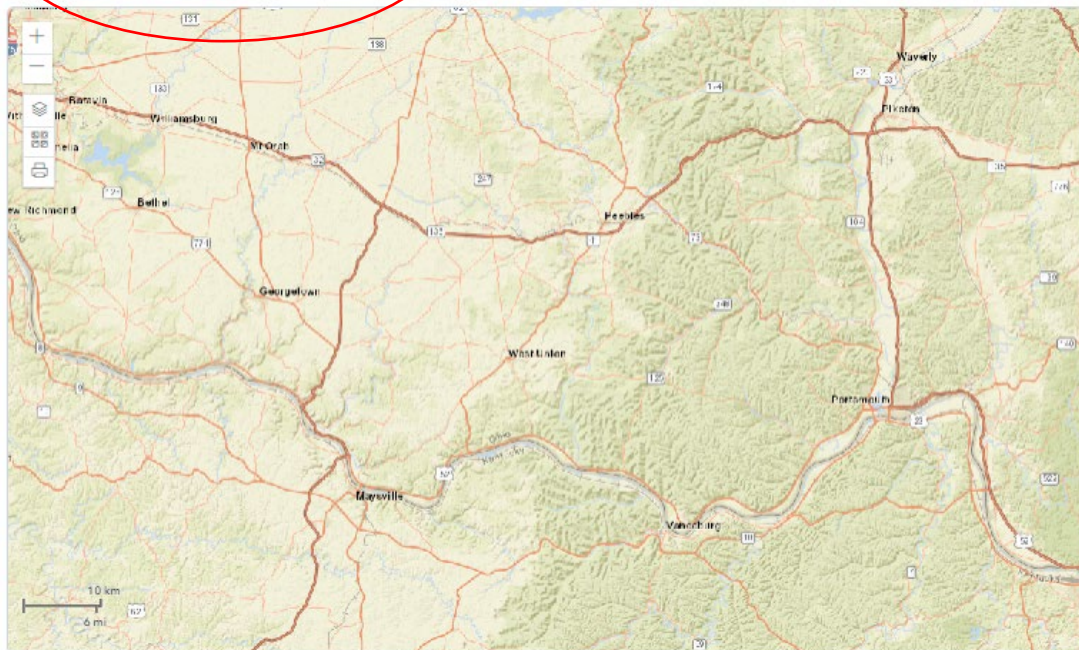
Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer

Health care providers who are located in geographic areas that are defined as Rural are eligible to apply for Rural Health Grants. Enter an address or choose a state and county to check for eligibility status.

✓ Yes

All locations in this County (Adams County, Ohio) are eligible for Rural Health Grants.

Start Over



Service Area Eligibility Documentation (3)

STEP 2: Determine whether there are rural census tracts within counties that produced message 2 or 3 above, using data from the US Census.



Explore Census Data

Learn about America's People, Places, and Economy

Find Tables, Maps, and more ...



[Help](#) [Feedback](#) [Advanced Search](#)

<https://data.census.gov/>



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Service Area Eligibility Documentation (4)

- To determine whether there are any rural census tracts within a county, follow the [instructions](#) for navigating the US Census website to return a breakout of urban and rural housing units within each census tract in a county.
- Only the 2020 data set specified in the instructions will be accepted.
- Any census tracts in which more than 50% of the total housing units are listed as “rural” are eligible service areas.

Label	Census Tract 9512.01; Brown County; Ohio	Census Tract 9512.02; Brown County; Ohio	Census Tract 9513.01; Brown County; Ohio	Census Tract 9513.02; Brown County; Ohio	Census Tract 9514; Brown County; Ohio	Census Tract 9515; Brown County; Ohio	Census Tract 9516; Brown County; Ohio	Census Tract 9517; Brown County; Ohio
Total:	1,981	1,994	2,183	1,109	1,789	2,580	1,663	1,284
Urban	0	0	0	0	0	0	983	0
Rural	1,981	1,994	2,183	1,109	1,789	2,580	680	1,284
Not defined for this file	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Highlight each of the census tracts that the project plans to serve.



Partnership Eligibility Requirements (pg. 15-16)

- Applications must include at least one partner **and must include a victim service provider** as a formal project partner or the lead applicant, as demonstrated through a required Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Letter(s) of Support for court applicants that cannot sign an MOU.
- Applications must include agencies and organizations necessary to implement the proposed project.



Legal Assistance Certification Eligibility Requirements (pg. 14-15)

To Provide Legal Assistance for Victims

- Applicants must certify in writing that they have expertise in providing legal assistance.
- Partner with an entity or person that has the same expertise, and
- Complete domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking training and related legal issues.
- The grantee's organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or child sexual abuse is an issue.
- The certification should be made in the form of a letter, on letterhead and signed and dated by the authorized representative.



Application Information

Types of Application

Grant Award Period and Budget Caps

Application Contents

Common Application Challenges



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Types of Applications (pg. 11)

New:

- Applicants that have never received funding under this program or whose previous funding under this program expired on or before April 16, 2023.

Continuation:

- Applicants that have an existing or recently closed (after April 16, 2023) award under this program.
- Recipients of an FY 2022 or FY 2023 award under this program are NOT eligible to apply as the lead applicant on an FY 2024 proposal for a standard rural project.
- Recipients of an FY 2022 or FY 2023 award under this program ARE eligible to apply for the Rural SANE Initiative only.
- Current grantees with a substantial amount of unobligated funds remaining (50 percent or more of the previous award) as of March 31, 2024, without adequate justification, may not be considered for funding or may receive a reduced award amount if selected for funding in FY 2024.



Grant Award Period and Budget Caps (pg. 10)

Grant award period is **36** months, which will generally start on October 1, 2024.

	Continuation	New
Applications not addressing the Sexual Assault Priority*	\$750,000	\$500,000
Applications addressing the Sexual Assault Priority*	\$950,000	\$700,000

Applicants interested in applying for the **SANE Initiative** must submit a separate application. Those applications are limited to \$500,000 for the entire 36 months. Grant awards for the SANE Initiative may be awarded in addition to a new or continuation rural project award.



SANE Initiative - Overview

- The SANE Initiative aims to enhance quality of care for survivors of sexual assault by supporting the creation of sexual assault medical forensic exam services in rural communities and increasing the number of trained SANEs in rural areas.
- Successful applicants will establish **hospital-based and/or community-based programs that offer sexual assault medical forensic exams and sexual assault victim services** using coordinated community response strategies.
- OVW encourages innovative approaches to addressing the unique challenges of providing these services in rural, tribal, and underserved communities.
- Selected sites will have access to specialized technical assistance (TA) providers with expertise on this issue.
- Through this Initiative, OVW will select 3-4 pilot sites to be awarded up to \$500,000 for 36 months to establish new rural-specific sexual assault medical forensic exam services in their communities.



Required Partnerships for the SANE Initiative Only (pg. 16)

- Either the applicant or its partner(s) should have a mission that is specific to the provision of sexual assault services.
- Either the applicant or its partner(s) must be a victim service provider, and any sexual assault services outside of the medical forensic exam should be provided by trained victim advocates.
- Staff implementing activities must have specialized training in sexual assault.
- Either the applicant or its partner(s) must offer services to address the impact of sexual assault across lifespan.



SANE Initiative – Examples (pg. 6)

Examples of possible project activities include (but are not limited to):

- Implementing a new sexual assault medical forensic exam or SANE program;
- Provision of sexual assault medical forensic exam services utilizing a mobile model;
- Establishing partnerships with local hospitals to secure facilities to conduct sexual assault medical forensic exam services;
- Partnering with or training qualified midwives to perform sexual assault medical forensic exam services;
- Minimizing barriers to accessing sexual assault medical forensic exam services through assistance with transportation, emergency financial assistance, childcare, language access, etc.;
- Purchasing equipment, kits, and other items needed to conduct sexual assault medical forensic exams;
- Recruiting and providing training to registered nurses (RNs) to become SANEs; and
- Providing ongoing training for SANEs.



SANE Initiative – Requirements (pg. 12)

1. Participate in a planning period of up to 9 months with OVW-designated TA providers, in addition to on-going TA throughout the project period. Required deliverables at the end of the planning period include an MOU and working protocols among partners. Staff implementing activities must be hired by the end of the planning period.
2. During the planning period, develop partnerships to ensure a collaborative community response to sexual assault (i.e., Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) or *Multidisciplinary Teams* (MDTs)).
3. Develop a new SANE program that offers comprehensive sexual assault forensic exams and supportive services for survivors. ***Pre-existing SANE projects that are currently operational are not eligible to apply.***
4. Develop or enhance policies and procedures that align with the Department of Justice's [National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations – Adult/Adolescent](#), and the [National Protocol for Sexual Abuse Medical Forensic Examinations – Pediatric](#), and the [National Protocol for Intimate Partner Violence Medical Forensic Examinations](#)



SANE Initiative - Application

- Provided they meet the eligibility criteria, current OVW grantees are eligible to apply for the SANE Initiative.
- Applicants may apply for the SANE Initiative alone, or applicants may apply to the SANE Initiative and for FY 2024 funding under the Rural Program as a new or continuation applicant.
- If applying for both, a separate application is required for the Rural Program and for the SANE Initiative. **Be sure to indicate in your project title that you are applying for the SANE Initiative.**
- If both applications are selected for funding, OVW will make two separate grant awards; one for the SANE Initiative project and one for the new or continuation Rural Program award.



Application Content

- Proposal Narrative
- Budget Detail Worksheet and narrative
- Memorandum of Understanding/Letters of Support (Only state courts, tribal courts, territory courts, local court applicants, and applicants to the SANE Initiative may submit Letters of Support in lieu of the MOU)
- Rural Eligibility Documentation (not required for Indian tribes)

The Proposal Narrative, Budget worksheet and narrative, and MOU are scored during peer review out of **100** points total.

Applications missing one or more of these components may be removed from further consideration.



Proposal Narrative (70 points)

- Purpose of the proposal (15 points)
- What will be done (40 points)
- Who will implement (15 points)



Memorandum of Understanding/Letter of Support (15 points)

- The MOU is a document containing the terms of the partnership and the roles and responsibilities between two or more parties, and it must be included as an attachment to the application in JustGrants.
- The MOU must be a **single** document and must be signed and dated by the Authorized Representative of each proposed partner organization during the development of the application. OVW will accept electronic signatures. ***Do not submit more than one MOU.***
- Missing signatures may result in a point deduction or removal from consideration, particularly if the MOU is missing the signature of a required partner.
- The MOU can include multiple signature pages as long as each page includes the names, titles, and date signed of all signatories to the MOU.



Budget Worksheet and Narrative (15 points)

- Budgets and budget narratives will be submitted as attachments.
- All budgets should include the required OVW TTA set aside:
 - \$10,000 for applicants from the 48 contiguous states
 - \$15,000 for applicants from the territories, Hawaii, and Alaska
- **All** budgets should include adequate funds set aside to address language access and accessibility needs. If you have other resources to cover the cost of these services, please note that in your budget.
- All project partners should be fairly compensated for their contributions



Grants Financial Management Division (GFMD)

- Summary Data Sheet (questionnaire)
 - Single Audit (threshold and fiscal year)
 - IRS three-step safe-harbor procedure– Executive Compensation –
 - Sample Disclosure Letter
 - Address all four parts
- Pre-Award Risk Assessment (questionnaire)
 - Eleven questions; Multiple parts to each question
 - Most Common issues:
 - Brief list of policies and procedures not provided
 - Budgeted vs. Actual process not provided
 - Record Retention policy not provided
 - Knowledge of rules and regulations



GFMD 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/media/1282146/dl?inline=>

Program Specific Solicitation:

<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/open-solicitations>



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Contact Information

OVW GFMD Helpdesk:

1-888-514-8556

OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov



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Common Application Challenges

- *Not reading the solicitation to understand eligibility, service area, or partnership requirements.* Make sure you meet all solicitation requirements before you spend valuable time completing the application.
- *Not allowing enough time to complete registration or activate accounts in Grants.gov, SAM.gov, and JustGrants.* Start this process early to mitigate problems before time of submission and ensure that all accounts are active by March 26.
- *Failing to submit rural eligibility documentation or submitting incorrect documentation.* Please note that JustGrants will not prevent you from submitting an application that is missing the required documentation.



Common Application Challenges (2)

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- *Omitting a signature, title, and date for each partner on the MOU.*
- *Failing to submit an MOU with the application or submitting multiple MOUs. Only one MOU will be accepted for the project, and it must include the signatures of all partners.*
- *For those applicants eligible to submit Letters of Support in lieu of an MOU, failing to provide the same level of detail as the MOU.*



Common Application Challenges (3)

- *Ignoring the formatting requirements on pg. 17 of the solicitation.*
- *Failing to use headings from the solicitation in project narrative.*
- *Failing to submit a 36-month grant budget.*
- *Exceeding the 20-page limit on the project narrative.*



Tips

- Use headings and subheadings that correspond with the solicitation sections.
- Use the templates and samples available on our website for budgets, certifications, MOUs/LOS', etc. The next slide will include a link to these items.
- Start working on MOU as soon as possible to ensure sufficient time to finalize partnerships details and collect the required signatures.
- Make sure you are meeting all the partnership requirements detailed in the solicitation, and remember that a victim service provider must be either the applicant or a partner on the project.



Tips (continued)

- Do not assume that peer reviewers or OVW staff have familiarity with your organization or program.
- Where appropriate, use data to support your proposal.
- If applying under the Sexual Assault Priority, be sure to correctly indicate the percentage of sexual assault activities in the Summary Data Sheet.
- If applying for the SANE Initiative, be sure to include the words “SANE Initiative” in your project title.



Resources

- OVW Resources for Applicants:
www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-applicants
 - Available on this site: Solicitation companion guide, sample budgets, sample MOUs, tips and examples, DOJ Financial Guide, program specific information, and much more!



Have questions?

- **Programmatic Questions:** OVW.Rural@usdoj.gov
- **Financial Questions:** Email OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov or call 202-307-6026
- **Technical Questions:** Grants.gov Applicant Support:
 - Email support@grants.gov or call 800-518-4726
- **OVW JustGrants Support:** email OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov or call 866-655-4482



Questions?

- Please write your questions in the Q&A box not the chat, or
- Raise your virtual hand



Thank you!

Ovw.Rural@usdoj.gov



U.S. Department of Justice
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Office on Violence Against Women
Working Together to End the Violence