

DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar. OVC's "FY 2023 Expanding Access to Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations," hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Ivette Estrada, Grant Program Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime for some introductory remarks and to begin the presentation. Ivette?

IVETTE ESTRADA: Thank you, Daryl, and good morning, everyone. Thank you for joining today's pre-application webinar. My name is Ivette Estrada. I'm a Grant Program Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime, OVC. I am the solicitation manager for the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam program and I've been managing it since its inception in 2012.

Today, we'll talk about OVC's mission, the solicitation, including the opportunity focus, eligibility, and required documents. Then I'll talk about the application process and resources, and then there'll be time to answer your questions at the end of the presentation.

OVC's mission is to enhance the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and hearing for all victims of crime. OVC administers the Crime Victims Fund, which is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders and not from tax dollars. OVC channels that money towards victim compensation and assistance throughout the Nation, raises awareness about victims' issues, promotes compliance with the victims' rights laws, and provides training and technical assistance and publications and products to victim assistance professionals. The Crime Victims Fund supports formula programs to states, territories, and tribes, as well as many discretionary grant programs, such as the SAFE program.

In Fiscal Year 2023, OVC has been appropriated over \$1.8 billion dollars to help improve victims' services throughout the Nation. The majority of OVC funding is Victims of Crime Act Funding or VOCA, which goes to states and territories as formula funding for Victims Compensation and Victims Assistance Programs. With approximately \$95 million of that in anti-trafficking funding and \$95 million for tribal efforts, the rest of that is for OVC's discretionary programs.

I'll now cover eligibility, the documents needed to apply, and the application process and resources for this funding opportunity.

The list on this slide are the types of organizations that are eligible to apply for the 2023 SAFE solicitation. It includes city, county, and state governments; tribal organizations and governments; nonprofits that have or do not have a 501(c)(3) status; institutions of higher ed, and that could be private, public, and state; and then special districts.

An applicant entity may submit more than one application, if each application proposes a different project in response to the solicitation. Also, an entity may be proposed as a subrecipient in more than one application. OVC will consider applications under which

two or more entities would carry out a Federal Award. However, only one entity can be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients. For any additional information on subawards, you can refer to the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, which will be listed under our resource section.

A little bit of background about the program. Medical forensic examinations are an important part of any coordinated community response to sexual violence and have become the standard of care for many jurisdictions around the country. However, we know that many communities, especially those in rural and tribal areas, still lack access to qualified medical forensic examiners and sexual assault nurse examiners to perform a forensic exam. So this program was designed to increase access to, and the quality of, post-assault care for sexual assault victims. So the scope of this solicitation is really to support the creation or expansion of comprehensive SANE programs to increase the number of highly trained forensic examiners; expand access to forensic exams, especially in under-resourced communities; and enhance the quality of post assault care using a hospital-based, community-based, campus-based, or corrections-based approach.

The goal of this program, again, is to enhance or expand SANE and SAFE programs that provide forensic exams and victim services using the coordinated community response strategy. Applicants can propose innovative ways of bringing experienced medical forensic examiners to rural, tribal, and historically marginalized and underserved communities, as well as correctional facilities using Telehealth, a Family Justice Center, Children's Advocacy Center, or any other modality of care that best meets the needs of the community.

One important thing to note is that SANE and SAFE programs applying under this solicitation will need to follow [DOJ's National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations](#); or for correction-based programs, the [Recommendations for Administrators of Prisons, Jails, and Community Confinement Facilities](#) in responding to sexual assault victims and the forensic examination process. The development of any new training programs funded under this program will also need to follow the [DOJ National Sexual Assault Training Standards](#) and the [Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Education Guidelines](#), which both take a victim-centered, trauma-informed approach to medical forensic examination.

When developing your program narrative or your proposal, all--there are five objectives that are listed in the solicitation, and all five need to be addressed. Objective one is to provide high-quality, comprehensive forensic exams and post-assault care that promotes healing and reduces the trauma. Objective two is that applicants must coordinate with the rape crisis center, a victim service provider, and/or state sexual assault coalition to facilitate advocacy services, before, during, and after the examination process. The third objective is to increase the number and availability of SANEs and SAFEs by establishing a support network of SANE leaders that can build a network of SANEs in the service areas that lack a comprehensive SANE response.

OVC does strongly encourage hiring and recruitment efforts that increase the diversity of SANEs to better reflect the communities served by the project.

The last two goals are--the fourth is to improve access to training and clinical education that supports training needs--training needs, peer networking, mentoring and retention of SANEs and SAFEs. OVC also supports efforts that address vicarious trauma and burnout. Funding can also be used for professional development, such as supporting staff to attend the International Association of Forensic Nurses annual conference. And then the fifth and final objective is to support a multidisciplinary response using Sexual Assault Response Teams or Multidisciplinary Teams. Partnerships with local, culturally specific organizations are strongly encouraged.

The deliverables of this program are to develop policies and procedures that address the standardization of victim-centered care and a streamlined referral process that increases access to advocacy services; and this is to be done by the end of year one. For Telehealth programs, security policies and procedures are to be developed that ensure compliance, privacy, and security of private health information that can be stored, processed, or transmitted; and that is by the end of year one. The development of a comprehensive training plan to support professional development opportunities for SANEs and SAFEs, that is to be developed by the end of year one.

And then there are a few more deliverables. The development of a sustainability plan to sustain program efforts beyond grant funding, that is by--that has to be done by the end of year two. If any formal partners are identified in your proposal, such as rape crisis centers, victims service providers, or state sexual assault coalitions, a memoranda of understanding, some contract, or other type of agreement will need to be executed to facilitate advocacy services. And that is to be done by the end of year one. And then finally, participation in technical assistance and collaboration activities.

OVC funds the International Association of Forensic Nurses, which is IAFN. They are the TA provider for the SAFE program. And their role under this program is really to provide guidance and assistance to all awardees to help them accomplish the goals, objectives, and activities of their project. So under this program, IAFN coordinates all TA activities in close coordination with OVC to support SANE programming, resources, and really ensuring that best practices are followed as it relates to SANE services, training, practice, and retention. So to meet this deliverable, awardees will be expected to participate in TA activities such as TA assessment, grantee meetings, and regional training opportunities, just to name a few.

The Department of Justice is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights and racial equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims, and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens community safety and protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community. In support of this Executive Order, 13985, OJP will provide priority consideration when making award decisions to the following: applications that propose projects that are designed to promote racial equity and the removal of barriers to access

and opportunity for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality; or applications that demonstrate their capabilities and competencies for implementing their projects are enhanced because they (or at least one proposed subrecipient that will receive at least 40 percent of the requested award funding) identify as a culturally specific organization. The one thing to note is that if you--if you are addressing these priority areas, it is one of many factors that OJP considers when making funding decisions. So receiving priority consideration for one or more priority areas does not guarantee an award. In the solicitation, there's a lot more information about how to request these priority areas, so I would refer you to the solicitation.

Under this program, OVC expects to make four awards. These awards will be made for a 3-year period with an anticipated start date of October 1st. The maximum amount that you can apply for is \$500,000. There is no match requirement for this program. So we suggest that applicants do not include a voluntary match. OVC may in certain cases provide additional funding in future years to awards made under this solicitation through continuation awards. OJP will consider, among other factors, OJP strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award, and the progress made under the award when making continuation award decisions. And this solicitation and awards under this solicitation are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law.

Awards under this program will be made as cooperative agreements, which means that substantial involvement is expected between OVC and the award recipient when carrying out project activities during the entire 3-year performance period. Generally under cooperative agreements, the responsibility for the day-to-day conduct of the funded project will rest with the recipient in implementing the funded and approved proposal and budget and the award terms and conditions. The responsibility for oversight and redirection of the project, if necessary, rests with OVC.

I'll now transition to Application and Submission Information.

The Grants.gov deadline is April 20th, at 11:59 PM Eastern Time. And the JustGrants deadline is April 27th, at 8:59 PM Eastern Time. DOJ expects to award grants no later than September 30th. And all project start dates should be on or after October 1, October 1, 2023. New applicants for entities interested in applying should apply for a UEI, a unique entity identifier number in SAM.gov as soon as possible. There have been extensive delays with the entity validation service process in SAM. And so you should not wait until the last minute. Delays are also being experienced by entities that have changed their legal business name or physical address.

To meet the basic minimum requirements to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding, your application must have the following three elements. One, the Proposal Abstract; two, the Proposal Narrative that includes a Description of the Issue, Project Design and Implementation, Capabilities and Competencies, and Plan for Collecting Data; and third, a budget web-based form, and this includes the budget

details and a budget narrative. So remember, if you fail to submit any of these required documents, your application will not advance to peer review and be considered for funding.

The Proposal Abstract should be no more than 400 words and include a summary of the proposed project, including its purpose, primary activities, expected outcomes, the service area, intended beneficiaries, and subrecipients if you know who they are. This is--this is to be completed in the JustGrants web-based form. The abstract should be in a paragraph form without bullets or tables, written in the third person, and exclude personally identifiable information. These abstracts will be made publicly available on the OJP and usaspending.gov websites, if the project is awarded. There are examples of what a project abstract looks like. So you can refer to the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for some examples. And if you are requesting a priority consideration, please indicate that here in the abstract.

The Proposal Narrative must be double-spaced using a standard 12-point font. Have no less than one-inch margins. And not exceed 25 pages. The pages should be numbered. Tables, charts, and graphs included in the Proposal Narrative can be included and should be in a legible font smaller than 12-point--than a 12-point font. And just keep in mind that this will count toward the page limit. So just please adhere to these formatting requirements. If your proposal fails to comply with these requirements, OVC can consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decision.

We will talk about this in more detail, but the following sections are part of the Proposal Narrative and their merit review criteria. So the Description of the Issue is worth 15 percent. Project Design and Implementation is 30 percent. Capabilities and Competencies 25 percent. And plan for collecting data is 15 percent. And then the budget makes up the remaining--the remaining 15 percent.

So the Description of the Issue again is worth 15 percent. It is the first section under the Proposal Narrative. And in this section, you'll want to state whether your project is local, statewide, or regional in scope. You'll want to describe the proposed service area including the geographic location, demographic population, and if any tribal communities exist within that service area. State whether the proposed project is new or expanding or both. And then describe the significance and value of your proposed project. You'll want to include local and or state data to provide evidence that the need for the effort exists, as well as demonstrate the scope and size of the need. And then finally, you'll want to describe any gaps in SANE and SAFE coverage and training.

The Project Design and Implementation section again is 30 percent. And for this--for this section, your strategy should address the needs identified in the previous Description of the Issue section. So in this section, you'll want to include goals, objectives, and activities that align with the solicitation's goals and objectives. You'll want to describe the physical and emotional safety needs of victims and the applicant's commitment to addressing those needs. Identify any potential challenges that your--to the project's success and any plans to mitigate those challenges. And then you'll want

to describe your sustainability measures and how any SART/MDT collaboration will help with the project's success. If you are seeking priority consideration under 1A, there's guidance in the solicitation on how to address that in this section.

The Capabilities and Competencies section is 25 percent. For this section, I'll just summarize and say that applicants should describe its capabilities and competencies to accomplish the goals and objectives of their proposed project, such as describing the management structure of your program, how the program will be managed, and background information of personnel that will be responsible for managing and implementing the project. And you'll also want to describe your SANE hiring structure and or criteria. And if you are seeking priority consideration under 1B, it should be addressed in this section. And again the solicitation provides more guidance on what that looks like.

The plan for collecting data is worth 15 percent. When developing this section, you'll need to describe the process for measuring and reporting project performance. Identify who is going to be responsible for collecting data and performance measurement. Describe how the information will be used to guide and evaluate the impact of your project. And then describe the process to accurately report data. And this includes any data that's going to be reported by your proposed subrecipient. And just remember that applicants are not required to submit performance data with their application. Rather, this information is included as a notification that award recipients will be required to submit performance data as part of the award reporting requirements. And you can refer to the solicitation for a list of performance measure questions for this program.

The scope of this program is to establish or expand SANE programs. So the use of funds under this program should focus primarily on direct services. Funding cannot support research, defined as a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. Limited funds, however, may be used to support process evaluations or quality improvement efforts. And funding cannot support tuition reimbursement in lieu of salary for project staff.

The budget has a 15 percent merit criteria. All applicants will complete the budget worksheet and the budget narrative using the JustGrants web-based form. In the budget, you'll want to break out costs by year, reflecting 36 months total of project activity. The budget should be mathematically sound and aligned with the project design and information described in the Proposal Narrative.

If you are seeking priority consideration under priority 1B, which is based on the identification of at least one proposed subrecipient of the culturally specific organization, the proposed funding for the subrecipient in the budget must be a minimum of 40 percent of award funding. This is an increase from the previous year, which I believe was 30 percent. So that--I just want to note that or highlight that.

The OJP Grant Application Resource Guide provides further details on how to prepare and submit your budget. And if you have any questions pertaining to examples of

allowable or unallowable costs, you can find that in the DOJ Grants Financial Guide. And a link will be provided toward the end of the presentation for the DOJ Grants Financial Guide.

Just like your objectives need to be smart, so does your budget. Your budget also needs to be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. So when creating your budget, be specific when listing all your subcategories, make sure your costs are measurable under the computation column of the budget. And then with regard to attainable to ensure that your budget items are achievable, your budget needs to make sense. If your--if you put your timeline next to your budget and are sure that each item is accounted for, then your budget should be relevant as well. This is a 3-year project, so your budget must be broken down year by year.

The application checklist at the end of each solicitation will list other documents to include. Use the checklist in your review prior to submitting your application to ensure that you have attached all the required documents. There are other sources to aid in developing your application, which includes the DOJ Application Submission Checklist, the JustGrants Quick Reference about Application Attachments. And there is a larger Application Submission Job Aid that covers potential attachments that you may be asked to provide as part of your application.

Items to remember when you're developing your program narrative and budget. You want to use simple and concise language. Information should be presentable and well-organized. When adding tables, graphs, photos, or other images, just be mindful of the formatting requirements. Remember that tables and graphs do count toward the page limit. And you'll want to be realistic about how you will achieve your goals. And get feedback from those who actually run the project.

Some common reasons cited for a weak application are that the proposal was too ambition--too ambitious or lacked focus, lack of appropriate expertise to carry out the proposed project, no evidence of feasibility. Remember that applications are reviewed by external peer reviewers, so do not assume that they are familiar with your project. The application had poor writing, typos, and a lot of grammatical errors. And there were no citations or source of data. So just be mindful of that when developing your application.

So now we're going to go over the application process.

This part of the grant's lifecycle involves completing and submitting web-based forms and any requested attachments based on the requirements in the solicitation. The process of submitting an application in JustGrants begins in Grants.gov. Once you've located a funding opportunity with DOJ, you will submit an SF-424 form, which is the application for federal assistance; and a SF-LLL form, which is the disclosure of lobbying activities. These two forms must be submitted in Grants.gov. And this is the extent of the application requirements in Grants.gov. Aside from the SF-424 and the SF-LLL, most of your application is entered in JustGrants. Your entity information is

populated based upon entries made in SAM.gov and used in Grants.gov. You will have two application submission deadlines, one for Grants.gov and one for JustGrants.

This solicitation has an application submission deadline in Grants.gov, which is April 20th. After this date, the solicitation is removed from Grants.gov and no one will be able to apply any longer. It is highly recommended that you submit at least 72 hours prior to the deadline to provide you with enough time to correct any errors and resubmit, if necessary. And it's okay to enter preliminary information in Grants.gov, if you haven't fully determined your budget or project scope. You'll be able to edit and update all your entries in JustGrants. Once the application has been submitted and validated in Grants.gov, it will be sent to JustGrants for completion. It may take several days for Grants.gov to complete validations and release it to JustGrants.

JustGrants has its own submission deadline that is after the Grants.gov deadline. And the JustGrants deadline for this solicitation is April 27th. So submitting early in both systems is strongly recommended. The JustGrants submission should include all items that are required in the solicitation. And it is final once it is just--once it is in JustGrants.

So these are important dates, which I just mentioned. Again, submit part one by April 20th. And submit part two, the full application in JustGrants by April 27th.

There are certain web-based forms that must be submitted directly into the system, your proposal abstract and solicitation. For those who are return users, you will need to submit your goals, objectives, deliverables, and timeline just like before. Make sure your budget information is included in the budget detail form. And lastly, your disclosure of duplication in cost items. If a section is required and presents you with web-based entries, that means you cannot upload a document. You must use the format required in the application.

After you've submitted your application and all applications have been reviewed by OVC, the entity will be notified, which all happens before September 30th. Please remember who your Entity Administrator and Authorized Representative are, for they will be notified when the deadline for applications will be changed. The system will also notify the Application Submitter, the Entity Administrator, and Authorized Representative when the application has been received in JustGrants from Grants.gov. And if you are awarded, the Entity Administrator will receive notification of that award. So, again, just please remember who your Entity Administrator is. If you have submitted your application, the status will be submitted. It will show as submitted. You may also see a banner that indicates that it is past due. Just know that this banner indicates that the submission deadline has passed and not that your application is past due.

So we'll explore different resources that are available to you and information on the different systems that you will touch in the applications process.

To learn about OVC's history and funding, to find products, and to register for upcoming events, you can visit the OVC website at ovc.ojp.gov.

A good starting point for applicants is the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), which serves as the primary reference manual to assist OJP, OVW, and COPS Office award recipients, in ensuring the effective day-to-day management of awards. It compiles a variety of laws, rules, and regulations that affect the financial and administrative management of your award should you be funded.

The [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) provides guidance to assist applicants in preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding. It addresses a variety of policies, statutes, and regulations that apply to many OJP program applicants and to grants, and cooperative agreements that are awarded in this fiscal year 2023.

Here, OJP grant applicants and grantees will find an overview of [performance measurement](#) activities. While you will not submit performance measures with your applications, this gives you an idea of the types of information that will be requested if you are awarded.

Moving on to system tools. Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the [System for Award Management](#). You must renew and validate your registration every 12 months. If you don't renew your SAM registration, it will expire. And an expired registration can delay or prevent you from submitting your application in Grants.gov and JustGrants. So just be aware that registration and renewal can take up to 10 business days to complete. So again, just be sure to get started early. Get that application process started early.

Once you are all set in SAM.gov, [Grants.gov](#) is your first stop in starting the application process. Under the applicant--under the applicants tab, you'll find training and information on applying and more information on the funding opportunity process. Again, just please be aware that OJP solicitations have two deadlines that must be met to be considered for funding. The first in Grants.gov, and then submitting your full application in JustGrants. And again, just keep in mind, once you submit in Grants.gov, keep an eye out for an email confirming that you have successfully submitted your application. If you do not successfully submit in Grants.gov, you will not be able to complete the application process in JustGrants, so just something to be aware of.

The next system that you will use is [JustGrants](#). And JustGrants is intended to be an end-to-end grant management system that applicants and grantees will access and use throughout the award period and throughout closeout. JustGrants offers training resources on the DOJ website. You can explore resources by topic. There are short step-by-step videos and quick reference guides that will walk you step-by-step through specific tasks. So, please check those resources out.

[JustGrants Office Hours on Application Mechanics](#) are live virtual sessions that discuss everything that you need to know to submit an application. They are conducted every Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:00 PM Eastern Time. And the next upcoming sessions are on March 15th, March 22nd, and March 29. So again, just remember to start your application in JustGrants as soon as possible to confirm you have access. And do your

best to submit your application well before the due date. Just know that OJP will only accept late applications if an applicant can demonstrate that there is a technical reason that they could not submit. So again, just ensure that you have plenty of time to address any technical issues that you may encounter.

In terms of personal help, the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center offers free education and training tools. You can check out these resources at www.ovcttac.gov.

And the [OJP Response Center](#) offers justice and drug-related information to support research, policy, and program development worldwide. You can subscribe and find funding opportunities, recent publications, online resources, and upcoming events on the website.

To assist potential applicants in developing strong proposals, OVC has hosted educational webinars for interested stakeholders to learn more about the program objectives and submission requirements. Each webinar had a question and--a Q&A session before the conclusion. So if you want this as a--an additional resource, you can review our previously held [webinars](#) for more information on how to apply. And then you can sign up for [news from OVC](#) to stay up to date on webinars as they are scheduled. And you can find [OVC's funding opportunities](#) and other opportunities on the [DOJ Program Plan](#). And the links for both have been added to the chat or will be added to the chat.

Here's a list of contact information that will be important to you as you prepare your applications. This information is in each solicitation. First is SAM.gov, and that is for assistance, registering, or renewing your registration.

Next is Grants.gov, which is available to provide technical assistance when submitting the SF-424 and the SF-LLL. They could be reached by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or by email to support@grants.gov.

Next is JustGrants--the JustGrants support desk, which is available to provide technical assistance on submitting the full application. They can be reached by phone at 833-872-5175 or email to JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov.

When contacting any of these system helpdesks, be sure to request a tracking number so you can document that you sought assistance with your issue. This will be very important in the event that you need to document that you had a technical issue that prevented you from submitting your application.

And then finally, the OJP Response Center is available to provide technical assistance and answer any questions about the programmatic requirements of this solicitation. They can be reached by phone at 1-800-851-3420 or email to grants@ncjrs.gov. If you are a current grantee, we appreciate your understanding that your grant manager and other OVC staff cannot answer questions about an open solicitation directly. For

purposes of fairness and transparency, if you reach out to us or any other OVC staff, we will refer you back to the OJP Response Center, so that your question can be documented and addressed officially. Keep in mind that the OJP Response Center is also who you need to contact within 24 hours of the Grants.gov or JustGrants solicitation deadlines, should you experience any technical issues that prevented your application submission. Keep in mind that you will need to be--you will need to document any technical issues, which is why starting your application early and maintaining any tracking numbers, if you have reported an issue, is critical.

You can go social with OVC and stay up to date with news and happenings on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#). The links are on the slide here. So I thank you for all your time and attention today. And we can now go to any questions that you may have.

DARYL FOX: Great. Thank you so much, Ivette. Just a reminder to everybody on today's webinar, the PowerPoint, transcript, and recording will be posted to the OVC website. So if you need to go back to anything discussed or presented today, you'll be able to do so and you'll receive an email noting when and where those will be posted. If you do have a question, go to the far bottom right three dots and enter it into the Q&A box. We're glad to queue those up and answer those with the last 11 or so minutes we have today.

"I know it may be difficult year to year, but is there any anticipation on how many applications you do receive for this each year?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: Can you repeat that, Daryl?

DARYL FOX: The number of potential applications that you do receive for this solicitation each year, is that something that's...

IVETTE ESTRADA: I can--I believe last year, I can't recall the number. The--I can't recall the number of applications we received in the previous year, but I know in--I'm mixing up my fiscal years here. Excuse me. Last fiscal year, I want to say we received about 50 applications. I don't know the exact number, but that can give you about an average of the number of applications that we receive. I would say about maybe 40 to 50 is what we've received, of what we have received in the last couple of years.

DARYL FOX: Great. Thank you. "Is a city-run family justice center considered a victims service provider?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: It can be if they are providing services. Yes. If they are providing victims services, yes. And most from what I understand do, so yes.

DARYL FOX: And then regarding the award amount, several questions, "confirming the \$500,000 is total for the lifetime of the grant, or is that per year?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: It's a good question. That is the total amount for the 3-year period. And just another note on that too. You are--you do not have to request the full amount. You can always request anything under that. But just \$500,000 is the max for the entire 3-year period. It is not per year.

DARYL FOX: "Are grant funds able to be used to pay for SAFE and SANE exams?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: If it is not already covered through the state or through other local sources, then there is a possibility that you can use grant funds to pay for that. But again, there are other resources that pay for that. So you'll just want to verify that you are first using those resources. For example, victim--the VOCA victim assistance programs, they sometimes, or most of them, will cover medical forensic exams. So, again, just verify that there are not any other resources that are paying for that first.

DARYL FOX: There are actually several questions about this. "If one has multiple culturally specific subrecipients, can the total of those authorities equal 40 percent and meet the 40 percent requirement? Or does it have to be one particular agency?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: That's a good question. My understanding is that it's a total. It's a total of 40 percent. So, if you propose multiple subgrantees, that total should be a minimum of 40 percent. So, for example, if you have two subrecipients and each are, I guess, getting 20 percent of the total award, then both would--so that total would equal 40 percent. So, my understanding is that it is for the total amount of subrecipients, and not per subrecipient, if that makes sense. Hopefully that makes sense.

DARYL FOX: "Is there a required or recommended FTE level for the project director in this instance?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: A required what level?

DARYL FOX: "Full-time employee level, as far as hour commitment or commitment for the project director for the program?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: I--no. They should just--I mean, if there is a project director, you just want to make sure that they have the expertise and the leadership capabilities to implement and manage the program. That's usually all that we require. And you'll have to demonstrate that in the Capabilities and competency--Competencies section.

DARYL FOX: "Does this opportunity allow for the hiring of nurses or nursing--nurse examiners?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes. Yes, absolutely. That is supporting the objective to increase the number of SANEs and SAFEs. So, yes.

DARYL FOX: "Does the project have to take place over 3 years or could it be proposed to end prior to that?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: You can submit a 3-year plan. However, if you find that you have completed your project goals and objectives and you have spent down your entire award, then you can close the award early. So you can finish earlier than the 3-year period. But you will have to demonstrate that you've successfully achieved your project goals and objectives.

DARYL FOX: "Are funds to be used for didactic and clinical training only?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: No. That is just an example of training that can be supported using these funds. So you can use funds to send staff for didactic training, clinical education. You can use funds to send them to the IFN [IAFN] conference or any other type of training opportunity to--and to support their professional development. So it's not just only didactic or clinical education.

DARYL FOX: "Are you able to expand, just briefly, on the peer review process and maybe how that works? Specifically is feedback received whether they are or not awarded funds?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yeah. So, depending on the number of applications that we receive, OVC will contract with external peer reviewers. They will review the applications and score them accordingly based off the merit criteria that I had talked about throughout the presentation. And depending on those results, OVC will then consider their funding recommendations. And for the awards that are selected for funding, they will--well, let me take that back. For awards that are funded and for awards--and for proposals that are not selected for funding, they will receive copies of the peer reviewer comments. So, regardless of whether you are funded or not, you will receive a copy of the peer reviewer comments. And those are usually sent out after the--all the award notifications have been made. So I would say maybe October, November, December is usually around the timeline of when you can anticipate copies of the peer reviewer comments.

DARYL FOX: "Are the objectives and deliverables required exactly as written? For example, are Telehealth services required?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: The objectives and deliverables should be addressed in your proposal. They do not have to be aligned exactly, but they should support. They should support the objective. They have to support the objective and deliverables. But it doesn't have to be exactly, if that makes any sense.

DARYL FOX: "And regarding that 40 percent requirement, again, is it only recommended if you're seeking priority consideration?"

IVETTE ESTRADA: Yes. It is only required if you are seeking priority consideration.

DARYL FOX: “And will there be renewal funds offered for this program, pending success? They’re paying for SANE services and advocate services, is there potential for continuation funding?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: There is potential, but again, it’s always based on the appropriations for that fiscal year. So it--it’s really depending on the amount of appropriations that OVC receives.

DARYL FOX: “Is--and this is a yearly offered solicitation, traditionally? Annual?”

IVETTE ESTRADA: It generally has been. We have been fortunate to receive appropriations to support this program since 2012. We started with a Telehealth project and from there, we have expanded the SAFE program. And we were able to do that because we received appropriations for each of those fiscal years. So I anticipate that this program will stay around for a while. That’s my hope. But again, it’s always based on the appropriations.

DARYL FOX: Great. Thank you so much. We’re at time today. But I do also want to remind, like I mentioned earlier, if you do have any additional questions once we conclude, the OJP Response Center is going to be your main stop shop for that, 800-851-3420 or grants@ncjrs.gov. And then they’ll get those answers out to you as you begin to get things ready to prepare your application.

So, on behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime and our panelist, we want to thank you for joining today’s webinar. This will end today’s presentation.