

DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar, FY 2024 Anti-Trafficking Housing Assistance Program hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Kristin Weschler, Victim Justice Program Specialist with OVC to begin the presentation. Kristin?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Thank you, Daryl. And let me just get my screen ready here for everybody. Good morning or afternoon, everyone, wherever you're joining from today. My name is Kristin Weschler and I am a Victim Justice Program Specialist in OVC's Human Trafficking Division. We're really pleased that you're joining us today to receive an overview of OVC's Fiscal Year 2024 Anti-Trafficking Housing Assistance Program, which I serve as the team lead for. Just in full transparency, I do have some colleagues of mine joining me as panelists, so if you do have questions, please, as Daryl said, put them in the Q&A using the three dots at the bottom of the screen and they will be monitoring the Q&A during the presentation, and we will hopefully have time for questions at the end.

So, today what we're going to go through is we'll walk through OVC's mission, the solicitation, including the opportunity focus, eligibility, and the required documents. Then we're going to talk about the application process and some resources that we have available to support you, then the application process in writing your application. And then of course we'll have some time to answer your questions at the end of the presentation. And if--it will be helpful to have the solicitation with you as we're going through the presentation and taking--sorry. I just need to adjust my screen. There we go. Taking notes in the solicitation that'll help you when submitting the application by the required deadline.

So, a little bit about our office. The Office for Victims of Crime is a part of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, what we fondly refer to as OJP. And we administer the Crime Victims Fund which is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted felon--federal offenders and not from tax dollars. OVC channels that money towards victim compensation and assistance throughout the United States, raises awareness about victims' issues, promotes compliance with victims' rights laws, and provides training and technical assistance and publications and products to victim assistance professionals. This funding supports formula programs to states, territories, and tribes, as well as many OVC discretionary grant programs for victims of crime.

Now this specific solicitation that we're going to be talking about today falls under OVC's Human Trafficking Division. Our division leads the nation in supporting victim-centered and trauma-informed programs, policies, and resources that promote justice, equal access, and empowerment for minors and adult victims, and survivors of human trafficking. Our office manages the largest amount of federal funding for human trafficking victim service awards across the federal government. Right now, OVC currently oversees 465 anti-trafficking awards that total over \$400 million. They range from direct services for trafficking survivors to multidisciplinary teams including law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as to statewide responses to children and youth trafficking, and of course training and technical assistance.

I'm delighted to show a little bit of our team here. This is the majority of our team, we just had one or two join in the last couple of weeks and one more joining in a couple of weeks. But under the leadership of Brecht Donoghue and Sara Gilmer, the Human Trafficking Division is a small but mighty team of passionate professionals dedicated to enhancing anti-trafficking stakeholders' capacity to identify, assist, and provide services to all victims of human trafficking.

We have several solicitations currently open and soon to be posted, so please be sure to check our funding opportunities page often and if you have a program that provides housing services to victims of human trafficking, you're in the right place. And, well what--if--excuse me, you'll want to apply under this solicitation. If you're wanting to provide a variety of more general services for survivors, so not just housing but maybe you want to provide case management, mental health, medical services, with a little bit of housing cost, then you'll want to apply under the Fiscal Year 2024 Services for Human Trafficking Solicitation which is currently open, and the Grants.gov deadline for that solicitation is April 8th, and the Grants--JustGrants application deadline is April 22nd. Now, if you want a--focus your award exclusively on housing assistance, then this is your solicitation.

And before we dig in, I want to make sure you mark your calendars with these dates. So the Grants.gov deadline for the housing solicitation is May 6th, 2024, at 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time, and the JustGrants deadline is May 20th, 2024, at 8:59 pm Eastern Standard Time. Awards are expected to be made by September 30th, 2024. Please note that these are 36-month awards and they will begin on October 1st, 2024.

So this is a competitive solicitation. This slide outlines the list of entities who are eligible to apply. You'll see it's quite inclusive, so for the purposes of this solicitation, state means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. So please reference this solicitation on page 15 for more information on eligible applicants.

OVC will consider applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award. However, only one entity may be the applicant. So I'll say that again. We will consider applications under which two or more entities can carry out the award but only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients or subgrantees. The applicant must be the entity that would have primary responsibility for carrying out the award, which includes administering the funding and managing the entire program, including reports submissions. Please see the Application Resource Guide for additional information on subawards.

OVC has two Purpose Areas under this solicitation. So you'll see here on the slide that Purpose Area 1 is entitled Developing Capacity to Serve Human Trafficking Victims. We anticipate making six awards under Purpose Area 1. You may ask for up to \$600,000 for the 36-month period and the performance start date would be October 1st, 2024. So

under this purpose area, we're really looking for programs that may be either a victim service provider that is new to providing housing or maybe you're a housing provider that is new to providing housing for specifically human trafficking survivors, or maybe you're brand new to federal awards, and this is your first opportunity and time you're applying for federal awards, then you would think of applying under Purpose Area 1.

For Purpose Area 2, it's entitled Enhancing Scope for Housing Services and Human Trafficking Victims. This is more for those who have demonstrated experience in providing housing for victims of human trafficking. And we anticipate making a total of eleven awards, you may ask for up to \$1.2 million across the full 36-month period and the start date would be October 1st, 2024.

Now, I will say, if you ask for the full maximum amount for either of these purpose areas, please make sure you demonstrate the need for that full amount. Now, OVC may in certain cases provide additional funding in future years to awards made under the solicitation through continuation awards. OJP will consider, among other factors, OJP's strategic priorities, a recipient's overall management of the award, and the award-funded work's progress when making continuation award decisions.

This solicitation and awards under the solicitation are subject to the availability of appropriated funds into any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law. In addition, nothing in the solicitation is intended to and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

So, the program purpose or description for the HT housing is to develop, expand, or strengthen funded organizations so they can provide housing and associated support services to victims of human trafficking. That being said, rapid rehousing is the primary focus of the solicitation. Rapid rehousing is a type of housing assistance in which supporting services in transitional housing are provided to assist victims in moving as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieving stability. Applicants may propose housing assistance related to emergency shelter for less than six months, which includes hotel or motel placements as a bridge to shelter or other housing. The second opportunity is to provide transitional housing for six to twenty-four months, which may include program-owned housing. And the third opportunity is short-term housing assistance for six to twenty-four months which may include rental and/or utility assistance through private landlords or property management companies.

Now, while emergency shelter and hotel/motel placements are an allowable cost, the majority of funds must be for housing assistance for six to twenty-four months. So the majority of your funding, whether that's the rental assistance, your staffing, has to be able to support housing for a minimum of six months, up to twenty-four months, with emergency cost as an allowable cost. We recognize that for some victims and in some housing markets, the short-term use of emergency shelter or crisis housing may be required to facilitate access to long-term sustainable housing. If the applicant proposes

a project involving emergency shelter or crisis housing, you must work with victims to identify longer-term housing as soon as it is safe and feasible for the victim while providing necessary case management and culturally-responsive support services. Please note, applications that focus primarily on emergency shelter or crisis housing are out of scope for the solicitation and may be excluded from peer review consideration.

So, I talked a little bit already about Purpose Area 1, Developing Capacity to Serve Human Trafficking Victims. This slide already kind of explains the three different areas where we would anticipate applicants potentially applying under Purpose Area 1. So again, if you have no experience with housing, you have no experience with human trafficking, or you have no experience in receiving direct funds from the federal government. A little bit more detail about Purpose Area 1, should you receive an award, is that during the first twelve months of the project period, programs will work with designated OVC human trafficking training and technical assistance providers to build your internal capacity to provide housing services for survivors of labor and sex trafficking, and implementing a federal award. So you'll be focused on developing your policies and procedures both fiscally and programmatically with the support of training and technical assistance providers. You also would be able to have the opportunity to start onboarding staff who have experience to provide services to human trafficking survivors and make sure that they get the necessary training before providing services. And then the last two years of the 36-month period will focus on service provision in housing assistance. Now, if you want--see what other services you can apply for under this solicitation, please see Appendix A of the solicitation that lists the types of services that OVC funds.

Now, for Purpose Area 2, again, this is for more experienced programs that have a demonstrated history of providing human trafficking victims with housing assistance and support services. Now--or you'll see here on the slide, if you do not have a demonstrated history, but maybe you've had a history of federal awards but you're new to providing the services, then we would require you to have a formal partnership with a victim service provider that does have demonstrated experience. So maybe you might be a general homelessness shelter or provider, but maybe you have experience handling HUD funding, but you have not provided services to individuals who have been victims of human trafficking. In that situation, you would be required to enter into a formal partnership with a victim service provider that has demonstrated experience in providing services to victims of human trafficking. In addition, for Purpose Area 2, for the--what we ask applicants under this purpose area to use OVC's funding to support an additional two types of services as listed under Appendix A. So again, look for Appendix A, you'll see the whole laundry list of services that we support, and those services can be provided either directly by the applicant or through subrecipients. Excuse me, just getting a sip of water.

All right. For a Purpose Area 2, these grantees will be expected to have or be developing partnerships to enable survivors to access a variety of housing options in their community and to expand collaborative partnerships among federal, state, local, and tribal housing providers, and system and community-based service providers during

the award period to identify safe, affordable housing options and remove barriers for victims of human trafficking and obtaining housing. So you'll see there's a little bit more of an expectation of Purpose Area 2 grantees, given the experience that we expect to see in your applications.

So the goal of the program overall is to support organizations with the capacity to implement collaborative, coordinated, and comprehensive housing models in providing trafficking survivors with safe, stable housing and appropriate trauma-informed, victim-centered, and culturally responsive services. Organizations are to engage with appropriate local partners to address the needs of human trafficking [victims] leading to increased autonomy, self-sufficiency, safety, and wellbeing. OVC encourages applicants to propose and implement intentional and sustainable engagement from individuals with lived experience and/or members of impacted communities to enhance their trafficking program--anti-trafficking program, excuse me. In addition to encouraging use of a shared decision-making model, OVC promotes the use of evidence-based and evidence-informed practices when working with children and youth victims of crime.

In the solicitation here on pages 12 and 13, you'll see the whole list of objectives under the solicitation, and they include delivering and expanding housing interventions and related supportive services. I'm not going to read actually all of them in detail, you can read the solicitation in full, but you'll see there's a--an intentional focus about collaboration and training. So for instance, items two and five talk about collaborating both locally with local stakeholders as well as federal, state and local entities to be able to identify needs of victims of human trafficking, as well as barriers they may be experiencing in trying to obtain housing. To meet objectives two and five specifically, applicants are encouraged to use federal funds to create or support a housing navigator position to build collaborative partnerships to identify housing options and remove barriers for victims of human trafficking and obtaining housing. For more details about the housing navigator position, please see page 9 of the solicitation. But please note that is an encouragement saying that is an allowable cost. It is not required that you hire a housing navigator, but there is information on page 9 to explain why we are encouraging that position.

So there are a couple of priority considerations under the solicitation. [For priority consideration 1A] To receive that consideration, the applicant must describe how the proposed project will address identified inequities and contribute to greater access to services and opportunities for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, adversely affected by inequity and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization. Project activities under this consideration may include, but are not limited to the following: improving victim services, justice responses, prevention initiatives, reentry services, and other parts of an organization's or community's efforts to advance public safety.

For priority consideration 1B, applicants that demonstrate their capabilities and competencies for implementing their proposed project are enhanced because they, or at least one proposed recipient that will receive at least 40% of the requested award

funding as demonstrated in the budget web-based form are a population-specific organization that serves communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, adversely affected by inequality, and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization.

If you intend to apply for one of these priority consideration areas, please be sure to note in your application abstract what priority consideration you are applying under. Please note that addressing these priority areas is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration for one or more priority areas does not guarantee you will receive an award.

Project deliverables refer to outputs which are tangible, for example, a report or a website, or intangible, such as greater feeling of safety reported by the community that are documented and submitted within the scope of a project. The deliverable to be produced is services, measured quarterly by service hour or units delivered, the type of service being provided, and other key data points. Award recipients will be required to submit performance measure data in the Performance Measurement Tool or what we call the PMT and separately submit a semi-annual performance report in JustGrants. For further guidance on the post-award submission process will be provided if selected for an award.

So now we're going to talk a little bit broader about the application and the submission information. So new applicants or entities that are interested in applying should apply for a UEI, which is a Unique Entity Identifier number in SAM.gov as soon as possible. This can be a very lengthy process in the sense of the time it takes to get everything cleared. So I strongly encourage you to get that UEI registration started on SAM.gov as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.

Then before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management, again, SAM.gov. You must renew and validate your registration every twelve months. So even if you've had an award in the past, if you have not renewed your SAM.gov registration within the last twelve months, you need to make sure that that is active before submitting an application. If you do not renew your SAM registration, it will expire. And an expired registration can delay or prevent application submission in Grants.gov and JustGrants. Registration and renewal can take up to ten business days to complete. Although, in the past, sometimes it's taken weeks given the volume, so it just depends kind of on the circumstance at the time, so just be sure that you get started early. Delays are also being experienced by entities that have changed their legal business name or physical address. So if one of those two circumstances apply to you, please get started immediately. There have been extensive delays with the entity validation service process in SAM.gov and you should not wait until the last minute.

So again, just emphasizing the two deadlines here, Grants.gov deadline you must meet, which is May 6th. If you do not meet that deadline, you cannot apply. So make sure you meet that May 6th deadline. And then your final JustGrants deadline is May 20th.

To meet the basic minimum requirements to advance to peer review and receive consideration for funding, your application must have these following elements: the SF-424 and the SF-LLL, which is the lobbying disclosure form. The project abstract, the project--proposal narrative, and the web-based budget form, including budget details and the budget narrative. If you fail to submit any of these documents, your application will not be moved forward to peer review.

Now, the web-based budget form, all of your budget information will be entered directly into JustGrants, so it is a web-based form. You need to make sure that you break out costs by each year, reflecting the 36-month total project period. So you will see year one, year two, and year three, and you must complete the itemized cost for each year for the 36-month period. You will also complete the JustGrants web-based budget form. For information, see the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide and complete the application in JustGrants budget training. Funds awarded through this program are designed to support costs for key program activities. So please make sure that your budget reflects what is being reflected in your proposal narrative. Now, there is a JustGrants training available on application submission and completing the budget detail form. So there will be a link placed in the chat. Hopefully, you will be monitoring the chat for different links that are referenced and training opportunities.

So just wanting to spotlight some costs that are not allowable under the solicitation and they include holding beds. So you cannot hold a bed for someone in perpetuity forever, basically. You cannot use funds to provide stipends or incentives for individuals to participate in services. So, all services under this program are voluntary and not a condition for receiving housing assistance. You can also not use funds for primary prevention activities. You cannot use funds to create savings accounts for victims. Financial support for private residence, meaning you cannot help someone pay their mortgage or prevent homelessness from their own private residence. Funds are not allowed for construction or the purchase of property. You cannot use grant funds for drug or alcohol testing. And then finally, you cannot use funds to purchase or lease vehicles. Oh, and those are on page 24 of the solicitation for further reference.

All right. And then here are a list of attachments in addition to those core elements of the SF-424, your lobbying disclosure, your abstract, your proposal narrative, your budget form. If these apply, so if you're a tribal entity, you would want your tribal-authorizing resolution. If you've got partnerships that you're going to be having subrecipients providing services you'll want to make sure you have an MOU in place, make sure you provide the resumes of key personnel that are listed in the budget. An organizational chart of your entity, and a list of procurement contracts if that applies. Again, not everyone will be submitting any or even all of these attachments. So please read it in detail and figure out what applies to you based on your application. And the application checklist is on page 34 through 36, so make sure you check that before you submit your application.

So the application checklist that I just referenced will list other documents to include. You use the checklist in your review prior to submitting your application to ensure you have attached all the documents. Other resources to aid you in developing include the DOJ application submission checklist, the JustGrants quick reference guide about application attachments, and then there is a larger application submission job aid covering potential attachments that you may be asked to provide. So Daryl has provided a number of those links in the chat that you can reference as you develop your application.

The process of submitting an application in JustGrants begins in Grants.gov--or sorry, Grants.gov as I had noted earlier. So you need to start, again, step one is your SAM.--or yeah, SAM.gov registration. Once you have your UEI, then you can go to Grants.gov to start your application process. Once you have located the funding opportunity for DOJ, you'll want to submit your SF-424 and your SF-LLL, your lobbying disclosure, in Grants.gov. Those are the two forms you submit in Grants.gov. This is the extent of the application requirements for Grants.gov in order for you to be considered. For the deadline, we suggest that you try to submit at least 72 hours prior to the deadline to provide you with enough time to correct any errors and resubmit if necessary. It's okay to enter preliminary information in Grants.gov if you haven't fully determined your budget or project scope. You will be able to edit and update all your entries in JustGrants before submitting your final application.

So 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. So just be patient as that process works itself through. So then the rest of your application will be entered in JustGrants. Your entity information will be pre-populated based on entries made in SAM.gov and used in Grants.gov. And JustGrants streamlines the process by allowing the ability to use a web-based budget detailed worksheet. So streamlined validation of your budgets allows the process of clearing new budgets much faster.

The JustGrants submission should include all items that are required in the solicitation and is final. Your organization specifically--or sorry, your organization, specifically your assigned entity administrator, can control users and award assignments and does not require intervention from DOJ to make updates to those assignments. The entity administrator defaults to your organization's EBiz point of contact designated on SAM.gov, but that person can reassign the responsibilities to another user as needed. Please review the entity management training in JustGrants, and the link is provided there by Daryl. Thank you.

So finally, some different resources that will be available to you and information on different systems that you'll touch on in your application process. So to learn about OVC's history and funding, you can find products and register for upcoming events, please visit OVC's website. [<https://ovc.ojp.gov>] It has a wealth of information and resources, whether you have an award with us or not. Then the Office of Justice Programs Grant Application Resource Guide provides guidance to assist OJP grantees

on preparing and submitting applications for OJP funding.

[\[https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide\]](https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide) It addresses a variety of policies, statutes, and regulations that apply to many, or in some cases all OJP program applicants, or to grants and cooperative agreements awarded in Fiscal Year 2024. In addition, to help you prepare for applications, you might want to review recordings of the four-part pre-application webinar series that OVC did in 2022.

[\[https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/funding-webinars#planning-your-ovc-application-webinar-series\]](https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/funding-webinars#planning-your-ovc-application-webinar-series) Some OJP programs may have program solicitations that expressly modify a provision of this guide. In such cases, the applicant is to follow the guidelines in the solicitation as to any such expressly modified provision.

So now moving on to systems, again, can't reiterate enough the importance of SAM.gov. So before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management or SAM. As I mentioned earlier, this is a vital step as registration and renewal can take up to ten business days to complete, so please be sure to get started early.

So once you're set up in SAM.gov, your next step is Grants.gov, which is your first step of starting your application. [\[https://www.grants.gov\]](https://www.grants.gov) Under the applicants tab, you'll find training and information on applying the Grants.gov system and the funding opportunity process. Please be aware that all OJP solicitations have two deadlines that must be met. Again, remember there's the Grants.gov deadline and then there's the JustGrants deadline. Once you submit to Grants.gov, please keep an eye out for an email confirming you have successfully submitted. If you do not successfully submit in Grants.gov, you will not be able to complete your JustGrants application.

So the next system you'll be using is JustGrants, and it's intended to be an end-to-end grants management system that applicants and grantees will access and use throughout the grant cycle, from application through award and closeout.

[\[https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov\]](https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov) Now, JustGrants offers training resources on the DOJ website. So there's lots of different weekly training opportunities and webinars. The JustGrants team hosts four weekly sessions. They include the post-award management, entity management, application mechanics, and award acceptance. So this is a great website to add to your favorites because you can get assistance both with your application, and then post-award if an award is issued with accepting your award, managing your award in the system, submitting reports, et cetera. So please make note of this website.

So, these are some specific office hours that JustGrants offers.

[\[https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-virtual-sessions\]](https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-virtual-sessions) Every Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:00 is the application mechanics webinar. These are live virtual sessions that discuss everything you need to know about submitting an application. So the next sessions are listed here, so in fact, the next one's next week, April 10th. So there's three more coming, April 10th, April 17th, April 24th. The link is there provided in the chat, so you can go ahead and get yourself registered for those. And again, I would encourage

you to bookmark this page and check back regularly for session dates and registration links as they get updated.

Now, the DOJ Financial Guide is a great starting point for applicants because it serves as the primary reference manual to assist OJP, OVW, and COPS offices' award recipients in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities, in safeguarding grant funds, and ensuring that funds are used for the purposes of which they're awarded.

[\[https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm\]](https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm) So it compiles a variety of laws, rules, regulations that affect the financial administrative management of your award.

References to the underlying laws and regulations have been provided in the guide as much as possible. So this guide is one of the most frequently used ones, both as federal staff and that we resource for our grantees. So please use this as a starting point for all recipients and subrecipients if you should be selected for an award to ensure that the effective day-to-day management of awards is--what's the word I'm looking for? Abides with the conditions of the award. The top ten topics of the guide are listed here and include things such as financial management systems, allowable costs, unallowable costs, federal financial reports among others. So great resource, and then it's available online. Some people like the paper copy, I understand that, but electronic copy, you can easily do a search. It's a great resource.

So, here's some contact information if you encounter struggles in submitting your application. Please be sure, again, though that you start your application in JustGrants as soon as possible to confirm that you have access. And do your best to submit your application well before the due date. OJP will only accept late applications if an applicant can demonstrate that there is a technical reason they could not submit. So you'll want to ensure that you have plenty of time to address any technical issues you may encounter. So if you do encounter technical difficulties, JustGrants helpdesk can be reached via phone at 833-872-5175 or email JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov. Now, when contacting any of the system helpdesks, please be sure to request a tracking number so you can document that you sought assistance with your issue. This will be critical in the event that you need to document that you have a technical issue that prevented you from submitting your application.

So in addition, there is the OJP Response Center that is available to provide technical assistance and answer questions about programmatic requirements of the solicitation. They can be reached by phone at 800-851-3420, or email grants@ncjrs.gov. If you're a current grantee, we appreciate your understanding that your Grant Manager and other OVC staff cannot answer questions about an open solicitation directly. So for purposes of fairness and transparency, if you reach out to us, we'll have to refer you back to the OJP Response Center so that your question can be documented and addressed officially. And finally, please 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 difficulties that prevent you from application submission. Keep in mind you will need to be able to document any technical issues, which is why starting your application early and maintaining any tracking numbers, if you have reported them, is critical.

And finally, you can go social with our office, OVC, and stay up to date with our news through different social platforms, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

And I think with that, I have not even looked at the Q&A or chat I've seen popping up. I'm hoping most of those are Daryl questions, I mean Daryl posting links. But I know one of my colleagues, Darian, is going to help me facilitate Q&A. We have about, well, fifteen minutes. So we'll do our best to get through what we can. If by chance we cannot get to your question, please submit it to the OJP Response Center, and then you'll make sure you'll definitely get a response. But at this time, I will open it up to Darian to give me some questions.

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Yeah. Thanks, Kristin. And a huge thank you to Natalia and Cindy who have been very diligent with answers in the chat as well. So I'll just run through the list of questions that I've had. Will there be eligibility requirements for transitional or permanent housing similar to HUD?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: HUD has very specific requirements. We do not have--under our solicitation, we do not have housing checks. We don't have a certain set of criteria that they have to meet. Our most important, I guess perspective, is that it is a survivor-centered voice and choice about where they live and that it is safe and sustainable for them. So we want to make sure that they feel safe in their--where they're residing, more than anything else. So there is no checklist.

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Got it. So it wouldn't have--just to clarify, it wouldn't have similar requirements to HUD's Emergency Solutions Grants Program, correct?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: I--yeah. I would--I'm not--I know of some of the HUD. I would say look at the solicitation. We don't have any parameters outside of, like, being survivor-centered, voluntary services, that kind of thing. So if you stick with what's in the solicitation, you're good to go. Do not--you do not have to think about any HUD programs, whether it's ESG, CoC, those are their requirements. So make sure you pay very special attention just to what's in our solicitation. If you have very specific questions, send them to the OJP Response Center, but don't think you have to meet HUD requirements. This is a total separate guidance we go under, for instance, the Department of Justice Financial Guide, which HUD does not. So set any kind of thoughts about HUD funding aside as you're applying for this.

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Thanks, Kristin. And just a heads-up for folks, if you wouldn't mind just putting your questions in the Q&A box and not chat, that would be immensely helpful. So is an organization eligible if it meets victims where they are with multiple housing options? So some which may require the victim to take no action, like for example, committing to sobriety, but some which do require certain action to be eligible?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: So what we ask our grantees to do is, yes, in a sense, provide the range, to be open-ended, and for the path to housing and what services they want to engage in to be survivor-centered. So, you're presenting a myriad of housing options, a myriad of different housing--sorry, supportive services that they get to choose from. Some survivors may choose, they want structure, they want sobriety, which then comes with maybe some additional structure that someone who does not have a substance abuse problem does not need. So we want it to be individualized support versus a prescribed set of criteria.

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Great. An organization asked, "If we are applying for short-term housing assistance, can one of two required support services be shelter or housing services through an emergency shelter or placement if it's relevant to the main project?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Hmm. Can--I'm having trouble unpacking that. Can you say that again?

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Yeah. These questions are so specific. So if an organization is applying for short-term housing assistance, can one of the two required support services be shelter or housing services that's listed in the appendix through emergency shelter or placement, as long as it's relevant to the main project?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Okay. If I'm understanding the question correctly and correct--if not, go ahead and submit it to the OJP Response Center. So the whole focus of the solicitation is housing assistance. Again, mostly six to twenty-four months emergency shelter is an allowable cost. But if you're applying for Purpose Area 2, we ask that you do add, you know, additional services in addition to the housing. The--because the six to twenty-four-month is basically the foundation of this grant, I would not count that as one of the services, because that is this grant, in addition to other services. So, emergency shelter maybe, because again, that's continuation of housing options outside of that six to twenty-one--six to twenty-four-month period, but I'd want to see something other than just emergency shelter if you're applying under Purpose Area 2.

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Great. Now, can the proposed model include more than one type of housing service such as rapid rehousing services and transitional housing services?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Absolutely. Like, that makes my heart swell. Like I love when I see application--not that it--not that you have to do a myriad of housing options, but that's what our hope is. And, you know, sometimes it's that our grantees have it through other funding, like they might have HUD funding, or HHS or, you know, even private foundation funding to provide that continuum of housing, but that is what we would love to see. Yes.

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Great. Now for Purpose Area 1 grantees, will OVC provide any guidance or assistance with, like, hiring new staff members? Like what will OVC provide to our Purpose Area 1 grantees?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: So for Purpose Area 1 grantees, this is--this is the second year we're doing it. So Fiscal Year 2023 is the first time we did Purpose Area 1. So in full disclosure, this is evolving as we enter into the space. But generally what's offered is we connect Purpose Area 1 grantees with at least this year, two foundational TTA providers. One is our HT housing TTA provider that can provide support with the development of program policies and procedures, as well as, like, what your housing menu might look like, or maybe collaborations with other partners in your area. And then the other TTA provider is more financial that can provide you support with developing internal controls and your fiscal policies and procedures. As far as hiring, we really depend on you. I mean, you'll be listing your desired staff and your submitted budget for your application, but we trust your guidance and your, you know, your interview process in hiring those who have experience. We do though have a myriad of different training opportunities that are available free on the OVC human trafficking webpage. One of them is called Understanding Human Trafficking. It was developed a few years ago, provides a very, like, foundational level understanding of human trafficking. So there are some, like, training that--and technical assistance that we can make available to all of our grantees, but those two specific ones are specific to Purpose Area 1.

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Great. We have a question here about, "Can the budget be adjusted once it's reviewed by OJP?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: So once your application is submitted, it--at that time, it cannot be modified. Once it's submitted and it's under peer review and everything, it can't be modified. Now, if you get selected for an award and you get an award, then yes, at that point, in fact, we have grantees who modify their budgets, you know, two or three times during a 36-month period recognizing housing costs go up, you have a pandemic, staffing turnovers, so yes. If you are--get a--an award, you will have the opportunity to change your budget as long as it's justified.

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Great. Is an evaluation by a third party required for either purpose area under this program?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: I would say it's not required. It's not required in the solicitation. Although we always strongly encourage our grantees, and in fact we have some resources to help you in that process, whether it's, you know, program evaluation or learning survivor engagement and getting feedback from those that you're serving. So we strongly encourage it but it's not a requirement.

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Got it. Just scrolling through the chat here. Thank you for your patience. Can funds be used to lease space to expand access to survivors in an underserved community?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: I'm not really getting the--I mean, yes, you can use grant funds for rental assistance. The only requirement really for eligibility for individuals to be served under this program is that they meet the federal definition of human trafficking. That's it. Like, so when we talk about, like, rules or who's eligible, as long as they meet

the federal definition of human trafficking, they can be served. Then the parameters of how those funds get used will be based on the budget that gets submitted with the application.

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Got it. Is match required under this program?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Oh, my gosh. Excellent question. Thank you, whoever asked that question, because yes, big oversight, I should have included that in the slides. There is a 25% match. I think hopefully it was on one of the slides and I just forgot to mention it. So for both Purpose Area 1 and 2, there is a 25% match. Unfortunately, that is in statute. That is not--that's a requirement. We cannot waive that. So please keep that in mind when asking for whatever federal amount you want, because you'll need to match that at 25%.

DARIAN HANRAHAN: Got it. Now, we have a few more in the chat, but being cognizant of time, I think I would refer the folks who didn't have their questions to the OJP Response Center. And thank you, Daryl, for moving the slides. So for those more specific questions, I think I would refer them there. Unless you wanted to take more, Kristin.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Oh, please explain match. Okay. Because I meant--I just saw that pop up in the chat. I'm free to go a few more minutes, so I'll--I will address the match question just because it is critical part of your budget, but then others, yes. Please, if it didn't get answered, go to the OJP Response Center. And I'm sure Natalia and Cindy are still in the Q&A trying to answer as much as they can.

So the match requirement, you can do both with direct--it can be a cash match or an in-kind match. So a cash match is basically whereby you use other funding. So maybe you've got a state grant, federal, or--so not federal. You can't use federal funds as match. But maybe you have a state government grant or private foundation grant that is going to support services for individuals that are receiving housing. You can use that as a cash match. In-kind match would be volunteer hours or maybe a legal service provider who is--got a rate above the OJP rate. This is a very specific example but it's often used as match. Because it's an easy match, they--you know, attorneys charge a high fee. So the OJP rate is \$81.60--or \$81 an hour or \$650 a day. So you can use any amount above that hourly rate as match.

There are some great resources. I don't have time to go online to find them, but on the OVC Human Trafficking Capacity Building Center, if you Google that, so again, the human trafficking--oh, sorry. OVC Human Trafficking Capacity Building Center has resources about match and how that can be calculated. And there is directives also. I would encourage you to look at the solicitation, gives you an example of how to calculate match as well as in the DOJ Financial Guide, there's plenty of information about match. Oh, thank you, Daryl. I see the capacity building center in the chat. Hard to kind of stay on top of everything when things are popping up on your screen, so. With that, I will hand it back over to Daryl, but I want to thank everyone for their attention

today. I hope this was helpful. And again, if your question did not get answered, please contact the OJP Response Center.

DARYL FOX: Thank you, Kristin. And just as a reminder, the recording, PowerPoint, and transcript for today will be posted to the OVC website. So everybody that registered for today will get an email when that's available and how to access. So on behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime and our panelists, we want to thank you for joining today's webinar. This will end today's presentation.