



UNIFIED SOLUTIONS TRIBAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP, INC.

877.216.9914 | unified-solutions.org | contact@unified-solutions.org
[Facebook.com/UnifiedSolutions](https://www.facebook.com/UnifiedSolutions) | twitter.com/USTCDGI

FY2021 OVC Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Formula Grant Program Phase 1: Population Certification Webinar

February 10, 2021

TRANSCRIPT

[Slide 1]

Stan Pryor: Hello and welcome everyone. My name is Stanley Pryor, and I'm the Executive Director of Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group. To begin today's webinar, I would like to welcome Kyler Hopkins from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe to offer a traditional opening prayer song. Kyler.

[Slide 2]

Kyler Hopkins: Thank you, Mr. Pryor. Hello everyone, my name is Kyler Hopkins. I'm ten years old, and I'm a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. I'm going to open your meeting with a prayer song. Thank you and have a great day or great meeting.

(Singing)

Kyler Hopkins: Thank you.

[Slide 3]

Stan Pryor: Thank you, Kyler, for that beautiful song. And again, welcome to all of you. Today's call is a wonderful opportunity for us to share information, and Unified is honored to partner with the Office for Victims of Crime on today's Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Formula Grant Program Population Certification Webinar.

[Slide 4]

Stan Pryor: To begin, I have a few notifications about today's webinar. Please take a few moments to locate your Zoom webinar toolbar, which should be located at the bottom of your screen. To pose questions to the presenters, please use the Q&A feature on your toolbar. OVC Jessica Andrew is



standing by to provide text responses to your questions throughout today's webinar. Unified will host an additional live Q&A session at the end of the presentation.

Stan Pryor: If you encounter technical difficulties, you know, sometimes things get crazy on these calls, please just use the telephone your phone your cell smartphone and use the phone number that was provided in your registration so that you can hear the call.

Stan Pryor: A recording of today's webinar will be provided to all attendees in a follow-up email from Unified within 24 hours. Live captioning is available on today's webinar for those who need it or would like to use it. Just select the closed captioning/live transcript icon at the bottom of your screen. At the conclusion of the webinar, you will have the opportunity to complete an evaluation to provide feedback on today's information.

[Slide 5]

Stan Pryor: It's my honor to introduce Katherine Darke Schmitt, Director of the Tribal Division for the Office for Victims of Crime. Today, we will learn more information about the FY 2021 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Formula Grant opportunity, the Population Certification process, and we will provide examples of how TVSSA funds can be used. It's my pleasure to turn the floor over to you now, Katherine.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Thank you very much, Stan. I appreciate that introduction and good morning or good afternoon, everyone, depending on whether you are joining us from the East or the West. I'd like to start by thanking the team of people who have made this thing possible. First, Jessica Andrew, my colleague from the Office for Victims of Crime at the US Department of Justice. Also, Jesucita Hernandez, Anthony Payne, Rachel Lane, and Kristie Traver, all of whom are from our training and technical assistance partner, Unified Solutions, and all of whom are managed by Stanley Pryor. And I'm especially grateful to Kyler Hopkins for opening this session in a good way for us today. Anthony, I'm ready to go ahead.

[Slide 6]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: On your screen now is a quick list of the topics that we will go over this afternoon. We're going to spend most of our time talking about the Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Population Certification and how funds could be used if your Tribe decides to apply for the 2021 program. And we are, of course, eagerly anticipating your questions so that we can provide answers and make sure you know what you need to know in order to make a decision about whether your Tribe wishes to apply. Thanks, Anthony. Let's go on.

[Slide 7]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: The Office for Victims of Crime, which I'm going to abbreviate as OVC throughout this presentation, just to save us all five minutes, is part of the US Department of Justice, and our primary mission is to make sure that communities across the United States have the capacity to assist crime victims. Next slide, please.

[Slide 8]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: The Tribal division within OVC is a unit that is specifically dedicated to overseeing OVC Tribal grant programs. You'll see some information Kristie is posting about that in the Q&A section of the screen. Now we have listed here some examples of programs you may have heard of before. These are some of the programs that we have funded over the years. OVC's largest Tribal victim program is the one we're here to discuss today, and it's the Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside. Next slide, please.

[Slide 9]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, I'm going to speak to you today about what the Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside fund program can be used for, and I'm happy to say that in my 22 years of federal experience, this particular program has one of the broadest scopes and the most opportunity for grantees to design a program that is going to work for them to meet the needs of their communities and their families where they live. So, this is not a program that comes with a lot of restrictions or scriptures about what should or should not be done with the funds. In general, funds can be used for anything that is dedicated to serving crime victims who are part of your Tribal populations. We're going to talk a little bit later in the meeting about how you tell us what your Tribal population is.

[Slide 10]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Before we go on, I want to tell you a little bit about the history of the Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program. For those of you who may not be familiar with it, or maybe who haven't heard a history lesson on how this came to be before.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: An important part of OVC's mission overall is to administer funds through the crime victims' fund. These are funds that are primarily paid by federal offenders at penalties under conditions for federal crimes. Every year Congress authorizes OVC to expend a certain portion of the total balance of the crime victim funds to support grant programs for victim services, and OVC has been doing this since about 1984. Four years ago, just about four years ago, in 2018, Congress created a Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside in the Crime Victims Funds. And 2018 was the very first time this had happened, where Congress set aside 3% of the funds that were available to OVC under the Crime Victims Fund that year and specified that they be used for programs that would support and enhance Tribal victim services. Congress has reissued a Tribal Set-Aside every year since then, and so we are now in the fiscal year 2021. We have a set aside of 5% of the funds available from the Crime Victim Fund, and that total is a little bit over 100 million dollars this year.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: At the very beginning of the Tribal Victim Set-Aside in 2018 and 2019, OVC operated this grant program much like other OVC grant programs. It was competitive, and Tribes submitted applications, and those applications were peer-reviewed, and funding decisions were made on the basis of essentially peer-reviewed decisions. But over the years, OVC has done many consultations with Tribal leadership and listening sessions, and we heard numerous times, that is, the Tribes preference is that these funds be administered in a different way. So that Tribes do not need to compete with each other in order to obtain Tribal victim services set aside funds and so in 2020 for the first time, OVC administered this program as a formula program, which means in essence that all eligible Tribes, all federally recognized Tribes who indicate that they wish to participate in the program, receive funding. There's no competitive process, and there's no peer review now. The way

that a federally recognized Tribe signals its intent to OVC that it intends to participate in the formula program is by submitting its population certification.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: That's the first phase of this program, and so that is what we are here to talk about today, there will be further references and resources to help Tribes prepare their project application. And we're not going to talk a lot about that today because we will have hours to do it later in the spring, but I thought it might be helpful to you to know what happens next after you submit your population certification.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: After you do that, OVC and our partner agency at the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, run a formula which is population based and which was developed in consultation with Tribes in 2019. At the end of the formula, we communicate with our intended applicants to let them know what their formula allocation was. At that point, the Tribal applicants prepare and submit a project application. Again, it's not a competitive process, but you have to wait for us to tell you what your formula allocation is before you can just decide on the breadth and scope of the victim services project that you intend to implement.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: In 2021 OVC is going to retain many of the features of that formula program that we debuted in 2020. It's still a two-phase process where we deal with population certification first. And then we run the formula, and then we let the Tribes know what their allocation is, and then there is a solicitation under which those Tribes are invited to submit their non-competitive applications.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: We did, after consulting with Tribal leadership in November of 2020, make a couple of changes that we sincerely hope will make this process less cumbersome for our Tribal stakeholders. The first change is that this year, you will have no less than 60 days when it comes to the point that you have to prepare the project application to submit to OVC. This will most likely be in the April-May time frame, with the deadline falling in June. But that this year will be a minimum of 60 days that you'll have to work on that.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: We are also extending from earlier years the length that your project can be. In 2020 we tried a project period of up to 60 months as you determine is necessary for your purposes. That worked well, and so we are extending that to this year. You may submit an application during the application stage for a project that takes up to 60 months.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: And finally, the largest change for those of you who have some experience submitting applications to federal grant makers, is that we are no longer requiring the formal written project narrative. This used to be a 15-to-20-page document, it was written in a long narrative format and OVC would use that to review project plans to ensure they comply with allowable and unallowable costs. This year, however, you are not required to submit a project narrative if you do not wish to do so. We are providing some other options, which will be included in the solicitation document when it is released in April. They are a checklist where instead of writing narrative prose you go down the checklist and fill in information about the project and the population you're serving. Or, if you would prefer, you also have the option of creating a project description through an interview with OVC staff. So that would be people like myself or my colleague Jessica, who is on the call, and our other colleagues in the Tribal division. We would spend 30 minutes or an hour, depending on what you need, on the phone with you going down the checklist. You would tell us how you want the checklist

completed, and we would turn that checklist document into the project narrative for your project. We hope that these changes make this a less cumbersome program for you to participate in.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Alright, so let's focus on the slides in front of us again. We're here today to talk about the left blue box there the population certification, which is phase one of this two-phase program. This population certification is submitted by email to OVC and it is due on March 5, 2021. Next slide please.

[Slide 11]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: You have in front of you now a list of links where you can find the documents that you need to prepare your population certification and Kristie is also posting these in the chat so you can cut and paste those links right into your browsers or wherever else you are working on this. These pages include the population certification form itself and instructions for how to submit it, as well as some other resources, we hope, will be useful. Anthony you read my mind. Go right ahead, we are ready for the first polling question, if you could put that up, please.

[Slide 12]

(Polling Question)

Katherine Darke Schmitt: We are interested in having you respond to this question: "did you participate in the formula program in 2020".

Katherine Darke Schmitt: And we have about half of respondents reporting in so I'm going to leave it open for maybe another 30 seconds.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Excellent this is very helpful to us Thank you so much, so what I am seeing here is that more of you participating today did not participate in the program last year. A little over a third of you did, and some of you, maybe you weren't part of that, that part of your Tribe grant process so you're not sure. It doesn't matter, we hope that this webinar answers questions for both those experienced with this program and those who are coming in brand new. I'm going to stop sharing the polling results. Jesucita, I hope I did that correctly and Anthony, I am ready for the next slide.

[Slide 13]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: All right here are the eligibility requirements for this program. The program is open to federally recognized Tribes. Now, you will see, there are some other entities which are allowable under this program, and that is because a Tribe may choose, if it wishes, to have another entity apply on its behalf. So, I'm going to talk a little bit about the three kinds of applicants. That we have this is important, even at the population certification stage so.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: A federally recognized Tribe may apply individually, on its own behalf. You have some other options, a group of Tribes. A consortium of Tribes could apply as a group, because they intend to use the allocations for all of their members to pool their resources for a project

that maybe has some regional advantages or some economies of scale for them, based on geography or whatever other factors are important to you when you make your decisions.

So, consortia are groups of Tribes that federally recognized Tribes that decide to apply together and have one of their Member be the one who is responsible for dealing with the administrative end of the federal grant. Tribes also have a third option, and that is, they may choose a designee to apply for them, so if your Tribe had a partner who was perhaps a nonprofit organization. And the Tribe wanted that nonprofit partner to bear the responsibility of the administration of the grant and the Tribe have the responsibility of using the funding to serve its population that is also an option we call that a Tribal designee. When we get applications from Tribes applying on behalf of their own Tribal government, there is no Tribal resolution required.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: When we receive applications from either Tribal designees or consortia of Tribe applying together, we do require some evidence that the Tribal governments of each of the parties represented has consented to this relationship, either in the form of a sign Tribal resolution or perhaps by laws, sometimes in the case of some of the Alaska native corporations or however it is they do business that justifies them representing a Tribe.

Next Slide please

[Slide 14]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Every Tribe may submit one population certification. If there is a mix-up where we get an application from a Tribe applying on its own behalf but then we later see an application in which that same Tribe is included as in part of consortium or represented by a designee we're going to use the population certification submitted by the Tribe unless the Tribe tells us to do something different. So, this is only relevant for folks who think they may be part of consortiums or designee arrangements. Thank you, next slide please.

[Slide 15]

Jessica Andrew: Katie

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Yes, Jessica.

Jessica Andrew: In the chat we have a couple questions for eligibility if you don't mind us stopping for a moment.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: I don't at all, thank you very much.

Jessica Andrew: Okay, so we have a couple of questions, like I said, coming through the chat as well that came through the registration process. Katherine you touched on eligibility. Eligibility requirements for a Tribe that is part of a consortium. Could you provide additional details regarding when a Tribal resolution is needed in the application process when should that be submitted.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Absolutely. So, at the time that we run the formula, so this is during the month of March, we have gotten the population certifications in. We need proof that the consortium or the designee is in fact authorized to submit that population certification on behalf of the Tribe. So, if we see an application if we see a population certification come in that lists several Tribes as belonging

to a consortium or designee applying on behalf of a Tribe, we are going to follow up and ask where is the Tribal resolution or the by-law that shows us that this was the Tribes intentions now. These are details that we often find ourselves working out later in the spring, sometimes even as we get very close to the award process, because we know Tribal governments have a lot on their plates right now. And we do not want to assume that submitting grant application documentation is the number one priority so. If I see anything come in on a population certification, where I am concerned that we don't have adequate evidence we will follow up with you to ask when you think you could have that by so that we know we are in good stead when we run the formula numbers.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Thanks Jessica, could I have the next question, if you have another one for me.

Jessica Andrew: Absolutely, so along those lines of eligibility, we have a question that focuses on handling multiple OVC awards and the question is, if I already have a fiscal year 2020 Tribal Set-Aside, can I also apply this year to supplement activities under that 2020.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Thank you very much Jessica, the answer is yes, every federally recognized Tribe is eligible for Tribal victim services set aside funds every year. Regardless of whether they have an open award, regardless if that award currently has a balance in it, regardless if they have other OVC grant awards from other programs. The only thing you need to be aware of is that you need to be careful when you design your project, and especially when you build your project budget. To make sure that you are not duplicating costs across grants or across years to work with your start and end dates, to make sure they are accomplishing seamless sustained services if that's what you're trying to do by applying in 20 and 21. Increase the scope of the services that you're providing or maybe reach out to a new population that you have not been able to incorporate fully before. You have lots of options about how this is done just be careful to be thoughtful about it because we cannot pay twice for the same victim services.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Thanks Jessica, is there another one?

Jessica Andrew: No, I believe that is it. Thank you again for reiterating the eligibility restrictions and again for folks if you would like to ask additional questions, please enter them into the Q &A box, thank you.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Thanks Jessica for doing that moderation for us.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So as this is a formula program. I cannot tell you now what your award amount will be. Awards in 2020 ranged from \$417,000 to just under \$3 million, I believe. And this was a function of the amount of money that was in the Tribal set aside last year, and the number of Tribes and their populations who submitted population certifications. So, it's really this population certification process that we're talking about today that drives the award amount. On the other end, I will tell you in no year 2018, 2019, or 2020, did we run out of funds. Every year, every Tribe who asked to participate received their formula allocation. And it worked just fine. I will say that this year, Congress authorized Congress reduced the amount of money that OVC is authorized to spend from the crime victim fund. And because it's math, this has the impact of reducing the amount of money that is available under formula allocations. It is possible that this will mean that formula allocations are smaller in 2021 than they were in 2020. But we won't know that for sure until we have all the

population certifications in, and we can run the formula to let you know what your allocations were. This slide in front of us also emphasizes that the period of performance for this 2021 Award begins on January 1, 2022. I will note that it is possible to start your project after that date should you choose but that is the first allowable start date for 2021 award. And you may choose a project period of between 12 and 60 months, whatever suits you given the work that you need to do. Thanks Anthony, can we move ahead.

[Slide 16]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: All right, so now you are looking at screenshots of the actual population certification form. This is a web based fillable PDF that you complete, and then you email back to us so that we can work with the numbers. It is, as I have said, the population certification which determine what the formula award amount is for each applicant. Tribes who intend to participate in the 2021 formula programs must submit a population certification using this method by March 5. Because if you don't, then I have no way to include you in the math. So that's why the process is set up the way it is. You'll see here we are asking for fairly straightforward information. The next slides are going to go into a little more detail exactly what goes into each box. So, Anthony, can you advance us one slide please? Thank you.

[Slide 17]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: First, we need to know the legal name. It is helpful to us if this is the name that is in sam.gov. It just makes the actual transfer of funds process easier on the back end. Your full legal name hopefully err some resemblance to the Department of Interior's federally recognized Tribe list. But chances are you won't confuse us. We'll be able to figure it out. If we have any questions about who it is, we will contact you and ask what the correct way to refer to your Tribe is. Thank you. Next slide, please.

[Slide 18]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: We're gonna need you to tell us the date on which this document is being created and certified. Those of you who did participate in the 2020 formula program, you do not need to redo your population certification. If the one you provided last year is still adequate for your purposes, if the scope of population you plan to serve has not changed, you are welcome to just send us the old one, put the old one in an email to the email address. And we will work with it. You don't need to start fresh unless you want to. All right. Next slide please.

[Slide 19]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: This refers to the three applicant types that I described earlier, you need to tell us if you are a federally recognized Tribe applying on your own behalf or if you are a designee of a federally recognized Tribe applying on their behalf. Or if you are a consortium which is a group of federally recognized Tribes. And again, we ask that you provide us with documentation that allows us to be certain that you have authority to apply on behalf of another federally recognized Tribe if that is the case. At this time, if we have questions about what you submit, we will find you and we will work it out. Next slide please.

[Slide 20]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: The meat of the form is really when you walk us through what population it is you are certifying to and why you made that decision. So, we know there are various federal databases that purport to capture Tribal population. We know there are methodological reasons why those are not necessarily reliable sources for documenting the population of Tribes, you are welcome to use such a federal source if you wish to. But you don't need to, there are other bases on which you could decide what population you plan to serve. So, in this part of the forum, you're going to give us an example. If you were a Tribe applying on its own behalf for itself, you would only use the first row here, you would not need to fill in subsequent rows. But in that case, you would tell us a number in that center column on your slide. And in the far left column, you would tell us what that number represents. Is it enrolled Tribal members? Or is it the population that lives within your jurisdictional boundaries, if you are a Tribe with a reservation, or is it the population of a county service area or a zip code service area where your members live? Anytime anything that describes the community that you intend to serve, that gets described in a sentence in the box on the left, and we put the number in the center. Next slide, please.

[Slide 21]

And again, we defer to you in what number you choose to certify. In 2020 there were a couple of cases where we got certification forms or which there were clearly maybe typographical errors, there were zeros missing or zeros added. And if we have any questions about the number that you're certifying, we will call you and ask so that we understand how you've decided who you are serving with these grant funds. Thank you. Next slide, please.

[Slide 22]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, we've offered some just for your consideration of how you might determine the population to which you certify, but that is ultimately your decision. Next slide, please.

[Slide 23]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: The bottom part of the form is the certification part. This requires the name, title and contact information for the person who is certifying. This is what my Tribe wishes to certify as its Tribal population for the purposes of this program. And I have the authority to do so on behalf of the Tribe. Next slide, please.

[Slide 24]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, when you have completed that form, you're going to email it to this email address. I and my colleagues are on the other end of it, actual human beings, even though there's no first name, last name there. Well, we read all of them, we respond to questions that come in through that email address, we will provide additional assistance if you write to us and ask us that you need help. We have our partners here at Unified Solutions, who are also standing by to assist if you are an OVC grantee, working with Unified there are lots of ways to make sure that you have what you need to submit this certification by March 5. Next slide, please.

[Slide 25]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: In case you want additional assistance in preparing your form or submitting it we have lots of people with lots of expertise standing by to make sure this is seamless for you as possible. If you are an existing OVC grantee, then you know you have the care of either the Unified

Solutions team, who is behind this meeting or the National Criminal Justice Training Center at Fox Valley Technical College as your TA provider, so you can communicate with the one assigned to you. You can also communicate with your grant manager; you can also communicate with me by writing to that address since I'm the one who opens the mail there if you are a new applicant. And you're coming directly to me please use that address on the bottom, and I will do anything I can to assist you with the process. Next slide please.

[Slide 26]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Alright, I briefly in the beginning walked you through the steps of what happens. I'm just going to recap that here, as we prepare to transition these slides so. You are going to submit your Tribal certification by email, no later than March 5 and that signals your Tribe's intent to participate in the formula Program. After we receive those Tribal certifications, population certifications, we're going to spend a few weeks cleaning up the data, making sure we know what's what and we understand all the numbers and all the Tribes involved. And then we are going to run a formula to determine the allocation to each Tribe, and then I'm going to communicate back to you through that email address, with the dollar figure that is your bottom-line budget for 2021. And then I just about that time when I'm communicating to you your dollar figure, OVC is going to release the solicitation, which is open only to you, no one can apply, except through sending in population certification. So that you can begin working during that 60-day period on your project budget and your narrative however you choose to do that, using a checklist, using an interview, doing a traditional narrative style that works well for you and, again, this is a non-competitive program. Any federally recognized Tribe, regardless of their current grant status with OVC, who submits a population certification by March 5 is entitled to an allocation under this program. Next slide please.

[Slide 27]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: We happen to have a population of folks on this call who have not submitted applications for this program before, so I am very happy that the Unified Solutions team came up with some example of the kinds of projects that Tribes do with these funds, so you can see if this is something that would be useful in your community to have. We de-personalized this just for the privacy of the Tribes and the individuals involved, but here we go here's an example.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Tribe A uses their grant to pay the salary and associated costs of a full-time victim advocate who provides direct victim services and case management to support victims of crime. There's also a small portion of a project directors' salary, so he or she can oversee the implementation of the services and the strategic plan and there's also included in this budget an amount for emergency victim systems, such as when you have to provide housing or lodging or basic necessities for a victim on an emergency basis. Anthony can you show us the next one.

[Slide 28]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, here's a slightly different variation. This is also a common formula that we see in Tribal victim services set-aside projects. Tribe B used the grant to pay salary and costs for a full time licensed clinical social worker and provides crisis intervention and develops safety plans for clients and also full-time administrative support to manage the day-to-day operations of the crisis center. A key is also providing emergency assistance as necessary, in this case, including housing arrangements, relocation costs and childcare services to victims of crime and this Tribe is also using

grant funds to expand outreach and education efforts so the victims in the community know what help is available. Anthony can you throw the next one up. Thank you.

[Slide 29]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Tribe C used grant funds to expand an existing Tribal victim services program within their community. They are supporting salaries, benefits, travel, training, and supplies for staff who worked on this existing project. In this case, their specific costs are including a vehicle, furnishings and supplies, utilities and security system for their domestic services program office trailer and also emergency assistance for victims. Anthony can you take us forward.

[Slide 30]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Tribe D used their grant to expand services for victims of all kinds of crime and are using their grant funds to pay salary, benefits, travel, and supplies for a counselor and for a victim advocate whom they have staggered to work during different parts of the grant which you can do. You're going to budget on an annual basis, so if there are things you need in year one that you do not need in year two, or vice versa, that is all under your control. They're also going to be using funds to hire someone under a contract, who can lead a healing circle and they will also be supplying emergency victim needs as needed. Thanks Anthony let's move on.

[Slide 31]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: I think this is second to last. Tribe E used their TVSSA grant, yes, as a grant to do a community needs assessment and to create a strategic plan in order to decide what kinds of comprehensive victim services, the program would be best to assist all victims in the Community so. In example, three and four, we saw Tribes expanding existing services. In this particular example we're looking at a Tribe who maybe is new in the space, has not operated their own victim services before, and they are wading into this by doing a community needs assessment and some strategic planning to start. Anthony can you pull the last one for us.

[Slide 32]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: All right here's an example of a consortium. So, this is using the compiled grant allocations of all of the members of the consortium to fund a critical services program to make sure that regionally there is access to comprehensive and culturally competent direct services to all victims of crime. so, they're covering salary and they've also identified some gaps in the existing community response, and they are working on filling those gaps and they are also looking at the enhancement of Tribal codes related to serving victims.

[Slide 33]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Jessica, is this a good place for me to stop and check in with you to see if there are questions, I should address now. While the moderators are working on compiling the questions and ordering them for me, so that we can get through them I'll finish the ending slides in this deck. You've almost made it. We will be having a webinar in the April-May time frame. I'm sure, more than one, which like this one will be focused on the TVSSA program but that webinar is going to focus on the actual application materials so you will be supported in the preparation of your actual application. Next slide please.

[Slide 34]

Jessica Andrew: Uh Katie has, sorry, can you hear me now? I was on mute my apologies. So, we've had some questions that were coming in through the chat some about the start date and allowable costs, so I want to focus in about the start date for this award. At the beginning of the presentation, you mentioned that the start date was going to be January 1, 2022. If a Tribe wanted a different start date could they do that, and the question is, because their award is going to be ending and on April 16 could they start the award on April 16 versus January 1.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: A Tribe is welcome to pick a date that works better for them as a start date. It needs for our sanity and the way that our financial system operates and interacts with your bank, it needs to be the first day of the month. So, if a Tribe were interested in trying to carry over seamless overlap in that particular situation that you're describing Jessica, I would suggest they pick an April 1 or March 1, 2022 to start date. So that we can keep the bags straight.

Jessica Andrew: Great, thank you for that. I believe that answers the questions that we had about the start date. If you don't mind, can we talk a little bit about allowable costs.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Absolutely, we can I may be drawing on your expertise for this go ahead.

Jessica Andrew: Okay, so we have a couple of questions that have come in and one person had indicated, they really appreciate having the allowable cost chart that is available prior to the release of the solicitation. They're wondering if they can use grant funds to secure their physical space to serve victims, and the reason why they're asking, because it is a little bit unclear. In the allowable chart, if construction is allowable so, can you provide a little bit more detail about how applicants can go about securing physical space to serve victims of crime.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Yes, thank you for that Jessica. And you all should know that Jessica is the lovely, intelligent Jessica Andrew on the call with us now is the brain power behind that allowable and unallowable chart. It did not exist before she first created it about two years to 18 months ago. It has been updated for 2021 so you're going to see a new version of that chart format it very similarly to the 2020 it's not going to be jarring for you to see, we have made some changes.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Shifting where we can from unallowable to allowable just to make sure we are using the maximum flexibility possible for you in designing your programs, but in this particular question. Space could be obtained by renting, the grant funds could be used to rent space. Grant funds could be used for the purchase of modular building should you choose to do that at this time. Construction is unallowable with these awards and the allowable unallowable chart has been updated to try to clarify that the exact words are at this time, construction isn't allowable so. As you prepare your application in spring, please leave off construction costs. Should construction become an allowable expense later during the period of your award your grant manager will help you work through what the implications of that are.

Jessica Andrew: Thank you for that Katie. Yes, you're right and it's always a great recommendation to follow up with your OVC grant manager. And to piggyback off that construction question, applicants are wondering, are there any new unallowable or allowable costs examples included in this year's chart anything they should be aware of.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Jessica help me with this, I know this is a conversation you and I have together frequently. We were working on getting the chart ready to go to formatting. So, one thing I know was moved from unallowable to allowable is outdoor furnishing and recreational equipment necessary to provide victim services. In an outpatient or residential setting so, for example, domestic violence shelters, which need to put up playground equipment for resident children or need to put up smoking gazebo or furnish outdoor living spaces for the domestic violence victims who are staying there may use their grant funds to do that. Children's advocacy centers or victims service offices, where there are children coming out if they need to buy outdoor play equipment to make this space welcoming and safe and habitable for children, that is allowable.

We have also done the best we can, to clarify the food issue so. At the office of justice programs, which is OVC parent organization, it is not allowable to use grant funds for meetings, trainings, or conferences. That has to do with perceived lack of accountability by the grant making agencies, such as my own, that we cannot effectively be accountable for that kind of expense, and so it is categorically not allowed, however. It is allowable under this program to provide meals to victims to provide emergency groceries to victims and their families, and it is allowable to provide food in the context of a community healing event for victims. So, if your Tribe's practice is to use community gatherings where food is part of the hospitality and is expected and more as a focus of helping victims reintegrating, making connections with victims. However, you're doing it that kind of expense is allowable under this grant. Jessica are there other big categories of things that you think we shifted this year.

Jessica Andrew: No, I think you touched on all of them, for the most part. Thank you.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Our friends at Unified Solutions have made the link to that allowable unallowable chart which has been updated for 2021 available to you, and so, if you have, if you see something on there that you think is not clear or you want further explanation of write to us and we will do our best to sort it out for you.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: If you did write an application accidentally that included an unallowable expense it doesn't mean that you wouldn't get the grant or you wouldn't get the funds, it would just mean there will be a conversation with your grant manager post award about how to fix the budget to make sure that all your expenses are allocated for allowable things. No money would be taken away, you would just be asked to reallocate it. Okay Jessica anything else we should tackle now?

Jessica Andrew: We definitely have a couple more. A couple of the questions are kind of refocusing back on construction and clarification about remodeling and what's allowable and how that kind of looks. So, one of the question is from Stephanie Mills and she asked so modular buildings are they unallowable or are they considered construction?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So modular building and modular homes are available under this program. Let's tackle that one by itself, and then move on to the other shades of this question. The purchase of a modular building is allowable. In the past the attorneys at the Office for Victims of Crime, who get to make these decisions, have said that once you break ground you are doing construction and that is not allowable. In the past, and this is always negotiated on a case-by-case basis. So, if you want to purchase your modular building that is allowable with these funds. However, if you need to dig trenches or run cable or connect to a sewer system or a well, you may cross the line into construction

there, and you may need to use other funds not TVSSA grant funds for those purposes, at this moment, but if that changes, we will let you know.

Jessica Andrew: Great, thank you for that, and can you clarify the difference between remodeling and renovations. Is there a real difference with those words?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Right, I'm afraid, these are terms of art, and this means that your grant manager is going to have to help you think through changes in the language and make an allowable chart says something like minor renovations to improve living space are allowable and that could be electrical issues that could be solving plumbing problems, it could be changes that make your facility ADA compliant. But again, what our lawyers always tell us is once new ground is being broken like if you propose to build an addition that would be construction and therefore not allowable.

Jessica Andrew: Okay, so we have additional questions that came in for remodeling, but I believe that you kind of responded to that in saying that they are allowable as long as you're not breaking ground. Some other things that people are asking about are additional items that could be considered allowable. For instance, what about a therapy dog, would that be considered an allowable cost.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: If it is for the survivors, for the purpose of serving victims, it is allowable.

Jessica Andrew: Great sorry for the delay I'm just going through the notes, to make sure. We do have a question. On someone about needing clarification about healing events and what can be provided. Can you go over that one more time and how would applicants justify the purpose of those purchases.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Okay I'm going to do my best and I'm going to acknowledge this, this may in the end, be something we wind up having conversations about post award, it is a somewhat gray line but OVC has been strongly advocating to move the line towards allowability and we took a step this year and we're going to keep leaning on it, because we know that sharing hospitality and sharing food is in some ways, integral to community and culturally appropriate responses to victims so. If what you are having is called a meeting, a training, or a conference, please don't plan to provide food. There's nothing we can do for you, in the case where you give it one of those titles. But if you are having a potluck or you are having some other kind of a ceremony where it would be consistent with your cultural practices to have food there then your grant funds may be used to purchase food. And anytime the food is directly to support a victim who needs it that's allowable. If you have to buy her a meal on the spot, or you have to make sure he has groceries to take home to his family that is always allowable as long as you have included that in your budget that you intend to provide emergency assistance.

Jessica Andrew: Great so we have a couple of other questions, but I will hold off on them, for now, if you like, and we can kind of proceed with the webinar and circle back.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: That's ok. We're super close to the end and Kristie I see managing this, thank you very much for monitoring those hand raises to make sure everyone has a chance to have their question raised. And Anthony would you take me to the next slide please.

[Slide 35]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, this page on OVC website is dedicated to the kinds of resources that are dedicated to Tribal communities through our advocacy services programs. It might be an interesting place for you to browse if you are not familiar with OVC. There's also a lot of information about the Tribal victim services set aside there, including a framing paper that we used for the November 2020 consultation, which includes a list and an award amount for every single Tribe that received a 2020 award in case you're curious about looking at that. Next page please in Anthony.

[Slide 36]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, one more reminder, because this was my primary job today with to make sure when you walk away, you know the due date is March 5. And you know that they come in by email at that address. Anthony I you can go to the last one. I believe we have a poll coming up. Thank you very much, can you put up the polling questions for me.

[Slide 37]

(Polling Question)

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, we want to check in with you Jessica and Kristie are doing their best to weed through the chat and the Q&A and the hand raises to make sure everyone has a chance to ask questions here. This is not your last bite of the apple. You can write us email questions and we will work on getting back to you. We are also curious about what you might like to have more information on.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Excellent, so I am ready to end the poll. I'm going to hit my magic; there we go we are sharing poll results. So good. We are clearly in the sweet spot here.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Those of you who have questions about how you should decide what your population number is for your certification, please put them in the Q&A so that Jessica and I can do our best to make sure you leave here today with a firm idea for how you want to do that. Same thing if you're not sure about where to submit the population certification or are uncertain. Kristie can put that email information up in the chat again.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: I'm delighted to see that there are many questions about the general program itself, because that is exactly the topic we're going to be hitting in the next series of webinars. On how to prepare your project application. Additionally, in this deck a slide or two ago there was a link at the bottom, to the OVC Tribal set aside page and that page has information that we made available to previous years' applicants that might still be useful to you. At this stage in 2021 the solicitation for you is not there yet. But the solicitation is going to look very much like the 2020 solicitation, with the exception of the differences sending you to the beginning, primarily revolving around the project narrative. And we are delighted to give you additional opportunities to learn about funding from OVC. The Tribal victim services set aside is our largest Tribal program, but it is by no means the only one and Anthony can you go backwards, is that possible without messing you up to put that I think it's three slides ago that title of that slide was where to find additional funding opportunities.

[Slide 34]

There, he is perfect. Thank you. So, these are the ways that you find out how and when OVC is issuing solicitations. Well, the rest of these are going to be competitive, but that does not mean you are not eligible. we encourage Tribes to pursue federal funding to support their communities, the special thing about TVSSA is that it is not competitive.

[Slide 38]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Alright, we are now official Q&A time. So, Jessica I'm inviting you back in to see what else we can handle in the last few minutes.

Jessica Andrew: We do have some questions in the chat and I'm also incorporating some questions that we got during the registration process. One second as I now have my screen Okay, so you mentioned that all costs must be used to support victims of crime and the question, so we have a question about allowable costs. If justified, can we hire a lawyer to serve our victims and what type of services would be considered allowable what could this lawyer provide our victims.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: That is an excellent question. In the allowable unallowable chart does deal with this. So yes, absolutely if your victims need civil legal services you are welcome to address that need by providing attorney services. The Department of Justice does not permit grant funds to be used for criminal defense so know that going in. But all of the civil matters that can plague victims, they are all eligible expenses to be addressed by an attorney through these grant funds.

Jessica Andrew: Great Thank you, we have a couple of additional questions that are coming through the chat about construction and kind of breaking down those questions. I don't know if you want to hold off on that or maybe we can possibly hold a separate webinar that kind of addresses those questions a little bit more deeper.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Just a good idea to compile those and see if you and I can come up with some text that could go back as an FAQ response, just so everyone's hearing the same thing at the same time, there are so many nuances to construction questions that I want to be careful not to get ahead of myself.

Jessica Andrew: Absolutely, I think an email with those responses would be a great idea. And so, if we are not responding to your questions, right now, please note that we will and a follow up email and.

Jessica Andrew: And I'm also going to ask Kristie if there are any other questions that I'm missing that she can also ask you as well. Jesucita, are there any questions that I might be missing, that we should be asking right now.

Jesucita Hernandez: So, we did just have a few questions that we also want to share with Katherine that came in initially through registration and it seems to be a trend. So, Katherine some of the questions were again in regard to the population certification. The first is, if you could remind everyone of the final submission deadline.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Absolutely that deadline is March 5, Friday, March 5 at midnight in our Eastern time zone that will be the deadline for those.

Jesucita Hernandez: Perfect, and to follow up on this population certification were there any changes from last year to this year, so if a grantee had submitted and was awarded using the population certification do, they need to do a new one from scratch, or does the one from the previous year is that valid and can they submit that via email.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: That's an excellent question. There were minor tweaks to the form, there's some formatting changes, and then we put in the new year, but a Tribe who has a 2020 population certification who wishes to reuse it is welcome to do that if you could please just re-date and re-initial by your certifying official and email that to us, we will happily work with your 2020 forms, so that you don't have to start again.

Jesucita Hernandez: Perfect, thank you for that clarification, now we just have a few more. I know that, with so many attendees it is going too far, but if you continue to input your questions to the Q&A box, we will ensure that we are capturing everything. We will share this with OVC, and we will get those answers and follow up via email within 24 hours, just to share all those answers. So, Katherine we just have a few more for you, are there any restrictions on how many years in a row, a recipient may receive the Tribal victim service set aside?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: And that is an excellent question, and the answer is no, every federally recognized Tribe is eligible every year.

Jesucita Hernandez: Perfect. Is this a non-competitive funding award?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: It is. We heard you when the Tribes spoke and said the value of this program to them is in not competing amongst each other for funding, not competitive. Once you submit your population certification, you are in. There's no competing that happens at any further stage.

Jesucita Hernandez: Thank you, we have just a few more. The next question is, how can we find out the potential award amount in order to plan for future programming?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Yeah, this is the tricky thing and I'm going to make some suggestions and then the applicants are going to have to decide what works for them in terms of when they do their planning, so one thing you could do would be to go to that Tribal set aside page at the OVC website and look at the list of awards from last year. That will give you an idea of the ballpark of a high to low awarded amounts which again were all based on population. As I said, the total amount of the Tribal set aside is smaller this year, so it is possible that award sizes will decrease if we have the same number of applicants at the same population rates as we had last year. But unfortunately, the nature of the formula program is that is all unknowable it's opaque to me right now I don't. I don't know what I know until I see all the population certification numbers come in on March 5 and I work with my statistician partners to run the formula. By the end of March, we will know what the allocation for each Tribe is based on the number of Tribes who are going to participate, and we will email you that number back. And you will get that number, and you will get the solicitation to which you are going to submit your application and you'll have 60 days to work out the sort of size and scope of the project based on the formula amount that you receive.

Jesucita Hernandez: Perfect Thank you. And for our final question I think again it's just one step of clarification is the funding amount going to be determined on the census data.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Right, that's a good question because we want to make sure everyone understands that the formula amount is determined by the population certification forms that the Tribes submit so. If a Tribe does not submit a population certification form by March 5 it will not be eligible to participate in the program in 2021 it will have to wait until 2022. The number that the populations that the Tribe certifies to on the population certification form that it submits by March 5 is determined by the Tribe. If you feel like the census number is an accurate reflection of the population that you want to serve, by all means use it. And in that left box, where you describe how you arrived at your number, you'll just tell us it's census data. If you were not convinced that the census data is a good representation of the population that you want to serve, then please use some other basis that makes more sense to you and your Tribe's enrolled population. Residents on the reservation, if you happen to be a Tribe that has a reservation, residents in the geographic area you plan to serve however you define that by county, by zip code. Really what you want to think is where is the population, who is going to benefit from these services and what's the best way to count them and then use that number and give us an idea of where it came from, and no do not feel hemmed in by census data.

[Slide 39]

Jesucita Hernandez: Perfect Thank you. I think that is a great stopping point, but we really appreciate all that clarification.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Thank you, Jesucita, I really appreciate you and your team and everything you did to make this happen today, thank you.

Jesucita Hernandez: Thank you so much, we are now really, we just want to say thank you to Katherine. Thank you to OVC for all this helpful information. Thank you everyone really all of you who are on the line participating today. Unified just has a few important reminders for everyone so once again.

Jesucita Hernandez: If you have or require any technical assistance in completing the Tribal victim service set aside population certification please contact your training and technical assistance providers. they are the information is listed right here on the screen. We are going to be making ourselves available to help you in any way possible. Once again, an important note is these slides will also be sent out as part of the follow up email to the webinar. So, we will be capturing all your questions the responses, just to make sure that you have that information is helpful hints and guidelines to look at.

[Slide 40]

Jesucita Hernandez: Now we want to request that you take just a few moments to complete an evaluation survey for this webinar. Your responses help guide improvement to training and technical assistance services. So, there are two ways to access the evaluation survey first you can use your smartphone and to scan the QR code on your screen. Your smartphone will either automatically launch the evaluation web page, or it will prompt you to approve launching the page. The second method is, at the close of today's webinar, a web browser tab containing the evaluation survey will automatically open on your computer.

Jesucita Hernandez: And now really just to transition, once again, we would like to thank OVC for all that great information and feedback. And now it is my pleasure to once again introduce Kyler Hopkins who will offer a traditional closing song to wrap up today's webinar. Kyler.

[Slide 41]

(Singing)

Kyler Hopkins: Thank you.

Jesucita Hernandez: Thank you Kyler and thank you all for joining us today. We hope you have a wonderful day. Take care.

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