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

February 17, 2021

TRANSCRIPT

[Slide 1]

Stan Pryor: Hello, everyone. Welcome, my name is Stan Pryor, and I'm Executive Director of Unified Solutions. To begin today's webinar, I'd like to ask my friend Kyler Hopkins to open for us, Kyler.

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Kyler Hopkins: Thank you, Mr. Pryor. Hello everyone, my name is Kyler Hopkins. I'm 10 years old, and a member of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. Today I am going to sing a Lakota prayer song. Have a good meeting.

(Singing)

Kyler Hopkins: Thank you.

[Slide 3]

Stan Pryor: Thank you, Kyler. You know Kyler has become an important part of our Unified family, and we're so pleased he could join us again today. So, we're very honored to partner with the Office of Victims of Crime to host today's Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Formula Grant Program Population Certification Webinar. As always, you've been into these Zoom meetings a few times, so I've got to tell you just a few things to make it more participatory for you.

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Stan Pryor: So, if you look down at the bottom of your Zoom webinar, you will see the toolbar, and on that toolbar, there is a Q&A feature. So, we have today Jessica Andrew, OVC Program Manager, and she's going to be providing text responses throughout today's webinar to your questions. So, we are

also going to hold an additional Q&A session at the end of the presentation. Everybody's having a lot of difficulties with the weather around the country. If you have some difficulty getting in or you lose a connection, please just use your phone and dial-in using the registration confirmation email that you received when you registered. We will also be providing today's webinar to all of the attendees and a follow-up email from Unified, and you should receive that about 24 hours after the webinar. Finally, and most importantly, at the conclusion of the webinar, please fill out the evaluation survey to provide your feedback; that's really important for us.

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Stan Pryor: Again, it's my honor to have with us today Katherine Darke Schmitt. Katherine is the OVC Tribal Division Director, and she's going to get down and in and discuss the FY 2021 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Formula Grant opportunity, the Population Certification process, and to provide examples of how the set-aside funding can be used. It is my pleasure to turn the mic over to Katherine.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: And thank you so much for that. I appreciate the kind introduction, and I appreciate our partnership with Unified to make information sharing like this possible. Good afternoon or good morning to everyone who has joined us today. We are glad to have this space together to talk about the Population Certifications phase of Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program. And I need to start by thanking the team of people who made this webinar possible. My colleague Jessica Andrew, from the Office for Victims of Crime, and Jesucita Hernandez, Anthony Payne, Rachel Lane, Kristie Traver, and Tiffany Wittman, who work for Mr. Pryor at Unified. And we, of course, are especially grateful to Kyler Hopkins for opening our program today in a good way. Next slide, please, Tiffany.

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, we will cover today some very brief information about OVC and its mission, and we use the bulk of our time to talk specifically about the Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside and how Tribes are using that money. And also, what the first part of the application process is, which is the Population Certification. And as Stan mentioned, we are eager to get your questions. Jessica is going to help me field them if you text them into the Q&A box while I'm speaking. She'll interrupt me when I need to answer something immediately, and she will keep lists going have questions to be answered at the end. Thanks, Tiffany, can we have the next slide, please?

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: So here is the mission statement from the Office of Victim of Crime, which is part of the US Department of Justice. We are committed to supporting victims in all the communities where they live. We fund a lot of different kinds of grant programs that support communities and support crime victims in those communities. As Stan said, I am particularly fond of the Tribal programs. I am currently the head of the Tribal Division, and so the Tribal programs are near and dear to my heart, and that is what we are here to talk about today. Thanks, Tiffany, next slide.

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: As I mentioned, OVC funds a number of different kinds of programs for Tribal applicants in order to support the victim services that you are providing in your communities. By far, monetarily speaking, the largest one of those is the Tribal Services Victim Set-Aside Program that we're here to talk about today. That's the first one on the bulleted list, but you see, there are some others, other examples of great programs that OVC runs to support Tribal communities. Thank you, next slide.

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, I want to begin, before we talk about the specifics of how the Population Certification process works, by speaking at a very high level of what Tribes are using these funds for. And in the latter part of this presentation, I have some specific Narrative examples to talk you through what some of these projects look like at the Tribal community level. But globally speaking, Tribes are using these funds for needs assessment, strategic planning, program development, and implementation for victim services programs, expanding existing victim services programs, and a really broad scope of other kinds of activities that are intended to meet the needs of victims of crime. Next slide, please, Tiffany.

[Slide 10]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, my most important job today is to make sure that you know that the Population Certification part of this program opened a couple of weeks ago and closes March 5th. So, the big takeaway for all of us, from the time we spend together today, is that if your Tribe intends to participate in the Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program this year in 2021, OVC needs to have your Population Certification by March 5th, that's how you signal to us that you intend to participate. So, we're going to speak in depth line by line about what your Population Certifications will look like, what data you put in the cells, and how you submit it to us. But first, I want to talk to you a little bit about where this money comes from so you have an understanding of the origin of the program and how it runs.

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: The important part of OVC's mission is to administer grant award programs that are funded under the crime victims' fund. The crime victim fund is not taxpayer monies. The crime victims' fund comes from fees and fines that are paid by convicted federal offenders. Each year, the Congress of the United States authorizes OVC to use a portion of the funds that are in that account to support for victim services programs.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: In fiscal year 2018 Congress created for the very first time a Tribal Victim Services set-aside from the crime victim fund. The amount of that first Set-Aside was 3% of the total value of the fund, and that's about 133 million dollars in 2018. And in subsequent years, 2019 and 2020, Congress continued to authorize a Tribal Set-Aside. Now we're at 5 percent, which, in 2021, is

going to be just over 100 million dollars available through this program. In 2018 and 2019, for the first two years these funds were available, OVC operated this program as a competitive grant program. So, in a lot of ways, it looks like the other kinds of grant programs that OVC sponsors and runs. But during that time, we were consulting with Tribal leaders, and we were doing listening sessions with Tribal stakeholders, and we heard loud and clear that the strong preference of the field was that these funds be awarded on a non-competitive basis so that Tribes do not in fact have to compete with each other in order to participate in this program. And so, in 2020, for the first time, the Office for Victims of Crime, in consultation with Tribal leaders, used an administrative formula to administer the Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside funds.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, what that means. That means that starting last year, and continuing this year, this is a non-competitive program. All federally recognized Tribes are entitled to participate in the program and receive grant funds. And that does not, there's no limits with regards to whether you have other federal grants from OVC or from OVW or (unintelligible 00:48:32) or through a federal source. That's not a restriction. You're also not restricted if you participated in earlier years and you still have a balance, or if the end date with an earlier Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside project has not been funded yet. That is also okay. You are still entitled to participate in 2021, and we encourage you to do so if the funds are useful to you in providing goods and services.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, as I said, this is a formula program, so it has to have two steps so that we know what to do with the money, and the first step is the part that we're talking about today, it's the Population Certification. Tribes signal their intent to participate in the program by sending us a Population Certification, and that is the process that we are underway now, and which will end in March. And then the Office for Victims of Crime works with our partner, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, also at the Department of Justice, to use the formula to divide the available funds up among Tribes who wish to participate in a population-based formula. And then we notify the Tribes what their formula allocation was, and then Tribes submit application materials to OVC describing their program plans and their budget.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Last year, so in 2020, OVC made 133 awards, totaling about 112.6 million dollars in formula grants. And those funds are going to provide victim services in over 200 Tribes. We would be delighted to make that many awards or more again this year. In 2021, OVC proposes to retain many of the same features of formula programming in 2020. So, we will be using this formula again. This is not a competitive program. And we are beginning the process by soliciting from Tribes their Population Certification so that we know how to divide the money. Tribes will be able to self-determine their project periods, your Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside project can be from 12 to 60 months, six zero, and you tell us what project period makes sense to you based on your plans for the funds.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: The authorizing statutes for the Tribal Set-Aside program does not create statutory formulas. So, although OVC administers this program through a formula, because that was the desire of the Tribal leaders and stakeholders who participated in our consultation, it's not a statutory program. And therefore, it is governed by the part of the US code which governs other discretionary grant programs, which for those of you who are in the weeds on your federal grants is two CFR Part 200. So that means that the formula grant program does come with progress reporting requirements and financial reporting requirements that are similar to your other federal grants, but the big difference is that the funds are not competitive. In November of 2020, we had the honor of holding

a consultation with Tribal leaders, specifically about the 2021 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside program. And based on that consultation, we made some changes to the process for 2021. First of all, Tribes and designees will have 60 days, minimum, to produce their program application materials after they are notified of their formula allocation. Second, we are no longer requiring a formal written Narrative be submitted with the application. A Tribe can instead choose to either complete a checklist, which is part of the solicitation for completed interviews with OVC staff, like myself and Jessica, and we will complete the project narrative checklist for you. So, we hope that those changes will help relieve the administrative burden of applying for these funds. The slide you have on your screen includes links to where you find the documents.

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: And I believe we are going to do a polling question next. So Jesucita or Tiffany or whoever is putting that up. We are ready. We are interested in knowing among our audience here if you participated in the formula grant program last year. Yes, No, or not sure, maybe this wasn't part of your job last year.

(Polling question)

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Alright, I'm ready to open the voting. Jesucita, I'm not seeing a tally this time, so I don't, oh there we go. Thank you. So, what I'm seeing in these polling results is that about half of the participating in this webinar did not participate in the Tribal Victim Services Formula Program last year, which from my perspective is excellent news because that means I'm speaking to a new audience to help you understand what is required, and how you're trying to go about making this easier if you so choose. Thank you. Can we move on to the next slide please?

[Slide 13]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Let us speak briefly again about eligibility for this program, which is very straightforward. All federally recognized Tribes are eligible to participate, and you are eligible regardless of whether you have ever participated before, regardless of whether you still have funds leftover from last year or a previous year. You are still entitled to the funds should you need them for 2021. I want to point out that while participation in the Formula Program is limited to federally recognized Tribes, a Tribe may, if it chooses, delegate someone else to apply for the funds for them and to handle the administrative management of the funds.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: We know that administering a federal grant required a level of effort and some record-keeping that may not fit comfortably in your Tribal government's staffing plans. So, you have the option, if it works better for you, to enable another organization on a nonprofit of some kind, perhaps to have to apply on your behalf. And then, they will become the awardee; they will send the funds and direct them. It has to be described in the project Narrative or the project checklist. But that organization will be responsible for reporting requirements and the accounting requirements and the special conditions, and everything that is entailed in accepting a federal award, a percentage of our

formula for grants if you choose that option. If it works better for them not to singularly manage their awards themselves, and that is a Tribe could apply as part of a consortium. A consortium is a group of federally recognized Tribes who have gotten together and decided that one of them will take on the responsibility of administering federal grants on behalf of all of them. But they all have a say in how the funds are used, or the funds are used individually at each community level, according to the needs of the Tribe. So those are the three options, they are all, they all start from federally recognized Tribes that are eligible to participate. Thanks, Tiffany, can you take me to the next slide?

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: It's important to note that each Tribe may only submit one Population Certification. And this is to protect us all in this case where we see the Population Certification from a particular Tribe and then, also, later see either designee who purposes to apply on behalf of that same Tribe or Consortium, which proposes to include that Tribe. But then we are going to assume at the Office for Victims of Crime that that Tribe intended to apply for itself. The Tribe will receive its sole award, and we will not include that Tribe's formula allocation in the award to either the designee or to the consortium. Thank you, next slide.

[Slide 15]

Jessica Andrew: (Unintelligible 00:39:28)

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Yes, Jessica?

Jessica Andrew: Sorry to interrupt. We have a couple of questions that are coming through the chat regarding eligibility, so I'm hoping we can take a moment and highlight some of the points that you've just made. One of the questions is from somebody who already has an award under last year's Tribal set-aside. Can they apply this year to supplement activities that are supported under their fiscal year 2020 Award? If so, how should the applicants highlight this information within their application?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Excellent. Thanks, Jessica that is a perfect question to address right now. So yes, 2020 applicant awardee is absolutely welcome to apply in 2021. And that Tribe might apply either to supplement or expand services that were being provided under the 2020 Award, or perhaps there are new services that the Tribe would like to undertake, and that would also be appropriate to include in the 2021 application. The important thing is that when the Tribe submits its budget and its application, and that's going to happen later in the year, it's going to happen between April and June. The Tribe needs to make sure it is producing a budget with non-duplicated expenses, by which I mean the Tribe has made decisions about how to use the 2021 grants, such that those 2021 funds are not being used for something that was already being paid for by the 2020 grants. So that takes some strategic budgeting. Sometimes, we have technical assistance resources we can offer to help try to think through that if they



need to, but it is absolutely possible to use the 2021 grant to either expand or add on to what supplement services that were paid for in 2020. Thank you, Jessica.

Jessica Andrew: And we have one more question, and this is about consortiums. So, there are 10 federally recognized Tribes in our communities of those nine of those Tribes have a resolution for us to apply on behalf of them. And so, what they are asking is, could they receive the formula funding for the nine Tribes, and the 10th Tribe request funding separately?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Jessica, I think the question I'm hearing is could the nine sort of co-located Tribes apply as a consortium, and the 10th apply as an individual awardee? And if that is the question, the answer is absolutely. The nine Tribes would apply as a consortium, and there would be Tribal resolutions involved that identified which Tribe is going to apply as the administering agency for those nine. And then the 10th would submit its own separate Population Certification and receive its own separate award, which it would administer for itself.

Jessica Andrew: Thank you, Katie. Yes, I think that those are all the questions we have for right now.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Thanks very much, Jessica. So, on this screen now, there is a slide that gives you an overview of award amounts. Obviously, since the awards are based on a formula, we can't tell you exactly what the award amount is because we at OVC do not know until we see the number of Tribes that intend to participate and their populations. The period of performance of award for this 2021 grants will be January 1, 2022, so that they will start about 11 months, 11 and a half months, from now and as I said earlier in the presentation, a Tribe can decide what award period works best from one year, up to five years, depending on what kind of project you're planning to implement. I will mention that because the amount of money that Congress authorized for this program decreased in 2021, relative to 2020, it's possible that award sizes will be smaller in 2021, but again I won't know until I know how many Tribes are participating and what their populations are. All right, thank you, Tiffany, can we move on again?

[Slide 16]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: And now you are getting what may be your first look at the Population Certification form. I've been watching Kristie posts link. So, I know that she has posted the link for this particular form, which we call the actual Population Certification document, which is a web-based fillable form. And this is how OVC knows how to divide up the money because this is how a Tribe signals they want to participate, and it tells us how many persons it will serve. So here in these first two lines, you will see that you are going to be asked for some very basic information about who is applying, so Kristie, will you take us down one slide.

[Slide 17]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, this next slide is going to blow the form up a little bit and show you some helpful arrows so you can take note of what information is where we need to have the Tribe, full legal name, and the best of all, scenarios. This is the same name that your Tribe has in SAM.gov because the funding system that the Department of Justice uses when it funds grant awards is tied to SAM.gov, and so it is important to us that your awardee name here match SAM.gov. And that that is editable. If you take a look at SAM.gov, and you realize that is not the name of the award, that is not the official name by which your Tribe goes by, your authorized representative who controls your SAM.gov entry can make a change to that.

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: Okay. Thanks Tiffany, can we see the next slide? Oh, I see you are already there. Data certification, just let us know on what date you are sending this form to us, and I will note that more than a third of the participants on this webinar knew that their Tribes had participated in 2020. And to those folks if the Population Certification that you submitted in 2020 is still valid if you are still serving that same number of people, you do not need to create a new form for 2021, you can resubmit the 2020 form, and we will work with that, no problem.

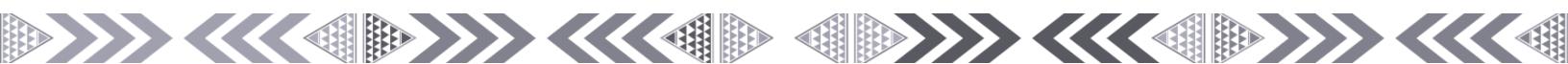
[Slide 19]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: All right, thank you let's go to application type. So, I talked about the three kinds of applicants that OVC will recognize, first, of course, a federally recognized Tribe. Second, a designee, that is a non-Tribal organization that Tribe has authorized to apply on their behalf, in addition, their awards.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: And finally, a consortium, and we had a question about that just a moment ago. A consortium is a group of federally recognized Tribes who have decided to apply together. Their formula allocations for all the participating Tribes in the consortium are summed, so it becomes a larger award, and then it is administered by one of those Tribes who have taken the role of being the official applicant for most Tribal designee, and Tribal consortia. It is necessary to submit a Tribal resolution or other evidence of legal authority from the Tribes that are being represented to apply. And this is just to make sure that OVC can track that the money is in fact going to the federally recognized Tribes requested it. Thanks, Tiffany, next slide.

[Slide 20]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Here is the meat of the Population Certification process. This is where you tell us the population that you are serving with the program that you are intending to pull for these Tribes. Make the decision about how to determine what the population is. So, for instance, some Tribes use enrolled Tribal members, some Tribes that have lands use residents on the Tribal reservation, some



Tribes, either because they don't have land, or because they are serving clients who live in various places outside of the reservation, define their title service area some other way by zip code, by county, whatever it is that best describes the population that these funds are destined for. And we'll see it there are a couple of examples that are printed right in the form itself. So, when you look at the form online, it's going to have these hits for you about how to make a decision about what population you're certifying. Tiffany, can we advance one please?

[Slide 21]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: The OVC recognizes that Tribes are diverse, and the federal data sets about Tribal populations are imperfect. And so, we are not asking you to rely on federal data. We accept the Tribe's own certification of the population that it is going to certify to. And unless we see an anomaly that we believe to be an error. We use the number you put on the forum. In 2020, we, there was at least one case where we were fairly certain zero had been left off a big number, it was reported, and we contacted the Tribe. And we talked through it, and we figure out what the correct number was going to be, but that is the only case in which we do not just use the number that's on the form. All right, thanks, Tiffany, can we go on again?

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: So here are some things you might want to think about if you decide what number, you're going to put in that certification box. We already asked you to tell us where that number came from what is your justification for selecting that number. You need to know in your mind what the justification was because we serve, Tribal members in the zip code, because we serve, Tribal members and nontribal members, but people who are affiliated with our community in this area, however it is you do it. We need you to be able to describe what the basis was; however, you have decided to determine who is going to be served. Jessica, this is often the point in which we start getting questions. Do you see anything that you would like me to stop at an answer?

Jessica Andrew: Perfect timing. Yes, we have a couple of questions that are coming through the chat about the Population Certificate. And one of them being. If the Tribe hasn't determined our population for themselves, how do they go about doing that?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: That is an excellent question. And it comes down to what services, do you plan to provide with these funds? And where do you intend to provide them? So, you might want to go into the questions that way. Where is the service provision going to be located? And who are you going to reach out to let them know the services available? And it's that group of people that become the Population Certification for the purpose of this project.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, it's important for me to make very clear that this is not a total Tribal population count that we're looking for. And it's not used for any purpose, except for this group. So,



you're not establishing any history by putting a number in this box, particularly. What's important to us is that Tribes make a decision about whom they wish to serve with these funds, and they use that population as the basis for their Population Certification form. Thanks Jessica. Is there anything else I should speak to on this?

Jessica Andrew: One of our participants is asking for clarification regarding the Census Data. Will funding now be determined by the Census Data, or by the Tribal determined population? Or what the Tribe writes, what the Tribe submits? I'm sorry.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Thank you, Jessica. Yeah, that is a key point. The funding is determined by the number that comes in on this Population Certification. We, the OVC does not use that data, it uses what the Tribes tell us that the population is that they intend to serve.

Jessica Andrew: And one more question, does the Population Certificate needs to be submitted annually?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: That's a good question. For any new applicants, yes, you will be submitting to us maybe for the first time if you have not participated before a Population Certification form. But if you completed one in 2020, and that was the first year we did this, so go through your two options either you're new this year, or your Tribe participated last year and so there is somewhere a 2020 forms. And if you are happy with the numbers on the 2020 form, and you don't see any need to change them, you are welcome to submit the 2020 form again, you do not need to submit a new 2021. But you do have to submit something, otherwise we won't be able to know if you intend to participate.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, the next couple of slides are going to talk through where the form goes, how it winds up in my inbox. And whichever you decide to submit, a new 2021 form if you need to, or the old 2020 form that you used last year, either one, it has to come to us by March 5 of this year. Don't rely on the fact you submitted it last year because that does not inform how the formula is won this year. I have to have a new submission from you this year, but it's okay if what you submit is the same thing you submitted last year.

Jessica Andrew: Great. And one final question in regard to the boundaries. So how can applicants account for nontribal members within a jurisdictional boundary? And also, those members living outside the boundaries of the Tribe who also receive services, how can they best document that?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Right. These are really important questions for the complicated service boundary landscape that Tribes face. And again, Tribes are welcome to determine that they will serve nontribal members to if they choose to with these funds, you do not have to; you may elect to if that's how it makes sense to you to set up your service delivery. So, then I think the Tribe might be looking at using some sort of geographic distribution to decide a number of people within the reservation, and the county adjacent, or if you have a town or a city, maybe in the town or the city adjacent, you're

going to need to identify a population number you can represent, you can use to represent that nontribal population. And then, of course, your project plans, we'll talk about how you intend to make sure services are available in that area that you have identified with this additional nontribal population.

Jessica Andrew: I think that's it for now, hold off on our other questions.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Okay, I will check back in with you again later. Thanks, Jessica. Okay, Tiffany, can we move on again?

[Slide 23]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: We are coming to the end of the certification form. It just requires the Tribe's name, the entered name of the person who is certifying your population, and their title and their official email, and their official address. And this is just so that OVC has records that the person who was communicating with us about this was authorized to do so by the Tribal government, and again, if this was signed last year for you in 2020, then enter new a date and send it to us, and we'll take the 2020 form, not a problem.

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: The only question becomes, Tiffany, next slide, where does the data go? And the answer is it comes into an email address at OJP, and there is not a person's first name associated with that email address, but it is me on the other end. So, if you, when you send your Population Certifications to that email address, I write back and I say thank you. And if you send me a question to that email address about how to complete your Population Certification form or any questions you have about the program, I write back, it's me.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, I look forward to corresponding with you. We need to get those forms in by Friday March 5, because that then starts the window, during which the statisticians can do all the math that results in us being able to send out formula allocation numbers, probably the end of March, which is what enables you to begin crafting the budget and the project descriptions that are going to accompany your application when you submit those to us in the period, April through June.

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: Okay Tiffany, I think we are good to go. We want to make sure that you have access to people who can help you with this form if you need it, and we have lots of resources. So, if you are an existing OVC Grantee, then you already have the pleasure of working with either the Unified Solutions team who is hosting this webinar or their partners at Fox Valley Technical College; those are our two current technical assistance providers to our Tribal Grantees. They are both fully briefed and qualified and able to help with Population Certification forms, so you could go to either of

them. You could also, if you're an existing OVC Grantee, go to your OVC Grant Manager. It's the same 10 of us who work together every day, and we talk about this stuff all the time, we can get you an answer. You can see at the bottom if you are a new applicant, you don't have an OVC grant manager, and you don't have an OVC TTA provider yet, although you will, as soon as you are a Tribal grant participant. Please write to me at that same email to which you submit the form, and I will make sure that the questions you have about the process are answered.

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: So, this is what happens next. Tribes work on their Population Certifications; they submit them by March 5th. OVC begins to work with the Bureau of Justice Statistics to use the population-based formulas to turn out the allocation amounts. OVC determines a base amount for every award. And then the populations that you certified to qualified you for a bump up over that base. So, it's a graduated series of award sizes. Although again, at this point, I can't tell you what the range is going to be because I don't know until I know how many Tribes are participating or representing what population. And so, we run the formula allocation, and we communicate back with the Tribe back to the person who submitted the Tribal Population Certification. Here is your award amount. Here is your invitation to submit your application, and we let you know how to submit the rest of your application materials to OVC. This is a non-competitive program. If you're a federally recognized Tribe, and you submit a Population Certification by March 5, you will get an award at the end of this funding process. So those are the steps that are involved.

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: Let's move on to some very useful, I hope, examples of what Tribes are doing with these funds in case this will help you think through how your Tribes might work for this base. So, Tribe A uses their TVSSA grant to pay the salary and associated costs of a full-time Victim Advocate who provides direct services and case management to support victims of crime. They also use their grant budget to pay for a small percentage of the Project Director's time who oversees the implementation of a strategic plan and they can also leave money in their budget to provide emergency assistance to victims of crime such as short-term housing and lodging and basic necessities.

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Katherine Darke Schmitt: Here's a Tribe who is using their TVSSA grant to pay salary related costs for a full-time licensed clinical social worker who provides crisis intervention and assist in developing safety plans for victims of crime. There is also a portion of the salary of an administrative assistant who helps with the day-to-day organization of the program. And this Tribe is also using funds to cover some emergency assistance needs. This Tribe also uses grant funds to get out some outreach and education activities projects.

[Slide 29]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Here's a third sample of how some Tribes are using the funds. Tribe C is using the grant to continue expansion and coordination of existing victim services within the community, and they are supporting salary, benefits, travel, training, and supplies for a full-time Projects Coordinator, and a full time Domestic Violent Sexual Assault Advocate. They are also paying to lease a vehicle to make transportation of clients easier. Furnishing, supplies, utilities, and a security system for the Victim Services Program Office trailer. And again, some short-term and emergency assistance available to adult victims of crime.

[Slide 30]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: This Tribe is using the grant to enhance and expand services for all victims of crime and so they have a licensed counselor and a victim advocate whose salaries are staggered because they decided they needed some of that assistance all the time, and some of that assistance only beginning in year two, which is a perfectly reasonable price to pay. They are also using funds to hire a licensed counselor who is leading a healing circle, a couple of times a year, and they are providing short-term emergency victim assistance needs. So, these first four examples were drawn from individual Tribes to apply for and are administering their own grants.

[Slide 31]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: The next few are going to offer you a little variety and how this works could be like five. It's the sixth one that's the variation. Five is the Tribe who is using their TVSSA grant to conduct the community needs assessment and strategic planning. So, if you are coming from a Tribe which does not have its own victim services program at this point, but I'm interested in using these grant funds to create one, then a good place to start would be conducting a Community Needs Assessment and to do a Strategic Plan for which services will be provided and how and by when and who. And that might be part of your project applications.

[Slide 32]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Okay, thanks Tiffany. So, in this case, we are talking now about a consortium. These are Tribes that pooled their funding to expand a current Victim Services Program in order to make sure that there was comprehensive access to culturally competent services for all victims of crime and their families that are living within the region where these Tribes are located. And again, they're using funding for victim advocates and staffing who are working in all four of the Tribal communities that are represented in the consortium. And they are also using funds to update and implement trauma-informed policies and procedures, and enhancing the Tribal codes related to serving victims of crime. So, these six examples cover the broad scope of activities that are used that Tribe's use these funds for. There are other possibilities. If you have questions, we are happy to answer them either before you submit your application, or sometimes we have this dialog after you submit your

applications. OVC staff and our technical assistance partners are available to you. And let's go on just to make sure you know where to find other resources that you might need.

[Slide 33]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Alright, so the first thing you need to know is that this webinar only intended to coach you through the Population Certification part of the program. And in April, once we release to you your funding allocation amounts and directions for how you create the full application, OVC will be offering more webinars to walk you through that part of the process in case it's new to you, or you want a refresher for next year. So, we do not have dates for that now, but we will make them available to you as soon as we have those webinars scheduled.

[Slide 34]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: And then Tiffany had some other resources to make sure you know about on the next slide. Here is a list of links to places that the Department of Justice has grant-funded opportunities posted, Grants.gov on the OVC website on the Office of Justice programs website.

[Slide 35]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: You will not see a reference to the 2021 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside program on this website because it's not competitive, so we don't tell the whole world about it; we only tell the Tribes who are eligible to submit Population Certifications. When it is time for you to apply, you will hear directly from us. But if you are interested in other competitive opportunities for funding, that is a great collection of resources for you to have in your pocket. And finally, OVC does now have a dedicated website for up-to-date information for our Tribal partners; this does include information about the Tribal set-aside and Population Certification because the site is really intended to serve you.

[Slide 36]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Okay, one more slide, please, Tiffany. And I think this takes us just about to the end. So, as I said, this is job one for me to make sure that you know that your Population Certifications are due March 5, and that they come into OVC through that email address.

[Slide 37]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Tiffany, I think you have a poll you are going to post next. We are interested in knowing what other topics would be useful for you to hear about. So please take a moment and let us know. Open voting, if we haven't done so already, that's not obvious from the slide I'm seeing, but Jesucita may know that it is already open for voting. I am not seeing results. There we go. All right, perfect.

Rachel Lane: So, these results say to me that we have so far managed to answer the bulk of the questions about the Tribal Population Certification part of this, that you are still curious about general information about the Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Formula Program, which is excellent because I will be back talking to you about that in just couple of months as you get ready to prepare your application, and that you are interested in other funding opportunities from OVC, and that those links Tiffany put up just a slide ago will help you get to the places where those competitive opportunities are published.

[Slide 38]

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Jessica and Jesucita I am looking to you to help moderate questions that need addressing today.

Rachel Lane: Thank you Katherine, and this is Rachel Lane, and I am a program manager with Unified Solutions, and we just want to thank you again for all that helpful information that you provided for us today. I will be guiding us through the Q&A portion and of course, Jessica, if you have any questions on your end, please feel free to ask those as well.

Rachel Lane: For everyone joining today, if you have questions, please feel free to put those in the Q&A section which is at the bottom of your screen. And we're going to try to get to as many questions as possible. We do have a large number of attendees, so if we don't get to your question live. Please note, they will be included in a follow-up email today. Well, not today within 24 hours, excuse me, just following this presentation. Alright, so, Katherine, we have the first question we have for you today is could you please remind everyone of the final submission deadline?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Absolutely, thank you very much Rachel. And thank you for filling in for Jesucita, I appreciate it. That deadline for submitting your population certification is March 5th.

Rachel Lane: Okay. Perfect, thank you for that reminder. We have a follow-up question to the Population Certification. Were there any changes from last year to this year, meaning if a Grantee submitted their population certification last year, and was awarded, do they need to do a new one from scratch?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Thank you for that question and that gives me a chance to emphasize that this is both a no and a yes answer. So, yes, every Tribe that plans to participate in 2021 must submit a Population Certification form. If you participated in 2020, and you want to participate in 2021, yes, you must submit a form. But the form that you submit may be your 2020 form, if that form's servicing purposes and your population has not changed, or your plans for defining the service population that you'll project funds will support has not changed, you are welcome to resubmit the 2020 form. But you must submit something because if you don't, we will not know to include your Tribe when we do the

formula allocation. So, you have two choices, either submit the same form you submitted last year, that's fine, or create a new 2021 Population Certification and submit that. But either way, submit something by March 5th.

Rachel Lane: Perfect, thank you so much. And the next question is, are there any restrictions on how many years in a row a recipient may receive the Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Thank you. There are no restrictions. Congress appropriated this money to be used for victim services programs in Tribal communities. So, every federally recognized Tribe who is interested in using these funds for that purpose can apply any year, and it does not matter whether you did or didn't apply in the recent past. It does not matter if you did apply and you still have a balance of funds on those awards. It doesn't matter if you did apply, you have an award and the end date for those awards is still in the future. That's all okay, you're still eligible in 2021. The only thing you need to be careful of is that when you prepare your project plan and your project budget for 2021 you have to make sure that none of the charges you plan to apply to the grants the 2021 funds are redundant with expenses that are already covered under the 2020 Award, if you have a 2020 Award, or some earlier year if you still have funds from 2018 or 2019.

Rachel Lane: Wonderful, thank you. So, our next question is, is this a non-competitive funding award?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Yes, it is. The funding is made solely on the basis of the eligible applicants who submit their Population Certification, so even though there is an application process where you submit a budget, and the project description to OVC. That is not a competitive process. If you participate in the Population Certification by March 5. And if you are an eligible applicant, then you will receive a great reward.

Rachel Lane: Thank you, now how can we find out the potential award amount in order to plan for future programming?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: I understand why this would be foremost on people's minds when they are working on projects, and I have some. I have some ideas to share, but I have to start by saying, I do not know what the range of awards is going to be in 2021, because of two factors. One, the amount authorized by Congress is slightly lower in 2021 than it was in earlier years, and we're starting from a smaller pool of funds. And two, I cannot predict how many tribes intend to apply, or what their populations are. So, that is why it is not until the end of March or early April, that we notify you what your grants allocation is.

Katherine Darke Schmitt: I can give you some historical information. And I can tell you how to do a deep dive into the historical information in case that is useful to you. If I were preparing an application, I might take a look at the historical data, even though I knew there could be changes in 2021. In 2020, the minimum award, the smallest award, that went out the door with \$417,336 so that was to the Tribe

that had the smallest population, and the largest award was just under \$3 million. And we have a full list of all the Tribes who received 2020 rewards on the OVC Tribal website is, I believe it is identified as a list of the 2020 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside awardees and you will be able to see line by line the names of the Tribe in the award amounts they received in 2020. That might help you give a ballpark of what to expect. But again, until the day we send you your formula, you will not have an exactly precise idea of what your number is.

Rachel Lane: Thank you so much and just a friendly reminder we have two more questions Katherine, but to attendees today if we didn't get to your question live, all of the questions will be in the follow-up email, following the presentation. Okay, Katherine our next question is, is the funding amount going to be determined based on the Census Data?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Thank you for that, and no. The funding amount will be determined on the basis of the Population Certification that the Tribe submits. Maybe there are Tribes who choose to use Census Data, because that works for them for their purposes and they feel it does adequately describe the population they intend to serve. But we do not expect that that is the case for every Tribe, and so there is no expectation that the Population Certification submitted by Tribes will align the Census Data, and we do not use census data for that purpose.

Rachel Lane: Alright, so we are at our final question and that is can Tribes include nontribal members who live within the Tribe's jurisdictional boundaries, or service area and its population numbers?

Katherine Darke Schmitt: Absolutely, this is a policy decision that Tribal governments will make for themselves. Who is it that needs these services, and that may include Tribal members, it may include persons who are not Tribal members that are affiliated, either because of geography or because the family ties. The Tribal government can determine for itself what that population is and attach a number to it, give us a sentence or two about how they derived that number, so we understand where it's coming from and submit that on the form.

Rachel Lane: Thank you so much for all that wonderful information and answering all those questions today. So Unified has a few important reminders.

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Rachel Lane: Alright, so if you need any assistance in completing your Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside populations certification, please feel free to contact one of the technical assistance providers on the screen. And these slides will also be sent out as part of a follow-up to today's webinar.

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Rachel Lane: We request you to take a few moments to complete the Evaluation Survey for this webinar, your responses are very important to us, and they help guide us and make improvements on our training and technical assistance services. So, there's a couple ways you can access the survey. You can take your smartphone and take a picture of the QR code and that will take you directly to a survey link, or the survey link will be following this presentation today as well. 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. So I'll turn it over to you Kyler.

[Slide 41]

Kyler Hopkins: (Singing)

Kyler Hopkins: Thank you.

[Slide 42]

Rachel Lane: Thank you so much Kyler, and thank you, Katherine and Jessica, and for everyone who attended today's webinar. We hope you have a wonderful day.

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