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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

for the

2024-2025 S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT PROGRAM

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

The District Attorneys Council announces the opening of the 2024/25 Violence Against Women Program (VAWA) Grant Application. The Office on Violence Against Women has not yet released the VAWA allocations for the 2024/25 grant cycle but the amount awarded to subgrantees for the 2022/23 grant cycle was \$3,635,833.90. The DAC is accepting grant proposals in advance of the allocation announcement.

Funding will include 2023 VAWA funding, estimated 2024 VAWA funding, as well as rollover 2021 and 2022 VAWA funding. Any new 2022 VAWA Reauthorization Purpose areas, which are highlighted below under Purpose Areas, cannot be funded with this rollover funding and will be awarded with 2023 and 2024 VAWA funding.

TWO-YEAR AWARDS

VAWA awards will be for a two-year time period. The award period will be January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025. Year two (2) funding (2024 funds) will be contingent upon receiving funds from the Department of Justice.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

To be eligible for the VAWA funding, an applicant must be one of the following:

- State agency
- State, local, or tribal court (including juvenile courts)
- Unit of general local government (i.e., city, county, town, police departments, sheriff's departments (**Police and sheriff's departments can apply on their own**))
- Indian tribal government
- Public or private nonprofit organization, including faith based organizations
- Non-governmental victim services program. *The victim service providers must be certified through the Office of the Attorney General before applying for a VAWA Grant.*

Victim service providers from federally recognized Indian Tribes are exempt from this requirement.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the VAWA Grant is to support communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violence against women and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases of involving violent crimes against women. The VAWA Grant Program encourages victim service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, and the courts to implement coordinated multidisciplinary approaches to address domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. **Trafficking is a secondary or additional victimization; the presenting or primary victimization is domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and/or dating violence.**

PROGRAM SCOPE

Activities supported by this program are determined by statute, federal regulations, and OVW policies. If an applicant receives an award, the funded project is bound by the [DOJ Financial Guide](#), including updates to the financial guide after an award is made, the [Solicitation Companion Guide](#), and the conditions of the award.

PURPOSE AREAS

In order to be considered, applications must fall under one or more of these purpose areas: (There have been some wording changes to a few of the purpose areas, and four (4) new purpose areas have been added due to the VAWA Reauthorization of 2022. Also added is some clarification of victim services and legal assistance. The changes have been highlighted in yellow.)

1. Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, including the appropriate use of nonimmigrant status under [subparagraphs \(U\) and \(T\) of section 101\(a\)\(15\) of the Immigration and Nationality Act \(8 U.S.C. 1101\(a\)\(15\)\)](#).
2. Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
3. Developing and implementing more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, as well as the appropriate treatment of victims [including implementation of the grant conditions in section 40002\(b\) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 \(34 U.S.C. 12291\(B\)\)](#).
4. Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems linking police, prosecutors, and courts or for the purpose of identifying, classifying, and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations

of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

5. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs; developing or improving the delivery of victim services **and legal assistance** to underserved populations; providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted; and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
6. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes dealing with violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
7. Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by state funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
8. Training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention and providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault.
9. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances of **individuals 50 years of age and over, individuals with disabilities, and deaf individuals** who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, **legal assistance**, and other victim services to such older and disabled individuals.
10. Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters.
11. Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families, **including rehabilitative work with offenders**.
12. Supporting the placement of special victim assistants (to be known as "Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants") in local law enforcement agencies to serve as liaisons between victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and personnel in local law enforcement agencies in order to improve the enforcement of protection orders. Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants shall have expertise in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and may undertake the following activities:

- a. developing, in collaboration with prosecutors, courts, and victim service providers, standardized response policies for local law enforcement agencies, including the use of evidence-based indicators to assess the risk of domestic and dating violence homicide and prioritize dangerous or potentially lethal cases;
 - b. notifying persons seeking enforcement of protection orders as to what responses will be provided by the relevant law enforcement agency;
 - c. referring persons seeking enforcement of protection orders to supplementary services (such as emergency shelter programs, hotlines, or legal assistance services); and,
 - d. taking other appropriate action to assist or secure the safety of the person seeking enforcement of a protection order.
- 13. Providing funding to law enforcement agencies, victim services providers, and state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, (which funding stream shall be known as the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program) to promote:
 - a. the development and implementation of training for local victim domestic violence service providers, and to fund victim services personnel, to be known as "Crystal Judson Victim Advocates," to provide supportive services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel;
 - b. the implementation of protocols within law enforcement agencies to ensure consistent and effective responses to the commission of domestic violence by personnel within such agencies such as the model policy promulgated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police ("Domestic Violence by Police Officers: A Policy of the IACP, Police Response to Violence Against Women Project" July 2003); and,
 - c. the development of such protocols in collaboration with state, tribal, territorial and local victim services providers and domestic violence coalitions.

Note: Any law enforcement, state, tribal, territorial, or local government agency receiving funding under the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program, and any subgrantee of such an agency, shall (1) receive specialized training, on an annual basis, from domestic violence and sexual assault nonprofit organizations on the topic of incidents of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel and (2) provide a report to the Department of the protocol(s) adopted in connection with the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program, including a summary of progress in implementing such protocol(s), once every two years.
- 14. Developing and promoting state, local or tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- 15. Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault.
- 16. Developing or strengthening policies, protocols, best practices, and training for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors relating to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases and the appropriate treatment of victims.
- 17. Developing, enlarging or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against

men, women, and youth in correctional or detention settings.

18. Identifying and conducting inventories of backlogs of sexual assault evidence collection kits and developing protocols and policies for responding to and addressing such backlogs, including protocols and policies for notifying and involving victims.
19. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses to male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity as defined in section 249 (c) of title 18, United States Code.
20. Developing, enhancing, or strengthening prevention and education programming to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or female genital mutilation or cutting, with not more than 5 percent of the amount allocated to a state to be used for this purpose.
21. Developing, enhancing, or strengthening programs and projects to improve evidence collection methods for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including through funding for technology that better detects bruising and injuries across skin tones and related training.
22. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening culturally specific victim services programs to provide culturally specific victim services and responses to female genital mutilation or cutting.
23. Providing victim advocates in State or local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, and courts to provide supportive services and advocacy to Indian victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
24. Paying any fees charged by any governmental authority for furnishing a victim or the child of a victim with any of the following documents:
 - (A) A birth certificate or passport of the individual, as required by law.
 - (B) An identification card issued to the individual by a State or Tribe, that shows that the individual is a resident of the State or a member of the Tribe.

The terms "victim services" and "services" mean services provided to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including telephonic or web-based hotlines, legal assistance and legal advocacy, economic advocacy, emergency and transitional shelter, accompaniment and advocacy through medical, civil or criminal justice, immigration, and social support systems, crisis intervention, short-term individual and group support services, information and referrals, culturally specific services, population specific services, and other related supportive services.

Victim services and legal assistance under this subchapter also include services and assistance to—

(A) victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who are also victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons as defined by section 7102 of Title

22;

(B) adult survivors of child sexual abuse;

(C) victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who are also victims of female genital mutilation or cutting, or forced marriage.

OVW PRIORITY AREAS:

In FY 2023, OVW is interested in supporting the priority area(s) identified below. In shaping their strategies for FY 2023, OVW encourages states and territories to develop and support projects that:

1. Advance racial equity as an essential component of ending sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.
2. Increase access to justice for all survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, including through exploration of survivor-centered criminal justice system reform.
3. Strengthen efforts to prevent and end sexual assault, including victim services and civil and criminal justice responses.
4. Expand economic justice and financial advocacy for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, including as a tool for violence prevention.
5. Improve outreach, services, civil and criminal justice responses, prevention, and support for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking from underserved communities, particularly LGBTQ and immigrant communities.

FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

The Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women mandates the following distribution formula:

Service Area	Distribution of Funds
Victim Services	30%
Community Based Culturally-Specific Victim Service Set Aside*	Mandated 10% of the Victim Services allocation
Prosecution	25%
Law Enforcement	25%
Discretionary	15%
Courts**	5%
20% Sexual Assault Set-Aside***	

Applicants applying for funding from two different funding categories, i.e. Law Enforcement funding and Prosecution funding or Victim Service Provider funding and Discretionary funding should submit **two separate** grant applications.

***COMMUNITY BASED, CULTURALLY SPECIFIC VICTIM SERVICE SET ASIDE**

Under the 2005 VAWA Reauthorization, the victim service allocation was amended and required that 10% of the 30% victim service allocation be set-aside for community-based, culturally sensitive projects. Under the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization, the definition of culturally specific was amended to include those racial and ethnic minority groups, such as American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts), Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, Blacks, and Hispanics. The term “Hispanic” means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rico, Cuban, Central or South America, or any other Spanish-speaking country.

****COURT SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

Under the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization, the 5% funding for the courts must go directly **‘to’** the courts. Thus, state, local, or tribal court entities are the only eligible applicants for this category.

*****SEXUAL ASSAULT REQUIREMENT**

Under the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization, 20% of the total award must be dedicated to projects that address sexual assault. The 20% sexual assault set-aside must include two of the following allocation categories: 1) law enforcement; 2) prosecution; 3) courts; or, 4) victim services. Due to this requirement, applicants should give careful consideration of the type of project which is submitted. Preference may be given to projects that meaningfully address sexual assault.

Please note that these funds are NOT additional money which is provided to the state for sexual assault purposes but rather must come from the total available funding.

Projects that may help meet the 20% Sexual Assault Set-Aside include but are not limited to the following:

- **Training**
 - Sexual assault response training for advocates
 - Trauma Informed training for First Responders
 - Evidence-based prosecution training
 - Judicial training
- **Protocol Development**
 - Sexual assault response protocols
 - Protocols to address how sexual assault kits are processed
- **Direct Services**
 - Sexual assault advocate to offer continuum of services
 - Therapist or counselor
 - Sexual assault specific investigators or officers

- Sexual assault prosecutor

TARGETED PROJECTS

The DAC is specifically targeting projects that will provide cultural competency training regarding underserved populations including but not limited to tribal, Hispanic, African American, and the LGBTQ+ communities. Training should focus on addressing professionals that serve victims such as advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, and the judiciary. While training attendees may include other criminal justice or state agency personnel, the majority of those in attendance should be those that serve victims from these four categories in order to fall in line with VAWA funding priorities.

UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER (UEI)

All applicants are required to include their UEI in their application. The UEI is a 12-character alphanumeric ID recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving federal funds. Obtaining a UEI is free and applications should be made as soon as possible. To obtain a UEI or to see if the applicant agency already has a UEI, go to <https://sam.gov/content/home>. **Applications without a UEI will not be reviewed.**

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT BOARD PRIORITIES

The Violence Against Women Grant Board, comprised of seven (7) members, is charged with developing the state implementation plan, reviewing grant proposals, and determining funding awards. In approving the 2022-2025 VAWA Implementation Plan, the VAWA Grant Board set up goals and objectives for use of the VAWA Grant funds. These can be found on pages 52-55 of the Implementation Plan which can be found on the DAC Website – <https://www.ok.gov/dac/> Once there, select Grants on the toolbar and then select Subgrantee Toolbox in the dropdown menu. The Plan is under Annual Reports and Plans.

MATCH REQUIREMENT

It is anticipated that the Office of the Attorney General will provide the match by utilizing state appropriated funds to meet the 25% match of the **total project cost** (grant funds plus match) required for all subgrantees. It is anticipated that subgrantees will not be required to maintain match funds on federal awards for this grant award.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Both the Federal Grants Division, including the governing Board and the applicant must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the performance of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of awards. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of an award supported by a federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from an entity

considered for a contract/award. The officers, employees, and agents of both the Federal Grants Division, including the governing Board and the applicant must neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the non-federal entity.

INDIRECT COSTS

Organizations, including both a) non-profit agencies and b) state and local units of government and federally recognized tribal governments that receive less than \$35 million in direct federal funding AND which do not have a current negotiated indirect cost rate with a cognizant agency, may elect to use a de minimis indirect cost rate of between 1 and 10 percent. Documentation of this decision must be kept on file.

State, local, and federally recognized tribal governments that receive more than \$35 million in direct federal funding and have never negotiated an indirect cost rate must submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency for approval. For some agencies, this may be the District Attorneys Council. Once the rate is approved, a copy of the agreement must be submitted with the application.

All organizations that currently have a negotiated indirect cost rate with a cognizant agency must indicate this in the application and submit a copy of the agreement.

A list of federal cognizant agencies can be found at:
<https://www.dol.gov/oasam/boc/dcd/dcd-agency-list.htm>

For more information on indirect costs, see 2 CFR Part 200, http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl

TO MAKE AN APPLICATION

Applications for the VAWA Program are available through the OKGrants Online System and will be open beginning **June 1, 2023**. Applications must be completed and submitted through this on-line system unless you don't have internet access. If you **do not** have internet access, please email dac-grants@dac.state.ok.us to request a paper application.

To access OKGrants, an applicant must create a user account and obtain a User ID and password. To obtain a User ID and password, go to: <https://grants.ok.gov> and click on "New User." Fill out the profile (user information) and wait for an OKGrants system administrator at DAC to activate the account. Once you are activated and logged onto the system, a training manual is available (click on "My Training Materials") to assist you through the application process.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

The deadline to submit the application on OKGrants is **11:59 p.m., August 2, 2023**. Any application received after this time and date will not be reviewed. Proposals received via mail, email (other than OKGrants) hand delivery, fax machine, or on a jump

drive will not be reviewed unless you don't have internet access and have requested a paper application. Paper applications must be postmarked by August 2, 2023.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information, contact Laura Russell, Grant Programs Specialist, Federal Grants Division, Oklahoma District Attorneys Council, at 405/264-5008, or via email at laura.russell@dac.state.ok.us. For well written examples from previous applications of goals and objectives, budget narrative, trauma informed narrative, underserved populations narrative, reporting requirements, and problem statement/project description please send a request to dac-grants@dac.state.ok.us and specify what funding category you want examples for, i.e. victim services, law enforcement, prosecution, or discretionary – probation.