

Transcript from the Webinar on the Office for Victims of Crime Fiscal Year 2017 Increasing Legal Access to Victims of Crime: Innovations in Access to Justice Programs, which was held on June 29, 2017. [The solicitation can be found at: <https://ojp.gov/ovc/grants/pdfxt/FY2017-Increasing-Legal-Access-508.pdf>.]

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar, Increasing Legal Access to Victims of Crime hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. So at this time, I would like to introduce Kathrina Peterson, Attorney Advisor for the Office for Victims of Crime.

KATHRINA PETERSON: Good afternoon, everybody, and good morning to those of you on the West Coast. Thank you all so much for joining this call. We are really excited to be launching this legal innovation solicitation, and are really excited by the number of people who are participating in the webinar today. So, thank you very much for taking the time from your day to join us.

So with that, let's get into the discussion of the solicitation. So what we're going to do today is first, talk about the overarching goals of the solicitation, then go through the project areas and the goals of each project area, and then talk about Purpose Area 1, Purpose Area 2, Purpose Area 3, and then how to apply, and we'll have time for questions and the answers afterwards.

Okay. So the first goal--there are three main goals. The first one is to further OVC's efforts and the department's effort to facilitate the understanding, development, and enhancement of innovative programs, models, practices, and protocols that serve crime victims. The second main goal is to increase crime victims' access to the legal system through both expanding legal assistance to crime victims and educating victim service providers about medical care advocacy for crime victims. The third main goal of this solicitation is to bridge existing gap for crime victims in accessing legal services.

So as I said and as you all probably already know, there are three project areas within the solicitation. The first is to Increase Capacity and Access to Civil Legal Help for Crime Victims (Legal Fellows Program). That's what we call it for short on our end. The use of technology--the second purpose area is the use of technology or other innovation to increase legal access in rural areas. And then the third purpose area--project area is for training and technical assistance, focusing on legal partnerships to increase medical care advocacy to crime victims.

So, let's talk about the first purpose area, the Legal Fellows Program. Really, the goal of that program is to place legal fellows in organizations throughout the country to provide legal service to crime victims. The purpose of area number two, focusing on the use of technology or other innovations in rural areas is to increase rural crime victims' access to the legal system using innovative methods that meet the unique needs of crime victims in rural communities. And the objective of Purpose Area 3, training and technical assistance, legal partnerships to increase medical care advocacy to crime

victims is to increase crime victims' access to medical care and services through legal advocacy.

Okay. So Purpose Area 1, the Legal Fellows Program, the eligibility requirement. So states, units of--units of local government, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and nonprofits, nongovernmental organizations, including tribal organizations are eligible to apply under this purpose area. Under purpose--and then they must have--so this gets a little confusing because--and I'll talk about this more later on but in Purpose Area 1, there are really-- There are two sources of funding for Purpose Area 1. One, is from the Crime Victims' Fund through the VOCA, the Victim of Crime Act funding, and then the second area of funding is through the TVPA, that's human trafficking funding. Both statutes have their own requirements and under the TVPA funding and this--and the TVA--TVPA statute, there is a requirement that any service provider under the TVPA must have experience in providing services to human trafficking survivors. So, that includes both the lead organization and the subrecipients who are accepted. Under Purpose Area 1, the key deliverables for this--for this purpose area are project management and oversight, and then the goal is to place 25 legal fellows who will provide victims with legal services in those host organizations. The lead organization will also have to select an evaluator and will also be responsible for selecting a training and technical assistance provider. The goals for this fellowship are to advocate for crime victims' rights--so each legal fellow, one of their responsibilities must be to advocate for crime victims' rights. In addition, they must conduct outreach, education, and direct representation to the victims of crimes in the subtopic areas, which I'm going to talk about in just a second.

So there are six different subtopic areas. Those six subtopic areas are serving:

- human trafficking victims,
- victims of fraud and identity theft, fraud or identity theft,
- victims of sexual assault in campus proceedings,
- victims of hate crime,
- providing comprehensive legal services for meritorious immigration relief cases, and
- providing services for victims of crime committed by illegal immigrants.

So, I want to be clear about what that means. What that means is that each fellow may provide services on one of those topics and as a total, all of the legal fellows must--all six topics must be included and represented by all of the legal fellows. So, in other words, there are--these are not--these are not standalone topics. One legal fellow doesn't just have to do human trafficking or do--or work on fraud and identity theft. They can overlap and we expect that they will overlap. Some of them will naturally overlap and some of them may not naturally overlap but if there's overlap that's perfectly fine.

Okay. And as I said earlier, there are--under this part of the solicitation and this part of the solicitation only. So just for Purpose Area 1, the Legal Fellows Program, there are two sources of funding. One is the Victims of Crime Act funding. That's about \$2.85 million of crime victims' funding through VOCA.

The other source of funding is from the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the TVPA, and that's approximately \$1.15 million. That trafficking money may only be used to provide anti-trafficking services for survivors. It does not include funding for training and technical assistance or project evaluation. That funding is only used for direct services. Organizations that host Trafficking Fellows, whole or partly, using the TVPA funds must demonstrate, as I said before, a history of providing services to human trafficking victims.

So, under Purpose Area 1, the--for one award, up to \$4 million, approximately \$3.1 million of that funding will--is for the legal fellows. It's a 2-year project period. And because we are getting--we are using funds from the TVPA, there is a cost sharing/match requirement only for the TVPA portion of the funds. So that's for that \$1.15 million portion of the funds, there is a match requirement. The start date of this--of this portion of the solicitation and every other portion of the solicitation is October 1, 2017. So, I just want to make--just go back for one second, and be clear that under the VOCA portion of the funding, there's no match requirement. The only part of--the only match requirement is for the TVPA funding.

Okay. So, now going on to Purpose Areas 2 and 3, the eligibility requirements. For this, the eligibility requirements include private nonprofit organizations including tribal organizations, faith community-based organizations, colleges and universities, public agencies, federally recognized Indian tribal government or organizations. Proven knowledge of civil legal representation for crime victims and services must be demonstrated. Applicants must have experience with training, technical assistance, public awareness activities, and the--and technology. Applicants must also show the capacity to partner with organizations and key stakeholders to deliver legal services to crime victims.

Okay. Under Purpose Area 2, there are two other additional eligibility requirements. The entity must possess staff, resources, and have the capability to develop or enhance a model for service delivery. And they also--the areas to be served are the rural, rural community with the demonstrated need for legal services. And what we are really looking for here, and as it says on the solicitation, is that the lead applicant have experience working with rural or rural communities. The goal is to enhance legal services in rural communities through innovation.

So, Purpose Area 2, the main deliverables under Purpose Area 2 for the lead organization are to competitively select and manage three rural sites that will ultimately increase and provide comprehensive, holistic legal services to crime victims. And for those of you who are familiar with the 2012 and the 2014 Legal Network that is the model that we are looking at. The other--in terms of providing comprehensive services. Another key deliverable under Purpose Area 2 is to assist the sites in developing an implementation plan to respond to rural crime victims' needs. Another main deliverable is to collaborate with the sites to identify uses of technology and innovation to better facilitate the delivery of legal services. Additionally, one of the deliverables under

Purpose Area 2 is to provide training and technical assistance on innovation, technology, and legal assistance to all of the sites, and there is an evaluation component here.

Okay. So the budget information for Purpose Area 2. Here, there's going to be one award of up to \$3.15 million. It will be approximately \$2.25 million for three rural sites. There's a 3-year period of performance. This is different than under Purpose Areas 1 and Purpose Areas 3. There is a cost--there is not a cost sharing or match requirement and is because this is VOCA funds and no other funding other than the VOCA funding is being used here. Again, the start date is October 1, 2017.

Key deliverables under Purpose Area 3. The main goal here is to provide training and technical assistance on increasing medical care--excuse me, medical care access for crime victims, raise awareness and provide advocacy on crime victims' medical care needs. In-person trainings to provide OVC legal service grantees and other partners. And what that means is that we are expecting the selected applicant here to work with current OVC--currently funded legal service providers and subgrantees and other grantees, and to educate those grantees about crime victims, medical care needs, and how legal advocacy can help better support crime victims' access to medical care. Another key deliverable here is to develop public awareness materials.

Under Purpose Area 3, there's going to be one award up to \$1 million. This is a 2-year period. Again, cost sharing/match is not required here, and as with Purpose Areas 1 and Purpose Areas 2, the start date is October 1, 2017.

All applications for each purpose area must contain resumes of the key personnel, a program narrative, a detailed budget and narrative, signed memorandums of understanding, and part--and must demonstrate partnership and collaboration with other agencies and the potential to partner and collaborate with other agencies.

Okay. So now we're on to how to apply. The deadline to apply is very short and we apologize but that's what it is. It's 11:59 p.m., eastern standard time on Tuesday, July 18, 2017. And so that is the grant--the solicitation is open for a 30-day period.

There are a couple of follow-up points I just wanted to make before we turn it over for question and answer. And one is to just--following up on the 30-day period because it is such a turn--short turnaround time. If you are submitting an application, please, please, please make sure that you are registered with GMS, that you have your SAMs number current and all things related are current and working. Last minute glitches or problems with registration will--are not a justification for late submission, so you need to make sure to register in a timely way. And if you do experience any kind of technical problems, immediately email or contact the point of contact on the solicitation, who is Silvia Torres, and let her know that there is a complication or a problem. And with that, I am going to turn it back over to Mary Jo.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Hi, again. So we are going to open it up to questions and answers. We do have a couple questions already in the queue. So, I will read those and we will get those answered.

“For Purpose Area 1, are you going to award one grant to the entity to manage and place all 25 legal fellows?”

KATHRINA PETERSON: Yup. That's a great question and that's exactly what the plan is, that there will be one lead organization under Purpose Area 1 who will then be responsible for selecting the host organizations and placing legal fellows in those host organizations.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Can a legal aid organization be the lead for Area 3?”

KATHRINA PETERSON: I don't see why not. Yeah, there would be nothing preventing you--a legal aid organization from applying under Purpose Area 3.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “On form SF-424, question Q14, one must designate the impact locations. However, because it is a competitive selection process, we may not know the impact locations. Do fellows need to be on the ground on October 1 or is there leeway for the startup period?”

And I--hold on one second. I think maybe part of the question got deleted. But...

KATHRINA PETERSON: Okay. So I'm going to answer that question starting with the second part first. It wouldn't be possible for the fellows to be selected and up and running by October 1, so that's not the expectation. The expectation is that the lead organization will be able to, as soon as they receive clearance and approval to move forward, that they will be able to start the selection process, select the legal fellows and then also select the host organizations where the legal fellows will get placed.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: I'm going to repeat the first part. Do you want the other question again? The other part about the SF--now, what's the question?

KATHRINA PETERSON: so it's not really a question.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Okay. But I think they might not know the impact locations.

KATHRINA PETERSON: So, I--the question is about how to identify the impact locations, right? You don't know exactly what the impact locations will be up because you will--the lead applicant will not have confirmed who the fellows or the host organizations are. So you can give your--the best estimate goal and I think that will satisfy that requirement.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Are crime victims defined as persons who experienced human trafficking?”

KATHRINA PETERSON: “Are crime victims defined as persons who experienced human trafficking?” So, crime victims are much broader than that, and for those of you who are familiar with the--with VOCA, it's a very, very broad definition of what crime victims are. So crime victims will include victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual assault, victims of human trafficking, victims of identity theft. So, yes, human trafficking victims are certainly included in the definition of crime victims but it's not limited to human trafficking victims.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Is it okay for folks who know they want to compete to be TTA provider to submit letters of support for a particular applicant or would that be viewed as conflicting them out?”

KATHRINA PETERSON: No, I think that would--that's--that is certainly allowable and encouraged. And in fact, we are going to clarify also--we will send--so through this webinar and then also through grants.gov and other forms of notice, we are going to clarify that competitive requirement. I think that person is asking about Purpose Area 1, that on pages five and six of the solicitation, there's language that says--I'm trying to quote it exactly. Hold on one second. Sorry. It says that a--the TTA provider--the lead organization will competitively select a TTA provider that will collaborate with the lead organization, the host organization, the legal fellows, and other entities as applicable to provide training and technical assistance to the legal fellows. So, we're going to send out a followup clarification to explain what we meant by that. And what it will say is that the purpose of this email is to clarify language in the solicitation, specifically questions have been asked about whether the requirement in Purpose Area 1, pages five to six, to competitively select a TA provider applies where the applicant identifies the TA provider in their application to OVC as opposed to selecting a TA provider after the OVC award is made. So, the clarification is this, that applicants that identify an organization in their application to OVC as proposed--as the proposed subaward TA provider are not required to further compete that subaward assuming the applicant is selected as a Purpose Area 1 grant recipient by OVC. The proposed training and technical assistance subaward organization will be reviewed as part of the applicant's overall proposal in OVC's competitive award process. Applicants that receive Purpose Area 1 funding but did not identify a TA provider in their application are required to select the TA subaward organization through a competitive process post-award. So, I just answered your question and then probably overcomplicated things, but the bottom line to answer your question is that it would be allowable.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. We have another question here.

“Under Purpose Area 1, does the host organization need to have a history in serving trafficking victims regardless of which civil issue--civil legal issue topic area that the host organization focuses on?”

KATHRINA PETERSON: Really good question. No, so if the host organization is not receiving a legal fellow who is funded with TVPA funding, then that host organization

does not have to have demonstrated a history of human trafficking services--of providing human trafficking victim services.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: I'm going to take the next question. "Can we print the PowerPoint and where is the grant application information located?"

The PowerPoint presentation will be posted to the OVC website along with the recording and a transcript. You will receive an email once that has been posted and it will have a direct link to all of those items. The grant information, if you're talking about the actual [solicitation](#), can be found on the OVC website under the funding area and it also is linked on the [registration page for today's webinar](#).

The next question. "Regarding Purpose Area 2, the speaker mentioned that the application should include signed MOUs and documentation to show the capacity to collaborate. Should that include letters from potential site applicants even though a competitive process to select them?"

KATHRINA PETERSON: It--excuse me. It can include those. It can include letters or MOUs showing potential interest but there is that requirement in Purpose Area 2 that the lead organization competitively select the three rural sites that will be providing the legal services.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Can recipients of the 2012 and 2014--" I'm assuming that's 2014, I think it's a typo here. "Crime Victims Legal Assistance grants to develop wraparound networks able to apply to this? Are there any limitations? So, are recipients of 2012, 2014 Crime Victim Legal Assistance grants able to apply?"

KATHRINA PETERSON: So, that's an interesting question. I--you certainly would be illegible to apply as a host organization and--but as one of the lead organizations under Purpose Areas 1 or 2, I think it's going to depend on whether--on the eligibility requirements. There's nothing preventing a 2012 or 2014 Legal Assistance Network from applying, it's just whether you would be eligible to apply if you meet the eligibility requirements.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "For Purpose Area 2, are the 2012 and 2014 VLANs excluded, so is the plan to expand to other rural areas?"

KATHRINA PETERSON: I think we just answered that question.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Okay. "If we want to be a subrecipient do we need to partner now with MOUs or after the leads are chosen?"

KATHRINA PETERSON: Another really good question. So you--it is-- You can't partner ahead of time because both under Purpose Area 1 and Purpose Area 2, if you want to be a host organization or a rural site, those sites will be competitively selected by the

lead organization under Purpose Area 1 and under Purpose Area 2. I hope that was clear. If not, just write back, I can clarify.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: So, one individual was having problems with their volume and they missed the answer to. "can a legal aid organization be the lead in Area 3? " So, if you wouldn't mind.

KATHRINA PETERSON: Yes. There's nothing that would prevent a legal aid organization from applying. It's just going to be a matter of the eligibility and if that's the best application.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: So, a followup to the previous question about subrecipients being partners, "if they can partner now with MOUs or after the lead is chosen, does that also apply to Purpose Area 3?"

KATHRINA PETERSON: Sorry, I need...

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: So, "if we want a--to be a subrecipient, do we need to partner now with MOUs or after the lead is chosen? What about Purpose Area 3?"

KATHRINA PETERSON: I'm looking, just give me one second. There is no competitive requirement under Purpose Area 3, so if the lead applicant under Purpose Area 3 is submitting an application and is partnering with other organizations that you can certainly submit those MOUs or letters of interest demonstrating partnership.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Would a fellow under Purpose Area 1 be able to be placed at a civil legal aid organization that provides services to survivors of domestic violence?"

KATHRINA PETERSON: Yes, so long as the lead--the lead organization has competitively selected that host organization and the legal fellow is working on one or more of the topics that are--the sub--the six subtopics that are included in Purpose Area 1.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Under Purpose Area 1, we understand it is a requirement to include LOIs and MOUs; however, if we plan to conduct a competitive process and select host sites, how are we bound to the LOI?"

KATHRINA PETERSON: You're not bound to the LOI. It just shows that there has been some kind of outreach to the community and that the lead organization has the capacity to select, to get the word out to host organizations and then to select host organizations.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: At this time, we do not have any questions in the queue. I'm just going to check and make sure nothing came through on chat. If you will, give us a second. We're just checking to make sure we're not missing any questions. I apologize for the silence.

All right. We-- At this time, I am not seeing any other questions. We will give you a couple more minutes if you have anything. If nothing comes through then we will go ahead and we will end the webinar.

We have another question. "Can you be a subrecipient under 1 and 3?"

KATHRINA PETERSON: Under 1 and 3. We're still here. I'm just looking and contemplating that question. Oh, yes, there's nothing that precludes--I think there is somewhere in this solicitation although I don't have the exact cite to it. But there is language in the solicitation that says that applicants may come under Purpose Area-- may apply under Purpose Areas 1, 2, and 3. And so that would also apply for subrecipients.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. Again, we'll just give you a few more minutes and-- to see if you have any questions. All right. At this time, we have no further questions. So we will end the webinar. And on behalf of OVC, we would like to thank you for attending today. And we--everybody looks forward to receiving your applications. Have a great day.

KATHRINA PETERSON: Thanks, everybody.