

[Transcript from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Fiscal Year 2018 Field Generated Innovations in Addressing Elder Financial Exploitation webinar, which was held on June 13, 2018. The archived webinar can be found at:

https://www.ovc.gov/grants/webinars_archive.html. The Solicitation can be found at <https://www.ovc.gov/grants/pdf/FY18-Field-Generated-Innovations-in-Addressing-Elder-Financial-Exploitation-508.pdf>.]

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to today's webinar, Field Generated Innovations in Addressing Elder Financial Exploitation hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, I would like to introduce you to today's presenter, Laura Ivkovich, with the Office for Victims of Crime, National Programs Division, Policy Analyst.

LAURA IVKOVICH: Good afternoon and good morning for those on the West Coast. Today, we're going to walk through the presentation, which will consist of an overview of the Office for Victims of Crime, a breakdown of the solicitation for Field Generated Innovations in Addressing Elder Financial Exploitation, specifically the program focus area, required documents, and the application deadline, award amount, and timeline, as well as the evaluation component, because there is--there is one for the solicitation that is important, how to apply, and then answer your questions at the end of this presentation.

So, for those who don't know the Department of Justice, this solicitation and this program furthers the mission of the Department by supporting the development of field-generated program models to help strengthen the capacity of the victim services field to better serve and support victims of elder abuse and financial exploitation.

Established in--by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, OVC's mission is to be committed to enhancing the nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime. And a side note, OVC's funds don't come from tax dollars. For those who don't know that, they come instead from fines and assessments of federal offenders.

So, the history of the program solicitation, this is not a new solicitation. The discretionary grant program was originally funded last year. And we have a link where you can find the press release about the grantees. There were eight of them that were selected to the competitive grant process. Those previous areas of focus included Combating Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation through Technology, Increasing Justice for Older Americans, and the third focus area was Identifying and Remediating Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation.

So, for this new focus area on financial industry response, the Office for Victims of Crime is seeking applications that focus on financial exploitations through innovative collaborations between financial industry and others to better detect and respond to victims. These efforts should build the capacity of victim service providers and financial industry representatives to enhance fraud detection and provide trauma-informed, age-

appropriate services and resources for victims. The projects proposed under the program must be built on collaborative partnership. And the aim is to provide in--through this program is to enhance the provision of services and support to crime victims to ensure that victims are afforded their rights, services, and responses they are due. Therefore, OVC will seek applications that are national in scope to develop or enhance promising practices, models, and enhanced or improved services for victims.

We are going to fund six programs to this solicitation this year. As I said last year, we funded eight. This fiscal '18 program will fund six cooperative agreements.

As previously mentioned, applicants must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the needs of victims of elder abuse, with particular emphasis on financial exploitation of older Americans, and the capacity to partner with other organizations and key stakeholders to address the unique needs of this targeted population.

These innovative proposals--again, this is a field-generated solicitation, so we're looking for the field to give us its best ideas. So, the innovative proposal should include interagency collaboration and coordination between victim service providers and allied partners to develop more victim-centered responses. Successful applicants and grantees must enter into a formal MOU, Memorandum of Understanding, with the project partners with roles and responsibilities clearly outlined. We also note in what you must submit, letters of intent and/or an MOU. So, if the solicitation or application is successful and if it is awarded, applications--applicants must enter into a formal MOU. Therefore, you don't have to submit the MOU with your application. It would only be if you were awarded, would you then have to submit a formal MOU. The--and you must develop a collaborative partnership with at least three agencies and organizations which under the next slide, we'll discuss.

Those that have to come from front-line service providers, law enforcement, and financial industry representatives, but you could have more collaborative partnerships. These, at least, have to be built on these three types.

So, each grant will have an evaluation component. I mentioned that that is unique to the solicitation. Once evaluated, these efforts may form the basis for useful replication at the state and local levels. A question I got about what is a national--what is national in scope and why that matter; the evaluation component is helpful to the Office for Victims of Crime to make sure that whatever is funded is evaluated and then therefore, has a better chance of being useful and replicated at the state and local level. Therefore, OVC is requiring applicants include 400--excuse me, \$45,000 per year of the proposed budget to support the initiative's evaluation effort, and that must come from an external evaluation. And again, that's so it can be determined whether it's replicable.

So, those who are eligible to apply include almost everybody; nonprofit organizations including tribal nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, colleges or universities including tribal institutions of higher education, public agencies, tribal governments or tribal organizations. I have asterisked the nonprofit and for-profit because I wanted to

make sure that you knew that a nonprofit does not need to have a 501(c)(3) status to apply. And that if it is a for-profit organization, that does apply; all recipients and subrecipients including for-profit organizations must forgo any profit or management fee. Additional information about the eligibility is available on page 1 of the solicitation.

OVC also welcomes applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award. However, only one entity may be the applicant. Any others must be proposed as subrecipients or subgrantees. The applicant may be the entity that would be--have primary responsibility for carrying out the award, including administering the funding and managing the entire project.

The application timeline is, as you know the solicitation has already opened, June 5th is when it was made available to the field as a competitive solicitation and it will close, July 5th at 11:59 p.m.

The award amounts and the project period are similar to last year's solicitation. An award amount up to \$500,000 per award. And that project period is 24 months or 2 years. And the performance would begin October 1, 2018. A minimum, again, of \$45,000 per year of the proposed budget must be used to support the initiative's evaluation effort. So, of that \$500,000, \$45,000 must be used, or carved out, and used for the external evaluator effort, and I'll also mention there is no match required for the solicitation.

So, it's helpful to know what applications are requiring--what the Office for Victims of Crime is requiring for those applications, and by the way how it prioritizes the scoring of those requirements. So, for this solicitation, the Project Narrative is a requirement. And the Description of the Issue is included and that's 10 percent of the application score. Project Design and Implementation is 40 percent. Capabilities and Competencies is 30 percent. And the Plan for Collecting the Data is 5 percent. The Budget Detail Worksheet and Narrative is also required and that's 10 percent. And for this solicitation, we also require that there be resumes of key personnel and MOUs, if applicable. But if you were awarded, then you would have to submit the MOU, and then a logic model. Those are the elements that must be included and will be evaluated for scoring purposes.

The how to apply for funding, which is also located on page 25, it's important to note that you must register and submit your applications through Grants.gov, that is the official website for that. It is also important to mention that the SAM.gov is another requirement, and this year there are some important aspects of the SAM.gov registration process. There is a requirement that a notarized letter be submitted via the U.S. Postal Service Mail. We realize the timing is difficult on that, but that is a requirement across all of the applications, if you're not already in the SAM.gov registration process. So, please pay attention to that. You must also acquire an Authorized Organization Representative and a Grants.gov username and password and acquire the confirmation for the AOR, or the Authorized Organization Representative, from the E-Business Point of Contact. You must also search and access the funding opportunity number on Grants.gov to include that, and submit a valid application

consisting of the solicitation with the following directions in Grants.gov. And that information is listed there.

You can go to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html> for further details on the DUNS numbers, SAM, and Grants.gov registration steps and timeframes. Again, that information is also on page 29 of the solicitation.

There's important contact information as well as questions might come up, the technical assistance-style questions would have a best response through the support@grants.gov email address. And there's also a 1-800 number, so a toll-free number 800-518-4726 or a local number 6--excuse me, not local, not--just not toll-free, 606-545-5035, and that's the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline. Again, that's for technical assistance or for submitting an application if you hit a snag. And any general assistance or any of the requirements about the solicitation, you can contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Response Center and that's grants@ncjrs.gov or their toll-free number 800-851-3420 and their areas of operation are 10:00 to 6:00 eastern, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 to 8:00 eastern time on the close date of July 5th.

And if there are any programmatic questions, I certainly am available to answer those and you can reach me at my email address which is my name, (laura.ivkovich@usdoj.gov) or you may contact me on my office line which is 202-616-3576. And that phone does go to my email. So, if I'm not at my desk or I'm not available, I'll still get the email message that a phone call has come in. And I will try and answer any questions that people might have at this point and turn it over to Mary Jo to run the show.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: So, we are going to start with some questions that have come through. Our first question, "External evaluator, can she be affiliated with the same university as an investigator if and in unrelated department? Can the evaluator be someone who has contributed to the project design, include an internal data manager, or organization to gather data from external evaluator?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: Well, thanks for the question. External evaluator is intended to be outside of the sphere of influence of the program that's being developed and submitted for funding. So, it would be best to use somebody who is not closely aligned or already participating in anything that's been developed thus far. So we would look to an external evaluator to be from perhaps a different university, if it were a university submitting an application, and some--often universities have partner programs that they can avail themselves and that would be our preference.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Can law enforcement agency be an applicant?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: A public agency is a--an--is allowed as an eligible applicant. So, if it's--if the law enforcement agency is a public agency, then, yes, they could be--they

could apply. Remember however, this is a collaborative partnership type of program, so we would want law enforcement, and financial industry, and front-line victim service providers. But certainly the law enforcement agency could be the prime.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Is the \$45,000 for evaluation for the whole 24-month period or is the \$45,000 per 12-month period?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: Thanks for the question. That \$45,000 for the evaluation is 12-month period. [This is further clarified later.] You could use more than that but that's the amount that we say at least you must have set aside out of the \$500,000 to be spent for the evaluation purpose.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Does the national in scope mean only that it has to--be something that is potentially replicable nationwide, or the project proposed has to have a national impact out of the gate?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: So, thank you. The national in scope means that it has to have potential for replicability nationwide or even in a region that would undertake something, which is why we have the evaluation component as a requirement of the solicitation. So, it's not supposed to stay and remain local. It is supposed to be something that we can almost in a laboratory sort of way, hear from the field, have this field-generated solicitation, hear from the field, fund it, evaluated it with your partners, and make it available to the field. The Office for Victims of Crime funds local victim assistance programs through all states and territories and there's a lot of money that goes out for those--for funding of those programs. So we want to make sure that they know what might be working, that they could then, potentially fund at the state and local level as well. So, it has the potential and the leg for being funded in the long-term through the formula grant funding that is available to the states and territories under our VOCA victim assistance programs.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Do we need to set aside funds for training sponsored by OVC?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: You don't--thank you. You don't need to set aside but it would be a good idea to do that. Right now, the Justice Department, as with some other federal agencies, are minimizing the amount of conferences and meetings that are being funded. Also, in--with the advent of more technology like the WebEx we're doing today, folks can connect a little easier than flying across the country. So, the Justice Department is scaling back and reviewing requests for travel and meetings unless they're essential, they're probably not going to be easily funded. However, it might be helpful in case there is a group meeting, since I mentioned earlier, we have eight previous grantees. There might be an opportunity to have all these grantees, both the previous in 2017 and the new grantees to be funded, might be able to come together around one event. And so for that reason, it probably would be a good idea but it's not required.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. Next question. "To clarify the previous question on page 7 of the RFP, it says \$45,000 per year of the budget, not for the whole 2-year period. Can you please confirm?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: Yes, I can confirm. Thank you for catching that. Yes, on page 7, it does say per year. My apologies for that information and the transcript will be updated to record that correctly. Thank you.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Can salary and benefits of the program coordinator be funded?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: Absolutely.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Do you anticipate that this solicitation will be offered again in 2019?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: Thank you. I wish I could say. I don't know. And I hope that we can. But, no; there's no guarantee that it would be offered again in 2019. If it is, any of the solicitation applications that are submitted in, we might be able to pull from those. But I--we would again go through the formal process of announcing it having this webinar and making sure everybody knows that it would be available in 2019, if that is the case.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: So, at this time, we have no other questions in the queue. We will give you a few minutes to see if anything comes through.

I still don't see any other questions coming through. I'll give you another couple seconds and if nothing comes in, we will end this webinar.

A follow-up question on the external evaluator; "If we need to hire an external evaluator, can we still include an internal data manager on the grant to design and facilitate evaluation and reporting? And can we include those funds as part of the evaluator?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: Thank you for that clarification question. And absolutely. Yes. You can.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "How is financial exploitation defined?"

LAURA IVKOVICH: I believe that is defined through the statute and I will have to get that information back to you through the NCJRS process for questions and answers so that information will be available. I don't have--I don't believe I have it defined in the application or--in the solicitation. But we will--I--and I don't have it committed to memory so I do apologize for that. But that is defined by statute and that is what will be--that's what is implied.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: If you could please submit that question and send it to grants@ncjrs.gov, and then we can respond to you that way. That would be very helpful, thank you.

“Of the three types of partnership, is only one required, or all three?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: So, we are requiring that there be a collaborative partnership, must be build. That's the case. They may include front-line service providers, law enforcement, and financial industry. Our preference is that they include all three. So, as a result, we would not want just a financial industry representative application without a partnership built in with the other front-line service providers and law enforcement. We feel that all three have a value added in collaborating and partnering. And again, any MOUs would only be submitted if an application is awarded.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Can you clarify that \$45,000 part that can be for internal evaluator? Is that what you said definitely yes to before? That they can use the \$45,000 for the evaluation as--for an internal evaluator?”

LAURA IVKOVICH: The grants fund can be used for an internal data person. The evaluator, it must be external. So you can pay for an individual in your organization, or university, or agency who is currently able to work with the data, and that material is then sent to an external evaluator. So, you can pay for both. It would probably be preferable to pay for the data person through the regular grant funds and the external evaluator would be the \$45,000 each year, for those 2 years.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Again, we have no other questions. At this time then, we are going to end the webinar. Thank you so much for your attendance. If you do need assistance after the webinar, please contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. Their contact information is on the slide, so you have a few minutes to jot it down. The slides and the transcript will be posted to the Office for Victims of Crime website, OVC.gov. And you will also receive an email notifying you when that information has been posted. On behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime, thank you so much for your time and have a great day.

LAURA IVKOVICH: Thank you.