

[Transcript from the OVC Fiscal Year 2019 Field-Generated Innovations in Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking preapplication webinar, which was held May 9, 2019. The archived webinar can be found at: <https://www.ovc.gov/grants/webinars.html>.]

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Good afternoon, everybody. And welcome to today's webinar, Field-Generated Innovations in Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, I am going to turn it over to our presenter, Kristin Weschler, a Grants Management Specialist with the Office for Victims of Crime.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Thank you, Mary Jo. Welcome everyone. Whether you are morning or afternoon, I assume most of you at this point are in the afternoon, but thanks for joining us today. This is, again, the solicitation for Field-Generated Innovations in Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking. This is the second year that we have released this program and an opportunity for funding, so we are very excited to see the interest in this program. So today, we are going to--I'm going to just walk you through, basically, essential parts of the solicitation. As you can see on the screen, we will talk generally about what our office mission is; what the purpose and background, eligibility, goals and objectives are for this specific solicitation; then talk about the critical application elements; and then some technical elements about how to apply and what you can anticipate, if an award is issued. As was mentioned, if you do have questions as we go through the content, please feel free to put that in the chat box and I'll do my best to address those at the end of the presentation.

So for anyone unfamiliar with our office, we have a broad scope. OVC is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing policies and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime. For this specific program solicitation, it is specific to victims of human trafficking and we are seeking innovative ideas to enhance identification of and services for victims of human trafficking. As you can see on the slide, I've, kind of, put some of the words in bold that, kind of, make this solicitation a little bit more distinct from our other direct service application. So for this solicitation, we're looking for proposals that should develop or enhance promising practices, models, and victim-centered programs, or apply them in innovative ways to build the capacity of victim service providers to close gaps in assisting all victims of sex and labor trafficking in the United States. And this information is specifically found on page 4 of your solicitation.

Some additional clarification or detail can be found on pages 6 and 7 under the heading Purpose and Background. So there are four specific areas that you may respond to either individually or collectively, depending upon how you put forward your proposed application. So the first one could address improving the quality and quantity of victim-centered and trauma-informed services for victims of human trafficking. The second area is establishing creative collaborations or coalition building. The third is developing service models or best practices designed to identify and/or serve human vic--sorry--victims of human trafficking. And the fourth area is expanding or enhancing existing service models or best practices to identify and/or serve victims of human trafficking.

In regards to eligibility, this is pretty consistent with a number of our solicitations through our office. You are eligible if you are a state, local government, federally recognized Indian tribal government, nonprofit organization, and nongovernmental organizations including tribal nonprofits. We welcome applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award. However, one entity must be what we call the prime applicant. That would be the individual--the agency that would receive the award and then any others would be proposed as subrecipients or subgrantees under your application. Just a reminder, that all recipients and subrecipients must forego any profit or management fee.

So, Objectives and Deliverables, on pages 6 and 7 of the solicitation, outlines what we hope to accomplish--or what we hope you to have accomplished through your proposal, the corresponding activities, and the deliverables. At a minimum, applicants must describe their plan to meet (or exceed) all objectives described in the solicitation. So this is really an opportunity for applicants to shine and be creative. Just make sure that you're providing supportive evidence of the proposed model or approach that you're submitting.

As far as award information, we anticipate making up to four awards under the solicitation. You may request up to \$900,000 over a 3-year period. As you can see, the period of performance is for 36 months and please note that the begin date is January 1, 2020. That's a little different than some of our solicitations in the past. So please be mindful of your start date when putting your budgets and project timelines together. As is custom, the award is subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

This solicitation will issue awards as cooperative agreements, which are different than grants. For those who may be familiar with awards through our office, a cooperative agreement has a substantial involvement between the awarding agency and the recipient during the performance period; so it's a lot more engagement in communication between the awarded agency and the program office. And the program office closely participates in the performance of the program.

For federal regulations that you must apply and--word I'm looking for. Sorry, I'm just blank on words. The federal regulations you must adhere to--that's the word I was looking for, thank you--are found here on page 9, so part 200 of the UCR, Uniform Requirements. You can find a link here to the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide [<https://ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/Grant-App-Resource-Guide.htm>]. Another great resource to be mindful of is the DOJ Grants Financial Guide [<https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm>]. Again, the link is provided here on the screen and is another great resource specifically in developing your budget, knowing what is allowable, unallowable, etc.

In regards to the essential elements of the grant application, there are two core elements. The program narrative, and the budget detail [worksheet] (and budget narrative). Without these two documents, it will be considered substantially incomplete and will not be moved forward to peer review. So these are the two elements you must make sure get submitted. Otherwise, it will not be considered. On pages 13-16, you will see the different parts of the

program narrative including the statement of the problem; the project design and implementation plan; the capabilities and competencies, which includes both the applicant agency as well as proposed staff; and a plan for collecting data required for performance measures. The budget detail worksheet (as well as the narrative), that information can be found on pages 16-20. And then as noted at the bottom, if you're wondering how scoring will be performed during application review, you can find that information on page 31 of the solicitation.

The program narrative format details can be page--found on page 13. I'm not going to read it in detail, but just be very mindful of this guidance. The one thing I will point out is your narrative should not exceed 25 pages, which is pretty generous for this solicitation. Oftentimes, you'll find it's limited to maybe 20, but we want to give applicants the opportunity to demonstrate the evidence-based and innovative approach that we are seeking under the solicitation, so we've extended it. Just be mindful you don't exceed it.

Budget Detail and Budget Worksheet. There is a standard DOJ form that is preferred. It is an Excel version and it reduces the risk of errors, it is self-populated. So that is strongly encouraged that you use that version that is provided. That same document combines the budget detail and the budget narrative into one document. Personnel costs should relate to key personnel for the project. Make sure that all costs cover the full 36 months, but that budget standard form is broken out by year. So you will find when you open that attachment that there is a tab for year one, year two, year three, and then a 3-year budget summary. Again, a lot of that will be autopopulated for you, should you use this form, which will be very helpful. Now the only caveat to not using this form is if you do not have the access to Microsoft Excel or if you experience technical difficulties with the Excel version, then the applicant should use the 508-compliant accessible Adobe Portable Document format or PDF version. When using the PDF version, an applicant must complete it for each year, similar to what is outlined in the Excel version. So you would not submit one document for all 3 years. You will break it down by each year's costs with a final summary of the 3-year budget.

Data Collection. Something a lot of get a little anxious about. Some get really excited about it. Just depends what kind of hat you wear. But there is a requirement under the solicitation that you have the capacity to collect data. This information is included in the solicitation on page 15 and in Appendix A, which outlines the key performance measures. As part of your application, you must describe a plan to collect this data that has been identified. And that award recipients will be required to report data regularly to--through TIMS, which is our Trafficking Information Management System [<https://tims.ovcttac.gov>]. If you're a current grantee under our human trafficking programs, you're very familiar with this; otherwise this will be a new required database for you to report grant data into. The one thing I also wanted to bring to your attention is on page 5 of the solicitation. You have to include a plan to assess the effectiveness of the project. So sometimes you can--I forgot to add that as a bullet point here to this slide, but it may not necessarily fall into data collection because a lot of people think of that as service data or numbers served. But you must include a plan on how you're going to assess the effectiveness of the project, given that this is an innovative field-generated approach.

On pages 39 and 40 of the solicitation, there is a whole list of other elements that are required under the solicitation. I'm not going to go through all of them on this list. The one thing I think--let's see, I definitely want to touch on is the first one, which is your SF-424. Please be mindful in that you complete that accurately. This is a critical document that we use during review, so please make sure that you complete it accurately, reflecting your federal request, plus your match, which I forgot to mention under the budget. But there is a 25 percent match requirement under this program. So make sure that that is accurately reflected in your budget as well as on your 424.

So, How to Apply. You can get started on this even if you're still, kind of, mulling over whether you think you want to apply or getting your thoughts together after this webinar. Just by registering doesn't mean you have to apply. So--But you have to at least register in order to apply, and you do that through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). And on the slide here is the information, so you can see the competition ID [OVC-2019-15655]. You will need that information. Reminder, applications are due June 27th of this year [2019] by 11:59 p.m., eastern standard time. We do encourage applicants to submit their application 72 hours prior to the deadline, simply because if there are technical difficulties, you don't get a confirmation that it's been submitted successfully, any of the above, we want to make sure that you have enough time to get that resolved and submit a successful application. Well, successful in that it's submitted. If you have trouble submitting it, please call the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) customer support hotline, and their number is here on the screen [800-518-4726], and it's also provided in [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

Another important area to make sure you register in, not just [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), but is the [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov) registration. Again, if you don't yet know if you want to apply for this, this is a requirement for any federal application. So I would encourage you to go ahead and either update or renew your SAM registration. There's guidance here on what information is needed, as well as links to guidance and Frequently Asked Questions.

Just reminding you again of the deadline, June 27th, 11:59 p.m., eastern standard time.

And we have very specific restrictions as far as if you want to request a late submission. That information is found on page 31 of the solicitation. The following conditions, as listed on the slide, are generally insufficient, such as failure to register in SAM or [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Hence, my encouragement to do that now, if you think you're going to apply for any federal award. Another insufficient justification is failure to follow the instructions or technical issues, this is another reason that we encourage your submission 72 hours prior. The only exceptions I have seen, from time to time, is natural disasters that are outside of our control, but just please be mindful. We want to have as many successful submissions as we can.

So just some tips to help us during our review, because sometimes we get some really crazy labeled application documents and submissions. So we just wanted to give you some examples. So for instance, when you are uploading your budget detail, you label it budget detailed worksheet. So it's very clear. Whereas, in the bad example here, it just

says budget. Well, we don't know if that means it's your budget narrative, if it's your budget detail, is it the budget--sometimes people have uploaded the wrong budget. So as much detail that might help you as much as it helps us to make sure you're uploading the appropriate documents would be greatly appreciated.

Now to add attachments, we have added some additional information in the solicitation itself to give you some guidance, specifically around how to add an attachment. As I've covered earlier, some information is mandatory versus optional, please follow the guidance in the solicitation accordingly, but please do not embed mandatory attachments within another file. So, if a[n] attachment or document is optional, please do not scan that with your budget detail, and then label it something that is not your budget detail because then we don't know that you've met that critical element. So please be very intentional in how you are--maybe putting together your attachments and then be mindful again in how you're labeling them. An applicant must use the attached--add attachment button in [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Do not click the paperclip icon to attach files. And then there is an option to remove the file as see here. So if you, by mistake, uploaded the incorrect budget which we have seen before, you can delete it and then upload the correct version.

There's also an opportunity to check for errors, that information is provided on page 28 of the solicitation, which is a great resource to make sure that everything is complete and there are no identified errors before you submit your application.

So, just some general tips. If I haven't said it enough, start your process early. We are grateful that this is open for almost 60 days. So you've got some sufficient time to put your thoughts together. But again, you can do your DUNS, your SAM, your [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) registration now at any time. Think about who you want as subrecipient or partners. As you're aware working in the field, it takes time and energy to establish effective collaborations and partnerships. So you can start those conversations now. And then subsequently drafting your MOUs as appropriate. Again, wanting to stress using the budget detail worksheet template, that is going to help make sure that you adhere to the requirements within the budget template, and that you provide the sufficient detail necessary for budget review. Especially if an award is granted and that budget needs to be reviewed by OCFO, this will minimize, hopefully, the number of errors that are submitted with the original application. And then finally, please ask for the amount of funding that you need but do not exceed the award amount. So sometimes we see applicants not submit for the full amount, which is fine because you want to make sure that you're--the amount you're requesting is justified and matches what you're proposing in your narrative, but don't be afraid to ask for what you need.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right. So at this point, I'm going to go over a few--this is Mary Jo, and I'm going to go over a few websites. Some of these were actually mentioned earlier in the presentation but this is a, kind of, a one-slide that you can go to and capture everything if you don't want to search through the presentation. Obviously the first one listed is the OVC website at [OVC.gov](https://www.ovc.gov). The other URL listed is crime solutions, NIJ's crime solutions [<https://www.crimesolutions.gov>]. As Kristin mentioned, you--your proposal should be innovative and proven; so crime solutions can help you in this respect. They

have a library of different programs that are out there and they have been related--rated, excuse me, as effective, promising, or not effective. So you could take a look at that and see what is out there, what is innovative, and promising, and working, and use that to guide you. Other resources that were mentioned during the presentation and that are also useful as you move forward in developing your proposal are the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide [<https://ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/Grant-App-Resource-Guide.htm>], the DOJ Financial Guidance [<https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm>]. As Kristin has mentioned earlier, there's a link to the budget detail worksheet [<https://ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Forms/BudgetDetailWorksheet.htm>] as well as some other information [OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center: www.ovcttac.gov; Grants Management System: <https://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov/>; Grants Payment Request System: <https://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov/gprs>], including the grants performance measurement reporting [<https://ojp.gov/performance/>].

Also the National Criminal Justice Reference Service is available for you to help you with any questions that you might have regarding the application or the solicitation itself. You can submit your question to the--grants@ncjrs.gov. They will work with Kristin to get you an answer if it's something they can't immediately answer. If, for some reason, you don't have an opportunity to ask a question today or you don't think of a question, after this webinar you can submit your question to them. They are available at 800-851-3420, if you choose to call them and they do have a web chat [<https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>]. They're open 10:00 to 6:00, Monday through Friday. They are open later on the day the solicitation is--the solicitation is due. However as Kristin mentioned, you're not going to wait till that day because you're going to submit it 72 hours in advance. But they are there to help you. If you want to stay up to date on other opportunities available from the Office of Justice Programs, they do have two newsletters. One is JUSTINFO, it comes out twice a month, as well as the Funding News from NCJRS that comes out every Friday. Both of these email newsletters will let you know what opportunities are available. The funding newsletter, in particular, will also alert you to webinars as well as when information from the webinars have been posted.

Additionally, Grants.gov, again, this information too, for Grants.gov as well as NCJRS can be found on page 2 via solicitation. If you're having a problem submitting something or it's just not working, you're having technical issues with Grants.gov, contact their customer support hotline. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week except on federal holidays. They have an 800 number [800-518-4726] as well as an email address [support@grants.gov]. Although if you do have technical problems after the close of the solicitation, those should be addressed to NCJRS.

So at this time, we are going to open it up to questions. And actually two things before we even start going through questions. I did see some questions coming through on the chat and not the Q&A. Would you please, if at all, resubmit those to Q&A? I know it might sound picky to you, but it allows us to better track and respond to questions. So that's why I'm asking you to do that. I don't want to miss answering a question. Also, some people joined a little later; so what I'd like to say is that the slides, a transcript, and a recording for this webinar will be posted to the OVC website. You will receive notification via email

when that has been done. Also, if you sign up for the funding newsletter through NCJRS, it'll be announced in there. It takes at least 5 days, business days, maybe a little longer to get that posted. So just to let you know, it will take some time. All right.

So at this time, we will start with our first question and they would like to know, "when the awards will be announced."

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Oh, boy. Well, as you're aware, there's quite a process and time between when you submit an application and when awards are actually announced. So all I can do is base it off of what our general schedule is. So usually we'll have applications closed in--with an October 1st first start date. We still may not be making announcements until late September. I'm just being real, based on past fiscal years. So there is a chance we may not be making announcements until later, but I believe our money has to--we have to have it allocated by the end of September. So, I'm saying that, you can--Don't hold me to that, I'm just saying. But because of--We're still operating within a fiscal year, even though the start date, isn't going to be until January 1, 2020. The reason we did that is because of the time it takes for our budgets to clear even once an award is made. So I anticipate awards being announced before October 1st. Yeah.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "What size target group is an--is anticipated, (i.e., the number of participants)?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: I would--this really is dependent upon what kind of approach you're taking under the solicitation. Again, you know, this is a Field-Generated Innovation response so--to kind of really be responsive to the identification and the needs of victims of human trafficking. So you have to, number one, be mindful of your--first, your service area. You know, so it might be that you're just doing a county; it might be that you're doing a state. So of course, that's going to impact your service size, for lack of a better word. As far as individuals, again, even within victims of trafficking, we do--as I mentioned in one of the earlier slides, it is to target all victims of both sex and labor trafficking. I want to make that clear. And if you are wanting to, for instance, focus on a specific or maybe your model is going to focus on a specific population, maybe it might be you want to focus on labor trafficking. That was actually a purpose area last year. I'll use that as an example. The requirement would still [be] that you must serve all victims of human trafficking. Now, that might be that you're doing that through a referral or through a subrecipient agreement with someone else, but you have to demonstrate that you are meeting everyone's needs that might come to you even if your scope is a little bit more narrow. I hope that makes sense. If you need additional clarification, please contact NCJRS or type another question, and if I have time, I'll address it at the end.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Can undocumented persons be included? Are there any services or funding restrictions for this group?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Can they be included? Yes. Are there any restrictions? Not that I'm aware of.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Does this solicitation support program evaluation activities?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yes. So if you--oh, my goodness. Now I have to find it in the solicitation. Let me look. I've got it with me. Sometimes it's easier for an electronic version because I can do a search. But there is information in the solicitation about evaluation, maybe it's the dog ear. Yes, so there's some information on page 7, the bottom of page 7 talks about evidence-based programs or practices. And then on page 8, there's information regarding potential evaluation of a--of programs and activities. So yes, you can use grant funds for evaluation. If you're a previous grantee, you may have--be aware that we've had caps in regards to this. There are no caps in regards to evaluation under this solicitation. Just be mindful, again, of the scope and the purpose of it. So we certainly want, you know--we would want to see a proposal fully on evaluation of a model. This is to demonstrate and implement promising practices, innovative practices in serving victims of human trafficking. But as I mentioned earlier on, I think it was page 6 of the--we still want you to be able to demonstrate the effectiveness of what you're proposing. So there is going to be some kind of evaluation component within that.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "If an organization receives funding under this program, does it disqualify them from receiving funding under other OVC programs such as specialized services programs?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: I'm--that's probably a grantee question. Absolutely not. This-- That's the beauty of this solicitation, is it--yeah, there is no conflict. So you can apply for this as well as any of our other human trafficking solicitations. Of course, from your perspective, the thing you need to keep in mind is capacity.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "As a cooperative agreement, is this a reimbursement contract? That is, is the funding upfront or only as a reimbursement for expenses?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: So all of our awards are reimbursement. So it's not a--the commitment is made in full upfront. I will say that. So when you get a, like, congratulations, you've been--you know, we have accepted your application and are funding it, you will get a commitment, that we are making that award for \$900,000. That doesn't mean you get to draw down \$900,000 the first day of your award or if you do, that's a huge red flag at our end of what the heck is going on. This is meant to be implemented as a reimbursement process so that your incurring costs, then you submit financial reports, which are quarterly. And then most of our grantees draw down either monthly or quarterly. And that's how the payment system works.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Will there be four awards made for this announcement?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Up to four awards for this announcement, for--and I say that because last year, when this was first released, we--it was a late release and it was also a short period of window that it was open. So we didn't get the number of applications we had anticipated and consequently only made two awards even though we had anticipated making more. So we will make up to four awards under this solicitation and then as--I think

there's language in there, we have the discretion to make more if we have the ability to, but the commitment is to make four.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Have you identified priority geographical areas? Do you have a goal of awarding a different geo--awarding two different geographic areas?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: So this is certainly something we're very mindful of in all of our solicitations is geographical distribution. But that's not a given. It's certainly based on the quality of the application received and as you'll see in the, I think it's the statement of need--under the program narrative. Anyway, you have to identify if there are other grantees in your area. And so that's going to address that a little bit already because we want to know that you're already aware of other programs in your area. And then--oh, the other thing I did want to mention because it is new this year to the solicitation, it's under a number of the federal awards on page--this is 6. They've added a section called, "Encouraging Program Investments in Economically Distressed Communities." They're calling them QOZ zones. And so this does note that they will be given priority consideration for award decisions for applications that propose projects that directly benefit federally designated QOZs. But again, that's not a given, that is a consideration that will be given.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "What is the size target population you're seeking? I think this is a similar..."

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yeah. That's really--like we--for us you--as long as it's justified. I know coming--I've been on the other side, I've been a grant writer at a nonprofit, you know. Sometimes you get worried about numbers, you know, and the number of people that you're serving. We're more concerned about the quality of service. So if you can justify, you know--you know, and we know that human trafficking is complicated, you know, this is not easy. If you're talking about legal services it's going to take years to work with someone maybe getting a T or U Visa. That's one example, or getting someone a job, or whatever approach that you're going to take. So it really goes back to you knowing your service area, you knowing the population you want to serve, and demonstrating a good strong solid application of quality services not to be so concerned about the number or the volume that you're serving.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Could you explain the matching more clearly. Does the nonprofit have to have 25 percent before applying for the promise of the 25 percent before applying?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yeah. Match is so much fun. This is one of the things I hated as a grant writer. But it is a requirement under the human trafficking designation that we get. So that being said you can find a match information in the solicitation, which I'm trying to find. But the commitment has to be made when you submit your applications. You have to demonstrate in your budget detail where you are making up that 25 percent match. That should also be recorded on the SF-424. So if you don't have that match commitment that's

very problematic and it may not be considered for an award because that is a requirement.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "How many applications were submitted last year and how many awards?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: So 10 received, two awarded.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Who were the applicants for 2018?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Oh, that information--I don't know that I...

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: I'm sorry, "awardees" not applicants.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yeah. No. That--I can't remember off the top of my head because as--if you've been watching the funding for human trafficking through our office it's like skyrocketed in the last 2 years. But all of our award information is on the OVC website; ovc.gov and then you go to the grants link, and you can search any of our grant programs by state, by program, and see who was awarded.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Another question here, "related to undocumented persons and if they can be served." I'm not sure if this is the same person but that question was answered earlier, and Kristin had indicated that there are no known limitations to serving undocumented individuals.

And yes, a question was coming through "about a copy of the webinar." The webinar, the PowerPoints, transcripts, and a recording will all be posted to the OVC website. So you will be able to obtain copies of the webinar at--through OVC's website. Unfortunately it's going to take about 5, 7 days for that to happen.

"Can an applicant be a subawardee on another application?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yes. So you could be a subawardee or subrecipient on a current OVC human trafficking award and be a--the main applicant for this one and be eligible.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Can we match the funding with an in kind match?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: This--You can use either cash or in kind to meet your 25 percent match.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Yes. Everybody on today's webinar--actually everybody that registered, so even if you know somebody that registered but did not attend the webinar, we will send an email, letting everybody know when the slides, transcripts, and recording have been posted to the OVC website. So you will receive notification of that.

“You mentioned the granting office will be more closely involved, does this mean that there will be more support and feedback in the implementation of the programs? Or what does the additional--additional involvement look like?”

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yeah. So for cooperative agreements, usually these are applied to like demonstration initiatives or programs such as this, where there's more liberty, for lack of a better word, for the applicant to kind of define it themselves. And we're looking to the field, that's why it's kind of labeled the way it is, Field-Generated Innovations. Recognizing that we're often stuck here in an office, we don't know what's going on. What are the best practices that are going on out there in the field? So that being said, it's--We see all of our grants, or cooperative agreements as partnerships, but particularly with cooperative agreements. This is a partnership where we're working together. It might--usually what that might look like is there are some deliverables within an application. It might be, I don't know, developing, training curricula. I'm thinking of some of our other solicitations. So we might be at planning meetings. "We" meaning program office staff. We might be reviewing, yeah, deliverables a little bit more closely. It's just a more frequent dialog usually that we have with our cooperative agreements. I hope that's helpful. It's hard to say specifically under the solicitation because it is new. We're going into uncharted territory, which is exciting at the same time.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Can a new nonprofit 501(c)(3) dated October 2018 apply for this grant?”

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yeah. As long as you're--because, let's see--yeah, because we're in--we're in '19. You are effectively a 501(c)(3). Congratulations! Yes, you would meet the eligibility criteria.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “If multiple agencies are participating in an MOU and performing the same action, for example agreeing to survey victims, do we need to include MOUs for each agency or can they sign a joint MOU?”

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yeah. A joint MOU is fine. In fact, it's almost preferable if you're doing the same action. For instance, I can use an example where we have a human trafficking task force solicitation that we've been working on, and we require all cooperative agencies on the task force to sign one MOU. So if you were doing a--all working for a common goal or common purpose, it's definitely easier to work with one MOU.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: “Could you explain matching?”

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Oh, gosh. I would--Please start with the DOJ Financial Guide. That's going to be a great resource to explain matching. There's also--I still couldn't find in the solicitation, by flipping through it, but there is some guidance on how to calculate match in the solicitation, how to do your 25 percent match. But I am not an accountant, and that's very intentional. So I would probably not do the best justice of explaining it and I would defer to those two areas. If you still have questions after looking at the Financial

Guide and the solicitation, please reach out to NCJRS and we'll try to answer your question.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "What does the claims process timeline look like? How much time is normal between the time claims are posted and when they are paid?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Okay. I'm assuming this is like for payments which, gosh, it's been a while. I need a grantee almost to answer that question. We don't--we don't--we don't manage the pro--We're a program office, we don't manage the what we call GPRS, it's the grants payment, I don't know what the R stands for, report--grants payment report system [Grants Payment Request System] or something. I believe that much instantaneously. It's all electronic because you'll set up your account information upon award. And if you are chosen for an award, there is guidance on how to set up the account with GPRS. But, yeah, I can't say definitively, but I know it doesn't take too long.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "May the solicitation be used to purchase property?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: No. That was easy.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: That was an easy one.

"Units of local government can be applicants. Would any court systems, i.e., municipal courts not be qualified partners?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: So is the question, that a municipal court can't be a partner, or can't be an applicant?

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: If the person that asked that question, if you can qual--clarify your question. Are you asking that the municipal court, or do you want--Are you as a nonprofit want[ing] to partner with the municipal court, and you're asking if they can be your partner? Or are you asking that the municipal court is the main applicant?

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yeah. Because the use of partner makes me think of subrecipient, but the first sentence says applicant. So I'm just a little--I'm not quite sure how to respond to that.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Another question regarding the nonprofit, 501(c)(3). "If you need to have a minimum number of years in existence or minimum revenue threshold to be eligible to apply?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: No. We don't go into that level of specificity. Basically we just ask that you are an established 501(c)(3).

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Where would find the list of previous grantees from last year?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yes. So again, that would be on the ovc.gov website. Look under grants, and then I think without bringing up the website [<https://external.ojp.usdoj.gov/selector/solicitations>], it's like funded awards, or funded programs, or something like that.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: I'll try to take to look in between and see if I can find it.

"Can you apply to this funding opportunity as a main applicant and a subrecipient with someone else?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: I love creativity. And yes, you can. That's what we're getting at. Yes. On the cover page, where it says, "We welcome applicants under which two or more entities would carry out the award but one would be the main applicant, others must be proposed as subrecipients." So that is an allowable approach.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: So here's a clarifying question or--on the municipality.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yes.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Units of local government are eligible applicants.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Right.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "So would the court system, such as a municipal court be disqualified as a partner to a nonprofit?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: As a partner--well, this kind--If I'm understanding this correctly, it's kind of tying in to our pre--the question I just answered. So, if there--a unit of local government is applying as a main applicant, that doesn't disqualify then the courts to be a subrecipient on another different application. I don't know--I still don't know if that's exactly what you're getting at. We can still try to figure that out or do it offline with NCJRS if I'm still not understanding that correctly.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: And just to let you all know, we have about two minutes left in the webinar but we do have a handful of questions. So, I think we're going to try, if you guys want to hang on, we'll try to answer these questions even though we will go a little bit over.

"Does the grant allow for indirect costs?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yes. So, if you have an indirect cost rate agreement, perfect. If you do not have an indirect cost rate agreement but want to claim the de minimis, 10 percent, which is allowable under federal award, you can find the information in the solicitation about that. I don't have the specific page number. But you can claim indirect costs. Yes. [See page 20.]

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "What is covered in the 2-day training in Washington?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: So the 2-day training--I'm glad you've read the solicitation, that's great. So the 2-day solic--sorry--orientation that we do for our grantees every year, basically, it's a combination of programmatic, administrative, and financial information that we share with grantees. We find that usually, there is a whole range of experience amongst all of our different programs. Some are brand new to federal awards, some are brand new to human trafficking. So, we do a 2-day event, where we cover a whole range of information. But it's also an opportunity to bring all of our grantees together so you get to network and learn from one another and what you're doing in the field.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Evidence-based is described in the application solicitation. Often, it is difficult for trafficked [persons] to remain in one location for various reasons, safety, housing, etc. Is it recommended for applicants to budget for a licensed therapist in this grant?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: That's all dependent on the approach that you're going to propose. Again, because there is no--really--that we--This is like open ended for you. We're not saying it has to be medical--or sorry--mental health. We're not saying it has to be legal. It doesn't have to be any--you know. So, that response is really dependent upon the model that you are going to propose in your application.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: "Should applicants aim to focus on other geographies than those communities that were funded in the previous round of this RFP?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Not necessarily. Again, because last year--and if you want to see last year's solicitation, that's also on the OVC website. And you can see, there were very two specific purpose areas identified last year, which was mental health services and labor trafficking. Whereas this year, it's open. You can propose any innovative field-generated idea, again, for the purpose of identifying and searching victims of human trafficking. So no, I wouldn't say that that would preclude additional funding in those specific service areas.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: This question was answered earlier, but I'm going to repeat it again just in case the person had missed it. "May the grant be used to purchase property?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: No.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: And because it was an easy answer.

"If the applicant doesn't have the 25 percent match prior to submitting the application, can the fundraising plan from matching be written as part of the proposal?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: You have to have that commitment at time of submission. So, yeah. However, you're going to meet it, is up to you and your staff and board.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: And that is our last question. It is now 4:02.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Wow. That's not bad.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: That was excellent. Some really great questions there. So.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: Yeah. I am--you all were like a firing squad. But I feel pretty good. I'm glad you're asking questions. I'm glad there's a lot of interest in this. I am so excited. I saw, like, we were up to a 125 people at one point. So this is fabulous. Again, I'll just say it's, you know, if you do have more questions, please, please, please don't hesitate to contact NCJRS. They have been given information about this program specifically. And if they can't answer their question, they will reach out to us specifically.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: A couple things and I'll just let you all go. Yes, NCJRS, their information is listed on page 2 of the solicitation. The email address is pretty simple, grants@ncjrs.gov. Also, while we're still on the line, Michelle has been adding the links that Kristin had mentioned throughout the webinar to the chat. So you can actually go ahead and copy and paste those from chat before we leave today, if you like.

And then we did get one last question. If you want to try to grab that. "If we specialize in sex trafficking recovery, will we--we'll be automatically disqualified because we don't work with labor trafficking?"

KRISTIN WESCHLER: You won't be automatically disqualified. You need to be responsive though to the purpose area where you are serving all victims of human traffic including labor and sex. So, you still have to demonstrate how, if victims of labor trafficking are identified, how they will be served. And again, that--sometimes it's a referral, sometimes it's another partner, it may not be you. But all victims of human trafficking must be addressed through your application.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: All right.

KRISTIN WESCHLER: All right. Thank you, everyone. I look forward to reading your applications.

MARY JO GIOVACCHINI: Goodbye.