

## OVC Recovery Act Web Site Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What funding did OVC receive from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“Recovery Act”) of 2009?**

**A:** The Recovery Act included a direct appropriation of \$100 million in grant funding to be administered by OVC. Of the \$100 million, \$47.5 million in formula funding will be directed to state agencies that administer VOCA-funded crime victim compensation programs, and an additional \$47.5 million in formula funding will be directed to state agencies that administer VOCA-funded crime victim assistance programs. The remaining \$5 million of OVC-administered Recovery Act funding will be directed to discretionary grant projects awarded through the [Recovery Act - National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance and Demonstration Projects \(NFG\)](#) competitive grant solicitation.

### FORMULA

**Q: How will the OVC formula funding available through the Recovery Act be distributed?**

**A:** Of the formula funding, \$47.5 million will be directed to state agencies that administer VOCA-funded crime victim compensation programs, and an additional \$47.5 million will be directed to state agencies that administer VOCA-funded crime victim assistance programs. OVC provides detailed guidance to the eligible state agencies on application and reporting requirements in the solicitations found on the [Recovery Act - VOCA Formula Funding Web page](#). See the [Fund Allocation Chart](#) for specific information about the calculation and distribution of formula funding to agencies.

**Q: Do we have to spend the stimulus grant funding only on certain items or expenses? Or can we spend it on all the costs that normally are allowable under VOCA guidelines?**

**A:** OVC formula grant recipients may fund items that are normally allowable under the applicable [VOCA Guidelines](#).

**Q: How long do we have to spend the grant funding: year of award plus three years, like our regular VOCA grant, or some shorter time frame?**

**A:** The Recovery Act funding may be expended during the fiscal year of award plus the three subsequent fiscal years, like regular VOCA formula grants.

**Q: Do I have to go to Grants.gov to apply for the Recovery Act funding? What if my agency is already registered with Central Contractor Registration (CCR) and has a valid Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, do I still have to go to Grants.gov?**

**A:** No. Applicants must apply through the Grants Management System (GMS), not Grants.gov. Applicants must be registered with CCR or have a valid DUNS number. Applicants may register or see if you are registered with CCR or have a DUNS number through the following

links: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do> and <http://www.ccr.gov/>. Please note, that applicants must update or renew their CCR registration at least once per year to maintain active status.

**Q: Are there any additional reporting requirements for Recovery Act funding?**

**A:** Yes. Under the Recovery Act section 1512(c), quarterly financial and programmatic reporting will be required, and will be due within ten calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter starting July 10, 2009. Please refer to the [solicitations](#) for more details.

**Q: Must states meet the ten percent priority/underserved requirements? Can these be waived as permitted by OVC Guidelines?**

**A:** Yes, states must meet the ten percent priority/underserved requirements. Please refer to the [VOCA guidelines](#) for waiver requirements.

**Q: Will subgrantees have to meet the current match requirements? Can these be waived as permitted by OVC guidelines?**

**A:** Yes, subgrantees are required to meet the twenty percent match requirement. Please refer to the [VOCA guidelines](#) for waiver requirements.

**Q: Can we use five percent for our administrative costs as we can on our regular VOCA grant?**

**A:** Yes. State grantees choosing to use a portion of the award for administrative and training purposes must report the percentage/amount of the total grant that will be used for these purposes. The Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Pub. L. No. 109-162) amended the Victims of Crime Act by expanding the purposes of the five percent administrative set aside for State Victim Compensation and Victim Assistance programs. Under these amendments, reflected in 42 U.S.C. 10602(a)(3) and 10603(b)(3) respectively, eligible State Victim Compensation and State Victim Assistance programs may set aside up to a total of five percent of the respective grant funds for administrative and training purposes. In other words, the combination of a grantee's administrative budget and training budget may not be more than five percent of the grant award for that fiscal year.

**Q: Who can I contact at OVC regarding Recovery Act formula funding?**

**A:** Please contact Joel Hall at 202-307-3940 or [joel.hall@usdoj.gov](mailto:joel.hall@usdoj.gov) or DeLano Foster at 202-616-3612 or [delano.foster@usdoj.gov](mailto:delano.foster@usdoj.gov).

**DISCRETIONARY**

**Q: What OVC funding is available for private nonprofit organizations under the Recovery Act?**

**A:** Five million of the \$100 million Recovery Act funds to be administered by OVC will be directed to discretionary grant projects under the [Recovery Act - National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance and Demonstration Projects \(NFG\)](#) competitive grant solicitation, which is limited to private nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and

community-based organizations, colleges or universities, public agencies, tribal governments, or tribal organizations. Through the Recovery Act - NFG, OVC will make awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 to support training, technical assistance, and demonstration projects. Please be advised that the Recovery Act - NFG solicitation deadline has been extended to March 26, 2009. Please see the [OVC Recovery Act Web page](#) frequently for updates on reporting, certifications, and other information to assist you in applying for and administering your grant.

**Q: How can my organization receive OVC discretionary grant funding under the Recovery Act?**

**A:** Discretionary grant funding will be awarded through the [Recovery Act - National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance and Demonstration Projects \(NFG\)](#) competitive grant solicitation, which is limited to private nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and community-based organizations, colleges or universities, public agencies, tribal governments, or tribal organizations. Please be advised that the Recovery Act - NFG solicitation deadline has been extended to March 26, 2009. Please see the [OVC Recovery Act Web page](#) frequently for updates on reporting, certifications, and other information to assist you in applying for and administering your grant.

**Q: How much money will be made available for Recovery Act - National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration Projects (NFG) solicitations?**

**A:** OVC will apply \$5,000,000 from the Recovery Act to support discretionary grant projects through the Recovery Act - NFG program. The awards will range from \$50,000 to \$500,000. The Recovery Act - NFG solicitation can be found on the [OVC Web site](#) and has a new deadline of March 26, 2009. Please see the [OVC Recovery Act Web page](#) frequently for updates on reporting, certifications, and other information to assist you in applying for and administering your grant.

**Q: Has the Recovery Act - National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration Projects (NFG) solicitation been released? What is the due date?**

**A:** The Recovery Act - NFG solicitation can be found on the [OVC Web site](#). Please be advised that the solicitation deadline has been extended to March 26, 2009.

**Q: If I already submitted an application for a National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration Projects (NFG) funding opportunity, do I have to reapply?**

**A:** If you have already submitted an application for NFG, you will need to resubmit an application on the basis of the Recovery Act – NFG solicitation. Please be advised that the Recovery Act - NFG solicitation deadline has been extended to March 26, 2009. Please see the [OVC Recovery Act Web page](#) frequently for updates on reporting, certifications, and other information to assist you in applying for and administering your grant.

**Q: What are the differences between the original and the Recovery Act - National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration Projects (NFG) solicitations?**

**A:** The core requirements for the [Recovery Act - NFG solicitation](#) remain the same as the core requirements for the version posted to Grants.gov in December 2008. As Recovery Act funding will be used to fund projects under this solicitation, OVC revised the solicitation to reflect new requirements mandated by the Recovery Act including: additional goals, objectives, and certifications; quarterly progress reports; and revised performance measures. Additionally, in contrast to the original solicitation, applicants for multi-year projects must apply for all proposed funding in their applications and a single award will be made during FY09, as opposed to incrementally over 2-3 years. There are six performance measures, four measures are revised and two of the measures are new; Jobs Retained and Jobs Created. These two performance measures, Jobs Retained and Jobs Created, are part of the selection criteria that peer reviewers must consider as applications are ranked. Contractor or consultant jobs will count. There will also be quarterly progress reports due within ten days after the end of the quarter. The core of the proposal remains the same.

**Q: How do I apply?**

**A:** Submit your application through the [Office of Justice Programs \(OJP\) Grants Management System \(GMS\)](#). Do not apply through Grants.gov. Instructions will be provided in the [Recovery Act - National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration Projects](#) solicitation. A step-by-step tutorial is available on the GMS Web site for new users. Additional Frequently Asked Questions regarding GMS are available on the [OVC Web site](#).

**Q: Who can I contact at OVC regarding the Recovery Act - National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration Projects solicitation?**

**A:** Please contact Olivia Schramm at 202-616-8803 or [olivia.schramm@usdoj.gov](mailto:olivia.schramm@usdoj.gov).

**ADMINISTRATIVE & OTHER INFORMATION**

**Q: Can I use OVC Recovery Act funds to supplant State and/or local funds?**

**A:** No. Recovery Act grants received under the VOCA formula grant programs or the National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance and Demonstration Project cannot be used to supplant State and/or local funds. Supplanting occurs when a State or unit of local government reduces State or local funds for an activity specifically because federal funds are available (or expected to be available) to fund that same activity. For additional guidance regarding supplanting, and for VOCA-specific definitions and examples of supplanting, see [OJP's Recovery Act Web site](#).

**Q: What will be the reporting requirements once the OVC Recovery Act grant is awarded?**

**A:** Consistent with the Recovery Act emphasis on accountability and transparency, reporting requirements under Recovery Act grant programs will differ from and expand upon OJP's standard reporting requirements for grants. In particular, section 1512(c) of the Recovery Act

sets out detailed requirements for quarterly reports that must be submitted within ten days of the end of each calendar quarter. The information from grantee reports will be posted on a public web site, and receipt of funds will be contingent on meeting the Recovery Act reporting requirements. Accordingly, grant recipients under this program are required to file a “Certification as to Recovery Act Reporting Requirements.” In addition, funds from a Recovery Act grant must be tracked, accounted for, and reported separately from all other funds (including DOJ grant funds from non-Recovery Act grants awarded for the same or similar purposes or programs). To the extent that grant funds are available to pay a grantee’s administrative expenses, those funds may be used to assist the grantee in meeting the accelerated time-frame and extensive reporting requirements of the Recovery Act. In addition, all OVC Recovery Act grant recipients will be required to follow any applicable provisions of government-wide guidance that may be issued in the future, pursuant to the Recovery Act.

**Q: How do I receive my OVC Recovery Act award payments?**

**A:** Payment requests are made through the Phone-Activated Paperless Request System (PAPRS). Once you request a payment, funds are electronically deposited to your bank account. You must have an up-to-date Automated Clearing House (ACH) banking form on file with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer prior to attempting to access funds. Please see Step 5 Accessing Payment in the Office of Justice Programs [Postaward Instructions](#) for step-by-step guidance.

**Q: Where can I find instructions for submitting financial status reports, OVC Recovery Act progress reports, grant adjustment notices (GAN) and/or closeouts in GMS?**

**A:** Detailed training guides are available on the [GMS Computer-Based Training web page](#).

**Q: How will I be notified when my award is made?**

**A:** Grantees are automatically notified by email after OVC awards your grant. Because of this, it is critical that contact information entered into your grant application is accurate.

**Q: Now that I received my OVC Recovery Act award, are there any written post-award instructions?**

**A:** Yes. The online Office of Justice Programs (OJP) [Postaward Instructions](#) includes detailed guidance.