

Supporting Male Survivors of Violence Solicitation Q&A Webinar

Additional Participant Questions

May 20, 2015 @ 3:00pm eastern

1. How many demonstration projects are wanted by OVC?

OVC intends to fund 8-12 demonstration projects.

2. With regard to the lack of a page limit, are there any formatting guidelines – double-spaced, for example? What is the usual length that these OVC applications ask for?

OVC usually asks that the program narrative be double-spaced, use a standard 12-point font (Times New Roman preferred), have no less than 1 inch margins, and remain within a 25-30 page limit.

3. Applicants must have staff and capacity to develop and enhance programs. Are we able to hire more staff with these grant funds?

Yes.

4. Are you including sexual orientation and including transgender men of color in addition to cisgender (non-transgender) men or boys of color in this analysis/project as well?

Yes.

5. Are the services that [OVC] wants young men of color to access specifically behavioral health or general helpful services such as case management? Our proposal would specifically enhance our existing work reducing barriers to behavioral health services, specifically trauma response and recovery after shootings, homicides, accidents, etc.

OVC anticipates that demonstration project submissions will incorporate a range of services and support for survivors, not just case management or behavioral health.

6. Can the evaluation partner [have] evaluated other programs within your organization in the past?

Yes.

- 7. Can you expand on the disallowance for a TA applicant to be "connected with" a demonstration project applicant. Can one collaborate with the other? Can they provide letters of support/collaboration for each other?**

OVC will not consider applicants that apply to both purpose areas, which means that one applicant cannot apply to both the demonstration and technical assistance projects. Hence, TA applicants cannot be part of a demonstration project application and vice versa.

- 8. You say that an applicant for a demonstration project cannot also apply as part of a TA project. However, could a TA applicant have a consulting agreement for specific types of TA with a program that is a demonstration project applicant?**

No.

- 9. Can [an applicant] submit more than one application for a demonstration project? I thought I understood you to say that this was possible on the webinar, but the RFP seems to restrict this.**

The same applicant can submit multiple applications for demonstration projects; however, the same applicant cannot apply for both the demonstration and TA projects.

- 10. What is OVC looking for in terms of the target area?**

OVC has not placed a limit on the size of the target area to be served. Demonstration project applicants should designate the area they intend to serve in their proposals.

- 11. Can you be a subcontractor on a demonstration application and apply for the TA opportunity?**

No.

- 12. Do both TA and demonstration projects have evaluation components?**

Only the demonstration project includes an evaluation component. However, OVC expects the TA providers selected to work with the local research partners from the demonstration projects as well as the demonstration-level evaluator selected by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) solicitation.

13. Would OVC consider interventions not on the list mentioned on RFP page 6 (effective/promising programs)? What about using a combination of multiple models that take into account developmental appropriateness (i.e., the timing of dramatic incidents in the life of the client)?

Yes. The programs included on page 6 are solely included as examples. Applicants are not limited to submitting proposals for these types of activities. Rather, applicants are encouraged to consider a wide variety of solutions to the problem of providing victim services to male survivors of violence, especially those who historically have lacked access to these services.

14. Would OVC consider an applicant to adapt an existing evidence-based model for group work?

Yes.

15. Please let me know if the award amount of \$1M is for the entire 3 year grant period or \$1M per year for a total of \$3M for the entire 3 year program?

The \$1 million award amount for the demonstration and technical assistance project grantees will cover the entire 3 year program (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2018).

16. Is there a minimum and maximum age range set, or is it up to the organization to determine?

OVC has not set limits on the age range of survivors served by the demonstration projects. However, OVC is asking that applicants indicate the age range that their programs and services will target and that they distinguish when supportive services are only available to specific age groups.

17. On Page 9, the first deliverable for Phase 1 is to have a list of stakeholders and letters of support. But on page 26 it says letters of support are only required for joint submissions. Do applicants need to submit letters of support with the proposal if partners are providing support in-kind?

OVC encourages applicants to submit letters of support from partners significant to the success and operation of their programs with their applications. The deliverables mentioned on page 9 of the solicitation refer to enhancements and refinements that will be made by successful applicants after completing the Phase 1 planning stage.

18. Please clarify the "independence" of the evaluator. It would be ok for us to use someone we have worked with before, as long as they are not employed by the same agency as the applicant?

The local evaluator must be independent and not connected directly, or indirectly, to the applicant agency outside of the agreement for the process/implementation evaluation. For example, if a program operates through the School of Social Work at a State University then it cannot use the State University's School of Public Health as the local research partner for the demonstration project. Instead, the program would need to work with another research organization in the area.

19. Can TA applicants bring in a group of experts from different organizations (understanding that TA and demonstration applicants must be separate)?

Yes.

20. To what extent can the focus be limited, in terms of the type of violence experienced by boys and young men? E.g. focus on sexual violence and not physical.

OVC is not limiting demonstration project applicant's ability to focus on serving survivors of specific types of violence. Any limits set should be established by the applicant and supported by the submission.

21. Regarding the evidence base for grants, are [applicants] expected to draw from evidence-based practices, programs or both?

Yes.

22. Are the evidence-informed practices, Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR) from SAMHSA's National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) included among the practices for this grant?

Yes.

23. What is the program period for this solicitation?

All of the demonstration and technical assistance projects funded through this solicitation will operate from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2018.

24. The review criteria include that "the amount of funding proposed for direct services and costs will be one factor in the review of applications" -- will the review not penalize applicants that have to use an existing federally negotiated indirect cost rate?

OVC included this language to encourage applicants to apply as much funding as possible to support the program by using lower or reduced indirect cost rates. OVC will not penalize applicants that apply indirect costs to their budgets.

25. Just confirming TA applicants can apply for both TA types in one application?

Yes. TA applicants may apply to provide both comprehensive and communications TA in one submission.

26. Can a TA applicant designate a portion of the award for future subcontracting (without naming the specific subcontractor) so that we can be responsive to needs as they arrive?

Yes. Please be sure to provide as much detail as necessary about the plan to use this funding to avoid giving the impression that the applicant is not prepared.

27. Will you automatically send the slides or should we submit our e-mail address?

The presentation used for today's webinar will be shared with participants via e-mail and placed on the OVC website (www.ovc.gov).