



The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [Office for Victims of Crime](#) (OVC) is seeking applications for a Victim Services Language Access Fellow. This program furthers the Department's mission by supporting the activities of a fellowship position to assist OVC in its mission to advance victims' rights and services through training, technical assistance, and public awareness activities, especially for victims who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or have Limited English Proficiency.

FY 2015 Victim Services Language Access Fellowship Program

Eligibility

Applicants must be individuals (organizations are not eligible to apply) who demonstrate the financial and administrative capacity to manage the cooperative agreement; along with the desire, knowledge, and ability to successfully execute the development of a strategic initiative to support OVC's efforts to ensure that all OVC-sponsored products, programs, and services are accessible to all. The applicant must have prior experience with language access and victim services initiatives, especially for victims who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, and/or have Limited English Proficiency. The applicant agrees to abstain from any outside employment, either compensated or uncompensated, for the duration of the fellowship, unless approved in writing by the Director of OVC. Applicants should read the OVC Fellowship Guidelines that are available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/pdf/OVC_Fellowship_Guidelines.pdf.

OVC may elect to make awards for applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

For additional eligibility information, see Section [C. Eligibility Information](#).

Deadline

Applicants must register with [Grants.gov](#) prior to submitting an application. All applications are due to be submitted and in receipt of a successful validation message in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on June 24, 2015.

All applicants are encouraged to read this [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#).

For additional information, see [How to Apply](#) in section [D. Application and Submission Information](#).

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035, or via e-mail to support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Support Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

Applicants that experience unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must e-mail the Office for Victims of Crime contact identified below **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. Additional information on reporting technical issues is found under “Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues” in the [How to Apply](#) section.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact Lindsay Waldrop, Victim Justice Program Specialist, by telephone at 202–353-0486, or by e-mail at Beatrice.L.Waldrop@ojp.usdoj.gov.

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FY 2015 Victim Services Language Access Fellowship Program (CFDA #16.582)

A. Program Description

Overview

The mission of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is to enhance the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for crime victims. OVC fulfills its mission, in part, by improving the skills, knowledge, and abilities of crime victim service providers and allied professionals who provide services and support for victims, or who help to ensure that victims are aware of their rights and are able to exercise those rights. The cooperative agreements under this fellowship program are authorized by 42 U.S.C. §§10603 (c)(1)(A) and (c)(3)(E)(i), which authorizes funding for training, technical assistance, demonstration projects, and fellowships.

The selected fellow will be expected to work exclusively on approved fellowship activities related to language access in victim services organizations, especially for victims who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, and those who have Limited English Proficiency (LEP) during the award period; and, unless approved in writing by the OVC Director, to refrain from engaging in any outside employment, whether compensated or uncompensated, in subject matter areas related to the fellowship activities.

Project-Specific Information

OVC recognizes that addressing language access is integral to its mission to serve all crime victims, especially those that are deaf or hard-of-hearing, and those who have LEP. In many areas of the country, crime victims encounter numerous challenges to receiving services because of language accessibility issues. On August 11, 2000, President Obama signed Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency," which requires federal agencies to examine the services they provide, identify any need for services to those with LEP, and develop and implement a system to provide those services so that this population of victims can have meaningful access to them. It is expected that agency plans will provide for such meaningful access consistent with, and without unduly burdening, the fundamental mission of the agency. The Executive Order also requires federal agencies to work to ensure that recipients of federal financial assistance provide meaningful access to their LEP applicants and beneficiaries.

Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

The overarching goal of this fellowship is to develop a strategic initiative to ensure that OVC's products, programs, and services are accessible to all, especially the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and LEP communities. The fellowship recipient will work with OVC's National Programs Division and OVC's Communications Team to undertake the following activities:

- Review OVC materials and products and recommend ways they can be made more accessible to the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and LEP communities;
- Identify new and emerging issues regarding access to language-specific services;

- Assist the OVC Communications Team in enhancing the OVC Publishing Guidelines and Style Guide to reflect how products can be made more accessible to the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and LEP communities.
- Coordinate with the OVC Communications Team to develop, update, and maintain language access content for OVC's Web site and for promotion through social media;
- Coordinate with OJP's Office for Civil Rights regarding language access-related trainings and implementation efforts;
- At the request of OVC management, participate in internal and external stakeholder meetings, forums, conferences, and international briefings for the purpose of presenting information about language access issues for crime victims, and the corresponding gaps in services and capacity-building needs of the field;
- Prepare detailed reports, speeches, and articles on language access at the request of OJP and OVC management;
- Develop written responses to various requests for information, including public inquiries seeking information on OVC's efforts to assist victims experiencing language access barriers; and
- Conduct other duties as assigned to support language access activities within OVC.

Enhancing the professional development of successful applicants is an important aspect of the fellowship program, but activities and deliverables must conform to the solicitation parameters. Applicants who propose more narrowly focused fellowships that focus on their specific interests or a specific type of victimization or victim demographic not related to language access will not be considered responsive to this solicitation and will not be forwarded for peer review. Additionally, please note that fellowship awards are not intended to support research or other academic work being pursued by an individual.

The Language Access Fellow's office will be physically located at OVC in Washington, D.C. The fellow will be expected to work onsite for the duration of the fellowship. However, fellows may propose telework or compressed schedule accommodations as long as they physically report to OVC's headquarters a minimum of 3 days per week.

Deliverables

- Written recommendations for the enhancement of existing OVC products and materials that are directed specifically to crime victims to expand their access to deaf, hard-of-hearing, and LEP communities;
- Written recommendations for the enhancement of OVC's social media presence (including website, Facebook, Twitter, mobile applications, and YouTube presence) to expand the accessibility for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and LEP users;
- A minimum of one article, suitable for OVC publication, on a related language access topic;
- A plan for engaging other federal agencies and stakeholders to expand access to victim services for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and LEP communities;
- Quarterly financial and semiannual progress reports; and
- Final report to OJP/OVC on the fellowship project, including accomplishments, challenges, and recommendations for improving the fellowship program.

Evidence-Based Programs or Practices

OJP strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policy making and program development in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. OJP is committed to:

- Improving the quantity and quality of evidence OJP generates
- Integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions within OJP and the field
- Improving the translation of evidence into practice

OJP considers programs and practices to be evidence-based when their effectiveness has been demonstrated by causal evidence, generally obtained through one or more outcome evaluations. Causal evidence documents a relationship between an activity or intervention (including technology) and its intended outcome, including measuring the direction and size of a change, and the extent to which a change may be attributed to the activity or intervention. Causal evidence depends on the use of scientific methods to rule out, to the extent possible, alternative explanations for the documented change. The strength of causal evidence, based on the factors described above, will influence the degree to which OJP considers a program or practice to be evidence-based. The [OJP CrimeSolutions.gov](http://OJP.CrimeSolutions.gov) Web site is one resource that applicants may use to find information about evidence-based programs in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.

B. Federal Award Information

Amount and Length of Awards

Award Period: OVC anticipates that it will make one award of up to \$150,000 for a 12-month project period. The program is designed to span a total of 3 years, contingent upon grantee performance and availability of funds to support the second and third years of the fellowship. Important considerations in decisions regarding supplemental funding for years two and three include, among other factors, the availability of funding, strategic priorities, assessment of the quality of the management of the award (for example, timeliness and quality of progress reports), and assessment of the progress of the work funded under the award.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Type of Award¹

OVC expects that it will make any award from this solicitation in the form of a cooperative agreement, which is a particular type of grant used if OVC expects to have ongoing substantial involvement in award activities. Substantial involvement includes direct oversight and involvement with the grantee organization in implementation of the grant, but does not involve day-to-day project management. See [Administrative, National Policy, and other Legal Requirements](#), under Section [F. Federal Award Administration Information](#), for details regarding the federal involvement anticipated under an award from this solicitation.

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls

If selected for funding, the award recipient must:

(a) Establish and maintain effective internal control over the Federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the non-Federal entity is managing the Federal award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award. These

¹ See *generally* 31 U.S.C. §§ 6301-6305 (defines and describes various forms of federal assistance relationships, including grants and cooperative agreements (a type of grant)).

internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in “Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government” issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the “Internal Control Integrated Framework”, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

(b) Comply with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal awards.

(c) Evaluate and monitor the non-Federal entity's compliance with statute, regulations and the terms and conditions of Federal awards.

(d) Take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings.

(e) Take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity designates as sensitive or the non-Federal entity considers sensitive consistent with applicable Federal, state and local laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality.

In order to better understand administrative requirements and cost principles, award applicants are encouraged to enroll, at no charge, in the Department of Justice Grants Financial Management Online Training available [here](#).

Budget Information

Cost Sharing or Match Requirement

This solicitation does not require a match. However, if a successful application proposes a voluntary match amount, and OJP approves the budget, the total match amount incorporated into the approved budget becomes mandatory and subject to audit.

Pre-Agreement Cost Approvals

OJP does not typically approve pre-agreement costs; an applicant must request and obtain the prior written approval of OJP for all such costs. If approved, pre-agreement costs could be paid from grant funds consistent with a grantee's approved budget, and under applicable cost standards. However, all such costs prior to award and prior to approval of the costs are incurred at the sole risk of an applicant. Generally, no applicant should incur project costs *before* submitting an application requesting federal funding for those costs. Should there be extenuating circumstances that appear to be appropriate for OJP's consideration as pre-agreement costs, the applicant should contact the point of contact listed on the title page of this announcement for details on the requirements for submitting a written request for approval. See the section on Costs Requiring Prior Approval in the [Financial Guide](#), for more information.

Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver

With respect to any award of more than \$250,000 made under this solicitation, recipients may not use federal funds to pay total cash compensation (salary plus cash bonuses) to any employee of the award recipient at a rate that exceeds 110% of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service (SES) at an

agency with a Certified SES Performance Appraisal System for that year.² The 2015 salary table for SES employees is available at the Office of Personnel Management [website](#). Note: A recipient may compensate an employee at a greater rate, provided the amount in excess of this compensation limitation is paid with non-federal funds. (Any such additional compensation will not be considered matching funds where match requirements apply.)

The Assistant Attorney General for OJP may exercise discretion to waive, on an individual basis, the limitation on compensation rates allowable under an award. An applicant requesting a waiver should include a detailed justification in the budget narrative of the application. Unless the applicant submits a waiver request and justification with the application, the applicant should anticipate that OJP will request the applicant to adjust and resubmit the budget.

The justification should include the particular qualifications and expertise of the individual, the uniqueness of the service the individual will provide, the individual's specific knowledge of the program or project being undertaken with award funds, and a statement explaining that the individual's salary is commensurate with the regular and customary rate for an individual with his/her qualifications and expertise, and for the work to be done.

Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs

OJP strongly encourages applicants that propose to use award funds for any conference-, meeting-, or training-related activity to review carefully – before submitting an application – the OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at <http://www.ojp.gov/financialguide/PostawardRequirements/chapter15page1.htm>. OJP policy and guidance (1) encourage minimization of conference, meeting, and training costs; (2) require prior written approval (which may affect project timelines) of most such costs for cooperative agreement recipients and of some such costs for grant recipients; and (3) set cost limits, including a general prohibition of all food and beverage costs.

Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)

If an applicant proposes a program or activity that would deliver services or benefits to individuals, the costs of taking reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to those services or benefits for individuals with limited English proficiency may be allowable. Reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services or benefits may include interpretation or translation services where appropriate.

For additional information, see the "Civil Rights Compliance" section under "Solicitation Requirements" in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

C. Eligibility Information

For additional eligibility information, see the title page.

Cost Sharing or Match Requirement

For additional information on cost sharing and match requirement, see Section [B. Federal Award Information](#).

² This limitation on use of award funds does not apply to the non-profit organizations specifically named at Appendix VIII to 2 C.F.R. part 200.

Limit on Number of Application Submissions

If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, OVC will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted. For more information on system-validated versions, see [How to Apply](#).

D. Application and Submission Information

What an Application Should Include

Applicants should anticipate that if they fail to submit an application that contains all of the specified elements, it may negatively affect the review of their application; and, should a decision be made to make an award, it may result in the inclusion of special conditions that preclude the recipient from accessing or using award funds pending satisfaction of the conditions.

Moreover, applicants should anticipate that applications that are determined to be nonresponsive to the scope of the solicitation, or that do not include the application elements that OVC has designated to be critical, will neither proceed to peer review nor receive further consideration. Under this solicitation, OVC has designated the following application elements as critical: Program Narrative, Budget Detail Worksheet, Budget Narrative, and resume or curriculum vitae of the Fellow applicant. Applicants may combine the Budget Narrative and the Budget Detail Worksheet in one document. However, if an applicant submits only one budget document, it must contain **both** narrative and detail information. Please review the "Note on File Names and File Types" under [How to Apply](#) to be sure applications are submitted in permitted formats.

OJP strongly recommends that applicants use appropriately descriptive file names (e.g., "Program Narrative," "Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative," "Timelines," "Memoranda of Understanding," "Resumes") for all attachments. Also, OJP recommends that applicants include resumes in a single file.

1. Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

The SF-424 is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. Grants.gov and OJP's Grants Management System (GMS) take information from the applicant's profile to populate the fields on this form. When selecting "type of applicant," if the applicant is a for-profit entity, select "For-Profit Organization" or "Small Business" (as applicable).

Intergovernmental Review: This funding opportunity is subject to [Executive Order 12372](#). Applicants may find the names and addresses of their state's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) at the following website: www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/. Applicants whose state appears on the SPOC list must contact their state's SPOC to find out about, and comply with, the state's process under Executive Order 12372. In completing the SF-424, applicants whose state appears on the SPOC list are to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 once the applicant has complied with their state's E.O. 12372 process. (Applicants whose state does not appear on the SPOC list are to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 to indicate that the "Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.")

2. Project Abstract

Applications should include a high-quality project abstract that summarizes the proposed project in 400 words or less. Project abstracts should be—

- Written for a general public audience
- Submitted as a separate attachment with “Project Abstract” as part of its file name
- Single-spaced, using a standard 12-point font (Times New Roman) with 1-inch margins

As a separate attachment, the project abstract will **not** count against the page limit for the program narrative.

All project abstracts should follow the detailed template available at ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/ProjectAbstractTemplate.pdf.

Permission to Share Project Abstract with the Public: It is unlikely that OVC will be able to fund all promising applications submitted under this solicitation, but it may have the opportunity to share information with the public regarding promising but unfunded applications, for example, through a listing on a webpage available to the public. The intent of this public posting would be to allow other possible funders to become aware of such proposals.

In the project abstract template, applicants are asked to indicate whether they give OJP permission to share their project abstract (including contact information) with the public. Granting (or failing to grant) this permission will not affect OJP’s funding decisions, and, if the application is not funded, granting permission will not guarantee that abstract information will be shared, nor will it guarantee funding from any other source.

Note: OJP may choose not to list a project that otherwise would have been included in a listing of promising but unfunded applications, should the abstract fail to meet the format and content requirements noted above and outlined in the project abstract template.

3. Program Narrative

The program narrative should not exceed 20 double-spaced pages, in 12-point font with 1-inch margins, and must include 6 separate sections: Project Abstract; Problem Statement; Project Goals and Objectives; Project Design and Implementation Plan; Organizational Capability and Capacities; and Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation’s Performance Measures. Each section is described below. If the program narrative fails to comply with these length-related restrictions, noncompliance may be considered in peer review and in final award decisions.

The following sections should be included as part of the program narrative:

- a. Program Abstract and Problem Statement:** The application should include a one-page summary (Project Abstract) that clearly describes the title and topic of the fellowship that the applicant is applying for, activities that will be implemented, and materials that will be developed to achieve the project’s goals and objectives, methods, and outcomes. The Problem Statement must describe an understanding of language access issues and provide a clear statement of how funding will support the project’s value to the victims field.

- b. Project Goals and Objectives:** The applicant must specify the goals and objectives of the fellowship. The objectives should be measurable and relate directly to the issues described in the problem statement, and should be in direct alignment with goals and objectives described on pages 4–5. The goals should state the overall purpose of what is to be accomplished. The objectives should describe the steps necessary to reach the goals or how the goals will be accomplished. The application should clearly describe how funding will support the overall success of the project.
- c. Project Design and Implementation Plan:** The project design and implementation plan must describe the process of completing the fellowship objectives and activities described on pages 4–5. It must include a time-task plan that clearly identifies objectives, major activities, and deliverables. The time-task plan also must provide for the submission of required quarterly financial status reports and semiannual progress reports. Fellows must plan attend one Regional Financial Management Training Seminar in Washington, D.C., sponsored by OJP’s Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), for grantees. Specific information, such as dates and locations of upcoming events, can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/training/financial.htm.
- d. Professional Capability/Competencies and Project Management:** Applications must include a clear description of their academic and professional expertise in the subject matter areas of specialization of the fellowship, as well as the applicant’s unique qualifications that will enable them to fulfill the grant responsibilities. Applicants must include a description of experience working on language access initiatives. Applicants should demonstrate that they possess the flexibility, skills, and temperament to operate in a fast-moving environment on multiple activities, sometimes with very short turnaround time. Applicants should document their ability to work collegially and collaboratively as a member of a team or teams across divisions, offices, agencies, and practitioners in the field. The applicant must demonstrate sufficient subject matter and project management expertise and other necessary skills, such as technical writing and technological proficiency with specific software programs, to perform crucial functions of the specific fellowship. Resumes should be attached to the narrative to support this section and should include all employment and volunteer experience. Resumes should provide contact information for previous supervisors and indicate whether or not the supervisor can be contacted. All required attachments (see below) must be included to document experience and capability; optional attachments may be used to document specific skills that will assist in the successful completion of the fellowship project.
- e. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation’s Performance Measures:** Evaluation is critical to ensure that each OVC project is operating as designed and achieving its goals and objectives. Accordingly, each application must provide a plan to assess the fellowship’s effectiveness and to evaluate the accomplishment of project goals and objectives. Applicants should describe how they will assess performance in attaining the outcomes identified for the project. Goals and objectives must be clearly stated, links must be established between program activities and objectives, and performance measures must be identified. Performance measures will address a mix of immediate and intermediate outcomes and, as appropriate and feasible, information on long-term impact. The performance measures for this project are listed on page 12 of this solicitation. They are included as an alert that successful applicants will be required to submit specific data to OVC as part of their reporting requirements. For the application, the applicant should indicate an understanding of these requirements and discuss how they will gather the required data, should the applicant receive funding.

To assist the Department with fulfilling its responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), Public Law 103-62, and the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, Public Law 111-352, applicants that receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measure the results of their work done under this solicitation. OJP will require any award recipient, post award, to provide the data requested in the “Data Grantee Provides” column so that OJP can calculate values for the “Performance Measures” column. Performance measures for this solicitation are as follows:

Objective	Performance Measure(s)	Data Grantee Provides
To develop a strategic initiative to ensure that OVC’s products, programs, and services are accessible to all, including deaf, hard-of-hearing, and LEP communities.	Number of materials developed or enhanced.	Number of speeches, articles, reports, Web-based products, and public awareness and education activities developed or enhanced and disseminated on specific areas of crime victimization.
	Number of recommendations developed.	Number of recommendations provided to OVC management.
	Number of meetings, conferences, or forums attended.	Number of meetings, conferences, or forums attended to provide information on OVC initiatives on crime victimization and/or to assess training, technical assistance, and capacity- building needs of the crime victims field.
	Number of training activities conducted.	Number of trainings and technical assistance trainings conducted on the needs of the crime victims’ field.
	Number of deliverables that meet expectations.	Number of deliverables that meet OVC’s expectations as outlined in the solicitation.

OVC does not require applicants to submit performance measures data with their application. Performance measures are included as an alert that OVC will require successful applicants to submit specific data as part of their reporting requirements. For the application, applicants should indicate an understanding of these requirements and discuss how they will gather the required data, should they receive funding.

4. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative

a. Budget Detail Worksheet

A sample Budget Detail Worksheet can be found at www.ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/BudgetDetailWorksheet.pdf. Applicants that submit their budget in a different format should include the budget categories listed in the sample budget worksheet.

For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, see the Financial Guide at www.ojp.gov/financialguide/index.htm.

b. Budget Narrative

The budget narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe every category of expense listed in the Budget Detail Worksheet. OJP expects proposed budgets to be complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities).

Applicants should demonstrate in their budget narratives how they will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget narratives should generally describe cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the goals of the project. For example, a budget narrative should detail why planned in-person meetings are necessary, or how technology and collaboration with outside organizations could be used to reduce costs, without compromising quality.

The narrative should be mathematically sound and correspond with the information and figures provided in the Budget Detail Worksheet. The narrative should explain how the applicant estimated and calculated all costs, and how they are relevant to the completion of the proposed project. The narrative may include tables for clarification purposes but need not be in a spreadsheet format. As with the Budget Detail Worksheet, the Budget Narrative should be broken down by year.

When completing both the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative, applicants must consider the following:

The only expenses that are **allowable** under this solicitation include the following:

- Personnel (salary), located in section A of the Budget Detail Worksheet. OVC will pay salaries depending on education, experience, and salary history. Benefits are not included as part of salary. If the application is selected for an award, applicants may be required to provide a copy of their last two federal tax returns (with SSN redacted) or other documentation of salary or consulting income history.
- Fringe Benefits, located in section B of the Budget Detail Worksheet, may include life, health, and disability insurance; state workers' compensation; retirement plan; FICA (the employer match of 7.65 percent of salary only); and a public transportation stipend that does not exceed \$130.00 monthly, based on actual expenses. (This amount is based on the current maximum transit subsidy monthly benefit for federal employees and is subject to change.) Applicants must clearly identify which benefits they are requesting and the actual calculations. For example, if the individual is requesting health insurance, the applicant should indicate the amount paid monthly and multiply by 12 to get the annual expense.
- Travel will involve site visits, attendance at conferences and meetings, and participation in training and professional development training. Applicants should budget for six to eight trips. All other trips should be budgeted at \$1,500 each, with a notation that date, location, and nature of travel will be determined in consultation with OVC management after the award is made. ***The applicant should include in the Budget Narrative a notation that travel costs such as per diem and lodging will not exceed the federal guidelines.*** Travel expenses should be listed in section C of the Budget Detail Worksheet.
- Supplies, located in section E of the Budget Detail Worksheet, may include expenses to cover professional reference materials and resources relating to the

fellowship activities (not to exceed \$500) and business cards (not to exceed \$30).

- Other Costs, located in section H of the Budget Detail Worksheet, may include costs of a cell phone or smart phone to maintain communication with OVC staff. (Fellows may opt instead to use a DOJ-issued Samsung Galaxy S4 at no cost, in which case personal cell phone costs may not be included in the budget.)
- Also allowable in the category are expenses associated with professional development and training relating to the OVC fellowship project. Fees for up to four trainings at up to \$1,000 each should be included. Note: Many training opportunities will be in the Washington, D.C., area, and, consequently, local for an onsite fellow; however, final decisions will be made in consultation with OVC management. Applicants should identify the type of training that they believe would be most helpful to them in carrying out fellowship activities.

Expenses that are **not allowable** under this solicitation are the following:

- Equipment (section D of the Budget Detail Worksheet), such as costs for laptops or other equipment that will be supplied by OVC.
- Moving expenses.
- International travel.
- Indirect costs.

c. Non-Competitive Procurement Contracts In Excess of Simplified Acquisition Threshold

If an applicant proposes to make one or more non-competitive procurements of products or services, where the non-competitive procurement will exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (also known as the small purchase threshold), which is currently set at \$150,000, the application should address the considerations outlined in the [Financial Guide](#).

d. Pre-Agreement Cost Approvals

For information on pre-agreement costs, see Section [B. Federal Award Information](#).

5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Indirect costs are allowed only if the applicant has a current federally approved indirect cost rate. (This requirement does not apply to units of local government.) Attach a copy of the federally approved indirect cost rate agreement to the application. Applicants that do not have an approved rate may request one through their cognizant federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant organization, or, if the applicant's accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct cost categories. For the definition of Cognizant Federal Agency, see the "Glossary of Terms" in the [Financial Guide](#). For assistance with identifying your cognizant agency, please contact the Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-0786 or at ask.ocfo@usdoj.gov. If DOJ is the cognizant federal agency, applicants may obtain information needed to submit an indirect cost rate proposal at <http://www.ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/IndirectCosts.pdf>.

6. Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status

Applicants are to disclose whether they are currently designated high risk by another federal grant making agency. This includes any status requiring additional oversight by the federal agency due to past programmatic or financial concerns. If an applicant is designated high

risk by another federal grant making agency, you must email the following information to OJPComplianceReporting@usdoj.gov at the time of application submission:

- The federal agency that currently designated the applicant as high risk
- Date the applicant was designated high risk
- The high-risk point of contact name, phone number, and email address, from that federal agency
- Reasons for the high-risk status

OJP seeks this information to ensure appropriate federal oversight of any grant award. Unlike the Excluded Parties List, this high risk information does not disqualify any organization from receiving an OJP award. However, additional grant oversight may be included, if necessary, in award documentation.

7. Additional Attachments

a. Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications

Applicants are to disclose whether they have pending applications for federally funded grants or subgrants (including cooperative agreements) that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application under this solicitation. The disclosure should include both direct applications for federal funding (e.g., applications to federal agencies) and indirect applications for such funding (e.g., applications to State agencies that will subaward federal funds).

OJP seeks this information to help avoid any inappropriate duplication of funding. Leveraging multiple funding sources in a complementary manner to implement comprehensive programs or projects is encouraged and is not seen as inappropriate duplication.

Applicants that have pending applications as described above are to provide the following information about pending applications submitted within the last 12 months:

- The Federal or State funding agency
- The solicitation name/project name
- The point of contact information at the applicable funding agency

Federal or State Funding Agency	Solicitation Name/Project Name	Name/Phone/E-mail for Point of Contact at Funding Agency
DOJ/COPS	COPS Hiring Program	Jane Doe, 202/000-0000; jane.doe@usdoj.gov
HHS/ Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration	Drug Free Communities Mentoring Program/ North County Youth Mentoring Program	John Doe, 202/000-0000; john.doe@hhs.gov

Applicants should include the table as a separate attachment, with the file name "Disclosure of Pending Applications," to their application. Applicants that do not have pending applications as described above are to include a statement to this effect in the

separate attachment page (e.g., “[Applicant Name on SF-424] does not have pending applications submitted within the last 12 months for federally funded grants or subgrants (including cooperative agreements) that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application under this solicitation.”)

8. Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire

In accordance with [2 CFR 200.205](#), Federal agencies must have in place a framework for evaluating the risks posed by applicants before they receive a Federal award. To facilitate part of this risk evaluation, **all** applicants (other than an individual) are to download, complete, and submit this [form](#).

9. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

All applicants must complete this information. Applicants that expend any funds for lobbying activities are to provide the detailed information requested on the form Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL). Applicants that do not expend any funds for lobbying activities are to enter “N/A” in the text boxes for item 10 (“a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant” and “b. Individuals Performing Services”).

10. Resume

11. Time-Task Plan

How to Apply

Applicants must register in, and submit applications through Grants.gov, a “one-stop storefront” to find federal funding opportunities and apply for funding. Find complete instructions on how to register and submit an application at www.Grants.gov. Applicants that experience technical difficulties during this process should call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at **800-518-4726** or **606-545-5035**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays. Registering with Grants.gov is a one-time process; however, **processing delays may occur, and it can take several weeks** for first-time registrants to receive confirmation and a user password. OJP encourages applicants to **register several weeks before** the application submission deadline. In addition, OJP urges applicants to submit applications 72 hours prior to the application due date to allow time to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

OVC strongly encourages all prospective applicants to sign up for Grants.gov email [notifications](#) regarding this solicitation. If this solicitation is cancelled or modified, individuals who sign up with Grants.gov for updates will be automatically notified.

Note on File Names and File Types: Grants.gov only permits the use of certain specific characters in names of attachment files. Valid file names may include only the characters shown in the table below. Grants.gov is designed to reject any application that includes an attachment(s) with a file name that contains any characters not shown in the table below.

Characters	Special Characters		
Upper case (A – Z)	Parenthesis ()	Curly braces { }	Square brackets []
Lower case (a – z)	Ampersand (&)	Tilde (~)	Exclamation point (!)
Underscore (_)	Comma (,)	Semicolon (;)	Apostrophe (‘)
Hyphen (-)	At sign (@)	Number sign (#)	Dollar sign (\$)

Space	Percent sign (%)	Plus sign (+)	Equal sign (=)
Period (.)	When using the ampersand (&) in XML, applicants must use the “&” format.		

Grants.gov is designed to forward successfully submitted applications to OJP’s Grants Management System (GMS).

GMS does not accept executable file types as application attachments. These disallowed file types include, but are not limited to, the following extensions: “.com,” “.bat,” “.exe,” “.vbs,” “.cfg,” “.dat,” “.db,” “.dbf,” “.dll,” “.ini,” “.log,” “.ora,” “.sys,” and “.zip.” GMS may reject applications with files that use these extensions. It is important to allow time to change the type of file(s) if the application is rejected.

All applicants are required to complete the following steps:

OJP may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the federal awarding agency is ready to make a federal award, the federal awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

- 1. Acquire a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.** In general, the Office of Management and Budget requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal funds include a DUNS number in their applications for a new award or a supplement to an existing award. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and differentiating entities receiving federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information for federal assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, one-time activity. Call Dun and Bradstreet at 866–705–5711 to obtain a DUNS number or apply online at www.dnb.com. A DUNS number is usually received within 1–2 business days.
- 2. Acquire registration with the System for Award Management (SAM).** SAM is the repository for standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. OJP requires all applicants (other than individuals) for federal financial assistance to maintain current registrations in the SAM database. Applicants must be registered in SAM to successfully register in Grants.gov. Applicants must **update or renew their SAM registration annually** to maintain an active status.

Applications cannot be successfully submitted in Grants.gov until Grants.gov receives the SAM registration information. **The information transfer from SAM to Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours.** OJP recommends that the applicant register or renew registration with SAM as early as possible.

Information about SAM registration procedures can be accessed at www.sam.gov.

- 3. Acquire an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and a Grants.gov username and password.** Complete the AOR profile on Grants.gov and create a username and password. The applicant organization’s DUNS number must be used to complete this

step. For more information about the registration process, go to <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>.

4. **Acquire confirmation for the AOR from the E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC).** The E-Biz POC at the applicant organization must log into Grants.gov to confirm the applicant organization's AOR. Note that an organization can have more than one AOR.
5. **Search for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov.** Use the following identifying information when searching for the funding opportunity on Grants.gov. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this solicitation is CFDA #16.582, titled "Crime Victim Assistance/Discretionary Grants," and the funding opportunity number is OVC-2015-4268.
6. **Submit a valid application consistent with this solicitation by following the directions in Grants.gov.** Within 24–48 hours after submitting the electronic application, the applicant should receive two notifications from Grants.gov. The first will confirm the receipt of the application and the second will state whether the application has been successfully validated, or rejected due to errors, with an explanation. It is possible to first receive a message indicating that the application is received and then receive a rejection notice a few minutes or hours later. Submitting well ahead of the deadline provides time to correct the problem(s) that caused the rejection. **Important:** OJP urges applicants to submit applications **at least 72 hours prior** to the application due date to allow time to receive validation messages or rejection notifications from Grants.gov, and to correct in a timely fashion any problems that may have caused a rejection notification.

Click [here](#) for further details on DUNS, SAM, and Grants.gov registration steps and timeframes.

Note: Duplicate Applications

If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, OVC will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted. See Note on File Names and File Types under [How to Apply](#).

Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues

Applicants that experience unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must contact the Grants.gov [Customer Support Hotline](#) or the [SAM Help Desk](#) to report the technical issue and receive a tracking number. Then applicant must e-mail the OVC contact identified in the Contact Information section on page 2 **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. The e-mail must describe the technical difficulties, and include a timeline of the applicant's submission efforts, the complete grant application, the applicant's DUNS number, and any Grants.gov Help Desk or SAM tracking number(s). **Note: OVC does not automatically approve requests.** After the program office reviews the submission, and contacts the Grants.gov or SAM Help Desks to validate the reported technical issues, OJP will inform the applicant whether the request to submit a late application has been approved or denied. If OJP determines that the applicant failed to follow all required procedures, which resulted in an untimely application submission, OJP will deny the applicant's request to submit their application.

The following conditions are generally insufficient to justify late submissions:

- Failure to register in SAM or Grants.gov in sufficient time
- Failure to follow Grants.gov instructions on how to register and apply as posted on its Web site
- Failure to follow each instruction in the OJP solicitation
- Technical issues with the applicant's computer or information technology environment, including firewalls

Notifications regarding known technical problems with Grants.gov, if any, are posted at the top of the OJP funding Web page at www.ojp.gov/funding/Explore/CurrentFundingOpportunities.htm.

E. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria

1. Project Abstract and Problem Statement (10%).
2. Project Goals and Objectives (10%).
3. Project (Fellowship Program) Design and Implementation Plan (20%).
4. Professional Capability/Competencies and Project Management (30%).
5. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (15%).
6. Budget is complete; reasonable and allowable; cost effective; and necessary for project activities. (15%).

Review Process

OJP is committed to ensuring a fair and open process for awarding grants. OVC reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with the solicitation.

Peer reviewers will review the applications submitted under this solicitation that meet basic minimum requirements. For purposes of assessing whether applicants have met basic minimum requirements, OJP screens applications for compliance with specified program requirements to help determine which applications should proceed to further consideration for award. Although program requirements may vary, the following are common requirements applicable to all solicitations for funding under OJP grant programs:

- Applications must be submitted by an eligible type of applicant
- Applications must request funding within programmatic funding constraints (if applicable)
- Applications must be responsive to the scope of the solicitation
- Applications must include all items designated as "critical elements"
- Applicants will be checked against the General Services Administration's Excluded Parties List

For a list of critical elements, see "What an Application Should Include" under [Section D. Application and Submission Information](#).

OVC may use internal peer reviewers, external peer reviewers, or a combination, to assess applications meeting basic minimum requirements on technical merit using the solicitation's selection criteria. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the subject matter of a given solicitation who is not a current DOJ employee. An internal reviewer is a current DOJ employee who is well-versed or has expertise in the subject matter of this solicitation. A peer review panel

will evaluate, score, and rate applications that meet basic minimum requirements. Peer reviewers' ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only, although their views are considered carefully. In addition to peer review ratings, considerations for award recommendations and decisions may include, but are not limited to, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance under prior OVC and OJP awards, and available funding.

OJP reviews applications for potential discretionary awards to evaluate the risks posed by applicants before they receive an award. This review may include but is not limited to the following:

1. Financial stability and fiscal integrity
2. Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in the Financial Guide
3. History of performance
4. Reports and findings from audits
5. The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities
6. Proposed costs to determine if the Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative accurately explain project costs, and whether those costs are reasonable, necessary, and allowable under applicable federal cost principles and agency regulations

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General, who may consider factors including, but not limited to, peer review ratings, underserved populations, geographic diversity, strategic priorities, past performance under prior OVC and OJP awards, and available funding when making awards.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

Federal Award Notices

OJP award notification will be sent from GMS. Recipients will be required to log in; accept any outstanding assurances and certifications on the award; designate a financial point of contact; and review, sign, and accept the award. The award acceptance process involves physical signature of the award document by the authorized representative and the scanning of the fully-executed award document to OJP.

Administrative, National Policy, and other Legal Requirements

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the agency-approved project proposal and budget, the recipient must comply with award terms and conditions, and other legal requirements, including but not limited to OMB, DOJ or other federal regulations which will be included in the award, incorporated into the award by reference, or are otherwise applicable to the award. OJP strongly encourages prospective applicants to review the information pertaining to these requirements **prior** to submitting an application. To assist applicants and recipients in accessing and reviewing this information, OJP has placed pertinent information on its [Solicitation Requirements](#) page of the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

Please note in particular the following two forms, which applicants must accept in GMS prior to the receipt of any award funds, as each details legal requirements with which applicants must provide specific assurances and certifications of compliance. Applicants may view these forms

in the Apply section of the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#) and are strongly encouraged to review and consider them carefully prior to making an application for OJP grant funds.

- [Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements](#)
- [Standard Assurances](#)

Upon grant approval, OJP electronically transmits (via GMS) the award document to the prospective award recipient. In addition to other award information, the award document contains award terms and conditions that specify national policy requirements³ with which recipients of federal funding must comply; uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements; and program-specific terms and conditions required based on applicable program (statutory) authority or requirements set forth in OJP solicitations and program announcements, and other requirements which may be attached to appropriated funding. For example, certain efforts may call for special requirements, terms, or conditions relating to intellectual property, data/information-sharing or -access, or information security; or audit requirements, expenditures and milestones, or publications and/or press releases. OJP also may place additional terms and conditions on an award based on its risk assessment of the applicant, or for other reasons it determines necessary to fulfill the goals and objectives of the program.

Prospective applicants may access and review the text of mandatory conditions OJP includes in all OJP awards, as well as the text of certain other conditions, such as administrative conditions, via [Mandatory Award Terms and Conditions](#) page of the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

As stated above, OVC anticipates that it will make any award from this solicitation in the form of a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreement awards include standard “federal involvement” conditions that describe the general allocation of responsibility for execution of the funded program. Generally-stated, under cooperative agreement awards, responsibility for the day-to-day conduct of the funded project rests with the recipient in implementing the funded and approved proposal and budget, and the award terms and conditions. Responsibility for oversight and redirection of the project, if necessary, rests with OVC.

In addition to any “federal involvement” condition(s), OJP cooperative agreement awards include a special condition specifying certain reporting requirements required in connection with conferences, meetings, retreats, seminars, symposium, training activities, or similar events funded under the award, consistent with OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting.

General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements

Recipients must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, final financial and progress reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.

Special Reporting requirements may be required by OJP depending on the statutory, legislative or administrative obligations of the recipient or the program.

³ See generally 2 C.F.R. 200.300 (provides a general description of national policy requirements typically applicable to recipients of Federal awards, including the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA)).

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For additional Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s), see the title page.

For additional contact information for Grants.gov, see the title page.

H. Other Information

Provide Feedback to OJP

To assist OJP in improving its application and award processes, we encourage applicants to provide feedback on this solicitation, the application submission process, and/or the application review/peer review process. Provide feedback to OJPSolicitationFeedback@usdoj.gov.

IMPORTANT: This e-mail is for feedback and suggestions only. Replies are **not** sent from this mailbox. If you have specific questions on any program or technical aspect of the solicitation, **you must** directly contact the appropriate number or e-mail listed on the front of this solicitation document. These contacts are provided to help ensure that you can directly reach an individual who can address your specific questions in a timely manner.

If you are interested in being a reviewer for other OJP grant applications, please e-mail your resume to ojppeerreview@lmbps.com. The OJP Solicitation Feedback email account will not forward your resume. **Note:** Neither you nor anyone else from your organization can be a peer reviewer in a competition in which you or your organization have submitted an application.

Application Checklist
FY 2015 Victim Services Language Access Fellowship Program

This application checklist has been created to assist in developing an application.

What an Applicant Should Do:

Prior to Registering in Grants.gov:

- _____ Acquire a DUNS Number (see page 17)
- _____ Acquire or renew registration with SAM (see page 17)

To Register with Grants.gov:

- _____ Acquire AOR and Grants.gov username/password (see page 17)
- _____ Acquire AOR confirmation from the E-Biz POC (see page 18)

To Find Funding Opportunity:

- _____ Search for the Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov (see page 18)
- _____ Download Funding Opportunity and Application Package (see page 18)
- _____ Sign up for Grants.gov email [notifications](#) (optional) (see page 18)
- _____ Read [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#)

After application submission, receive Grants.gov email notifications that:

- _____ (1) application has been received,
- _____ (2) application has either been successfully validated or rejected with errors (see page 18)

If no Grants.gov receipt, and validation or error notifications are received:

- _____ Contact OVC regarding experiencing technical difficulties (see page 2)

General Requirements:

- _____ Review the [Solicitation Requirements](#) in the OJP Funding Resource Center.

Scope Requirement:

- _____ The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of **\$150,000**.

Eligibility Requirement: Applicants must be individuals (organizations are not eligible to apply) who demonstrate the financial and administrative capacity to manage the cooperative agreement; along with the desire, knowledge, and ability to successfully execute the development of a strategic initiative to support OVC's efforts to ensure that all OVC-sponsored products, programs, and services are accessible to all. The applicant must have prior experience with language access and victim services initiatives, especially for victims who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, and/or who have LEP. The applicant agrees to abstain from any outside employment, either compensated or uncompensated, for the duration of the fellowship, unless approved in writing by the Director of OVC.

What an Application Should Include:

- _____ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (see page 9)
- _____ Project Abstract (see page 10)
- _____ Program Narrative (see page 10)
- _____ Budget Detail Worksheet (see page 12)
- _____ Budget Narrative (see page 13)
- _____ Employee Compensation Waiver request and justification (if applicable)

- _____ Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at ojp.gov/financialguide/PostawardRequirements/chapter15page1.htm (see page 7)
- _____ Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see page 8)
- _____ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (see page 16)
- _____ Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status (see page 14)
- _____ Additional Attachments (see page 14)
 - _____ Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications (see page 15)
 - _____ Resume (see page 16)
 - _____ Time-Task Plan (see page 16)
- _____ Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (if applicable) (see page 16)