



The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [Office for Victims of Crime](#) (OVC), is seeking applications for the Services for Family Members of Victims of Overseas Kidnapping and Hostage Taking and Returned Hostages Project. This project furthers the Department's mission by supporting the provision of victim advocacy and referral to victim services and other providers to address the mental health, medical, legal, and other complex victim needs that can arise following an overseas kidnapping or hostage taking.

OVC FY 2015 Services for Family Members of Victims of Overseas Kidnapping and Hostage Taking and Returned Hostages

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are limited to nonprofit organizations with the financial, administrative, and programmatic experience and expertise to manage a federal award to serve family members of victims of overseas kidnapping and hostage taking and returned hostages who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. Applicants must demonstrate a unique capability and strong desire to reach and serve these Federal Crime victims through a national scope project. A private nonprofit organization is not required to have 501(c)(3) status to apply for grant funding under this solicitation. 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. OVC welcomes applications that involve two or more entities; however, one eligible entity must be the applicant and the others must be proposed as subrecipients. The applicant must be the entity with primary responsibility for administering the funding and managing the entire project. Only one application per lead applicant will be considered; however, subrecipients may be part of multiple proposals. This project is authorized under 42 U.S.C. § 10603(c)(1)(B).

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 July 2, 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 OVC 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 Allison Turkel, Deputy Director, Federal, International and Tribal Division, by telephone at 202-305-2117, or by e-mail at Allison.Turkel@usdoj.gov.

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Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| A. Program Description | 4 |
| Overview | 4 |
| Project-Specific Information | 4 |
| Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables | 5 |
| Evidence-Based Programs or Practices | 6 |
| B. Federal Award Information | 6 |
| Type of Award | 6 |
| Financial Management and System of Internal Controls | 7 |
| Budget Information | 7 |
| Cost Sharing or Match Requirement | 7 |
| Pre-Agreement Cost Approvals | 7 |
| Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation; Waiver | 8 |
| Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs | 8 |
| Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable) | 8 |
| C. Eligibility Information | 9 |
| Cost Sharing or Match Requirement | 9 |
| Limit on Number of Application Submissions | 9 |
| D. Application and Submission Information | 9 |
| What an Application Should Include | 9 |
| How to Apply | 16 |
| E. Application Review Information | 19 |
| Selection Criteria | 19 |
| Review Process | 19 |
| F. Federal Award Administration Information | 21 |
| Federal Award Notices | 21 |
| Administrative, National Policy, and other Legal Requirements | 21 |
| General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements | 22 |
| G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s) | 22 |
| H. Other Information | 22 |
| Provide Feedback to OJP | 22 |
| Application Checklist | 23 |

OVC FY 2015 Services for Family Members of Victims of Overseas Kidnapping and Hostage Taking and Returned Hostages (CFDA #16.582)

A. Program Description

Overview

This solicitation sets forth the requirements for applications under this competitive, discretionary, cooperative agreement program. This program will provide project funding to eligible nonprofit organizations (see Eligibility, page 1) that propose to identify the needs of families of overseas hostages and kidnapped victims and returned hostages and provide information and referral to available services, and assistance and emotional support as they navigate the complex issues that arise in the aftermath of the kidnapping or hostage taking. This project is authorized under 42 U.S.C. §10603(c)(1)(B).

Project-Specific Information

Hostage taking and kidnapping has become an international concern in recent years. Families of victims of overseas kidnapping and hostage taking encounter situation-specific challenges in coping with uncertain and prolonged loss, proof of life communications, the impact of private and governmental efforts to locate and recover their loved one, and dealing with outcomes that include the recovery of a traumatized victim who may have been held for lengthy periods of time, the violent death of a victim, distribution of images of the death, and an inability to resolve or gain knowledge on the fate of the victim. The ability of families to cope becomes complicated when the kidnapping is not public knowledge, occurs in a foreign country or conflict zone, or involves terrorist captors or others who are known for violence and use the hostage taking and death of a hostage to further their goals of large scale intimidation. Families may be placed in untenable situations as they endeavor to leave no stone unturned in securing the return of their loved one. Returned hostages may encounter significant difficulty as they try to cope with the aftermath of their captivity living under constant threat of violence and death and try to reclaim or rebuild normal lives.

Since the mid-1990s, hostage taking and kidnapping have dramatically increased as a preferred tactic of political terrorists.¹ Coordination with U.S. Government agencies that have jurisdiction to investigate and provide emergency services to victims and their families in these complex cases is paramount. Therefore, applicants proposing a project under this solicitation addressing the needs of victims and family members of victims of overseas kidnapping and hostage taking must be prepared to coordinate closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Office of Victim Assistance, the Department of State, and other relevant federal agencies regarding their available resources to assist this population. Applicants proposing projects that will provide services and support to families of overseas victims of kidnapping and hostage taking and returned hostages should budget funds for a 1½–2-day grantee operational meeting at OJP in Washington, DC, to coordinate with OVC, relevant federal agencies, and other nongovernmental organizations on service delivery and collaboration.

¹ Yun, M. (2007). Hostage Taking and Kidnapping in Terrorism: Predicting the Fate of a Hostage. *Professional Issues in Criminal Justice*, 2(1), 23. Available at: https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/documentstore/docs09/pdf/picj/vol2/issue1/Hostage_Taking_and_Kidnapping_in_Terrorism.pdf.

Applicants proposing projects under this solicitation must not only demonstrate an established capacity to operate on a national level in the United States, but must also demonstrate knowledge of the victim services field and the ability to coordinate and collaborate with, and provide referrals to, available resources and services throughout the United States, including those at the local level, to support family members of overseas kidnapping and hostage taking and returned hostages. Examples of such resources and services include, but are not limited to national, statewide and local victim service hotlines and organizations; trauma-informed mental health and medical services; community-based organizations; services to assist families dealing with the media; legal assistance; and assistance with identifying and applying for federal and state victims benefits including assistance with applying for International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement Program (ITVERP)² reimbursements where applicable.

Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

The purpose of this proposed project is to fund a victim assistance organization with a national scope to—

- (1) Identify the needs of families of overseas hostages and kidnapped victims and returned hostages and to provide information and referral to available services, such as mental health, medical, and legal assistance;
- (2) Provide assistance and other emotional support to this population of victims as they navigate the complex issues that arise in the aftermath of the kidnapping or hostage taking; and
- (3) Assess the unmet needs of this group to identify gaps and potential resources to enhance assistance.

The successful applicant must partner with a survivor-led organization or survivor network that understands the specific needs of this population, to guide efforts to address the above objectives of this project.

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent or Memoranda of Understanding that outlines the framework, areas of responsibility and activities of both partners, and a description of the fee for the service or cost to the grant for activities performed by the survivor organization or network.

Applicants for OVC funding must agree not to use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, to lobby. In general, lobbying includes support of the enactment, repeal, modification or adoption of any law, regulation or policy, at any level of government. Applicants must also certify their compliance with the anti-lobbying provisions at 31 U.S.C. §1352, as implemented by 28 C.F.R. part 69. Violations of the anti-lobbying provisions are subject to civil and criminal penalties.

All applications must include a detailed description of the methods that will be used to ensure privacy and confidentiality of the victims being served through their program, including proper handling of confidential or sensitive information and use of data, including the submission of a privacy certificate as detailed in the “What an Application Should Include” section of this application package.

² ITVERP is a unique federal program that provides financial reimbursement for qualified expenses to qualified U.S. citizens and U.S. government employees who suffered direct physical or emotional injury from an act of international terrorism while outside the United States. Available at: <http://www.ovc.gov/itverp/>.

Interim deliverables for all projects should include:

- Identification of baseline measurements within 3 months of start date.
- Biannual Financial programmatic reports.

Final deliverables may include, but are not limited to:

- A Final Report that summarizes the activities and accomplishments of this initiative.
- An analysis of resource gaps for this population of victims that also contains recommendations for addressing the identified service and resource gaps.

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

OVC estimates that it will make one award of up to \$200,000 for a 12-18 month project period, beginning on October 1, 2015.

OVC may, in certain cases, provide supplemental funding in future years to an award under this solicitation. Important considerations in decisions regarding supplemental funding 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 Award³

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

³ 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)).

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 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.⁴ 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.

⁴ 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.

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

Applicants for OVC funding must agree not to use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, to lobby. In general, lobbying includes support of the enactment, repeal, modification or adoption of any law, regulation or policy, at any level of government. Applicants must also certify their compliance with the anti-lobbying provisions at 31 U.S.C. §1352, as implemented by 28 C.F.R. part 69. Violations of the anti-lobbying provisions are subject to civil and criminal penalties.

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](#).

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, and Budget Narrative. 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 (program) **is not** subject to [Executive Order 12372](#). (In completing the SF-424, applicants are to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 to indicate that the "Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.")

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 25 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 Project Management, and Plans for Measuring Progress and Outcomes, which are described below. The connections between and among each of these sections must be clearly delineated. For example, the goals and objectives must derive directly from the problems to be addressed. Similarly, the project design section must clearly explain how the program's structure and activities will accomplish the goals and objectives identified in the previous section. If the program narrative fails to comply with these length-related

restrictions, OVC may consider such noncompliance in peer review and in final award decisions.

a. Statement of the Problem

Applicants must briefly describe the nature and scope of the problem that the project will address. The applicant should use data to provide evidence that the problem exists, demonstrate the size and scope of the problem, and document the effects of the problem on the target population and the larger community. Applicants should describe any previous or current attempts to address the problem. Applicants should describe any research or evaluation studies that relate to the problem and contribute to the applicant's understanding of its causes and potential solutions.

b. Project Design and Implementation

In this section, the applicant must convincingly document that the proposed project will be national in scope, (i.e., the deliverables will be of utility to families of overseas kidnapping and hostage taking and returned hostages across the Nation) and support the project goals and objectives. The applicant's strategy or design must include clear descriptions of project phases, tasks, activities, staff responsibilities, interim deliverables, and final products. The applicant must specify the goals and objectives of the project. 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 objectives should be measurable and relate directly to the issues described in the statement of the problem. The time-task plan must include the designation of organizational responsibility, a schedule for the completion of the activities, and the submission of finished products. In preparing the time-task plan, the Gantt chart, or schedule, applicants should make certain that all project activities will occur within the proposed project period.

Applicants must include a logic model that graphically illustrates how the project's problems, goals, objectives, and design are interrelated, leading to anticipated outputs, performance measures, and outcomes. Sample logic models are available at www.ojjdp.gov/grantees/pm/logic_models.html.

c. Capabilities and Competencies

Organizational capability will be assessed on the basis of (1) the applicant's described management structure and financial capability; (2) results of current grant efforts (if applicable); and (3) the applicant's project management plan and documentation of the professional staff members' unique qualifications to perform their assigned tasks. If the applicant is building on existing services, applicants should document what services are currently provided, how many victims are served, and how many victims they anticipate being able to serve if their capacity is extended or allows them to provide new services under this program. Applicants must describe how the program will be managed and include an organizational chart or information describing the roles and responsibilities of key organizational and functional components and personnel. Applicants must also include a list of personnel responsible for managing and implementing the major stages of the project. The applicant must clearly demonstrate the qualifications and experience of their direct service staff and subcontractor partners to provide quality services to victims and their families. Resumes of key staff should be attached. If additional staff will be hired to complete the project, job descriptions and selection criteria should also be provided. Applicants should also provide detailed information about staff committed to

work on the project contingent upon receipt of funding. Applicants must state their administrative and financial capability to manage federal grants. Applicants must document that key project staff possess the requisite subject matter expertise. The applicant must describe how the project will be managed and include an organizational chart or information describing the roles and responsibilities of key organizational and functional components and personnel.

- d. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation’s Performance Measures
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.

Strategic Goals & Objectives: DOJ Strategic Goal 2, Objective 2.2
 OJP Strategic Goal 2, Objective 2.6

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) | Description | Data Grantee Provides |
|---|---|---|---|
| Identify the needs of families of overseas hostages and kidnapped victims and returned hostages and provide information, assistance, support, and referral to available services, such as mental health, medical, and legal assistance. | Victims referred to appropriate services. Number of families receiving services. Number of services provided. | Proper identification of the needs of families of overseas hostages and kidnapped victims and returned hostages and referral to appropriate services is vital for families and returned hostages to recover. OVC is interested in how grantees provided assistance and support to family members of victims of overseas | Number of individuals receiving services by appropriate service. Number of families of hostage and kidnapped victims receiving services (by type of services given or referred). Number of services provided (by types of services, e.g., medical, mental health, etc.) The total number of new family members and |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| | | kidnapping and hostage taking and returned hostages. | returned hostages served during the report period, by type. (This includes new clients and existing clients served during the report period.) |
| Assess the unmet needs of families of overseas hostages and kidnapped victims and returned hostages to identify gaps and potential resources to enhance assistance. | | OVC will expect an analysis of resource gaps for this population of that also contains recommendations for addressing the service and resource gaps identified during the project period. | Number of gaps in services and resources identified during the project period and recommendations to meet these gaps. |

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.

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. Time-Task Plan

Applicants must submit a Time-Task Plan that covers the 12–18 month period of the award. The plan will demonstrate coordination and integration of goals and objectives across this initiative. The Time-Task Plan must show:

- Project goals
- Related objectives and activities including production of outreach materials, service provisions, data collection, and programmatic and financial reporting
- The key staff responsible for completing each task

8. Position Descriptions and Resumes

Applicants should provide position descriptions and resumes for all key positions. Resumes should be tailored to demonstrate relevant qualifications of staff involved in the project.

9. 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.”).

b. Letters of Intent or Memoranda of Understanding

The application should include a Letter of Intent or Memorandum Memoranda of Understanding from the proposed subrecipient survivor-led organization or network that indicates their experience working with families of victims of overseas kidnapping and hostage taking and returned hostages and their ability and intent to work collaboratively with the main grantee. See Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables on page 5 for what to include.

10. 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](#).

11. 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”).

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 “&#amp;” 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 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 16.582, titled "Crime Victim Assistance/Discretionary Grants," and the funding opportunity number is OVC-2015-4272.
- 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. Statement of the Problem (15%)
2. Project Design and Implementation (40%)
3. Capabilities and Competencies (30%)
4. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures (5%)
5. Budget: complete, cost-effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities). Budget narratives should demonstrate how applicants will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget narratives should demonstrate cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the goals of the project.⁵ (10%)

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.

⁵ Generally speaking, a reasonable cost is a cost that, in its nature or amount, does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the costs.

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 requirements⁶ 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.

⁶ 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)).

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.

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 ojpeerreview@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
OVC FY 2015 Services for Family Members of Victims of Overseas Kidnapping and Hostage Taking and Returned Hostages

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 18)
- 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 17)
- 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 \$200,000.

Eligibility Requirement: Eligible applicants are limited to nonprofit organizations with the financial, administrative, programmatic, and victim assistance experience and expertise, to serve U.S. citizens who are the victims of overseas kidnapping and hostage taking and their families on a national level and have the capacity to manage a federal award serving these Federal Crime victims and their families. Applicants must demonstrate a unique capability and strong desire to reach and serve these victims of crime through a national scope project. A private nonprofit organization does not need to have 501(c)(3) status to apply for grant funding under this solicitation. 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. OVC welcomes applications that involve two or more entities; however, one eligible entity must be the applicant and the others must be proposed as subrecipients. The applicant must be the entity with primary responsibility for administering the funding and managing the entire project. Only one application per lead applicant will be considered; however, subrecipients may be part of multiple proposals.

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 13) |
| _____ | Budget Narrative | (see page 13) |
| _____ | Employee Compensation Waiver request and justification (if applicable) | (see page 8) |
| _____ | Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at ojp.gov/financialguide/PostawardRequirements/chapter15page1.htm | (see page 8) |
| _____ | Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) | (see page 16) |
| _____ | Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) | (see page 14) |
| _____ | Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status | (see page 14) |
| _____ | Additional Attachments | |
| _____ | Letter of Intent or Memoranda of Understanding | (see page 5) |
| _____ | Time-Task Plan (required) | (see page 15) |
| _____ | Position Descriptions and Resumes (required) | (see page 15) |
| _____ | Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications | (see page 15) |
| _____ | Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (if applicable) | (see page 16) |