DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar, OVC's FY 2024 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance and Victim Compensation Formula Grants webinar. So today, we will be talking about OVC's mission, an overview. We're going to discuss the solicitation including the opportunity focus, which includes eligibility and required documents. Then we're going to talk about the application process and resources. And then at the end, when we open it up, there will be time to answer your questions at the end of the presentation. So it will be helpful if you are following along with this solicitation as we go through today and taking notes to help when you are submitting your application by the deadline. And the link is provided here. It should be entered into the chat.

So just to kick things off, a little bit about the Office for Victims of Crime, or OVC. OVC is part of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs which administers the Crime Victims Fund, which is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders and not from tax dollars. OVC channels that money towards victim compensation and assistance throughout the United States, raises awareness about victims' issues, promotes compliance with victims' rights laws, and provides training and technical assistance and publications and products to victim assistance professionals. This funding supports formula programs to states, territories, and tribes, as well as many OVC discretionary grant programs for victims of crime. So today, your presenters were--from OVC are going to be Joel Hall, Deputy Division Director with the State Victim Resource Division of OVC, and Malgorzata Bereziewicz, Grants Management Specialist with the State Victim Resource Division, also with OVC. So with that, I will go ahead and pass it on to our presenters.

MALGORZATA BEREZIEWICZ: Great. Thank you, Daryl. So good afternoon, everyone, my name is Malgorzata Bereziewicz and I'm a Grants Management Specialist within SVRD. It's great to see so many administrators joining us today. I'll be presenting on the Victim Assistance solicitation. And as Daryl mentioned, we will be providing an overview of the solicitation, eligibility requirements, and the required documents as well as the application process and tools.

So the Victim--so the '24 Victim Assistance Formula Grant has been posted and it's already available online. I'll go ahead and post the solicitation link as well as a list--link to the allocation for Victim Assistance awards in the chat right now. The solicitation was posted. [https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/o-ovc-2024-172059] Next slide, Daryl, please.

The next slide shows the most important information that you'll likely get today which is to mark your calendars for these important dates. The Grants.gov deadline for this solicitation is May 21st at 11:53 [11:59] Eastern Standard Time and the JustGrants deadline is May 28th at 8:59 PM. And if you're asking why 8:59 PM, it is because the JustGrants support desk closes at 9:00 PM. They will not be available later. And so that is--please note the different time for the JustGrants deadline. Awards are expected to be made in--by September 30th, 2024. Joel will be walking us through the two-step application process in more detail at the end of the presentation but I'll just mention briefly now that we do encourage applicants to submit both parts of the application prior

to the schedule in case of any unforeseen technical difficulties you may experience with either system. And also, please note that when you submit that initial application in the Grants.gov system, it may take up to two days for that application to process and to appear within the JustGrants. Often it takes much less, but just be aware that that may be a slight delay before you're able to access part two in the JustGrants system. Next slide, please.

So who's eligible to apply for the victim assistance formula award? We have a lot of different folks on this webinar. This is an open webinar. And so we want to first review the eligibility requirements for this FY '24 award. This solicitation is specifically designated for state administrating agencies in state governments and territories of the United States, which have been designated by their governors to administer Victims of Crime Act funding. So if you're not representing one of these organizations--eligible entities, your program may still be able to receive VOCA funding by applying to your state or territory administrating agency. However, this solicitation is specifically designed for state administrating agencies that administer VOCA funding. All of the applicants must meet the eligibility requirement specific in the Victims of Crime Act, and all recipients and subrecipients which receive funding from state administrating agencies, including any for-profit organizations, must forfeit any sort of profit or management fees. Next slide, please.

The OJP is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights and equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens community safety, protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community. This program--that furthers the Department's mission by providing grants to support the provision of services to victims of crime throughout the nation. Next slide, please.

As many of you are administrators and very familiar with this work, under this solicitation, again, to--for the eligibility requirement, OVC will award each eligible state and territory victim assistance program an annual grant to support eligible crime victim assistance programs in that state or territory. And again, the reference here comes from the VOCA statute 34 U.S.C. 20103. Next slide, please.

The vast majority of victim assistance funding goes to local direct service programs including child advocacy centers, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, human trafficking and elder abuse programs, civil legal services, crime victims' rights enforcement, and victim assistance positions in prosecutors' offices and law enforcement departments. This is just a general overview of the services that VOCA has funded in the past and administrating agencies are not bound to these specific examples. In fact, OVC encourages state and territories to think creatively in how victim services can be provided in communities and expand funding to other eligible entities. Next slide, please.

The goal of the victim assistance funding is to improve the treatment of victims of crime by providing victims with the assistance, support, and services necessary to aid their

restoration after a criminal act, and aid them as they move through the criminal justice process. Next slide.

For victim assistance applications, the following documents must be included in the application submission. It's really important to submit all of these required attachments with your application as the application cannot proceed without all of these required items. These items are in addition to the items that Joel will talk about later in the presentation that are required of both the assistance and the compensation program. So these specific requirements I'll mention for victim assistance funding.

So first and foremost, the OJP Financial Management and Grant Administrator Training Certificates. Those training certificates should be submitted for both the financial point of contact and the grant administrator point of contact for the victim assistance formula award.

Applicants should also submit a statement regarding use of administrative and training funds. This statement does not need to be very detailed and should--or outline each anticipated expense. The statement as to whether your program will or will not use up to five percent of the program--of the award funds for administrative and training purposes would suffice. You are welcome to provide more information and detail if you choose but you are not required to do so. And if you do provide specific information in that statement, be aware that you may need to update the statement if your expenses change during the course of the award period.

Third, we have the civil rights compliance reporting. This requirement is to comply with the federal civil rights requirement. It can be submitted--you will need to submit the name of your civil rights coordinator for your organization and his or her contact information. This information can be inserted into a word document and just uploaded as an attachment in JustGrants.

Now, we move on to the monitoring of subawards attachment. This attachment should explain your program's monitoring plan in the future as well as speaks to your program's monitoring of subawards in the past federal fiscal year. You should outline whether your program met its monitoring requirements and goals in the previous federal fiscal year. And if it did not meet your monitoring goals in the past year, your statement of monitoring of subawards should speak to why that was and how your processes will change and ensure that you'll meet your goals in the future.

And finally, we have a requirement for victim assistance applications, that's the statement regarding plan to subgrant funds, which we speak to more in the next slide. So next slide, Daryl, please. This specific statement should be detailed, no detail is too small to include in this document. OVC really uses this document to be informed about your funding plans, trends of service that your funding, priorities. It is a very valuable tool to learn more and better understand your program. So we ask the applicant to submit a statement about the plan to subgrant the funds to direct service providers. This statement should also address how the program will use victim assistance funding to

affirmatively advance equity, civil rights, justice, and equal opportunity, including by incorporating any of the practices specifically spelled out in this solicitation or any other ones that your program plans to use. A link to the President's 2021 Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government is also provided and it provides more information about how to accomplish this. Next slide.

And finally, there's 56 different awards that are expected--anticipated under this award. The allocations are now posted in the chat and they're online on the OVC website. The start of this performance period will be October 2023 and the award will last 48 months ending in September 2027. Because this is a formula award, based upon the federal fiscal year, the award actually starts in the preceding calendar year in October 2023. So please be sure to put the correct performance start date in your application as that is a common error on applications. The award period will be--has already started in 2023 and not in 2024. So for new administrators, that means that when your program receives its FY '24 award and it is posted in JustGrants, there will be financial reports and performance reports that will appear that will--that must be submitted. Even if you didn't receive the award for the first eleven months of the active award period, these awards are automatically generated to be submitted within JustGrants, and so even if you have to submit reports that show 0 victims serviced and 0 funding expended during the reporting period, those reports are still required within the JustGrants system and will be marked delinquent until they are submitted.

And just note, as with all federal awards, all awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funding and any modifications or additional requirement that were imposed by law. With that, I will turn it over to Joel to walk us through the compensation program.

JOEL HALL: Good afternoon, everybody, good morning for some people. I will be going over the VOCA Victim Compensation Formula Grant. We are combining this webinar for both the victim assistance, victim comps, since many programs are combined. It makes it a little easier for us to do the webinar and so many things overlap that I think it's important to share both of these programs at the same time. Next slide, please.

All right. So we have the Victim Compensation Formula Grant. You can access this through that link when the slides will become available. [https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/o-ovc-2024-172052.pdf] The closing date--I'm going to repeat a lot that Malgorzata said intentionally, so I just want people to understand the importance of things. So 28th is when it closes in JustGrants. On Grants.gov, it closes on the 21st until 11:50 PM [11:59 PM]. And then, May 28th, 2024 at 8:59 PM.

Now, going into Grants.gov is a lot easier to register when you go in there ahead of time. You may not be ready to submit your full application to JustGrants just yet but I always strongly suggest people go into Grants.gov and register through them first, maybe even a week or a month ahead of time in case there's any issues. Sometimes, agencies will have expired SAM numbers, they may have--they may have changed some things. It's better to find out that you have an issue with your SAM registration,

your UEI numbers or anything of that nature ahead of time so you can still problem solve instead of trying to do it the day before it closes at Grants.gov. So that's my recommendation, to be proactive on the Grants.gov side. The JustGrants side, we have control over, we can be much more flexible to work with you on anything that's missing or reopen a solicitation, but it's much more difficult from the Grants.gov--on the Grants.gov. Next slide, please.

Eligibility, as Malgorzata said, it's--this is only eligible for state governments, territories, and possessions of United States who are state administrating agencies of the VOCA Formula Grants. These are agencies--the best way to know is that if you've received this grant before, you are eligible to receive it again. There may be some exceptions with some agencies that might have changed this year, even though I don't think there are any. But in general, if you have not received this grant before, you probably are not eligible to apply for it. This includes all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and Guam are eligible to receive the annual VOCA compensation grant. Applicants must meet the eligible requirements of specified in VOCA 34 USC 20102. All right. Next slide.

Victim compensation. OJP is committed to advancing the work that promotes civil rights and equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens the community and safety, protects the public from crime and involving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community. This program furthers the Department's mission providing crucial financial assistance to hundreds of thousands of crime victims each year throughout our great nation. Next slide.

State and territory victim compensation programs, funded by VOCA Victim Comp Formula Grants awards, supplements state and territory to offset financial burdens resulting from crime. Compensation is vital to victims who face enormous financial setbacks from medical fees, lost income, dependent care, funeral expenses, relocation expenses, and other expenses. There's many--many states have a variety of different expenses that they pay for that is based in their statutes, so we try to do as much as we can. This program supplements the state's already existing efforts to compensate victims for these crimes. Next slide.

The goal of the VOCA Victim Compensation Program is to supplement the state and territory efforts to provide financial compensation to crime victims throughout the nation for costs resulting from crime. These funds are used to provide crime victims compensation, support, and services necessary to aid a restoration after criminal violence, including costs associated with medical fees, lost income, dependent care, funeral expenses, relocation, and others. Next slide.

All right. So for the applications, for the victim comp applications, there's a few less attachments that you need to worry about. There's much more in the victim assistance, but these three are very vital.

So first is the OJP Financial Management and Grant Administration Training Certificates. Not a lot of OVC or OJP grants ask for this. So if you want to blame anybody, you can blame me. This is how we keep track to make sure that you're in compliance with our monitoring and other things of that nature. So we ensure that you are up-to-date. It helps us ensure that you're up-to-date when we go monitoring or doing desk reviews. So this--you can thank me for this. But just make sure that when you do submit your certificates that they are at least within the past three years of your submission. So if it's five years, you'll need to take the training ahead of time. And for those who take the training, those who are in JustGrants, your grant administrator, financial manager, not necessarily signing authority, but anybody who's kind of in JustGrants needs to at least have a certification. That being said, anybody within your organization that has their hands on VOCA can, doesn't have to, it's not a requirement, take the training to help promote their knowledge of the complex federal regulations that we have throughout our system.

So, the next one is a Statement Regarding Use of Administrative Training Funds. I always tell people to keep this as short and sweet saying that you plan to use training technical assistance funds and training funds, just acknowledging the fact that if you do so that you can use the five percent. Many times we'll get some statements that are twenty pages. Well, I don't know about twenty, but five pages long. My philosophy on this is that you don't need to give us that much detail. You are more than welcome to. But when you give that much detail, you kind of box yourself in. So just be succinct and say, hey, we're going to use this for administrative and training funds. And we may-- maybe as simple as saying, we're going to use it for personnel costs and couple of trainings or maybe not even that, like, whatever works best for you. But I just say this is one of the area where you don't have to give us the kitchen sink if you don't have to, if you don't want to.

State Law Governing the Crime Victim Compensation Programs. This is important for us. A lot of people always ask me about this one. Make sure that you put your most recent. And if you've had any updates in your state regulations or the law, please make sure you put that in there. We actually use these and we've been using these a lot lately, especially with all our comp enhancements, projects and stuff. Some people do research. So it's really important that you put those up, the most recent version that you have into the system because we actually use them. It's--you'd be surprised by how much we do, kind of, look at them when we have a question. Sometimes it could be allowability, something could be something else, but they are used more frequently than you think they are, just to give us a help to understand your unique program. Next slide.

Federal award information. Number of awards that we expect is 54. Why is it different from victim assistance? There's only 54 victim compensation programs, so that's the difference. Every state and territory has a comp assistance program without--every territory has a compensation program. The amount to be anticipated to be awarded is $176 million each of--in terms of how much that is for your state, you can reference the allocation tables. Going back to something, make sure that you follow the allocation tables. The far right column, when you insert your award amount into your systems, it's

very important--a common error. Malgrozata pointed out one common error. Another one is that they will look to the left or not the right number. So the far right is your allocation table amount. So make sure you insert that amount into the formula funding amounts both in Grants.gov and JustGrants. So make sure you have the right amount that you're going to put in. We'll probably correct it if it's wrong. We'll follow up with you later. But it makes our lives a little easier. And of course, as Małgorzata said, what--the most common error that we get is not realizing that this is a formula grant based on the federal fiscal year. And so make sure that you see 10/01/2023, that that is your start date. And it lasts for 48 months. Of course now with the VOCA Fix Act there is the potential for no-cost extensions but the initial grants and solicitation labels it as 48 months at the onset. Okay. Next slide.

All right. So this is where I'm going to be going over some aspects about both awards. So keep in mind, I'm--when I'm talking about this, this applies to everybody, just not victim comp. We are using--our instruments that we are using to fund these will be grants, so be aware of that. If there's a box you need to check where it says IA or cooperative agreement, make sure you check the grants box. I think it's already checked for you, but just in case there's a question that I'm not aware of, make sure you check grants. Awarding agency maintains an oversight and monitoring role as part of our job. We tend to go out every four years give or take. It's not always--it depends on risk score a little bit, but we tend to go out with our OCFO counterparts when we can and do monitoring as well as do annual desk reviews. And working closely with your grant managers, try to maintain close contact with your SAA is the best to help you work as much as you can in terms of providing those services to victims. That also being saying we don't do without substantial involvement from the awarding agency, meaning that we allow you, you actually have a lot of discretion in regards to how you grant funds whether you're victim assistance or your subrecipients or in terms of your compensation claims based on your state statutes. So it's--we are monitoring you, but you also have a lot of flexibility. Next slide.

So proposal narratives. This has been around for, I think we're going on a third year--no, it might be the second year. But this is a requirement that's in the system, I can't change it. So please write a proposal narrative, make sure it's double-spaced, 12-point, no less than 1-inch margins, not to exceed ten pages. I tell people basically with this since this is, you know, this is a formula grant, you're not really applying for an approval. It doesn't really need to be detailed. I've seen some states who give me a good paragraph on the history of the program, what it does and kind of how it falls into the structure of the government. And I've seen people write twenty pages. So I don't recommend a twenty-page narrative. Just write something that just clearly spells out. So if somebody was externally looking at your grants and they were like, "Well, what does this program do?" Something that gives a general overview of your program and, kind of, how your agency works. You don't need to put the kitchen sink into this one. Just put something that is pretty good, because I know historically when you applied to discretionary grants, you got to write a giant proposal narrative, but you don't necessarily need to do that with that. Just help us understand your program. And especially if there's going to be changes, we'd like to know that too because we do read these. Next question.

Both applications should include Standard Application Information in your SF-424 information in Grants.gov. That's where you're going to fill those boxes out. That's important to make sure you follow that. That's in Grants.gov.

Indirect Cost Agreements if applicable. Some states do have an Indirect Cost Agreement. Now, we don't use them. We have our five percent admin, but we still want to see that. So you can just attach that to the grant, but if you don't have it, then you don't need to attach it.

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire, very important to fill that out. Actually, I might send probably maybe in a few weeks or something, the kind of how-to documents. We used to send out a little bit more and saying make sure you fill these boxes out in this certain kind of way. But make sure you clearly look at those boxes and fill them out completely. And especially when it comes to single audits, if there is a single audit threshold and anything that you need to put in there. So pay attention to that one. Some people skip some of them, little boxes. Please don't.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, also important. Make sure in those two boxes, I think it's 10A and 10B, put N/A if you don't have anybody, which most states don't because they have the same lobbying restrictions as we do, but make sure you put like N/A in box 10A, 10B.

Applicant Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items. Sometimes you can just give a statement saying, "Hey, we don't have any duplicate cost items," or anything of that nature. It--it's very rare that you're going to run into that with this particular program.

DOJ Certified Standard Assurances, those are going to be boxes you're going to be checking in the grants. I'm not entirely--in JustGrants. I'm not entirely sure what it's going to look like on this side because we've changed up a little bit. But it should just be boxes that you're going to check off with the DOJ certifications, a lot of these different things of that nature. So it should be just check off boxes in your application.

You're going to have the Applicant Disclosure and Justification, DOJ High-Risk Grantees. So, if you--we generally like a statement that says [INDISTINCT] if you're a high-risk grantee. So make sure you put that into your application. You can also put statements that says you're not, but if you are, please notify us of that. Next slide.

Additional documents to apply. You got the DOJ Application Submission Checklist. You'll notice that written all over the solicitation. So there's a lot of tools that are out there for JustGrants. So please make sure you take a look at that and go through that. You got the application attachments on the right side. I think it should still look the same. Make sure you follow that right side. If you can see the middle screen right there, that's a great way to look at those check boxes to make sure you're completing the application and different components as you move along. There's also how-to guides, award attachments, things of that nature. So JustGrants has great tools as well. You

can use this webinar, which will be posted to our website to directly link to those different tools to be able to use. Next slide.

Application Submission Overview. We're going to go over this again. I know we've both done it. We'll do it again. Just to remember, the deadline is on May 21st. We're pretty early this year than we used to be. In fact, if it wasn't for the formula charts waiting for the budget to be approved, we would've been probably even farther ahead. So this is good. This gives us a little bit of flexibility. I know many of you take vacations in summer. Lot of times there's meetings and other things related to state assemblies. So I think this probably will work best for many of you to be able to get this in ahead of time and so that we can problem solve and help you process your application. So May 21st, Grants.gov, I strongly recommend to do it way ahead. So if you have any problems, you can resolve them. As well as May 27th for the JustGrants at 8:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. So submit those on those things. It will be great. We look forward to it.

Please don't—please feel free to reach out to your grant manager if you have any problems. Now, in the solicitation, of course, you want to follow the rules of Grants.gov if you have problems with that as well as JustGrants. But in terms of if you're generally having a problem with the solicitation, maybe somebody's going to be off on a certain date. So, you know, grant managers are here to help even though we're probably going to reference you to what's in the solicitation for help and then problem solve with you afterwards. But still make sure you follow up because if there's a technical issue. We keep track of those technical issues through those links such as Grants.gov, JustGrant support, and NCJRS. That way we keep track and we can reopen a solicitation if we have to. So, just don't solely reach out to your grant manager.

All right. Next slide. And I think this is where Daryl takes over.

DARYL FOX: Wonderful. Thanks so much, Joel. So to round out today's presentation, we're going to review some of the resources that'll be able to assist you with the application and some of the systems you're going to be using. So first, many of you-- and I will be putting the links in the chat as we go along too if you need to reference those.

Obviously, the OVC website, that's going to be your one-stop shop for anything OVC-related as far as news, events, multimedia, publications, information about programs and such, and mainly for purposes of today, the funding and awards, current opportunities. [https://ovc.ojp.gov] So certainly reference that as you need to.

Next is going to be that OJP Grant Application Resource Guide. [https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide] I put that in the chat a little bit earlier. And this is--it provides guidance to assist OJP grant applicants in preparing and submitting your applications for OJP funding. So mainly it addresses a variety of policies, statutes, and regulations that apply to many, or in some cases all OJP program applicants or to grants and cooperative agreements in FY '24. Some OJP programs may have program solicitations that expressly modify a provision of this

guide. In such cases, that applicant is then to follow the guidelines in the solicitation specifically for any modified provisions, so certainly a good resource and widely distributed throughout.

SAM.gov. So moving on to systems tools. Before submitting an application, all applicants must register with the System for Award Management, SAM, as mentioned earlier. It's a vital step in registration, and renewal can take sometimes up to ten business days to complete. So it is recommended to start that process early. And I'll go ahead and put that in the chat for everybody.

So the next process moving on is Grants.gov. [https://www.grants.gov] Most of you are probably familiar with this by now but once you're all set in SAM.gov, Grants.gov is your first step in starting your application. So under the applicants tab, you're going to find training and information on applying to the system and such. So as mentioned earlier, there's a two-step process to the entire process. So Grants.gov will be your first and the deadlines are mentioned earlier. You must make that step in order to proceed to the JustGrants process. Go ahead and put that in the chat for everybody to access. And they do have their own contact information up on their website and we'll get to that a little later on the--in this presentation.

So once you meet that deadline and everything is set, the next phase would be the JustGrants system. [https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov] And JustGrants is intended to be an end-to-end grants management system that applicants and grantees will access and use throughout the grant cycle, from application all the way through award closeout. So JustGrants has a variety of different materials and training options there on their site. You could register for weekly training webinars, they have sessions that you can apply, job aid reference guides, and micro-learning videos which are great. So if you're stuck on a certain process within that application, those training videos are, you know, 10, 20, 30, 40 seconds in length on just that specific process, so it's not a lengthy webinar that you have to go through. So they're a little more focused and I'll go ahead and put that training link in the chat for everybody if you need to reference that. And part of the JustGrants, they do offer application mechanics office hours. And these are every Wednesday from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM Eastern. Next one's coming up--actually, it was today but the next one available would be next week, April 24th. You can register and attend. It's just kind of a pop in, pop out kind of hour long session that if you do have questions, staff will be there to answer any questions as far as the specific mechanics of applying through JustGrants. So definitely a good resource available to everybody there.

And the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, we'll go ahead and put that in the chat as we speak now. [https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm] So a good starting point for applicants is this financial guide which serves as the primary reference manual to assist all OJP, OVW, and even COPS office award recipients in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities and to safeguard grant funds to basically ensure that funds are used for the purposes for which they're intended. The guide should be, as mentioned, as a starting point in ensuring the effective day-to-day management of awards. And it's

broken down into ten different topic sections that you'll see here but from the main link. It's a pretty lengthy guide but certainly something you want to have on hand to reference as you get into things.

Important contact information. So once we conclude today, you're going to want to note these two entities for specific questions in your application. So first is obviously JustGrants. Anything about the application and submission, anything for technical requirements in that system, you're going to want to contact them. Their email is JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov. And then the next, anything with programmatic requirements, OJP Response Center is going to be your main submission point, formerly known as the NCJRS Response Center. They're at grants.@ncjrs.gov. So those are going to be your two, kind of, contact points once we conclude this webinar, leading up to your application.

And then obviously you're familiar with OVC, here's some social channels that you can apply to. I'll put these in the chat and if you want to link up to them, you can. You can like us on Facebook, follow us on X, and watch different videos on YouTube that OVC makes available. Always keeping in connection with what's happening in the victim services field.

Lastly, we want to do--put a little promotion in for the 2024 National Crime Victims' Rights Week which is going to be coming up here in another week, April 21st to the 27th, the entire week, 2024. There's a link to artwork to help inspire your community and raise awareness of victims' rights. And this year's theme is, "How would you help? Options, services, and hope for crime survivors." So we're really excited about this and there will be a Candlelight Vigil & Service Awards Ceremony next week that you can register to attend. We'll go ahead and put that link in the chat if you're interested and we'll be in the DC area. That's going to be held on the national mall and it's going to be a wonderful event just as it has been over the years.

So rounding things out, that's going to be the end of today's presentation portion. Let's get into the Q&A. If you do have a question, at the far bottom right, three dots, enter your questions in there. We'll get it in queue. And I know presenters have been answering those feverishly throughout but now we can kind of get to that portion. Joel, do you want to lead us off?

JOEL HALL: Sure. So now we're going for the Q&A and I just threw something in the chat I'm going to start out with from Terrace. "Is this for victims to do this or people to help victims like victim advocates?" So this is basically funding that helps to hire and provide for victims, so it's not direct victim money that goes to victims directly. In some cases, the compensation program, so this is the conduit, pass through, which we call formula block grants. So no, this is not a direct funding program for victims directly, so I just want to make sure I answered that question for you.

Also I want to go to Nicky who has a couple questions. One, Malgorzata answered it but I'm just going to bring this to everybody's attention. In terms of naming conventions, we

do not--I know many of us have been on for a long time where we had very strict naming conventions, but that was because it was a GMS or Grants Management System where we had very limited space, so if you didn't--if we didn't see the beginning of the name, we couldn't figure out what it was. Luckily with JustGrants, we have a lot of space. So there's no established naming conventions, but it doesn't hurt to put the title a little bit in there, so we can find like plan for subgrant awards, it makes it easier but we'll figure it out and a lot more room and space in JustGrants to figure these things out. But we don't--I remember before, we were like, "You must. And they must be in this order." We haven't--I haven't done that for four years.

So let's see here. And then, the other question which is going to be a tough one, where was it? All right. "This year, the Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire is electronic web-based permission only. In the past, we've submitted an attachment that had to be certified by OCFO--or by their CFO, Chief Financial Officer. Will the grant applicant be able to submit the questionnaire on behalf of the CFO now that it's electronically submitted? Will any of that questions--question will be different than previously submitted?" No, to my knowledge, we did go over this in one meeting. Those questions have not changed but I am curious about signing it. Usually, historically, the CFO signs that form. I'm not sure if they have the ability to sign that. That may be something I might have to ask. Maybe we'll put that in something in the email out to the states while we remind you of the--we usually send reminder emails of application. I may put that answer in that question because I don't actually know the answer to that. So let me ask some people who may know that. I have a feeling you have the ability for the CFO to certify it somehow, but I don't know. Let me find out. So I'll get back to you. Let's put it that way.

Let's see. I don't see any new questions. Malgorzata has done a great job of answering them all in the chat. Thank you [INDISTINCT] for asking so many questions. Let's see. All right. We do have one…

MALGORZATA BEREZIEWICZ: I would…

JOEL HALL: Go ahead. Go ahead, Malgorzata.

MALGORZATA BEREZIEWICZ: I just want to add as a follow-up to the mentioned question that about we don't have--like Joel mentioned, there's no specific naming convention required. However, please keep in mind that sometimes the JustGrants system may decide an attachment title is too long. So if you receive an error message when trying to upload an attachment, we recommend trying to shorten the title if it is a longer one to see if it will be accepted.

JOEL HALL: That's a great point, Malgorzata. When I put out the reminders, I'm going to have like top ten error kind of things and that will be in there. Mentioning that too long a title--we have the same problem too. We're--if we have one of your monitoring documents and it's too big, it gives a little flag or it won't upload. The most common

question I get is "I'm trying to upload this but it won't." And I say just shorten the title and nine times out of ten, it fixes that. So it's an important thing to remember.

Another thing that what's mentioned about Connecticut. So Connecticut has already kind of gone through this process and they shared an experience in regards to this questionnaire, how it kept popping up and so that they were--they had to do a few workarounds to get through that. So if you're having this kind of issue, I would call in JustGrants support, but the most important part is we were aware of this being an issue. As far as I know, it was resolved. So if you're trying to go through that questionnaire part in that section, please if you're able to work through it, please do a ticket in JustGrants to let them know. We are--this is one of the first solicitations that are actually going through the process and OJP, the Office of Justice Program has kind of substantially changed some of the application process. It'll look the same but in regards to how we upload the documents and things of that nature, when these kind of strange errors pop up, it's always good to let them know so that they can try to resolve it. They said it was solved. I'm not sure exactly. But make sure that you alert JustGrants about that. It'll be very helpful to us. Cause they don't listen to us, they listen to ticket. Tickets tell them of what the metrics are and what they need to fix and work on.

Let's give it one more minute if there are no more questions. And I'm just going to go over with Anna on this question related to when you're doing the monitoring, yeah, it's kind of talking about what you've done previously but you still can put down what you're planning to do but looking, you know, what you monitored previously.

MALGORZATA BEREZIEWICZ: We do have one…

JOEL HALL: All right. One new question? Okay.

MALGORZATA BEREZIEWICZ: We do have a question from Gail. "Do you need separate Grants.gov logins in for both compensation and assistance if it is housed in the same state agency? This state agency has different administrators for those programs."

JOEL HALL: So that depends if you have different administrators for the programs. So I know one state that has the same log-in for both to the same person. Your state being Utah is larger. I have a feeling that the person prior to--and I think I know where your question is coming from--may have different log-in. So you might need two different log-ins, so I can think of one state that has two different log-ins and one state that has the same because it's the same administrator. In your case, you may have two different log-ins, so you may need to follow up and work early on that to make that determination. If you have a problem with Grants.gov, please let them know and let your grant manager know. Not that your grant manager can solve that so much but you'll need to contact Grants.gov early. We get this a lot where you have an administrator change and they--people don't always have the proper passcodes because it might be registered under somebody before. And they might've left without kind of changing names or changing stuff in the entity administrators or with Grants.gov. So that's another reason why to start early in Grants.gov, to work out those problems ahead of time.

Well, I think that is it. I want to thank everybody for joining us. As we said before, this will be posted on our OVC website. And so if you were--if you were able to attend but somebody else in your office was not, this will always be available. I say this every year. I want to thank Daryl for his assistance and working through as a host of this webinar. Of course, I want to thank Malgorzata for her very knowledgeable answering of these questions ahead of time. I really appreciate it. Makes my life a lot simpler. And we look forward to receiving your application on May 21st and May 28th--May 27th, sorry. And so we look forward to them and hopefully this year, we can get those awards out early and you can--I know a lot of states like to have their awards as early as they can get, so hopefully that'll be the goal this year. And we can move them forward and it'll be earlier next year. All right, everybody. Have a great time. Great day.

MALGORZATA BEREZIEWICZ: You're welcome.

DARYL FOX: You as well. So on behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime and our panelists, we want to thank you for joining today's webinar. This will end today's presentation.