

ALISSA HUNTOON: Thank you for joining for the Office for Victims of Crime FY 2024 Enhanced Collaborative Model Task Force, also known as ECM, to combat Human Trafficking solicitation pre-application webinar. My name is Alissa Huntoon. I am a Senior Policy Advisor within the Office for Victims of Crime, and I sit in our Human Trafficking Division.

I do want to state first, as a reminder for everyone, listening to this recorded webinar is not a substitute for reading the entire solicitation. This webinar includes snippets from the solicitation and highlights certain key pieces, sometimes summarizes parts. So, again, this is not a substitute for reading the entire solicitation and/or submitting questions to the appropriate contact information if you have questions about information in the solicitation.

Going to cover briefly overview of the OVC Human Trafficking Division. We'll talk about the solicitation more broadly, going into all aspects of the solicitation, and then we will end with some reference materials and webinar recordings, et cetera. As a reminder, since this is recorded, those slides will always be there. So if I'm going through them quickly, just know that those are available to you as a reference and you can go back to them at your leisure.

So within the Office for Victims of Crime, our Human Trafficking Division seeks to enhance the capacity to identify, assist, and provide services to all victims of human trafficking. And we lead the nation in supporting victim-centered and trauma-informed programs, policies, and resources that promote justice, access, and empowerment.

For this FY 24 ECM solicitation, there are three purpose areas. Purpose Area 1 is for development of new human trafficking task forces. The award amount for that is up to \$700,000 per applicant or \$1.2 million for the task force as a total. Purpose Area 2 is for expansion of human trafficking task forces that have previously been funded by the Office of Justice Programs. The dollar amount available for those awards are \$900,000 per applicant or up to \$1.5 million per task force. And the last, Purpose Area 3, which is enhanced support for statewide task forces. And, again, since that's statewide, it could be new or previously OJP-funded statewide task force. And the dollar amount available is \$1 million per applicant or \$2 million per task force. And we're going to get into all the information around eligibility, number of awards, the different partners, et cetera later in the solicitation--later in the webinar.

So who is eligible? This is on, you know, one of the first few pages of the solicitation. Please read that carefully. If you have questions, again, submit--about eligibility, submit that to the appropriate OJP Response Center contact information, which will be included

at the end of the slide deck. Basically, Native American tribal governments or Native American tribal organizations, and those are either federally recognized or other than federally recognized tribal governments, government entities, and non-government organizations.

More specifically for eligibility, this solicitation requires a partnership between two separate entities, a lead law enforcement agency and a lead victim service organization. Each of these lead applicants will need to submit your entity's application separately into JustGrants. It is a joint application, but they must be submitted separately because there will be separate awards made to each co-applicant. One to the law enforcement agency and one to the service provider partner. Please note that you must apply with an eligible partner. If you apply with an ineligible partner, you will not be considered for funding.

So some more restrictions around eligibility. For Purpose Area 1, generally those are for applicants that are newly formed or have never received funding under the OJP ECM Task Force Program before. Second purpose area, these are the ones that you must be a previous recipient of an OJP ECM Task Force Award, and that is, at least, one applicant must be a previous recipient. For Purpose Area 3, these are for statewide task forces consisting of state government or--and nonprofits that are--have the 501(3)(c) status other than an institution of higher education.

Please note that for all of these purpose areas, if you are an OJP ECM recipient currently and you were awarded funding in fiscal years 2022 and 2023, you are ineligible to apply for this solicitation. You are only awarded funding once per award and it's the fiscal year to which you received that award. You do not receive funding from multiple years, right? So this is--the distinction here is to look at what year--what fiscal year were you awarded the funding to determine your eligibility.

We share some more information about what we mean by state, and, ultimately, it is up to the applicant to collect the information and to determine what purpose area they should apply to.

So generally, again, what is this ECM Task Force Program all about? What do ECM task forces do? What is the goal? And it really is to support a sustainable, multidisciplinary, co-led approach to improve and increase victim identification of all forms of human trafficking, to provide those individuals with access to services and to seek justice on their behalf, which can include a variety of things, but also investigating and prosecuting traffickers as part of that. Please note, in the solicitation, it goes into more detail about what do we mean about what is, more specifically, an ECM task

force. Yes, it's a multidisciplinary approach, but we talk about those core elements of what an ECM task force does. That's on page eight. So please be sure to pay attention. We also provide information about some key terms that we use as part of this program. And they are not just definitions but what that would mean or looks like to be victim-centered or trauma-informed in practice.

There are some priority considerations throughout the solicitation. I'm just highlighting a couple here. One is on page 10. So those applicants that attest explicitly in their proposal that their task force funds will be used to take reasonable affirmative measures to avoid arresting, charging, or prosecuting victims for any offense that is the direct result of their victimization and that attest explicitly that the funds will not be used to require somebody or a victim of trafficking to collaborate with law enforcement as a condition of access to any of those services listed.

There are several other key sections that are discussed throughout pages 10 through 12. Again, this is getting to just sort of expectations of the program if you receive funding under this. So be prepared to look through those sections to understand what we mean around strengthening our response to labor trafficking, ensuring access to support male victims, working in the input from individuals with lived experience, et cetera. So those other key sections are also outlined on pages 10 through 12.

There's also critical guidance on page 10 around some--restrictions around scope of funding. This is just a summary, but the funding for the ECM program doesn't support those efforts that strictly focus on the purchasers of commercial sex that failed to result in the identification of one or more actual victims of human trafficking prior to an operation or otherwise fail to involve a connection at all to any trafficking victims. Also, out of scope of the ECM funds are those approaches that have--that involve focusing on individuals engaged in commercial sex for arrest as your means for identifying victims of trafficking.

So, generally, what are the expectations around sort of what you're doing and focusing on as part of this ECM Award. These objectives are summarized on pages 13 and 14. We are looking for a co-leadership structure. You'll be involved in protocols that cover cross sector collaboration. Collecting data in an ongoing way that helps you assess program activity. You are serving all types and ages of human trafficking. You're using victim-centered and trauma-informed and collaborative approaches. You employ a diverse set of approaches. You're not focusing on one specific approach continuously. You are investigating and referring and prosecuting at all levels. And you are offering access and provision of appropriate services.

Further, the solicitation outlines deliverables for the task force program, meaning if you receive funding, these are the things that OVC expects you to either develop or create or provide or submit to OVC throughout the grant period award, which is three years. So every--all-purpose areas will be developing collaborative partnerships, identifying a full-time Task Force Director or Coordinator. You are working on task force protocols. You will develop a training and outreach plan and jointly deliver training and outreach. There's a new deliverable for a completion of a community engagement project or event. And, again, that you are providing an array of services for both victims of sex and labor trafficking.

There are a few unique deliverables based on purpose area. If you receive funding under Purpose Area 1, you will also be required to submit a Memorandum of Understanding within the first 12 to 18 months of award accepted--acceptance. So the date that you officially accept the award in the system. And also be conducting a data-driven community assessment within those first 18 months of the award. If you're applying to Purpose Area 2 and you receive funding, in addition, you will also be expected to develop and expand implementation of a diverse set of approaches, produce a summary report that is specific to your labor trafficking efforts by the end of year two, and, only if requested by OVC, provide peer support to newer task forces. Lastly, Purpose Area 3 has a specific deliverable around creating a coordination plan across all parts of the state that will highlight the structure of your service provider partnerships and case investigations.

Here is a note. Again, because Purpose Area 3 can be either previously funded or new having never received OJP funding before, so you will follow those deliverables based upon the status of your task force at the time of application.

I wanted to highlight some of the information on pages 21 through 25 that's talking about what we are asking for in the Proposal Narrative. Again, this is very high level and does not replace reading the entire solicitation. But what we ask you to do in the narrative is to clearly identify the service provider, the law enforcement, and prosecution partners. The Task Force Director or Coordinator position should be clearly identified in the budget. And for the services, they should be specific and clearly outlined in your budget. We ask you to describe in detail how you're currently handling or plan to handle trafficking tips, investigations, prosecution of cases, or what are you currently doing. And then in Purpose Area 3 specifically, describe any current staffing and coordination efforts across, you know, the statewide level. And there is an extra bullet that is talking about stakeholder collaborations, so please make sure you review the entire Proposal Narrative section.

There are some funding restrictions on this particular solicitation, so be aware of those when you're putting your application together. There are further description of all of these in the solicitation. Holding beds, stipends or incentives, primary prevention activities, and purchasing or leasing vehicles.

For the budget, this is talked about on page 30 and 31. For service providers, budget should really ensure that there is sufficient funding dedicated to service provision, and that can be either directly through you as the applicant, or through project partners. And, again, as a reminder, to outline those specific services clearly in your budget and in the budget narrative. For law enforcement agencies, ensure that there's sufficient funding dedicated for personnel to support investigations. We note that positions funded under--with 100% overtime is discouraged. That also can support prosecutions, analytical functions, outreach, et cetera.

Continued onto pages 30 and 32 with the budget. This is for all applicants. And then if you are awarded funding, note these--the information around match, administrative costs, and required travel for OVC sponsored trainings. Match, there is a--there is a match. I might have another slide on this. A 25% match that is required for both applicants. And review the information on administrative costs. And then we specifically ask you to budget for required travel so that you can attend OVC sponsored ECM trainings. There is a note in the solicitation that you may propose other travel related to professional development or training, and that will absolutely be considered, it just might require some approval from OVC for additional justification post-award.

There are attachments required as part of this solicitation. Three here are highlighted. The Task Force Organizational Chart, Letters of Intent and/or, you know, MOUs or MOAs. And, again, this depends upon the purpose area to which you're applying. And resumes.

So if you're curious about how the applications are screened or the process for review and any other factors that come into play in making decisions about the applications for funding, a lot of that is going to be discussed here in pages 35 to 36. So please be sure you look through basic minimum review, talking about merit. There's a whole other section on other review factors and risk factors.

I did want to highlight a couple changes from last year's FY 23 ECM solicitation. Two of the biggest ones, again, are just the changes to the maximum funding available per purpose area. As you noted at the beginning, there were three different funding levels available depending upon the purpose area. And then there are a couple new

deliverables sort of sprinkled throughout, but--so it's primarily really similar to last year, but there's--those are some of the major changes.

The awards under the ECM program are cooperative agreements, which is a little bit different than a grant. And what that means, generally, is that there is some expectation that there's going to be substantial involvement between the awarding agency, so that's OVC, and the recipient during the performance period. And so the--that means OVC will closely participate in the performance of their program. So that might be regular check-ins, the ability to provide input and feedback, guide direction. There's more information about the difference between a grant and a cooperative agreement, as noted here on the link below and in the Grant Application Resource Guide.

So now we're just going to get into--I'm going to probably cover these fairly quickly. But they are here and available to you, and there is a lot of helpful resources, webinars, training sessions, et cetera to help you successfully apply to this funding opportunity, which I hope you do.

Reminder of the deadlines. The first one is JustGrants. That's April 24th--sorry, excuse me, Grants.gov, which is April 24th. And the second is JustGrants, May 6th. Please, please, please don't submit at the last minute. I understand these applications are very time-consuming and take a lot of time and consultation with multiple partners and organizations. I absolutely get that. But I don't want you to have any problems at the last minute, so if you can, you know, submit before--well before the deadline.

And then once they're submitted, you know, you will hear something by--if you are selected for an award, by September 30th. And all project start dates should begin on or after October 1st. That's the start date. And the exclamation mark there is noting for you just to be--you know, keep in mind, as you're putting these together and talking with your partners in submitting an application that you can't begin work really until the budget has been reviewed and approved by OJP, okay? And there's going to be additional information that might outline some additional restrictions in the award package that you're given if you are successful.

Here's some information about--as we talked about before, some of those basic minimum requirements that we're looking for that every application has to have before you can even move forward to peer review. So make sure that you have these four documents included in your application.

Just a note on the budget, it's a web-based form. Thinking through your personnel costs, make sure they're related to the key project personnel. It should reflect 36

months. And if you have requested priority consideration 1A or 1B, that's noted in the solicitation, it will be reflected in your budget as well.

Here's a little bit more information about the match. This solicitation does require 25%. It's cash or in-kind. A reminder that you must identify the source of that match in your budget, and a reminder that match funds can only--that your sources of match can only be those same sources that would be allowable for federal funds. There's a formula for how you calculate that match. It's also in the solicitation, it's also in the Application Resource Guide so you can--if you can't find it, then you can reach out to the appropriate contact information and they can help you find that.

Here's just some more information or sample visuals of the kinds of resources that are available for you. There's an Application Submission Checklist, tips, information about awards attachment.

That's the reminder again. Can't remind you enough on the deadlines and due dates. Again, April 24th is the Grants.gov and May 6th is the JustGrants deadline.

You can find information generally about funding opportunities on OVC's website. [<https://ovc.ojp.gov/funding/current-funding-opportunities>] Another critical document that is useful for thinking through your application and pulling your materials together is the DOJ Grants Financial Guide. Another really important resource is the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide. This is the link that you're going to see most often referenced or, at least, referenced frequently throughout the solicitation itself. [<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/ojp-grant-application-resource-guide>] So make sure you, at least, go to this website and sort of look through and review all the resources and tools that the Application Resource Guide has.

SAM.gov, this is also really, really important. As it notes here, this is your very first stop. Before you're applying, you're going to want to make sure everything is up to date and you've got your registration and everything all set in SAM.gov. So go there first early, ask a lot of questions, and make sure you're all set in SAM.gov.

So the first place you are applying also is Grants.gov. So I would go there and make sure you just familiarize yourself with that system, what it looks like, the kinds of questions that's going to be prompting you. And then, again, the second deadline and the second of the two-part application process is within JustGrants. Likewise, go to the website there. [<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov>] As it notes, it's organized by topics. There's several different kinds of videos. There's step-by-step job aids. Tons of information available for you on JustGrants.

I believe this is new this year too, but every Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:00, as it notes, they have a webinar around just application mechanics where they're talking about as you're getting ready to apply, looking through Grants.gov, JustGrants roles and responsibilities, assigning roles. Any attendee questions about submitting your application can be asked there as well. So be sure you take down those dates. There is one more remaining on March 27th at the time this webinar was recording and there could--there will be probably more added if you go to the website for updates listed on this slide. [<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-virtual-sessions>]

Again, very important, if you have questions about this solicitation, it's kind of broken up into two chunks. So if you have questions around submitting the full application into JustGrants, this is after you've submitted it into Grants.gov, there's a phone number and an email. Be sure you call them, email them. Please be sure you're keeping track of any tracking numbers, times that you're calling, dates, any feedback that you get from the technical assistance from JustGrants.

There's also support available through the OJP Response Center. There's a phone number as well as an email. That is also not just technical assistance but--well, it's support with any of the programmatic requirements and/or, you know, if you have a technical issue that prevented application submission, you're going to want to submit it there. There is information in the solicitation that also talks about submitting the application, when appeals will be accepted and sort of the criteria around that, so please, please make sure you read through that section as well and that you're clear about how the whole application submission process works. And if you do experience any technical issues, you know who, when, where, how to contact and to document all of that. That's why it's important to submit as early as you can.

And this is our last slide with just some social media links for following OVC. Thank you so very much for your interest in this program, and please submit any questions that you might have to the appropriate contacts. And thank you so much. Wish you luck in applying.