

OMAR MOHAMMED: Good afternoon, and welcome to today's session, Program Overview SASP Formula and STOP. My name is Omar Mohammed, and I'm a Program Manager with the Formula Team. All NGO sessions will be recorded. At this time, I would like to introduce Team Lead Melissa Schmisek (SASP) and Program Manager Latonya Eaddy (STOP) with OVW.

LATONYA EADDY: Thank you, Omar. Hello, everyone, or good morning to those in Saipan and Guam, and good afternoon to everyone else, I believe. Thank you for sharing your time and attending this New Grantee Orientation for STOP overview or a refresher. As Amy pointed out earlier when she introduced us, this is our Formula staff: Amy, Melissa, Omar, who just did a lovely introduction of the script, Elizabeth, Emma, Kevin, and myself.

So, what is STOP? The Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program. We refer to it as STOP; Administrators refer to it as VAWA. And the purpose of STOP or VAWA is to support the four crime areas: domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Who's eligible? If you see your state or your territory listed on this slide, then you are eligible. If you do not, then you may be in the wrong chat room or meeting room. And if you're not a STOP Administrator, you may be in the wrong meeting room as well. But as you can see, it's for every state and territory.

The STOP Administrator's role. There are quite a few. We're going to start with creating the STOP state or territory implementation plan. You also create Requests for Proposals or Notifications of Funding, or you may call them solicitations as well. But this is an opportunity for you to take your identified goals, objectives, and needs from your implementation plan and then bid them out for who's going to do those and fulfill those needs. Once you post, you'll receive the proposals. You'll review the proposals. You'll distribute funding according to the required allocations. Once you get your funding out the door, you want to make sure that you're monitoring and are available to do site visits. You want to talk to your subrecipients, you want to just build a good relationship and one that is through the monitoring as well. And you want to provide technical assistance, because, as Amy said, we are here to help. So, you are there to help, because we have to keep the victim survivor at the center. And technical assistance is very important so that each program you support succeeds in creating the atmosphere for the survivor. And finally, at the end of the cycle, your federal award cycle, or if you're on a state cycle, you want to close out your grant award, and you want to talk to your subrecipients before it gets to this point to see if there are any funds remaining after they met the goals and objectives of their proposals. You may want to reach out a little bit before this to make sure the closeout process is smooth.

So, just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water, here comes implementation plan 2023. If it seems like you just did this last year, you did. The good news is that you did it last year, so a lot of information should still be fairly fresh and in a folder and not in the recycle bin because you got fed up with the 2022 implementation

process. You just want to start thinking about how the 2023 implementation plan is going to look for your state or territory. And is it too early to start? Absolutely not. I think this will be very beneficial for just jumpstarting your implementation plan, which will be due with your 2023 application.

Some of the things I'm going to discuss next are—if you remember that good old checklist, there's collaboration and there's coordination. Collaboration is working together to create something new in support of a shared vision. Coordination is sharing the information and resources so that each party can accomplish their part to support a mutual objective. If you look at the checklist, you'll see your required collaborations and your required coordination. And this is just the overview of what I said.

Now luckily, we'll have our Grants Financial Management Division. But this is an overview of calculating match amount. So, you'll receive the award. You divide that amount by 75%. That is the federal share. The total adjusted cost multiplied by 25% is the 25% that you are required to match. Then you can write there all of your questions regarding what about victim service providers and how does that all work out. You can refer them to GFMD, our Grants Financial Management Division. This is just an overview to show you how to get the required match amount.

Fun part, the allocation. So, OVW will allocate funding to the states and the territories. You have an option to take up to 10% for your administration cost. That cost can be monitoring; it could be part of a salary; it could—and if possible, you may—not do it and support your subrecipients. But you cannot take more than 10%. The 20% is the set-aside, and discretionary funds do not count toward this requirement. You would take the 20% out of any of the victim service, law enforcement, prosecution, courts. And you could apply that toward your sexual assault set-aside. The other culturally specific set-aside is 10% minimum. This is a minimum. It does not have to be the maximum. And for anyone residing in the territories, you're automatically culturally specific. All of your programs are culturally specific.

We'll talk a little bit about what the OVW Program Manager's roles are. We, one, receive your implementation plans and your RFP. We review those. We peek over at your SF-425 to see what your spending is looking like. We may reach out to contact you regarding extensions if it looks as though you're not utilizing your funds. We look at that as well when we're reviewing your progress reports to make sure that there are activities. We also reach out to you via various methods. And we close out your awards. A big help to close out your award is when you post your NOFA, your RFP, your solicitation, whatever it is—when you post it, if you would also send it to OVW. It definitely helps the closeout process. If you could send a draft copy prior to posting it, if there's some incorrect information or language, we can catch it and let you know before you post it. Or if you post it, we can make contact with you to let you know what was incorrect and how to correct it, and note the account for any activity going forward that we had a discussion about what was identified. So, your next RFP should not or may not contain information that was incorrect or omitted.

There are also OVW's comprehensive technical assistance providers. They provide educational opportunities, peer networking, training, and problem-solving strategies. If you have a question, they're responsive via phone or email. To help you maximize your STOP award or your VAWA award, I would highly encourage you to reach out to the ALSO STOP project. They also send out newsletters on upcoming TA and webinars. Although it may not be applicable to you, it may be applicable to some of your subrecipients. I would encourage you to look at that and know your state or territory needs, and I encourage you to send that information forward.

Some important dates when your application is due, when your progress report is due. Also important, when your financial report is due, your implementation plan is due. And I think it will be four years after this year. I know we said four years last year, but we were just joshing. It's going to be four years, I think, after 2023. And be sure about the award end date. You do not want to have your subgrants extend past your federal award date. I cannot express that enough. Please make sure that you're looking at your federal award begin date and end date.

Here are our most recent state assignments, with our contact information. I'll leave that up just in case someone does not have the information. I do believe that additional information is for GFMD. Because JustGrants is so wonderful, OVW has its own JustGrants support. So, you do not have to go through JustGrants. You can go through JustGrants with OVW. Now, we cannot help you with any of your other JustGrants awards, just OVW. And your progress report, here it goes to Muskie. And always very helpful, the STOP FAQs. If you do not have a copy of the STOP FAQs, they are listed on OVW's website. If you are not familiar with it or cannot find it, reach out to your Program Manager and they will send you a copy of the FAQs.

MELISSA SCHMISEK: The state assignments for the Program Managers and their contact information is a document on the portal. So, if you access the portal, you'll be able to find materials associated with each presentation, both the PowerPoint slides and any additional information. That document is there in the portal.

LATONYA EADDY: Thank you, Melissa.

MELISSA SCHMISEK: So, hello, everybody. I am Melissa Schmisek. I think you've met me earlier on and have heard me read the script. I'm a Team Lead with the Formula Team and in our unit, supporting Program Managers and Amy, and also I'm a Program Manager for some of the SASP Formula awards in some of the states. This is going to be an overview of the Sexual Assault Services Formula Program.

First, just for those of you who are brand, brand new, we have a wide variety of Administrators joining us—some who have just joined in the past week, to some who've been here a year, or those who've been for a long time and just like to be in the know and have joined us today. If you don't know, the OVW mission is to provide federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce violence against women and to administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating

violence, sexual assault, and stalking. You can find all kinds of resources and materials and more about OVW on our website, which is linked here.

This isn't a full overview of the OVW structure, but I think it helps a little bit for those of you who are visual learners to kind of see where we reside. You heard from Allison Randall earlier, who is our Acting Director. We have Attorney Advisors and a General Counsel in OVW, and you'll be hearing from some of them later on during these next several weeks. Jennifer Kaplan is our General Counsel. Many people know Marnie, who has been with us for a long time. And then Debra Murphy will be joining us. Over here, we have our Grants Development and Management Division, which is overseen by Nadine, who is the Deputy Director of Programs. And then over here is where we are, the Formula Team, Amy, and then all of us. You'll also be meeting folks from the Grants Financial Management Division who will be talking about all things grants finance. They're also working under our Grants Financial Manager or they're part of GFMD and part of our Development and Management Division for grants.

So, Latonya had the same sort of visual. These are our state assignments. This one is a little bit different because it's reflecting me on this one. You'll notice that I don't have any states for STOP, or for coalitions for that matter. But I do have a grant node for SASP Formula. So, this is how the SASP Formula assignments break down.

So, a little bit about the Sexual Assault Services Program. It's a bit of a layered statute. It was authorized and came into existence with the VAWA 2005 reauthorization. It's the first federal funding stream dedicated solely to the provision of sexual assault services, which is very exciting.

The Sexual Assault Services Program, I think, is sort of an umbrella program. There are several funding streams that fall under this umbrella of sexual assault services. One of those is the Formula Program. So, you'll see that with the little star, because that's what we're talking about today. And when funding is appropriated for this Sexual Assault Services Program, 65% of that funding goes toward the Formula Program. The rest of the money then is divided up among the other funding programs, which are tribal governments, culturally specific, and coalitions, which include state and territory coalitions and tribal coalitions.

So, more about the Sexual Assault Services Formula Program and how that works. Sixty-five percent of the funding that goes to the SASP Formula comes from OVW and, of course, is given to the states and the territories. And then you all pass that down to your local programs.

Like all things really for OVW, all of our programs are defined pretty directly about who's eligible and what the purposes are. For SASP, it's very specific about who are the eligible subrecipients. All entities have to provide intervention and related assistance to victims of sexual assault, without regard to age. That means that a particular agency that receives SASP funding needs to provide some sort of service and intervention to children, youth, and adults. Now, the particular grant project doesn't have to provide

services to all those age ranges, but the agency itself has to provide some type of service regardless of age. From there, there are a multitude of agencies that could be eligible—so, your nonprofit rape crisis centers or governmental rape crisis centers that aren't a part of the criminal justice system. So, it could be, you know, part of a city government—but not part of a district attorney's office or a law enforcement agency. It also could be a tribal organization. It could also be a dual sexual assault or DV program that provides the services to both kinds of victims. It could be a culturally specific program. It could be an urban Indian organization or, for example, an LGBTQ or Deaf program. But all of them would have to be providing services without regard to age, if that makes sense. And then, of course, tribal programs are going to be a victim service type of program that's housed within a tribal government structure.

An important aspect of the SASP Formula is collaboration between the administering agency and the state or territory coalition and representatives from underserved communities. That means that those representatives in that coalition should have an opportunity to see and look at the application that the state administrative agency is going to be submitting for the SASP Formula. And it should also have an opportunity to provide input and have conversation with how the funding is going to be used in the state or territory. Now, they may not have the final say in that. That is the purview of the administering agency. But there should be a meaningful conversation and collaboration about the needs in the state and territory pertaining to sexual assault survivors and how the SASP Formula money in the state or territory is going to be implemented.

Then, who can be served? I like to say everyone. Unlike some of the other OVW grant programs, there's no restriction on age in terms of how old a particular survivor needs to be. For SASP Formula, the victim can be a child, a youth, or an adult. Also, you can have particular projects that are focused on doing outreach with male survivors or LGBTQ survivors. There's no requirement that it needs to be narrowed in any particular way on who the survivor is or when the sexual assault took place. So, you could be working with adults who were sexually abused as children as well.

The purpose in what we're doing in helping survivors is really to provide healing and supportive services. And that can take many, many forms. It can be advocacy. It can be different types of support services, or accompaniment to a hospital, or a police report, or maybe to another type of social services agency, or maybe even just a doctor's visit, because that person hadn't been seen and would like support when they see that doctor. It could be counseling, meaning clinical counseling; therapeutic services; of course, crisis intervention, which could be the person comes in, or it could be through some sort of helpline that's operated by the program; and also outreach. And though it shouldn't be the sole focus of the program, the community needs to know how and where to access services in order for that agency to provide them. With SASP dollars, some of that funding can be used to conduct outreach within the community to make people aware of what type of services are provided and how to access them. And then, Allison mentioned this in her opening remarks, but a new piece that's been directly added to the SASP statute overall—so, this would have packed all of the funding streams within SASP—is direct financial assistance. So, that could be, you know, food.

It could be clothing. It could be tires for a car in order to make it to services. It's just that direct financial assistance has to be directly connected to the sexual assault.

And how all this plays out in the services provided, some of these things about the allowable activities, right? Like crisis intervention or advocacy. That translates into people. So, the largest expense we see is paying for personnel, the staff time and salaries of the advocates or therapists or support group leaders who are actually providing those services. That person also needs a desk or a computer and an office space. So, SASP can help support those costs associated with the staff person who's supported by SASP. The funding can also pay for food for victims. You know, if there are support groups that are taking place, and they may need to provide food during the support groups, you can absolutely do that with SASP dollars. Professional development training. So, the individual, the advocate, or maybe volunteers, you can support training costs to help advance and support the skills and professional development of those individuals. You might have support groups going on like creative, arts, and things like that, so you can pay for supplies. And then, contracted services. That might be a clinical therapist. It might be other alternative healing or holistic healing practices, like maybe hiking groups, or yoga, or massage, things like that. SASP can help contracts to be able to provide those services.

With all of that, we also have a national organization that OVW funds to provide training and support and resources. The term OVW uses is technical assistance. When I first started at OVW, I thought technical assistance meant, like, help with your computer. But it's terminology that means help and support to our grantees in implementing their OVW dollars, and skill development and resources, tools, and that sort of thing. So, OVW funds the Resource Sharing Project, which is part of the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault. This is our main website. This is where you'll find all kinds of different resources that have been developed by RSP specifically for state and territory Administrators. So, I'm going to go find, like I said, materials and resources, and then you can also request consultation and subject matter expertise.

The other thing that's neat about this is you can also find peers, an orientation toolkit, an online course. So, you'll see, right above the graphic, there's a black bar that runs there, and there are different headers where you can select a particular option. That's where you can see the online course, the SASP FAQ, and the orientation toolkit—and also where you are able to find peers, which means finding others who are state or territory Administrators for SASP Formula. One of those is the orientation toolkit, and that has several different components. You'll see what the closeout process is for SASP within JustGrants, a glossary, a fact sheet—I think some really helpful resources—and in particular, a SASP Administrator orientation packet. If you have an access, I highly recommend it. It's a good refresher for those of you who have been in your position for a while and for those who have just started. It just goes over important facts and information, a lot of what I've also covered here. You can refer to that as you need it and as things come up.

As I mentioned, you can find peers, so you can click on a state or a territory, and then you can find in the circle piece the SASP Administrator and their contact information, and you can also find the TA provider who can help you with your needs.

An exciting resource is the SASP Administrator Online Academy. It's an e-learning academy, it's interactive, there are videos, and there are little pop-up questions and interactive flashcards around healing services and the importance of those. There is also a tool on how to plan and visualize the needs around sexual assault services, in particular within your state or territory—and not just with SASP funding but with any funding stream that's coming into your state or territory, and how you can help plan that out in a proactive way. That's called charting the landscape. There's a little intro and sort of an orientation to that tool, and that tool's available online through this academy. So, I highly encourage you to check that out. It's self-paced, so you can start and stop and return as you need.

These are just some helpful tips that I've kind of gathered over time in working with Administrators. A good place to always return to when you have questions is to go back to the SASP solicitation, which we have posted on the OVW website. Also, look over your award conditions, so if you have a question about something, like in your 2022 award, you want to look at the award conditions for that particular award. Likewise, you would want to refer to the '22 solicitation because some things change. Just like with the VAWA reauthorization, our '23 solicitation and award conditions will have information in there that wasn't in the previous versions. As I mentioned, read the SASP Administrator Toolkit, available through RSP. That's a great grounding tool to keep referring to. If you haven't started, build those connections and relationships with your sexual assault coalition or dual program and your local programs just to anchor you in the needs of survivors and the needs of those local programs and agencies to help guide you in your planning for SASP funding. It's important to submit all reports on time. Mark it in your calendar; give yourself, you know, a week reminder. Those deadlines are pretty predictable, so if you build a schedule for yourself, I've found that to be successful. Then, as you have questions, engage with your OVW Program Manager and the Resource Sharing Project, which are there to help you. No question is too small, and likely other folks have that same question. If we don't have a direct answer, we will help figure it out for you.

Again, here is our contact information. These slides are available on the portal, and we have a whole different document that was the Program Managers for each state and territory, and their contact information again. So, it's easy to get hold of us. And then, the numbers for your Grants Financial Management team, your JustGrants support team. If you have questions on the performance reports that are due, there's contact information there as well. We have a session specifically for grants administration later on in the NGO. That's when we'll go into more detail about the reporting and the due dates and different aspects of just managing both SASP and STOP dollars.

So, that is the end of my presentation. Does anybody have questions? It could be in reference to what Latonya and I spoke about already, or it could be just questions you had generally and wanted to ask us about the programs.

LATONYA EADDY: Sure do, Melissa. Can you talk a little bit more about direct financial assistance? There's a struggle with the example of tires, because we cannot ensure the tires will remain in the victim's control. Normally, funds are not allowed to purchase cell phones and items like that. So, can you talk a little bit more about the financial assistance? Because, if these are allowed through, what type of assurances does a program need to get from the victim, if any?

MELISSA SCHMISEK: Yes. So, excellent and tricky question. I will say a couple things. One is that we are going to have a session tomorrow on the VAWA—on the changes to STOP and to SASP and anything impacting the coalition's programs. Tomorrow, Marnie Shiels, one of the Attorney Advisors, is going to present on those changes. And so, make a note to yourself to ask this question again, because I think it's important for an Attorney Advisor to weigh in on it. But my initial thought is, that isn't a requirement that those tires have to stay in the control of the victim per se. They may have teenage children who drive, or maybe a significant other or somebody who needs to drive them or use that car from time to time. So, that part I don't think is necessarily required. What would be required for that is that the need for the tires can't just be a general need. It needs to be related in the context of SASP, related to the sexual assault. And so, maybe the person who assaulted that individual slashed their tires in the course of the sexual assault. There could be so many possible scenarios. Or that sexual assault victim was trying to get away and fleeing, and in the course of that there was damage to the tires or something. The direct financial assistance has to be directly connected to the sexual assault. That's the most critical factor in that. So, I hope I answered that question. Again, make note of that and ask that question again for Marnie so she can provide her answer to that as well.

LATONYA EADDY: Thank you, Melissa. There's also another financial assistance question, and it is, "Is there an allowable/unallowable document for review?" So, is there a listing of unallowable and allowable items?

MELISSA SCHMISEK: Right. So, just like that document that lists out allowable or unallowable costs?

LATONYA EADDY: That is correct.

MELISSA SCHMISEK: Yeah. It's not exhaustive. So, your first go-to—there's going to be kind of a multiple-tier analysis that has to happen. And the first two places I always go are the SASP solicitation and the DOJ Financial Guide. Those two things are going to give a general overview and requirements from a financial perspective. The SASP solicitation will also get more into the details specific to SASP, while the DOJ Financial Guide is broadly dealing with the restrictions and requirements for any sort of DOJ grant funding. The SASP solicitation will be specific to SASP Formula and to OVW



requirements. The other source you would go to is the OMB, the Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Guidance, which is the source document from which the DOJ Financial Guide flows, and that will give some general parameters. But there just is no way to have an exhaustive list of allowable or unallowable expenses for SASP, because there are just so many scenarios.

The other document that is helpful is the SASP FAQ, which is posted on the OVW website. Also, some of these links are going to be in the grants administration presentation, which will have some of the links in there as well. But if you recall, in the Resource Sharing Project page, there is a link to the SASP FAQ. And this link just diverts you to the OVW page. So, it is an OVW document. And that's a good place to go to provide some general guidance to you.

So, if that's all just overwhelming and confusing, just contact your Program Manager at OVW. Sometimes, it's a really clear answer for us, and other times you've raised a scenario where we need to ask GFMD or we need to ask an attorney. I'd just like to say, I've been here since 2005 and I still get questions from you all where I'm like, "I don't know. I've never been asked that question before and we have to explore it." For example, there was an instance where there was a program that was working with a survivor who was pregnant and did not know if the pregnancy was a result of a consensual encounter or of the sexual assault. She asked for a paternity test to determine, for her own knowledge and peace of mind and understanding, who that child belonged to, and that was something that we could do. We've paid for, you know, a laptop that was damaged in the course of an assault, that sort of thing. There's a lot of different scenarios of what's allowable and unallowable, so I just say ask your OVW Program Manager.

And then I got a question, just to repeat it, about being able to provide food as a support group. So, I know over the years there's been a lot of conversation around food and whether food is allowable or unallowable. The answer, in many cases, is that it depends. The most direct answer I can give is that, if the food is for a survivor or is used in the course of providing services and support to a survivor or survivors, then that food is allowable. You're allowed to do it. You don't need permission from OVW. You can use SASP dollars to do that as long as the services being provided are being provided by an advocate supported with SASP dollars, or it's clearly a project of that subrecipient to do this thing. So, let's say you're providing a support group to adult survivors of child sexual abuse and you hold that support group at 7:00 in the evening so people have an opportunity to attend who work during the day, and you have refreshments, something to drink, some food during that time. You can do that. Maybe you provide childcare so participants in the support group can attend, if they have children. You can provide food to those children, and you can pay for the cost, maybe, for a stipend for the volunteer who's looking after the children and the cost of the food. So, you can always provide food directly to survivors or in the course of providing services to survivors. It's when you're doing a training for volunteers or you're convening a meeting to discuss, as a project, what you're going to do with SASP, that sort of thing, you can't have SASP-funded food generally at those types of events.

So, there's a question in the chat: "Are refreshments, like you mentioned, just under SASP or does that reasoning apply to STOP as well?" That reasoning applies to STOP as well. You can provide food to victims, whether that's in a shelter and you need to buy food for the shelter. And that all needs to be cost allocated and in line with the contribution of STOP funding and that sort of thing, prorated. But you absolutely can provide food to survivors under STOP and really any OVW grant program, but we're talking about STOP and SASP. So, yes, you could do that under STOP. Where you couldn't do it, again, is, maybe there's going to be a SART coordination meeting under STOP. You can't use STOP money to pay for food for the people who are coming. If people donate the food or you have other funding streams, you can have food there. It's just that STOP funding can't pay for that food.

LATONYA EADDY: Here's another question regarding when you will receive additional information about the 2023 STOP implementation plan. That information will be throughout this meeting as well as in the solicitation when it's released in the spring.

MELISSA SCHMISEK: Yes. And Marnie is also going to address some of the changes that came to STOP in the VAWA reauthorization, and the implications for the 2023 plan. It won't initially be a full new implementation plan, but she will speak specifically to that. She also will have a session on legal issues for state and territory Administrators. So, she'll be able to address that there as well, and you can ask questions of her. Also, if you just go through the portal, there's additional resources, a document on there that gives an overview of what information is going to be needed in the sort of amendment for the 2023 implementation plan. The portal has a lot of information, everybody, so when you're done with this session—this is the event portal. So—let me do this really quick. Do bear with me. So, this is how you join the session. And then, I'm going to put it here in the chat. There's the link, and every time you go to the link, you're likely going to be required to enter the password, which is Formula 2023. I just dropped that link and the password there. If it's helpful, I can stop and reshare my screen and just show you all on the portal where some of this information is.

LATONYA EADDY: I think that would be helpful. Anne had a question about what is the portal.

MELISSA SCHMISEK: Yes.

LATONYA EADDY: I think that would be very helpful. Thank you, Melissa.

MELISSA SCHMISEK: All right. You're welcome. Here I go. So, does everybody see that?

LATONYA EADDY: It's displayed on the screen, Melissa, yes.

MELISSA SCHMISEK: It is? Cool. All right. So, here's the portal. This is the landing page. When you first enter the password, this is the first page you're going to see. And

then up here, you all, as Administrators, are going to want to go to the Administrators Meeting Information. This is where you can download the agenda both in English and in Spanish. If you have any questions about Zoom, there is a quick little tip sheet, fact sheet on Zoom. And then, here is where you can go, where Amy was talking about this morning. Week one, these are all the sessions. We're in Program Overview right now, and when you click on that, this is how you join the session. Or you can copy and paste this into your browser and access it that way. So then, there's week one, week two, week three, right?

Then, you also can get meeting materials by week. So, we're in week one. And here's our overview for STOP and SASP. You can get the actual PowerPoint presentations. If there were links in there and the phone numbers we had and the state assignments for the Program Managers, you'd be able to get that there. This is the Formula OVW Program Managers document that has all of us in one document—who has what state and our contact information, both our phone numbers and our email addresses. Whenever there are additional resources for that particular session, that's how they'll be labeled. You'll also have the option of just going to the next week. There's a bunch of additional resources in week two. And then week three—this is where I was talking about, in week three, where Marnie is going to be presenting on some of the new STOP certification requirements and the implementation plan requirements. Both of those additional resources are there. You can access those now, download them, and save them to your personal files.

There's a question about the implementation plan, whether that is specific to the STOP funds and is not a requirement of the SASP funding. That is correct. The implementation plan is a statutory requirement for STOP only. SASP does not have an implementation plan. You submit a narrative and a small application each year for your SASP funding, but no implementation plan is required.

So, another question is, "Will SASP be getting a new FAQ since there are changes to VAWA?" Yes. And part of our job during this session is to be taking notes to see what questions come up to help us in doing the FAQs and updating them. There'll be a new one for STOP and there'll be a new one for SASP. It's going to take a little while, because that takes some amount of review, as you know, but the Attorney Advisors take the lead on that, and there's some additional upper-level review. But as soon as those are released, OVW will communicate that multiple times and probably multiple emails so you don't miss it.

I have a question: "Stipends are allowable for volunteers to provide direct services to survivors—for example, an instructor for yoga classes, gardening classes, correct? Are they allowable for employees who instruct those classes outside their regularly scheduled work hours?" So, correct. You may contract for those yoga classes or gardening classes. Maybe you have a community college or a university or a college that has a horticulture department. And you might be able to contract with them to provide some of those classes. So, yes, you can provide funding for that directly to those who are going to be providing those services. And then, employees who instruct

those classes outside their regularly scheduled hours. Yeah, I think generally that is allowed, and I think the details that you would want to look at are, does that employee have their own business on the side, or is this sort of like an overtime kind of situation depending upon how they're classified as an employee, as salaried or hourly. You want to be able to follow those HR and employment rules and laws in your state or territory. You'd want to check that out. But, yes, people can be compensated for providing those services.

LATONYA EADDY: So, for the implementation amendment letters—well, 2022 should not be an amendment letter. It should have been a new plan. So, for 2023, Marnie's going to talk about what you will need for your 2023 implementation plan, and she will address that in the changes that will need to be made for your 2023. Also, I was reminded by Dwayne that a key thing that entities should remember is to follow their SOPs, or standard operating procedures, when dealing with grants, awards, contracts, any type of procurement. So, thank you, Dwayne, for that reminder.

MELISSA SCHMISEK: Yeah. That's a good reminder. There's a question: "Are there other financial assistance items that you mentioned—clothing, tires, paternity tests—allowable under STOP as well, or just the food for survivors?" That direct assistance, financial assistance, is specific statutory language to SASP. So, I know under STOP clothing is allowable, right? Like in shelters. You know, sometimes individuals are fleeing and they come in without any other clothing, either for themselves or for their children who come with them. Or in the case of a sexual assault, that person may go for a forensic medical exam and they have to relinquish their clothing as evidence. So, oftentimes there'll be clothing and little bags purchased as replacement items after the exam. The paternity test, tires, I think that would be a case by case and something they should ask their Program Manager. What do you think, Latonya?

LATONYA EADDY: Absolutely. It's definitely a case by case. And when all else fails, ask your Program Manager, and if need be, if it's complicated, we will ask GFMD, which is our Grant Financial Management Division.

MELISSA SCHMISEK: Yeah. And our grounding point is always the statutes, because those are what inform us in any response. STOP has very delineated purpose areas. SASP's statute looks very different. So, there could be different answers depending upon the grant program. The food issue is more of a result of a past OIG, Office of the Inspector General, audit about food at meetings and conferences and trainings. So, there are things that flow from that. It isn't necessarily in our individual program statutes.

LATONYA EADDY: And another good or great reference is DOJ's Financial Guide. Muffingate. Oh, no. Not Muffingate.

MELISSA SCHMISEK: Muffingate is—if you've been around—Muffingate is what we call the OIG report that came out of the audit they did around food and beverages at trainings and conferences and meetings in DOJ. And now we do conference reports and forms, request forms, and all that. But that's Muffingate. Just to loop you in.

So, thank you so much for being with us. And a special shoutout and thank you to those who are joining very early or staying beyond your typical work hours. We really appreciate it and value that.