

OVW Rural Program

Rural Unit

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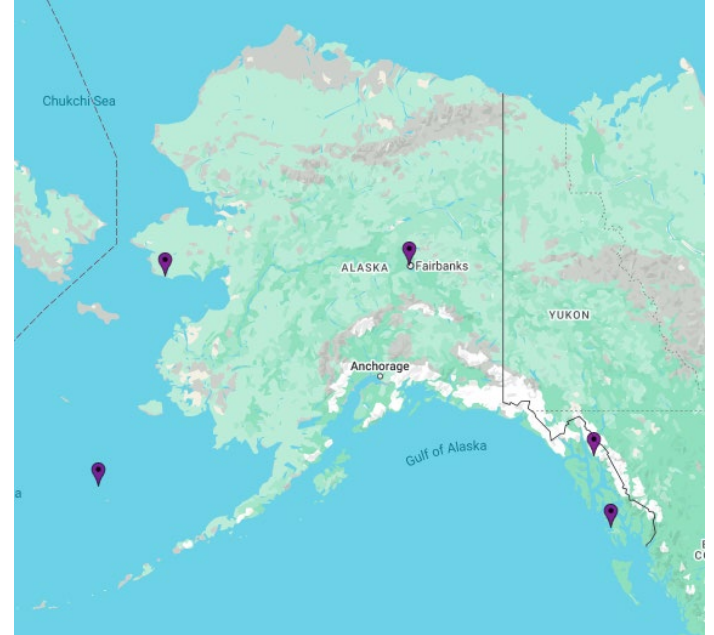
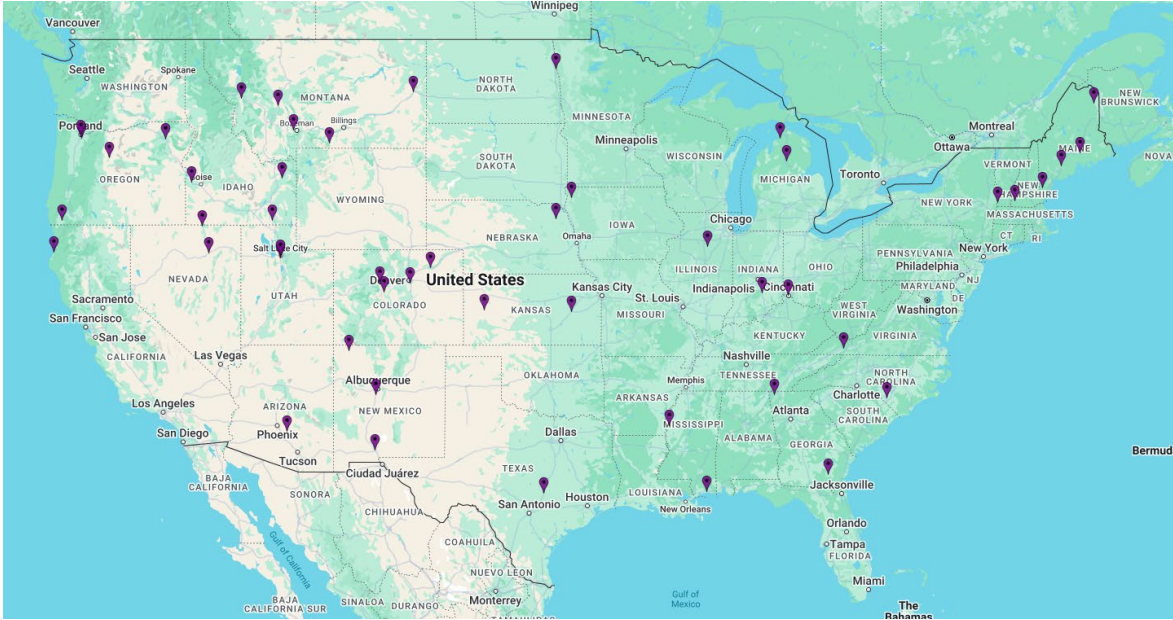
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Congratulations FY24 OVW Rural Grantees!



The Office on Violence Against Women



U.S. Department of Justice
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Office on Violence Against Women
Working Together to End the Violence

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) provides federal leadership in developing the national capacity to reduce violence against women and administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.



Learn more about our grants at:
www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs



www.justice.gov/ovw/



@OVWJustice

VICTIM ADVOCACY HELPS TO IMPROVE VICTIMS' WELL-BEING AND REDUCE THEIR FEAR.

Victims supported by **advocates** may suffer less fear, less psychological distress, and fewer physical health problems, and endure less self-blame, guilt, and depression.¹

In the period of time covered by this report:

DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAMS

served
73,298
VICTIMS
(6-month average)


STOP
served
296,057
VICTIMS
(12-month average)

SASP
served
50,261
VICTIMS
(12-month average)

Most victims that requested grant-funded services **received some or all of those services.**

Overall, in a 12-month period, grantees/subgrantees:

 provided more than
2 million
VICTIM SERVICES

 answered more than
500,000
HOTLINE CALLS

"Three decades ago, VAWA transformed our national response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking... Its enactment sent a message: gender-based and intimate-partner violence is not just a private matter, not just a local matter, but a national crisis — one that our country was no longer willing to tolerate. As we take stock of the progress that VAWA has advanced, the Department of Justice remains committed to using every tool at our disposal to end these forms of violence and support survivors."

-Attorney General Garland

Objectives

- Understand the role and responsibilities of the OVW Grants Management Specialists
- Understand the role and responsibilities of Grantees
- Understanding the roles and responsibility of training and technical assistance
- What you need to know to successfully manage your Rural grant



Overview of Rural Program

- Enhance the safety of children, youth, and adults who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by supporting projects uniquely designed to address and prevent these crimes in rural jurisdictions.
- 75 percent of funding must support projects in rural states.
- Sexual Assault Set Aside: 25 to 40 percent of funds
- In Fiscal Year 2024, the Rural Program funded 54 projects, totaling more than \$36 million. Since 1996 the Rural Program has spent over \$881,000,000 awarding 1,415 grants.



Section I:

Roles and Responsibilities



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Role of OVW Program Specialist

- Monitors the progress of goals, objectives, and activities of funded projects through a variety of methods:
 - Regular Communication with Grantee
 - Reviewing Progress Reports
 - Conducting Site Visits and/or Office-Based Reviews



Role of OVW Program Specialist Cont.

- Assists grantee in problem-solving issues within the project as they arise.
 - Example: Issues with project partner, changes to grant objectives, changes to budget.
- Assists grantee in identifying technical assistance resources that may be helpful to the funded project.



Grantee Responsibilities

- Work towards achieving the grant goals, objectives, and activities as stated in the grant award
- Ensure victim safety
- Communicate any potential issues, changes, and challenges that you foresee to your OVW Program Specialist.



Grantee Responsibilities Cont.

- Comply with Grant Award Conditions
- Comply with the Federal Financial Guidelines
- Comply with the Civil Rights Requirements
- Comply with all federal, state, and local laws



Grantee Responsibilities Cont.

- Ensure **ALL** victims have equal access to services
- Do **NOT** have procedures or policies that exclude victims from receiving safe shelter, advocacy services, counseling, and other assistance based on their actual or perceived age, immigration status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health condition, physical health condition, criminal record, work in the sex industry, or the age and/or gender of their children.



Grantee Responsibilities Cont.

- Ensure **ALL** services are confidential
- Do **NOT** have procedures or policies that compromise the confidentiality of information and privacy of persons receiving OVW-funded services.



Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Providers Responsibilities

- Field expert
- Resource tools
- Training opportunities: virtual and in-person
- Access to experienced faculty
- Site specific assistance with brainstorming and problem solving



Rural Training & Technical Assistance Providers



Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence



Conference on Crimes Against Women, Inc.
Institute for Coordinated Community Response



Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault



Praxis International



Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault



Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse

www.TA2TA.org



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Questions?



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Section II:

Successfully Managing Your Grant



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Keys to Successfully Managing Your Rural Grant

There are three key points to successfully manage your award:

1. Knowledge
2. Communication
3. Utilize Resources Available



Knowledge

Educate yourself and your program staff on all programmatic and fiscal grant requirements.



Review Your Grant Award Package

- The award package is the document you signed and submitted to OVW when “accepting” your award and includes important information about your award.
- You are responsible for understanding the conditions that apply to your award.



Award Conditions

Conditions Related to New Grantee Orientation

41 Requirement to attend the New Grantee Orientation

First-time recipients, or continuation recipients if requested, must agree to have key staff members, as identified by OVW, attend the OVW grantee orientation seminar, which may be offered in-person, online, or a combination of both. Additionally, if there is a change in the project director/coordinator during the grant period, the recipient agrees, at the earliest opportunity, to send the new project director/coordinator, regardless of prior experience with this or any other federal award, to an in-person OVW grantee orientation seminar or require completion of the orientation online, whichever is available.

54 Conditional clearance with release of technical assistance funds

The recipient acknowledges that the budget for this award is pending review and approval. Until OVW approves the budget, any obligations or expenditures incurred by the recipient are made at the recipient's own risk. The recipient may obligate, expend, or draw down up to \$10,000 for participation in or travel-related expenses to attend OVW-sponsored technical assistance events, but these obligations and expenditures remain at the recipient's own risk until the budget is approved. Remaining funds will not be available for drawdown until OVW's Grants Financial Management Division has approved the budget and budget narrative via a Grant Award Modification (GAM). If applicable, the Indirect Cost Rate will be identified in the GAM when the budget is approved. If there is another condition on the award prohibiting any obligation, expenditure, and drawdown of any funds, that other condition will control.



Award Conditions

Conditions related to materials/publications

38 Submission of all materials and publications

The recipient agrees to submit to OVW one copy of all materials and publications (written, web-based, audio-visual, or any other format) that are funded under this award not less than twenty days prior to distribution or public release. If the materials are found to be outside the scope of the program, or in some way to compromise victim safety, the recipient will need to revise the materials to address these concerns or the recipient will not be allowed to use award funds to support the development or distribution of the materials.

39 Publication disclaimer

The recipient agrees that all materials and publications (written, web-based, audio-visual, or any other format) resulting from award activities shall contain the following statement: "This project was supported by Grant No. _____ awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice." The recipient also agrees to ensure that any subrecipient at any tier will comply with this condition.



Award Conditions

Limitations on Services to Children and Addressing Family Violence

47 Restrictions on services to children

The recipient agrees that grant funds will be used to address services for children only in cases linked to services provided to a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or dating violence unless the child receiving services is a victim of sexual assault and the grant project has been specifically approved to address child sexual assault.

51 Limitation on use of funds to address family violence

The recipient acknowledges that grant funds may not be used to directly address child abuse or other family violence, such as violence between a parent and child or violence between siblings. Grant funds also may not be used for caregiver abuse of elders and other vulnerable adults unless the caregiver is the victim's intimate partner. These limitations do not apply to grant funds directed toward addressing sexual violence.



Award Conditions

Limitations on Prevention Activities

48 Limitation on use of funds for awareness and prevention activities

The recipient agrees that no more than 30 percent of project activities and grant funds will be dedicated to awareness and prevention activities.

52 Prohibition on broad-scoped prevention campaigns and curricula

The recipient agrees that grant funds will not be used to implement broad-scoped prevention campaigns and curricula for youth on topics including bullying or character-building educational programs. Grant funds may be used to develop prevention campaigns and materials that address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking.



Award Conditions

Conditions related to OVW-sponsored Technical Assistance (TA or TTA)

42 Prior approval for non-OVW sponsored technical assistance

The recipient agrees that funds allocated for OVW-sponsored technical assistance may not be used for any other purpose without prior approval by OVW. To request approval, the recipient must submit a copy of the event's brochure, a curriculum and/or agenda, a description of the hosts or trainers, and an estimated breakdown of costs. The request must be submitted to OVW at least 20 days prior to registering for the event. Requests to attend non-OVW sponsored events will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This prior approval process also applies to requests for the use of OVW-designated technical assistance funds to pay a consultant or contractor not designated as an OVW technical assistance provider to develop and/or provide training and/or technical assistance.

43 Participation in OVW-sponsored technical assistance

The recipient agrees to attend and participate in OVW-sponsored technical assistance. Technical assistance includes, but is not limited to, national and regional conferences, audio conferences, webinars, peer-to-peer consultations, and workshops conducted by OVW-designated technical assistance providers.



Award Conditions

Financial Withholding

- 54: Grant funds are on hold until the proposed budget is approved by the Grants Financial Management Division, at which point the hold on funds will be released.
- 51: Grantees with Rural awards made prior to FY24 may be subject to a condition that prohibits spending on multiple awards under the same OVW program at the same time. The previous/ current award must be closed out before this hold will be released on a new award.
- 53: A portion of indirect costs may be held if a current indirect cost rate agreement has not been provided for the full period of the award; and
- 33 & 34: Grant funds are automatically suspended when progress reports or financial reports are not submitted on time. Once the delinquent reports are submitted, the suspension is released.



Seek Prior Approvals from OVW

A GAM (Grant Award Modification) is a request to make a programmatic, administrative, or financial change to a grant. The following modifications require a GAM submission:

- Changes in Key Personnel
- Budget Modifications
- Change in MOU Partners
- Project Scope Changes
- Change in Project Activities
- No Cost Extension (must be submitted 60 to 90 days prior to the end date of the award)



Seek Prior Approvals from OVW

There are three main types of GAMs: Project Period Extension, Programmatic, and Financial. Project Period Extension GAMs extend the length of the funded award. Financial GAMs are used to modify budget details.

Programmatic GAMs are used to modify the project scope or costs and may include:

Changes to **Project Scope**, such as:

- Altering programmatic activities
- Changing the purpose of the project
- Changing the project site
- Changes in key personnel, partners, or contracted services.

Changes to **Project Costs**, such as:

- Costs Identified in the Award Package Requiring Prior Approval (i.e., requesting to exceed the threshold rate for contracted services or requesting permission to use OVW TA funds for non-OVW trainings).
- We will be rolling out a process for non-OVW training requests soon, so stay tuned!



Seek Prior Approvals from OVW

Requests to use OVW TA funds for non-OVW Training and Technical Assistance

- Grantees must complete and submit the "Request to Use OVW TA Funds for Non-OVW Training" form as a Programmatic Cost Grant Award Modification (GAM) **a minimum of 20 days prior to event registration**. Grantees requesting to use funds to bring a trainer onsite must submit the training materials with the GAM for OVW approval.
- **Grantees must complete a minimum of two OVW-sponsored events during the current award cycle** before requests to use OVW TA funds for non-OVW TA will be considered. New Grantee Orientation may only be counted as one event.
- No more than two staff/partner staff will be approved to attend a non-OVW TA event. Requests should only be made for staff/partner staff working directly on the OVW Rural award.



Seek Prior Approvals from OVW

Guidelines for Submitting Project Deliverables in JustGrants

The following items must be submitted in JustGrants and receive approval by OVW before use or dissemination. These items must be submitted at least 20 days in advance.



Policies/
Protocols



Training materials (PowerPoint
presentations, handouts, videos, etc.)



Public Service Announcements
(print, audio, and/or videos)



Social Media
Campaigns



Outreach and promotional items
(posters, flyers, videos, etc.)



Curricula (inclusive of
off-the shelf)



Books



Non-OVW sponsored
Training/Conference requests

NOTE: Submit request in
JustGrants by adding attachment
in Award Deliverables.



Programmatic and Fiscal Deadlines

Progress Reports are due semi-annually

Reporting Period:
January-June
July-December

Due no later than:
July 30
January 30

Federal Financial Reports are due quarterly

Reporting Period:
October-December
January-March
April-June
July-September

Due no later than:
January 30
April 30
July 30
October 30



Questions?



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Section III:

Successfully Managing Your Grant Continued



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Communication

Communicate with
your project staff and
partners



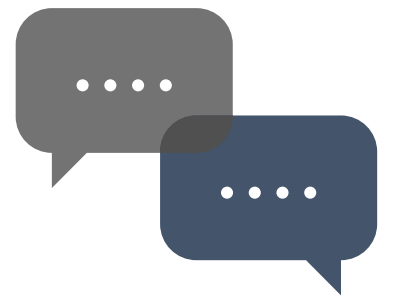


Everyone involved in the project should have a clear understanding of their role in the rural grant project

Everyone who is a signatory on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) should have a copy

All partners and staff must have either a copy of the project narrative or a summary of the goals and objectives and award conditions.





Project partners, like the grantee, are responsible for complying to the grant award conditions

Keep communication lines open (meet regularly, keep everyone in the loop with progress, changes, and concerns)

Notify all partners when changes occur



Keep Your Contact Information Updated

- Within the JustGrants Management System:
 - Agency Information
 - Entity Administrator
 - Authorized Representative
 - Grant Award Administrator
 - Alternate Award Administrator
 - Financial Manager



Questions?



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Section IV:

Communicating with OVW



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Communicate with OVW



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Rural Grant Managers

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Rachel Strasinger

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- Rachel.Strasinger@usdoj.gov

Anne Hamilton, Team Lead

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- Anne.Hamilton2@usdoj.gov



Additional Rural Unit Staff

- Krista Blakeney-Mitchell, Associate Director
 - Email: krista.blakeney-mitchell@usdoj.gov
- Anne Hamilton, Team Lead
 - Email: anne.hamilton2@usdoj.gov
- Amber Hilton, Program Analyst
- Catherine Godwin, Grants Program Analyst
- Rural Mailbox: ovw.rural@usdoj.gov



Section V:

Resources



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Utilize Resources Available



Resources for Using JustGrants

In addition to the JustGrants portal where award activities are conducted, there is also a JustGrants training website that includes step-by-step instructions and training videos on a wide range of topics, including:

- Award Acceptance
- GAMs
- Deliverables
- Performance Reports
- Financial Reports
- Monitoring
- Closeout



Resources for Grant Management

- [OVW Fiscal Year 2024 Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program Solicitation](#) can provide clarification about program rules, requirements, and priorities, which may change from year to year.
- [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#) includes information about financial management of funds awarded through the Department of Justice.
- [2 CFR Part 200](#) spells out administrative requirements, costs principles, and audit requirements for federal awards.



Helpful Contacts

If you need general information: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw>

If you have a finance or audit-related question:

- **OVW Grants Financial Management Division**
- 1-888-514-8556 or OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov

If you have a JustGrants related question:

- **OVW JustGrants Support**
- 1-866-655-4482 or OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov



Helpful Contacts

- If you need assistance with logging in and passwords:
 - **ASAP Helpdesk**
 - 855–868–0151 (option 2, option 3) or asaphelpdesk@fiscal.treasury.gov
- If you have a progress report-related question:
 - **VAWA MEI**
 - 1-800-922-VAWA (option Rural)
 - vawamei@maine.edu
 - <https://www.vawamei.org/grant-program/rural-program/>



Rural Training & Technical Assistance Providers



Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

info@engagingvoices.org



Conference on Crimes Against Women, Inc.
Institute for Coordinated Community Response

director@instituteccr.org



Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault

lashae@iowacasa.org



Praxis International

info@praxisinternational.org



Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

info@mncasa.org



Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse

info@interfaithpartners.org

[**www.TA2TA.org**](http://www.TA2TA.org)



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Questions?



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Upcoming Virtual NGO Sessions

- **Thursday, November 14th 1:30pm-3:30pm ET: GFMD Grants**
Financial Management for Rural Grantees
- **Wednesday, December 18th 2:30-4:00pm ET: VAWA MEI**
Measuring Effectiveness of your Rural project
- See Virtual Checklist for full list and to keep track of your attendance.



In-Person NGO

- In-person Rural NGO:
 - January 22nd-23rd 2025
 - Reno, Nevada
 - 2 people per program are invited to attend. More may be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.
 - Rural-focused TA and strengthening connections
- Any questions about NGO:
Stevi.Black@usdoj.gov or
Ovw.Rural@usdoj.gov



Thank you!



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