

LAV New Grantee Orientation Webinar

Legal Assistance for Victims Program
Office on Violence Against Women
October 29, 2024



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

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OVW Mission

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



Interesting Facts

- This year, OVW crossed the \$11 billion mark in terms of grant funding made available since the office's inception in 1995.
- FY 2024 OVW grantees are part of a record-making year: In FY 2024, OVW awards represent a 35% increase in funding over FY 2023.
- LAV is a very competitive OVW grant program – only about one-third of applicants receive funding.



Today's Agenda

Section I

- Roles
- Program Overview
- VAWA Updates

Section II

- Award Conditions

Section III

- JustGrants & ASAP
- GAMs and Deliverables

Section IV

- Reporting Requirements
- Closeout
- Resources

Q & A at end of each section and anytime during the presentation.



Section I

- Roles
- Program Overview
- VAWA Updates



Roles

OVW

- Administers federal funding
- Shares programmatic knowledge
- Guides and oversees projects
- Monitors grant-funded activities

Grantee

- Receives federal funding to implement services
- Provides legal services to survivors
- Reports project challenges and achievements to OVW

TA Provider

- Shares professional/field expertise
- Provides resources and tools
- Offers training and technical assistance.
- Serves as experienced faculty



What do you think?

The Best Candy is:

- Anything Chocolate
- Holiday related: Candy Corn/Peeps/Candy Canes
- Gummies/Starburst/Sour Patch
- Nothing sweet – I'm in the salty or spicy camp!



Experience with LAV?

My organization has:

- Previously provided services with LAV funding a year or more ago.
- Received LAV funding to continue existing LAV-funded services.
- Previously partnered with an organization receiving LAV funding.
- Received LAV funding for the first time.



Program Overview

The Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Program supports the provision of holistic legal services in civil legal matters relating to or arising out of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking.

Civil legal matters include, but are not limited to:

- Divorce
- Child custody or child support
- Immigration
- Administrative agency proceedings
- Housing
- Employment
- Post-conviction relief
- Protection orders

Services funded under the LAV Grant Program must be linked to legal assistance.



Program Updates

The Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 revised statutory provisions addressing the LAV Grant Program.

- Legal assistance may be provided to victims in post-conviction relief proceedings in State, local, Tribal or territorial court with respect to a conviction of a victim relating to or arising from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or sex trafficking of the victim.



Program Updates

- Legal assistance may be provided in alternative dispute resolution, restorative practices, or other processes intended to promote victim safety, privacy, and autonomy, and offender accountability, regardless of court involvement.
- Legal assistance may be provided by Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accredited representatives in immigration proceedings, in Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) claims by VA authorized representatives, or anyone who functions as an attorney or lay advocate in tribal court in addition to licensed attorneys.



Program Updates

- The term "domestic violence" was expanded to include the use or attempted use of physical abuse or sexual abuse, or **a pattern of coercive behavior**, committed, enabled, or solicited to gain or maintain power and control over a victim **including verbal, psychological, economic, or technological abuse that may or may not constitute a crime.**
- **Perpetrated by an individual who:**
 - is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, or person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim;
 - is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; or
 - shares a child in common with the victim.



What do you think?

LAV funding can be used to provide legal representation for a sexual assault survivor who wants to terminate her lease prior to the end of the lease term.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe



Questions



Section II

- Section II
 - Award Conditions



Award Conditions

Award conditions lay out the requirements of the federal grant and provide guidance on how to implement the project.

All LAV-funded staff should review all applicable award conditions thoroughly and ask their OVW Grant Manager if they require clarification about any of the conditions.



Award Conditions: General

- Participate in OVW-sponsored technical assistance
- Victim services are limited to those that support legal assistance and legal advocacy
- Attorney's fees as program income
- Representing victims/survivors in child protection proceedings
- Supervision for junior project attorneys
- Court fees and other costs of representation
- Funds may not be used to address family violence that does not relate to or arise out of sexual or domestic violence



Award Condition: Sexual Assault

- Award condition for sexual assault (SA) projects
 - Some LAV awards have a condition requiring that the recipient focus a minimum percentage of activities on sexual assault.
 - For awards with these conditions the percentage of SA focused activities can only be modified with prior approval from your Grant Manager.
 - Technical assistance and peer assistance is available to help you with developing your SA LAV services.



Award Condition: OVW Approval

- Submit to OVW for approval:
 - Case selection criteria
 - If applicable, non-OVW sponsored technical assistance
 - If applicable, changes to Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - If applicable, sliding scale fee schedule
 - Products/deliverables
- Publication disclaimer:
 - All materials and publications resulting from award activity must display the OVW disclaimer and award number.



Award Condition: Training

- To ATTEND an OVW training for LAV grant projects:
 - You may attend without prior approval
 - Consult the OVW training calendar: ta2ta.org/calendar.html
- To ATTEND a non-OVW training or conference:
 - Submit a Programmatic Costs GAM and attach the training/conference agenda AND the “Request Form to Attend Non-OVW Training”
- To HOST a training:
 - Generally, LAV awards are not intended to support training activity
 - Limited exceptions are made to train project partners and pro bono attorneys
 - Submit a Programmatic Costs GAM to host any training, including training described in your project narrative



Award Condition: Confidentiality

Grantees and subgrantees may not disclose personally identifiable information (PII) about survivors served with OVW funds unless there is a:

- Judicial requirement
 - Statutory requirement
 - Written release (informed, reasonably time-limited, and not required as a condition of service)
- This includes disclosures to a state, including via databases.
 - Grantees and subgrantees may share data in the **aggregate**.

Report any breach or imminent breach of PII to your Program Specialist and upload an Award Condition Compliance Deliverable in JustGrants detailing the breach or potential breach and how you are addressing it.



What do you think?

LAV funding can be used to provide training events to the local community about domestic violence.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe



Questions



Section III

- JustGrants & ASAP
- GAMs and Deliverables



JustGrants & ASAP

OVW manages grants through an online system called JustGrants.

- This is the official grant file for your award.
- Training resources: <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training-resources/justgrants-training/grants-management-lifecycle>
- How to submit a GAM: <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/jarg-grant-award-modifications.pdf>

ASAP is the payment system for all OVW grants.

- Training resources: <https://fiscal.treasury.gov/asap/>
- For technical assistance: asaphelpdesk@fiscal.treasury.gov

Please keep your organization's assigned roles updated.



Grant Award Modifications (GAMs)

Programmatic

Scope changes

- Change in partners and revised MOU
- Change from staff attorney(s) to contract attorney(s)
- New staff updates
- Where applicable: Change in sexual assault percentage

Costs Requiring Prior Approval

- Request to **attend** a non-OVW training
- Request to **host** a training with LAV funds

Budget Modification

- Moving funding from one budget category to a different category that previously had zero funds in it
- Moving more than 10% of total award funds between budget categories

Project Period Extension

- Change of project period



Grant Award Modifications

OVW Review and Approval Timeline

- Multi-tiered approval process
- GAMs should be submitted at least 20 days prior to when approval is needed
- Final approval may take longer depending on the type of GAM and review process required



Deliverables

Examples of Deliverables:

- Case selection criteria (Due on December 30, 2024)
- Outreach materials
- Other products created using grant funds

Products submitted for review should be attached in JustGrants.



What do you think?

When you hire or change key project personnel, you need to submit a Programmatic Scope Change GAM in JustGrants.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe



Questions



Section IV

- Reporting Requirements
- Closeout
- Resources



Reporting Requirements

- Progress Reports

Reporting Period	Due Date
January 1-June 30	July 30
July 1- December 31	January 30

- Quarterly Financial Reports

Reporting Period	Due Date
January 1-March 31	April 30
April 1-June 30	July 30
July 1-September 30	October 30
October 1-December 31	January 30

Note: JustGrants may show due dates that are a day or two earlier or later. To be safe, we suggest that you adhere to whichever date is earlier.

DELINQUENT REPORTS WILL CAUSE A HOLD ON YOUR FUNDS AND MAY IMPACT FUTURE FUNDING



Progress Monitoring

Monitoring by OVW includes:

- Conference calls, emails, and in-person meetings (when possible)
- Review of performance reports
- Office-Based Reviews (OBRs) and/or on-site monitoring visits

Monitoring allows OVW to:

- Identify promising practices and/or activities that may compromise victim safety, and compliance issues
- Ensure OVW grant dollars are being used as efficaciously as possible



Closeout

- Submit your final Federal Financial Report (FFR)
- Submit your final Performance Report
- Ensure all of your award conditions are in compliance
- Complete financial reconciliation within 120 days

Submit closeout package within 120 days after the end of the grant.



Parting Thoughts from Grant Managers

Do

- Communicate regularly
- Include AWARD NUMBER in the subject line of emails
- Familiarize yourself with Award Conditions
- Count on your program specialist for support

Don't

- Be afraid to ask questions
- Be late with your reports. This can affect future funding.
- Forget that you were selected for funding in a very competitive program. Be proud of your organization!



Questions



Additional Assistance

- For assistance with budgets or financial roles:
 - Grants Financial Management Division (GFMD)
 - 1.888.514.8556
 - OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov
- For technical questions about JustGrants:
 - OVW JustGrants Support
 - 1.866.655.4482
 - OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov
- For questions about progress reports:
 - Muskie School of Public Service
 - 1.800.922.VAWA (8292)
 - vawamei@usm.maine.edu
 - <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/vawamei>

