

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Notice of Availability of Funds

New Jersey Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Competitive Grant Program

Take notice that in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, the Department of Law and Public Safety (Department) announces the anticipated availability of the following grant program funds:

- a. Name of the Program: County Domestic Violence Response Team Coordinator Competitive Grant Program.** This program is supported by the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 (FFY21) STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program.
- b. Purpose:** To further the purposes of the STOP Violence Against Women Act, funds will be used to support a Domestic Violence Response Team (“DVRT”) Coordinator in each of New Jersey’s 21 counties. The DVRT is a twenty-four hour a day, seven-day a week program created to assist victims of domestic abuse. DVRT Coordinators supported with this grant are expected to coordinate with local law enforcement agencies and a team of volunteers trained to assist victims of domestic violence to provide immediate intervention. The primary purpose of the team is to offer emergency support, alternatives, and referrals to victims of domestic violence. DVRT members must be trained in domestic violence intervention. DVRT members provide immediate support to victims who are often traumatized, confused, uncertain, or scared. They are there to listen and to help. Team members will be called upon by the local police to assist victims at the police station by

providing them with support and information. The goal of the program is to provide victims with the knowledge to make informed decisions based upon the options available to them.

DVRT members are available to answer victims' questions and listen to their concerns. Upon the victim's request, they can:

- Advise the victim of all options available as they pertain to their right to be safe
- Provide referrals for counseling options and support, drug and alcohol counseling, shelters, 24-hour hotline, and victim advocacy programs
- Explain the advantages of seeking a temporary restraining order (TRO) and explain the relief granted, including ordered counseling for the abuser and no contact order
- Explain the filing of criminal complaints and the requirement (in certain cases) that the police must file a criminal complaint, regardless of the victim's desires
- Explain the family court procedures, the aftermath of court proceedings, the importance of a safety plan, and steps the victim can take to minimize injury to the victim and the victim's children (if a TRO is granted) Arrange shelter for the victim and any minor children

c. Available funding: \$1,119,993 will be available to support this program. 21 grants will be awarded, one in each New Jersey county. Funds for this program are derived from the FFY21 STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$53,333 per project for a 12-month grant period of May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023. Eligible organizations are not limited in the number of project applications that can be submitted. However, the maximum funding request per project is \$53,333 and organizations **must** have offices in the county where services are provided. Matching funds are not required. There will be no grant extensions.

- d. Organizations which may apply for funding under this program:** Non-profit, non-governmental organizations (including tribal non-profits) which assist victims of violence against women and are organized under the Title 15A of the New Jersey Revised Statutes or otherwise qualified for nonprofit tax exemption under the Internal Revenue Code 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3) are eligible to apply. Organizations must have a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Organizations with experience operating as a DVRT may be given priority consideration.
- e. Qualifications needed by an applicant to be considered for funding:** Applicants must be in good standing with all State and Federal agencies with which they have had an existing grant or contractual relationship. Where appropriate, all applicants must hold current State licenses and certifications.

Charitable organizations and professional fundraisers based, operating or soliciting within New Jersey must register with the Division of Consumer Affairs Charities Registration Section unless specifically exempted under the provisions of the Charitable Registration and Investigation Act, N.J.S.A. 45: 17A-18 et seq. Proof of charity registration compliance or proof of exemption shall be submitted to the Office of the Attorney General with the organization's application.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) of 2006 requires agencies to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and register with

the System for Award Management (SAM), formerly the Central Contractor Registration (CCR), to receive a Federal award or subaward.

Applicants without a current DUNS number(s) and SAM registration will be considered ineligible. Successful applicants will be required to complete a FFATA form upon award.

To be considered for funding, an eligible applicant must file a **complete application**, in accordance with the requirements of the program, by the submission deadline. The FFY21 VAWA Program Guidelines outline the requirements of the Project Proposal Format for the Project Narrative and Budget Detail Worksheet. **Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered for funding. Project narratives will be limited to ten (10) pages in total.**

- f. Procedures for eligible organizations to apply:** Application packages are available on the OAG website at <https://www.njoag.gov/resources/grant-opportunities/>. Applicants must complete and submit the New Jersey Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Competitive Grant Program application by the submission deadline. **Applications must be submitted by email to yawa@njoag.gov.** Applications that do not comply with the requirements of this notice of availability of funds or the Program Guidelines will not be considered. The Department reserves the right to decline any and all applications for funding and to award grants in amounts that may be other than requested. Agencies previously funded are not guaranteed continued funding nor funding at previous levels.

The submitted applications may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47: 1A-1 et seq.

g. Deadline by which applications must be submitted by email:

Applications must be completed and submitted **before 4:00 P.M. on Friday, February 18, 2022.**

h. Application evaluation and scoring:

Applications will be evaluated by representatives of the Department of Law and Public Safety. The following evaluation criteria categories and scoring will be used to evaluate applications:

1. Agency Background, Mission, Experience, and Capability. 10 points
2. Problem Statement/Needs Assessment. 15 points
3. Project Description, including Goals, Objectives, and Work Plan (Action Strategy).
30 points
4. Partnership, Collaboration or Coordination of Services. 10 points
5. Project Management and Staff. 10 points
6. Data Collection/Performance Measures/Evaluation. 10 points
7. Budget Detail Worksheet. 15 points

i. Date by which notices shall be mailed of approval or disapproval of applications:

All applicants will be notified in writing on or about April 1, 2022, whether or not their proposed project will be funded.

Please note that funding allocations and individual subaward amounts are subject to change. Subrecipients shall recognize and agree that both the initial provision of funding and the continuation of such funding under a grant agreement is expressly dependent upon the availability of the Department of funds appropriated by the State or Federal legislature from State and/or Federal revenue to such other funding sources as may be applicable. A failure of the Department to make any payment under a grant agreement or to observe and perform any condition on its part to be performed under a grant agreement as a result of the failure of the State or Federal legislature to appropriate funds shall not in any manner constitute a breach of a grant agreement by the Department or an event of default under a grant agreement because of the absence of available funding appropriations. In addition, future funding shall not be anticipated from the Department beyond the duration of the award period set forth in a grant agreement and in no event shall a grant agreement be construed as a commitment by the Department to expend funds beyond the termination date set forth in a grant agreement.