

PUBLIC NOTICE

Law and Public Safety

Office of the Attorney General

Notice of Availability of Funds

New Jersey Enhanced Statewide Human Trafficking Victim Services Program

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

- a. Name of the Program:** “The New Jersey Enhanced Statewide Human Trafficking Victim Services Program.” This program shall support services for sex trafficking and labor trafficking victims identified within the State of New Jersey. Such victims may include foreign nationals, U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents (LPR), adults, minors, males, females, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ+) victims of trafficking, among others. Service providers will be expected to serve victims of all forms of human trafficking (HT). Service providers will support Department of Law and Public Safety HT operations by providing on site outreach to victims during raids and other law enforcement operations. Service providers will also receive referrals from the State Human Trafficking Hot Line. Service providers will also conduct outreach (with the help of OAG) to all County Victim Witness Coordinators and receive referrals from them. This necessitates having on-call staff and developing protocols for coordination

with law enforcement that both protects victims' privacy and assures law enforcement agencies that the victims are being served. The applicant must also develop a client satisfaction survey, the results of which are shared with OAG quarterly

The primary goal of this program is to enhance the availability and accessibility of services to assist victims of human trafficking by increasing access to services.

This Notice of Availability of Funds (NOAF) seeks to select a subrecipient to carry out the implementation directives put forth in the goals of The New Jersey Enhanced Statewide Human Trafficking Victim Services Program. The Statewide project will be supported by Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding and awarded on a competitive basis.

- b. Purpose:** Funding under this program will support one (1) subrecipient to carry out the Statewide project, although subrecipients may include project partners to serve specialized populations. The Statewide project subrecipient shall work in consultation with the OAG, Division of Criminal Justice Cyber Crimes Unit, OAG Grants, and the Attorney General's Special Advisor for Victim Services to finalize protocol, referral protocol and victim satisfaction surveys. Funding may augment an existing program but may only support an expansion of services.

- 1. Statewide Project Structure:** The subrecipient selected to run the Statewide project shall hire appropriate staff to provide core and specialized services

specific to meet the emergency needs of HT victims throughout the state. The subrecipient must budget at least 10% of the grant for emergency and transitional housing. They also must budget adequately to fill any needs for translation services.

2. **Services:** Services are defined as those efforts that respond to the emotional and physical needs of HT crime victims and assist HT victims with stabilizing their lives, including connecting them to housing; assisting HT victims with maintaining connection to Victim Witness Coordinators in order for victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system (if desired); and providing HT victims with a measure of safety and security.

Core services provided by the subrecipient must include, but are not limited to: emergency transportation, individual and group counseling performed by a qualified professional mental health provider, intake and eligibility assessments, temporary housing assistance, intensive case management, medical care referrals, mental health referrals, and substance abuse treatment referrals.

The provider may offer linkages and referrals for needed victim services that the provider is unable to meet. Specialized services may be via Interagency Partnership Agreements, Linkages of Services Agreements, and/or MOUs in order to fill any gaps in services or provide nuanced programming and services

specifically tailored to the needs of HT victims. Such services include: (1) crisis intervention, transportation, food and clothing or other services that respond to the immediate emotional and physical needs of human trafficking crime victims; (2) emergency legal assistance that pertains to the health and safety of HT victims; (3) information and community referral programs; (4) services and activities that assist HT victims understand the dynamics of victimization; and (5) criminal justice system assistance, such as court accompaniment, transportation to court, and child care during court attendance.

The Statewide project subrecipient shall outline a plan for delivering services through in-house, contracted, pro-bono, and/or match-funded service providers. Applicants must provide letters of intent, interagency Partnership Agreements, Linkages of Services Agreements, or MOUs with other agencies that may be used to provide a full array of services for HT victims to ensure the success of the New Jersey Enhanced Statewide Human Trafficking Victim Services Program

Under this program, a victim of HT is defined as a person who has been subjected to “severe forms of trafficking in persons.” Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 7102(8), the term “severe forms of trafficking in persons” means:

- i. “Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age,” or

- ii. “[t]he recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.”

The Statewide project shall develop clear protocols and procedures for addressing the needs of victims who are cooperating with law enforcement in the investigations and prosecutions of traffickers and for communicating with County and State Victim Witness Coordinators. The Statewide project shall also develop protocol for reporting on outcomes of victims to County and State Victim Witness Coordinators.

The Statewide project shall ensure that services are readily available to meet the individualized needs of a diverse victim population, including foreign nationals (of all immigration statuses) and U.S. citizens of all ages and genders, including LGBTQ individuals.

Please note: Funds are not intended to provide long-term financial assistance to trafficking victims. Reliance solely on grant funding to provide long-term assistance to a single victim may weaken the overall integrity of the program.

Successful applicants will complete the following tasks:

1. Hire personnel, secure space as needed, and other tasks necessary to make the projects fully operational.
2. Respond to requests for assistance from the Division of Criminal Justice to provide on-site supports for victims during law enforcement raids.
3. Receive calls from victims referred by the New Jersey Human Trafficking Hotline.
4. Accept referrals from County Victim Witness Coordinators.
5. Identify and assist victims of sex trafficking and labor trafficking in New Jersey and offer comprehensive/specialized services to meet each victim's individualized needs.
6. Develop clear protocols and procedures for addressing the needs of victims who are cooperating with law enforcement in the investigations and prosecutions of traffickers and for communicating with County and State Victim Witness Coordinators.
7. Track and report on referral sources and outcomes for victims. Interim and final reports must be submitted to OAG Grants.
8. Develop and administer anonymous victim satisfaction surveys that shall be provided to OAG Grants.

- c. Available funding:** One (1) subaward **of up to \$535,000** will be available to support the Regional Project of the New Jersey Enhanced Statewide Human Trafficking Victim

Services Program. Applicants may apply for a grant commencing on October 1, 2023 and projects must operate for twelve (12) months. Match is not required.

Continuation funding may be available. Additional 2 years of funding may be available contingent upon the availability of federal funding and the subrecipient's compliance with grant conditions and performance of goals and objectives.

d. Organizations which may apply for funding under this program: Private, nonprofit organizations which provide victim services and are organized under 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) and public agencies which provide services to crime victims and are not part of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office are eligible to apply. **Proof of non-profit status must be submitted with the organization's application.**

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 an existing grant or contractual relationship. Where appropriate, all applicants must hold current State licenses and certifications.

Please Note: Organizations must demonstrate at least two (2) years of experience in providing HT programming and services, which promote victim safety and stability.

Charitable organizations 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 OAG Grants with the organization's application.**

Applicant agencies and victim assistance programs must meet all applicable statutory and regulatory VOCA program eligibility requirements found at 42 U.S.C. § 10603 and 28 CFR Part 94. The Office of the Attorney General reserves the right to decline any and all applicants who cannot demonstrate proof of compliance with VOCA program requirements.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) of 2006 requires agencies to register with the System for Award Management (SAM), formerly the Central Contractor Registration (CCR), to receive a Unique Entity ID (UEI), for all entities applying for a federal award or subaward. The details of subrecipient or recipient obligations regarding “System for Award Management and Universal Identifier Requirements” are posted on the Office of Justice Programs web site at <http://www.ojp.gov/funding/explore/sam>, and are incorporated by reference here. **Applicants without a current UEI number(s) and active SAM registration will be considered ineligible. Proof of an active SAM registration must be submitted with the organization application.** Successful applicants will be required to complete a

FFATA form upon award.

Please note that awarded applicants must enter VOCA-required data via quarterly performance metrics through OVC's online Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) located at <https://ojpsso.ojp.gov/>.

To be considered for the grant, an eligible applicant must file a **COMPLETE** application and applicable forms with signatures, in accordance with the requirements of this NOAF and the Program Guidelines, by the submission deadline. **Incomplete applications, or those that do not use the prescribed forms will be considered ineligible. Only eligible applications will be scored. Information provided beyond the provided forms will not be considered. Only applications with a minimum score of 70 or above will be considered for funding.**

The following scored components must be included in the application:

Application Components:

1. Agency background, mission, experience and capability. 10 points

Describe in detail the agency's mission, background and experience as it relates to the purpose and objectives of the proposed project. Demonstrate the Agency's minimum of two (2) years of experience in providing specialized services to victims of HT. Explain the agency's understanding and capability to carry out the project based on demonstrated experience in providing victim services to the target population: victims of HT. Provide information on any measurement of victim/client satisfaction and/or outcomes.

2. Problem Statement/Needs Assessment. 15 points

Identify the specific problem(s), target population, and geographic area that the proposed project will address the unique needs and characteristics of the target population, local needs and conditions, describe existing services, and identify gaps and/or barriers in services. Include statistics and relevant facts to substantiate the need and selection of the proposed project.

3. Goals, Objectives and Work Plan (Action Strategy). 30 points

Specify clear, realistic goals for the proposed project and how they meet the issues identified in the problem statement/needs assessment. Identify measurable objectives that are concise and clearly relate to the goals, problem statement/needs assessment, target population, and level of service to be provided. Describe in detail the project's approach or strategy for attaining each objective. Complete a project work plan that includes each objective along with the major activities, responsible staff, partnerships, and feasible time frames for each objective and activity.

4. Project Management and Staff/Partnership, Collaboration or Coordination of Services. 20 points

Identify project management and staff. Describe how identified personnel are uniquely qualified to implement and manage the project and discuss relevant training and language skills. Provide current resumes along with job descriptions that describe the title, responsibilities, education and experience for each position for whom the grant or matching funds are requested. Indicate the use of volunteers in this project as per the

program guidelines. Public agencies cannot use grant funds to supplant State and Federal funds otherwise available for crime victim services.

The applicant must describe the agency's partnership strategy and how the agency will engage the use of volunteers.

5. Data Collection/Performance Measures/Evaluation. 10 points

List data that will be collected. Describe the methods that will be used to measure the progress and assess the impact of the project. (Subrecipients will be required to collect and report specific data relating to their project to OAG). Client feedback is strongly encouraged; if performance measurements do not include client feedback, an explanation must be provided.

6. Budget and Budget Narrative. 15 points

Provide a detailed, justification (in narrative form) for the funds requested and itemized in each Budget Category on the Budget Detail Form. Costs must be specific and tied to the project objectives. The narrative portion of the budget should clearly explain why each cost is necessary for the success of the project. Applicants should refer to the Program Guidelines for a description of budget categories, allowable expenses, and match requirements. Applicants must budget at least 10% of the grant for emergency and transitional housing. Applicants must also budget for language services. **Applicants must use the budget form provided.**

For further guidance, refer to the VOCA Final Rule (28 CFR Part 94, Subpart B) for the Victims of Crime Act, Victim Assistance Program. Please be sure to carefully review the Final Rule and submit requests ONLY for ALLOWABLE costs. The

final rule is available at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/07/08/2016-16085/victims-of-crime-act-victim-assistance-program>.

f. Procedures for eligible organizations to apply:

Application packages are available on the OAG website at <https://www.njoag.gov/resources/grant-opportunities/notices-of-available-funds/>.

Applicants must complete and submit a complete application with all applicable documents and signatures by the submission deadline. Applications must be emailed to the following email address: voca@njoag.gov. **Applications that do not comply with the requirements of this Notice of Availability of Funds or the Program Administration and Funding Guidelines will not be considered.** The Office of the Attorney General 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 or funding at previous levels. The submitted application may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

g. The address* of the office receiving the application:

Erin Zippel, Chief Administrative Officer
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Administration
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
25 Market Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

*** ONLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS VIA EMAIL AT THIS EMAIL ADDRESS ONLY: VOCA@NJOAG.GOV**

Mailed or faxed applications will not be accepted.

***APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT CONTAIN ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION WILL BE CONSIDERED INELIGIBLE. APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT FOLLOW THE PRESCRIBED FORMAT WILL BE CONSIDERED INELIGIBLE. APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT USE THE PROVIDED FORMS WILL BE CONSIDERED INELIGIBLE. UNSIGNED FORMS THAT REQUIRE SIGNATURES WILL BE CONSIDERED INELIGIBLE.**

FORMS NOT COMPLETED IN THEIR ENTIRETY WILL BE CONSIDERED INELIGIBLE. *

- h. Deadline by which applications must be submitted:** Applications must be completed and received **before 4:00 P.M.** on August 11, 2023. Application packets must be emailed to: voca@njoag.gov

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED INELIGIBLE

- i. Date by which notices shall be emailed of approval or disapproval of applications:**

All applicants will be notified in writing on or about **September 8, 2023**, as to whether or not the agency's 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 to 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.