

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Notice of Availability of Funds

FY21 New Jersey Victim Assistance Grant (VAG) Program

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

a) Name of the Program: New Jersey Victim Assistance Grant (VAG) Program. This program is supported by the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 (FFY21) Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Grant Program.

b) Purpose: The purpose of the New Jersey VAG program is to support the delivery of services to crime victims. Services are defined as those efforts that respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; assist crime victims to stabilize their lives; assist crime victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; provide crime victims with a measure of safety and security; and provide specialized services to domestic violence and/or sexual assault victims.

To learn about the types of projects that may be considered for funding, as well as the activities and costs that may be covered for subrecipients, please consult the Final Rule (28 CFR Part 94, Subpart B) for the Victims of Crime Act, Victim Assistance Program (Final Rule). The final rule is available at: <http://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/07/08/2016-16085/victims-of-crime-act-victim-assistance-program>.

Examples of the types of services that may be considered for funding under the Final Rule include, but are not limited, to the following:

1. Immediate emotional, psychological, and physical health and safety;
2. Personal advocacy and emotional support;
3. Mental health counseling and care;
4. Peer-support;
5. Facilitation of participation in criminal justice and other public proceedings arising from the crime;
6. Emergency and certain non-emergency legal assistance;

We prioritize applications for programs aimed at providing services to victims of gun violence. These programs should focus on providing the victim with emotional support, grief counseling, crime scene clean up services, supportive services that help the victim stabilize their lives after victimization, safety planning and intervention and interruption services that address the psychological impact of the injury.

The State encourages projects that focus on the following underserved victim populations. However, please note, your inability to address the following populations will not negatively affect your application.

Underserved Victims:

- Developmentally disabled victims
- Elderly victims
- Victims in urban and rural areas
- Military Service Members/PTSD sufferers
- Non-English Speaking victims
- Minority victims
- LGBTQ victims
- Child victims

c) Available Funding: The State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, will award approximately \$10,000,000 to support the New Jersey VAG program, which awards funding to private, nonprofit organizations and public agencies who serve victims of crime. These funds will be awarded on a competitive basis, pursuant to the quality of the application submitted and the pending availability of federal funding. Funding decisions will be made to ensure the broadest and deepest level of service coverage practicable, taking into account the type of services to be delivered, the types of victims to be served, and the geographic distribution of the project.

Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$137,500 per project for a 12-month grant period. The project period will begin September 1, 2023, and end on August 31, 2024; extensions will not be granted. Only one application per project will be accepted; however, an agency may submit for multiple projects. There is no mandatory match requirement.

Continuation funding for an additional year may be available, contingent upon the availability of federal funds. If available, continuation funding will be limited to those subrecipients who have met the goals and objectives of the program, successfully expended federal funds, met all reporting requirements in a timely manner, and any other factors that DLPS may take into consideration when determining if continuation funding is available.

d) Organizations that may apply for funding under this program: Private, nonprofit organizations and public agencies that provide crime victim services are eligible to apply. Public agencies must provide services to crime victims and cannot be part of a law enforcement agency or a prosecutor's office. Private, nonprofit organizations must be organized under Title 15A of the New Jersey Revised Statutes or be qualified for a nonprofit tax exemption under the Internal Revenue Code 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3).

Proof of non-profit status must be submitted with the organization's application.

Organizations that applied for, and were awarded funding from the FFY22 VOCA VAG Competitive Program, are ineligible to apply for additional funding for those awarded projects under this program.

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 a grant or contractual relationship. Where appropriate, all applicants must hold current professional and 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 must be submitted 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://oipssso.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:

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. Explain the agency's knowledge and capability to carry out the project, based on demonstrated experience in providing victim services to the target population

2. Problem Statement/Needs Assessment 15 points

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

3. Goals, Objectives and Implementation; and Project Work Plan 40 points

Please specify a clear, realistic goal for the proposed project. Identify objectives that are concise, measurable, and directly relate to the goal, problem statement/needs assessment, and target population. Measurable objectives shall include, but are not be limited to, the level of service to be provided. Describe in detail the project's approach or strategy for attaining each objective. Include a project work plan (**must use the form provided**) that specifies each objective along with the major activities, responsible staff, and feasible time frames for each objective and activity.

4. Key Project Staff

10 points

Please identify all project management and staff. Describe how personnel are uniquely qualified to manage and implement the project. Indicate if you will use existing staff or if you will recruit new staff for each position requested in the budget. Resumes and job descriptions must be provided with the application.

5. Data Collection/Performance Measures/Evaluation

10 points

Provide a description of how you will collect data, measure performance and complete an overall evaluation of the project. Client feedback is strongly encouraged.

6. Budget Detail and Budget Narrative

15 points

Applicants must provide an itemized list of costs and a narrative explanation as to why those costs are necessary to the success of the project. **Applicants must use the budget form provided.** Costs must be specific and tied to the project objectives. Applicants should refer to the Program Administration and Funding Guidelines for a description of budget categories, allowable expenses and match requirements. **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: voqa@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 emailed to voca@njoag.gov on or before **4:00 pm on Monday, October 2, 2023.**

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED INELIGIBLE

i) Date by which notices shall be sent of approval or disapproval of applications:

All applicants will be notified on or about **October 30, 2023**, whether or not their proposed project(s) will be funded.

j) Webinar (OPTIONAL)

In effort to assist candidates in applying for these funds, a virtual application webinar will be held on September 18th, 2023 at 11 a.m. Attending the application webinar is optional. Please read this NOAF and the funding application in its entirety prior to attending the webinar. Please R.S.V.P here: https://njoag.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_xbc-f6vjR-SZt6QUEVtT5w, if you plan to attend the application webinar. If you do not attend the live version of the webinar, you may view the recorded webinar on the Office of Attorney General website at <https://www.njoag.gov/resources/grant-opportunities/> within 48 hours of the live session.

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.