

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Notice of Availability of Funds

Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate (“CSVA”) Program

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

a) Name of the Program: New Jersey Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate (“CSVA”) Program. This program is supported by the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (FFY23) Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Grant Program.

b) Purpose: The purpose of the New Jersey CSVA program is to support and enhance the delivery of services to victims of sexual assault in the State of New Jersey. Funding from this solicitation will support full-time Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate Coordinator (“Coordinator”) positions in each county, training of new Confidential Sexual Violence Advocates (CSVAs) and their respective on-call pay for weekend and holiday activations. Advocate stipends will be made available in an effort to retain skilled advocates during days/times when demand for services occur.

The full-time Coordinator will be responsible for the following:

1. To ensure that there are an adequate number of volunteers to be called upon in a SART activation.
2. Successfully recruit, train, and supervise advocates to accompany victims of sexual violence through the crisis response system (law enforcement, forensic medical exam, court, etc.).
3. The Coordinator would also facilitate and/or attend local level advocate response team meetings (i.e., county level SART meetings) that would include key partners. As a key member of the response team, the Coordinator would identify emerging issues, and assist with and/or facilitate a solution focused approach to reduce/eliminate challenges that impede a victim from successfully accessing services in a timely and quality manner.

Definitions:

1. A Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate (“CSVA”) is an individual that has completed the statutory (N.J.S.A. 2A:84A-22.14) minimum forty (40) hours of Division of Women (“DOW”) and New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Violence (“NJCASA”) approved Sexual Violence Advocacy training and is an individual who is under the supervision of a Sexual Violence Service Organization that is funded by the DOW.

The CSVA shall ensure that the victim is informed of all resources, including those from sexual violence services, the importance of seeking medical attention, and the value of timely evidence collection and early reporting to law enforcement; provide the victim a safe, neutral, and confidential avenue to explore

and weigh options; support the victim's choices and decisions; and maintain the confidentiality of all communications occurring solely between the advocate and the victim, unless otherwise instructed by the victim's prior written consent.

c) Available Funding: The State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General, was awarded approximately \$37 million in its Federal Fiscal Year FFY23 VOCA award. Of this amount, \$3,045,000 will support the New Jersey CSVA program, which awards funding to private, nonprofit organizations and public agencies who serve victims of sexual assault. 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 and the geographic distribution of the project. **Only one award per county will be made.**

Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$145,000 per project for a 12-month grant period. The project period will begin July 1, 2024, and end on June 30, 2025; extensions will not be granted. Only one application per applicant per county will be accepted; however, an applicant may submit for multiple counties. A 20 percent match, cash or in-kind, is required by all applicants. For example, a \$145,000 award requires a \$36,250 match for a total project cost of \$181,250.

If you are unable to fulfill the match requirement, the Federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) may grant a full or partial waiver on a case-by-case basis. To be considered, submit a match waiver request justification letter as part of your application package; your inability to meet the full match amount will not negatively impact the strength of your overall application.

Continuation funding may be available for an additional (2) two years beyond the grant period.

d) Organizations that may apply for funding under this program: Private, nonprofit organizations and public agencies that provide crime victim services to sexual assault victims that are eligible to apply for VOCA funded programs. 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).

To be eligible to apply for this funding, applicants must be a Sexual Violence Service Organization that is currently contracted/funded by the DOW. Proof must be submitted with the application.

Organizations must maintain an office in the county they are applying for funding in.

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.

Applicants must be a Sexual Violence Service Organization currently funded/contracted by the DOW. Additionally, applicants must have a Coordinator who meets the minimum training requirements; proof of training must be supplied with the application.

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 with the organization's application.

Applicant agencies 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 will be considered ineligible. Proof of active UEI must be submitted with the organization's 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://ojpssso.ojp.gov/>.

To be considered for funding, an eligible applicant must file a completed application, in accordance with the requirements of the program, by the submission deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be eligible for funding. An applicant that is designated as a high-risk grantee by L&PS is to submit a separate attachment to its application, information that L&PS will use, among other pertinent information, to determine whether it will consider or select the application for an award under this solicitation. The file should be named "L&PS High-Risk Grantee Applicant Disclosure and Justification". **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.

Attach proof that the agency is a Sexual Violence Service Organization that is currently contracted/funded by the DOW.

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 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.

Attach proof that the Coordinator has completed the statutory (N.J.S.A. 2A:84A-22.14) minimum forty (40) hours of Division of Women (“DOW”) and New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Violence (“NJCASA”) approved Sexual Violence Advocacy training.

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. 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/>. Applicants must complete and submit an application with all applicable documents and signatures by the submission deadline. Applications must be emailed to the following email address: voca@njoag.gov. Put CSVA in the subject line of the e-mail. 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
Division of Administration
Office of the Attorney General
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
25 Market Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

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

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 Thursday, May 23, 2024. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.**

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

All applicants will be notified on or about **June 14, 2024**, whether or not their proposed project(s) will be funded.

Please note that funding allocations and individual sub-award amounts are subject to change. Sub-recipients 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 funds appropriated by the State or Federal legislature from State and/or Federal revenue or 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 Legislatures 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 and the Department shall not be held liable for any breach of 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. The Department reserves the right to decline any and all applications for funding and to award grants in amounts different than requested.