

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: New Jersey Violence Against Women Act Competitive Grant Program.** This program is supported by the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (FFY23) STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program.

- b. Purpose:** To further the purposes of the STOP Violence Against Women Act, funds will be used for projects that are designed to develop, expand, or strengthen victim services projects for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. **Funding priorities include projects providing essential services to underserved victims of violence against women.** Essential services include, but are not limited to, 24/7 hotline, crisis response, shelter, counseling, advocacy, accompaniment, and outreach. Underserved victims include, but are not limited to, the economically disadvantaged, LGBTQ, racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, those with disabilities and those with severe mental illness, rural populations and New Jersey's state recognized American Indian Tribes.

c. Available funding: \$1,260,000 will be available to support this program. Funds for this program are derived from the FFY23 STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis. Geographic distribution and types of victim services provided will be taken into account in the selection of projects. Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$45,000 per project for a 12-month grant period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Eligible organizations are not limited in the number of project applications that can be submitted. However, the maximum funding request per project is \$45,000. Matching funds are not required. There will be no grant period extensions.

A minimum of 10 percent of the available funding will be awarded to community-based organizations that offer culturally specific services through the proposed project. Culturally specific services are defined as community-based services that include culturally relevant and linguistically specific services and resources to culturally specific communities.

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.

- 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 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.

To be considered for funding, an eligible applicant must file an application, in accordance with the requirements of the program, by the submission deadline. Refer to the accompanying Application Checklist for the list of application components required to be submitted in order for an application to be considered eligible to be scored. Failure to use the forms provided with this application will result a point reduction in the application scoring process. The FFY23 VAWA Program Guidelines outline the requirements of the Project Proposal Format for the Project Narrative and Budget Detail Worksheet. **Project narratives will be limited to ten (10) pages in total.** An applicant that is designated as a high-risk grantee by L&PS is to submit a separate attachment to its application, containing 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”. Upon approval of project narrative and budget, applicants will receive subaward contract documents for approval and signature.

- 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 submit the New Jersey Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Competitive Grant Program application by the submission deadline. Applications must be submitted by email to vawa@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 and filed **before 4:00 P.M. on Monday, May 20, 2024.**

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

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

All applicants will be notified in writing on or about June 7, 2024, whether or not their proposed project will be funded.

Please note that if any application requirements and/or documentation as noted in this Notice of Available Funding and the accompanying Program Guidelines is missing from your submission, and is subsequently requested by the Department, the requested information must be provided back to the Department within 7 business days from the request or the application will be deemed ineligible to receive funding under this notice.

Also, 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 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 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.

The address* of the office receiving the application:

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

*The application must be returned by email to vawa@njoag.gov.

Award notifications will be made on or about June 7, 2024.