

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Notice of Availability of Funds

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 2020 (FFY20) 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, was awarded approximately \$44 million in its Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 VOCA award. Of this amount, \$30,000,000 will 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 \$275,000 per project for a 24-month grant period. The project period will begin September 1, 2021, and end on August 31, 2023; extensions will not be granted. Only one application per project will be accepted; however, an agency may submit for multiple projects. A 20 percent match, cash or in-kind, is required by all applicants. For example, a \$275,000 award requires a \$68,750 match for a total project cost of \$343,750.

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.

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 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 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 in a grant agreement.

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).

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 shall 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 an agency 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.

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.oip.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. **Incomplete or late submissions will not 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 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.

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. 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:

William H. Cranford, 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: VOCA@NJOAG.GOV

h) Deadline by which applications must be submitted:

Applications must be completed and emailed to voca@njoag.gov on or before **11:59 pm on Friday, April 16, 2021.**

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

All applicants will be notified on or about **June 16, 2021**, whether or not their proposed project(s) will be funded.