

## **OVW FY 2023 Research and Evaluation (R&E) Initiative Pre-application Information Session Questions and Answers**

This document summarizes questions received and answers provided during the OVW FY 2023 R&E Initiative pre-application information session held on May 12, 2023.

### **Good afternoon, will you send this information by email?**

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Yes, the slides will be emailed after the session and available on the OVW Website on the [Resources for Applicants](#) webpage.

### **Is funding only available for evaluation/research on activities already supported by VAWA or that could be supported by VAWA if feasible, desirable?**

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The research that you propose or the intervention that you propose to study or evaluate does not need to be currently funded through an OVW grant, but it does need to be something that falls within the scope of what OVW can fund for at least one grant program. Best to reach out to OVW if you are uncertain if the application, you're conceptualizing falls within the scope of R&E.

### **Could this funding be used to stand up a sexual assault prevalence study for a certain geography?**

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Typically, we're looking at evaluations of interventions, but there are some other topics including the emerging innovations and secondary data analyses. We'd want to get a little more information and give you a firm answer on whether it sounds like it's within these topics or not.

### **I am interested in using technology in the form that has an anonymous feature to create a safe and secure platform for victims to express their concern and provide education and awareness. Can a program like that be considered in the form of an application?**

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It's a bit of a gray area. The goal of this program is to support researcher-practitioner partnerships to study VAWA-funded interventions with the idea that we want to produce findings that have practical utility for practitioners. Evaluations of interventions that address VAWA crimes but do not involve entities that provide victim services or administer justice may be within the scope of the R&E Initiative. Research that has direct implications for current and potential OVW grant recipients and the survivors on whose behalf they work, however, may be favored for R&E funding over applications with a weaker nexus to VAWA grant programs.

### **Could you clarify the differences between Topics for R&E vs Areas of Study?**

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The six areas of study are virtually the same every year. Those are essentially the buckets of knowledge that we want to fill through the R&E Initiative. The topics, which change from year to year, focus more on what our specific priorities and areas of interest are that year, and they all have the potential to contribute to multiple areas of study.

**Would a statewide coalition of domestic violence programs qualify as a non-profit that could apply for funding?**

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Yes, assuming it's a nonprofit fitting in one or more of the eligibility categories.

**IRB approval is not needed prior to submission. Is that correct?**

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Correct. You need to include a Privacy Certificate with the application, but applicants do not need to have IRB approval at the time they apply. If funded, the grantee must provide documentation of IRB approval or exemption, post-award, before they can access funds to conduct the study.

**Would funds be available on a phased approach? For example, general administrative efforts for IRB processes, planning, etc.**

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Awards are usually issued with two holds on all but a small amount of the funds. Grantees can use that amount to plan, seek IRB approval, etc. Once our Grants Financial Management Division (GFMD) approves your project budget, we lift that specific hold. However, the balance remains on hold unless/until OVW receives documentation of IRB approval or exemption. We typically release the full balance of funds upon receipt of that documentation.

**Is the grant intended to research effectiveness of innovations already developed or can it support development of the innovations?**

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Funds can be used to support the development and evaluation of the intervention.

**Do you absolutely need to have a practitioner partner?**

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It is not required to have a practitioner partner. Researcher-practitioner partnerships are emphasized, but they may not be needed in some cases. If you have questions about whether what you're considering is within scope for R&E and how that might fall in terms of focus and priorities, please reach out and we can walk you through that.

**Who would qualify as a practitioner? Service Providers? Court Personnel if we're evaluating a court program?**

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We don't explicitly define "practitioner." If you have a question about whether something is in the right lane for R&E, please contact Kia Jackson at [Kia.Jackson@usdoj.gov](mailto:Kia.Jackson@usdoj.gov).

**Where are the "Topic Areas" listed in the Solicitation?**

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Topics are under the "Purpose Areas" section of the solicitation, pages 6-9.