

FY24 Expanding Legal Services Initiative

Legal Assistance for Victims - ELSI

Virtual Information Session

October 25, 2023

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Welcome & Introductions



What Will We Cover Today?



Intro to LAV Program

The LAV Grant Program is intended to increase the availability of civil and criminal legal assistance needed to effectively aid adult and youth (ages 11 and older) victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by providing funds for comprehensive direct legal services to victims in legal matters relating to or arising out of that abuse or violence.



Intro to LAV Program - continued

Provide survivors with appropriately trained civil legal representation

Supports comprehensive civil legal representation services

Funded projects must include a licensed attorney

Supports civil legal services related to victimization

Supports post-conviction legal matters related to victim safety (sentencing, probation)



Who Does the LAV Program Fund?

Eligible Applicants in the United States or US Territories:

- Private non-profit entities
- Publicly funded organizations not acting in a governmental capacity such as law schools
- Territorial Organizations
- Indian Tribal Governments
- Tribal Organizations and Coalitions



What Legal Areas Does LAV Program Support?

Comprehensive Legal Services

- Protection Orders
- Family Law: Divorce, Paternity, Custody, Support
- Title IX and Education Rights Matters
- Immigration
- Housing Rights, Eviction
- Employment Rights
- Consumer Protection, Identity Theft
- Language Access
- Post-Conviction Matters (sentencing, parole, probation)
- Victims Rights, Safety, Privacy in Criminal Justice Investigations



ELSI - Introduction

Recognize challenges that some community-based organizations and tribal entities face when competing for LAV awards.

Assist organizations that do not have in-house, comprehensive legal representation programs to establish one from the ground up.

Increase successful applications from community-based organizations, tribal organizations and tribal governments to provide legal representation and assistance to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.



ELSI – Who May Apply?

- Does not currently offer in-house legal representation.
 - Non-profit organizations, tribal organizations, tribal governments.
 - DVSA organizations, community-based organizations, multi-service organizations.

Eligible applicants receiving LAV funds under a current award

- **A lead grantee with an LAV award that is ending on or before Sept 30, 2024, but who does offer in-house legal representation.**
- **An MOU partner/subrecipient who does not offer in-house legal representation.**



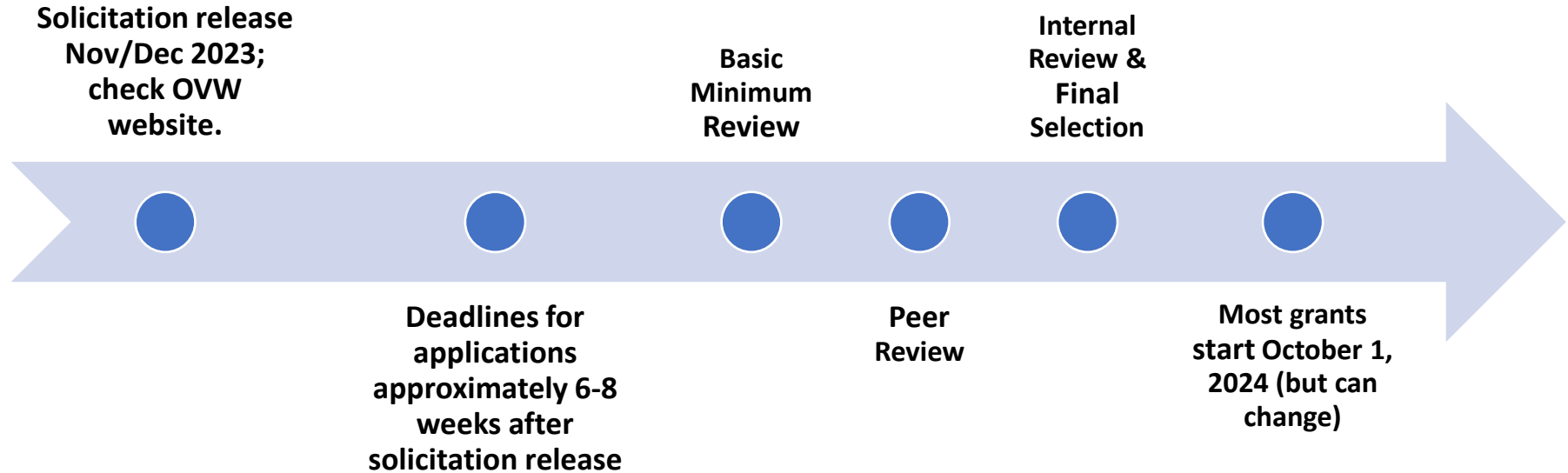
Priority Considerations

Advance equity and tribal sovereignty by improving services to underserved and historically marginalized communities.

- **To receive priority consideration**, a lead applicant must have a primary mission or purpose to serve a population-specific and historically marginalized community, including tribal communities.
- **A population specific organization** is one that primarily serves members of a specific underserved population and has demonstrated experience and expertise providing culturally and linguistically specific targeted services to members of that specific underserved population.



Application and Award Process



5 THINGS YOU CAN DO

As You Prepare for Solicitation Release!



Read Last Year's FY23 ELSI Solicitation



Review Successful LAV Projects



Explore OVW Website & LAV Page



Sign up for Email Announcements of Solicitations



Become a Peer Reviewer!



U.S. Department of Justice
OVW
Office on Violence Against Women
Working Together to End the Violence

Become a Peer Reviewer!

To learn more about this process, please visit: [Office on Violence Against Women \(OVW\) | Peer Review \(justice.gov\)](https://www.justice.gov/ovw/peer-review)

If you have general questions about becoming a peer reviewer: OVW.PeerReview@usdoj.gov



Helpful Hints - Application DOs

1. Read the solicitation carefully, note requirements and restrictions.
2. Use the solicitation criteria headers to organize your application.
3. Write your application as if the reader knows nothing about your organization.
4. Show us how your organization will implement each of the requirements.
5. Identify legal needs of all survivors in your communities.



Helpful Hints – Application DOs

6. Describe your communities' specific needs using recent, local data where available.
7. Ensure your budget can support the goals and objectives in your narrative.
8. All staff writing the narrative, implementing the project, or drafting budget should collaborate in the application.
9. Note all deadlines. Submit your application at least 48 hours before the deadline.
10. Use linked samples, the Solicitation Companion Guide, and resources for Applicants:

[Office on Violence Against Women \(OVW\) | Resources for Applicants \(justice.gov\)](#)



Helpful Hints – Application DON'Ts

1. Don't include or reference attachments that the solicitation does not ask for.
2. Don't copy language in the solicitation when attempting to demonstrate expertise.
3. Do not go over the budget cap.
4. Don't ignore formatting and technical requirements.
5. Do not forget to review your application before submitting!



Helpful Links

- Applicant Resources: [Office on Violence Against Women \(OVW\) | Resources for Applicants \(justice.gov\)](#)
- OVW Email Sign up for Solicitation Announcements: [U.S. Department of Justice \(govdelivery.com\)](#)
- Examples of Successful Projects in OVW's most recent report to Congress: [Office on Violence Against Women \(OVW\) | Reports to Congress \(justice.gov\)](#)
- Become a Peer Reviewer for OVW! [Office on Violence Against Women \(OVW\) | Peer Review \(justice.gov\)](#)



Q&A

We invite you to use the chat or
raise your hand for your questions!



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Thank you for joining us!

Please contact us with your LAV questions:
ovw.lav@usdoj.gov



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