

Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Office of Justice Programs
Crime Victim Services
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 2300
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1515
1-888-622-8799

Request for Proposals

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) S.T.O.P.
Special Projects for Tribal Governments
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2024

Description

Purpose

This RFP is designed to solicit proposals from Tribal governments to improve the criminal justice response to violent crimes against women in their community, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. These funds are for collaborative time-limited special projects.

Grant Term

Projects will cover the approximate 24-month grant period of July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024, depending on the end date of the applicant’s current or past project.

Eligible Applicants

Minnesota-based Tribal governments are eligible to apply under this RFP.

Application Deadline

Applications should be submitted using the web-based E-grants system. Applications will be processed on a rolling basis as applications are received. Please consult with Chris Anderson at chris.anderson@state.mn.us, for further information.

Funds Available

Each applicant is eligible for up to \$115,000 for the 24-month period, consisting of \$113,000 in federal Violence Against Women Act Funds, CFDA #16.588, and \$2,000 in Minnesota state general funds.

Application Process

All applications should be submitted via E-grants, the OJP online grants management system, at <https://app.dps.mn.gov/egrants/>. When ready to submit your application, click on “View Status Options” from your Grant Menu and then click on “Apply Status” under the *Application Submitted* option. For assistance submitting your application or navigating through the application, you should reference the Grantee/User Manual by clicking on the *Training Materials* link at the top of most E-grants screens. To establish a new user account, click on the purple “New User” option in the login box in the upper right corner of the E-grants homepage and fill out the profile.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- **For questions regarding the application or assistance with E-grants, please contact your current grant manager or:**
Chris Anderson, Office of Justice Programs, Minnesota Department of Public Safety:
chris.anderson@state.mn.us

Match Requirements

There is no match requirement for these funds.

Grant Process

This is a non-competitive grant process. OJP staff will review your application and may ask you to submit minor revisions to your proposal (e.g., to correct budget errors or clarify goals and objectives). After revisions are made, a formal grant agreement will be prepared and needs to be signed by the Tribal government and OJP. When the signature process is complete the grantee receives a final signed copy of the grant agreement, at which time the application becomes a legally binding contract between the grantee and OJP.

Project Activities

Applicants will determine project activities that best address the needs of their reservation community. Activities should fit the overall purpose of VAWA funding, with the goal of improving the criminal justice response to victims of sexual and domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

Activities That May Compromise Victim Safety

Ensuring victim safety is the guiding principle underlying the VAWA funding program. The following activities have been found to jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions and cannot be supported with VAWA funding:

- Procedures or policies that exclude victims from receiving safe shelter, advocacy services, counseling, and other assistance based on their actual or perceived age, immigration status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identify, mental health condition, physical health condition, criminal record, work in the sex industry, relationship to the perpetrator, or the age and/or gender of their children;
- Procedures or policies that compromise the confidentiality of information and privacy of persons receiving OVW-funded services;
- Offering perpetrators the option of entering pre-trial diversion programs or placing batterers in anger management programs;
- Requiring mediation or counseling for couples as a systemic response to domestic violence or sexual assault, or in situations in which child sexual abuse is alleged;
- Requiring victims to report sexual assault, stalking, or domestic violence crimes to law enforcement or forcing victims to participate in criminal proceedings;
- Relying on court-mandated batterer intervention programs that do not use the coercive power of the criminal justice system to hold batterers accountable for their behavior;
- Supporting policies or engaging in practices that impose restrictive conditions to be met by the victim in order to receive services (e.g., attending counseling, seeking an order for protection);

In addition, applicants should be knowledgeable about victim confidentiality. In accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 13925(b)(2), applicants receiving OVW funding must protect the confidentiality and privacy of persons receiving OVW-funded services to support victims' safety. OVW grantees and their sub-grantees are prohibited from disclosing personally identifying information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied through the grantee and their sub-grantee's programs, to any third party or third party database without informed, written, reasonably time-limited, consent of the person, unless compelled by statutory or court mandate. In this case, grantees and sub-grantees must make reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information. They must also take necessary steps to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of the information. Regarding un-emancipated minors or persons with disabilities lacking capacity to consent, a parent or guardian may consent to the disclosure; however, if the parent or guardian is the abuser of the minor, the person with disabilities, or the minor's other parent, he or she is prohibited from giving consent to the disclosure.

Unallowable Activities

The following activities are unallowable with VAWA funding:

- Lobbying
- Fundraising
- Purchase of real property
- Construction
- Physical modifications to building, including minor renovations (such as painting or carpeting)

Food and Beverage Costs

VAWA funds cannot be used to purchase food and/or beverages for any meeting, conference, training, or other event, except if the following applies:

- The location of the event is not in close proximity to food establishments. (It should be a priority to try to secure a location near reasonably priced and accessible commercial food establishments.)
- Not serving food will significantly lengthen the day or necessitate extending the meeting to achieve meeting outcomes.
- A special presentation at a conference requires a plenary address where there is no other time for food to be obtained; or
- Other extenuating circumstances which necessitate the provision of food.

Because of these VAWA restrictions, OJP will include in your grant \$2,000 in state funding, to cover needed food or beverage costs. See below, section “H. Budget,” for more information.

Application Components

The following needs to be addressed in the E-grants application:

A. Applicant Form

Please complete every field of the form provided. This form lists the authorized representatives for the program and other identifying information.

B. Terms and Conditions

All applicants acknowledge they have read the *Terms and Conditions* and that the *Terms and Conditions* will be incorporated into their Grant Agreement if funded.

C. Grant Program Guidelines

All applicants acknowledge they have read the *Grant Program Guidelines* and that they will be incorporated into their Grant Agreement. Applicants need to also upload signed certifications indicating they will meet the requirements of receiving federal VAWA STOP funding upon being awarded a grant.

D. General and Administrative Standards

All applicants demonstrate that their organization meets the *General and Administrative Standards*.

E. Narrative

In a *Microsoft Word* document (2-4 pages), please provide a response to the following. (When ready to submit, upload the document in E-grants.)

1. A comprehensive description of the project activities (including all who are involved and responsible for activities);
2. What problems or issues in the criminal justice response you will address through these activities; and
3. How victims of sexual and domestic violence will benefit from these activities.

F. Work Plan

Please download the blank *Work Plan* form in E-grants and then upload it back into E-grants when complete. The work plan should include objectives (1 to 4 objects that are measurable, identifying what you plan to achieve during the grant period). Each objective should have activities (1 to 6 steps or tasks in achieving the objective). Please include time frames and staff positions responsible for each activity.

G. Application Attachments

You will be required to upload financial review documents, federal certification forms and a request to charge indirect costs to the grant (if applicable) to this form.

H. Budget

Please clearly describe all budget items and identify all anticipated costs per category. The budget will have two columns in which you can enter proposed expenses. Food and beverage expenses (\$2,000 maximum) for meetings should go under the "State" column and all other expenses should be entered under the "VAWA" column. If there are no food and beverage costs in your budget, leave the "State" column blank.

Reporting

All grantees will need to complete quarterly financial status reports (FSRs) and quarterly program income reports in E-grants. Grantees will also need to submit the *U.S. Department of Justice VAWA STOP Annual Progress Report* at the conclusion of each calendar year. OJP staff will communicate the types of data that should be collected, based on your project activities (i.e., number of people attending training, etc.).