



FY27 VICTIM AND SURVIVOR SERVICES (VSS) GRANT APPLICATION WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 21, 2025

HOUSEKEEPING

- This is a Zoom webinar
- Please use the Q&A feature for questions
- This will be recorded and shared
- CART/ASL is available
- Use of AI is not allowed

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Facilitators

- Ashlee Renich-Malek (she/her), Grants Administration Specialist
- Kristin Nguyen (she/her), Director of Grants Administration
- Kristen Tavano (she/her), Deputy Director of Grants Administration
- Madeleine Gorman (she/her), Deputy Chief of Staff
- Liam Lowney (he/him), Executive Director

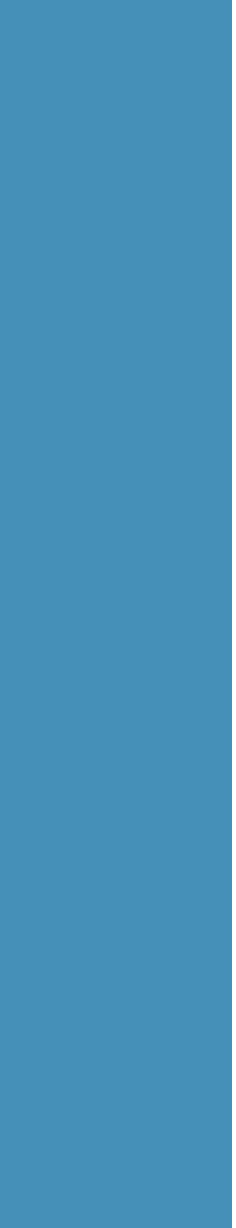
AGENDA

Introduction to:

- Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA)
- Victim & Survivor Services (VSS) Grants

FY27 VSS Funding Opportunity:

- Eligibility criteria
- Allowable and unallowable services
- The FY27 VSS Call for Grant Applications (CGA)
 - The application
 - Review and evaluation
- Questions and answers



INTRODUCTION TO MOVA & VICTIM AND SURVIVOR SERVICES (VSS) GRANTS



MISSION AND VALUES

MOVA strives to advance victim rights by ensuring all victims and survivors of crime across the Commonwealth are supported and empowered through access to high-quality services that are trauma-informed, culturally-responsive, and reflective of diverse communities. MOVA achieves this through survivor-informed work, advocacy for enhanced victim rights and services, partnerships with agencies and individuals, and a commitment to providing funding and services for underserved and marginalized communities.



FY27 VSS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

FY27 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR VICTIM AND SURVIVOR SERVICES (VSS)

- Funds organizations to provide counseling, advocacy, and intervention services free of charge to victims and survivors of crime
- MOVA anticipates having approximately \$30 million available for FY27 grant awards, funded primarily by Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) dollars from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF)
- The initial duration of this grant will be for one year, July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027, with an opportunity to renew funding in FY28
- Funding will support **free** services to victims and survivors of various crimes, geographies, populations, etc.

FY27 FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

VOCA requires each state/territory allocate at least 10% of the total annual award to each of the following priority categories:

- Child Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault

In addition to the priority categories listed above, MOVA allocates a minimum of 10% of the total annual award to underserved victims of violent crime. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Survivors of homicide victims
- Victims from culturally specific populations
- Victims with disabilities
- Victims who identify as LGBTQIA2+
- Victims needing legal assistance
- Victims needing housing assistance
- Victims living in rural or isolated communities
- Victims involved in the justice system

FY27 FUNDING OBJECTIVES

- The following funding objectives will be supported via this grant application:
 - Costs essential to the provision of direct services to victims and survivors of crime
 - Direct services to victims and survivors of various victimization/crime types
 - Direct services for victims and survivors of crime that reach populations, communities, and/or geographic areas that have been historically, or are currently, underserved
 - Programming which operates across the geography of the Commonwealth
 - Collaborative programs and partnerships that maximize resources and services for victims and survivors of crime



FY27 VSS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

ORGANIZATIONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR VSS FUNDING IF THEY:

- Operate in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Are a public or nonprofit organization (including Native American Tribal Governments)
- Have a minimum of a one-year history of providing services to victims and survivors of crime at the time of application
- Have the organizational and administrative capacity to provide the proposed services and meet the grant requirements
- Would use MOVA funding to provide direct services

ORGANIZATIONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR VSS FUNDING IF THEY:

- Are an individual
- Have less than a one-year history of providing services to victims and survivors of crime at the time of application
- Are eligible for a FY27 Culturally Specific Victim Services in Western Massachusetts (CSVS) renewal grant
- Do not have the administrative or organizational capacity to support the proposed services and meet the grant requirements
- Would not use MOVA funding to provide direct services



FY27 VSS ALLOWABLE SERVICES

ALLOWABLE SERVICES: DEFINITION

Allowable direct services are defined as those that:

- Respond to the emotional, psychological, and physical needs of crime victims
- Assist crime survivors to stabilize their lives after a victimization
- Assist crime survivors to understand and participate in the criminal justice system
- Restore a measure of safety and security to crime survivors

ALLOWABLE SERVICES: EXAMPLES

Direct services to support a victim/survivor in assessing, responding to and navigating the impact(s) of a crime via:

- Information and referral services
- Advocacy and accompaniment
- Emotional support and safety services
- Shelter and housing services
- Criminal/civil justice system assistance

CRIME/VICTIMIZATION TYPE: EXAMPLES

- Domestic violence / Intimate partner violence
- Sexual assault
- Child sexual abuse
- Child physical abuse or neglect
- Survivors of homicide victims
- Human trafficking

UNALLOWABLE SERVICES: EXAMPLES

- Lobbying and fundraising activities
- Perpetrator rehabilitation
- Activities that seek to improve the criminal justice system
- Activities exclusively related to crime prevention
- Out-of-pocket crime victim expenses
- Most medical costs
- Most capital improvements
- Studies and research efforts

GRANTS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (P&P) MANUAL

Go-to guide for grant related policies, requirements, and resources

- Includes examples of allowable/unallowable services
- Outlines administrative policies and responsibilities of grantees
- Outlines financial policies and responsibilities of grantees
 - **This is a cost reimbursement grant**
- Outlines monthly and quarterly reporting requirements
- Details MOVA's monitoring and risk assessment process



FY27 CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (CGA)

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (CGA)

The instruction manual for the grant opportunity and application

- Details the specifics of the procurement and the application & submission process
- Formerly called Request for Grant Applications (RGA)

COMMBUYS

From the www.commbuys.com/bso/ main page:

- Under Supplier Activities, click "Open Bids"
- Click "Advanced Search" box in upper left corner
- Select "Victim and Witness" from the Organization box dropdown menu
- Click "Search" at the bottom of page

— Supplier Activities —



Complete Registration

Complete registration here to begin using COMMBUYS. Vendors, please read this [disclaimer](#) prior to completing registration.



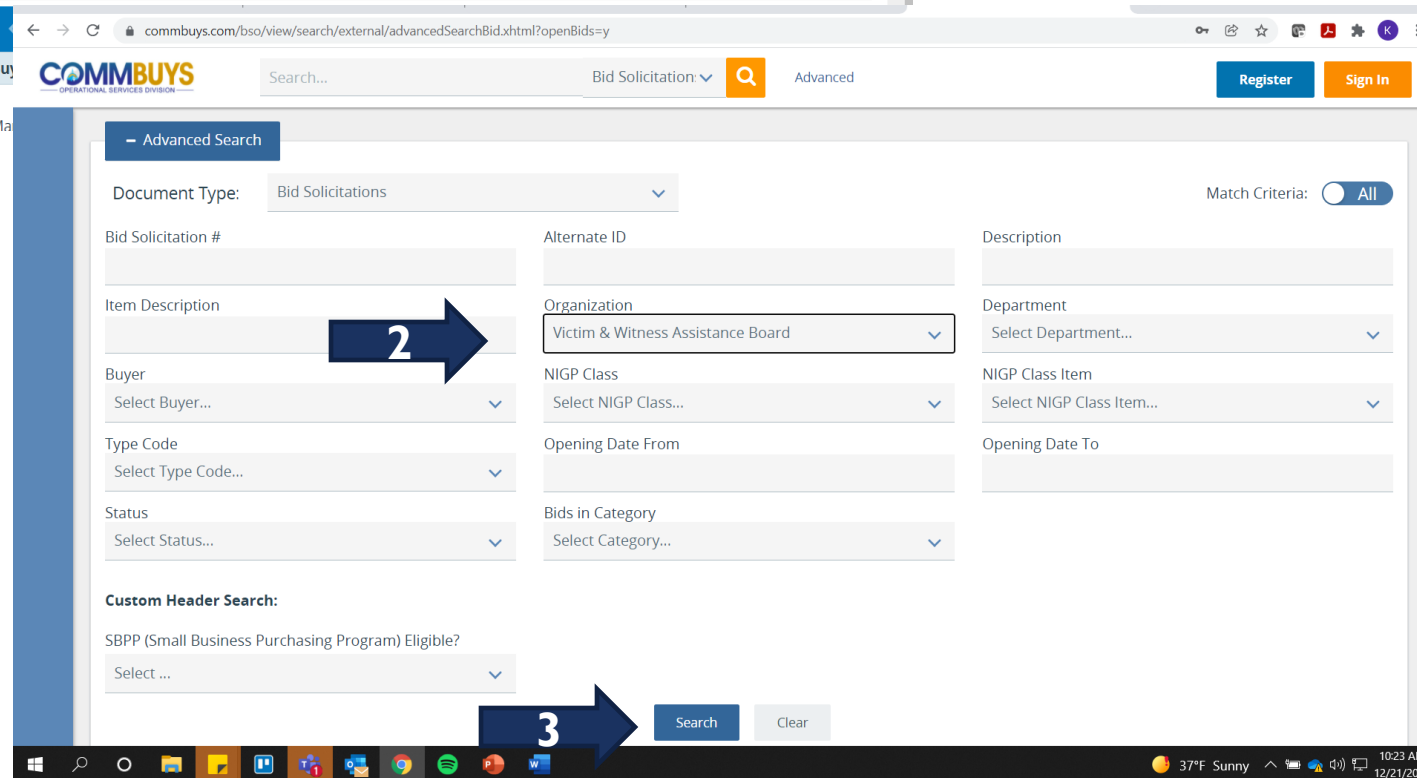
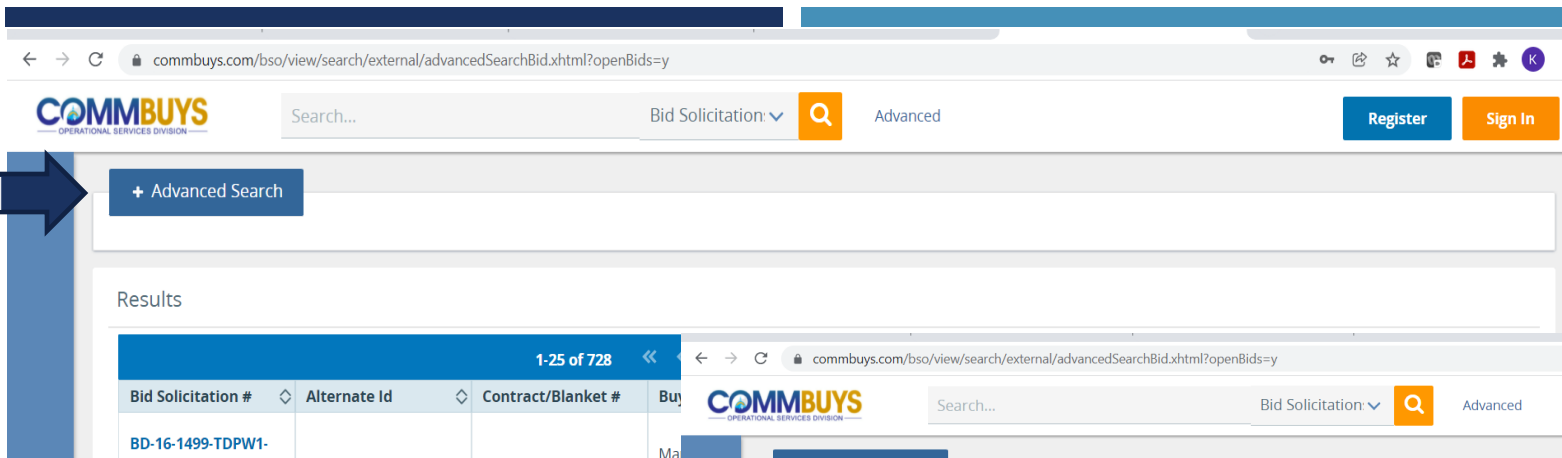
Open Bids

Browse open bid opportunities.



Active Blankets

Browse active Blankets.



MOVA'S WEBSITE

**All documents posted on COMMBUYS are also available
on MOVA's VSS grant opportunity website**



THE APPLICATION

EGRANTS

eGrants: MOVA's grants database, where all grant management will occur, from application to monitoring

- If you haven't already, at least one person from your organization must register to access the application
- Contact Information tab required – separate from application process and documents
- eGrants application walkthrough recording available
- November 19, 2025: optional eGrants Technical Assistance session

INTENT TO APPLY FORM

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit an Intent to Apply form via eGrants by November 3, 2025

- Submission is non-binding
- Within the form:
 - Estimate of amount of funding requested
 - List the primary contact for the application in case follow up is needed
- Helps MOVA to plan for the review process

APPLICATION

VSS Application Forms

- Eligibility Checklist
- Organizational Questionnaire
- Application Questions

Budget Request

Additional Forms

- Required Upload: Letter of Support from Organization Leadership
- Optional Upload (Previously Funded): Reversion Narrative
- Required Upload (Pass-Throughs ONLY): Subaward Budget Request
- Optional: Indirect Cost Tool

Contact Info

ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

- Certify that your organization meets the eligibility criteria for this grant application
 - Answer YES or NO using the radio buttons
 - Ensure accuracy in responses
 - Optional space to elaborate on responses
 - Save your work frequently

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Organization Mission Statement
- Program Name
- Proposed Scope of Services
- Counties Served
- Victimization Types Served
- Services Provided
- Populations Served
- Match Selection
- Narrative Questions

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

-
- **Organization Mission Statement**
 - Required, limited to 700 characters
 - Include mission and length of operation
 - **Program Name**
 - Required, should be different from your organization's name
 - Singular name, reflective of the proposed VSS services and grant
 - **Proposed Scope of Services**
 - Required, limited to 1500 characters
 - Include only activities which would be supported by the VSS grant

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

■ **Counties Served**

- Identify primary county(s) to be served by program
 - If statewide, provide no more than 300-character description

■ **Victimization Types Served**

- Can be an estimate
- Must total 100%
- If selecting other, must provide a type

■ **Service Types Provided**

- Only include services and activities which would be supported by a VSS grant

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

■ Populations Served

- Answer YES or NO for each question
 - If YES, services must be designed and intended for the population and a description must be provided

■ Match Selection

- MOVA will issue a blanket waiver of the match requirement for all organizations who receive a FY27 grant award, unless you opt out
- Saving the match selection opens the budget forms for your application
- Does not impact the evaluation of your application
- If opt out: 25% match and Sources Match form required

■ Narrative Questions

- Four questions
- Each response limited to 2500 characters

ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

- Provide information based on your organization's capacity to manage a VSS grant
- Save your work frequently
- Questions included in the questionnaire are included in the Appendix of the Call for Grant Applications (CGA)
- For all sections just covered, in the lefthand blue panel of your application:
 - When complete, a checkmark will appear
 - Incomplete sections will have an exclamation point
 - Sections not yet started will have an open checkbox

Eligibility Checklist	
Application Questions	
Organizational Questionnaire	

BUDGET REQUEST

- Budget forms will open after a match selection is chosen and saved in the Application Questions form
- The cost categories for the VSS grants are: salary, fringe, consultants, office and programmatic supplies, equipment, travel, contracts, other costs, and indirect costs
- Each line item will require a budget narrative to explain the cost in full detail
- MOVA encourages the use of whole numbers in the budget request

BUDGET REQUEST - INDIRECT COSTS

- Indirect costs are costs that support organizational operations and are necessary for the overall functioning of your organization but are not easily identified in individual line items on your budget
- 2 CFR Part 200 updated on October 1, 2024
 - Up to 15% de minimis
- Indirect remains an allowable costs, however, it is not required to be included
- Applicants may negotiate an indirect rate with MOVA
- Optional Indirect Cost Tool in eGrants

UPLOADS

- **REQUIRED:** Letter of Support from Organization Leadership
- Optional: Reversion Narrative
 - For current or previous grantees who reverted funds
- Pass-Through Subaward Budget Requests
 - Required for pass-through organizations

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Contact Information in eGrants is separate from the application but still required!
- Incomplete contact information will result in an incomplete application
- Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing (CASL) form
 - One person from your organization must be assigned as the authorized signatory
 - This person will ultimately sign the contract with MOVA if selected for a grant
 - Download, fill out, and reupload the CASL form
 - The information in the CASL form must match the information on eGrants



REVIEW AND EVALUATION

REVIEW PROCESS

Application review will occur over 3 phases

- **Phase 1: Eligibility and Completeness Review**
- **Phase 2: Application Review**
 - MOVA and external/peer reviewers
 - Application questions will be scored 0-5 based on completeness, eligibility, allowability, and relevance
 - Organization Mission Statement,
 - Proposed Scope of Services,
 - Narrative Questions
 - Budget requests will be scored 0-5 for completeness, allowability, and prioritization of direct services for a potential total of 15 points

REVIEW PROCESS (CONT.)

- **Phase 3: Programmatic and Financial Review**

- Geographic catchment area
- Victimization types to be served
- Service types to be provided
- Populations to be served
- Collaborative and innovative programming that maximizes resources and services
- VOCA funding priority requirements, including MOVA's defined underserved populations
- Budgetary prioritization of reasonable, necessary, and allowable costs essential to the provision of direct services
- *For current or previous MOVA grantees only:* history of award spending and reversion and, if submitted, the Reversion Narrative



TIMELINE

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

- Upcoming optional grant application workshop and technical assistance session:
 - Grant Application Workshop: **October 28, 2025**
 - eGrants Technical Assistance Session (virtual): **November 19, 2025**
- **Intent to Apply form due on eGrants: November 3, 2025**
- **Applications due: December 2, 2025, at 12pm EST**
- VVAB anticipated to vote on awards in April 2026
 - Applicants will be notified following the vote and contracting will begin
- Grant award period is July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q & A

Q: Is there a budget amount that you recommend we apply for?

A: MOVA recommends that you apply for essential costs necessary to provide direct victim services. The average FY26 VSS award amount was \$390k. Any limitations will be included in the Call for Grant Applications (CGA).

Q & A

Q: What is the difference between "subrecipient" and "grantee?" What about the difference between "agency" and "organization?"

A: MOVA has historically used these words (and others) interchangeably. In FY26, we have made organization-wide language updates in order to increase consistency and accessibility. While we're still in the process of updating all of our materials, subrecipients will be referred to as grantees, we will only use "organization" instead of switching between "agency" and "organization," expenditure reports will be called "expense reports," etc.

Q & A

Q: What will be different for currently funded organizations versus new organizations?

A: The same evaluation criteria will be applied to all applicants, whether it is their first time applying for a VSS award or whether they have applied for and received VSS funding in the past, except history of grant funding reversion, which will only be considered for returning applicants.

Q & A

Q: Do I have to complete the application on eGrants in one sitting?

A: No, you can save your application information and return to it as many times as needed prior to submitting the application. Applicants and other users with the applicable permissions can navigate back to the application using the Search tool located at the top of the page on eGrants.

Q & A

Q: Can we apply for more than one VSS application?

A: No. Organizations should include all proposed programming under one application.

Q & A

Q: When I initiate the application on eGrants, I cannot see the budget forms. How can I fix this?

A: Applicants must first answer the match waiver question in the Application Questions form and save that page before the budget is available to you. This is because eGrants will open different budget formats depending on if you are accepting the match waiver or not.



OPEN QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

QUESTIONS?

- Today: use the Q+A function to submit questions!
- Further questions will be accepted until November 21, 2025 – submit via movagrants@mass.gov.
- All questions and answers will be posted on MOVA's website and COMMBUYS by November 25, 2025
- Applications due via eGrants no later than **12:00pm EST on December 2, 2025**



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

   @MASSMOVA

VISIT OUR WEBSITES

WWW.MASS.GOV/MOVA

WWW.MASS.GOV/ASKMOVA

WWW.MASS.GOV/GARDENOFPEACE

CONTACT US

MOVA@MASS.GOV

617-586-1340