

VAWA STOP 2022 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

9/29/2022

Q: How much was awarded annually in the current grant cycle?

A: Approximately 2.8 million was awarded in the current 2021 grant cycle.

Q: Are moving expenses allowable if for a victim?

A: Purchase of real estate property, moving expenses, and construction or physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations such as painting, or carpeting are not allowed. If this question is referring to using the funds to assist a survivor/victim with moving to a safe place, travel expenses will be considered.

Q: Does purpose area 4 need to include all of those components, or is it a list of examples of activities? Would an advocacy program fit this purpose area if they do not offer specific legal assistance/attorneys?

A: Yes, it is a list of examples of activities. It is recommended that the purpose area 4 be considered for an advocacy program. If there are any questions once the application has been submitted, the organization will be contacted.

Q: Is a letter of recommendation required? Is it seen as favorable or increase points?

A: Letters of recommendations are allowed but not required. Letters of recommendation will not be reflected in an organization's score.

Q: If we have received a grant in the past, are we limited to that amount of funding, or can request more funding if needed for our program?

A: Applicants that are past subrecipients are not limited in the amount of funding in which they can apply.

Q: Do state agencies that are victim service providers need to provide match?

A: Non-profit organizations and tribes that provide victim services are exempt from providing match. All other organizations including state agencies must provide a match.

Q: Would you please clarify which purpose areas are for victim service providers? Some sections seem to apply for different entities.

A: The Purpose Areas that we recommend reviewing for Victim Service providers are Purpose Areas 4, 5 and 7.

10/4/22

Q. I wanted to ask a quick question regarding the VAWA STOP Grant AGF - are letters of recommendation seen as favorable or allowed?

A: Letters of recommendations are allowed but not required. Letters of recommendation will not be reflected in the organization's score.

10/5/22

Q. For fringe and payroll tax - how do we go about getting OGR to approve a rate if we don't have a federally approved fringe rate? I would prefer to use a rate rather than itemize each benefit, but is that the only option for us?

A. If there isn't an approved fringe rate agreement, OGR will approve a rate if the subrecipient itemizes each fringe benefit by cost/percentage. After approval, the subrecipient may use this approved rate during the grant period. If the rate changes, please break down each fringe benefit by cost/percentage in the expenditure reports. The Department of Health and Human Services may also provide a fringe rate agreement, just as they would with a negotiated indirect rate agreement. Please refer to Department of Health and Human Services for this process. State agencies will be given a fringe rate agreement by the Comptroller every fiscal year.

Q. We'll be seeking a de minimis indirect rate of 10%. Is the 10% applied to all costs or only to personnel costs?

A. The de minimis indirect rate of 10% applies to modified total direct costs (MTDC). The de minimis rate can be applied if the non-federal subrecipient has never received a federally negotiated indirect rate. MTDC includes all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and subawards and sub procurement contracts up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward or procurement subcontract (regardless of the period of performance of the subaward and sub procurement contract under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs, and the portion of each sub procurement contract or subaward in excess of \$25,000. Other items may only be excluded when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs, and with the approval of the cognizant agency. Please review 2 C.F.R. 200.68 for more details.

10/6/22

Q. Just a quick question. We are trying to get our RAD program back and running. Is this a program that could/would qualify under the VAWA grant? Any and all help would be appreciated thank you in advance.

A. Rape Aggression Defense classes are not permitted or supported under the VAWA grant program.

Q. Can funds be used to hire an officer for campus police that works specifically in the areas as outlined in the RFP. This person would be the lead on investigations but also act as a resource for other members of the force?

A. VAWA funds can be used for personnel costs of an officer who is specifically assigned to areas of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and human trafficking.

Q. Can funds be used to hire an investigator that would work under the University's Title IX office?

A. VAWA funds can be used for personnel costs of an investigator who is specifically assigned to areas of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and human trafficking.

Q. We are considering applying under Purpose Area #10. The language specifically states that it supports the 'placement of special victim assistants in local law enforcement agencies. We would like to know if we can apply under this area but not place the advocate in the law enforcement agency but rather have the advocate work in our office and out in the community. Our proposal would include partnering with 3-4 local law enforcement agencies. By not locating her in one department but allowing her to work from our office and go to each department as needed, we can maximize our grant funding to reach more communities.

A. Yes, this is allowable, we currently have a program that is running under the 2021 VAWA funding that is very similar.

Q. I wanted to check in about the Certification of Consultation/Memorandum of Agreement. We have provided them in the past and are happy to provide them again. However, from reading through the AGF, it doesn't appear that it's a requirement of us. I just want to confirm that we don't need to provide the Certification of Consultation/Memorandum of Agreement. (Northwestern DA)

A. Yes, correct, Memorandum of Agreements are not required. However, prosecution applicants are required to fill out the Certification of Consultation for Court and Prosecution Applicants which is within the AGF attachments (Attachment E).

10/11/22

Q: Is the LGBTQ+ community considered a culturally specific community?

A. No. The set aside is only for racial and ethnic minorities; However, states are required to address in their implementation plans how they will recognize and meaningfully respond to the needs of underserved populations, which may include Deaf, LGBT, and other victim populations. "Underserved populations" is defined as "populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the Attorney General."

Q. *Has the funding that is available decreased overall? Or is it the percentages that are allocated different and due to the inclusion of funding for culturally specific communities? Could you please clarify?*

A. Although there has been a slight decrease in MA FY22 funding, the allocations as determined by Congress have remained the same

Q. For the contractor authorized signatory form, there used to be a second page to that for each person who has signed the form that need to be notarized. Is that proof of authentication of signature and notary no longer needed?

A. The second page that includes the proof of authentication of signature as well as the notary is no longer required.

Q. Are we limited to the amount that we have previously been awarded or can we change the total?

A. Applicants that are past subrecipients are not limited in the amount of funding in which they can apply.

10/12/22

Q. Am I able to edit or change some of the Certification of Consultation forms so they fit what we are doing with our program?

A. Standard forms cannot be altered. Applicants may add an attachment to the forms if they feel it is necessary to address their specific program.

Q. BHN has traditionally attached letters of support from our local community related to our application. These letters are not required from what I can tell. Are they an optional attachment that EOPSS accepts? Are they reviewed by the reviewers? And do such documents support an application's fundability?

A. Letters of support are not required and there are no other support documents that are needed. The applications will be reviewed by reviewers and scored appropriately. Letters of recommendations are allowed but not required and will not be reflected in the organization's score.

Q. The instructions state that all of the bolded documents are required by all applicants, but I see bolded attachments in the list that are specific only to LE or court/prosecution applicants. This seems to be a contradiction. Could you please clarify which attachments Victim Service applicants are required to submit?

A. Yes, for clarification, please see list below for required documents for Victim Services applicants. All documents with a ~~strike~~ through them are not required from Victim Service Applicants.

- ☐ A complete application including **one signed original** mailed no later than the submission deadline.
- ☐ A completed unsigned VAWA STOP Grant Application Response Template (see **Attachment A**) **as a fillable PDF- not a scan** and Excel Budget Worksheet (see **Attachment B**), submitted electronically, no later than the submission deadline.

- ☐ Contractor Authorized Signatory Form (all applicants except state agencies - see **Attachment C**).
- ☐ Documentation of approved rates for Fringe, Indirect, and 501 (c)(3) status (if applicable).
- ☒ ~~MOA/Certification of Consultation for Law Enforcement Applicants (see **Attachment D**).~~
- ☐ MOA/Certification of Consultation for Victim Services Applicants looking to sub-contract or partner with law enforcement to establish and/or maintain a civilian police advocacy program (see **Attachment D**).
- ☒ ~~Certification of Consultation for Court and Prosecution Applicants (see **Attachment E**).~~
- ☒ ~~Certification Letter for Applicants Proposing to Provide Legal Assistance (see **Attachment F**).~~
- ☒ ~~Guidelines for Specialized Domestic Violence Civilian Advocates (Police Departments only when applicable — no signature required see **Attachment G**)~~
- ☐ Sub-Grantee Risk Assessment (see **Attachment H**).

Q. The electronic application need only include the budget (Attachment B) and Attachment A, unsigned in its original format. All of the other attachments are part of the mailed in application that also includes the signed application and budget. Could you confirm this is true?

A. All documents, application, budget and attachments must be submitted by email (electronically) as well as US Post Office, UPS or FedEx. Please see the language below from the AGF

Applicants must submit their application using the following method:

1: Hard Copy

*A signed **application and all required attachments** must be submitted either U.S. Post Office, UPS, or FedEx to OGR. Applicants are encouraged to use tracking numbers when submitting via U.S. Post Office, UPS, or FedEx. Applications must be either postmarked or received by OGR by 4:00 p.m. on October 26, 2022.*

2: Electronic Copy

*In addition to the mailed application, **applicants must submit all documents via email**. It is strongly encouraged that applicants save their progress as they complete their applications. Application documents created by OGR must be received in their respective formats (**fillable PDF/Excel**) and cannot be accepted in an alternative format (i.e., scanned copies)*

Q. On the FFY 2022 VAWA STOP Grant Application I am going to request 100% of the funding for the PD Advocate with a 25% match of the PD Officers and Supervisor. Is this allowable or is the town required to match 25% of the Advocate's salary?

A. VAWA funds can be used for 100% of an advocate's salary. Match is allowable for an Officer and Supervisors who are working with the advocate. The town does not have to provide the match.

10/18/22

Q. Wondering what kind of consideration is given to programs that have been funded in the past? If a new application includes an ask for more FTE's than in the past, is it possible that the program would be funded for less than the new total asks, based on what EOPPS knows about our past funding? Another way to ask is whether an application that includes both the past funding amount as well as the new request would just be unfunded as a whole package? OR whether the funder would consider funding the program for what we had previously been funded for?

A. The decision to fund is not based on prior funding but based on the current application's quality and adherence to rules and guidelines for submission, such as submitting required attachments and responses to all application components. Other factors that may be considered when making final grant award decisions will be geographic location of services, adhering to VAWA mandated allocation of funds, and population being served.

Please see below for the scoring chart.

Applicant Review Criteria	
Executive Summary and Program Narrative	30 Points
Project Goals, Objectives, Timeline, and Activities	20 Points
Performance Measures	10 Points
Reasonable and Cost Effective Budget	25 Points
Proposal Completeness	15 Points
Total	100 points

Q. Can MAPS apply as a culturally specific CBO, given that we are a multi-service organization rather than focusing only on DV/SA and/or other services related to this AGF? We fit all the other criteria.

A. Grantees may either be a culturally specific community-based program with existing expertise in serving victims of domestic/sexual violence, or a culturally specific community-based program that partners with another organization with expertise in serving victims of domestic/sexual violence.

Q. For the Goals and Objectives section, do we only fill out the form that's part of Attachment A, or do we need to add more narrative somewhere in the attachment? If we need to add narrative, where would it go? The instructions contained some detailed questions and requests for descriptions that I wasn't sure would fit within the chart.

A. The template for the Goals and Objectives section within Attachment A is the only section necessary to be completed for the Goals, Objectives, Activities, Timeline and Performance Measures. There should be plenty of character space for responses and descriptions as prompted in the AGF.

Q. We are a victim services agency that plans to apply as the lead applicant with four law enforcement departments as our partners. On pg. 19 of the AGF it says Attachment D is MOA/Certification of Consultation for Victim Services Applicants looking to sub-contract or partner with law enforcement to establish and/or maintain a civilian police advocacy program. But the Attachment itself say it is Certification of Consultation/Memorandum of Agreement Templates for Law Enforcement-Based Projects and reads as though it should only be used for projects where the law enforcement agency is the lead applicant. Is that the case or should an MOA be used when the victim service agency is the lead applicant?

A. Yes, an MOA would be required. The victim service provider would be responsible for generating an MOA for sub-contracting with local law enforcement. The victim service agency will create the agreement on their organization's letterhead, sign and then have the partnering agency/organization(s) sign. Although a Certification form is not provided for this specific MOA, you may refer to the language within the attachment D to create your own. A copy of this should be submitted to OGR. The original should be on file with the lead applicant-- i.e., the victim service organization.

Questions will not be accepted after 10/19/22