



UNITING THREE FIRES AGAINST VIOLENCE

Training | Resources | Support

Federal Grant Related Information/Updates (includes OWW, OVC, etc.)

1. *****From the OVC Director: Updates to the VOCA Crime Victim Compensation Guidelines (from June 5, 2023)**

Each year, hundreds of thousands of crime victims and survivors receive financial assistance and reimbursement for crime-related expenses through crime victim compensation programs. These programs are administered by State Administering Agencies (SAAs) in states and territories and are supported by Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding and governed by Department of Justice federal guidelines.

I am pleased to share that for the past year, OVC has been working with our many partners to understand how the guidelines can be strengthened to increase access and equity. Ensuring that the voices of crime victims and other stakeholders are part of those conversations has been key and has added immeasurable value to the effort.

Since the guidelines were last updated in 2001, OVC has learned a tremendous amount about the complexity of trauma, institutional barriers to access, and the challenges administrators face in managing federal funding to serve victims. As we now know, for each act of violence, there is a concentric circle of harm that reverberates out from the victim through families and communities. It is crucial to help prepare victims and survivors for the healing journey ahead, and provide them with the compassion, understanding, and the financial compensation they deserve. And so, as Maya Angelou has said, “when you know better, you do better.”

Through ten listening sessions and numerous community engagements, OVC has heard from survivors, direct service providers, state administrators, national advocacy organizations, and federal partners about how the VOCA Compensation Program can be improved. Among the useful feedback we received, several issues stood out, including, but not limited to:

- Expanding allowable medical, mental, and culturally appropriate services to increase the care that victims can obtain.
- Expanding access to compensation programs and increasing outreach about the availability of compensation.
- Addressing the complexity of applying for funding and the delays in victims receiving it.
- Addressing the challenges in demonstrating cooperation with reasonable requests from law enforcement and the adverse impact of a determination regarding a victim’s possible contributory conduct.
- Increasing OVC guidance, support, and funding to help SAAs grow their programs and implement measures that will increase allowability of expenses and access to compensation.

My office has heard you and has made reimagining the crime victim compensation program a call to action. Our goal is to have this done by the end of 2024.

In the meantime, we have taken additional steps to increase access to compensation for victims of crime who have been historically underserved and adversely affected by inequality; steps that were influenced by SAAs who shared changes they've made. For example, the [OVC VOCA Center](#) is offering new resources and workshops for administrators on victim-centered correspondence, the expansion of exceptions to requiring cooperation with reasonable requests from law enforcement, and best practices for compensation claim processing. OVC also funded the first [National Center for Culturally Responsive Victim Services](#) to assist OVC with addressing systemic barriers to compensation for victims of crime from communities of color.

As our next step, OVC will publish its updates to the crime victim compensation program guidelines as a proposed rule in the Federal Register through a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Once the Notice is published, there will be an open comment period to gather additional input. Information on how to submit comments will be provided in the Notice.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who took the time to share their thoughts and vision with us during this process. I also want to commend the states across the country that have taken the initiative to reflect on their own laws and policies, and make the changes necessary to increase access to crime victim compensation and help ensure it is administered fairly and without bias.

I appreciate your partnership and look forward to sharing OVC's updated crime victim compensation program guidelines with you soon.

With my sincere thanks and gratitude,

Kristina Rose
Director

2. Important Deadline for All OVV Grantees In Order to Receive Funds *(time sensitive)*

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVV) strongly encourages grantees to enroll and register multi-factor authentication (MFA) credentials no later than mid-September of this year in order to continue to receive federal funds.

Organizations that do not enroll and register with either ID.me or Login.gov by the Sept. 15, 2023, deadline will not be able to log in to ASAP.gov, the [Automated Standard Application for Payments](#) website used by OVV and other federal agencies to quickly and securely transfer money to organizations.

The deadline requirement is associated with the federal government's effort to combat digital crime and improve the nation's cybersecurity. As part of [President Biden's executive order](#), the Office of Management and Budget and the Treasury Department will be requiring multi-factor credentials for any agency logging into the ASAP.gov system.

Organizations can use these step-by-step guidelines to set up their MFA accounts:

- [For Login.gov](#)
- [For ID.me](#)

ASAP.gov will also conduct a series of webinars for recipient organizations about the federal directive. For a list of webinar dates and to register, [visit the ASAP website](#).

If you require additional assistance, please contact your grant manager or email OVV.GFMD@usdoj.gov.

3. Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women Publishes Regulation Governing Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Reimbursement Program *(time sensitive)*

The Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) published a regulation governing the Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ) Reimbursement Program, a new program authorized under the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022) to reimburse Tribal governments for expenses incurred in exercising STCJ over non-Native individuals who commit certain covered crimes on Tribal lands. VAWA 2013 included a historic provision recognizing Tribes' authority to exercise STCJ over non-Indian offenders who committed domestic violence or dating violence or violated certain protection orders in Indian country. Last year's VAWA reauthorization built on the success of VAWA 2013 by expanding the covered crimes under STCJ, enabling Tribes to hold accountable non-Native perpetrators of sexual violence, sex trafficking, stalking, child violence, assault of Tribal justice personnel and obstruction of justice.

"Tribes know best what their communities need, so I encourage tribal leaders, community members, and survivors to review this regulation for the Tribal Jurisdiction Reimbursement Program – it is critical that programs serving Tribal communities are informed by tribal voices," said OVW Acting Director Allison Randall. "We are dedicated to removing barriers to access, and it is a victory that VAWA 2022 allows us to continue the Tribal Jurisdiction Program as well as reimburse expenses incurred as a result of implementation."

OVW published the regulation on April 11. The regulation is available at [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and the public is able to review the rule and submit comments no later than June 12. This regulation is an interim final rule, which means that it takes effect on the day of publication. OVW will take into consideration the comments received during the 60-day comment period as well as Tribes' reaction to the implementation of the first year of the program before issuing a final rule.

You can learn more about the regulation and STCJ by [visiting our website](#).

Written comments must be postmarked and electronic comments must be submitted on or before **June 12, 2023**.

To comment via mail, send to:
Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Justice
145 N Street NE, 10W.100
Washington, DC 20530

Comments received by mail will be considered timely if they are postmarked on or before **June 12, 2023**. The electronic Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) also will accept comments until **11:59 p.m. ET on June 12**.

[SUBMIT A COMMENT](#)

Federally recognized Tribes that exercise STCJ are eligible for reimbursement funding under the STCJ Reimbursement Program. For Fiscal Year 2023, the combined appropriation for this program and the STCJ Grant Program is \$11 million. Of that amount, OVW may allocate up to \$4.4 million for the STCJ Reimbursement Program. Through this program, and as outlined in the interim final rule, Tribes may receive reimbursement for costs that are associated with exercising STCJ, such as law enforcement expenses, incarceration expenses, offender medical and dental expenses not otherwise covered by insurance, prosecution expenses, and defense counsel expenses. During the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2024, OVW plans to post a Notice of Reimbursement Opportunity on justice.gov/ovw with instructions on how to apply for the maximum allowable reimbursement. Later in calendar year 2024, OVW plans to provide instructions on how to apply for waivers of the annual maximum.

OVW administers grant programs designed to develop the nation's capacity to reduce sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking, and tribal entities are generally eligible to apply for any OVW grant program where a comparable non-Tribal entity is eligible. [OVW's Tribal Affairs Division](#) manages grant programs that are specifically targeted to Native American populations and tribes including the aforementioned STCJ Grant Program, Tribal Governments Program, Tribal Coalitions Program and Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program.

Recently, OVW announced that the 18th Annual Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation will be held Aug. 8-10, 2023, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to solicit recommendations from Tribal leaders on: administering Tribal funds and programs; enhancing the safety of Indian women from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, homicide, stalking, and sex trafficking; strengthening the federal response to such crimes; and improving access to local, regional, state, and federal crime information databases and criminal justice information systems. Additional information is available at www.ovwconsultation.org. A report of proceedings from last year's consultation is available on OVW's website.

4. Upcoming free SAM.gov training for Tribal Entities (*time sensitive*)

Please reserve your spot for the upcoming SAM.gov free trainings for Tribal Entities. This training walks you through each step of entity validation and registration in SAM.gov.

Please click on the title (SAM.gov Training for Tribal Governments & Native American Owned Businesses) which takes you to SAM.gov to reserve your spot.

[SAM.gov Training for Tribal Governments & Native American Owned Businesses](#)

Mon, Jul 10, 2023 2:00 PM EDT

Free

GSA IAE

5. OVC – Crime Victims Fund (CVF) Update from OVC Director’s Desk (from NAESV)

“Last week, OVC Director Kris Rose provided her monthly "From the Director's Desk" update which included an update on the Crime Victims Fund (CVF). You can listen here. Here is a summary of the CVF update from the call:

- The current balance of the CVF is \$2.1 billion. Keep in mind that most of this balance will be deducted for FY 23 obligations.
- \$273 million was collected in March.
- \$817 million has been collected for FY 23 so far.
- Active discussions with DOJ leadership about the health of the fund continue.
- Updated April numbers should be available very soon.”

6. OVV Launching Updated Website With New Features

We are pleased to inform you about an upcoming website update from OVV. On May 3, 2023, the OVV will introduce a revamped website, aiming to enhance the experience for grantees and applicants seeking information on grant opportunities and funding applications.

The website's URL will remain the same at <https://justice.gov/ovv>, and your existing OVV bookmarks are expected to work without any issues. The updated site will feature a new layout and improved website architecture for better usability. This design is primarily based on the [main DOJ website](#) that was launched in the previous year.

Here are some key updates to anticipate:

1. The new home page will feature direct links to frequently used resources, such as grant application processes, grant management, training and technical assistance, and resources for applicants, among others.
2. A dedicated landing page for grant programs will be introduced, enabling applicants to learn about all available funding opportunities and providing convenient links for further details.
3. For the first time, individual program pages will be established for each grant program, consolidating resources and information specific to a program, such as sample letters, webinars, PowerPoint presentations, transcripts, and announcements for new funding opportunities and awards. You are encouraged to bookmark the program page(s) you use most often.

We’re excited to share this information with you, and we look forward to the website launch on May 3. If you have any questions, please reach out to your program team.

7. Fed Reg-DOJ (IFR) Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Reimbursement

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 28 CFR Part 90 [OVV Docket No. 2023–01] RIN 1105–AB69

Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Reimbursement

AGENCY: Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Interim final rule.

SUMMARY: The Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022) authorized a new program to reimburse Tribal governments (or authorized designees of Tribal governments) for expenses incurred in exercising “special Tribal criminal jurisdiction” (STCJ) over non-Indians who commit certain covered crimes in Indian country. This rule will implement this new Tribal Reimbursement Program within the Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) by providing details on how it will be administered, including eligibility, frequency of reimbursement, costs that can be reimbursed, the annual maximum allowable reimbursement per Tribe, and conditions for waiver of the annual maximum. DATES:

Effective date: This rule is effective April 11, 2023.

The Interim Final Rule can be found [here](#).

8. DOJ Grants Financial Guide Update and Maintenance of Documentation for Grant Expenditures (from March 23, 2023)

“Dear DOJ Award Recipients:

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has updated the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), which serves as the primary reference manual to assist award recipients of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility to safeguard grant funds and ensure funds are used for the purposes for which they were awarded.

The following pertinent updates to the DOJ Financial Guide have occurred within the last quarter:

<i>Chapter/Topic</i>	<i>Date of Update</i>	<i>Sub-Topic</i>	<i>Description/Comments</i>
Resources 1.2:	November 1, 2022	Other Available Resources	Revised the title of JustGrants Training and Technical Assistance to JustGrants Resources and Training. Added a new resource OJP Recipient Resources .
Chapter 2.2: Acceptance of Award and Award Conditions	November 1, 2022	Action Item	Added language regarding COPS Office awards requiring the two Authorized Representatives for this role in JustGrants.
Chapter 3.3: Matching or Cost Sharing Requirements	November 1, 2022	COPS Office Specific Tip	Revised matching or cost sharing requirement language regarding COPS Hiring Program.
Chapter 3.5: Adjustments to Awards	November 1, 2022	Grant Award Modification	Added language regarding Grant Award Modification.
Chapter 3.9: Allowable Costs	November 1, 2022	Publications/OJP Specific Tip	Added language regarding use of the awarding agency's logo.
Chapter 3.10 OJP/COPS Office Conference Approval, Planning and Reporting	February 9, 2023	Rate thresholds	Revised rates throughout section (conference space & audio-visual equipment and services, logistical conference planner, and programmatic conference planner) in accordance with DOJ Policy Statement 1400.01. Revised conference approval thresholds in accordance with DOJ Policy Statement 1400.01.
Chapter 3.15: Reporting Requirements	November 1, 2022	Action Item/Performance Reports	Revised language; clarified language regarding submission requirements.
Chapter 3.18: Closeout	November 1, 2022	Closeout of Awards	Revised language regarding COPS Office return of funds.
Chapter 3.22: Financial Management Training Requirements	November 1, 2022	Introduction	Added new language regarding high-risk recipients.
V. Appendices	November 1, 2022	5.1 Acronyms	Added Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Additionally, OJP has created a web page to provide a central location for OJP/COPS Office award recipients (including cooperative agreement recipients and subrecipients) and contractors that conduct training sessions, meetings, or conferences to access conference cost policy guidance and supporting materials, resources, and job aids. This page can be accessed at the following link: [OJP Conference Cost Reporting Policy and Guidance Documents | Office of Justice Programs](#).

OVW has an existing web page with guidelines and policies to help recipients of OVW grants and cooperative agreements in planning meetings and conferences, available at the following link: [Conference Planning \(justice.gov\)](#).

Maintenance of Documentation for Grant Expenditures

As a reminder, recipients of federal award funds are responsible for maintaining proper and contemporaneous support for all expenditures charged to each individual award (i.e., grant or cooperative agreement). The recipients must maintain records (including accounting records and source documents), which sufficiently demonstrate that all expenditures charged to federal awards are allowable. Per the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), “costs are allowable when they are reasonable, allocable to, and necessary for the performance of the federal award, and when they comply with the funding statute and agency requirements (to include the conditions of

the award), including the cost principles set out in the Uniform Requirements [2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E.](#) Additional information about record retention requirements can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact:

Office of Justice Programs: Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Customer Service Center, at 1-800- 458-0786, or by e-mail at ask.ocfo@usdoj.gov.

Office on Violence Against Women: Grants Financial Management Division at 1-888-514-8556 or by email at ovw.gfmd@usdoj.gov.

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office): COPS Office Response Center at 1-800-421-6770 or by e-mail at askcopsrc@usdoj.gov.

Rachel Johnson
Chief Financial Officer
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice “

9. OVV: Overview of the Tribal Affairs Division (TAD)

TAD manages four of the 19 grant programs administered by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) as well as tribal specific special initiatives. The video below is an introduction to the four TAD grant programs: Tribal Governments Program, Tribal Jurisdiction Program, Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program and the Tribal Coalitions Program.

[Click here to view the video.](#)

The Tribal Affairs Division hopes this information will be helpful with accessing funding resources your community may need to develop projects and programs that comprehensively address the issues your community is facing with sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, sex trafficking, and stalking.

For more information and to view the videos, visit: <https://www.ovwconsultation.org/Leveraging-TAD>

10. OVV: DOJ Grants Financial Guide

The DOJ Financial Guide ([DOJ Financial Guide](#)) serves as the guide to assist recipients in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility to safeguard grant funds and ensure funds are used for the purposes for which they were awarded. The most recent revision to the guide became effective March 31, 2022. The revised Guide and prior versions are available on OVW's website at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-management>. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact GFMD at OVW.GFMD@usdoj.gov.



Upcoming Events

Advocate Check In Calls – Every Second Thursday of the Month - 10:00am EST
Tribal Trafficking/MMIP Work Group – Every Other Third Thursday of the Month – 1:00pm EST

For more information about any upcoming events, reach out to UTFAV Training Coordinator at vpatzwald@utfav.org

