



Providing Training & Technical Assistance (T&TA) to Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)
Comprehensive Tribal Victim Assistance (CTVA) and Children's Justice Act (CJA) Grantees

Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group, Inc.

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"Learning Together, Growing Together"

August 2016 E-Bulletin

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) News



The greatly anticipated 15th National Indian Nations Conference will be held December 8-10, 2016 at Agua Caliente Reservation, California.

*This is a friendly reminder that as CTAS grantees, **ALL** are required to attend this conference.* If you have any questions regarding this requirement, please contact your OVC Grant Manager directly.

Registration is Now Open & Scholarship Applications Are Now Being Accepted for the 15th National Indians Nation Conference: December 8-10, 2016!

Early Bird Registration- \$150.00- Deadline 9/5/16.

For more information on registration, visit <http://www.ovcinc.org/registration>.

Limited number of scholarships available- if needed/interested apply soon!
Applications due by 9/19/2016.

For more info on scholarships, visit <http://www.ovcinc.org/scholarships>

We cannot wait to see you there!

OVC published the final rule for its Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Formula Victim Assistance Grant Program in the Federal Register on July 8, 2016. The final rule goes into effect thirty days after publication (August 8, 2016), and sets forth the parameters for the use of funds under OVC's Victim Assistance Program.

Highlights of How this Affects Funding for Tribal Communities

- *§ 94.118 Project Match Requirements.* OVC maintains the existing project match rules, requiring that sub-recipients provide a 20% project match, but excepting U.S. territories (not including Puerto Rico). OVC adds an exception to match for projects undertaken by American Indian and Alaskan Native tribes, and projects that operate on tribal lands, as these projects, like those operating in U.S. territories, often have difficulties accessing matching resources. *Executive Order 13563—Regulatory Review.* **The elimination of match for American Indian and Alaskan Native tribes and projects on tribal lands will permit victim service organizations in these communities, many of which do not have the resources to provide matching funds, the ability to more easily seek VOCA funding for victim services. This will benefit victims in these communities, many of whom are underserved.**

- *§ 94.104 Allocation of Subawards.* Sets forth—pursuant to [42 U.S.C. 10603\(a\)\(2\)\(A\)](#) (priority category), and (B) (underserved category)—how SAAs must allocate their subawards. The allocation amounts in the final rule are the same as those in the Guidelines and proposed rule. Some commenters noted that victims of a priority category might also be underserved victims in some circumstances (e.g., child victims of sex trafficking might be underserved in a particular jurisdiction, however, sex trafficking of a minor would also be child sexual abuse), and that this causes confusion in reporting allocation amounts to OVC. Moreover, some victims with certain demographics (e.g., LGBTQ, American Indian/Alaskan Native) may be underserved even in the priority categories (e.g., victims of sexual assault). In response, **the final rule clarifies that SAAs may count funds allocated to such projects in either the priority or underserved category, but not both.**
- *§ 94.104 Allocation of Subawards.* Sets out the criteria by which SAAs must identify (for allocation of funds, reporting, and compliance purposes) services that assist previously underserved populations of victims of violent crime. SAAs must identify such a service for underserved victims of violent crime by the type of crime they experience (e.g., victims of elder abuse) or the characteristics of the victim (e.g., LGBTQ victims), or both (e.g., victims of violent crime in high crime urban areas). Underserved victims may differ between jurisdictions, but some examples of victim populations often underserved at the time of this rulemaking may include, but are not limited to, DUI/DWI victims; survivors of homicide victims; American Indian/Alaskan Native victims in certain jurisdictions with insufficient victim service resources; victims of physical assault; adults molested as children; victims of elder abuse; victims of hate and bias crimes; victims of kidnapping; child victims and adult survivors of child pornography; child victims of sex trafficking; victims of violent crime in high crime areas; LGBTQ victims; victims of federal crimes, victims of robbery; and victims of gang violence. **OVC has removed from the final rule the examples of possibly underserved victim populations, as such a list may change over time and is more appropriately set out in the preamble and supplementary OVC guidance, as necessary. “Economic Crimes such as identity theft not included within “Victim Crimes” category so VOCA funding cannot be used.**
- *§ 94.104 Allocation of Subawards.* A commenter asked that OVC increase the percentage of funding required to be allocated to underserved populations. **OVC has kept the mandated percentage at its present level, which balances the need for stability in state victim assistance funding with the need to ensure State victim assistance programs are responsive to emerging needs.**
- *§ 94.104 Allocation of Subawards.* The commenter also asked that OVC clarify that the exception allowing States to deviate from the underserved and priority percentages should be used sparingly. **OVC notes that such requests are extremely rare (OVC has record of only one); thus, as a practical matter, an additional limitation of the exception is unnecessary.**
- *§ 94.104 Allocation of Subawards.* The proposed rule would have required competition of all sub-awards. **Due to the potential administrative burden of requiring competition (particularly in jurisdictions with a limited number of SAA staff), OVC has not included such a requirement, though OVC does encourage SAAs to use a competitive process where feasible.**
- *§ 94.119 Allowable Direct Service Costs- Legal Assistance.* OVC recognizes that the available resources [for civil legal services] in each State differ, and, therefore, **States retain broad discretion to set limits on the type and scope of legal services that it allows its sub-recipients to provide with VOCA funding.** (i.e. *intervention with administrative agencies, schools/colleges, tribal entities, and other circumstances where legal advice or intervention would assist in addressing the consequences of a person's victimization*)

- *94.113 Use of volunteers, community efforts, compensation assistance.* - Promotion of community efforts to aid crime victims. Community served coordinated public and private efforts to aid crime victims may include, but are not limited to, serving on federal, State, local, or tribal work groups to oversee and recommend improvements to community responses to crime victims, and developing written agreements and protocols for such responses.
- *§ 94.120 Allowable Costs for Activities Supporting Direct Services- Restorative justice.* The proposed rule inadvertently omitted reference to restorative justice efforts, which are permitted in the current Guidelines. OVC has added this back into this final rule at section 94.120(g). The final rule is substantially similar to the Guidelines, except that the paragraph is reorganized to fit stylistically within the final rule, and to provide examples of restorative justice efforts (e.g., tribal community-led meetings and peace-keeping activities). Also, where the Guidelines required such efforts to have “possible” beneficial or therapeutic value, the final rule requires that such efforts must have “reasonably anticipated” beneficial or therapeutic value. OVC believes that such a standard is better suited to meet victim needs.
- *§ 94.120 Allowable Costs for Activities Supporting Direct Services- Restorative justice.* The final rule provides that a victim’s opportunity to withdraw must be inherent in any restorative justice effort supported by program funds, whereas the Guidelines had merely included this as one of several criteria that SAAs should consider when deciding whether to fund such efforts. Lastly, the Guidelines included as another criteria the benefit or therapeutic value to the victim, while the final rule requires that SAAs also consider the costs in relation to the benefit or therapeutic value to the victim, as restorative justice efforts can be expensive and those costs may not be justified under certain circumstances.

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Program Final Rule can be accessed online on the Federal Register

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/07/08/2016-16085/victims-of-crime-act-victim-assistance-program>



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Funding Opportunities

For a complete list of current funding solicitations from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), visit <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/Solicitation.aspx>.

Trainings and Events

Register Today for the Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN) 2016 National Conference! August 14-17, 2016 at Tulalip Hotel & Casino, Tulalip, WA.

<http://www.wewin04.org/conferenceinfo/>

Law Enforcement Scholarships Available from End Violence Against Women (EVAW) International for the 2017 International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Systems Change, April 18th-20th in Orlando, Florida. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must be a sworn law enforcement officer that responds or investigates sexual assault in the United States or Territories. To apply, please complete the application form and submit it by October 14, 2016.

<https://www.evawintl.org/images/uploads/Conference/2017-Orlando/2017%20Scholarship%20Application%20LE.pdf>

Sign up now for the First Annual Conference on Native American Nutrition (September 26-27, 2016). This is a first-of-its-kind opportunity to share and advance knowledge related to the dietary health of Native communities. For more information or to order tickets,

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/first-annual-conference-on-native-american-nutrition-tickets-24912577189>

Visit the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) website to register for Victim Assistance Training (VAT) modules. 50 training modules are currently available and can be taken ONLINE!

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspTrainingLanding.cfm>

Informational Resources

Visit the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC)'s new website, designed to reflect the enormous progress made in the science and practice of suicide prevention since SPRC first went online in 2002. Multitude of resources available for tribal communities and partners!

<http://www.sprc.org/resources-programs?type=All&populations=145&settings=All&problem=All&planning=All&strategies=All&state=All>

New Website Resource Now Available!! Tribal Access to Justice Innovation is a new website highlighting innovative tribal justice programs from around the country. Developed by the Center for Court Innovation's Tribal Justice Exchange, the website seeks to provide ideas and inspiration to reformers looking to address common challenges like substance use, domestic violence, gang involvement, and juvenile delinquency.

<http://www.tribaljustice.org/>

New Issue of American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research Journal Now Available from the Colorado School of Public Health Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health. Current issue includes a wide range of articles that address how strength and resilience-based approaches can support public health policy, research, and practice improvements to better serve indigenous peoples.

http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/PublicHealth/research/centers/CAIANH/journal/Pages/journal.aspx?utm_source=Weekly+Spark+July+15%2C+2016&utm_campaign=Weekly+Spark+July+15%2C+2016&utm_medium=email

The Bureau of Justice Statistics has released the "Tribal Crime Data Collection Activities, 2016." http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=5704&utm_source=juststats-072616&utm_medium=email&utm_content=TCDC16+Head&utm_campaign=juststats&ed2f26df2d9c416fbddddd2330a778c6=mluusqniln-mxnfxsqxHighlights

Hello OVC CTAS Tribal Grantees,

Unified Solutions (Unified) staff and consulting Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) can advise and provide training and technical assistance on a wide variety of subjects related to victimization, program management, and other relevant topics. Unified can provide the training at your site and you can invite your key partners and stakeholders to the training. Please let us know what kind of training or technical assistance you determined needing from your recent community assessment or from discussions with your stakeholders. If you would like a listing of training topics Unified can provide please contact one of our staff listed on this e-bulletin.

Unified staff can also provide on-site technical assistance on a variety of subjects ranging from facilitating community needs assessment forums or meetings, policy reviews, or engaging your team in strategic planning sessions. Unified can also coordinate and facilitate conference calls including calls with your OVC Program Specialists. Please never hesitate to contact us. We are here for you. As always, it is such a pleasure and honor to serve you and see all the great work you are doing in your tribal communities.

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