

OVC FY 2026 Preventing Trafficking of Girls

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: O-OVC-2026-172694

Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

1. Complete SF-424 and Submit in Grants.gov: **September 29, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. ET**
 2. Submit full application in JustGrants: **October 6, 2026, by 8:59 p.m. ET**
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Contents

1. Basic Information 3

2. Eligibility..... 5

3. Program Description 6

4. Application Contents and Format 7

5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines..... 14

6. Application Review information 14

7. Award Notices 14

8. Post-Award Requirements & Administration..... 14

9. Questions? 15

10.Appendix A..... 16

1. BASIC INFORMATION

Purpose of the Funding

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is committed to advancing work that furthers the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) mission to keep our country safe and secure and uphold the rule of law and protect the rights of American citizens. OJP provides federal leadership, funding, and other critical resources to directly support law enforcement, combat violent crime, protect American children, provide services to American crime victims, and address public safety challenges, including human trafficking and the opioid crisis.

This is a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the **OVC FY 2026 Preventing Trafficking of Girls**. This opportunity will support prevention and early intervention services for girls who are at risk of, or are victims of, human trafficking as defined by 22 U.S.C. § 7102(11) by funding programs to:

- Replicate and scale up prevention and early intervention programs for girls and young women who are at risk of, or are victims of, sex and/or labor trafficking.
- Implement or enhance efforts to identify and provide comprehensive and developmentally appropriate services to girls and young women who are at risk of, or are victims of, sex and/or labor trafficking. This may include street outreach efforts, partnerships with organizations that serve youth, partnerships with juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and/or collaboration with key community stakeholders.
- Participate in peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

Services may be provided to girls and young women up to and including age 25. Applicants should address how they will be prepared to serve survivors of all types of human trafficking, including both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. See Appendix A for types of services that OVC funds.

Input From Survivors of Human Trafficking

OVC encourages applicants to propose and implement ongoing engagement with individuals who have survived human trafficking to inform their programming.

Program Requirements

Applicants that receive funding under this program will be required to:

1. Comply with 22 U.S.C. § 7115, requiring award recipients under this program to have or implement privacy and confidentiality policies and procedures that conform with the requirements of 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(2). Section 12291(b)(2) specifies the confidentiality and privacy condition applicable to awards under the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, commonly referred to as the "VAWA Confidentiality Provision." For the purposes of this OVC program, the phrase "under this subchapter" in the VAWA Confidentiality Provision shall be understood

as referring to “this OVC program.” Applicants that do not already have policies and procedures that comply with the VAWA Confidentiality Provision may propose to use award funds to develop these.

2. Ensure that any staff, partner staff, or service providers working with trafficking victims are licensed and trained to work with such victims.
3. Ensure that the project coordinator/program director and other relevant staff participate in any grantee orientations.

Information on Managing Human Trafficking Awards

For more information on implementation of OVC Human Trafficking awards, please consult the [OVC Human Trafficking Program FAQs](#).

See the [Eligible Applicants](#) section for eligibility details.

Funding Details

Announcement Type	Initial
Assistance Listing Number	16.035
Statutory Authority	Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2026 (Pub. L. No. 119-74, 140 Stat 5, 34); 34 U.S.C. § 11171-11172.
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-OVC-2026-172694
Expected Total Amount of Funding	\$3,511,939
Anticipated Number of Awards	7
Award Type(s)	Grant
Anticipated Award Amount	Up to \$500,000
Expected Award Period(s)	36 months starting on January 1, 2027

Key Dates and Times

NOFO Release Date	August 20, 2026
SAM.gov Registration/Renewal	Begin the process as soon as possible, and no later than September 15, 2026
Step 1: Grants.gov Deadline	11:59 p.m. ET on September 29, 2026
Step 2: JustGrants Deadline	8:59 p.m. ET on October 6, 2026

See [Questions?](#) at the end of this NOFO for agency contact information.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

The types of entities that are eligible to apply are:

Government Entities

- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Native American Tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Native American Tribal governments (other than federally recognized)

Educational Organizations

- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education

Public Housing Organizations

- Public housing authorities
- Indian housing authorities

Nonprofit Organizations

- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher education

Other

- Other units of local government

“Other” Entities Definition:

- **Other units of local government:** For the purposes of this notice of funding opportunity, other units of local government include towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, or other general purpose political subdivisions of a state.

Cost Sharing (Match) Requirement: This NOFO does **not** require cost sharing (match).

Limit on Number of Applications: An applicant may submit only one application in response to the NOFO. If a project will be carried out by two or more entities (project partners), only one entity may submit the application. The other entities (project partners) must be proposed as subrecipients rather than co-applicants. An entity may be proposed as a subrecipient in more than one application. For additional information regarding subawards, see the [Application Resource Guide](#).

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Statutory Authority

Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2026 (Pub. L. No. 119-74, 140 Stat 5, 34); 34 U.S.C. § 11171-11172.

Agency Funding Priorities

To help meet its mission, OJP may give priority consideration to applications proposing (as applicable within the scope of this NOFO) projects designed to advance the goals listed below:

- (a) Directly supporting law enforcement operations (including immigration law enforcement operations);
- (b) Combatting violent crime;
- (c) Supporting services to American citizens;
- (d) Protecting American children; and
- (e) Supporting American victims of trafficking and sexual assault.

Note: Addressing these priorities is one of many factors that OJP considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

Unallowable Activities: The following are certain unallowable costs and certain activities that are out of the program scope and will not be funded.

1. Out of program scope is any program or activity, at any tier that, directly or indirectly, violates (or promotes or facilitates the violation of) federal immigration law (including 8 U.S.C. § 1373) or impedes or hinders the enforcement of federal immigration law—including by failing to comply with 8 U.S.C. § 1373, give access to DHS agents, or honor DHS requests and provide requested notice to DHS agents.
2. Out of program scope is any program or activity, at any tier that violates any applicable Federal civil rights or nondiscrimination law. This includes violations that (1) indirectly violate the law, including by promoting or facilitating violations; or (2) unlawfully favor individuals in any race or protected group, including on a majority or minority, or privileged or unprivileged, basis, within a given area, population, or sector.
3. As specified in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), in Chapter 3.13 “Unallowable Costs” (“Legal Services for Aliens”), any obligations of funds, at any tier, under this award to provide (or to support the provision of) legal services to any removable alien or any alien otherwise unlawfully present in the United States shall be unallowable costs for purposes any award made under this notice, but the foregoing shall not be understood to apply: (1) to legal services to obtain protection orders for victims of crime; or (2)

to immigration-related legal services that may be expressly authorized or required by any law, or any judicial ruling, governing or applicable to the award.

Goals and Objectives of This Funding Opportunity

Goal 1: Prevent and reduce victimization of girls who are at risk for sex and/or labor trafficking.

- **Objective 1:** Increase programs providing prevention, education, awareness, risk reduction, resilience building, and development of community support systems.
- **Objective 2:** Identify and provide prevention, early intervention, or comprehensive and developmentally appropriate services to girls and young women who are at risk of becoming or currently are victims of sex and/or labor trafficking.

For a description of how awards under this NOFO will contribute to achieving these goals and objectives, see the [Performance Reports](#) section below.

Expected Outcomes

OJP expects recipients to submit deliverables and performance reports, as described below. Read the [Application Resource Guide](#) for more information. OJP will measure success by reviewing a recipient's submission of performance reports and data and the extent to which project implementation reflects progress toward the goals and objectives of this NOFO.

Deliverables

Recipients do not need to submit any deliverables other than the standard items in the [Post-Award Requirements and Administration](#) section.

Performance Reports

OJP requires recipients to submit regular performance reports that communicate progress toward achieving [Program Goals and Objectives](#). Read information on [performance reporting](#). Award recipients will receive further guidance on post-award reporting requirements.

4. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

Application Contents List

OJP will only consider applications that contain all required parts, which are marked ***Required*** below. Refer to the [DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist](#) for application instructions.

Application Item	Submission Type
Step 1: Grants.gov	
Application for Federal Assistance: SF-424 *Required*	Online Form
Step 2: JustGrants	
Standard Applicant Information *Required*	Online Form
Proposal Abstract	Text Box
Data Requested with Application - Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status) - Agency Funding Priorities Inventory	Online Form
Proposal Narrative *Required*	Attachment
Budget *Required*	Online Form
Other Budget/Financial Attachments - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) - Consultant Rate (if applicable) - Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards Over \$250,000; Waiver (if applicable) - Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation (if applicable)	Attachment
Letter of Intent and Memorandum of Understanding	Attachment
Additional Application Components - Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) - Curriculum Vitae or Resumes - Timeline	Attachment

In addition to the items marked ***Required*** in the table above, the following are considered basic minimum requirement elements that are considered in the responsiveness review:

- The application is submitted by an eligible applicant.
- The requested award amount does not exceed the award ceiling.
- The application is responsive to the scope of the NOFO.

Standard Applicant Information *Required*

Review and edit as needed the information imported from the SF-424 submitted in Grants.gov. Add ZIP codes for areas affected by the project.

Proposal Abstract

In JustGrants, enter a proposal abstract (limited to 2,000 characters) summarizing the proposed project. As abstracts for funded projects are public, do not include any personally identifying information (e.g., staff names). The abstract should include the following information:

- The name of the applicant's proposed project.
- The purpose of the proposed project (*i.e.*, what the project will do and why it is necessary).
- Where the project will take place (*i.e.*, the service area, if applicable).
- Who will be served by the project (*i.e.*, who will be helped or have their needs addressed by the project).
- What activities will be carried out to complete the project.
- The subrecipient(s)/partner organizations or entities, if known.
- Deliverables and expected outcomes (*i.e.*, what the project will achieve).

View an example of a [proposal abstract](#).

Data Requested with Application

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (including Applicant Disclosure of High-Risk Status)

Review information on this [questionnaire](#).

Agency Funding Priorities Inventory

Applicants seeking priority consideration under the [Agency Funding Priorities](#) section should answer the inventory questions in their entirety in the web-based form in JustGrants.

Proposal Narrative *Required*

Format of the Proposal Narrative

Submit the narrative as an attachment in JustGrants. The document should:

- Be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point size font
- Have no less than 1-inch margins
- Have numbered pages
- Not exceed 8 pages

Tables, charts, and graphs may be included in the Proposal Narrative and can be created in a legible font smaller than 12-point. These items will count toward the page limit.

If the Proposal Narrative does not follow this format, OJP may reduce score/ranking of the application.

Sections of the Proposal Narrative

The Proposal Narrative must include the four sections listed below. If you want priority consideration, the Proposal Narrative must state which [priority\(ies\)](#) your project will advance and describe how it will do so.

1. Description of the Need (5% of application score): What critical issue or problem do you propose to address with this project? Please include:

- A brief explanation of the need, gap, or issue to be addressed by the proposed project.
- Supporting information, data, or evidence to demonstrate the need's existence, size, and impact on the target population and community.
- How the need relates to the purpose of the NOFO.

2. Project Goals and Objectives (15% of application score): How will the proposed project address the need identified and address the purpose of the NOFO? Please include:

- Project goals (goals are broad, visionary statements on what you hope to accomplish).
- Project objectives (objectives are specific outcomes you plan to achieve through project activities).
- How your project goals and objectives relate to the [goals and objectives of the funding opportunity](#).
- How the proposed project will address the needs of victims of both sex and labor trafficking.

3. Project Design and Implementation (35% of application score): How will you implement project activities that meet the project goals and objectives? Please include:

- What activities you will conduct to achieve the proposed goals and objectives.
- How you will deliver or complete those activities.
- When the activities will take place.
- Who in your organization will staff the activities, including key staff.
- Who will participate in and benefit from the activity.

- What deliverables, reports, and other items will be produced as part of the project.
- If you plan to use subrecipients to help conduct the project, please name them (if they are known) or describe how you will identify them. Please describe their role in conducting project activities.

4. Capabilities and Competencies (30% of application score): What administrative and technical capacity and expertise do you bring to successfully complete this project? Please include:

- A short description of your capacity to deliver the proposed project and meet the post-award requirements, if funded, including collecting and reporting the required performance measure data and managing the administrative and financial aspects of the award.
- A description of who will be responsible for these tasks, and how they will collect the data.
- A description of projects or activities your organization has conducted, or is currently conducting, that demonstrates your ability to undertake the proposed project activities.
- A summary of relevant experience of team members with key responsibilities for implementing the project, including the capacity and expertise of lead and proposed project partners to respond to all types of human trafficking.
- For services or activities that are proposed to be conducted by project partners receiving subawards, you must submit a corresponding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or letter of intent (LOI) outlining the work to be conducted (see information below under Letter of Intent and Memorandum of Understanding).

Project Evaluations: An applicant that proposes to use award funds to conduct project evaluations must follow the guidance on [project evaluations](#).

Budget and Associated Documentation

Budget (15% of application score) ***Required***

Use the Budget Detail Worksheet (Web-Based Form) to submit the budget. Read information on [budget preparation](#) and [JustGrants Application Submission Training](#).

- List each cost needed to implement the project under the appropriate cost category.
- Clearly name and describe each cost.
- Show the computation of each cost (e.g., cost per unit, number of units, and total cost).
- Enter narrative, as needed, to explain the cost calculations and connection to your project goals, objectives, and activities.

- Include only costs that are reasonable, allocable, and necessary to implement the project. They must be allowable under the funding statute and agency requirements.¹

The following information specific to this funding opportunity will help you develop your project budget.

- OVC permits applicants proposing to implement victim services programs to allot a portion of their budget for assessment or evaluations activities.
- All recipients and subrecipients (including any for-profit organization) must forgo any profit or management fee.
- Funding Restrictions: The following activities cannot be supported with grant funds.
 - Holding Beds: Grantees may not “hold beds” in a housing facility by charging their cost to the grant and keeping them empty until a victim needs the bed when other victims need access to the beds, as this would be considered an unallowable contingency payment (see 2 C.F.R. § 200.433 (c)).
 - Stipends/Incentives to Participate in Services: Neither cash nor non-cash stipends or incentives may be paid to victims to encourage their participation in services. Noncash stipends (e.g., taxi or ride share vouchers, public transportation tickets or tokens, childcare services, or gift cards for meals that are necessary when participants receive services) are allowable.
 - Savings Accounts for Victims: Federal funds cannot be invested in savings accounts for victims.
 - Cash Assistance: Grantees may not provide direct cash assistance to victims of human trafficking. Limited and controlled use of gift cards to meet the urgent and short-term needs of victims of human trafficking is allowable.
 - Purchase of vehicles.

Budget/Financial Attachments

- **Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable):** If the budget includes indirect costs calculated using a current, federally approved indirect cost rate, upload your indirect cost rate agreement. Read information about [indirect costs](#).
- **Consultant Rate (if applicable):** Read information on [limits to consultant rates](#) and whether you need to request approval to exceed those limits.

¹ See [2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E](#) and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#). Read information on [unallowable costs](#) that apply to all funding opportunities.

- **Limitation on Use of Award Funds for Employee Compensation for Awards Over \$250,000; Waiver (if applicable):** Read information on this [limitation](#) and to determine whether you need to submit a waiver.
- **Disclosure of Process Related to Executive Compensation (if applicable):** An applicant that is a nonprofit organization may be required to make certain disclosures relating to the processes it uses to determine the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees. Read information about this [disclosure and documentation](#) to upload.

Letter of Intent and Memorandum of Understanding

For each named partner involved in the project (whether as a subrecipient that will receive federal funds to carry out part of the federal award, or otherwise), applicants should include a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or a letter of intent (LOI) that confirms the partner's agreement to support the project through commitments of staff time, space, services, or other project needs. These documents demonstrate the commitment of partner organizations to participate in the project. An MOU is a formalized commitment of staff and/or resources that is signed by authorized representatives of both partner organizations. An LOI indicates the organizations' intention to partner, but the details of the commitment have not been fully worked out and officially agreed to.

Each MOU or LOI should include the following:

- Names of the organizations involved in the agreement.
- What service(s) and other work will be performed under the agreement and by what organization.
- Duration of the agreement.

MOUs and LOIs should be submitted as one separate attachment to the application. Unsigned draft MOUs may be submitted with the application, but the applicant should describe in a cover page to the attachment why it is unsigned.

Additional Application Components

Attach these in JustGrants:

- **Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable):** Read information on whether you may need to submit a [Tribal Authorizing Resolution](#).
- **Curriculum Vitae or Resumes:** Provide resumes of key personnel who will work on the proposed project or a description of the experience and skills of key personnel necessary to implement the project.
- **Timeline:** Provide a timeline listing key activities and milestones, and the quarters during which they will take place.

Disclosures and Assurances

Read the [disclosures and assurances](#) and complete them in JustGrants:

- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
- Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items (if applicable)
- DOJ Certified Standard Assurances
- DOJ Certifications
- Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High-Risk Grantees (if applicable)

5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

The [DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist](#) provides instructions for how to submit your application by the [deadlines](#). [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 12372](#) (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs) does not apply to this funding opportunity: read the [Application Resource Guide](#) for details. Read OJP's policy for applicants to [request late submission](#) due to technical difficulties, severe weather, or natural or manmade disasters.

6. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

The [Application Resource Guide](#) explains the responsiveness review, review criteria, and review and selection process, including risk review, and deciding official. Refer to the [Application Contents List](#) for all required application components and other basic minimum requirement elements that are considered in the responsiveness review. The [Proposal Narrative](#) and [Budget](#) sections of this NOFO indicates the weight of peer review criteria.

7. AWARD NOTICES

Read about the [award notification](#) process.

8. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS & ADMINISTRATION

Read the [Application Resource Guide](#) for more information about: standard award terms and conditions, administrative and national policy requirements, and post-award reporting requirements.

9. QUESTIONS?

NOFO Contact	Name: OJP Response Center Phone: 800-851-3420 or 202-353-5556 (TTY for hearing-impaired callers only) Email: OJP.ResponseCenter@usdoj.gov Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday
SAM.gov Help Desk	Website: sam.gov/help Hours: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday (closed federal holidays)
Grants.gov Help Desk	Phone: 800-518-4726 Email: support@grants.gov Website: grants.gov/support Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed federal holidays)
JustGrants Help Desk	Phone: 833-872-5175 Email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov Hours: 7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday and 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

Appendix A: Examples of Generally Statutorily Allowable Uses of Funds

Type of Service	Service Provision Terms
Information and Referral	- Information about the criminal justice process - Information about victims' rights, how to obtain notifications, etc. - Referral to other victim service programs - Referral to other services, support, and resources - Information about substance use disorder treatment and support - Referral to substance use disorder treatment and support
Personal Advocacy/Accompaniment	- Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care or forensic exam - Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment - Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits or other low-cost alternatives) - Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview, or medical evidence collection - Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution - Child or dependent care assistance - Transportation assistance - Interpreter services - Family reunification
Emotional Support, Safety, and Health Services	- Crisis intervention - Hotline/Crisis line counseling - On-scene crisis response - Individual therapy/mental health services - Dental services - Support groups - Emergency financial assistance - Provision of emergency medical care - Provision of long-term, non-therapeutic medical care (with the prior approval of OVC) - Substance use disorder services - Protection/Safety planning - Case management
Shelter/Housing Services	- Emergency shelter or placement - Transitional housing - Relocation assistance - Rapid rehousing - Rental assistance - Host homes - Other shelter/housing

Criminal/Civil Justice System Assistance	▪ Notification of criminal justice events ▪ Victim impact statement assistance ▪ Assistance with restitution ▪ Civil legal assistance ▪ Legal services (but only to the extent allowed under the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, Section 3.13 “Unallowable Costs” (“Legal Services for Aliens”)) ▪ Law enforcement or prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment ▪ Repatriation ▪ Public benefits law ▪ Criminal record relief (<i>for a non-violent crime that is a direct result of being a trafficking victim</i>) ▪ Victim’s rights representation
Education/Employment/Skill Building	▪ Education ▪ Job/Vocational training ▪ Job readiness ▪ Skill building (i.e., life skills)