

OVC FY 2026 Specialized Human Trafficking Assistance: Task Forces and Legal Services

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: O-OVC-2026-172790

Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

1. Complete SF-424 and Submit in Grants.gov: **December 1, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. ET**
 2. Submit full application in JustGrants: **December 8, 2026, by 8:59 p.m. ET**
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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 Specialized Human Trafficking Assistance: Task Forces and Legal Services**. This opportunity will assist OVC-funded multidisciplinary anti-trafficking task forces and teams (MDTs) and legal service providers by offering specialized training to ensure successful outcomes for victims of human trafficking, as defined by 22 U.S.C. § 7102(11). Applicants should propose approaches that strengthen Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) task forces, MDTs, and legal service providers' capacity to identify and serve victims, conduct victim-centered investigations, and successfully prosecute traffickers.

This NOFO has two funding categories:

Category 1: Support for Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) Task Forces/MDTs

Category 1 award recipients will deliver specialized training and assistance on data-driven investigative techniques to identify human trafficking, successful prosecutorial approaches, and strategies for effectively implementing multidisciplinary partnerships. This category will help OVC-funded anti-trafficking task forces and MDTs increase their capacity to identify and support victims, seek justice on their behalf, and prosecute traffickers. This specialized assistance will include supporting OVC-funded task forces and MDTs to coordinate with Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTFs), where appropriate.

The program will support all stages of task force development and assist multidisciplinary teams to plan, develop, and implement sustainable, multifaceted strategies and protocols in support of program goals and objectives.

The successful applicant will support the task forces by:

- Facilitating a cross-sector anti-trafficking response—encompassing law enforcement, prosecutorial, and victim services—rooted in victim-centered best practices;
- Identifying strategies, tools, and resources to assist OVC-funded task forces and MDTs to coordinate and integrate their efforts with HSTFs and their activities;
- Implementing capacity-building activities for multidisciplinary partners and supporting task force development and structure, including support with

onboarding new and established task forces, recruiting partners, outlining roles and responsibilities, and developing protocols and collaborative tools;

- Assisting with data collection, analytics, confidentiality and data sharing issues, and ongoing assessment of program impact; and
- Recruiting, maintaining, and facilitating liaisons to work with task forces to provide peer-to-peer advisory support (remote and onsite).
 - The peer liaisons should be experts with experience managing successful human trafficking investigations and prosecutions, providing services, developing and implementing MDT protocols and standard operating procedures specific to human trafficking, data collection and information sharing, and the use of intelligence and advanced analytical methods.
 - It is critical that the peer liaisons have experience facilitating partnerships among a wide range of multidisciplinary partners, especially between law enforcement and victim service providers.

Category 2: Support for Anti-Trafficking Legal Service Providers

Category 2 award recipients will provide specialized training to OVC anti-trafficking grantees on human trafficking legal issues. The proposed project must address the full range of legal needs of trafficking victims, including, but not limited to, victim compensation, child custody and family reunification, identity theft, expunging records for nonviolent crimes, criminal restitution, civil actions, removing nonconsensual intimate images, repatriation, and legal services related to trafficking victimization as outlined in Section 3.13 of the DOJ Grants Financial Guide.

The applicant must demonstrate the capacity to provide training and support to legal service providers throughout the United States, including U.S. territories and Tribal lands, as well as the ability to assist with complex legal issues, such as navigating new federal legislation such as the [Trafficking Survivors Relief Act](#).

Note for All Categories:

1. Applicants should propose how they will leverage existing training and resources.
2. Applicants must describe how they will coordinate with existing OVC-funded award recipients providing support to OVC anti-trafficking grantees across programs to prevent duplication. The successful applicant will develop relevant collaboration mechanisms.

The successful applicant must have demonstrated expertise in successfully managing national-level training and technical assistance programs that address human trafficking.

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.

Coordination with OVC

Applicants must describe how they will coordinate with OVC anti-trafficking grantees across programs to prevent duplication and collaboratively support the needs of OVC grantees and the broader anti-trafficking field.

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 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	16.320
Statutory Authority	22 U.S.C. § 7105(b)(2)
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-OVC-2026-172790
Competition ID Number	Category 1: C-OVC-2026-00012-PROD Category 2: C-OVC-2026-00013-PROD
Expected Total Amount of Funding	\$5,000,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	Category 1: 1 Category 2: 1
Award Type(s)	Grant
Anticipated Award Amount	Category 1: Up to \$3,000,000 Category 2: Up to \$2,000,000

Expected Award Period(s)	36 months starting on March 1, 2027
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Key Dates and Times

NOFO Release Date	October 6, 2026
SAM.gov Registration/Renewal	Begin the process by October 30, 2026, and no later than November 16, 2026
Step 1: Grants.gov Deadline	11:59 p.m. ET on December 1, 2026
Step 2: JustGrants Deadline	8:59 p.m. ET on December 8, 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:

Educational Organizations

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

Nonprofit Organizations

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

For-Profit Organizations

- Organizations other than small businesses
- Small businesses

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

Limit on Number of Applications: 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](#).

Additional Eligibility Factors

Nonprofit organizations that hold money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in 26 U.S.C. § 511(a) are not eligible to apply.

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Statutory Authority

22 U.S.C. § 7105(b)(2)

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: Improve the quality of services and multidisciplinary responses to victims of human trafficking through training and technical assistance for anti-trafficking task forces and legal service providers.

- **Objective 1:** Provide ongoing comprehensive, nationwide technical support services to OVC ECM task forces, MDTs, and legal service providers.
- **Objective 2:** Support capacity building to provide quality anti-trafficking victim services.
- **Objective 3:** Increase collaboration among OVC grantees, other federally funded service providers and programs, and other stakeholders to avoid duplication and enhance victim identification, service delivery, and multidisciplinary responses.
- **Objective 4 (Category 1 only):** Support OVC-funded task forces and MDTs to coordinate and integrate their efforts with HSTFs and their activities, where appropriate.

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 - 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 20 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 OVC anti-trafficking grantees and their community partners.
- 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](#).

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, and those of any proposed partners, to deliver the proposed project and address the law enforcement, prosecutorial, and victim services response to victims of human trafficking (if applying under Category 1) and the full range of legal needs of trafficking victims (if applying under Category 2).
- A description of your capacity to 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 you 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- A description of demonstrated expertise in successfully managing national-level training and technical assistance programs that address human trafficking.

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.

- 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.
 - Primary Prevention Activities: Per 22 U.S.C. § 7105(b)(2), the purpose of this funding is to support victim service programs; therefore, applicants should not propose primary prevention activities under this program.
 - Promotion of Prostitution: Per 22 U.S.C. § 7110(g), the following statutory language applies to all awards under this NOFO:
 - Restriction on programs: No funds made available to carry out this chapter, or any amendment made by this chapter, may be used to promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed to preclude assistance designed to promote the purposes of this Act by ameliorating the suffering of, or health risks to, victims while they are being trafficked or after they are out of the situation that resulted from such victims being trafficked.
 - Restriction on organizations: No funds made available to carry out this chapter, or any amendment made by this chapter, may be used to implement any program that targets victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons described in section 7102(11) of this title through any organization that has not stated in either a grant application, a grant agreement, or both that it does not promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution. The preceding sentence shall not apply to organizations that provide services to individuals solely after they are no longer engaged in activities that resulted from such victims being trafficked.

Pursuant to the statute above, OVC requires grantees under this program to agree to the following award condition: *Recipient certifies that it does not promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution, nor will it use grant funds or program match funds to promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution.*

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.

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.
- **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 (MOU)

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:

- **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 technical 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.