

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS (LAV) GRANT PROGRAM

Change in FY 2010 LAV Solicitation- Due the amount of information required in the FY 2010 LAV data summery sheet, applicants may include this information in two double-spaced pages. This is a change from the one page limit stated in the FY 2010 LAV solicitation.

Eligibility

Q: Is a state university eligible to apply for funding?

A: Per the solicitation (page 4), eligible applicants for the FY 2010 LAV solicitation are as follows: Private nonprofit entities, including faith-based and community organizations; Publicly funded organizations not acting in a governmental capacity, such as law schools; Territorial Organizations; and Indian Tribal governments, Indian Tribal organizations or Indian Tribal consortia.

Even if a potential applicant is eligible to apply, the applicant must also meet the criteria and the statutory purpose area for this grant program. In regard to state universities, it is primarily law schools that apply because they are able to address the criteria and statutory purpose areas for this grant program. However, any entity that meets the criteria and statutory purposes areas is eligible.

Q: My organization currently receives LAV funding from another organization's grant. May we apply as a lead applicant for an LAV grant?

A: Per page 5 of the FY 2010 LAV solicitation, "Project partners who are currently receiving Federal Fiscal Year 2009 funding from any other LAV funded project in the amount of \$50,000 or more are not eligible to apply as a lead applicant or as a project partner on a FY 2010 application." You may apply as a lead applicant as long as your organization is receiving less than \$50,000 from any other LAV funded project(s).

Application

Q: Should we apply on www.grants.gov as we have in previous years?

A: No. All FY 2010 LAV applicants should be registered with the Grants Management System (GMS) before January 21, 2010. Applicants with a current GMS user id and password do not need to register again. All applicants must submit an application both on GMS and by overnight delivery by February 4, 2010. Please review the FY 2010 LAV solicitation for more details on registering and applying.

Q: What activities or expenses are considered "direct legal services"?

A: Direct legal services include all services that lead to a victim receiving legal services (advocacy, paralegals, computer systems, intake teams, translators, etc) and the expenses that support these activities.

- Q: Our project partners are spread throughout the state. Are we required to obtain and submit original partner signatures on one MOU signature sheet?
- A: It is permissible to obtain partner signatures via facsimile or scanned documents, though OVW encourages you to obtain original signatures for your records. Please carefully review all MOU requirements beginning on page 18 of the FY 2010 LAV solicitation.
- Q: My organization does not have an attorney on staff. May we use LAV funds to hire private attorneys to handle legal issues for our clients?
- A: OVW encourages grantees to utilize the services of pro bono attorneys to make available the greatest number of legal services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. Some smaller communities may lack a large pool of pro bono attorneys with appropriate experience in domestic violence and sexual assault. Grantees in such areas may consider working with private attorneys to accept cases on a sliding or reduced fee scale.
- Q: How should the Memorandum of Understanding be formatted?
- A: The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Internal Memorandum of Understanding (IMOU) may be single-spaced. A sample MOU is available at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/applicants.htm>.
- Q: Where can I find the current LAV Grant Recipients Policy Guidebook?
- A: The most current LAV Grant Recipients Policy Guidebook is the FY 2005 edition. It can be found at http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/fy2005_lav_guidebook.pdf.
- Q: Will I receive a confirmation that OVW received my application?
- A: Due to the number of applications received, OVW is not able to confirm receipt of applications. OVW strongly encourages each applicant to retain proof of application submission both online as well as overnight submission of a hard copy application.