



Summary and Highlights from AVA Connect Call May 15, 2025

Number of Attendees: 21 (31 registered)

Facilitator: Laura Quasney, Program Specialist, Department of Public Safety— Victim's Service Program (SD) and AVA Board Member

CALL HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Ice Breaker

Activity: *"This or That"* – this was fun and engaging!

2. Discussion: Pressing Issues and Support Needs

I. SASP and STOP conversation included:

- Participants expressed hope that STOP announcement will soon follow the SASP NOFO announcement.
- Many expressed optimism about STOP – someone stated, "we operate on a calendar year, and we are now in the 2nd year of a 2-year award."
- *"We reviewed the changes and with those changes it looks like we're going to have to change our operations to have legal and our director review things to decide how to proceed."*
- *"We typically do a 2-year project period for our federal NOFOs; STOP and SASP for this cycle was originally scheduled to end June 30, 2025. For STOP and SASP, we are extending/continuing the current NOFO into a 3rd budget year utilizing the funds we have currently."*
- Many reported operating "business as usual"— someone stated, "...we released opportunities following our normal schedule..."

- Culturally Specific funding announcement was released.
- Some participants reported adding appropriate language to their funding announcement (ex: "...pursuant to funding federal funding..." – someone also mentioned adding new language to their website.

II. How is everyone handling STOP Implementation Planning?

- Business as usual; going forward with state meetings
- Someone asked, "Are you having issues with outreach or collaboration with culturally specific organization due to funds being federal dollars?"
 - Responses included:
 - "People have lots of questions that we cannot answer."
 - "I feel helpless because I have no additional information to offer..."
 - Plus more...
 - *"We've been advised to explicitly pose questions to funders and request guidance, as needed."*

III. Question Raised for OVW:

- Are the guidelines within the implementation plan going to change?

Peer advice offered: *"Keep your head up, talk about it, and keep moving forward."*

3. Resource Shared

See below for comparison chart shared during the meeting.

4. Announcements/Upcoming Events

- AVA Annual Meeting: Virtual on **June 5, 2025**
 - Includes **election for new AVA board members** -several board seats are open. If you are interested in serving, complete application and return it by May 23.
- **Next AVA Connect Call-** June 17 @ 2:00pm (ET)
- **Upcoming Discussion:**

- Topic: Working with Tribes and Tribal Coalitions
- Facilitators: Alaska Native Women's Resource Center and National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. Additional details coming soon!

Note: Peer shared this comparison document for information purposes only.

Here's a comparison of the key differences:

Core Details

- **Fiscal Year and Document Type:**
 - The FY25 document is a "Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)" for Fiscal Year 2025.
 - The FY24 document is a "Solicitation" for Fiscal Year 2024.
- **Program Name:** The year in the program name reflects the respective fiscal year ("OVW FY 2025 Sexual Assault Services Formula Program" vs. "OVW Fiscal Year 2024 Sexual Assault Services Formula Program").
- **Deadlines:** All application-related deadlines are updated for the new fiscal year.
 - **FY25 NOFO:** Grants.gov SF-424 deadline is June 10, 2025; JustGrants application deadline is June 12, 2025. The Funding Opportunity Release Date was on or about May 8, 2025.
 - **FY24 Solicitation:** Grants.gov SF-424 and SF-LLL deadline was June 3, 2024; JustGrants full application deadline was June 5, 2024. The Solicitation Release Date was April 24, 2024.
- **Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number:**
 - FY25 NOFO: O-OVW-2025-172377
 - FY24 Solicitation: O-OVW-2024-172041
- **Funding Details:**
 - **Expected Total Funding:** The FY25 NOFO lists an expected total amount of \$52,042,135. The FY24 Solicitation did not explicitly state a total in its initial summary.
 - **Anticipated Awards:** FY25 NOFO anticipates 56 awards.
 - **Expected Award Amounts:** FY25 NOFO lists a range of \$256,557 - \$2,065,486.
 - **Award Period Start Date:** FY25 awards will start on August 1, 2025, while FY24 awards started on August 1, 2024.
 - The Assistance Listing Number (16.017) and the program's statutory authority (34 U.S.C § 12511) remain the same for both years.

Programmatic Changes and Requirements

- **Priorities (New in FY25 NOFO):** The FY25 NOFO introduces a specific "Priorities" section, encouraging projects that address:
 1. Measures to combat human trafficking and transnational crime linked to illegal immigration and cartel operations, supporting victims who have also suffered domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking.
 2. Projects for victim services (especially housing) and improved law enforcement response in rural/remote areas, Tribal nations, and small towns. The FY24 Solicitation did not have a similar dedicated "Priorities" section in its main body.
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- **Program-Specific Unallowable Costs / Out-of-Scope Activities (Significantly Expanded in FY25):** The FY25 NOFO features a substantially longer list of "Out-of-Scope Activities" compared to the FY24 Solicitation. Key additions or more specific prohibitions in FY25 include activities related to:
 - Promoting or facilitating the violation of federal immigration law.
 - Inculcating or promoting gender ideology as defined in Executive Order 14168.
 - Promoting or facilitating discriminatory programs or ideology, including certain DEI initiatives, as described in Executive Order 14173.
 - Framing domestic violence or sexual assault as systemic social justice issues rather than criminal offenses.
 - Programs discouraging collaboration with law enforcement or limiting their role.
 - Initiatives prioritizing illegal aliens over U.S. citizens and legal residents for victim services.
 - Legal services (newly listed as out-of-scope for SASP). Both documents maintain prohibitions on activities like research projects, prevention/education-focused activities, certain criminal justice projects, SAMFE programs, and SART coordination.
- **Certification Regarding Out-of-Scope Activities (New in FY25):** Applicants for FY25 must submit a letter certifying that grant funds will not be used for a specific list of 11 out-of-scope activities, many of which align with the newly expanded unallowable costs. This certification was not required in FY24.
- **Indirect Cost Rate:**

- The de minimis indirect cost rate an applicant can elect to charge changed from 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) in FY24 to **up to 15%** of MTDC in FY25.
- **Rape Survivor Child Custody Act (RSCCA) Funding:** While both years offer additional funding under RSCCA, the deadlines for submitting legal opinions or certifications are different, corresponding to their respective fiscal years. The FY25 NOFO also specifies that qualifying state statutes must be enacted on or before June 13, 2025.
- **Application Submission (SF-LLL):**
 - FY25 NOFO: The Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) is required if the applicant has paid or will pay for lobbying and the application is for more than \$100,000; it's submitted in JustGrants if applicable.
 - FY24 Solicitation: Stated that all applicants must complete and submit the SF-LLL in Grants.gov as part of Step 1.
- **Summary Data Sheet (Appendix B):** The FY25 Summary Data Sheet includes new questions. Notable additions are:
 - Whether the applicant is serving as a fiscal agent.
 - Whether the state/territory will support projects addressing the two new priorities (human trafficking/transnational crime & rural/remote victim services). Questions regarding administrative funds also appear more detailed or are structured differently in the FY25 version.

Areas with No Significant Changes

- **Assistance Listing Number:** Remains 16.017.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** Remain the same for states and territories.
- **Cost Sharing/Matching:** Neither year has a matching requirement.
- **Program Purpose Areas:** The core purpose areas derived from statute remain consistent.
- **Pre-Award Risk Assessment (Appendix A):** The questions appear largely unchanged.

In summary, while the core mission of the Sexual Assault Services Formula Program is consistent, the FY25 NOFO introduces notable new priorities, significantly expands the list of unallowable/out-of-scope activities (with a corresponding new certification requirement), and updates various administrative and application details, including deadlines and the de minimis indirect cost rate.