

To encourage and facilitate mutual support, awareness and cooperation

among states and territories administering Violence Against Women Act grants

**OVW/AVA**

**Conference Call Minutes**

**Monday, July 8th, 2019**

**11:00 – 12:15 EST**

**Conference Dial-In Information (605) 313-4819**

**Pass Code 930328#**

1. **Welcome & Introductions  
     
   OVW Staff –** Amy Loder, Kevin Sweeney, Omar Mohammed, LaTonya Eaddy  **AVA Board Members –** Burke Fitzpatrick and (BJ Nelson), MaryEllen Garcia, Cecilia Miller, Tina Chamberlain, Gene Nelson, Julia Fuller-Wilson, Diana Fleming, Merry Wills  
     
   **AVA Staff** - Barry Bryant
2. **Technical Assistance Resource Digest** project  
   Any other updates regarding when this will be released?

* Brief background – OVW funds a lot of TA, a portion dedicated to grant programs, some available to everyone and some available to most everyone and they have 7 resource centers.
* TA to TA calendar – This calendar is not always up to date and everyone cannot access the calendar and it is not completely user-friendly, OVW is developing the Resource Digest to be as useful as possible.
* An OVW goal with the TA Digest is to reduce emails that go out to Administrators and instead develop a TA Resource Digest and allow OVW to include most relevant and important information.
* The Resource Digest will be broken out by the four allocation areas and include other issues OVW considers appropriate (firearms laws, etc.).
* OVW will send out quarterly and highlight one of the four allocation areas. They will provide description of specific resource center and let grantees know what is available to them.
* OVW sent out a rough draft to a handful of administrators to get their feedback and asked them to send it to their grantees for feedback. LaTonya and Charlena will consider feedback and provide a summary of how the TA Digest can be used.
* They hope to get the Digest out by October of 2019.
* Question from AVA – have travel requests to OVW for conference participation decreased due to heavy increase in VOCA funding?  
  + Some administrators are using their admin funds to attend.
  + OVW suggests that they could put this on their list of questions to ask administrators in the future.
  + In SC, due to initial increase and current decrease –developed a travel restriction for all out-of-state travel; are also freezing any salary increases. 31% decrease in VOCA funding this year compared to last.
  + Vermont doing basically the same thing.
  + AVA - This conversation makes it clear that VAWA administrators must have meaningful implementation planning conversations with VOCA Administrators and conduct meaningful strategic planning of both VOCA and VAWA funding.
  + New Mexico has an extensive strategic plan – 300 pages
  + OVW agrees that collaborative funding conversations must take place because they are seeing funding being returned which is not what they want to see. Funding is there to serve victims and when it is returned, it is concerning.
* OVW – Is VOCA funding restrictive?
  + AVA - Less restrictive than VAWA in some ways but pointed solely to direct services.
  + VOCA funding can serve many different crime victims but only for direct services, thus somewhat limited in what can be done.
  + VAWA is critical in supporting funding to LE and Prosecution. Leverage is the key.
  + We need to fully understand each funding program and to strategically utilize all funding streams to ensure collaborative effort

and complete leveraging.

1. **Discretionary Grant Programs**  
   Are there specific focus areas that OVW is hoping applicants will address in their applications?
   * None of the 2020 solicitations have been released yet. OVW is currently finalizing these. OVW has a new Acting Director (Laura Rogers) and it is her discretion to have her own priorities and should expect to hear soon what those are.
2. **Minnesota Program Update**  
   Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women project – Minnesota received funding from the state legislature to support this needs assessment or data collection tool.   
   - Tribes are indicating that this has been a problem for a long time.  
   - Reports of murders being reported but not being investigated.   
   - Working with native facilitator and native researcher and are currently developing an advisory group.   
   - Want to find out just how deep and broad this problem is with 18 months to get a report to legislators.  
     
   Montana and Oregon are doing the same thing and must report out during next legislative session. Nebraska asked for funding to support a study. NM has a task force and funding for a similar initiative is going to their BIA.  
     
   Minnesota reached out to their OVW Program Manager last week regarding moving admin money to VAWA Discretionary funding to make an award to themselves.
   * AVA **-** You can move admin money and make an award to yourself.
   * AVA - Must move from admin to discretionary allocation
3. **Status of FY19 Awards**  
   - We are conducting reviews now. - It is a lengthy process to review and to get an award out the door.   
   - Administrators will hear back from OVW by October 1, 2019.
4. **Other Discussion Items  
     
   -** AVA - Are there any strategies to make the application process go more smoothly?
   * Use the checklist!!
   * Use the template, it should be your outline
   * OVW – although it is not directly the same as doing the IP, we encourage you to err on the side of providing too much information vs too little
5. **Next Meeting Date – October 15th, 2019**

1. **Adjourn –** The meeting ended at approximately 11:55 am, EST.