



**2026 Request for Applications (RFA)
for
STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against
Women Formula Grant Program**

Questions and Answers

Posted Thursday, July 1, 2026

The following questions were sent via email to DCJS through Wednesday, June 17, 2026. Some language has been edited for grammar, clarity and to consolidate similar questions. Questions have been grouped by topic. Please read all questions and responses thoroughly.

Out-of-Scope Activities:

1. **Question:** DCJS's note about the RFA on its webpage clarifies that the Out-of-Scope Activities listed on Pages 17-18 are "currently deemed unenforceable" based on pending litigation. What process will DCJS follow to re-evaluate award decisions and/or scopes of work should the Out-of-Scope Activities become enforceable during the contract term?

Answer: As with any special condition change, or federal rule that impacts allowability, at the time DCJS becomes aware of this, the change would be communicated to all grantees, and they would be afforded the opportunity to amend their budgets.

2. **Question:** DCJS's stated priorities (see Page 4 third bullet and Page 16 section B) appear to conflict with the Out-of-Scope Activities listed on Pages 17-18. Acknowledging that these sections



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conflict with each other, will DCJS give higher scores to providers whose scopes of work meet the state's stated priorities or the Out-of-Scope Activities?

Answer: All scoring is detailed in the Section VI Request for Applications Questions, starting on page 21 of the RFA. DCJS will be evaluating the proposals on the stated criteria in the RFA only. Submitting something that is VAWA allowable but listed as an out-of-scope activity will not impact scoring.

3. **Question:** How should applicants address the areas that the federal government is describing as illegal, out of scope activities, or not in keeping with federal executive orders... which traditionally may be areas that domestic and sexual violence service providers have often included in their work? For example, on page 17 under Unallowable Costs and Out-of-Scope Activities, items 3, 4 and 5. More in general, however, we are hearing about a lawsuit, and are unclear what to do here. What language is recommended by DCJS to applicants to address this entire area?

Answer: The RFA references out-of-scope activities that are derived from page 12 of the Federal OVW Fiscal Year 2025 Formula Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity. These are provided in this RFA for informational purposes only to potential applicants.

DCJS provided additional information [here](#) related to these provisions, which clarifies that pursuant to a [Federal District Court order](#), the requirement for States to submit a letter certifying that grant funds will not be used for the out-of-scope activities listed in the Certification Regarding Out-of-Scope Activities section of the notice of the federal funding opportunity (NOFO) is paused.

Please note - Applicants do not need to submit a Certification Regarding Out-of-Scope Activities as part of this RFA.

In accordance with the district court's order, DCJS will not enforce these restrictions unless and until the district court's preliminary stay is lifted. In the event that occurs, DCJS will provide additional guidance at that time



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The United States Department of Justice has stated and posted on their website a statement regarding out-of-scope activities #2-5, #7-9, and #11. Specifically, they state that those conditions are unenforceable unless and until the preliminary stay in the matter of *Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, et al., v. Pamela Bondi, et al.* is lifted. They further provide a sample letter for certification purposes. The exact language is listed below and can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/funding-opportunities>

Attention – Revised Certification Regarding Out-of-Scope Activities: Pursuant to a [Federal District Court order](#), the requirement for applicants to submit a letter certifying that grant funds will not be used for the out-of-scope activities listed in the Certification Regarding Out-of-Scope Activities section of the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is paused. Instead, the certification letter may state that the applicant certifies grant funds will not be used for the out-of-scope activities listed in the NOFO, except for those stayed by order of the court in *Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, et al., v. Pamela Bondi, et al.* The stayed out-of-scope activities are listed as #2-5, #7-9, and #11 on pages 5-6 of the court's opinion. These out-of-scope activities are not enforceable as to any OVW FY 2025 or FY 2026 awards unless and until the preliminary stay is lifted. A sample letter can be found at [this link](#), or on OVW's [How to Apply](#) webpage.

- 4. Question:** Given that the out-of-scope activities noted on pg. 17 of the RFA are currently stayed until the legal challenge brought by the Rhode Island Coalition resolves, should applicants consider these activities when drafting their applications and project plans, or should they precede without their consideration?

Answer: Applicants may include any eligible and allowable VAWA activities. Applicants may choose to include activities that conflict with those out-of-scope activities that are currently not in effect due to the aforementioned legal challenge.



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As with any special condition change, or federal rule that impacts allowability, at the time DCJS becomes aware of this, the change would be communicated to all grantees, and they would be afforded the opportunity to amend their budgets.

5. **Question:** Will an applicant face a scoring penalty for including activities that could be considered in violation of the stayed out-of-scope activities?

Answer: No, that is not something that is considered as part of the scoring outlined in the RFA.

Services and Priorities

6. **Question:** Are immigration legal services considered an allowable activity under this award, assuming that the survivors receiving the services are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking?

Answer: Yes.

7. **Question:** Are services for survivors of sex trafficking considered allowable services, even if those survivors are not survivors of DV, SA, dating violence, or stalking?

Answer: Yes.

8. **Question:** Does a non-profit organization offering wraparound victim services fall under eligibility "Category 1 – Victim Service Providers" or "Category 4 – Other Programs and Services"? We are trying to determine if a non-profit organization needs to meet the requirements of being licensed/approved by OCFS.



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Answer: A not-for-profit organization providing wrap around services does not need to meet the requirements of being licensed or approved by OCFS. Such an organization would likely be considered by DCJS as a Category 4 applicant.

9. **Question:** Looking at page 16 of the RFA, New York State Priorities, examples of types of programs which may be supported with STOP funds, one bullet lists "Coordinated Community Response Initiatives for Multi-Disciplinary Teams" with sub-bullets SART, DART, DVHRT. Other types of interdisciplinary groups beyond SART, DART, and DVHRT, such as coordinating councils, may be funded as well, correct?

Answer: Correct. This is a non-exhaustive list. STOP funds can support a variety of coordinating councils as long as the primary purpose of the organization is to address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking.

10. **Question:** Also in this section, on page 17, an example of a project that can be funded is "Specialized Caseload/Unit and Training" with sub-bullets for Probation, Law Enforcement, and Prosecutors. Can this be Training that is provided to these entities by another entity such as a victim service program? In other words, can training programs for these entities be funded even if the application isn't seeking to create a specialized caseload/unit piece?

Answer: Correct. The STOP funds can support training activities separate and apart from the creation of specialized caseloads or units.

11. **Question:** Culturally Specific Organizations. The guidelines are as follows (please see question below in red): An organization can be culturally specific if it:

- A. focuses primarily on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
- B. has established a specialized culturally specific program that addresses domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;



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- C. has a primary focus on underserved populations (and includes representatives of these populations) and domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
- D. obtains expertise, or shows demonstrated capacity to work effectively on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through collaboration;
- E. is primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups; and
- F. is providing services tailored to the unique needs of that population.

We serve all victims of crime; however, majority of our clients (over 75%) are from BIPOC communities. As such, we have coordinators of services/outreach to the Asian, Black, Latine, LGBTQ and Jewish communities on staff and, in addition to the coordinators, the Center employs a diverse multilingual and multicultural staff to ensure that the needs of clients from underserved communities are met. 60% of the Center staff are from BIPOC communities, and collectively, staff at the Center speak the following languages: Spanish, Haitian Creole, French, Jamaican Patois, Hebrew, Yiddish, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, Marathi, Malayalam, Gujarati, Punjabi, Sindhi, Russian, Georgian, Ukrainian, Polish, and ASL. We offer support groups for specifically Latine and Black clients, as well as a support group for Jewish client. We also partner with countless culturally specific orgs in the county to bolster services as well as stay abreast of needs, gaps in services, and challenges faced by specific populations.

Based on this information, would we be able to apply as a culturally specific organization?

Answer: DCJS cannot pre-determine the eligibility of any individual applicant. Organizations that apply as Culturally Specific Community-Based must submit additional information as detailed in question #8 (pp.23-24) of the Request For Applications. Each applicant that wishes to be considered as a culturally specific community-based organization will be evaluated based on the responses to this question.



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Supplantation

12. Question: We are preparing an application for the 2026 STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program on behalf of the County District Attorney's Office and have a specific question regarding the supplement not supplant requirement as it applies to an existing position.

Our proposed project would establish the County's first formalized Special Victims Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Coordination Initiative. We propose to fund a percentage of an existing District Attorney Investigator position to perform new grant-specific MDT coordination duties that:

- Do not currently exist within the District Attorney's Office
- Are not currently funded through any county appropriation
- Are distinct from and in addition to the investigator's existing job duties
- Would not be performed but for the grant funding
- Cannot be absorbed into existing county operations without dedicated funding

The investigator's current job description will not change and the county will continue to fund the position at its current level. The grant would fund only the percentage of time dedicated exclusively to the new MDT coordination functions.

Our specific questions are:

- A. Under these circumstances, would DCJS consider grant funding of a percentage of an existing position's salary for new, clearly defined, and separately documented grant duties to be supplanting, or supplementing, county funds?

Answer: Without knowing the source of the currently funded position, or more details about the proposal it is difficult to determine whether this would constitute supplantation.



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If an applicant is successful, DCJS would rely on the [DOJ Financial Guide](#) when making supplantation determinations.

- B. If this structure is allowable, what specific documentation would DCJS require to demonstrate compliance with the supplement not supplant requirement, including any time tracking, position descriptions, or budget justification language?

Answer: This would be based on the particulars of the proposal submitted and the documentation required would be based on the proposed project and new versus existing services.

- C. If this structure is not allowable under the STOP program requirements, can DCJS provide guidance on alternative budget structures that would allow an existing employee to serve as MDT Coordinator using grant funds without creating a supplanting concern?

Answer: DCJS is unable to provide guidance as to how to recommend an applicant structure their program beyond the information in the Request for Applications.

Number of Applications

- 13. Question:** Is there a limit on the number of applications an organization can submit?

Answer: There is no restriction on the number of applications that eligible entities may submit. Applicants that submit multiple proposals are reminded to plan for and consider the possibility that all, one, or none of the projects may be funded.

- 14. Question:** Is it possible for one agency to submit two applications for two separate projects?



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Answer: There is no restriction on the number of applications that eligible entities may submit. Applicants that submit multiple proposals are reminded to plan for and consider the possibility that all, one, or none of the projects may be funded.

15. Question: If an organization submits multiple applications under different STOP purpose areas, can more than one application from the same organization be funded? If so, is there any limit on the number of awards or total funding amount that a single organization may receive?

Answer: There is no restriction on the number of applications that eligible entities may submit. There is no limit on the number of awards or total funding amount that a single organization may receive. Applicants that submit multiple proposals are reminded to plan for and consider the possibility that all, one, or none of the projects may be funded.

Navigating the State Financial System (SFS)

16. Question: Previous rounds have allowed up to 6000 characters for some questions, but it appears that all questions are limited to only 2000 characters this time. Is there a function in SFS we are missing, or is the 2000-character limit for everything correct?

Answer: The Statewide Financial System (SFS) has a set character limit of 2,000 per question. DCJS was able to construct some questions in a manner to allow for more characters.

If an applicant wishes to have more space to respond to a question, they may upload a document in question #10 labeled ***Supplemental Responses - Agency name***. Responses should be numbered accordingly and "See attached response" should be entered in the question section of SFS. Applicants submitting multiple applications should add a unique identifier reference to the name of the supplemental response.

Answers should be as concise as possible and DCJS recommends, but does not require, that they not exceed 4,000 characters per question when choosing to attach as detailed here.



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17. Question: What are the Event Questions for this RFA in SFS? I can't see them as of yet as we have not yet opened a bid, it would be helpful to know.

Answer: The event questions are identical to the questions detailed beginning on page 21 of the RFA in section VI Request for Applications Questions.

Funding Amount(s)

18. Question: Just trying to navigate through to get the amount of the potential grant. Is my calculation correct based off your document below. Based on what I could decipher it looks to be \$32,500.00 (\$130,000.00 x 25% Prosecution).

Is that correct?

Answer: No. The maximum potential grant award to a local program/agency is \$75,000. The 25% prosecution references the federal allocation requirement imposed on New York State for the entire grant program. There is no relationship between the funding caps and the federal allocation categories.

19. Question: For statewide prevention efforts, can you confirm if there is a maximum funding amount that applicants may request under the Prevention category?

Answer: Prevention funding is limited to no more than 5% of the STOP award. The actual amount will be based on the Office on Violence Against Women FFY 2026 STOP award to New York State which the State anticipates receiving later this year.

20. Question: Is the max amount our program can request annually 130,000? And if so, we would create a budget for 130,000 for one year? We are a victim services provider and DOH certified Rape Crisis Program.



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Answer: The maximum potential grant award to a local program/agency is \$75,000 per year.

21. Question: In the event of delays in contract execution, how will grant fund disbursement be impacted? Would an extension of the grant period be considered to ensure recipients have the full opportunity to implement funded activities?

Answer: No, generally, an extension would not be considered. Any funds unspent during the term would not be available to the successful applicant as they would have another award amount for the period immediately following the end of a contract period under this RFA.

Project Staffing

22. Question: Are salary increases for existing victim service and SAFE staff allowable when justified by recruitment and retention challenges?

Answer: Salary increases are only allowable if they apply to all positions in an organization, regardless of involvement with STOP grant funding or activities. To be clear, should an organization wish to increase a title/position salary that would be funded under this grant, they must also increase the salary of any other similar titles/positions that are not funded under this grant.

23. Question: Are retention and sign-on bonuses allowable if tied to continuity of victim services and workforce stabilization?

Answer: Such fiscal incentives are only allowable if they apply to all positions in an organization, regardless of involvement with STOP grant funding or activities. Please note that these costs may need to be prorated if any position impacted is not fully funded under this grant.



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24. Question: Are nurse recruitment and retention strategies considered allowable and competitive uses of STOP funding for SAFE programs?

Answer: This question is too broad for DCJS to answer it appropriately. These expenses may be appropriate depending on whether the activities directly support funded positions. Costs would need to be appropriately prorated.

25. Question: Can STOP funds support recruitment advertising, social media recruitment campaigns, job fairs, and workforce development activities?

Answer: Yes, these expenses are allowable as long as they are directly related to grant funded positions. Costs would need to be appropriately prorated.

Sustainability

26. Question: Given the anticipated five-year funding cycle, how should agencies approach long-term staffing commitments and sustainability planning?

Answer: This funding is limited to the 5-year term of the award. DCJS plans to continue applying annually for STOP funds from the Office on Violence Against Women and, in turn, will make such funds available via the open competitive solicitation process.

27. Question: What expectations exist regarding sustainability after grant funding ends?

Answer: This funding is limited to the 5-year term of the award. DCJS plans to continue applying annually for STOP funds from the Office on Violence Against Women and, in turn, will make such funds available via the open competitive solicitation process.



RFA Requirements

28. Question: I am not seeing that a Memorandum of Understanding is requested or required for the STOP 2026 RFA. For applications that propose coordinated community response activities, is an MOU with other agencies/entities that participate in or support the CCR project, no longer part of the application process?

Answer: Correct. A written agreement between partnering entities is strongly recommended, but it is not required.

29. Question: On page 33 of the RFA at the top, there is a description of the required Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace policy, implementation, etc. I am checking to be sure we are correct that our submitting a STOP application is in itself a certification as to the existence and implementation of our policy and implementation, and that a separate certification form for this GBV & the Workplace Policy is not something that needs to be generated and attached to the application. Correct?

Answer: Correct. The act of submitting a STOP application serves as the certification for this requirement. No additional documentation is required by any applicant.

30. Question: In the Application Checklist on page 41 of the RFA, it refers to "Section X: Administration of Contracts". However, in the RFA, Administration of Contracts is listed as Section IX. Please clarify.

Answer: The correct reference is to *Section IX: Administration of Contracts* beginning on page 27 of the RFA.

31. Question: Although not required, may applicants upload Letters of Support as part of their application submission?



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Answer: Letters of support are not required and will not be considered during the scoring process.

32. Question: Is there an MWBE requirement for this contract?

Answer: No.