

Announcement

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AVAILABLE FUNDS

Lawyers for Victims Program Funding Opportunity

- Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA)

May 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

OFFERED THROUGH THE COLORADO DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
(OFFICE FOR VICTIMS PROGRAMS - OVP)

RELEASED: January 30, 2017

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **Monday, March 6, 2017, 3:00 p.m.**

***Only organizations who submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) by the January 12, 2017 deadline are eligible to apply. If you did not complete this pre-requisite, please do not complete the application for funding.**

Introduction

The Office for Victims Programs (OVP) is a unit within the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) at the Colorado Department of Public Safety. The OVP is responsible for administering several federal and state grant programs that are designed to provide services to victims of crime and to coordinate and integrate law enforcement, prosecution, judicial efforts, and victim services in response to crimes.

The 2015 statewide needs assessment and subsequent focus groups conducted by the OVP, indicated civil legal services for victims of crime as an unmet need. As such, OVP has identified civil legal services for victims of crime as a Special Project for use of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA Assistance) funds. OVP is working collaboratively with Project Safeguard and a steering committee of stakeholders to address this need through various statewide strategies.

One of these strategies is the expansion of the Lawyers for Victims Program. This program through Project Safeguard provides attorney representation to domestic violence victims for their Permanent Protection Order (“PPO”) hearing. Project Safeguard contracts with attorneys for a flat fee to meet with, provide legal advice to, prepare for, and represent these victims at their PPO hearing. The funding requested in this application will fund the implementation of the Lawyers for Victims program to a limited number of locations around the state.

All applicants will be required to provide information about “match funding” in the application. All applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide 20% matching funds.

If you have a question while completing your application, please contact Ashley Riley Lopes at the OVP at (303) 239-4529 or toll free at (888) 282-1080.

For additional application information/materials, go to our website – <https://sites.google.com/a/state.co.us/dcj-victim-program/home/grant-programs/statewide-special-projects>, look for row in the chart named *Civil Legal Services for Crime Victims* and the associated links for the application, instructions and announcement.

Submit to the Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs:

One full copy of the application, including all required attachments must be sent by 3:00p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2017 as a pdf document to Ashley Riley Lopes, Grants Administrator, ashley.lopes@state.co.us with the Subject title: [Your Agency Name]’s Application for Lawyers for Victims Program Funding Opportunity.

Funding Details

Criteria for Review of Applications

Applications are reviewed based upon the following criteria:

- The degree to which it is determined that the application meets state and federal requirements and intended use of the funds.
- Assessment of the applicant’s ability to meet financial management, administrative, and organizational requirements and provide the designated services.
- The quality of the proposal and completeness of the information provided in the application.
- The agency has demonstrated a history of providing services to crime victims (minimum of 2 years).
- The community’s need for the service has been demonstrated.
- The project would actively address the needs of underserved populations.

- The goals and objectives are clear, measurable, and appropriate for the delivery of services.
- A reasonable plan to collect data on the impact of services has been demonstrated.
- Budget items are allowable, well justified, and proportionate to the activities. The budget is prepared and calculates correctly. The applicant demonstrates the ability to provide match.
- The diversity of the agency's funding. Applicants must have substantial financial support from sources other than VOCA, defined as at least 25% of their funding coming from sources other than VOCA.
- The agency coordinates with other existing services in the community. The project does not duplicate services being provided by other agencies.

Applications will be reviewed by OVP staff and members of the Civil Legal Services for Crime Victims Special Project Steering Committee that includes representatives of the *Crime Victim Services Advisory Board*, which serves in an advisory capacity to DCJ.

Rejection of Proposals: The State of Colorado reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive informalities and minor irregularities in proposals received, and to accept any portion of the proposal or all items proposed, if deemed in the best interest of the State of Colorado to do so. Failure of the applicant to provide information requested in the application shall be the responsibility of the applicant agency, and may result in disqualification of the applicant. The fact that an applicant meets eligibility requirements and applies for eligible services does not guarantee funding.

Eligibility Criteria

***Only organizations who submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) by the January 12, 2017 deadline are eligible to apply. If you did not complete this pre-requisite, please do not complete the application for funding.**

Eligible applicants include: victim assistance programs operated by a public agency or a nonprofit organization, or a combination of such agencies or organizations that provides services to victims of crime.

In order to be eligible for these funds, agencies must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number and must obtain and maintain a current registration in the SAM (System for Award Management). Review the Application Instructions for more information on DUNS and SAM.

Organizational Requirements: All applicants must demonstrate in their application that they have the ability to meet the requirements of the grants. A list of these requirements is included in the Application Instructions' Appendix. Please review these requirements to ensure your agency is able to meet them.

Allowable Costs: Personnel providing eligible services, operating costs associated with eligible services, skills training for staff, supervision of project-related staff and activities, well justified travel, and professional services/consultants providing eligible services, indirect costs, supplies, and equipment.

Expressly Unallowable Costs and Activities: Lobbying, research and studies, active investigation and prosecution of criminal activities, fundraising, capital expenses, compensation for victims of crime (except as otherwise allowed), medical care (except as otherwise allowed), and salaries and expenses of management.

Award Period

May 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018 (20-month grant period).

Program Schedule

Applications must be submitted by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2017. The Grant Application webinar will take place on February 2, 2017. The Steering Committee will meet in mid March 2017 to provide recommendations to the OVP regarding potential project. OVP staff will then review these applications and projects for eligibility and selected sites will be notified in April 2017. A timeline/schedule or activities is posted on the OVP website - <https://sites.google.com/a/state.co.us/dcj-victim-program/home/grant-programs/statewide-special-projects>.

Because of limited staff capacity, only a select number of projects will be selected to be funded through this project. Because of this limitation, there will be no reconsideration process associated with this funding opportunity.

Program Website

For additional application information/materials, go to our website – <https://sites.google.com/a/state.co.us/dcj-victim-program/home/grant-programs/statewide-special-projects>, look for row in the chart named *Civil Legal Services for Crime Victims* and the associated links for the application, instructions and announcement.

Contact Information

To assist potential applicants, we highly recommend that all applicants attend the scheduled webinar or view the recorded webinar on our website following the live presentation. In addition, we have created Application Instructions that are available on our website at <https://sites.google.com/a/state.co.us/dcj-victim-program/home/grant-programs/statewide-special-projects>. Please review this document for the answers to many of your questions. If after reviewing the Instructions document you still have questions, please contact Ashley Riley Lopes, Grants Administrator for OVP at 303-239-4529 or 1-888-282-1080 toll-free. OVP and Project Safeguard staff cannot provide specific advice on how to write your application but are available to answer application questions not explicitly addressed in the Instructions.