



Immediate Office of the Assistant Secretary
Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services (OFVPS)

National Resource Centers

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACF-OFVPS-EV-0010



Contents

Before you begin	3
 Step 1: Review the Opportunity	<u>4</u>
Basic information	<u>5</u>
Eligibility	<u>7</u>
Agency priorities	<u>11</u>
Program description	<u>13</u>
 Step 2: Get Ready to Apply	<u>22</u>
Find the application package	<u>23</u>
Get registered	<u>24</u>
Learn more	<u>24</u>
 Step 3: Build Your Application	<u>25</u>
Application checklist	<u>26</u>
Application contents and format	<u>28</u>
 Step 4: Learn About Review and Award	<u>42</u>
Application review	<u>43</u>
Award notices	<u>50</u>
 Step 5: Submit Your Application	<u>51</u>
Application submission and deadlines	<u>52</u>
 Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award	<u>55</u>
Post-award requirements and administration	<u>56</u>
 Contacts and Support	<u>58</u>
Modifications	<u>61</u>



Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#) registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registrations are active and up to date.

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, September 8, 2026.



To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.



Step 1:

Review the Opportunity

In this step

Basic information	<u>5</u>
Eligibility	<u>7</u>
Agency priorities	<u>11</u>
Program description	<u>13</u>

Basic information

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Immediate Office of the Assistant Secretary

Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services (OFVPS)

The National Resource Centers support efforts to prevent and respond to family, domestic, dating violence, and sexual assault by providing resource information, training, and technical assistance to individuals, organizations, government agencies, and communities.

Summary

The purpose of the Resource Centers is to provide resource information, training, and technical assistance to improve the capacity of individuals, organizations, governmental entities, and communities to prevent family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence and to provide effective intervention services.

Applicants must select the appropriate Resource Center and the priority area for which they are applying.

Funding details

Type: Cooperative agreement

Expected total program funding: \$17,710,000

Total expected awards: 17

Minimum award amount for the first budget period (award floor): \$300,000.00

Maximum award amount for the first budget period (award ceiling): \$3,000,000.00

We plan to fund a five-year project period. Each project period has five one-year budget periods.



Have questions?
See [Contacts and Support](#).

Key facts

Opportunity name:

National Resource Centers

Opportunity number:

HHS-2026-ACF-OFVPS-EV-0010

Federal assistance listing:

93.592

NOFO version:

Original

Key dates

Application

submission deadline:

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Expected project

start date:

September 30, 2026

See [intergovernmental](#)

[review](#) for other

submission

processes that may apply to this NOFO.

Competition Title	Funding Floor	Funding Ceiling	Estimated Number of Awards
National Resource Center on Formula Capacity Building (NRFCB) – Priority Area 1	\$450,000	\$500,000	1
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV) – Priority Area 2	\$1,000,000	\$1,510,000	1
National Indian Resource Center Addressing Domestic Violence and Safety for Indian Women (NIWRC)	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	1
Special Issue Resource Centers (SIRCs) – Priority Area 1	\$750,000	\$750,000	1
Special Issue Resource Centers (SIRCs) – Priority Area 2	\$750,000	\$750,000	1
Special Issue Resource Centers (SIRCs) – Priority Area 3	\$750,000	\$750,000	1
Special Issue Resource Centers (SIRCs) – Priority Area 4	\$750,000	\$750,000	1
Special Issue Resource Centers (SIRCs) – Priority Area 5	\$400,000	\$400,000	3
Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	1
Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	1
National Resource Center to Expand Services for Children, Youth, and Abused Parents Impacted by Domestic Violence (ESCYAP)	\$2,800,000	\$3,000,000	1
National Sexual Assault Resource Centers	\$300,000	\$625,000	4

Applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the one-year period will be considered in subsequent years on a non-competitive basis, subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the grant recipient, review and approval of the project plan submitted in Year 1, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the federal government.

Awards made under this funding opportunity are subject to federal funds availability.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

- Public- and state-controlled institutions of higher education.
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments).
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.
- Private institutions of higher education.

Other eligibility criteria

Individuals (including sole proprietorships), federal entities, and foreign entities are not eligible to apply.

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible for awards under this funding opportunity.

Eligibility by resource center

An eligible recipient shall be a nonprofit organization that focuses primarily on issues of domestic violence and meets other statutory requirements for resource centers, including the National Indian Resource Center, Special Issue Resource Centers, and State Resource Centers ([42 U.S.C. 10410\(c\)\(1\)](#)). All applicants must have documented experience providing or demonstrated capacity to provide national-scope training and technical assistance to state and tribal domestic violence coalitions and local domestic violence service providers.

Each award has separate eligibility requirements. Below are the specific eligibility requirements for each:

- **National Resource Center on Domestic Violence** applicants and **Special Issue Resource Center (Priority Areas 1-4)** applicants must be private nonprofit organizations that focus primarily on domestic violence and that:
 - Provides documentation to the Secretary demonstrating experience working directly on issues of domestic violence, and (in the case of a Special Issue Resource Center) demonstrating experience working directly in the corresponding specific special issue area.

- Includes on the entity's advisory board representatives who are from domestic violence service programs and who are geographically and culturally diverse.
- Demonstrates the strong support of domestic violence service programs from across the Nation for the entity's designation as a national resource center or a special issue resource center, as appropriate.
- **National Indian Resource Center** applicants must be a tribal organization or a nonprofit private organization that focuses primarily on domestic violence and submits documentation demonstrating:
 - Experience working with Indian tribes and tribal organizations to respond to domestic violence and the findings of section 901 of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 ([42 U.S.C. 3796gg-10 note](#)).¹
 - Experience providing Indian tribes and tribal organizations with assistance in developing tribally-based prevention and intervention services addressing domestic violence and safety for Indian women consistent with the purposes of section 902 of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 ([42 U.S.C. 3796gg-10 note](#)).
 - Strong support for the entity's designation as the National Indian Resource Center Addressing Domestic Violence and Safety for Indian Women from advocates working within Indian tribes to address domestic violence and the safety of Indian women.
 - A record of demonstrated effectiveness in assisting Indian tribes and tribal organizations with prevention and intervention services addressing domestic violence.
 - The capacity to serve Indian tribes (including Alaska Native villages and regional and village corporations) across the United States.
- **Special Issue Resource Center (Priority Area 5)** applicants must be nonprofit private organizations that focus primarily on issues of domestic violence in a racial or ethnic community, or a public or private nonprofit educational institution that has a domestic violence institute, center, or program related to culturally specific issues in domestic violence. Applicants must also:
 - Have documented experience in the areas of domestic violence prevention and services, and experience relevant to the specific racial or ethnic population to which information, training, technical assistance, and outreach would be provided under the award.
 - Demonstrate the strong support, of advocates from across the Nation who are working to address domestic violence.

- Have a record of demonstrated effectiveness in enhancing the cultural and linguistic relevancy of service delivery.
- **Native Hawaiian Resource Center** applicants and **Alaska Native Women's Resource Center** applicants must be located in a state in which the population of Indians (including Alaska Natives) or Native Hawaiians exceeds 10% of the total population of the state; or be an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or Native Hawaiian organization that focuses primarily on issues of domestic violence among Indians or Native Hawaiians, or an institution of higher education; and demonstrate the ability to serve all regions of the state, including underdeveloped areas and areas that are geographically distant from population centers.
- **National Resource Center to Expand Services for Children, Youth, and Abused Parents Impacted by Domestic Violence**, applicants must be nonprofit private organizations that focuses primarily on issues on domestic violence and have a documented history of successful work addressing domestic violence or children exposed to domestic violence.
- **National Sexual Assault Resource Centers** applicants entity shall be a private non-profit organization that focuses primarily on issues of domestic violence, dating violence, family violence, and sexual assault in a racial or ethnic community, or a public or private non-profit educational institution that has an institute, center, or program related issues in domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition, the applicant must:
 - Provide documented experience in the areas of domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and services and experience relevant to the specific racial or ethnic population to which information, training, technical assistance, and outreach would be provided under the award.
 - Demonstrates the strong support of advocates across the nation who are working to address domestic violence and sexual assault and has a record of demonstrated success in enhancing the cultural and linguistic relevancy of service delivery.

Disqualifying factors

We will review your application to make sure it meets these responsiveness requirements.

We won't consider an application that:

- Requests funding above the [award ceiling](#).
- Is submitted after the [deadline](#).
- Is from an individual (including a sole proprietorship), a federal entity, or a foreign entity.

- Is received in paper format that didn't have a previously approved exemption from ACF.
- Does not include written evidence from a lead applicant that demonstrates expertise in providing services related to domestic, dating, family or sexual violence.
- Award ceilings for each priority area are listed in the [Funding details](#) section of this NOFO.

Application limits

If you submit the same application more than once under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), we will only acknowledge the last on-time submission.

Cost sharing

This program has no cost-sharing requirement, meaning you do not need to contribute to the costs of this project.

If you choose to include cost-sharing funds, we won't consider it during review. If you receive an award, we will include your voluntary commitment in the award, and you must report on the funds. If you don't provide your promised amount, we may have to decrease your award amount or use other enforcement actions.

Post-award requirements

Before you apply, make sure you understand the requirements that come with an award.

See [Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award](#) for information on regulations that apply, reporting, and more.

Statutory authority

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) ([42 U.S.C. 10401 et seq.](#), [specifically 42 U.S.C. 10410](#)).

Agency priorities

Required alignment with ACF vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles

The recipient of this award must implement any funds awarded under this NOFO to effectuate program goals or agency priorities in accordance with [ACF's vision, mission, values, priorities, & guiding principles](#) when authorized. Funded activities must advance ACF's vision of resilient, safe, healthy, and economically secure children, youth, families, and communities, and support ACF's mission to foster health and well-being through effective, accountable, and compassionate human services when awarded in any programs that authorize these priorities.

Consistent with ACF's values, in carrying out any project that is funded under this NOFO, the recipient is required to adhere to the following principle:

1. **Program integrity and fiscal stewardship:** Administer funds in accordance with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, and award conditions; maintain strong internal controls; and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

The recipient is also required to adhere to the following principles when consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities:

2. **Evidence-based and outcome-focused practices:** Design and deliver services using evidence-based or evidence-informed approaches, establish measurable performance goals, and use data to monitor outcomes and drive continuous improvement.
3. **Partnership and local leadership:** Coordinate with state, tribal, territorial, local, and community partners, as appropriate, and tailor services to meet community-identified needs while respecting local decision-making authority.

In addition, in keeping with ACF's priorities, the recipient must administer any project that is awarded under this NOFO in accordance with the following objectives when consistent with the scope of the award and its activities in programs that are authorized to advance them:

4. **Family stability and child well-being:** Strengthen families, promote safe and stable home environments, and improve outcomes for children and youth through prevention-focused and developmentally appropriate services.
5. **Work, self-sufficiency, and economic mobility:** Support pathways to employment, job retention, and economic independence for individuals and

families, including through workforce development, education, and supportive services.

6. **High-quality early care and learning:** Where applicable, invest in high-quality early childhood programs that support school readiness, healthy development, and long-term success.

The recipient must demonstrate ongoing compliance with these values and priorities, in all programs that are authorized to advance them, through program design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation. Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with the applicable requirements may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, or other enforcement actions consistent with federal grant regulations found at [2 CFR Part 200](#) and the terms and conditions of this award.

Program description

The Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services (OFVPS) National Resource Centers provide information, training, and technical assistance to improve the capacity of individuals, organizations, government entities, and communities to prevent family violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault in providing evidence-based and evidence-informed intervention and prevention services.

Program requirements

Through this award program, we will fund 17 cooperative agreements to:

- Include a six-month planning period at the start of the project for activities such as hiring staff, developing curricula, establishing partnerships, and designing training and implementation strategies.
- Enhance public awareness by developing and disseminating resources and information on resilience-focused violence prevention and intervention strategies, prevalence trends, emerging issues, the needs of specific populations, and other topics.
- Support innovations in services by identifying, developing, adapting, and promoting evidence-based, evidence-informed, and culturally grounded practices, including those rooted in tribal, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native knowledge and traditions, to strengthen prevention and intervention efforts across the domestic violence field (or sexual assault field if relevant to resource center).
- Provide training and technical assistance to domestic violence (or sexual assault) programs, state domestic violence coalitions, tribes, tribal organizations, government agencies, and community organizations to strengthen resilience focused, survivor-centered services that address long-term exposure to violence and past trauma. Technical assistance may include:
 - Consultation by phone, email, or virtual platforms.
 - Written guidance, toolkits, and resource materials.
 - Referrals and resource coordination.
 - Review and feedback on organizational materials, policies, or practices.
 - Site visits or intensive consultation.
 - Facilitation of information and resource sharing.
- Address emerging issues related to family, domestic, sexual, or dating violence through training, technical assistance, resource development, and field-based

support. Topics, in alignment with the objectives of each resource center, may include:

- Pregnancy coercion and intimate partner violence.
 - Human trafficking and technology-facilitated abuse.
 - Family and youth homelessness.
 - Child support enforcement in families affected by domestic violence (or sexual assault).
 - Service needs of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women and girls.
 - Services for men and boys.
 - Needs of children of all ages exposed to violence.
 - Resilience focused support for formerly incarcerated survivors.
 - The intersection of intimate partner violence, community violence, and domestic violence-related homicides.
 - Children in foster care.
 - Survivors with substance use and mental health histories.
 - Safety-focused use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.
 - Promote and foster healthy relationships.
- Lead, support, or contribute to research and evaluation efforts related to the prevention of domestic, family, dating, and sexual violence and interventions for survivors and children exposed to violence.

Program specific priority area information

1. National Resource Center on Formula Capacity Building (Priority Area 1)

The objective of this Resource Center is to provide comprehensive training and technical assistance to federal, state, and local governmental agencies, domestic violence service providers, community-based organizations, and other professionals. This grant award will be tasked with building and maintaining organizational capacity in multiple domains of organizational development and operations. The Center will support domestic violence service programs and research, including efforts that serve victims and their children who are exposed to domestic violence.

2. National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (Priority Area 2)

The objective of this Resource Center is to maintain a central resource library. The library will collect, analyze, and share information and statistics related to the incidence and prevention of family violence and domestic violence. It will also

provide information on shelter, supportive services, and prevention services, and efforts to prevent repeat incidents of violence for adult and youth victims.

3. **National Indian Resource Center Addressing Domestic Violence and Safety for Indian Women**

The objectives of this Resource Center are to provide training, technical assistance and resources to Indian tribes and tribal organizations to help them prevent and respond to domestic violence. It will strengthen tribal intervention and prevention efforts and improve the safety of Indian women. This Resource Center will also coordinate activities with other federal agencies, offices, and recipients that serve Indians (including Alaska Natives), and Native Hawaiians affected by domestic violence. These partners include the Office of Justice Services at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Office on Violence Against Women of the Department of Justice.

- Resource Centers for tribal, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities will support the development and implementation of relevant protocols, tribal codes, policies and procedures, and survivor-centered and resilience focused approaches that promote healing and empowerment.

Recipients will also:

- Conduct needs assessments of the tribal populations to identify unmet training and technical assistance needs.
- Connect FVPSA formula award recipients to relevant training and technical assistance and resources.
- Deliver training to increase access to emergency shelter, safe housing, and housing stability, including in rural and remote communities.

4. **Special Issue Resource Center (Priority Area 1)**

This Resource Center is national in scope and its objective is to provide information, training, and technical assistance to state and local domestic violence providers. This Resource Center focuses on the response of the criminal and civil justice systems to domestic violence victims and may include self-defense claims by domestic violence victims and the use of protective orders.

5. **Special Issue Resource Center (Priority Area 2)**

This Resource Center is national in scope and its objective is to provide information, training, and technical assistance to state and local domestic violence providers. This Resource Center focuses on the response of child protective service agencies to victims of domestic violence and their dependents and provides support to child custody issues in domestic violence cases.

6. Special Issue Resource Center (Priority Area 3)

This Resource Center is national in scope and its objective is to provide information, training, and technical assistance to state and local domestic violence providers. This Resource Center focuses on the response of the interdisciplinary health care system to victims of domestic violence and their access to health care resources.

7. Special Issue Resource Center (Priority Area 4)

This Resource Center is national in scope and its objective is to provide information, training, and technical assistance to state and local domestic violence providers. This Resource Center focuses on the response of mental health systems, domestic violence service programs, and other related systems and programs to victims of domestic violence and to their children.

8. Special Issue Resource Center (Priority Area 5)

This Resource Center is national in scope and may award up to three cooperative agreements. The objective of this Resource Center is to provide information, training, and technical assistance to state and local domestic violence providers. The focus will be on enhancing domestic violence intervention and prevention efforts for victims of domestic violence who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups, to enhance the cultural and linguistic relevancy of service delivery, resource utilization, policy, research, technical assistance, community education, and prevention initiatives.

9. Alaskan Native Women's Resource Center

The objective of this Resource Center is to reduce disparities affecting tribal communities, by providing a broad range of technical assistance and training resources to tribes, organizations, and providers to respond to domestic violence. This Resource Center also coordinates all projects and activities with the National Indian Resource Center Addressing Domestic Violence and Safety for Indian Women and supports comprehensive community education and domestic violence prevention initiatives in a culturally sensitive and relevant manner.

10. Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence

The objective for one state resource centers to reduce Hawaii Native disparities.

- Resource Centers for tribal, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities will support the development and implementation of relevant protocols, tribal codes, policies and procedures, and survivor-centered and resilience focused approaches that promote healing and empowerment.

Recipients will also:

- Connect FVPSA formula award recipients to relevant training and technical assistance and resources.

- Deliver training to increase access to emergency shelter, safe housing, and housing stability, including in rural and remote communities.

11. **National Resource Center to Expand Services for Children, Youth, and Abused Parents Impacted by Domestic Violence**

The objective of this Resource Center is to expand the capacity of service providers, organizations, tribes, and other professionals to provide supportive services for non-abusing parents and their children, including prevention of entry and duration in foster care.

12. **National Sexual Assault Resource Centers**

This Resource Center may award up to four cooperative agreements and supports all OFVPS grantees in serving victims of sexual assault through extensive knowledge of and demonstrated expertise in sexual assault prevention and response.

OFVPS resource network

The National Resource Centers, along with the National Domestic Violence Hotline and the National American Indian Domestic Violence Hotline, will be part of the OFVPS Resource Network to coordinate and collaborate on effective training and technical assistance strategies, prevent duplication of efforts, address common challenges, and strengthen the evidence base in preventing and responding to domestic, dating, family, and sexual violence.

In accordance with the ACF priorities above, this NOFO will also implement the following principles when consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities:

Promoting Work and Self-Sufficiency: Design and deliver services using evidence-based or evidence-informed approaches to develop training and technical assistance that demonstrates measurable pathways to self-sufficiency and economic independence for victims and survivors.

Promoting Marriage and Family Formation: Strong families are the cornerstone of a healthy society. ACF will prioritize initiatives that promote marriage, family formation, and stability.

Use of E-Verify

All funded grantees and subgrantees are encouraged to use the national [E-Verify system](#) operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Social Security Administration, to ensure their employees are American citizens or are eligible to work in the United States.

Cooperative agreement— Description of ACF's involvement

A cooperative agreement is a way of awarding federal assistance used when the federal awarding office is expected to have substantial involvement in the project. OFVPS will work with you throughout the project period.

- We will consult with you and review and approve the work plan for the project, as well as the structure and integrity of the approved project, as needed.
- We will approve any revisions to the work plan or structure of the approved project during each budget period.
- We will approve significant project activities and changes to project plans.
- In consultation with you, we will revise your project implementation plan, including your work plan, schedule for trainings and events, and evaluation schedule.
- We will review and approve final drafts of all new or updated materials, articles, major publications, and research reports that you develop or distribute with funding from the cooperative agreement.
- We will help you develop long-term strategies to conduct the project.
- We will participate in major project activities, such as conferences, topical meetings, or major project meetings.
- We will organize periodic consultations, meetings, briefings, teleconferences, webinars, and other forums to review current and planned activities, share information, and promote coordination.
- We will keep you informed about expectations for performance, current ACF policy, and OFVPS vision for preventing domestic, dating, family, and sexual violence.
- In cases where we are directly involved in data collection activities, data collection will be conducted consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521) and display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

Note: Award recipients will be bound by those provisions of the FVPSA that are generally applicable to all recipients of FVPSA funding, including, but not limited to, 42 U.S.C. 10406 (c)(1-3) and (c)(5).

Funding policies and limitations

Changes in HHS regulations

As of October 1, 2025, HHS adopted [2 CFR 200](#), with some exceptions included in [2 CFR 300](#). These regulations replace those in 45 CFR 75.

General policies

- We will only make awards if this program receives funding. If Congress appropriates funds for this purpose, we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Support beyond the first budget period will depend on:
 - Appropriation of funds.
 - Satisfactory progress in meeting your project's objectives.
 - A decision that continued funding is in the government's best interest.
- If we receive more funding for this program, we will consider:
 - Funding more applicants.
 - Extending the period of performance.
 - Awarding supplemental funding.
- To the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders, you may not use funds from this NOFO for any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEI and DEIA) activities. This includes:
 - DEI- or DEIA-related research.
 - Activities that discriminate or show preference based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or other protected traits.
 - Any efforts that promote a "discriminatory equity ideology." ACF will also not allow funds awarded under this NOFO to support any services or activities that inculcate or promote gender ideology.

For guidance on other types of costs that we restrict or do not allow, see General Provisions for Selected Items of Costs of the Uniform Guidance, [2 CFR part 200](#).

Program-specific limitations and policies

We do not allow the following costs under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO):

- Construction.
- Purchase of real property.
- Major renovation.

- No federal funds issued under this award may be used to make referrals or provide training and technical assistance for activities outside the scope of the authorizing program statute, nor may such referrals be made during funded program activities. Activities must focus on enhancing domestic, dating, family, and sexual violence intervention and prevention efforts and are aligned within the [FVPSA 42 USC Ch. 110](#).

Indirect costs

Indirect costs are those shared across multiple projects and not easily separated.

To charge indirect costs you can select one of two methods:

Method 1 — Approved rate. If you currently have an indirect cost rate approved by your cognizant federal agency, you may use that rate.

Method 2 — *De minimis* rate. If you do not have a negotiated indirect cost rate, you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate (see [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#)). This rate may be up to 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). See the definition of MTDC ([2 CFR 200.1](#)). You can use this rate indefinitely.

You may not charge costs included in your indirect cost pool as direct costs.

Subawards

As the prime recipient, you must maintain a substantive role in the project. This means that you conduct funded activities and provide services necessary and integral to completing the project.

Monitoring your subrecipient's activities alone as described in [2 CFR 200.332](#) is not a substantive role.

We do not fund awards where your role is primarily a conduit for passing funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute.

All subrecipients must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Subrecipients must meet the [eligibility requirements](#) of this NOFO.

Salary rate limitation

The salary rate limitation in the current appropriations act applies to this program. You may not use awarded funds to pay a salary at a higher rate than the rate for Executive Level II.

For the Executive Level II salary, please see [the Office of Personnel Management information on executive and senior level employee pay](#).

The salary limitation reflects a person's base salary (including any portion of the salary that is paid with indirect costs). It does not include fringe benefits or any income the person is allowed to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization.

This salary limitation also applies to subawards, contracts, and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.

Program income

If you earn any money from your award-supported project activities (known as program income), you must use it for the purposes and under the conditions of the award. Find more about program income at [2 CFR 200.307](#).



Step 2:

Get Ready to Apply

In this step

Find the application package	<u>23</u>
Get registered	<u>24</u>
Learn more	<u>24</u>

Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it at this NOFO's Grants.gov opportunity page. Then select the Package tab.

We recommend that you select the **Subscribe button** from the View Grant Opportunity page for this NOFO to get updates.

If you can't use Grants.gov to download application materials or have other technical difficulties, including issues with application submission, [contact Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for assistance.

This NOFO has multiple "Grant Opportunity Packages" reflecting each priority area.

Note: Do NOT use the *Apply* button on the *View Grant Opportunity* screen.

1. Click on the Package tab.
2. Scroll down and identify the Grant Opportunity Package you want to apply to using the competition title.
3. Click the **Apply** hyperlink in the "Actions" column. You will be directed to the Apply for Grant Opportunity page.
4. Click on the red Apply button. This Apply button will take you to Grants.gov to login and submit your application.
5. Follow the guidance for applying and uploading the application and associated documents.

Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register:

- Go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.
- You must agree to the [financial assistance general certifications and representations \[PDF\]](#) specifically. Those for contracts are different.

When you register, you will also receive your required Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Once you register:

- You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.
- If your organization has multiple UEIs, use the one associated with your physical location.

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Need help? See [Contacts and Support](#).

Learn more

Visit [Applying for an ACF Grant Award](#) on the ACF Grants page.



Step 3:

Build Your Application

In this step

Application checklist	<u>26</u>
Application contents and format	<u>28</u>

Application checklist

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply. You will find the forms in Grants.gov.

File one: Narratives

Use the Project Narrative Attachment form.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ Table of contents	Yes
☐ Project summary	Yes
☐ Project narrative	Yes
☐ Line-item budget and budget narrative	Yes

File two: Attachments

Insert each in a single Other Attachments form.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ ACF priorities alignment attestation	No
☐ Indirect cost agreement	Yes
☐ Legal proof of nonprofit status	Yes
☐ Additional eligibility documentation	No
☐ Organizational capacity supporting information (including organization chart)	Yes
☐ Third-party agreements	Yes
☐ Letters of support	Yes

Standard forms

Use each required form in Grants.gov.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ Project Abstract Summary	No
☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	No
☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	No
☐ Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	No
☐ Key Contacts	No
☐ Grants.gov Lobbying form	No
☐ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	No
☐ Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	No

Application contents and format

You will submit two files plus the [standard forms](#) in the application package.

Your organization's authorized official must certify your application.

See [intergovernmental review](#) to find out if you need to make any other submissions.

Required format

Page limit for file one and file two combined: 60 pages

File format: Portable Document Format (PDF) is recommended, but not required. ACF supports the following file formats when you attach files to the Project Narrative Attachment form and the Other Attachments form:

Accepted file formats

- Adobe PDF (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Image formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Document formats

Paper size: 8 ½ inches x 11 inches

Margins: 1 inch all around

Language: English

If possible, include page numbers.

Do not include external links to information you want reviewers to assess because reviewers will score the application solely on information provided in the application.

Fonts

Font: Times New Roman

Color: Black

Size: 12-point font

Footnotes and text in tables and graphics may be 10-point.

Spacing

Table of contents: Must be single-spaced

Project summary: Must be single-spaced

Project narrative: Must be double-spaced

Line-item budget and budget narrative: Can be single-spaced

Attachments: Can be single-spaced

Tables and footnotes throughout: Can be single-spaced

See [disqualifying factors](#) to understand what may disqualify your application from consideration.

File one: Narratives

To submit file one, you will use the Project Narrative Attachment form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes:

- Table of contents.
- Project summary, one page.
- Project narrative.
- Line-item budget and budget narrative.

Table of contents

At the beginning of file one, insert a table of contents that guides a reader through the contents of both files in your application. If possible, include links to the relevant content in file one.

Project summary

Provide a one-page summary of the project description. Do not cross-reference to other parts of your application. The summary must include:

- At the top, the project title, applicant name, address, phone numbers, email addresses, and any website URL.
- A brief description of the project, including the needs and population you will address, your proposed services or research questions.

Project narrative

The project narrative is where you address all your proposed activities. It is a critical section of your application, which we evaluate using [merit review criteria](#) and rank based on application scores.

Remember that substance and measurable outcomes are more important than length. We are particularly interested in project narratives that convey strategies for achieving intended performance.

In it, you must:

- Explain how the project will meet the purpose of the NOFO, as described in [the program description section](#).
- Make sure your narrative is clear, concise, and complete.
- Use cross-referencing rather than repetition.
- Be sure to include any required supporting documents noted. You generally provide these in your [attachments](#).
- Use the headings and order of the sections that follow.

Purpose and need

Geographic location

Provide the precise physical location of your project and boundaries of the area you will serve. If you will include any subrecipients in your project that will serve specific geographic areas include their locations as well.

Objectives

State your main objectives and any sub-objectives. Address how the objectives stated relate to the overall purpose of this program and describe how you will achieve the objectives.

Reference the Competition Title (under [Funding Details](#)) relevant to your objectives.

Response

Approach

Outline your action plan, referencing the specific resource center by Competition Title (see Funding details) under this NOFO. Describe the scope of your proposed project and describe in detail how you will accomplish it. Account for all functions or activities you identify in your application.

Explain potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing your project goals. Explain the strategies you will use to address them.

- **Public Awareness and Resource Development Activities**

Include how you will:

1. **Resource and material development:** Develop, collect, adapt, and disseminate resources for the relevant violence prevention fields, including promising practices, evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies, guidelines, statistics, fact sheets, model programs, and other specialized intervention and prevention materials addressing emerging issues.
2. **Dissemination and communications strategy:** Implement a national communication and dissemination strategy to share resources, project outcomes, reports, and other information with relevant violence prevention fields, allied partners, and the public using accessible and multi-platform methods (e.g., websites, webinars, communities of practice, multimedia campaigns, electronic mailing lists, and content management systems). Describe the methods, timing, and scope of dissemination activities.
3. **Hotline information dissemination:** Disseminate information and referral resources related to OFVPS-funded domestic violence hotlines.

- **Training and Technical Assistance Activities**

Include how you will:

1. **Capacity building and service improvement:** Deliver nationwide training and technical assistance to strengthen organizational capacity and improve accessible, resilience focused, survivor-centered services through educational opportunities, peer learning, consultations, and evidence-based or promising practices that address emerging issues and evolving community needs respective to the focus areas of the resource center.
2. **Needs assessment and survivor input:** Identify and respond to training and technical assistance needs within your area of expertise (e.g., by subject and by target training audiences such as states and territories, tribes and tribal organization, state domestic violence coalitions, and local organizations) and incorporate ongoing feedback from survivors and their children into the development, implementation, and refinement of grant activities and services.
3. **Coordination and collaboration:** Coordinate training and technical assistance efforts with other national resource recipients and partner organizations to strengthen collaboration and reduce duplication.

- **Policy Development and System Engagement Activities**

Include how you will:

1. **Needs assessment:** Conduct needs assessments with public and private partners to identify emerging trends, service gaps, and accessibility affecting survivors' ability to obtain services and support.

2. **Policy and practice improvement:** Strengthen policies, protocols, and institutional training within public and private systems to improve the accessibility, responsiveness, and effectiveness of services for survivors of domestic, dating, family, and sexual violence and their children.

- **Research and Evaluation Activities**

Include how you will:

1. **Research review and knowledge development:**

- a. Conduct reviews of research, national standards, and field-based practices to identify gaps, emerging issues, and priority questions related to family, domestic, and dating violence prevention and intervention.
- b. Assess the quality, relevance, and effectiveness of identified research and practices using clearly defined evaluation criteria, and document limitations, implementation challenges, and future research needs.
- c. Contribute to the domestic violence field (or sexual assault field if relevant to resource center) by developing practical knowledge, recommendations, and resources within your area of expertise.

2. **Collaboration and evidence-based practice:**

- a. Collaborate with domestic violence organizations (or sexual assault organizations if relevant to the resource center), OFVPS Resource Network recipients, and community partners to identify, assess, and promote evidence-based, evidence-informed, and promising practices that improve services for survivors and their children.
- b. Support organizations in adapting and implementing effective practices that address emerging issues, service gaps, and accessibility challenges.

3. **Partnership and service accessibility evaluation:**

Conduct case studies or other applied assessments of multidisciplinary partnerships between family, dating, domestic violence (or sexual assault) programs and community-based organizations to improve service accessibility and coordination; strengthen responses to survivors and their children; and document collaboration models, outcomes, challenges, and lessons learned.

4. **Research dissemination and integration:**

- a. Develop and implement a dissemination plan to share research findings, lessons learned, and promising practices with the domestic violence (or sexual assault) field, partner organizations, and the public.

- b. Integrate research findings into ongoing training, technical assistance, policy development, and program improvement activities.

Project timeline and milestones

Provide a timeline for your project that includes milestones. To do so:

- Organize the information by task and subtask, showing related milestones.
- Provide monthly or quarterly quantitative projections for tasks you plan to complete and by when. For example, provide the number of people you plan to serve or the number of a certain activity you plan to complete by a specific date.
- Provide target dates for activities you can't quantify.
- Cover the full period of performance in your timeline.

Logic model

You must submit a logic model for designing, managing, and evaluating the project.

A logic model is a diagram that:

- Presents how inputs drive activities to produce outputs, outcomes, and the ultimate goals of the proposed project.
- Explains the links among project elements.
- Targets the identified objectives and goals of the project.

While there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this funding opportunity, the logic model may include the connections between:

- Inputs such as additional resources, organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, and budget.
- Target population, such as the individuals to be served or identified needs.
- Activities, mechanisms, and processes such as evidence-based practices, best practices, approach, key intervention and evaluation components, and continuous quality improvement efforts.
- Outputs, which include the immediate and direct results of program activities.
- Outcomes, which include the short- and long-term results you expect the project to achieve. These are typically described as changes in people or systems.
- Project goals, such as overarching objectives and reasons for proposing the project.

Impact

Project performance evaluation plan

Describe how you will evaluate your project's performance and how it will contribute to continuous quality improvement. This plan must describe:

- How you will monitor ongoing activities and progress toward the project's goals and objectives.
- The inputs, key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. Inputs might include your collaborative partners, key staff, budget, service processes, or other resources.
- How you will measure the inputs, activities, and outcomes.
- How you will use the resulting information to improve your funded activities.
- Any processes that support overall data quality.
- The organizational systems and processes you will use to track performance outcomes.
- How your organization will collect and manage data in a way that allows for accurate and timely reporting of performance outcomes. This might include assigned skilled staff, data management software, and data integrity.
- Any potential obstacles to implementing the project performance evaluation and how you will address them.
- A timeline for how you will review information from the performance evaluation and apply it to your ongoing project.

If applicable, applicants must describe what activities they will undertake during the six-month planning period, as described in the [Program Description](#).

Activities evaluation plan

Describe your plan for rigorous evaluation of funded activities. The evaluation must:

- Assess activities and progress towards the goals and objectives of the project.
- Assess whether the project is having the expected impact.
- Specify expected outcomes and any research questions, as well as how the evaluation results will help you understand and improve the funded activities.
- Include a valid and reliable measurement plan, detailed timeline, and sound methodological design.
- Describe the details of the proposed data collection activities, participants, data management, data integrity, and analysis plans.
- Describe any potential obstacles in implementing the evaluation and how you will address them.

Expected outcomes

Identify the outcomes you plan to achieve from the project. Outcomes should relate to the overall program as described in the [program description section](#). If research is part of the proposed work, outcomes must include hypothesized results and implications of the proposed research.

Resources and capabilities

Organizational capacity

Provide the following information for your full project team, including the applicant organization and any cooperating partners, contractors, and subrecipients:

- Provide evidence that your team has the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out your project.
- Describe your team's experience (including any partnering organizations) with administering, developing, implementing, managing, and evaluating similar projects.
- Provide evidence that your team, including partnering organizations, has the organizational capability to fulfill their roles and functions effectively.
- You must disclose your plan to enter into subaward agreements. If planning subawards, describe the work each subrecipient will complete.
- You must provide letters of support or memoranda of understanding (MOUs) demonstrating your organizational knowledge and professional relationships with the network of local domestic violence (or sexual assault) programs and with state and national experts.
- You must describe the positions of proposed staff and steering committee members that reflect the communities to be served and demonstrate a depth of experience living within or actively engaging with remote, urban, suburban, frontier, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native, and other culturally specific communities and organizations that are seeking to prevent and respond to domestic and dating violence or sexual assault.
- Provide some supporting information in the organizational capacity supporting information section of your [attachments](#).

Current and pending funding support

Provide a list of your current and pending funding for ongoing projects and proposals. Include all sources, such as federal, state, and local governments, public or private foundations, and for-profit organizations.

Indicate which projects and proposals require committed time from the project director, principal investigator, or other key personnel of the project you are proposing in this application.

Show the total award amount, awarding entity, and the amount of time each key staff member will devote to each project.

Plan for oversight of federal award funds and activities

You must ensure proper award oversight. The regulation that governs this oversight is [2 CFR part 200](#). It includes standards for:

- Financial and program management.
- Property management.
- Procurement.
- Performance and financial monitoring and reporting.
- Subrecipient monitoring and management.
- Record retention and access.
- Remedies for noncompliance.
- Prior written approval.

Describe your framework to make sure that your federal funds and activities have proper oversight. Include:

- A description of the governance, policies and procedures, and systems you use for record-keeping and financial management.
- A description of the procedures you use to identify and mitigate risks and issues. These might include audit findings, continuous performance assessment findings, and monitoring.
- The key staff who will be responsible for maintaining oversight of program staff and any partners or subrecipients.

Project sustainability plan

You must propose a plan for project sustainability after the period of federal funding ends. We expect you to sustain key elements of your project. These elements can include strategies or services and interventions that have improved practices and outcomes.

- Provide an approach to project sustainability that is effective and feasible. Describe:
 - The key people and organizations whose support you will require.
 - The types of alternative support you will require to maintain the project.
- If the proposed project involves key project partners, describe how you will maintain their cooperation or collaboration after the federal funding ends.

Protection of sensitive or confidential information

Describe how you will collect and safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information that is considered sensitive. Make sure your approach is consistent with applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality. In order to ensure the safety of adult, youth, and child victims of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence, and their families, all grant recipients must protect the confidentiality and privacy of victims and their families. Provide:

- The methods and systems you will use to make sure that you properly handle confidential and sensitive information, including information from any subrecipients or contractors.
- A plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the period of performance.

For more information, see [42 U.S.C. 10406\(c\)\(5\)](#), [45 CFR 1370.4](#), and [2 CFR 200.303\(e\)](#).

Dissemination plan

Propose a plan to disseminate reports, products, and project outputs to key target audiences. Include:

- Dissemination goals and objectives.
- Strategies to identify and engage with target audiences.
- How you will allocate enough staff time and budget for dissemination.
- A preliminary plan to evaluate whether target audiences receive project information and use it as intended.
- The dissemination timeline.

Line-item budget and budget narrative

The line-item budget and budget justification support the information you provide in the Budget Information Standard Form SF-424A.

HHS now uses the definitions for [equipment](#) and [supplies](#) in [2 CFR 200.1](#). The new definitions change the threshold for equipment to the lesser of the recipient's capitalization level or \$10,000 and the threshold for supplies to below that amount.

Justify the costs you ask for and provide detail, including calculations for the "object class categories" in the Budget Information Standard Form. You will provide this information for the initial budget period only. See information on [funding periods](#).

As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are necessary, reasonable, allocable, and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.

- How you calculate your costs in ways that are clear and repeatable.
- The restrictions on spending funds. See the [funding policies and limitations](#).

Please also review the Standard Form instructions.

To create your line-item budget and justification, see [detailed budget instructions on our website](#).

In general, you must:

- Indicate the method you will use for your indirect cost rate. See the [indirect costs](#) section for further information.
- Include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail necessary for the calculation to be duplicated.
- For any cost sharing, include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance.
- For applicants planning to use subawards, if your subaward budget is more than 50% of total direct costs, justify why you are subawarding that portion of the project. Explain:
 - How you plan to maintain a substantive role in the project.
 - Why you cannot achieve your goals without the subrecipients' participation.
- Include budget for at least two representatives from your organization to participate in two network meetings and one OFVPS-sponsored meeting in the first 12-month budget period.

See the [Line-Item Budget and Budget Justification](#) section of the scoring criteria and make sure your budget narrative includes all the items listed there.

Proprietary or personally identifiable information

Clearly identify any salary or other proprietary information or personally identifiable information within your application. Identification will ensure this information is not shared with reviewers. Note on page 1 of the attachments file (file two) where the information to be redacted is located.

If you have an [exemption for a paper submission](#), you can protect salary information and any proprietary information by placing that information only in the original application. You can remove the information from the copies, keeping summary information.

File two: Attachments

To submit file two, you will use the Other Attachments form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes all attachments.

ACF priorities alignment attestation

Note: Not included in the page limit. This should be submitted with the application or before award.

You must self-certify that you will align with the ACF priorities that are relevant to this funding opportunity, as identified in both the Program description and *Step 4*, under Merit review process, Scoring criteria, *Alignment with ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles*, elements 2 and 3. You must provide the following on your organization's letterhead.

I hereby attest and certify that:

_____ (Applicant Name) affirms its commitment to supporting and advancing ACF's published Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), consistent with applicable federal statutes, regulations, and Administration priorities.

Insert Date of Signature:

Print Name and Title of the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR):

Signature of AOR :

Indirect cost agreement

If you include indirect costs in your budget using an approved rate, include a copy of your current agreement approved by your [cognizant agency for indirect costs](#). If you use the *de minimis* rate, you do not need to submit this attachment.

See the [indirect costs](#) section for more information.

Legal proof of nonprofit status

If your organization is a nonprofit, you need to attach proof. We will accept any of the following:

- A reference to your listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations.
- A copy of a current tax exemption certificate from the IRS.

- A letter from your state's tax department, attorney general, or another appropriate state official saying that your group is a nonprofit and that none of your net earnings go to private shareholders or others.
- A certified copy of your certificate of incorporation or similar document. This document must show that your group is a nonprofit.
- Any of these documents for a parent organization. Also include a statement signed by an official of the parent group that your organization is a nonprofit affiliate.

Organizational capacity supporting information

You must attach the following information to support the information in your [organizational capacity](#) section:

- Organizational charts, including all partners.
- Resumes, biographical sketches, or curricula vitae for all key personnel.
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.
- List of your board of directors.
- Financial statements adhering to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), if available, for up to the two most recently completed fiscal years (this requirement does not apply to start-up organizations).
- Audit reports or statements from certified public accountants or licensed public accountants, if available, for up to the two most recently completed fiscal years (this requirement does not apply to start-up organizations).

Third-party agreements

You must submit agreements with all third parties involved in the project. Third parties include subrecipients, contractors, and other cooperating entities. Third-party agreements include letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, and memoranda of agreement. We do not consider general letters of support to be third-party agreements.

Any such agreement must:

- Describe each party's roles and responsibilities for project activities.
- Describe the support and resources that the third party is committing to the proposed project.
- Be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments.
- Detail work schedules and estimated compensation with an understanding that the parties will negotiate a final agreement after award.

- Identify the primary applicant and all collaborators responsible for project activities if the agreement is for a collaboration or consortia application.

Letters of support

Attach statements from community, public, or commercial leaders that support your project. At minimum, each letter of support must identify the person writing the letter, the organization they represent, the date, and their reasons for supporting the project.

Standard forms

You will need to complete some other required standard forms other than those in files one and two. You can find them in the NOFO [application package](#) or review them and their instructions at [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Forms	Submission requirement
Project Abstract Summary	With the application.
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	With the application.
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	With the application.
Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	With the application.
Key Contacts	With the application.
Grants.gov Lobbying form	With the application or before award.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	If applicable based on instructions, with the application or before award.
Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	With the application. Cite your primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites.

Important: Public information

When filling out your SF-424 form, pay attention to Box 15: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.

We share what you put there with [USAspending](#). This is where the public goes to learn how the federal government spends taxpayer money.

Instead of just a title, insert a short description of your project and what it will do.

[See instructions and examples \[PDF\]](#).



Step 4:

Learn About Review and Award

In this step

Application review	<u>43</u>
Award notices	<u>50</u>

Application review

Initial review

We will review your application to make sure that it meets the responsiveness requirements listed in the [disqualification factors section](#). If your application does not meet these criteria, we will disqualify it and we will not move it to the merit review (scoring) phase.

We will let you know if your application is disqualified within 30 days of the application deadline. You won't receive any notice from ACF if your application failed Grants.gov validation checks.

If you submit more than two files in addition to your forms, we will remove the extra files. We will let you know if this happens.

We will also remove blurred or illegible pages and any file formats that are not supported.

We will not review any pages that exceed the page limit.

If your application fails to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements, we will adjust your application by removing page(s) from the application. We will remove the pages before the merit review and will not send them to reviewers.

If we do so, we will send you a letter after we make awards to notify you that we amended your application.

Merit review process

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. The panel members use the criteria shown in each section of the project narrative and in the line-item budget and budget narrative section.

Our reviewers typically are not federal employees. See the section on [proprietary and personally identifiable information](#).

Criteria summary

Criterion	Total number of points = 110
1. Purpose and need	15 points
2. Response	40 points
3. Impact	15 points
4. Resources and capabilities	20 points
5. Line-item budget and budget justification	10 points
6. ACF Priority Alignment	10 points

Scoring criteria

1. Purpose and need

Maximum points: 15

The reviewer will assess how well you:

1.1 Describe clear and appropriate program objectives that will enable you to fulfill the program goals and requirements described in the [program description](#). **(0 to 2 points)**

1.2 Address the needs of the purpose area you are applying to, including: **(0 to 5 points)**

- Challenges faced by domestic violence (or sexual assault) service providers helping survivors.
- Recognition of and coordination with local domestic violence (or sexual assault) programs, the state, the state domestic violence coalition, and other organizations to address these challenges.
- Related training and technical assistance gaps.
- Service gaps.
- Relevant data and analysis.

1.3 Describe a clear need for the proposed project, including a plan for ongoing needs assessments addressing the scope of the problems you identify and the types of assistance that are needed, and an assessment of how your proposed project objectives will address the identified areas of need. **(0 to 2 points)**

1.4 Explain the states, organizations, and/or communities you will serve. **(0 to 3 points)**

1.5 Demonstrate a clear commitment to engaging communities and expanding the capacity of communities serving victims of domestic violence (or sexual assault) and of

domestic violence (or sexual assault) programs, including remote and under resourced communities. **(0 to 3 points)**

2. Response

Maximum points: 40

The reviewer will assess how well you:

2.1 Respond to each aspect of the [response section of the project narrative](#) and describe a national and comprehensive plan to provide technical assistance and training to expand the capacity of professionals, domestic violence (or sexual assault) programs, and other relevant entities and organizations. **(0 to 6 points)**

2.2 Describe how you will help such organizations prevent and intervene in intimate partner violence, including by addressing training and technical assistance, public awareness, assessments, research and knowledge development, policy development, and system engagement. **(0 to 6 points)**

2.3 Describe how you will engage communities, including communities that are geographically isolated, public-private systems, informal community-based responders, and local domestic violence (or sexual assault) providers. **(0 to 8 points)**

- Explain how your methods of accomplishing these elements are feasible.

2.4 Propose project activities that address the [program goals and requirements described in the program description](#). **(0 to 5 points)**

2.5 Connect project tasks to your objectives, provide a feasible and realistic timeline to accomplish significant project activities and products, and select appropriate project activities to achieve project goals and objectives to meet identified needs. **(0 to 5 points)**

2.6 Describe a strong plan for collaborating and managing relationships with project partners. **(0 to 5 points)**

2.7 Describe a viable plan to maintain confidentiality. **(0 to 5 points)**

3. Impact

Maximum points: 15

The reviewer will assess how well you:

3.1 Identify quantitative and qualitative outcomes and outputs for the project that are related to the program goals and requirements. **(0 to 8 points)**

3.2 Demonstrate a sound relationship between your planned project activities and quantitative and qualitative outcomes and outputs. **(0 to 7 points)**

4. Resources and capabilities

Maximum points: 20

The reviewer will assess how well you:

4.1 Demonstrate your organization's experience with domestic and dating violence (or sexual assault) relevant to individuals and communities. **(0 to 2 points)**

4.2 Show how key staff will fit the position descriptions. **(0 to 2 points)**

4.3 Demonstrate that your organization has the capacity necessary to undertake a national or statewide project providing the activities under this NOFO. **(0 to 2 points)**

4.4 Describe your organization's administrative and organizational structure and the operational and programmatic relationship to domestic violence and specific service providers at the local, regional, state, and national levels. **(0 to 2 points)**

4.5 Describe the positions of proposed staff and steering committee members that reflect the communities to be served and demonstrate a depth of experience living within or actively engaging with remote, urban, suburban, frontier, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native, and other culturally specific communities and organizations that are seeking to prevent and respond to domestic and dating violence or sexual assault. **(0 to 2 points)**

4.6 Show that your program staff have subject matter experience that will enable them to safely and successfully carry out the grant and handle the issues they will encounter in a way that is appropriate to specific populations and backgrounds of the targeted children, youth, and their families. **(0 to 4 points)**

4.7 Document expertise in all required areas as described in the organizational capacity section of the project narrative. **(0 to 2 points)**

4.8 Include letters of support or memoranda of understanding (MOUs) demonstrating your organizational knowledge and professional relationships with the network of local domestic violence (or sexual assault) programs and with state and national experts. Include stakeholders that are working to address domestic violence (or sexual assault), advocate on behalf of or provide age-appropriate services to children or youth, and represent the communities you will serve. **(0 to 2 points)**

4.9 If applicable, include MOUs that are detailed, include the roles and responsibilities of both parties, and describe the compensation you will provide. **(0 to 2 points)**

5. Line-item budget and budget justification

Maximum points: 10

The reviewer will assess how well you:

5.1 Include a detailed line-item budget of project costs and demonstrate how you derived cost estimates. Include all the information required in the [budget narrative section](#). (0 to 2 points)

5.2 Show how the proposed budget is feasible, logical, reasonable, and appropriate. (0 to 1 points)

5.3 Show that you have budgeted enough funds to support a local evaluation, including staffing and other resources needed such as software, stipends for focus groups, child care, and survey rewards. (0 to 1 points)

5.4 Provide a budget justification without errors, such as mathematical errors or missing project activities. (0 to 1 points)

5.5 Demonstrate how the funds requested are necessary to accomplish the program goals. (0 to 1 points)

5.6 Show how you will fairly compensate all project partners. (0 to 1 points)

5.7 Show that you have budgeted enough money to provide training and technical assistance in remote locations and to provide support costs for community participation in these activities. (0 to 2 points)

5.8 Budget for at least two representatives from your organization to participate in two network meetings and one OFVPS-sponsored meeting in the first 12-month budget period. This travel budget should include itemized travel expenses for project personnel. Indicate the travel policies you will use—your organization's or the federal travel regulations. (0 to 1 points)

6. Alignment with ACF vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles (Up to 10 points)

ACF's published Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles inform programmatic and administrative expectations under this funding opportunity.

Applicants must demonstrate alignment by describing how the proposed project advances relevant ACF priorities through program design and evaluation. Applicants should clearly identify which ACF priorities are relevant and explain how those priorities are reflected in the proposed approach. Applicants are encouraged to provide examples of prior experiences that can show alignment efforts that have already been achieved. Examples should describe strategies used, measurable results (if available), and lessons learned.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to organize their response using the three criteria below.

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application demonstrates clear, specific, and measurable connections between ACF priorities and the proposed project. Scores will reflect the strength, clarity, and specificity of those connections.

Scoring Considerations for the next three criteria:

- **High-scoring applications** will demonstrate clear understanding, intentional integration, and measurable alignment with ACF priorities across all three criteria.
- **Moderate-scoring applications** may reference ACF priorities but provide limited specificity, uneven integration, or minimal connection to measurable outcomes.
- **Low-scoring applications** will show minimal or unclear understanding of ACF priorities and lack meaningful connection to program design or performance.

6.1 Demonstrated Review and Understanding (Up to 2 Points)

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that it has reviewed ACF's Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles and explains their relevance to the proposed project.

Reviewers will look for:

- Identification of specific ACF priorities (not general or vague references).
- A clear explanation of how those priorities relate to the proposed project.

6.2 Operationalization in Program Design and Implementation (Up to 3 Points)

The degree to which the following one or more ACF priorities are translated into specific elements of the proposed project: Promoting Work and Self-Sufficiency and/or Promoting Marriage and Family Formation.

Reviewers will assess if the applicant:

- Connects identified ACF priorities to program design, service delivery, and implementation.
- Demonstrates how priorities influence partnerships, staffing, or key program decisions.
- Provides clear, actionable examples of how alignment will be carried out in practice.

6.3 Integration into Performance and Continuous Improvement (Up to 5 Points)

The extent to which the following one or more ACF priorities are reflected in measurable outcomes and ongoing program improvement: Promoting Work and Self-Sufficiency and/or Promoting Marriage and Family Formation.

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application:

- Aligns performance measures and expected outcomes with identified priorities.
- Includes evaluation methods or performance indicators that reflect those priorities.
- Describes how data will be used for continuous quality improvement.

We do not consider voluntary cost sharing during merit review.

Risk review

Before making an award, we review the risk that you will mismanage federal funds or fail to complete the project objectives. We need to make sure you've handled any past federal awards well and demonstrated sound business practices.

We use [SAM.gov](#) Responsibility/Qualification and Exclusions to check this history for all awards likely to be over \$250,000.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

For more details, see [2 CFR 200.206](#).

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Merit review and scoring results including the ten points for Alignment with *ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles* to the extent permitted by law. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.
- Organizations serving emerging, unserved, or underserved populations.
- The larger portfolio of agency-funded projects by considering geographic distribution.
- The past performance of the applicant.
- The application's compliance with this NOFO's prohibition on using funds awarded under this NOFO to support [DEI and DEIA activities](#), to the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders.
- Funding Preference for Alignment with Agency Priorities. Before final funding decisions are made, division leadership will review awards for consistency with applicable laws and alignment with [agency priorities](#).

We may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.
- Decide not to allow a prime recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.
- Decide not to fund a project with high start-up costs or unreasonably high operating costs.
- Choose not to fund applicants with management or financial problems.
- Designate your application as “approved but unfunded” if it was successful but there was not sufficient funding to make an award. You may receive funding if additional funds become available within the fiscal year.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

We will not fund:

- A [disqualified application](#).
- An incomplete application.

Award notices

If you are successful, we will email or transmit through our grant systems a Notice of Award (NoA) to your authorized official. We will email you if your application is disqualified or unsuccessful.

The NoA is the only official award document. The NoA tells you about the amount of the award, important dates, and the terms and conditions you need to follow. Until you receive the NoA, you have not received an award. Project costs that you incur before you receive a NoA are at your risk.

By drawing down funds, you accept the terms and conditions of the award. The award incorporates the requirements of the program and funding authorities, the grant regulations, the GPS, and the NOFO.

If you want to know more about NoA contents, go to [Notice of Award at ACF's website](#).



Step 5:

Submit Your Application

In this step

Application submission and deadlines

52

Application submission and deadlines

Application

Deadline

Due on Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

- For electronic submissions, the due time is 11:59 p.m. ET.
- If you receive an exemption from electronic submission, the due time is 4:30 p.m. ET. See the section on [exemptions for paper submissions](#).

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept only the last on-time submission.

The grants management officer may extend an application due date based on emergency situations such as documented natural disasters or a verifiable widespread disruption of electric or mail service.

Grants.gov submission

You must submit your application through Grants.gov unless we give you an exemption for a paper submission. See information on [getting registered](#).

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files. We encourage you to leave yourself plenty of time to upload documents.

See [Contacts and Support](#) if you need help.

Issues with federal systems

If you experience a systems issue with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to [ACF's Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues \[PDF\]](#).

Exemptions for paper submissions

We need to give you an exemption before you can apply on paper. See the [ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission \[PDF\]](#).

Once we have approved your exemption, download your forms package under the Package tab in Grants.gov.

To submit your application, mail it to:

Administration for Children and Families

ATTN: Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services

330 C Street, SW

Washington, DC 20201

Follow these requirements when you submit your paper application:

- Print your application and all copies one-sided.
- Submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all required forms.
- Submit both the original and additional copies in a single package. If you plan to submit more than one application under this NOFO or others, you must submit them separately. Clearly label each package with the NOFO title and funding opportunity number.
- Your authorized organization official must sign the application. The original application must include an original signature.

Intergovernmental review

You will need to submit application information for intergovernmental review under [Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#).

Under this order, states may design their own processes for commenting on some applications. Some states have this process and others don't.

To find out your state's approach, see the [list of state single points of contact \[PDF\]](#). If you find a contact on the list for your state, contact them as soon as you can to learn their process. If you do not find a contact for your state, you don't need to do anything further.

This requirement never applies to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes or tribal organizations.



Step 6:

Learn What Happens After Award

In this step

Post-award requirements and administration [56](#)

Post-award requirements and administration

Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you'll need to follow if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award, including the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions](#) and, if applicable, any program-specific terms and conditions. We incorporate this NOFO by reference.
- The rules listed in [2 CFR 200](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, effective October 1, 2025. These replace those in 45 CFR 75, with some exceptions in [2 CFR 300](#).
- The HHS [Grants Policy Statement \(GPS\)](#). This document has terms and conditions tied to your award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.
- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in the [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#), Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements and the [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#).
- [45 CFR Part 87 Appendix B, Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations](#). This appendix explains the obligations of and protections for faith-based organizations applying for grants.
- Applicable program statute and regulations at [42 U.S.C. 10401](#) et seq. (specifically [42 U.S.C. 10410](#)).
- Applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the one-year period will be considered in subsequent years on a non-competitive basis, subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the recipient, review and approval of the project plan submitted in Year 1, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the federal government.

Reporting

As a recipient, you will have to submit performance and financial reports. To learn more about reporting, see [Reporting at the ACF website](#).

- Performance report form: **ACF-OGM-PPR**
 - Performance report frequency: Semiannually
- Financial report form: **SF-425 FFR**
 - Financial report frequency: Semiannually



Contacts and Support

In this step

Agency contacts	<u>59</u>
Help with systems	<u>59</u>
Reference websites	<u>60</u>
Paperwork Reduction Act disclaimer	<u>60</u>

Agency contacts

Program

Jan-Sheri Morris

Jan-Sheri.Morris@acf.hhs.gov

202-480-1328

Grants management

Ann Hudson

Ann.Hudson@acf.hhs.gov

206-615-3660

Help with systems

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. Hold on to your ticket number.

- Phone: 1-800-518-4726
- Email: support@grants.gov

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can:

- Call 866-606-8220.
- Live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#).

Reference websites

- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#)
- [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#)
- [Grants.gov](#)
- [Applying for an ACF Grant Award](#)
- [Grants.gov Accessibility Information](#)
- [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#)
- [United States Code \(U.S.C.\)](#)
- [Award Terms and Conditions](#) (see also the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions \[PDF\]](#))
- [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#)
- [ACF Property Guidance](#)
- [Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services](#)

Paperwork Reduction Act disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, [44 U.S.C. 3501-3521](#), the public reporting burden for the project description (project narrative, line-item budget, and justification) is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information.

The project description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires April 30, 2029. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Modifications

Modification Description	Updated Date