OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME RESOURCE GUIDE ON COVID-19
MAY 14, 2020

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) developed this Resource Guide to help answer some of your most pressing questions about how to operate, provide services, and manage OVC grants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Attorney General William P. Barr said, "We affirm our unwavering commitment to supporting [victims] in their hour of need. We also commend the thousands of victim advocates and public safety professionals who labor tirelessly to secure victims' rights and support survivors." You are providing critical services to victims of elder abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, financial fraud, and human trafficking, across the country and in tribal communities. As you face additional challenges due to COVID-19, we hope this Resource Guide offers some of the help you need.

Please direct specific questions about an open award to your OVC Victim Justice Program Specialist. OVC is committed to working with you to provide as much flexibility as allowed by our governing authorities. OVC does not anticipate any extensions to the remaining solicitations currently posted on the website. However, if there are any additional changes to these deadlines, they will be posted online.

Grant Management

OVC is using administrative flexibilities in our grant programs within our existing authority to support service providers in reaching and serving victims of crime.

- OJP Grantee Update #1: COVID-19 Impacts
- OJP Grantee Update #2: Guidance on Short Term Administrative Relief for Grantees Impacted by COVID-19
- Statement by Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Eric S. Dreiband Protecting Civil Rights While Responding to COVID-19.
- Guidance for VOCA Victim Assistance State Administrating Agencies: March 2020 Updates to OVC Match Waiver Approval Process

Employment and Operations

Many of you have asked questions about employment and operations in the face of changing workloads and workplaces. The following resources are designed to help answer questions about paying salaries, granting leave, ensuring workplace safety, and managing job duties.

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC): Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to COVID-19 and Administrators and Leaders of Community- and Faith-Based Organizations to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to COVID-19

- U.S. Department of Labor: COVID-19 Resources for Employers and Workers

- U.S. Equal Employment Commission: [What You Should Know About COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Other EEO Laws](#)

As your agency or organization and your grant partners reevaluate your operations in response to the pandemic, we offer the following tips:

- Assess the need to deliver services in-person, and determine what activities may be delivered remotely.
- Follow your existing policies regarding telework. If you do not have a tele-work policy, develop one and train your staff accordingly.
- Follow your existing policies regarding sick leave, administrative leave, vacation time, and time and attendance. However, it may be necessary to update these policies to address leave in the case of unexpected or extraordinary circumstances and/or to comply with the paid leave provisions of the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#). You may wish to provide a training to staff on these policies.
- Follow your existing policies regarding monitoring including remote monitoring. If necessary, update these policies to address remote monitoring and consult with your program manager regarding changes to a monitoring plan.
- Update the contact information of all your staff and the staff of your partners, and develop procedures for communicating about your project activities.
- Inventory the equipment and communication devices that are currently issued to staff, and assess if you should redistribute this equipment among staff or purchase additional or upgraded equipment for staff with grant funds.
- Consult CDC guidance and coordinate with state and local health officials on best practices regarding personal protective gear, sanitizing workplaces, and other methods to curb the spread of COVID-19.

General Resources for Working Safely and Addressing Mental Health Needs

The resources below may help employers and workers prepare for and respond to coronavirus in the workplace.

- The Office of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) developed [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help employers respond in the event of coronavirus in the workplace.

- OSHA issued [temporary guidance](#) regarding the enforcement of OSHA's Respiratory Protection standard that provides suggestions and options to help increase the availability of N95 filtering facepiece respirators for healthcare providers.

- OSHA's [COVID-19 webpage](#) provides infection prevention information specifically for employers and workers.

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) [has collected resources](#) to assisting individuals, providers, communities, and states. You can also refer

people to the SAMHSA's National Helpline, a free, confidential, 24/7, 365-day-a-year treatment referral and information service (in English and Spanish) for individuals and families facing mental and/or substance use disorders. 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Services and Advocacy

The following resources from federal agencies provide information related to providing a broad range of services victims may require.

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has collected resources and relevant communications for organizations that provide victim services and victim advocacy.

  HHS's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation has gathered resources on Virtual Case Management in Human Services Programs and collected guidance and information for human services programs.

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services' Response to COVID-19 has information on nutrition programs such as WIC, SNAP and more.

Older Victims

- The Administration for Community Living has collected resources for agencies working with older Americans.

- The Department of Justice's National Elder Fraud Hotline, operated by OVC, provides services to all adults ages 60 and older who may be victims of financial fraud.

Intimate Partner Violence and Child Abuse

- SAMHSA released information about domestic violence and child abuse considerations during COVID-19.

Housing and Shelters

Below are some resources for programs that provide housing and emergency shelter.

- The CDC offered interim guidance for homeless service providers to plan and respond to COVID-19, guidance for shared or congregate housing, and guidance for screening clients at entry to homeless shelters.

- The CDC provides resources to support people experiencing homelessness and unsheltered homelessness.

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Infectious Disease Toolkit for Continuums of Care: [Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease Within Shelters](#)

- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Supporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness during the COVID-19 Outbreak: [Questions to Consider](#)

Human Trafficking

- Visit [OVC's human trafficking website](#) for resources to help grantees strategize about how to provide high quality support and advocacy to survivors, including resources related to housing, employment assistance, and other key needs.
- HHS's Office on Trafficking in Persons is frequently updating a list of [COVID-19 resources, services, and support](#). Many of these resources are relevant to meeting the service needs of trafficking survivors.

Agencies Serving Vulnerable Youth

- The Family & Youth Services Bureau, part of HHS's Administration for Children and Families, released [FAQs on the allowable use of Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Program](#) funding during COVID-19.

- The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness Resource: [Supporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness during the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

- SAMHSA Resource: [Talking With Children During Outbreaks](#)

- CDC Resource: [Guidance for Open Child Care Programs](#)

- Youth.gov posted [resources for youth and their families](#).

Law Enforcement Agencies

Below are some resources for law enforcement agencies.

- The CDC offered guidance on [what law enforcement personnel need to know](#) about COVID-19.

- BJA Funding Opportunity: Applications are due Friday, May 29, 2020 for the [Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding](#).

Information Sharing

The resources listed below provide guidance related to information sharing.

- HHS Office for Civil Rights on COVID-19 and HIPAA: Disclosures to Law Enforcement, Paramedics, Other First Responders and Public Health Authorities

- The DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) FAQs on the VAWA Confidentiality Provision will help organizations that receive funding through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to comply with the confidentiality requirements in VAWA while providing services remotely.

- Justice Information Sharing Special Research Report: CORONAVIRUS—What to do in Pandemic Situations

Indian Country

Below are some resources for grantees in Indian Country.

- The Indian Health Service (IHS) provides FAQs on the federal response to COVID-19 in Indian Country and resources for COVID-19 in Indian Country.

Visit OVC.gov for additional information and resources.