

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), an agency within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, was formally established by Congress in 1988 through an amendment of the Victims of Crime Act in 1984 (VOCA) to oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. VOCA authorizes OVC to fund states to operate crime victim assistance and compensation programs, and develop demonstration initiatives and national-scope training and technical assistance. OVC also has an advocacy and leadership role in developing policy for and raising awareness of crime victims' rights.

The Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) was established by OVC in 1988 to increase the nation's capacity to provide skilled, capable victim-sensitive assistance to crime victims by making available comprehensive, quality training and technical assistance and resources to victim-service providers and allied professionals. OVC TTAC offers victim-service providers, allied professionals, volunteers, and advocates essential tools designed to enhance skills and improve the quality and efficiency of services across the country.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Public agencies; private, and not-for-profit organizations; and victim service, criminal justice and allied professionals (i.e., mental health, medical, clergy).

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE

OVC TTAC provides speakers for conferences and trainers for discussion groups, workshops and other meetings on a host of victim issues. OVC TTAC also provides developmental support, mentoring and facilitation in such areas as needs assessment, program design and implementation, strategic planning, program management, evaluation, quality improvement, and community coordination and collaboration. OVC TTAC draws on the expertise of a network of consultants and seasoned victim-assistance professionals with firsthand experience in designing and delivering customized responses to satisfy a variety of technical assistance needs. All OVC TTAC technical assistance is designed to help improve service to victims of crime.

Through OVC Training Calendar workshops, OVC TTAC enables professionals in the victim services field to continue building their technical skills and enhance their knowledge in leadership, professional development, and training design and delivery. Training Calendar workshops, registration materials, and other online resources may be found on the OVC TTAC Web site, www.ovcttac.org.

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AVAILABLE FUNDING

OVC makes a determination on a case-by-case basis for support for training, technical assistance and Speakers Bureau activities. In addition, the OVC Professional Development Scholarship Program provides up to \$1,000 for individuals and up to \$5,000 for multidisciplinary teams of victim-service professionals seeking continuing education opportunities. Scholarship awards are based on eligibility, are limited to available funds and are processed in the order in which applications are received. Scholarships are nontransferable and can be used only for professional development related to an applicant's responsibilities for serving victims of crime. Also, OVC provides financial resources to

agencies and organizations sponsoring statewide conferences that focus on enhancing services to victims of crime. The Crime Victim State Conference Scholarship Program enables agencies to create their own scholarship programs valued at up to \$10,000 to reimburse expenses for victim participation such as travel, lodging and any fees associated with attending statewide conferences.

APPLICATION PROCESS/DEADLINES

Applications must be submitted a minimum of 60 days (two months) prior to the scheduled event or training for which support is requested, to allow time for the review process and planning. The application includes a cover page and a narrative attachment responding to a series of questions, depending on the type of assistance requested.

MATCHING/OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The applicant must demonstrate a commitment of resources from other sources to support the training. Special consideration is given to requests where the assistance will have statewide or regional impact or build interagency or multidisciplinary capacity to deliver services. In addition, the following selection criteria are considered: clarity of request and description of problem; focus on raising public awareness and educating about crime-victim issues; potential impact of the training; organizational capacity to implement learning and sustain change; and need for federal support for training.

CONTACT

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