

the 1982 report. This update will not only describe the progress made in victim services during the past thirteen years, but also will describe a plan for the future, including promising practices, model programs and legislation, and needed national-scope training and technical assistance programs. OVC hopes that this new report, like the landmark 1982 publication, will become a guide for long-term action to improve victims' rights and services into the next century.

DATES: This Program Announcement is effective May 3, 1995. All applications for new, competitive programs are due by 5 p.m. on July 3, 1995. All applications for FY 1996 funding are due by 5 p.m. on August 1, 1995. Postmarks are not acceptable.

Program Announcement Development

OVC solicited input from a wide variety of sources in developing the proposals contained within this program announcement. A request for concept papers from the field was made in OVC's FY 1994 program announcement. OVC received 45 responses. OVC also sought input from the field at a number of training conferences around the country, including meetings with U.S. Attorneys and LECC/Victim-Witness Coordinators, Native American representatives, state VOCA Compensation and Assistance Administrators, and victim advocates at the national, state, and local levels. The program plan reflects much of that input. Those suggestions that fell outside of OVC's statutory authority were shared with other DOJ components for their consideration.

Competitive and Continuation Grants

This program announcement contains new competitive, non-competitive, and continuation grants, as well as information on interagency agreements.

Discretionary grants for new programs are generally awarded through a competitive process. The programs are open to a broad range of public and private non-profit organizations.

Awards will be made to organizations and agencies that offer the greatest potential for achieving the objectives outlined in the description of each program. Selections primarily will be made on the basis of the information provided in the applicants' proposals. However, the Director also may consider any unsatisfactory past performance of applicants on OVC or OJP grants.

To supplement and assist in the consideration and review of applications by the program office, all competitive applications will be rated

by a peer review panel of experts in the program areas. The panel will make recommendations for funding to the Director of OVC, who has final funding authority. The panel will rate competing applicants by numerical values based on the point distribution identified in the Selection Criteria (see Section VIII for details). Letters will be sent to all applicants notifying them of the final decision regarding their proposal. At their request, unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the major deficiencies identified in their application by the panel. OVC will negotiate specific terms of the awards with the selected applicants based upon the comments of panel members and OVC program managers. No awards will be granted until and unless selected applicants agree to terms specified by OVC.

For continuation programs, the awards are limited to specific organizations/grantees who have previously received at least one year of funding for a previous year's program solicitation. Continuation awards will be negotiated directly with current grantees to support further program activities or with organizations that are uniquely qualified to address subsequent phases of previously funded projects.

II. New, Competitive Programs

All grantees that are awarded funding for new programs following the OVC peer review and selection process are expected to work closely with the OVC project monitor during all phases of the award period.

All written products resulting from these grants must be submitted on computer disk, as well as in hard copy. Grantees will be expected to submit a short monograph or summary of the project and its findings (5–10 pages) that may be published as an OVC Bulletin.

A. Promising Strategies and Practices To Improve Services to Crime Victims

Promising Strategies and Practices for Law Enforcement Agencies (Cooperative Agreement)—Award Amount: \$75,000

Purpose: To identify and document innovative policies, procedures, practices, and programs used by law enforcement agencies to respond to the needs of crime victims and to develop a plan for their dissemination.

Background: Law enforcement officers usually are the first criminal justice personnel to interact with crime victims. The way in which they treat victims can have a profound impact on how well and how quickly they recover from traumatic events.

Experienced law enforcement professionals are keenly aware of their

responsibility toward victims. As a result, many agencies at both the federal and local level have developed a variety of innovative approaches to assisting victims. These include: Brochures that explain what victims can expect to happen as their case moves through the criminal justice system; wallet-sized cards that list victims rights and local resources; innovative ways of utilizing social service workers and volunteers; and partnerships with others, including community groups, to enhance victim services.

Goal: To increase and enhance services provided to crime victims by law enforcement personnel.

Objectives:

- To identify the elements of effective or promising approaches law enforcement can use to assist victims;
- To find existing policies, procedures, practices, and programs that contain these elements;
- To prepare detailed descriptions of the promising strategies; and
- To prepare a plan for disseminating this information to law enforcement agencies.

Program Strategy: With OVC, the grantee first will identify Federal and local law enforcement and victim assistance experts who can help develop criteria for determining what strategies can be considered "promising." The grantee then will conduct a review of programs in the field to identify policies, procedures, practices, and programs that meet the criteria. The review should include an examination of tribal agency practices in Indian Country, Federal approaches, and state and local programs.

The project staff will collect information about promising strategies in sufficient detail to allow other agencies to replicate them. This information will be compiled into a compendium of "Promising Victim Assistance Strategies for Law Enforcement Agencies." A shorter version of the document will be prepared for publication as an OVC Bulletin.

The products of this project include:

- Selection criteria for promising strategies;
- Assessment Plan for identifying qualifying strategies;
- Comprehensive descriptions of the essential elements of each promising strategy or program;
- Compendium of Promising Strategies and Practices, in complete and shortened Bulletin format;
- Final Report, including project assessment; and
- A dissemination plan.

Eligibility Requirements: In addition to the requirements of Sections VI–XI,