



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 **A Message from OVW Acting Director Catherine Pierce**

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act \(Recovery Act\)](#), an extraordinary plan to invigorate our economy, create and save millions of jobs, and address the infrastructure needs of our country and economy to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

President Obama inspires us as we implement his vision for the economy. While [addressing the nation this week](#) before a joint session of Congress, President Obama said, "*What is required now is for this country to pull together, confront boldly the challenges we face, and take responsibility for our future once more.*"

Most important to us, this legislation invests in the President and the Attorney General's priority to protect the most vulnerable and victimized.

Specifically, the [Recovery Act](#) provides \$225 million to the [Office on Violence Against Women](#) for five of its existing programs:

- **\$140 million** for the [Services*Training*Officers*Prosecutors Formula Grant Program \(STOP Program\)](#) to promote a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to enhance services and advocacy to victims, improve the criminal justice system's response, and promote effective law enforcement, prosecution, and judicial strategies to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. *Applicants are limited to U.S. states and territories. State allocations can be viewed here: <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/recovery-grants-awards.htm>.*
- **\$8.75 million** for [State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions](#) to support the coordination of state victim services activities, including collaboration and coordination with federal, state, and local entities. State Sexual Assault Coalitions and State Domestic Violence Coalitions will receive up to \$78,125 each, and dual Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Coalitions will receive up to \$156,250. *Eligible applicants are HHS-designated State coalitions.*
- **\$43 million** for the [Transitional Housing Assistance Program](#) which provides holistic, victim-centered transitional housing services and related support services that move individuals into permanent housing. *Eligible applicants include States, units of local government, Indian tribes, and other organizations with a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.*
- **\$20.8 million** for the [Tribal Governments Grant Program](#) to enhance the ability of Tribes to respond to violent crimes against American Indian and Alaska Native women, enhance victim safety, and develop education and prevention strategies. *Eligible applicants include federally recognized Indian Tribes, their authorized designee, or a consortium consisting of two or more federally recognized Tribes.*

- **\$2.8 million** for the Tribal [Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program](#) to end violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women. *Eligible applicants are established federally recognized Indian Tribes, their authorized designee, or a consortium consisting of two or more federally recognized Tribes.*
- Remaining funds will support Technical Assistance for grantees including assistance on meeting reporting requirements, as required by the Recovery Act.

It is critical that applicants address our nation's economic recovery in their proposals specifying how these funds will be used to create and preserve jobs, leading the way for economic prosperity, while addressing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

The majority of the funds will be distributed to States, who will release request for proposals to local communities requesting proposals that will be reviewed through a competitive selection process at the state level. Please contact your state's [STOP administering agency](#) for information about applying for STOP Program funds. A complete contact list of STOP administering agencies is posted on OVW's website:

http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/admin_contact_list.pdf.

OVW will award and distribute funds in a swift and effective manner in accordance with Recovery Act provisions. Please view [OVW's Recovery Act webpage](#) frequently for updates and a timeline for OVW's implementation of the Recovery Act: www.ovw.usdoj.gov/recovery.htm.

In advance of releasing solicitations, OVW encourages all registered applicants to take necessary steps to update their registration with the [Central Contractor Registration](#) (CCR) database and www.Grants.gov. All applicants must also have a valid [DUNS number](#) which identifies an organization and helps track the distribution of grant funds.

I know many of you have questions about Recovery Act funds and how to apply. Please be assured that we will continue to inform you of solicitation releases and important deadlines. You may email OVW.Recovery@usdoj.gov with any questions, comments, and concerns and we will respond within five working days. We ask that you be patient with us as we press ahead with administering and implementing OVW's 15 other grant programs for Fiscal Year 2009, in addition to the five additional program funding streams made available under the Recovery Act.

OVW understands these additional resources are necessary and fundamental to the work you do. We are proud to see Transitional Housing funding, for example, increase three-fold in one year, equivalent to the total amount OVW has received since the program was launched in 2004. We know these funds are critical, especially in bleak economic times, to assist victims of sexual exploitation and victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking who have lost their jobs and homes and often return to impossible, abusive situations because of lack of housing.

I leave you again with the [words of President Obama](#), "*[I]n my life, I have also learned that hope is found in unlikely places; that inspiration often comes not from those with the most power or celebrity, but from the dreams and aspirations of Americans who are anything but ordinary.*"

Your work is anything but ordinary and we know it is not easy, but we derive our hopes for a prosperous and safe future from all of you. We will continue to support you and work with you to transform our communities, protect victims, and end violence against women.

Sincerely,

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