

April 14, 2009

ANNOUNCEMENT:

To: Non-profit Victim Service Providers

FROM: Judy Dupuy
Executive Director

RE: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act – Solicitation for VOCA-Victim Assistance Grant Program - \$752,400 available statewide

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for funding under the Federal Recovery Act Victim Assistance Grant Program (VOCA). VOCA funds may be used to provide direct services to victims of crime that will improve or enhance the following purpose areas.

- Respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims.
- Assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization.
- Assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system.
- Provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security such as boarding up broken windows and replacing and repairing locks.

No funds may be expended outside of these VOCA purpose areas. A cash and/or in-kind match of 20% is required on all VOCA projects.

Non-profit, non-governmental organizations, whose sole purpose is to provide direct services to victims of crime are eligible to apply for funding. Applicants **MUST** have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) Number. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving Federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information for federal assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, simple, one-time activity. Obtain one by calling 1-866-705-5711 or by applying online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>.

Agencies **MUST** also be currently registered in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database to be eligible to participate in this program. OJP requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal financial assistance maintain current registrations in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database. The CCR database is the repository for standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. Organizations that have previously submitted applications via Grants.gov are already registered with CCR, as it is a requirement for Grants.gov registration. Please note, however, that applicants must update or renew their CCR registration at least once per year to maintain an active status. Information about registration procedures can be accessed at www.ccr.gov.

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Louisiana's portion of the Recovery Act VOCA program totals \$752,400. The LCLE has set a minimum program application amount of \$5,000 in order to be considered for funding, and a maximum grant amount of \$50,000. It is anticipated that Awards will be made by the Commission in May or June, 2009. All applicant agencies must choose one of the following as their project period: (1) June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2010; (2) July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 or (3) August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010. Grant duration can be no more than 12 months, and all grant projects must end by July 31, 2010.

Application packet, including instructions, special reporting requirements, and performance measures, can be obtained from the LCLE website: www.lcle.la.gov. Please read the application instructions to ensure that all application requirements are completed.

Applicants should be aware that not all applications may be funded, and some may be funded at a reduced amount. The recommendations as to funding and amount will be made through a structured evaluation process covering the following mandatory aspects of the grant application:

- Economic Stimulus
- Identification of Need
- Goals & Objectives
- Methodology
- Evaluation

Each area is evaluated on the basis of whether or not it is addressed at all, and if addressed the strength or weakness of the proposal. The recommendation resulting from the evaluation will be based on the merit of the proposal. In conjunction with the evaluation of the program narrative, a review of the budget will be made to determine whether the costs are allowable, and if allowable are they reasonable and justified. The review will result in an actual amount recommended for funding.

Please note the deadline for applications to be submitted to the LCLE is 5:00 p.m. on April 24, 2009. LCLE will accept hard copy applications (hand delivery or overnight mail) or online applications.

Because of the limited amount of federal funds, there is no guarantee that all agencies that apply will receive funding or receive the amount requested.

Please check the LCLE website on a regular basis for additional information on this program.