Application Questions and Answers:

Q: Is this application different from the Compensation and FTE Enhancement grant application?

A: Yes, this is a different and distinct funding opportunity. It is open to current OCVA-funded Crime Victim Service Centers, OCVA-funded Sexual Assault Service Programs, and DSHS-funded Domestic Violence Direct Service Programs. The Service Enhancement and Expansion for Current Programs is a competitive application.

Regarding Eligible Services and Expenses (page 9):

- Services and Expenses that include mental health counseling and care such as
  - Out-patient therapy/counseling
  - Substance-abuse treatment
    - Victim service programs proposing to fund these services must be focused on collaboration with treatment programs
    - Funding must support collaborative service models and approaches
    - Applicant must include a letter of support or MOU with application if it includes partnership with another entity
    - Treatment must be directly related to the victimization and provided by a person who meets professional standards to provide these services and these services should be one component of a comprehensive array of victim services provided

Q: Does this mean that these funds cannot be used to fund salary for an in-house counselor?

A: No, this section does not prohibit an applicant from proposing therapy services provided by an in-house staff therapist.

Q: Is the substance abuse component required as part of the mental health counseling?

A: No, substance abuse treatment is not required as part of or in conjunction with mental health counseling.
Q: We wanted to clarify whether we are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity. We did receive VOCA enhancement funds in this current fiscal year for wage increases for our direct service staff and those are now in place within our DSHS Emergency Shelter contract. May we apply for this service enhancement funding for a new service or project to start July 1, 2017?

A: Yes, as a current DSHS funded domestic violence program, the organization is eligible to apply for the Service Enhancement and Expansion grant. Eligible entities do not have to be recipients of the recent Compensation and FTE Enhancement. Eligible entities do have to be current OCVA funded Crime Victim Service Centers (including Region 14), OCVA funded Sexual Assault Service providers, or DHSH funded domestic violence service providers.

Q: The application states that each applicant can request $95,000.00. Since our agency is serving several counties throughout three (3) regions, are we able to apply separately for each region?

A: No, regardless of service area/regions, applicants can only request up to $95,000 per year.

Q: We have a new ARNP for whom we would like to request some additional hours, but we would also like to request funding for a new piece of equipment, a photocolposcope which would cost approximately $15,000. I understand that we would need specific written authorization for that purchase if approved, and I’m having trouble determining if it would even be allowable under our current funding authorization. Can you give me some guidance?

A: Equipment is allowable with prior approval. Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having 1) a useful life of more than one year and 2) a per unit-acquisition cost of $5,000 or greater. Justification (purpose, type, quantity, etc.) must be provided. Considerations for technology that supports delivery of direct services to victims is outlined in the VOCA Rule 94.120 (e) (1-6). Recipients must follow ownership, use, management, and disposition standards and procedures set forth in the Department of Justice 2015 Grants Financial Guide, Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, and any applicable state law/procedures.

Q: How many awards are anticipated being provided?

A: OCVA/DSHS anticipates funding approximately 20 programs.

Q: Does an organization that has both a DV and a SA program (separate programs) have to apply together?

A: Yes, one organization that has both a domestic violence and sexual assault program must apply together with one application.
Q: Can we apply separately to receive more funds?
A: No, one organization cannot submit separate applications for each program type. Applicants may request up to $95,000 for the initial 12-month budget.

Q: Is paralegal support allowed?
A: No, active investigation and prosecution of criminal activities is not allowed per the VOCA Rules 94.122 (c). Additionally, civil legal assistance (including representation) is not allowed per the Application Eligibility. However, legal advocacy is an allowable direct service cost.

Q: Are there screening or eligibility requirements for clients receiving the relocation, housing and/or emergency financial assistance?
A: Successful bidders that included relocation, housing, and/or emergency financial assistance costs in their proposal will be required to submit to OCVA/DSHS a plan for providing this type of assistance. The plan should include policies and procedures and can contain the organization’s screening and/or eligibility requirements.

Q: What about a life-coaching program that helps address the following topics: discovering change, improving self-esteem, setting personal boundaries, building better communication skills, learning time and stress management, managing money, and finding expression through art?
A: Yes, in the context of advocacy and support the specific/specialized topics listed above are eligible.

Q: My understanding is that you can use direct service volunteers and also other volunteers, such as professionals that provide services to your program - therapists, yoga teachers, etc.
A: Yes, the use of volunteers to provide direct services is allowable as long as they meet the training requirements. In fact, the use of volunteers is a grant requirement.

Q: Can volunteer hours be used for match?
A: Yes, the use of volunteered professional or personal services is an allowable source of project match. The value should be consistent with compensation for similar work within the program (or labor market in which the program competes). Project match amount is 20% (cash or in-kind). Tribes are not required to provide match.
Q: What does the volunteer match look like?
A: Volunteered professional or personal services as a source of match shall have a value consistent with the rate of compensation (which may include fringe benefits) paid for similar work in the program, but if the similar work is not performed in the program, the rate of compensation shall be consistent with the rate found in the labor market in which the program competes. Each subrecipient shall maintain records that clearly show the source, amount, and time period of the contributions. The basis for determining value shall be documented. Volunteer services shall be substantiated by the same methods used for paid employees (generally, a timesheet).

Q: We have been planning to hire a community educator to develop curriculum on DV and SA work in the refugee and immigrant communities. Is this funding eligible to provide community organizing or community mobilization work? For instance, to provide community education to culturally specific communities on DV and SA.
A: Yes, expanding or enhancing outreach/education/awareness is an allowable activity (including the development and distribution of materials) as long as it is designed to inform the public and victims about victimization, rights, and available assistance.

Q: Could you clarify what expansion of services means?
A: The purpose of the application is to enhance current programming and address critical needs as identified in the VOCA Plan. This includes emergency financial assistance and the development/testing of service delivery strategies. Expanding or enhancing services could include reaching a new population, serving a new geographic region and/or increasing the breadth and depth of services.

Q: We currently provide medical advocacy, but we want to expand it both to additional hospitals and to train volunteers to provide this service. Would this be eligible?
A: Yes, expanding services to new locations and volunteer training are both eligible activities.

Q: Can foundation funds be used for match?
A: Yes, foundation funds can be used for match as long as it contributes to the VOCA eligible activities and is a non-federal source.
Q: How about upgrading surveillance and computers?

A: Equipment is allowable with prior approval. Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having 1) a useful life of more than one year and 2) a per unit-acquisition cost of $5,000 or greater. Justification (purpose, type, quantity, etc.) must be provided. Considerations for technology that supports delivery of direct services to victims is outlined in the VOCA Rule 94.120 (e) (1-6). Recipients must follow ownership, use, management, and disposition standards and procedures set forth in the Department of Justice 2015 Grants Financial Guide, Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, and any applicable state law/procedures.

Q: Would covering salary costs associated with an advocate coordinating direct service volunteers be an appropriate use of expansion funds?

A: Yes, personnel salaries and benefits to provide, support, and/or supervise direct service activities is an allowable cost.

Q: Would dental work be eligible if the abuser caused the dental damage?

A: It depends. Emergency costs in connection with the victimization and related to the victim’s immediate health and safety are allowable. For example, when Crime Victims Compensation, health insurance, Medicaid, or other health care funding is not available quickly enough then medicine (prescription and non-prescription), HIV/AIDS (and other infections) prophylactic, equipment, and other healthcare items are allowed.

Q: Are these funds considered state funding and/or federal funding?

A: The Service Expansion and Enhancement for Current Programs grant is 100% federal VOCA Assistance pass-through funding.

Q: Is the $95K available each year per program or per organization?

Q: We have a separate DV and SA program; if approved, would this be $95K per program or for both programs?

A: The application is intended to fund one organization, agency, or Tribe. One organization that has both a domestic violence and sexual assault program must apply together with one application. Up to $95,000 is available per entity per year.
Q: What about life skills classes? Can this grant pay for an advocate to teach life skills classes (managing a budget, paying bills, cooking on a budget, etc.)?
A: Yes, specialized advocacy and support around specific topics, such as those listed above, is eligible.

Q: Can we apply for enhancement in two areas or must be in one area? For example, child advocate and therapist.
A: Yes, the organization/agency/Tribe may apply to enhance and/or expand two or more services as long as the enhancement and/or expansion is within currently funded program types.

Q: Could it be local funds as well for the match?
A: Yes, local funds can be used for match as long as it contributes to the VOCA-funded project and is a non-federal source.

Q: Would yoga be considered healing therapy?
A: Yes, yoga would be an allowable direct service cost in the context of advocacy and support to include traditional, cultural, and/or alternative therapy or healing.

Q: Tattoo removal – if survivors want tattoos removed related to victimization, is this an eligible expense?
A: It depends. Emergency costs in connection with the victimization and related to the victim’s immediate health and safety are allowable. For example, when Crime Victims Compensation, health insurance, Medicaid, or other health care funding is not available quickly enough then medicine (prescription and non-prescription), HIV/AIDS (and other infections) prophylactic, equipment, and other healthcare items are allowed.

Q: Legal advocacy vs. legal assistance expenses, including filing fees etc., is this an eligible expense?
A: It depends. Legal advocacy services and payment of costs that help victims participate in the criminal legal system and in other public proceedings arising from the crime are allowed. Legal expenses may be eligible on an emergency basis, when reasonable, and as a direct result of the victimization. Retainer and attorney fees are not allowable.
Q: Emergency contraception ("Plan B") – may a program purchase this in advance to have on hand, and then provide it on an as-needed basis for survivors who need it?

A: Yes, emergency costs in connection with the victimization and related to the victim’s immediate health and safety are allowable, including medicine (prescription and non-prescription). Please note that emergency contraception has an expiration date.

Q: Would a joint application from two or more eligible applicants be eligible? For example, an application to provide certain victim advocacy services on a regional basis.

A: One entity may apply and include additional an entity(ies) as a subcontractor(s). There must be one main applicant and that entity must be responsible for being the point of contact, signing the contract, and ensuring contract compliance and performance. The main contractor and subcontractor(s) can provide services jointly.