

STOP Unallowable Activities

The following information is provided to allow applicants to develop an application and administer grant funds consistent with program requirements. OVW awards are governed by the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and the [DOJ Financial Guide](#), which include information on allowable costs, methods of payment, audit requirements, accounting systems, and financial records. The following is a list of unallowable activities and cannot be supported by STOP funding (not all inclusive):

- Lobbying (**except with explicit statutory authorization**).
- Fundraising.
- Purchase of Real Property.
- Construction.
- Physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations (such as painting or carpeting)
- Research, defined in 28 C.F.R. § 46.102 as a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.
- Prevention activities exceeding 5% of applicants budget. Funds are not available in this funding cycle for prevention activities.
- Food/Beverage costs for refreshments and meals that are not within victim services where the food is necessary or integral to providing services to women to enhance their safety.
- Pre-award costs unless the applicant received prior approval from PGR.
- Placement of survivors in permanent housing after a shelter stay (including purchasing furniture or paying moving costs). However, funds can be used to cover reasonable transportation costs that would enhance a woman's safety.
- Legal or defense services for perpetrators including defense for women who assault, kill, or otherwise injure their abusers.
- Federal funds cannot be used to match other federal funds. An exception is Indian tribes who may use funds appropriated by Congress for the activities of any agency of an Indian tribal government or for the activities of the Bureau of Indian Affairs performing law enforcement functions on any Indian lands.
- Voucher programs.
- Purchase of a vehicle.
- Immigration fees for battered immigrant women.
- Services to children under age 11 (unless the children's services are of a secondary nature to the primary services provided to the adult victim or if children's services are complementary emergency services, such as serving a child witnesses to domestic violence).

Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery

The following unallowable activities have been found to jeopardize victim safety, deter, or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions:

- Procedures or policies that exclude victims from receiving services based on their actual or perceived sex, age, immigration status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health condition, physical health condition, criminal record, work in the sex industry, income or lack of income, or the age and/or sex of their children.
- Procedures or policies that compromise the confidentiality of information and/or privacy of victims.
- Procedures or policies that require victims to take certain actions (e.g., seek an order of protection; receive counseling; participate in counseling, mediation, or restorative justice/circle processes; report to law enforcement or other authorities; seek civil or criminal remedies) or penalize them for failing to do so.
- Procedures or policies that fail to include conducting safety planning with victims.
- Project designs, products, services, and/or budgets that fail to account for the unique needs of individuals with disabilities, with limited English proficiency, or who are Deaf or hard of hearing, including accessibility for such individuals.
- Using technology without addressing implications for victim confidentiality, safety planning, and the need for informed consent.
- Partnering with individuals or organizations that support/promote practices that compromise victim safety and recovery or undermine offender accountability.

Example of Activities that compromise victim safety and recovery and undermine offender accountability including:

- The use of pre-trial diversion programs in cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking or the automatic placement of offenders in such programs.
- Couples counseling, family counseling, or any other joint victim-offender counseling as a routine or required response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, or in situation in which child sexual abuse is alleged.
- Mediation in cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, except where the mediation is voluntary for the victim and there is screening for such victimization prior to the start of mediation, there is informed consent on the part of the victim, the mediators have appropriate training on such victimization issues, and the process includes ongoing safety planning for victims and flexibilities such as having the victim and offender physically separated.
- Requiring victims to report sexual assault, stalking, or domestic violence crimes to law enforcement or forcing victims to participate in criminal proceedings.

- Offering or ordering anger management programs for offenders as a substitute for offender intervention programs or relying on offender intervention programs that do not use court monitoring to hold batterers accountable for their behaviors.
- Supporting policies that deny individuals access to services based on their relationship to the perpetrator.
- Requiring survivors to meet restrictive conditions in order to receive services (e.g., background checks of victim; clinical evaluation to determine eligibility for services) or other screening processes that elicit information that is not necessary for services, such as questions about immigration status, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, physical or mental health, and work or criminal history that the service provider does not need to know to provide services safety.
- Developing materials not appropriately tailored to the dynamics of sexual assault or domestic violence or to the specific population(s) to be addressed by the funded project.
- Dissemination of information, education, or prevention materials that blame the victim or focus primarily on changing victim behavior.
- Sharing confidential victim information with outside organizations and/or individuals without the documented consent of the victim.
- Procedures that would penalize or impose sanctions on victims of domestic violence or sexual assault for failure to testify against the abuser and/or the perpetrator.
- Procedures or policies that do not provide for the meaningful involvement of student victims in discussions and decisions that have a direct impact on them, such as changes to class schedules or living arrangements.
- Establishment or enhancement of a multidisciplinary collaborative community response without developing appropriate policies regarding confidentiality and information sharing for the members.
- Policies and procedures that fail to account for the physical safety of victims
- Purchases of standard issued law enforcement items such as uniforms, safety vests, shields, weapons, bullets, and armory.