

Supporting Statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission

Office on Violence Against Women
Survey of Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program Grantees and
Partners

A. Justification

1. Statutorily-Mandated Need for Information

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) administers financial support and technical assistance to communities around the country that are creating programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Its mission is to provide national leadership to improve the Nation's response to these crimes through the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act.

The Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program (Supervised Visitation) Program provided an opportunity for communities to support the supervised visitation and safe exchange of children in situations involving domestic violence, dating violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. Studies have shown that the risk of violence is often greater for victims of domestic violence and their children after separation from an abusive situation. Even after separation, batterers often use visitation and exchange of children as an opportunity to inflict additional emotional, physical, and/or psychological abuse on victims and their children. Visitation and exchange services provided through the Supervised Visitation Program reflected a clear understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking; the impact of domestic violence on children; and the importance of holding offenders accountable for their actions. The Grants to Support Families in the Justice System program (referred to as the Justice for Families Program) was authorized in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2013 to improve the response of all aspects of the civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or in cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse. The program includes purpose areas previously authorized under the Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program (Supervised Visitation) and the Court Training and Improvements Program (Courts), along with new purpose areas and applicant requirements.

In order to better support Justice for Families Program grantees as well those OVW grantees or potential grantees engaged in supervised visitation and safe exchange activities in the future, OVW will gather information through an electronic online survey tool about Supervised Visitation Program grantees' experiences, and those of their partners, in providing supervised visitation and safe exchange services to families experiencing domestic violence, child abuse, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking in their communities. This information will assist OVW in administering future related grant programs and will also benefit other communities that want to consider using funds to support similar services.

2. Use of Information

The survey is a cost-effective and voluntary collection of information, which will permit OVW to learn firsthand from grantees and their partners about their experiences with this OVW grant program. Past and current recipients of an award under the Supervised Visitation Grant Program will be asked to voluntarily participate in the anonymous online survey. Supervised Visitation Program grantees are required to develop formal partnerships with visitation providers, courts, domestic violence/sexual assault non-profit agencies, and units of local government. Surveys will be sent to organizations that received the federal funding at some time since the grant program's inception in 2002, regardless of whether they continue to receive these funds.

Survey recipients will be asked to respond to 10 questions that will provide insight into what type of entity, the type of geographic area, the type of grant they were awarded, significant outcomes for their community, and successes and challenges experienced under the grant program. Most of the questions will be multiple choice or involve a rating scale. There will be a few open ended questions.

3. Use of Information Technology

An electronic online survey tool has been developed that allows for anonymous responses. The tool will be sent to email addresses of current and past grantees. The survey will be opened and closed for responses on specific dates. Those who receive the email can forward to peers and others in their community that were part of developing and implementing the local grant program.

4. Duplication of Information Request

This information is not being currently collected on existing progress reporting forms and therefore cannot be obtained otherwise. Information garnered from the survey will inform OVW about practical "lessons learned" and anecdotal information that will assist other communities that want to consider using federal funds to provide supervised visitation and exchange services to families experiencing domestic violence, child abuse, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking.

5. Impact on Small Entities

There is no impact on small entities as the collection is necessary to secure federal funding.

6. Consequences to Federal Programs or Policy

The ability of OVW to collect information about grantees' experiences with this

federal grant program over the past ten years is important for the continued success of federal funding support for these important services for families experiencing domestic violence, child abuse, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking. The Supervised Visitation Program provided an opportunity for communities to support the supervised visitation and safe exchange of children, by and between parents, in situations involving domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking. OVW wants to gather information about “lessons learned” from the past 10 years of administering the grant program in order to better serve all future Justice for Families Program Grantees as well as OVW grantees engaged in similar activities as well as other communities who will benefit from learning about the experiences of OVW Supervised Visitation Program grantees.

7. Special Circumstances

There are no special circumstances as identified in the specific instructions for a supporting statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions.

8. Federal Register Publication

OVW has consulted with persons outside the agency who have advised that the data proposed to be collected is available, the one-time collection of such data is not burdensome, the survey questions are clear, and that the information is based on the recipient’s impressions and it is not burdensome to take a brief survey about the grantees’ experiences with this federal grant program. OVW has solicited public comment on this survey in accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act. A 60 day notice was published in the Federal Register on May 21, 2013 (Federal Register, Volume 78, page 39325) and a 30-day notice was published in the Federal Register on July 22, 2013 (Federal Register, Volume 78, page 43917). OVW did not receive any public comments.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

There will no payment or gift to respondents.

10. Confidentiality

Although this information is beneficial for future program development involving grants that support supervised visitation and safe exchange services, it will not involve any personal information about victims that could identify them as specific individuals. However, anecdotal, non-identifying information about the effectiveness of individual programs may be included in the narrative answers. The electronic online survey tool has been designed for anonymous responses.

11. Specific Questions

The survey will not contain any questions of a personal, sensitive nature such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

12. Hour Burden of the Collection of Information

The collection of the information addressed in this survey is not overly burdensome. It is estimated that it will take respondents 30 minutes or less to complete the survey. Surveys will be sent to approximately 800 current and former grantees and partners on a onetime basis. There will be 800 annual responses and it is estimated that it will take applicants approximately 30 minutes to complete the online survey.

OVW is seeking information that is important to make program decisions about ways to provide better support to current grantees and their partners and to address future grant awards that support supervised visitation and safe exchange activities.

13. Cost Burden of the Collection of Information

OVW does not believe that there is any annual cost burden on respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of this information other than the staff time devoted to providing a one-time response to the online survey.

14. Annualized Costs to the Federal Government

The annualized costs to the Federal Government resulting from the OVW staff review of the responses are estimated to be \$10,000.

15. Program Changes or Adjustments

There are no program changes or adjustments for the estimates identified in Section 13 and in Section 14.

16. . Published Results of Information Collections

There will be no complex analytical techniques used in connection with the publication of information collected under the request. Information will be gathered only once.

17. Display of the Expiration Date of OMB Approval

OVW will display the Expiration Date of OMB Approval with the online survey.

18. Exception to the Certification Statement

OVW is not seeking any exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19,

Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions, of OMB Form 83-I.