



**Ministry of the Attorney General
Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division
Ontario Victim Services**

Application Guidelines

Grant Program: Grant to Support Child Victims of Gun and Gang Violence

Grant Term: Fall 2026

(Grant funds to be expended between March 1, 2027 to March 31, 2028)

Table of Contents

Introduction and Overview.....	3
Goals and Objectives	3
Eligibility Criteria.....	4
Performance Measurement	8
Application Process	9
Screening and Selection Process	11
Selection / Assessment Criteria	11
Post Approval Process	15

Introduction and Overview

The Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) is pleased to present the Fall 2026 Grant to Support Child Victims of Gun and Gang Violence Program (the Program). The Ministry endeavours to ensure a fair, transparent, and accountable process for the distribution of grants. This document outlines the following details of the Program:

- Goals and Objectives;
- Eligibility Criteria;
- Performance Measurement;
- Application Process;
- Screening and Selection Process;
- Selection Criteria; and
- Post Approval Process.

The Program will provide time-limited, one-time funding to eligible community-based agencies for initiatives that will enhance services and supports for child/youth victims, witnesses, and survivors of gun and gang violence, including human trafficking, as well as their families.

Victims under the age of 18 years (hereinafter “child victims”) of gun and gang violence, including human trafficking (hereinafter collectively referred to as “gun and gang violence”), have unique needs and require specialized care and supports as they navigate the justice system. Given the violent and traumatic nature of the crime, the needs of young victims are more complex, coordination across multiple justice and community-based partners is often required, there are often multiple victims involved in the same crime, safety/security concerns are more pronounced, families of child victims may have a distrust of the criminal justice system, and there are fewer specialized community supports available.

The grant period for applicants approved through the Fall 2026 cycle will be for projects taking place between **March 1, 2027 - March 31, 2028**.

Goals and Objectives

The purpose of the Program is to increase access to specialized care and services to support child victims of gun and gang violence as they navigate the justice system; and increase capacity to deliver these types of specialized services.

Projects must be focused on serving:

- Children or youth (under the age of 18) victims/survivors of gun and gang violence
- Children or youth (under the age of 18) witnesses of gun and gang violence
- Human Trafficking victims/survivors (under the age of 18)
- Family members of child/youth victims/survivors of gun and gang violence

Eligibility Criteria

Organizational Eligibility:

The following organizations are eligible to apply for grant funding:

- Current Child Victim Witness (CVW) Program service providers;
 - Current and emerging (e.g., in development phase) Child and Youth Advocacy Centres (CYACs) in Ontario;
 - Family service agencies that assist child or youth victims of unlawful activities or prevent unlawful activities that result in the victimization of children or youth; and,
 - Community legal clinics with specialized expertise and experience in child-centred legal services.
- a) Organizations may only apply on their own behalf.
- b) Applicants can submit a maximum of one grant application per organization.
- c) Projects seeking funding must be:
- one-time, non-recurring projects and should not create any expectation of future funding (e.g., an event-based project);
 - short-term or pilot projects; and/or
 - projects that can be sustained through existing resources once grant funding ends.
- d) Organizations that have previously received funding through the Program may apply for funding for a new project or a project that builds upon the previously funded project.

In addition to the above requirements, all applicants must:

- Be Ontario-based (e.g., main operations occur, and services are provided, in Ontario); and
- Be a not-for-profit organization incorporated in Ontario or Canada

Project Eligibility:

- **Providing specialized training** to justice sector personnel and community members to enable them to address the unique needs of child victims of gun and gang violence and their families.
- **Expanding services and supports** for child victims of gun and gang violence and their families (e.g., developing and implementing pilots/initiatives in collaboration with community partners to augment or expand services and supports, victim navigation supports, language interpretation services for victims, etc.).
- **Enhancing community coordination** to support child victims of gun and gang violence and their families (e.g., setting up a community coordination committee, outreach and education through school boards or community organizations).
- **Development of prevention and awareness resources** that would support families, caregivers and/or educators of children and youth in preventing and responding to gun and gang victimization, including human trafficking (e.g., educational materials about how online platforms can be used to recruit victims and facilitate guns and gang activity, including human trafficking).

The following activities are **ineligible** and will not be funded:

- Activities that do not directly support the delivery of services to child victims of gun and gang violence;
- Activities that focus on client groups other than child victims of gun and gang violence and their families; and
- The creation of new ongoing victim support programs.

In addition, projects must comply with all Ontario and Canada laws, including the *French Language Services Act*, the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, and Ontario's *Human Rights Code*.

Application Requirements

a) Multi-sectoral Collaboration and Partnerships

Applicants must work with a minimum of one (1) other relevant justice sector and community partner that has proven expertise in supporting child or youth victims and survivors.

Applications should clearly identify all partners involved in the project, and how the collaboration/partnership will result in a more effective and coordinated approach to supporting victims and survivors.

The application should also clearly outline key roles and responsibilities for all partners in planning and implementing the project, as well as any accountability towards project performance and the use of project funding.

*b) Letter of Support (**Mandatory**)*

Applicants are required to provide letters of support that confirm the involvement of any partners, community agencies, and/or organizations. These letters should detail the nature of the collaboration and what role the organization/community will play in the development and/or delivery of your project. This must be an official letter signed by the respective partner, community agency, and/or organization. Emails or letters that are not signed will not be accepted.

Note: Applications without a Letter of Support will not be accepted.

c) Performance Measurement

Applicants must track and collect data on expected outputs and outcomes as well as identify relevant performance measures (see Performance Measurement section for more information).

Budget Requirements

Grants will be awarded up to a total of \$200,000 per project for the grant period.

Funding for projects approved under this grant program is estimated to begin in **March, 2027**. Projects must be completed, and grant funds must be expended by **March 31, 2028**.

Any expenses incurred after this date are not permissible and will not be funded by the ministry. Any unspent or unreconciled grant funds will need to be returned to the ministry.

Please note that expenses related to travel, meal, and hospitality need to be in line with the Management Board of Cabinet's [Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive](#).

The Budget Definitions included in the Applicant Response Document sets out the eligible expenses and how the applicant should capture them within the budget template. A maximum of 15% of total expenditures can be used for Allocated Central Administration (ACA) costs.

For further information, please refer to the attached Budget Guidelines issued with this Call for Applications.

Performance Measurement

All applicants are required to provide information related to four (4) key performance indicators listed below (data elements) identified by the ministry. If any of the four indicators are not relevant for your specific project, you would record zero for that indicator.

Mandatory performance measures that all applicants must include during the application process are as follows:

- Total number of child victims of gun and gang violence served
- Total number of staff trained
- Number of unique resources created
- Number and type of community coordination enhancements (i.e., name and description of events)

While it is understood that not all performance indicators will apply to each project, applicants are asked to do their best to provide an accurate estimate.

In addition, applicants are also asked to identify additional performance measures that are relevant for their project. Information provided in the application will be used to identify baseline targets, which will be used to track the status of the project.

When developing additional project-specific indicators, applicants are encouraged to consider **mandatory outcomes** including:

- More services and supports available to child victims of gun and gang violence; and/or
- Enhanced coordination and collaboration across agencies serving child victims of gun and gang violence.

Application Process

Submitting Questions

Applicants may submit questions about the program or application process to the ministry.

Questions can be emailed to: OVS-Proposals@ontario.ca.

Submitting Application

All applications must:

- **Be approved and signed by an authorized signing authority** (or signing authorities if more than one is required based on the organization's by-laws) from within the organization that is submitting an application.
- **Be mindful of the Ministry's obligations under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)*** – The Ministry is bound by FIPPA. Any information provided to the Ministry through the application process or in connection with any approved projects may be subject to disclosure in accordance with the Act. Please provide only materials that are essential to the grant application. Any trade secret or any scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information submitted to the Ministry in confidence, which could reasonably be expected to result in certain harms as outlined in section 17 of FIPPA if released, should be clearly marked in the application.
- **Be complete, comprehensive, and submitted through Transfer Payment Ontario by 5:00p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Monday, October 5, 2026.** Submissions that are late, incomplete, or not accompanied by the required documents requested by the ministry will not be considered for funding; no exceptions will be permitted.
 - You will need to create a My Ontario Account or sign into an existing My Ontario account at the following link: <https://www.app.grants.gov.on.ca/tpon/psLogin>.
 - Please refer to TPON reference guide "Submitting for funding" for further instructions.
 - TPON uses a dynamic PDF form for applications. The PDF form must be opened using the Adobe Reader software. If you do not have Adobe Reader, you can download a free version at get.adobe.com/reader/

- Additional resources to help users create an account, log in, navigating or updating their organization's profile in the TPON system can be found here:
<https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/en/dataset/on00109>

Required Documentation

All applicants are required to provide proof of legal status (e.g., articles of incorporation), a list of the organization's current board of directors that includes names, positions, contact information and signing authority, and a copy of the organization's most recent review engagement or audited financial statements prepared by a Licensed Public Chartered Professional Accountant. Audited financial statements should include: an income statement, balance sheet, statement of revenues and expenditures, and notes to statements, as well as the Auditor's letter outlining their opinion of the financial statements.

Applicants will also be required to provide additional information that will be used by the ministry to conduct a risk assessment. The purpose of the risk assessment is to ensure that public funds are being dispersed responsibly to organizations with a sound financial record and sufficient administrative capacity to manage program funding and achieve program goals.

The following documentation will be required:

- A copy of the organization's bylaws,
- Minutes from the last annual general meeting,
- A copy of the organization's Conflict of Interest policy, Complaints Resolution policy, Human Resources policies, and financial policies, as well as a list of any other relevant policies (e.g., business continuity planning, volunteer policies) that would demonstrate your organization's capacity to carry out the program.
- A completed French Language Services Checklist (provided by the ministry).

Please refer to the Applicant Checklist prior to submitting your application to ensure that all required documentation has been included with the application.

Ministry Rights

In applying, the applicant is deemed to have acknowledged that the ministry may:

- verify with any applicant or with a third party any information set out in an application
- at any time, and from time to time make changes, including substantial changes, to this guide and related documents including the application form by way of new information on the designated website

- cancel this application and call for applications process at any stage of the application or evaluation process
- reject any or all applications in its sole and absolute discretion
- fund legal entities for similar projects regardless of whether these entities have applied in response to this guide

It is within the sole and absolute discretion of the ministry to decide whether to approve an application in whole, in part, or reject any and all applications submitted for this grant program.

Applicants are advised the ministry makes **no commitment to fund all applicants or any one applicant**. The ministry may choose which applicants to fund, if any, at its sole and absolute discretion. Even if an application meets all of the grant program's objectives and criteria, there is no guarantee that funding will be approved, as there may be other projects that, in the sole opinion of the ministry, more effectively meet the grant program's objectives. The ministry further does not guarantee that the total amount of funding requested by a successful applicant will be approved.

Screening and Selection Process

Intake Review

Applications are screened to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria noted above.

- Applicants may be contacted to clarify or confirm details.
- Applications which do not meet the eligibility criteria or are incomplete are screened out.
- All applications which are not screened out are evaluated by the Grant Review Committee.

Selection / Assessment Criteria

Please review the information and assessment criteria outlined below. It provides important details about the components that must be addressed in your application and which the Grant Review Committee will consider when reviewing applications.

Criteria	Description
----------	-------------

Project Summary	Provide a brief description of your proposed project. Demonstrate how the project will expand/enhance services and supports for child victims of gun and gang violence, as well as their families. Please note: The project design must be victim-centred, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate.
Demonstrated Need and Population Served	Provide a description of local needs within your community and how the project addresses the unique needs of child victims of gun and gang violence, as well as their families. Describe the specific population group to be served by the proposed project. Provide current and reliable statistics and evidence if available. Please note: The proposed project must demonstrate responsiveness to the unique cultural, linguistic, and accommodation needs of Indigenous peoples, Francophones, person with disabilities, racialized persons, newcomers, 2SLGBTQIA+, persons in rural communities and other diverse populations.
Project Workplan and Activities	The applicant clearly identifies: • key milestones, activities, timelines and deliverables; as well as • key roles and responsibilities for all partners.

Performance Measurement	Identify relevant performance measures, that relate to the specific initiative(s) and describe the benefit(s) to child victims of gun and gang violence and the community. Clearly outline how the project will be evaluated to demonstrate achievement of the project's goals, impact, and benefits.
Implementation Readiness and Training Needs	Describe the skills, qualifications, training or experience that enable staff to successfully implement the project according to their role in the implementation and delivery of the project. If staff recruitment is required to support the project, include a recruitment plan that includes timelines and what training is required. If training will be required for new and/or existing staff, outline what training will be required and training timelines.
Sustainability:	Describe how your organization will transition or sustain the project at the end of the grant period.

Partnership(s)	The applicant must clearly identify at least (1) community agency/organization they plan to partner with for this project. Clearly outline how your organization will leverage collaboration with the justice sector or community partners to support the project. Collaboration with at least one (1) community agency/organization is required and a letter of support from this community agency/organization is required.
Project Budget	Indicate all budget items associated with the project and include why each item is required. The applicant should also identify how their project will be cost effective, and how the costs cannot be met with other funding sources.

Post Approval Process

Applicants Advised

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of the evaluation process. All applicants will receive written notification of the final decision on whether their application is approved or declined. It is estimated that applicants will be notified in January 2027.

Grant Agreement

For approved applications, applicants will receive a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) to execute their project which will indicate key information, including approved funding (with full budget breakdown); reporting and compliance requirements; financial and audit guidelines (including return of funds if the project is cancelled and/or savings are realized); and requirement for transfer payment recipients to provide insurance certificates. TPAs will be administered through [Transfer Payment Ontario \(TPON\)](#).

Funding

For approved applicants, once TPAs are signed and returned with all required supporting documentation, funding will be distributed in accordance with the Agreement.

Expenditures are subject to all applicable financial and accounting controls, accountability measures, and any other specific controls that may be applicable to the recipients. Additional requirements may be established to ensure grants are disbursed in accordance with the principles set out in this document and ensure compliance with Management Board Directives. A portion of the funding may be withheld, pending additional requirements or confirmation that performance measures are being met. Specific requirements will be explained and incorporated into the TPA.

Reporting

Reporting requirements will be outlined in each organization's Transfer Payment Agreement and will include reporting on financial and service data and any other reporting required by law. Agencies will submit an interim report in October 2027 and a final project report in May 2028. Agencies will also be required to submit Audited Financial Statements during and following completion of the project, in September 2028. If an agency is unable to submit Audited Financial Statements, they may be able to submit a Review Engagement Report however the recipient must receive prior consent from the ministry to submit a Review Engagement Report in lieu of Audited Financial Statements.

Announcements

Recipients are not permitted to make grant announcements without prior Ministry approval.

Applicants are advised that the names and addresses of funding recipients, their partnered organizations, the amount of funding provided, and the purpose for which funds are provided is information that the ministry may make available to the public.

Contact

For assistance from ministry staff, contact: OVS-Proposals@ontario.ca