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## **Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials Application for Subawards**

The Center for Justice Innovation, with the support of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), will provide subawards of up to \$10 000 to eligible applicants to print and disseminate the [Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials](#).

### **Project Background**

Children and young people are amongst the most vulnerable members of our society and are widely regarded as requiring greater care and protection. However, despite this, children are frequently victims of or witnesses to violence, abuse, and other crimes including domestic violence, community violence, and commercial sexual exploitation. Resulting from this exposure to violence and victimization, children are often required to encounter and navigate criminal legal and child welfare systems. These systems are commonly regarded as intimidating, confusing and overwhelming for adults, let alone for children, whose systems involvement may exacerbate their trauma and distress. In addition, research indicates that children, despite their younger age, perceive procedural fairness as an important component of their justice system involvement, but this is often lacking. Procedural fairness would require children to have a better understanding of the legal system, which includes its processes, the roles of the professionals involved, and the sources of information that are used to make decisions.

The Center for Justice Innovation, with support from the U.S. Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), sought to address these systemic gaps and further the DOJ's mission of enhancing the field's response to young victims of crime. The result, after much national outreach and collaboration, is a series of illustrated booklets and graphic novels aimed at guiding and supporting child victims and witnesses as they navigate the justice system. Materials have been developed for three different age groups, 2-6, 7-12 and 13-18 years, with separate materials for criminal legal and child welfare settings. Each of the materials utilize illustrated narratives featuring child and adolescent characters that explain how the criminal legal and child welfare systems work in a child-friendly and developmentally appropriate way. The materials focus on normalizing and validating children's feelings and experiences; teaching healthy coping and resilience building skills; explaining the various processes and roles of the many criminal legal and child welfare system practitioners with whom the children will interact; providing tips for testifying; and informing children of their rights as a crime victim and/or witness. Translations are available in Spanish, Chinese (simplified), Arabic, Vietnamese, and Haitian Creole.

In recognition of the unique and varied experiences of child victims and witnesses, specialized materials have been created for children aged 12-18 years who have experienced human trafficking. Translated versions of these materials are available in Spanish, Chinese (simplified), Vietnamese, Brazilian Portuguese, and African French. Specialized materials have also been created for Native American child victims and witnesses aged 2-18 years, which were designed by Native American authors and illustrators.

These Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials are all available on [OVC's website](#) for free download and are intended to be used by any practitioner that works with child victims and witnesses. While this digitized approach provides excellent, immediate access to the materials, there are limitations to this approach if internet access is unstable or unreliable. Furthermore, several studies indicate that reading comprehension levels are higher for printed rather than digital books. This is particularly relevant for child victims and witnesses who have experienced trauma, which can affect brain development and cognition. Therefore, to further assist national dissemination and increase access and utilization of the materials, OVC has provided additional funds for agencies to apply for subawards of up to \$10,000, to cover the cost of printing hard copies of the materials.

## **Eligibility**

Applications for this subaward opportunity can be accepted from the following agencies that work with child victims and witnesses:

- City or township governments
- County governments
- For profit organizations other than small businesses
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education)
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- Small businesses

Special consideration will be given to agencies that are either based in rural areas or Tribal lands, or who work with rural, Native American, or other underserved communities.

## **How to Apply**

Complete the online [application form](#) by April 30, 2024. The form will ask applicants to submit a budget itemizing the number of copies of materials that are being requested to be printed and their estimated costs (final costs can be confirmed after application approval). A full list of the materials can be found at the bottom of this document or by referring to [OVC's website](#).

If you cannot access the application form or have any questions on how to complete the application, please email the Center's Child Witness Materials Project team on [cwmp@innovatingjustice.org](mailto:cwmp@innovatingjustice.org).

## **Selection Criteria**

The Center and OVC will review applications with consideration of the following factors:

1. Details of agency and eligibility to receive a subaward (5 points)
2. Location and work with underserved communities and child victims and witnesses (15 points)
3. Proposed materials to print and budget (10 points)
4. Proposed distribution and utilization plan (15 points)
5. Certification and statement of commitment (5 points)

## **Subaward Selection and Timeline**

The Center and OVC expect to award 15-20 subawards during this application round. Please see below for an estimated timeline:

- February 1- April 30, 2024: Application round open for submissions.
- May 31, 2024: Notification to all applicants.
- June- July 2024: Successful applicants enter into subaward agreements with the Center (from then on referred to as 'subrecipients').
- July- September 2024: Subrecipients print the materials and submit verification of expenses to the Center for reimbursements.

*If you are unable to apply now, future application rounds are available. The next application round is tentatively scheduled for August 1- September 30, 2024.*

## List of Materials

Name	Focus Area	Age Range	Description	Languages Available
<a href="#">Brave Maya</a>	General- child welfare/ dependency court	2-6 years	Picture book with story of Maya who interacts with the child welfare system	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">Maya's Homes</a>	General- child welfare/ dependency court	2-6 years	Picture book with supplementary story of Maya going to a foster home	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">What is your job? In family or dependency court</a>	General- child welfare/ dependency court	2-6 years	Guide describing professional roles in the child welfare system	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">I Am Isabella</a>	General- child welfare/ dependency court	7-12 years	Comic book with story of Isabella who interacts with the child welfare system	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">I Am Still Isabella</a>	General- child welfare/ dependency court	7-12 years	Comic book with supplementary story of Isabella going to a foster home	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">Who is Everybody? In family or dependency court</a>	General- child welfare/ dependency court	7-12 years	Guide describing professional roles in the child welfare system	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">It's Not Just You</a>	General- child welfare/ dependency court	13-18 years	Graphic novel with stories of Nishan & Lila who interact with the child welfare system	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">Who's That? In family or dependency court</a>	General- child welfare/ dependency court	13-18 years	Guide describing professional roles in the child welfare system	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">Brave Oscar</a>	General- criminal legal/ criminal court	2-6 years	Picture book with story of Oscar who interacts with the criminal legal system	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese

Name	Focus Area	Age Range	Description	Languages Available
<a href="#">What is your job? In criminal court</a>	General- criminal legal/ criminal court	2-6 years	Guide describing professional roles in the criminal legal system	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">I Am Malik</a>	General- criminal legal/ criminal court	7-12 years	Comic book with story of Malik who interacts with the criminal legal system	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">Who is Everybody? In criminal court</a>	General- criminal legal/ criminal court	7-12 years	Guide describing professional roles in the criminal legal system	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">There's More to Me</a>	General- criminal legal/ criminal court	7-12 years	Graphic novel with stories of 5 young people who interact with the criminal legal system	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">Who's That? In criminal court</a>	General- criminal legal/ criminal court	7-12 years	Guide describing professional roles in the criminal legal system	English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">Sergio's Story</a>	Human Trafficking	12-18 years	Graphic novel with story of Sergio, who experiences labor trafficking	English, African French, Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">Jamie's Story</a>	Human Trafficking	12-18 years	Graphic novel with story of Jamie, who experiences sex trafficking	English, African French, Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">Zoe's Story</a>	Human Trafficking	12-18 years	Graphic novel with story of Zoe, who experiences sex trafficking	English, African French, Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese

Name	Focus Area	Age Range	Description	Languages Available
<a href="#">What's Going On? Your rights and who you'll meet</a>	Human Trafficking	12-18 years	Guide detailing rights, roles, and responsibilities within the justice system	English, African French, Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese
<a href="#">Aiyana's Journey</a>	Native American/Tribal Communities- child welfare & dependency court	2-6 years	Picture book with story of Aiyana who interacts with the child welfare system	English
<a href="#">Aiyana's Journey: Rights &amp; Roles Book</a>	Native American/Tribal Communities- child welfare & dependency court	2-6 years	Guide describing professional roles in the child welfare system	English
<a href="#">Edgar's Journey</a>	Native American/Tribal Communities- child welfare & dependency court	7-12 years	Comic book with story of Edgar who interacts with the child welfare system	English
<a href="#">Edgar's Journey: Rights &amp; Roles Book</a>	Native American/Tribal Communities- child welfare & dependency court	7-12 years	Guide describing professional roles and rights in the child welfare system	English
<a href="#">Brandon's Path</a>	Native American/Tribal Communities- child welfare & dependency court	13-18 years	Graphic novel with story of Brandon who interact with the child welfare system	English
<a href="#">Brandon's Path: Rights &amp; Roles Book</a>	Native American/Tribal Communities- child welfare & dependency court	13-18 years	Guide describing professional roles and rights in the child welfare system	English
<a href="#">Marvis &amp; Rockee</a>	Native American/Tribal Communities- criminal legal/criminal court	2-6 years	Picture book with story of Marvis who interacts with the criminal legal system	English
<a href="#">Marvis &amp; Rockee: Rights &amp; Roles Book</a>	Native American/Tribal Communities- criminal legal/criminal court	2-6 years	Guide describing professional roles and rights in the criminal legal system	English

Name	Focus Area	Age Range	Description	Languages Available
<a href="#">Marvelous Mitch</a>	Native American/Tribal Communities- criminal legal/criminal court	7-12 years	Comic book with story of Mitch who interacts with the criminal legal system	English
<a href="#">Marvelous Mitch: Rights &amp; Roles Book</a>	Native American/Tribal Communities- criminal legal/criminal court	7-12 years	Guide describing professional roles and rights in the criminal legal system	English
<a href="#">Maggie Mercury</a>	Native American/Tribal Communities- criminal legal/criminal court	13-18 years	Graphic novel with story of Maggie who interacts with the criminal legal system	English
<a href="#">Maggie Mercury: Rights &amp; Roles Book</a>	Native American/Tribal Communities- criminal legal/criminal court	13-18 years	Guide describing professional roles and rights in the criminal legal system	English