

MARYLAND STATE CLEARINGHOUSE INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PACKET

See Her Now: Beyond the Behavior - Before the Crisis

Applicant	Birthing New Beginningz Wellness and Family Services, Incorporated
Federal agency	United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women
Funding opportunity	FY 2026 Consolidated Youth Grant Program (O-OVW-2026-172652)
Assistance listing	16.888
Unique Entity Identifier	WQ24VFDEXM89
Federal request	\$500,000 over 36 months; no nonfederal match proposed
Project period	October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2029
Service area	Baltimore City and western Baltimore County, Maryland
Authorized contact	Karen L. White, Founder and Executive Director
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Prepared for the Maryland Department of Planning

State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance | August 29, 2026

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Maryland Department of Planning
State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance
120 East Baltimore Street, Suite 2000
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Executive Order 12372 Review - FY 2026 Consolidated Youth Grant Program

To the Maryland State Clearinghouse:

Birthing New Beginningz Wellness and Family Services, Incorporated respectfully submits the enclosed materials for intergovernmental review under Executive Order 12372. The organization is seeking \$500,000 from the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, to implement a 36-month school- and community-based project in Baltimore City and western Baltimore County.

The proposed project will provide prevention education, early identification, nonclinical support, caregiver engagement, educator training, and warm referral pathways for girls and young women affected by or at risk of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking. Direct victim services and specialized safety response will be provided through a qualified victim-service organization under a final partnership agreement.

This is a service project. It does not include construction, property acquisition, demolition, or physical changes to historic structures. Final school sites and partner responsibilities are subject to authorization and signed agreements. Unconfirmed organizations are identified in this packet as proposed or prospective partners.

Please accept the enclosed project narrative, budget narrative, service-area description, and staffing plan for review. The completed Application for Federal Assistance form is being provided as a separate attachment to the submission email.

Respectfully,

Karen L. White

Founder and Executive Director
Birthing New Beginningz Wellness and Family Services, Incorporated
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Project Narrative

Project summary

See Her Now: Beyond the Behavior - Before the Crisis is a proposed school- and community-based continuum for girls and young women, with an initial focus on students in grades 5 through 12. The project is designed to recognize safety concerns before they deepen into crisis, strengthen knowledge and help-seeking skills, provide structured nonclinical support, engage safe caregivers and trusted adults, and connect participants to qualified victim services.

The project is being developed to address statutory purposes concerning assistance to children and youth exposed to violence and education and related services for middle and high school students. The exact final purpose selection and partnership structure will be confirmed in the federal application and signed partnership agreement.

Population and need

The primary population is girls and young women approximately ages 10 through 18 who attend participating schools or are referred through approved community pathways in Baltimore City and western Baltimore County. Participants may include youth who have experienced or been exposed to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or sex trafficking; youth showing early safety, relationship, behavioral, attendance, or disengagement concerns; and youth seeking prevention education and trusted support before a crisis occurs.

The service gap addressed by the project is the disconnect between school-based recognition of early warning signs, family engagement, structured nonclinical intervention, and specialized victim services. See Her Now is designed to connect these functions through one coordinated continuum so girls can receive prevention education, be seen and supported when concerns first appear, and reach qualified victim services without having to wait for a crisis. This distinguishes the project from a stand-alone mentoring or empowerment program.

Secondary participants will include non-offending parents and caregivers, school personnel, and other trusted adults who need practical tools for recognizing concerns, responding without blame, protecting confidentiality, and making safe referrals. Participation in joint or family activities will occur only when safe and appropriate.

Project components

- Prevention and early identification through See Her Now student groups, workshops, and developmentally appropriate education on healthy relationships, boundaries, consent, online safety, peer and dating pressure, stalking, sexual violence, and trafficking prevention.

- Structured early intervention through GYRLS Approaching the Problem Successfully, a nonclinical process that helps participants identify concerns, build problem-solving and self-advocacy skills, and connect to appropriate support.
- Caregiver and trusted-adult engagement through Mothers and Daughters Uniting and caregiver circles, with safety screening and alternatives when joint participation would be unsafe or inappropriate.
- MirrorzTalk Table sessions that bring small groups of participating caregiver-and-daughter pairs together for facilitated communication, reflection, and reconnection after individual preparation.
- Educator and staff training on recognizing concerns, responding in a trauma-informed manner, maintaining appropriate boundaries, and using established school and victim-service referral procedures.
- Warm referrals to a qualified victim-service organization for direct victim services, crisis intervention, safety planning, and specialized advocacy beyond the applicant's nonclinical scope.

Goals and outcome measures

1. Increase youth knowledge of healthy relationships, boundaries, consent, stalking, online safety, sexual violence, trafficking warning signs, and available help. Measures will include attendance, completion, and pre- and post-program knowledge checks.
2. Strengthen help-seeking confidence and early identification of concerns. Measures will include confidential participant feedback, requests for support, and de-identified referral activity.
3. Improve coordinated school, caregiver, and victim-service responses. Measures will include staff training completion, use of referral procedures, partner meetings, and documented follow-up steps that protect participant confidentiality.
4. Support safe family and trusted-adult communication when appropriate. Measures will include caregiver participation, participant feedback, and completion of planned family-engagement activities without requiring unsafe joint participation.

Implementation approach and timeline

- Months 1-3: finalize agreements, hire or assign staff, establish confidentiality and referral protocols, confirm school schedules, train project personnel, and refine outcome tools.
- Months 4-30: implement phased student cohorts, caregiver engagement, staff training, nonclinical early-intervention support, and qualified victim-service referrals across approved sites.
- Months 31-36: complete final cohorts, review de-identified results, strengthen sustainability and referral arrangements, and complete required federal reporting and closeout activities.

Safety, privacy, confidentiality, and accessibility

Birthing New Beginningz Wellness and Family Services, Incorporated will not diagnose participants or substitute its services for licensed clinical care or qualified victim services. The project will use written protocols for disclosures, mandated reporting, emergencies, data access, informed participation, and

warm referrals. Personally identifying information will not be used for public reporting. Program monitoring will rely on de-identified or aggregate data consistent with federal confidentiality requirements and partner procedures.

Program access will include reasonable language and disability accommodations, scheduling options, and limited transportation or safety-related supports when allowable and necessary. Materials and activities will be adjusted for age, reading level, disability access, and the needs of participating schools and families.

Partnership status

The applicant is actively seeking the school and qualified victim-service partnerships required for the selected federal statutory purposes. Outreach has been initiated to Southwest Academy in Baltimore County and Wildwood Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore City as proposed school sites. A qualified victim-service organization is also being sought for the required direct-service and referral role. None of these organizations is represented as a confirmed federal project partner unless and until authorization and a signed agreement are obtained.

Through its existing Baltimore County Police Department Girls Safety Initiative partnership, the applicant receives school- and community-based referrals of girls in the target age range who are missing or at risk of going missing, or affected by domestic or dating violence, sexual exploitation or trafficking, and related safety concerns. This demonstrates local readiness and supports the project's early-identification and coordinated-referral approach. The department is not the required qualified victim-service partner; any formal OVW project role will be documented separately in writing.

Staffing Plan

Project Director and Lead Facilitator: Karen L. White will provide project leadership, partner coordination, facilitation, supervision, quality assurance, and federal grant oversight. She brings extensive gender-responsive youth, education, juvenile-justice, community, and family-support experience.

School, Community, and Program Coordinator: A full-time coordinator will manage site schedules, enrollment and consent processes, cohort logistics, participant follow-up, school communication, and coordination of interns or volunteers.

Administrative, Data, and Compliance Support: Part-time support will maintain secure records, schedules, purchasing documentation, de-identified performance data, reporting calendars, and grant-compliance files.

Qualified Victim-Service Partner: A partner organization, to be selected and documented by agreement, will provide direct victim services, specialized crisis response, safety planning, advocacy, and consultation on safe referral procedures.

Licensed Trauma Therapist: A licensed professional will be available on a limited, as-needed contractual basis for consultation or services that fall outside the applicant's nonclinical role, subject to final scope and partner coordination.

Financial Compliance Support: A bookkeeping and payroll professional will support grant-specific accounting, payroll processing, reconciliations, financial documentation, and reporting.

Budget Narrative

The applicant requests \$500,000 in federal funds for a 36-month project. No applicant, state, local, other, or program-income contribution is proposed. The budget below is the working plan submitted for state intergovernmental review and will be kept consistent with the final federal application. Partner compensation and contractor scopes remain subject to written agreements.

Cost item	Computation and purpose	Amount
Personnel - Project Director and Lead Facilitator	0.55 full-time equivalent x \$75,000 annual salary x 3 years	\$123,750
Personnel - School, Community, and Program Coordinator	\$52,000 annual salary x 3 years	\$156,000
Personnel - Administrative, Data, and Compliance Support	0.25 full-time equivalent x \$45,000 annual salary x 3 years	\$33,750
Fringe benefits	18 percent x \$313,500 total personnel	\$56,430
Required training and technical-assistance travel	Three-year federal training and technical-assistance reserve	\$15,000
Program supplies, technology, and secure storage	Curriculum materials, printing, basic technology, secure records, and program supplies	\$12,470
Licensed trauma therapist	12 hours per month x \$75 per hour x 36 months	\$32,400
Financial compliance services	\$3,000 per year x 3 years	\$9,000
Required partner compensation	Provisional allocation for documented partner responsibilities	\$20,000
Allocated project space	\$700 per month x 36 months	\$25,200
Language and disability access	Three-year allocation for interpretation, translation, and disability accommodations	\$8,000
Participant transportation and safety-related access supports	Limited, allowable supports tied directly to participation and safety	\$8,000
TOTAL FEDERAL REQUEST		\$500,000

Budget justification

Personnel and fringe costs support the staff capacity needed for school coordination, direct program delivery, participant follow-up, secure data management, supervision, and federal grant administration. The project director is budgeted at a partial level because the position also has organizational responsibilities outside the proposed award.

The travel line preserves the minimum \$15,000 required for Office on Violence Against Women training and technical assistance. Supplies support program delivery and secure operations. Contractual costs provide limited licensed clinical extension and financial compliance support. The partner allocation is provisional and will be revised, if necessary, to reflect a negotiated scope and fair compensation without exceeding the \$500,000 total request.

Other direct costs cover only the grant-related share of project space, accessibility services, and limited transportation or safety-related access supports. No unrestricted cash assistance, construction, property acquisition, or indirect costs are included in this working budget.

Service Area and Site Information

The proposed service area is Baltimore City and western Baltimore County, Maryland. Delivery is expected to occur in approved public-school and community settings that are accessible to participating youth and families. The project does not propose construction or physical alteration of any site.

Jurisdiction	Proposed setting	Current status
Baltimore City	Proposed Wildwood Elementary/Middle School pilot	School and community-school authorization requested; not yet confirmed
Western Baltimore County	Proposed Southwest Academy site	Site and district authorization requested; not yet confirmed
Baltimore County referral pathway	BCPD school- and community-based referrals for girls with missing/runaway, violence, or trafficking concerns	Existing Girls Safety Initiative pathway; an OVW role requires written commitment

Priority Funding Area status: not material to this non-construction human-services project. Site-specific information will be updated after participating locations are authorized.

Submission Attachment Checklist

Attach the following PDF files to the State Clearinghouse email:

- Completed Application for Federal Assistance form downloaded from Grants.gov.
- This Maryland State Clearinghouse intergovernmental review packet.

Email destination: mdp.clearinghouse@maryland.gov

Recommended subject: Executive Order 12372 Review - Birthing New Beginningz - O-OVW-2026-172652