



Support for Migrant Victims (SMV) Pilot Scheme: Support for Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse with No Recourse to Public Funds

Draft Bid Prospectus



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Glossary

“Bidder” means an organisation or consortium that is submitting a Proposal seeking Funding from the Department;

“Department” means the Home Office, which is the department that is providing the Grant;

“Call for Proposals” means the process by which the Department commissions Bidders to submit Proposals for Funding to deliver the Scheme;

“Delivery Partner” means an organisation or an individual working with the Bidder to deliver the Purpose;

“Eligible Victim” means an individual who comes forward for support as a victim of domestic abuse as part of the Support for Migrant Victims (SMV) pilot project.

“Funding” means the maximum value of the grants that can be awarded to deliver the Scheme;

“Funding Period” means the period between the signature of the Grant Agreement and Project Closure.

“Indirect Costs” means those costs that are not directly attributable to the service but are general overhead costs necessarily incurred to run the organisation. Such costs should be allocated on a reasonable and clear basis and should not exceed 7-12% of the total grant being bid for. Direct costs, on the other hand, are costs that are incurred directly as a result of providing the contracted service and are directly attributable to the service.

“Match Funding” means any monies offered or required towards the cost of achieving the Purpose as a contribution by the Recipient;

“Proposal” means a completed application for Funding submitted in response to the Department’s Call for Proposals describing how a Bidder will achieve the Purpose;

“Purpose” means activity designed to support the Scheme, as described in section 2 of this document;

“Support for Migrant Victims Scheme” (or the **“Scheme”**) means the Funding the Department is making available to cover the cost of support in a refuge or other safe accommodation for migrant victims of domestic abuse who are unable to access public funds;

“Value for Money” means securing the optimum combination of cost, quality and effectiveness, including relevant social value criteria over the whole period of use; it does not mean minimising upfront prices i.e. the lowest or cheapest option.

1.Introduction

1. The Support for Migrant Victims Scheme forms part of the Government's response to the recommendations of the Joint Committee on the draft Domestic Abuse Bill, published in its [First Report](#) of 14 June 2019. The Committee highlighted that some migrant victims of domestic abuse who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF) and who do not qualify for the [Destitution Domestic Violence Concession](#) (DDVC) may be faced with the choice of staying with a perpetrator of abuse or becoming homeless and destitute because they do not know how to get help and face additional barriers in accessing refuge accommodation and other support services.
2. The Government committed to review its overall response to migrant victims of domestic abuse in light of these recommendations in its [response to the Committee's findings](#) on 16 July 2019. The [Review Findings](#) were published on 3 July 2020. Twenty-four expert organisations and groups contributed to the review (a list of these organisations is provided in the published Review Findings).
3. Phase II of the Review consisted of a series of workshops and meetings with organisations that specialise in providing support to migrant victims of domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds. These sessions highlighted that the key barrier a migrant victim of domestic abuse faces in accessing support is the ability of these organisations to fund the cost of a bed space and any ancillary service charge in refuge accommodation.
4. From the evidence provided, it was unclear which groups of migrants are likely to be most in need of support and how well existing arrangements may address their needs, as well as how long they might need support for and how they could be supported to move on from safe accommodation. It was clear that a better evidence base is needed to ensure that funding is appropriately targeted to meet the needs of migrant victims.
5. That is why, on 28 April at Second Reading of the Domestic Abuse Bill, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Safeguarding announced that the Government will invite bids for grants from the Support for Migrant Victims Scheme to cover the cost of support in a refuge or other safe accommodation for migrant victims of domestic abuse who are unable to access public funds. The Government will use the pilot to better assess the level of need for these victims and to inform spending review decisions on longer-term funding.

2. Purpose

6. The Purpose of the Scheme is to provide a support net for migrant victims of domestic abuse who do not have access to public funds and, as a result of these restrictions, are unable to access safe accommodation in order to escape abusive relationships.
7. In addition, the Scheme will help to build the evidence-base that the Government requires a better understanding of the diverse needs of the migrant population in need of support so that any future funding strategy can give this matter due consideration. Further criteria are also detailed in paragraphs 27 to 32, below.
8. The Scheme is intended as a means of last resort and is not intended to support migrant victims of domestic abuse who qualify for support under existing routes, namely:

The Destitute Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC): provides victims of domestic abuse on certain spouse visas, and who are eligible to apply for indefinite leave to remain under the Domestic Violence (DV) provisions in the Immigration Rules, with temporary access to public funds so that they can escape abusive partners upon whom they are financially dependent.

Asylum Support: those seeking asylum in the UK can apply for Asylum Support if they are homeless or about to become homeless. The Asylum Support budget is already being used to fund the cost of a bed space in refuge accommodation for vulnerable victims of domestic abuse who are seeking asylum and are in need of specialist domestic abuse services. This support extends to both asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers in receipt of Asylum Support. Further information and guidance can be found in the Home Office guidance entitled [Responding to Reports of Domestic Abuse from Asylum Seekers](#).

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM): victims of domestic abuse who have also been victims of modern slavery or trafficking can be referred in to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Potential and confirmed victims of modern slavery can access support through a mixture of mainstream and specialist services, including access to Government-funded support through the Victim Care Contract (which includes accommodation, material assistance, financial support, translation and interpretation services, information and advice).

Modern slavery NRM support providers can come into contact with victims of modern slavery who are also victims of domestic abuse. If a victim of modern slavery does disclose domestic abuse, support workers will refer them to

specialist domestic abuse support services as appropriate. Support workers are well versed in the services available to vulnerable individuals, and will in all cases seek to find the most beneficial pathway to support provision for the individual.

Further information on the NRM can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales>

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3.The Offer

9. The Secretary of State for the Home Office (the “Department”), acting through the Domestic Violence Immigration Policy Unit, intends to make up to £1,500,000 of funding (“Funding”) available to a single successful Proposal for activity to be delivered by 31-March-2021.
10. The Home Office, are looking to award the full award to a single entity, who may make use of networks and manage multiple organisations working together to deliver the Purpose – the Home Office would also look for bids that would be able to deliver across the United Kingdom.
11. The intention is to continue the scheme described in this prospectus into financial year 2021/22, subject to funding being available following the Spending Review settlement, expected later this year.
12. Bidders are expected to demonstrate how they will foster partnership working in order to increase reach to Eligible Victims in need of support and prove capability across the UK.
13. We will consider applications from partnerships and consortia. However, the Home Office will enter into a single Grant Agreement with a successful Bidder who will have responsibility for the funding, facilitating and achieving the outcomes and who will in turn need to have their own legally binding agreements with their Delivery Partners. The outcomes that the successful bidder will be expected to achieve are listed at paragraph 29, below.
14. It is envisaged that Delivery Partners will be required in order to provide accommodation and support throughout the UK that meets the specialist needs of migrant victims with no recourse to public funds.
15. In order to be eligible for support through the scheme, the successful Bidder will need to be satisfied and, where appropriate, validate via their own cross-check, that the person presenting in need of support is an Eligible Victim.
16. For the purposes of the Scheme, an Eligible Victim is a person who:
 - a) is not eligible to apply for housing benefit as a result of their immigration status; and
 - b) does not have the financial means to escape an abusive relationship; and
 - c) is not eligible to apply for the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC) and is not already accommodated by the local authority; and
 - d) is not entitled to Asylum Support; and
 - e) is not eligible if being supported through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

17. Bidders should set out in their proposals the outputs they consider are necessary to achieve the outcomes, listed in paragraph 29 below. These outputs will be subject to the list of ineligible expenditure detailed in section 7 below.
18. Bidders must be aware that the allocation of Funding will not be until after the signature of the grant agreement, likely to be around 07 December 2020 (dates to be confirmed – please see indicative timeline). This will need to be factored into spending plans as Funding must be committed with activity delivered by 31-March-2021.
19. Bidders should also be aware an Eligible Victim not eligible for local authority support will be signposted to an immigration adviser but there should be no expectation of permanent housing as a result of being supported through this scheme.

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4. Eligibility

20. Bidders should be aware that under the terms of the grant agreement they will not be permitted to make a profit, and any underspend must be returned to the Department when requested.
21. The Department is particularly interested in receiving bids from organisations whose Proposals demonstrate a strategy for utilising existing expertise in the sector in order to prove national UK capability.
22. Bidders and their Delivery Partners must have:
 - a) the ability to provide refuge or other means of safe accommodation which is suitable for migrant victims of domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds and their children; and
 - b) experience of providing support to migrant victims of domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds.
23. Bidders will need to set out in their Proposal how they will define safe accommodation and the safeguarding / vetting procedures they will put in place to ensure accommodation and safety standards are maintained.
24. The Department has a target that no more than 7% - 12% of the award value should be used to fund Indirect Costs.
25. Organisations whose Proposals seek to leverage additional resources, and therefore include an element of Match Funding, are encouraged to apply. Successful Bidders must be transparent in relation to Funding use, as this is part of the government's agenda concerning using public funds.
26. Please note that the Department is working with other Government Departments and the National Lottery Communities Fund, sharing relevant data to prevent fraud and duplication of funding. This does not restrict organisations applying separately for other support packages, but any funding obtained that is intended to be used for the same or similar activity as detailed in a Proposal must be declared as part of the Call for Proposals process.

5. Application Criteria

27. Bidders should outline in their submission how they propose to ensure support is provided to migrant victims of domestic abuse and their children with regards to accessing refuge and other means of safe accommodation as a result of having no recourse to public funds (or access to the DDVC or Asylum Support). We also expect bidders to provide information on the next steps for the victims after they have been supported.
28. Proposals should contribute to the achievement of outcomes of the Scheme, while clearly demonstrating how these outputs tie-in with the Purpose.
29. The outcomes of the Scheme are:
 - I. A positive impact of providing access to safe accommodation and appropriate support services to Eligible Victims and their children who are in need of emergency support to escape abusive relationships;
 - II. Assisting Eligible Victims to obtain local authority housing and support if they meet local criteria in their place of residence, and/or other support for which Eligible Victims may be eligible; and
 - III. Signposting Eligible Victims with insecure immigration status towards Law Society / OISC registered immigration advisers.
30. We are interested in Proposals which will deliver high quality outcomes and impacts as well as efficient delivery. Proposals will be marked on their ability to demonstrate how the funding requested will deliver value for money (VfM). This does not mean minimising upfront costs (the cheapest option) but the optimum combination of costs, quality and effectiveness, including relevant social value criteria over the whole period of use. Bidders will be expected to describe how the outputs they have chosen, and their delivery approach represent value for money.
31. Bidders will be asked to evidence that they meet financial stress and stability tests, through submission of a link to their last two years of accounts, as well as their current cash flow statement and their cash flow forecast through to 31 October 2020.
32. Organisations that take part in this programme need to be aware that it is their responsibility to comply with their client's data protection rights, informed consent must be obtained where applicable and recorded, if and when acting on behalf of those clients. Those rights referred to are contained in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

33. The Department will conduct the evaluation of the Scheme, which means that no funding will be available for the purposes of self-evaluation. The successful Bidder (including their Delivery Partners) will be expected to support the Department in this both during and after the Funding Period.
34. The Department reserves the right to conduct site visits to premises who are supporting migrant victims during the Funding Period.
35. Bidders will be expected to provide statistical information regarding the individuals who present and subsequently make use of the Funding from their entry to exit point, in the form of an invoice compliance spreadsheet. Bidders will be expected to record details of those who were found to be ineligible for support and to provide the reasons for this decision.
36. An invoice compliance spreadsheet will be provided as part of the competition documentation and will form part of the monthly reporting regime. The statistics provided in this spreadsheet will be anonymous and must not identify the victim directly or indirectly in any way. These reports will not be used for immigration enforcement purposes.
37. The reporting regime will ask the following questions:
- a) the victim's gender;
 - b) the number of dependants under the age of 18;
 - c) the immigration route through which the victim entered the UK;
 - d) the victim's status on point of access to the SMV Scheme;
 - e) the victim's ability to apply for public funds / the Destitution Domestic Violence Concession / Asylum Support/ access to the NRM;
 - f) whether the victim is already in receipt of support from the local authority;
 - g) whether they were accepted onto the Scheme and a summary of the reasons for accepting/rejecting their request for support;
 - h) the type of accommodation that the victim was provided with and the length of time this accommodation was provided for;
 - i) the specialist support provided to the victim during the Funding Period;
 - j) whether the victim was sign-posted to a Law Society/OISC registered immigration adviser and whether they used this opportunity to make an application for leave to remain; and
 - k) the reasons that the victim exited the Scheme and the type of support/accommodation that they moved on to.
38. In most cases, the successful bidder will be able answer questions three to five (above) through checking the victim's documentation or an informal interview. However, the Home Office recognises that in some cases victims may be without documentation and may not be able to provide the information required to establish their eligibility.

39. In these instances, the Home Office will provide a point of contact at the mobilisation stage to assist in assessing eligibility for the Scheme and answering questions three to five (above). This status checking process will be conducted through UKVI. In such circumstances, victims' informed consent to sharing their personal information with UKVI will be required, assuming there is no other lawful basis for sharing this information, and victims will need to be made fully aware that the Department cannot guarantee that these eligibility checks will not result in information being revealed, directly or indirectly, that could trigger immigration enforcement action.

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7. Ineligible Expenditure

40. The following expenditure is ineligible:

- Capital costs (i.e. the purchase of land or buildings).
- Immigration application fees.
- Legal Fees.
- The cost of a bed space and any applicable service charge which exceeds the applicable Local Housing Allowance Rate in [England](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) or [Northern Ireland](#).
- Amounts paid as a subsistence award (designed to meet a person's essential living needs) that exceeds the weekly subsistence [Cash Support](#) rates for asylum seekers.

41. In line with usual Government grants, organisations must ensure that they do not use the funding for any of the following activities:

- campaigning activities;
- religious activities (except for projects which benefit the wider community and do not contain religious content);
- political or lobbying activities;
- making funding applications;
- loan repayments; or
- activities which make profit for private gain.

8. Due Diligence Requirements

42. Successful Bidders (and where applicable their Delivery Partners) will be subject to due diligence, financial, commercial and extremism checks. Greater details of the compliance and capability checks will be outlined in the competition documentation.

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9. The Application Process

43. The Call for Proposals will be administered using the Home Office eSourcing portal.
44. Bidders must submit compliant Proposals through the [Home Office \(HO\) Jaggaer eSourcing portal](#).
45. To access the eSourcing portal you must first register, then request to be linked to the competition Event. The link to register is <https://homeoffice.app.jaggaer.com/web/login.html>
46. After clicking on the eSourcing portal link, it should take you to the home page. On the left-hand side of this page, just below the login boxes, there is an option to register.
47. It is strongly recommended that you register your details to create a profile as soon as possible. Delaying will impact on the time you have available to access the suite of competition documents including the evaluation material.
48. Bidders should be approved for usage within 24 hours of registering on the system.
49. To register on the portal, you will need to provide information which will include:
 - the full legal name of your organisation
 - your DUNS number – a unique nine-digit number provided to organisations free of charge by Dun & Bradstreet
 - profile information describing your organisation and the size of your business
50. Once registered as a supplier on the portal, please e-mail your confirmation to: SMVScheme@homeoffice.gov.uk asking to be linked to this competition.
51. If you have any difficulties registering on the system, then you should contact the eSourcing Helpdesk: customersupport@jaggaer.com.

10. The Bidding Period

52. All details concerning the competition will be provided within the eSourcing portal. By issuing this prospectus, the Department is outlining to potential Bidders the importance of registering so you are ready to access to the eSourcing portal once the competition goes live.
53. Once the eSourcing event is available, and the competition is ready to launch, you will then be given access to an area of the portal which will include all the instructions and documentation you will need in order to bid. This is expected to be 28 October 2020.
54. The deadline for submission is 18 November 2020.

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11. Indicative Timelines

Please see the table below for timelines: **Dates are to be confirmed.**

Action	Date
Advert placed on Contract Finder	28 Oct 2020
Statement of Outcomes available for issue (available via the Portal)	28 Oct 2020
Portal opens for applications	28 Oct 2020
Clarification period opens	28 Oct 2020
Deadline for Clarifications	10 Nov 2020
Final response to Clarifications issued	12 Nov 2020
Deadline for receipt of completed applications	18 Nov 2020
Individual evaluations	19-26 Nov 2020
Panel Assessment (Moderation, Recommendations)	30 Nov - 01 Dec 2020
Notification of decision	03 Dec 2020
Grant Agreement and Supporting Documents sent out to successful bidder(s) for signature	w/c 07 Dec 2020

Please note this is provided as an indicative timeline only and milestones noted are subject to change.