RACHEL BRUSHETT: Hello, and welcome to the Comprehensive Corrections Training and Technical Assistance Solicitation webinar. We will first start with an overview of who BJA is and the agenda. The Bureau of Justice Assistance's goal in the field is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. We execute that mission in a number of ways, including by providing funding for training and technical assistance to support these local, state, and tribal efforts. Today we will walk through each of the eight categories contained in this solicitation, and then we will provide some additional information at the end which will be useful to you as you further contemplate applying for one or more categories under this solicitation.

As I mentioned before, we have a total of eight categories under the solicitation. They are: category one, National Reentry Resource Center; category two, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Training and Technical Assistance Program; category three, the National Prison Rape Elimination Act Resource Center; category four, Site-Based PREA Implementation Support; category five, Improving Wellness Support for Institutional Corrections Employees Training and Technical Assistance; category six, Improving Institutional Corrections Academy Training: Supporting Corrections Role as Public Safety Partners; category seven, Evaluation and Sustainability Support for Second Chance Act Grant; and category eight, Improving Safety for Institutional Corrections: Training and Technical Assistance to Combat Contraband Cellphones.

Applicants are welcome to apply to one or more of these categories provided they meet the necessary eligibility requirement. For this solicitation, eligible applicants include organizations with demonstrated experience in providing training and technical assistance on a national level on the identified subject areas. These organizations include nonprofit, for profit, institutions of higher education, faith-based organizations, and other consortiums. The solicitation is available online, and the link is here in the slide. Application for all of the categories are due by July 31st. The solicitation includes detailed instructions about the application process and requirements, as well as contact information should you have any technical issues.

While there are eight separate categories being competed under the solicitation, BJA has a common set of Training and Technical Assistance or TTA expectations across all categories. You can find a full list of BJA's expectations in the beginning of the solicitation in the Program Description section. The expectations described there and in the following slides are not necessarily an exhaustive list of BJA's expectations for providers. The examples included below are highlights of the assistance we expect for TTA providers providing services to grantees. While these overarching expectations generally apply across all categories, each individual category might have additional expectations, so please be sure to read each section carefully. BJA's TTA expectations are all grounded in our goal of getting grantees to achieve their objectives.

TTA providers providing direct assistance to grantees are expected to focus their efforts on assisting grantees in accomplishing the objective of the overall grant program and
the objective of their specific grant-funded project. We additionally expect that all training and technical assistance be grounded in data, research, and best practices. In order to accomplish it, we expect individualized, efficient, and consistent delivery of Training and Technical Assistance in order to get grantees to accomplish their objectives by the end of their project periods. To do that, a TTA provider should have sufficient internal expertise to assist grantees in the execution of their projects. The staff should have the necessary technical skill sets and experience to be able to effectively coach grantees and assist them in reaching their objectives. Additionally, providers should have access to a range of vetted local, national, and other subject experts, including practitioners, academics, and federal partners to work with when necessary.

For grantees for whom evaluation is a requirement, the TTA provider must routinely engage each of them in their individual evaluation activities, keeping track and being ready to provide evaluation results when the award ends. TTA providers should also be prepared to perform ad hoc TTA in response to requests from practitioners and assist unfunded applicants in consultation with BJA. Not all ad hoc responses will require an extensive response. Some will require referral to other resources or connection to other agencies. But a limited number will require more thorough exploration and response. We expect TTA providers to build proactively on the field knowledge and capacity in the subject area of their category both as a result of their work with grantees and as a result of other efforts. TTA providers may be required to participate in BJA’s GrantStat and other BJA efforts.

Please note that under this solicitation, each awardee, that is whomever is awarded funding under each of the eight separate category competitions, will be required to submit a detailed work plan for approval by the BJA program manager within 30 days of the date of the award. The program manager will provide guidance on what topics should be included with the work plan, and will be available to advise and answer questions post award. Our next several sections provide an overview of the eight categories being competed under this solicitation.

HEATHER TUBMAN-CARBONE: The first category is the National Reentry Resource Center, often referred to as the NRRC. The Second Chance Act of 2007 provides for a comprehensive response to the large number of incarcerated adults and juveniles who leave prisons, jails, and juvenile residential facilities and return to communities. BJA and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention collaborate closely on the implementation of the Second Chance Act, including administering funds for the NRRC. The overarching goal of the NRRC is to provide technical assistance to Second Chance Act grantees and to the field in order to advance knowledge and practice among specific topics that directly intersect with reentry, including tracking and reporting of jurisdictions that have implemented effective programs, have innovated, and have promising practices in these topics.

There are two objectives for the NRRC: First, the NRRC must maintain a national presence and provide resources to criminal justice practitioners and Second Chance Act grantees via the NRRC website and serve as a reentry clearinghouse. Deliverables
for this objective include: to maintain and enhance the NRRC website, which can be found in the solicitation; cultivate, develop, and distill research literature about reentry practices; and house and publicize resources cultivated and developed through targeted policy and technical assistance; publicize a reentry toolkit, to be completed in 2019, including an online version for jurisdictions interested in establishing or assessing a reentry initiative. It must highlight publications, tools, research, and key websites that can be used to ensure jurisdictions’ programs and projects, draw on evidence-based practices and the experiences of other jurisdictions. Another deliverable is to encourage and facilitate collaboration, and that includes developing and disseminating actionable strategies for reentry stakeholders to leverage existing federal, state, local, and/or philanthropic resources to enhance reentry and reduce recidivism. The NRRC must also house and publicize resources cultivated and developed through targeted policy and technical assistance, and that includes developing content for the Public Safety Risk Assessment Clearinghouse and providing updates on the current state of the field regarding the use of risk models and information on best or promising practices in the use of risk models.

The second objective for the NRRC is to advance knowledge and practice among grantees and criminal justice practitioners on specific topics that directly intersect with reentry. Deliverables for this objective include: to serve as the primary technical assistance provider for state, local, and tribal jurisdictions that receive Second Chance Act grants to help them improve reentry and reduce recidivism by meeting the objectives and deliverables of their grant-funded projects. Please refer to the overview of Training and Technical Assistance Expectations on page 5 of the solicitation for additional details regarding the delivery of training and technical assistance. Work with OJJDP Second Chance Act grantees to provide tools, training, and resources aimed at helping youth, parents, guardians, youth-serving professionals, and communities; identify and address collateral consequences of incarceration; and provide training and technical assistance to OJJDP’s Children of Incarcerated Parents grant. The specific topics that intersect with reentry are health benefits, and that involves working to improve people in reentry’s access to health care and health outcomes; employment, and that means working to improve the work readiness of released inmates in reentry, and improving fair-chance hiring practices to receive them. It includes evidence-based practices — working on the adoption and implementation of those practices. Another topic is collateral consequences, and that involves providing assistance to better identify and address the indirect consequences of criminal conviction and keeping up to date and training jurisdictions in the national inventory on collateral consequences of conviction, a repository of state legislative and regulatory collateral consequences. Civil legal aid is another topic, and that involves providing technical assistance to build the legal services capacity needed to help with record-cleaning, expungement, and related civil legal services. In this regard, the NRRC will also be expected to lead, with the Department of Labor to support the jointly funded National Clean Slate Clearinghouse. The last two topics are risk assessment and inmate behavioral management. For risk assessment, the NRRC should deliver distance training and targeted technical assistance to grantees and criminal justice practitioners regarding the science and practice of risk and needs assessments to inform decisions at various points in the
criminal justice system. And, lastly, for inmate behavioral management, the NRRC should initiate intensive work in local and state agencies to improve behavioral management techniques by lessening correctional agencies’ dependence on restrictive housing as a management tool, increasing the safety and working conditions for correctional officers, and ensuring staff have the training and tools they need to support positive behavior changes in inmates, which can lead to positive outcomes upon release. Please see the solicitation for greater detail about each of these topics. BJA plans to make one award, for the NRRC, of up to $7,370,000 [correct amount is 7,300,000] for a 12-month period. And with that, onto Category 2.

TIM JEFFRIES: The second category is the RSAT or Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Training and Technical Assistance Category. RSAT is the formula award or block grant program that has been in existence for more than 20 years. In 2010, BJA received authorization to award up to 3% of the annual formula award for training and technical assistance. This is to ensure practitioners in the field are able to receive the best assistance possible when dealing with correctional substance abuse treatment and preparing the clients for reintegration back into their communities. There are many objectives for TTA, for the RSAT Training and Technical Assistance TTA, which I've summarized here, to include provision of targeted TTA to state-based grantees and to their 300 subrecipients. Again, awards are made to the State Administrative Agencies or Department of Corrections, depending on the state set-up, and subawarded to local prisons and jails. Oftentimes, depending on the annual appropriation, the selected provider must be creative in delivering the TTA by maximizing resources to address as many jurisdictions as possible with limited dollars. BJA funds a robust website, www.rsat-tta.com, which must be maintained to house relevant publications, webinars, and updates for RSAT TTA communities. If you preview this site, you will see a myriad of resources including e-learning platforms designed to educate practitioners on such topics as women-specific services, MAT integration, co-occurring treatment, and other useful topics. The integration of MAT is a top priority of BJA and the administration to ensure RSAT participants are fully aware of the evidence-based MATs and how RSAT facilities can integrate MAT into existing correctional programming. And, as I mentioned prior, the BJA provider must update and deliver the following curricula as requested: HIV prevention, trauma-informed care, co-occurring disorders, and MAT as the condition of aftercare. And BJA has added an additional option for one additional curriculum to be added in response to the emerging needs of the field at the current time.

Now about the award; currently, the RSAT Formula Award for state and subgrantees is $30 million, and the 3% set-aside for TTA is currently $900,000 for FY ‘19. The selected provider must meet all RSAT objectives and be responsive to the needs of the field, using this amount. We also are requesting the provider deliver TTA in accordance with the Promising Practices Guideline, a guideline developed by BJA and several public and private partners to assist jurisdictions as they integrate evidence-based services. Thank you. And now we will move to the next category.

THOMAS TALBOT: Hello. I'm going to explain and describe Categories 3 and 4 of BJA's Comprehensive Corrections Training and Technical Assistance solicitation. Both
of these categories focus explicitly on PREA, which stands for the Prison Rape Elimination Act. This is an important federal statute that was passed unanimously by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2003. Before talking about the two specific PREA categories in this solicitation, for context, let's take a few minutes to talk about BJA's overall PREA Program for fiscal year 2019. BJA's 2019 PREA Plan focuses on carrying out and funding the Department of Justice's numerous obligations and requirements, as defined in both the PREA Statute and the National PREA Standards, which were released by DOJ in 2012 as required by the original PREA Statute. BJA's 2019 PREA Plan is also intended to provide as many opportunities as possible for organizations and agencies to apply for federal PREA funding. BJA will compete three important pieces of PREA-focused work in fiscal year 2019. These include Category 3 of this Comprehensive Corrections Training and Technical Assistance solicitation, which focuses on the ongoing operation of the National PREA Resource Center; and Category 4 of the solicitation, which focuses on PREA Site-Based Technical Assistance to BJA PREA grantees, and the field. So, a very important takeaway point here is that BJA is separating out the Site-Based Technical Assistance function that has previously been part of the PREA Resource Center. The third piece of PREA-focused work that BJA is funding and competing in fiscal year 2019 is supported by a separate solicitation that was already released by BJA on March 13th, 2019. Applications for it are due on May 22nd, 2019. This solicitation is entitled "Implementing the PREA Standards, Protecting Inmates, and Safeguarding Communities" and is intended to provide funding for state, local, and tribal jurisdictions and agencies. Moving to the next slide, let's talk for a few minutes about Category 3 of this solicitation: the National PREA Resource Center, or PRC. The PREA Statute states that DOJ will establish "a national clearinghouse for the provision of information and assistance to federal, state, and local authorities responsible for the prevention, investigation, and punishment of instances of prison rape." BJA will continue to fulfill this important statutory obligation through the PRC. The PRC will carry out a wide and expanding array of mission-critical activities that support the ongoing efforts of BJA and its PREA Management Office to uphold DOJ's numerous statutory obligations related to PREA. The PREA audit function has been and remains one of the most important elements of BJA's PREA implementation work. In the absence of robust and meaningful PREA audits that hold agencies and facilities accountable for their obligations under the National PREA Standards, and without meaningful corrective action periods that promote movement in the direction of standards compliance, BJA's PREA implementation efforts will not be successful. The PREA audit function requires a substantial and growing investment of resources as the number of agencies and facilities nationwide that are focusing on PREA implementation and conducting PREA audits grows. As a result, BJA will continue to prioritize the work of the PRC related to enhancing the quality and integrity of PREA audits. Beyond providing crucial support to all aspects of the complicated and multifaceted PREA audit function, the PRC will also continue to provide state-of-the-art, cost-effective training and training resources to the field on an array of issues related to PREA. For example, PREA-focused sessions at national conferences will be conducted into the future, and the work to make practical, accessible PREA training opportunities available online will remain a focus of the PRC. Another example of the kind of training work that will continue to be supported by the
PRC is training for key constituent groups that play important roles in PREA implementation, such as PREA Coordinators and Compliance Managers, Mid- and Line-Level Facility Staff members, Agency and Facility Administrators and Directors, and many others. BJA also expects the PRC to continue to develop resources that are responsive to the evolving PREA needs of the field. The current Standard in Focus documents, which are available on the PRC website are one example of such resources designed to provide a brief explanation of a given standard. The Standard in Focus documents summarize common challenges related to the implementation of the standard being covered as well as tips and strategies that focus on how to overcome these challenges.

Moving to the next slide, there are a number of specific objectives to be accomplished by the PRC to be competed under this solicitation. I just underscored the importance of the work that PRC is doing, and will continue to do, to promote high-quality, objective, comprehensive, and reliable PREA audits in federal, state, and local agencies and facilities nationwide. There are numerous important deliverables related to this objective that focus on PREA audits, which include managing and enhancing the rigorous PREA Auditor Training and Certification Program, as described in the PREA Auditor Handbook. This handbook, which is the most important PREA-related document since DOJ released the National PREA Standards in 2012, serves as the foundation of BJA’s PREA audit oversight process and ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and integrity of PREA audits. There is a link to the handbook in the Category 3 narrative. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the handbook and the proposed strategies that promote high-quality, objective, comprehensive, and reliable PREA audits that are consistent with the requirements for DOJ-certified PREA Auditors articulated in the handbook. Other key deliverables in Category 3 of this solicitation that are related to the PREA audit function include overseeing the application process for individuals interested in becoming DOJ-certified PREA Auditors; conducting one 40-hour, classroom-based PREA Auditor training; carrying out the first three of nine anticipated PREA Auditor Field Training Program, or FTP, events that will be required following the 40-hour Auditor training; and reviewing and providing feedback on the first two PREA audit reports done by Auditors who are on probationary certification status. Please note that there is more information in the Category 3 narrative of this solicitation on probationary certification. Other important deliverables in Category 3 that are related to the PREA audit function include administering the process to recertify DOJ-certified PREA Auditors every three years as required by the National PREA Standards, providing training, resources, and assistance to DOJ-certified PREA Auditors and supporting all aspects of the PREA Audit Oversight Program, that is directed by the PREA Management Office within BJA. Once again, for more information about this Audit Oversight Program, BJA strongly encourages potential applicants to review the PREA Auditor Handbook. The PRC competed under this solicitation will also continue to manage the PREA Online Audit System, or OAS. The OAS is intended to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of PREA audits for both DOJ-certified PREA Auditors and agencies and facilities receiving and participating in PREA audits. There’s a link to the OAS in the Category 3 narrative of this solicitation. Moving on to the second PRC objective on this slide, I just want to emphasize, again, the very important role the PRC
plays in providing current, practical, user-friendly training to the wide array of practitioners, policymakers, facilities, and agencies nationwide that have responsibility for PREA implementation. Moving onto the next slide, the PRC will also continue to serve as a national clearinghouse which, as noted earlier, is an explicit requirement in the original PREA Statute. Regardless of who you are or what you do, if you are interested in PREA — or if you have responsibilities related to the PREA Standards and efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities — you should be able to go to the PRC website and either quickly and easily access the information you need or be directed to the location or resource that is most helpful to you. In addition, the PRC will continue to support the efforts of BJA and the PREA Management Office to conduct strategic outreach to and communicate effectively with the wide array of key constituents, stakeholder groups, and professional associations that have responsibilities and interests related to the National PREA Standards and PREA implementation. The perspectives and insights of these constituents, groups, and associations must continue to inform the ongoing PREA efforts of the PRC and BJA. As noted on this slide, the PRC will also work with BJA to solicit, review, select, and administer two or three PREA mini-grants for up to $50,000 per grant. BJA recognizes that PREA implementation efforts across the country continue to evolve and improve, and these mini-grants are intended to support new, emerging, and promising efforts to implement the National PREA Standards and to promote sexual safety in prisons, jails, juvenile facilities, community confinement facilities, and police lockups. There’s currently a PREA mini-grant program that’s administered by the PRC in collaboration with BJA, and the link to more information about this program is provided on the slide and in the Category 3 narrative of this solicitation.

On the next slide, and as stated in the solicitation, BJA anticipates making one PRC award in fiscal year 2019 for up to $5.5 million for 13 [12] months. The $5.5 million figure reflects the amount that’s available from the fiscal year 2019 PREA appropriation after BJA has funded other mission-critical PREA implementation obligations. The planned project period reflects BJA’s expectations and calculations related to the spend rate of the PRC in the coming months and the forecasting BJA has done related to increases in PRC expenditures, as PREA audit activity and other PREA-related efforts across the nation continue to expand. Now, moving on to Category 4 of BJA’s Comprehensive Corrections Training and Technical Assistance solicitation, which is entitled “Site-Based PREA Implementation Support.” Beyond the mission-critical work of the PRC that BJA will compete under Category 3 of this solicitation, Category 4 focuses on the delivery of individualized, site-based technical assistance to BJA PREA grantees and the larger field that focuses on preventing, detecting, and responding to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities and implementing the PREA Standards. I’ll put another way (and I stated a few minutes ago), BJA has, in fiscal year 2019, made the strategic decision to separate out the delivery of individualized, site-based technical assistance to the field from the PREA Resource Center. However, BJA wants to underscore and strongly emphasize the second bullet on this slide. BJA expects the PREA work funded under Category 3 and Category 4 of this solicitation to be strategically linked and integrated, even if different organizations or teams of
organizations are competitively selected to administer each one. On this next slide, now that we’ve talked about PREA Category 3 and briefly about PREA Category 4 of this solicitation, and before moving on to talk about the specific objectives and deliverables related to PREA Category 4, I want to focus briefly on a number of eligibility considerations that may be of interest to potential applicants. As mentioned previously, there is another PREA solicitation from BJA that was — that was released on March 13th, 2019, entitled "Implementing the PREA Standards, Protecting Inmates, and Safeguarding Communities." Applications for funding under this separate BJA PREA solicitation are due on March [May] 22nd, 2019, and eligible applicants for it include only states, units of local government, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior. As stated under the Eligibility section of this other PREA solicitation, "To prevent potential conflicts of interest, recipients and subrecipients of funding under Categories 3 and 4 of the Comprehensive Corrections Training and Technical Assistance solicitation are not eligible to be subrecipients for awards made under this grant announcement." In other words, organizations that are awarded funding under PREA Category 3 and/or PREA Category 4 of BJA's Comprehensive Corrections Training and Technical Assistance solicitation — being discussed during this webinar, either as award recipients or subrecipients — cannot, and I emphasize the word “cannot” also be subrecipients under the awards made to state, local, and tribal jurisdictions via BJA's other PREA site-based solicitation entitled, again, "Implementing the PREA Standards, Protecting Inmates, and Safeguarding Communities." It is BJA's intention for the PREA-specific support, technical assistance, and training for the field — including for the state, local, and tribal jurisdictions funded under BJA's site-based solicitation — to be provided by the organization or organizations funded under PREA Category 3 and PREA Category 4 of the Comprehensive Training and Technical Assistance solicitation that we are covering during this webinar. I will also go — I will go through this again because it's very important. Organizations that are awarded funding under PREA Category 3 and/or PREA Category 4 of BJA's solicitation that we — that we are reviewing today cannot, and again I emphasize the word “cannot” also be subrecipients for the awards made to state, local, and tribal jurisdictions under BJA's other site-based solicitation entitled "Implementing the PREA Standards, Protecting Inmates, and Safeguarding Communities." BJA anticipates that potential applicants — that is, PREA TTA providers — may ask if, despite the concern about potential conflicts of interest, they can still apply for funding under PREA Category 3 and/or PREA Category 4, and for funding as a subrecipient with one or more applications that are submitted under a PREA site-based solicitation. Such an approach would obviously give a potential applicant — a PREA TTA provider — the largest number of opportunities to be selected to receive fiscal year 2019 PREA funding. The answer to this question is "yes"; a PREA TTA provider can apply for funding under both solicitations. However, an applicant cannot be funded under PREA Category 3 and/or PREA Category 4 of the solicitation that is the focus of this web — this webinar and be funded as a subrecipient under BJA's other PREA site-based solicitation. If an applicant is selected by BJA for funding under PREA Category 3 and/or PREA Category 4 of the solicitation and is also selected for funding as a subrecipient under BJA's other PREA site-based solicitation, BJA will require that applicant to choose whether they will be funded under the solicitation we are discussing
during this webinar or funded under BJA's other PREA site-based solicitation. Put simply, applicants may apply for PREA funding under both the solicitation being discussed today during this webinar and BJA's other PREA site-based solicitation, but they cannot be funded under both solicitations. In the event that a state, local, or tribal jurisdiction that is selected for funding under BJA's other PREA site-based solicitation loses an identified subrecipient because that organization selects to be funded by BJA under PREA Category 3 and/or PREA Category 4 of the solicitation that is the focus of this webinar, BJA will make a PREA award — will still make a PREA award to that state, local, or tribal jurisdiction. A focus of the work that BJA does in support of that jurisdiction will then be to develop an alternative strategy that does not include their originally identified subrecipient to achieve the jurisdiction's PREA grant goals and objectives. To ensure that this is clear to all potential applicants, we've developed a hypothetical scenario to illustrate it, starting on the next slide.

The hypothetical situation focuses on two entities that are, in this illustrative example, pursuing BJA PREA funding in fiscal year 2019. These entities are State A and Sunshine Consulting Incorporated. In this hypothetical, State A submits an application to BJA under the PREA site-based solicitation that was released on March 13th, 2019, that is, once again, entitled "Implementing the PREA Standards, Protecting Inmates, and Safeguarding Communities." And State A includes, as is allowable, Sunshine Consulting in its application as a subrecipient to support State A's PREA implementation efforts. State A's application is excellent and highly responsive to all of the requirements in the site-based solicitation and, as a result, BJA selects State A for funding. Sunshine Consulting, in addition to being — to being included as a subrecipient in State A's application under BJA's site-based PREA solicitation also submits a separate application to BJA for funding under Category 4, site-based PREA implementation support of the solicitation that is the focus of this webinar. As it turns out, Sunshine Consulting's application under Category 4 is excellent as well, and BJA selects Sunshine Consulting for funding. So, in sum, Sunshine Consulting is included as a subrecipient in an accepted application submitted by State A under BJA's PREA site-based solicitation, and selected to lead work under Category 4 of the solicitation that is the focus of this webinar. So, the key question is, what happens to Sunshine Consulting and to State A in regards to PREA funding in fiscal year 2019? The answer is on the next slide. Prior to making any awards to State A or to Sunshine Consulting, BJA will require Sunshine Consulting to choose whether to be funded by BJA as a subrecipient to State A under BJA's other site-based PREA solicitation or to be funded under Category 4 of the solicitation that we are discussing during this webinar. In regards to State A, if Sunshine Consulting decides to stay with State A as a subrecipient under BJA's PREA site-based solicitation, that's great — State A and Sunshine Consulting can work together. However, if Sunshine Consulting selects the other PREA funding option that is available to them and decides to accept funding under Category 4, rather than to serve as a subrecipient to State A, State A will lose its subrecipient. However, I want to emphasize strongly that BJA will still make a PREA award to State A. BJA will then, as stated on this slide, assist State A to identify an alternative strategy or a way forward that does not include Sunshine Consulting as a subrecipient but that still achieves State A's PREA grant goals and objectives. I hope this makes sense, but to be sure, I'll
summarize it a final time. So, if an applicant that is a provider of PREA-focused training and technical assistance is selected by BJA for funding under one or both of the PREA categories in BJA’s Comprehensive Corrections Training and Technical Assistance solicitation that is being covered during this webinar — and is also selected for funding as a subrecipient to one or more state, local, or tribal jurisdictions under the PREA site-based solicitation that was released on March 19th [March 13], 2019 — BJA will require that applicant, the PREA TTA provider, to choose whether they will be funded under the solicitation that is the focus of this webinar or funded as a subrecipient under BJA’s other PREA site-based solicitation. To close out this important section on eligibility, PREA TTA providers may apply for PREA funding as recipients or subrecipients under one or both of the two PREA categories in the solicitation that is the focus of this webinar, and for funding as a subrecipient in one or more of the applications submitted by state, local, or tribal jurisdictions under BJA’s other PREA site-based solicitation. However, these PREA TTA providers cannot, because of concerns related to potential conflicts of interest, be funded under both BJA solicitations. Moving to the next slide, I’ll now talk about the specific objectives and deliverables of the site-based PREA assistance to be delivered under PREA Category 4 of BJA’s Comprehensive Corrections Training and Technical Assistance solicitation. These objectives focus on three very important constituent groups that will be the targets of the work to be done under Category 4. The first group, as already emphasized, includes the state, local, and tribal jurisdictions that are competitively selected to receive site-based PREA grants in fiscal year 2019 from BJA under the other PREA solicitation that was released on March 19th [March 13], 2019. Once again, for this solicitation — this other solicitation is entitled, "Implementing the PREA Standards, Protecting Inmates, and Safeguarding Communities," and applications for it are due on May 22nd, 2019. The following are deliverables related to the objective of providing targeted support and assistance to BJA’s fiscal year 2019 PREA grantees. First, supporting and guiding the BJA PREA grantees in their development during the initial months of their grant periods of comprehensive PREA implementation plans that are consistent with the National PREA Standards; that prioritize their needs and challenges related to PREA implementation; and that identify strategies to address these needs and challenges. Next, providing onsite strategic support and assistance to the fiscal year 2019 BJA PREA grantees, it’s expected that a TA Leader/Coach will be assigned to each PREA grantee and that TA Leader/Coach will make at least two site visits — each approximately three days of length — to every BJA PREA grantee. Other key deliverables related to supporting BJA’s fiscal year 2019 state, local, and tribal PREA grantees include delivering ongoing targeted and individualized PREA implementation assistance to grantees following the finalization and approval by BJA of their PREA implementation plans; identifying and mobilizing a team of expert practitioners that will be called upon as needed to support the efforts of BJA’s PREA grantees; developing a PREA planning and implementation template that can be used to provide cost-effective support to future PREA grantees that are competitively selected and funded by BJA; and making publicly available the innovative and promising work that is accomplished by the BJA PREA grantees, using the infrastructure and communication networks of the PREA Resource Center. As emphasized a few minutes ago, regardless of what organization or organizations are selected to carry out the work under PREA Category 3 and PREA Category 4 of the
solicitation, the efforts under the two categories must be closely coordinated and integrated.

The second constituent group to receive site-based support and technical assistance under PREA Category 4 of the solicitation includes the states and territories whose governors submit assurances to the Department of Justice as required by the PREA Statute and are, as a result, in receipt of Byrne/JAG Formula Grant Program PREA Reallocation Awards from BJA. BJA is going to link these assurance states and territories to the competitively selected TA Provider or Team of Providers under PREA Category 4 of this solicitation because BJA is highly committed to ensuring that these states and territories use their reallocated Byrne/JAG PREA grant funds in ways that move them in the direction of compliance with the PREA Standards. The assistance provided to these states and territories will be remote rather than onsite — given resource limitations in the deliverables related to the objective of supporting BJA’s fiscal year 2019 Byrne/JAG PREA reallocation grantees — include developing a comprehensive understanding of the scope and focus of these reallocation awards, and identifying states and territories whose reallocation applications demonstrate that they would benefit from the limited offsite assistance available under this program, and responding to requests for PREA implementation assistance from the jurisdictions in receipt of BJA’s Byrne/JAG PREA Reallocation Awards.

Moving to the next slide, the third constituent group to receive site-based technical assistance and support under PREA Category 4 of this solicitation includes agencies, facilities, and organizations across the nation that reach out and ask for help, so the competitively selected TA Provider or Team of Providers under Category 4 of this solicitation will be responsible for responding to requests for PREA technical assistance from the field. More than 1,000 PREA-specific questions and requests for help are submitted by the field each year. Because of limited resources, BJA expects that the vast majority of responses to requests received from the field will be handled remotely. The specific deliverables related to the objective of providing cost-effective PREA technical assistance in response to requests for help from the field are as follows. First, creating and implementing a process to market the availability of PREA TA and the triage requests for assistance. As stated in the Category 4 narrative of this solicitation, applicants may propose a small number — that is, five or fewer — of more intensive, advanced TA responses that require onsite support and more substantial investments of time and resources.

A second deliverable focuses on initiating intensive work in one local and one state agency seeking compliance with the PREA Standards to institutionalize agency and facility staff buy-in to eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement, and to use this buy-in to promote successful implementation of the PREA Standards. There are a number of very specific, important requirements associated with this deliverable, including creating materials and a strategy to market the availability of this unique opportunity, and an objective process to select the two agencies — again, one local and one at the state level — to participate. Identifying and documenting the steps needed to promote an institutionalized broad agency and facility staff buy-in to eliminate
sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement; clarifying and articulating the key roles of agency and facility leaders and staff in promoting zero-tolerance cultures; implementing new strategies to enhance agency and facility staff capacity and resilience, so that staff are empowered to play active roles in preventing, detecting, and responding to sexual abuse and sexual harassment in facilities; and marketing the positive outcomes of this culture-change initiative, so that they can be leveraged and replicated in other agencies and facilities nationwide. So, in summary, there is a lot of critically important work to be done under PREA Category 4 of the solicitation, which focuses specifically on the provision of Site-Based PREA Implementation Support and Technical Assistance. Once again, and as stressed already, BJA is in fiscal year 2019 using Category 4 of this solicitation to separate out the provision of site-based technical assistance from the PREA Resource Center. BJA also wants to emphasize that the same organization, as long as it meets the eligibility requirements outlined in this solicitation, may apply for funding under both Category 3 and PREA Category 4 of this solicitation. Or an organization may apply for funding under only PREA Category 3 or only PREA Category 4. Put simply, an eligible organization may apply for funding under both PREA categories in this solicitation or under just one of the PREA categories, either as the primary grant recipient or as a subrecipient.

And finally, on the next slide, BJA anticipates, under PREA Category 4 of this solicitation, to make one [or two] award[s] of up to $2.2 million that will cover a 15-month project period. $2.2 million reflects the resources available in the fiscal year 2019 PREA appropriation after BJA has funded other critical PREA implementation obligations with this appropriation. And the 15-month project period reflects BJA’s expectations and calculations related to the delivery of Site-Based PREA Implementation Support and Technical Assistance in the coming months. BJA’s expectations and calculations are based on recent PREA TA expenditures, the very high priority that BJA places on the delivery of quality site-based PREA TA and implementation support, and the forecasting that BJA has done related to the expanding PREA needs of the field, as increasing numbers of agencies and facilities focus on their PREA-related requirements and obligations, begin PREA implementation activities, and pursue PREA audits. We will now move on to explain and describe Category 5 of BJA’s Comprehensive Corrections TTA solicitation, which focuses on training and technical assistance on improving wellness support for institutional corrections employees. Thank you very much for your attention.

RACHEL BRUSHETT: The fifth category is Improving Wellness Support for Institutional Correctional Employees. This category is slightly different than the preceding categories, as it does not include providing direct services to grantees. In this category, BJA seeks a TTA provider to conduct a national scan of state corrections agencies regarding their current practices in place through their training academies and in-service training. These are trainings to address correctional officer needs related to wellness, retention, and job satisfaction. The TTA provider will also be asked to identify high-quality curricula and gaps in the available resources to support officer wellness as well as provide BJA with information and suggestions to develop guidance around what works to improve correctional officer wellness. This category will result in one award of
up to $750,000 over 24 months. The sixth category is Improving Institutional Corrections Academy Training. Like the previous category, this one does not include providing direct services to grantees. In this category, BJA seeks a TTA provider to conduct a national scan of state corrections agencies regarding the focus, content, and quality of their academy training programs and the extent to which jails and prisons around these states are utilizing this training. The TTA provider will be asked to identify high-quality curricula and gaps in available resources as well as provide recommendations to BJA to develop guidance for supporting the development of key skills and knowledge needed by today’s correctional workforce. This category will result in one award, up to $750,000, over 24 months. And on to the next category.

HEATHER TUBMAN-CARBONE: Category 7 is about Evaluation and Sustainability Support for Second Chance Act grantees. This training and technical assistance category is distinct from the National Reentry Resource Center being competed in Category 1. Second Chance Act grantees across the country receive awards from BJA to develop, implement, and test strategies to increase successful reentry and community supervision outcomes. These grantees use innovative and evidence-based practices to inform demonstration projects, efforts to improve staff capacity, and to make systemwide improvements. Evaluations are required in some SCA grant programs, generally through a research-practitioner partnership. And BJA is seeking a TA provider to enhance the capacity of a subset of the fiscal year 2019 Second Chance Act grantees; to conduct rigorous evaluations and sustain reentry strategies that reduce recidivism; to create a model process for enhancing this capacity that can be used by future grantees to make rigorous evaluation and sustainability more feasible and accessible; and then, lastly, to communicate the results of strategies tested by SCA grantees to the field. To be clear, this provider is not being asked to conduct an independent evaluation of the site; rather, this TA provider is being asked to assist the site to conduct rigorous evaluation and sustainability plans. BJA expects this TTA provider will develop deliverables in consultation with BJA and that the deliverables will include publications, reports, webinars, and other resources that meet the priority needs of policymakers and practitioners in the corrections field. Applicants should propose to develop criteria to select approximately 25 fiscal year ‘19 grantees across Second Chance Act funded programs to receive evaluation and sustainability assistance. This selection can be based on the grantee’s proposal material and follow-up conversations with grantee staff as needed. And priority consideration should be given to grantees whose proposals include a randomized controlled trial or otherwise rigorous evaluation method to assess a clearly defined intervention. Applicants should additionally propose to — with selected SCA grantees — assess evaluation, and data skills, and knowledge and then provide actionable recommendations to those grantees and their research partners to help them get evaluations ready. This TA provider will also develop and use tools to track evaluation progress with SCA grantees and to share those tools via the National Reentry Resource Center with other SCA grantees. This TA provider will also provide recommendations to selected grantees midway through the project period, inducing grantee-specific recommendations to improve implementation and their evaluation-related data collection. This TTA provider will develop an evaluation report template to be utilized by all Second Chance Act grantees, tailored to each SCA grant
program wherein an evaluation is required. This provider should also develop and use sustainability planning guides with the selected SCA grantees and share those planning guides via the NRRC with other SCA grantees. This provider will disseminate summaries of preliminary and final evaluation reports from selected Second Chance Act grantees. And grantees’ individual evaluation partners will assist with implementing the recommendations that this TA provider delivers to the grantees themselves. BJA anticipates making one award of up to $2,000,000 for a 48-month period of performance. Now, on to the next category.

ANDRE BETHEA: And this is Category 8, Improving Safety for Institutional Corrections. Improving Safety for Institutional Corrections is the latest opportunity that BJA seeks a TTA provider to achieve the following objectives: Identify and disseminate best practices, including technological solution implementation on comprehensive contraband interdiction systems for state and local correctional facilities. Make available competitive subawards to correctional facilities to implement technologies to prevent and limit cell phone contraband and provide the technical assistance on reviewing policies, procedures, and technology implementation.

And the last objective: make information publicly available, including an online toolkit or other agreed opportunities for this particular new and developing issue in state and corrections. BJA intends to make one award up to $1.8 million dollars for 24 months. Again, one award up to $1.8 million dollars for 24 months. Keep in mind that includes the sub-awards that have been disseminated under this grant. And now, we’re moving on to additional information criteria for this particular solicitation.

RACHEL BRUSHETT: And now, some additional information that may be useful to you as you complete your application. When BJA reviews your application, different weight is given to each section of the narrative and supporting materials. The requirements for each section are detailed further in the solicitation, so please review carefully. As you can see here, this is the general outline of the review criteria. Okay. Some additional resources available to applicants — particularly those who are new to the process of applying for a federal award — BJA created a grant-application education webinar series, which can be found at the link listed on the slide. These webinars can help walk you through the process of applying for a BJA award. Webinars include “Funding Opportunities for Your Community in 2019: An Overview of What's Ahead,” “The First Steps to Applying: Prepare Now,” “The Federal Funding Process: What New and Seasoned Applicants Should Consider,” and “Submitting Your Application: Avoid These Common Mistakes.” On this final slide here, there are some additional resources you might consider accessing as you work through your applications. The links are listed above: OJP Funding Resource Center, DOJ Grants Financial Guide, DOJ Grants Financial Management Online Training, 2019 OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, and NIJ’s CrimeSolutions.gov. Lastly, on this page you’ll find important contacts for Grants.gov and NCJRS.gov. Applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting your application. For technical assistance when submitting an application, as
well as questions about the solicitation, please contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline or the NCJRS number listed above.