

OPERATOR: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode until the question-and-answer session. At that time, to ask your question, you may press star-one on your touchtone phone. The conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. I will now introduce your conference host, Ms. Leslie Green. You may begin.

LESLIE GREEN: Thank you so much, and hi, everyone, this is Leslie Green at the Administration for Community Living in the Office for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian programs. I've been with this office for, I think, a year and a half now and was also working for this office about a decade ago. So hopefully some of you know me, and I look forward to getting to know those of you who I haven't met yet. Today we're going to talk about Title VI grant administration.

And just so this isn't so much a faceless experience, as webinars often are, this is where I sit in Washington D.C., it's the Switzer Building. So just wanted to give you a picture of where we work out of Washington D.C. to help administer your Title VI grants. And this is me and my little ones, who keep me very, very busy. My son, Henry, is in the middle and is eight months old and not sleeping, and my daughter, Clara, is five years old in kindergarten and also does not sleep very well. [Chuckles] So, if I make any mistakes on this webinar, we can blame them.

Okay, so to get to the content, today we're going to talk about the 2020 grants first because I'm sure you're all anxious to hear an update on that. I'll tell you where we are in the review process. And then we're going to go a little bit back in time to the current grant cycle where we almost are through. We'll do a review of the 2017 to 2019 grant cycle that's coming up to an end soon. We'll talk about closeout for those awards. We'll quickly go over some expenditure data and some PPR data, and then we will talk briefly about some changes that are coming for the next grant period, so the 2020 to 2023 grant period.

Finally, I just want to give an update on large purchase request policy that was recently changed here at ACL. We're trying to make the purchase request process easier for you and speed it up on our end, too, like the routing of it and getting our responses back to you in a more timely manner than we have been in this past year. And then, if we have time, we'll end with questions and answers. But for those of you who are on the Webex portion of the call, you can also feel free to chat in a question, type a question in the chat box, and I can read those at the end of the call. And I also wanted to note, finally, that this call is being recorded, as the operator said, and it will be posted on Older Indians in two weeks at most, but hopefully it'll be up there sooner.

Okay, so an update on the 2020 grants that will start April 1st, 2020; applications are currently being reviewed by ACL Central Office staff with so much assistance from the ACL regional administrators. You will hear from your ACL regional administrator if your application is missing an element that is required for funding. So we're in the process of reviewing these. We should be done by the end of February. At that point, ACL's Office of Grants Management will reconcile the population data that they pooled from the applications with our updated population data that we have been getting directly from you in cases where there have been discrepancies.

So if your regional administrator reached out to you to ask where you got your population data from, it's likely because there was a big jump, either positive or negative, in

your population data since the 2017 application. So, in some cases, we are asking just for confirmation about how you got that data. We just needed a little bit more information. And then, after we do that process, where we—the population data is all finalized—and the population data is all I'm mentioning here because it's what your funding is based on. So there were all—were some other parts to your application, but I'm just talking about population because we're talking about funding.

So after we get the population data finalized, ACL's Office of Grants Management will run the funding band formula on the population data, and the grants will be awarded by April. If you were wondering how much your grant award will be, we don't know yet. I don't have an answer for that. But it will likely be similar to the FY19 award, and I'll show you a list of the FY19 awards, in case you've forgotten what yours was, on the next—in two slides. And you will receive your notice of award in one installment. Like in past years, when we've had continuing resolutions, you've gotten a little bit of money in April, and then a little bit has come in September, but this year, we were fully funded for FY20, so your award will go out in one installment.

And I should say your award will go out in one installment if you have submitted all of your reports for the FY18 reporting period. So if you have not yet turned in your FY18 425 report, which is your fiscal report, you need to do so before you can receive your Title VI grant award for the next grant period. We are all set on FY18 program performance reports, but there are still missing some of the fiscal reports. So, just to clarify, the FY18 period is the reporting period covering April 1st of 2018 to March 31st of 2019. And these were the reports that were due July 30th of 2019, so these are very, very outstanding reports. Most—almost all of the reports are in, but we are still missing a few. So please contact anyone [chuckles] to get your report in, if you're missing it. I'll have a list of contact information at the end of the presentation.

Okay, so here is the funding allocation for this last grant cycle. So it's not super helpful for determining the next three years' funding, but I just wanted to give some context to the 2020 award. I also wanted to share this because during the application process it became apparent that some people did not know how the programs—like how the grants were funded, what they were based on. So the grants are not competitive. They're formula grants, and the formula is based on the number of the elders you have that are age 60 and older living in your service area. So for the 2017 to 2019 grant awards, that was the number of elders age 60+ as reported in your 2017 application.

And we only ask for that information once during those three years, and then it determines which funding band you're placed into at the beginning of the grant period. And, as you can see on the slide, there is—let me cheat [counting]—there's like eight different funding bands, and they go by hundreds, approximately, and because you need to have 50 eligible elders to receive a grant, the smallest funding band is 50 to 100 elders, and then it goes up from there, to the largest, which I think is actually quite large. It's like 30,000. But then there's the 100—the funding bands in between that are separated out by like hundreds.

I also wanted to keep this up here for a second just to say, because we did not receive a substantial increase in Title VI funding for FY20, there is a chance that your Part A/B award will look similar to FY19. I can't say if it will look exactly the same because we've gotten some new grantees, so that increases the population over here and can change the allocation because

we're having to fund more programs and more elders, but there is a chance it will be similar to this—these two far-right columns, 2019 Part A and Part C.

Okay, so that's all I wanted to say about the kind of grant application review and where we are now. So to talk a little bit about closeout of the current grants, here are some important dates and some important things to do as we close out this three-year project period. So March 31st of this year is when the project period ends for the FY19 grants, and 90 days following that is an important date, June 30th, 2020, and you must do the following by June 30th; you have to submit your final PPR report, and that PPR report is going to be your FY19 report, and it covers the period of April 1st, 2019 through March 31st, 2020. You have to submit your final SF425 report, and we also need you to draw all funds from PMS.

For the PPR and the 425 report, you will still do your reporting in the same online system that you've always used, our kind of antiquated Title VI online reporting system where you have to log in with your username and password, and there's a place to enter your PPR for Part A and Part C, if you're a grantee for Part C. And then there's a separate—usually there's a separate login if you have—if you report your 425, and you will report both of those in that same system that you've been using for the past however many years. No changes for this grant period that ends 3/31/20.

And a little bit more about the June 30th, 2020 date, it's when your final fiscal report is due, so that's your 425, and by June 30th, all three of these things should be equal. So Line G of your 425, which is the total federal share, that should be equal to the amount that's showing on PMS as your drawn, and that should also be equal to the amount showing in PMS that's listed as your dispersed, and that's—the dispersed category is what's reported on your quarterly federal cash transaction report. If you do not know what these terms mean, like 425, PMS, or federal quarterly—or federal cash transaction report, please contact your fiscal folks in your program, and they can assist you. They should be able to tell you how much of your funds you spent and, you know, whether your 425 has been submitted yet, and they should be able to show you what PMS looks like.

And, sorry, I'm trying not to use too many acronyms, but PMS is the Payment Management System, and it's something that—it's how you access your funds. It's something we can see on our end, as the granter, but it's also something the grantees have access to. Okay, so those three things are supposed to happen by June 30th. And what happens after June 30th, why is that an important date? Well, after June 30th, your funds are going to be considered expired. And when funds are expired, PMS does not automatically approve drawdowns from those grants.

PMS will, instead—again, this is Payment Management System, and they're part of the federal government—they will instead reject any drawdowns after June 30th on these grants because the grant period has expired, and they will email ACL's Office of Grants Management for approval, like can you accept this drawdown, should we be allowing this drawdown to occur even though the grants are expired? And then, [chuckles] Office of Grants Management contacts us in the Office for American Indian Programs, and we contact you and ask why you're trying to drawdown funds after the grant period expires, and we will need a strong justification from you for why those funds are—should be approved.

And we are certainly willing to listen to you. We do not want the money going back to treasury. This is not trying to encourage that in any way, but we'll just need justification as to

why the grants are being requested late. So please, please spend your money now. Please spend it before June 30th, at the latest, and please spend it before March 31st, when the project period ends. As of January 2020, these amounts that are on the screen right now are the amounts that are showing as unspent for Title VI grants.

So Title VI Part A and B, the nutrition and supportive services programming, we're showing \$17 million unspent as of January, and that's 19% of the amount awarded, so—with two months left in the—and not even two months at this point, but as of January, two months left in the grant cycle, that number is—the 20% figure is not that concerning. That's 20% of funds that are unspent, so two months left, I think that's what we'd expect to see. But, in Part C, in caregiver funding, we have 36% unspent funds, and that's \$9.5 million. If you do not know how to spend your Part C money, you are not alone. There is a lot of confusion about it, and we want to help you get that money spent. Please contact your regional administrator. I'll have their contact information available at the end of the slide show and ask them for guidance on that.

Also, we have about \$2 million remaining in NSIP or Nutrition Services Incentive Programming, but that is also just about 18% remaining with two months left in the award—or in the grant cycle, so we are mostly concerned about Part C funds. We do not want to spend—we do not want to send money back to treasury. I'm sure, if we send any back, you will hear about it at the conference from Cynthia, so let's try to leave her speechless. And so that is—that's all I wanted to say about fiscal reporting for this current grant period that we're in.

But I did want to make a quick mention for the final program report, the Program Performance Report is your PPR. Your 2019, or FY19, PPR covers the period of April 1st, 2019 to March 31st, 2020. PPRs are important. It might feel like you're sending that information into a black hole [chuckles] and it never gets looked at, but we definitely do look at it. Your PPR data is the source of everything that goes onto AGID, which is ACL's data website. It's all publicly available information, and it is down to the tribal and grantee level, so anyone can go on AGID's website and find out exactly, you know, how many services your tribe provided, your grant provided, in any given year.

They are also the source of the data we report to Congress. We have to do an annual report to Congress, not just Title VI but in conjunction with the other Older Americans Act programs, and we always have a section in there on how many meals have been provided, and we get that data straight from your PPR. And, finally, they are important because they are the sole source of your NSIP funding. So I showed you that slide a few slides back where it was the funding bands and your population data, that data determines your Part A and your Part C awards, which are usually the largest awards. But your NSIP data is meals funding, and it's based on the number of meals that you provide in any given year.

And because our grant year is what it is and our reporting year is what it is, we are always like two cycles back on when your meals data impacts your NSIP award. So, for instance, this upcoming reporting—this upcoming—yes—reporting period, your FY19 PPR report, how many meals you provide as reported on your PPR, congregate and home-delivered, will directly impact your FY21 NSIP award. So that will be the award that's granted in April 1st of 2021. For the upcoming April 2020 awards—[chuckles] this is a lot to keep track of, so please follow up if you have any questions or if I can clarify anything—but for your FY20 award, that NSIP award is taken from the amount of meals you reported in FY18. So what you just reported

on your FY18 PPR, that was due back in June of 2019, that's going to determine your NSIP award.

That is not the case, your FY20 award, if you are a new grantee, is determined by the number of—the estimated number of congregate and home-delivered meals that you provided on your application. But, if you are a current grantee, your application meals data will not impact your NSIP award. And, as I mentioned before, but to reiterate because I—because things might get a little confusing with PPR reporting in this coming year, to do your FY19 PPR report, you want to use that same, little bit rickety, old online system to report your data. So just as you've always been reporting your data online and with the same form, that is what you want to do for the reports that are due June 30th, 2020.

So, as I mentioned—I think, at least—[chuckles] PPR data is important. It is publicly accessible, it goes to Congress, and it's used for your NSIP funding. I don't think we do a great job of reporting your data back to you, though, so this is kind of just to start that conversation and, in future years, we would like to report your data back to you more frequently, so not just at the end of the year but to have like real-time check-ins throughout the year. But, at this point, we just have the annual data.

So this is FY18, which is the reporting period of April 2018 to March 2019. This is the Part A/B, Nutrition and Supportive Services PPR data. So Title VI supported 772 full-time staff, served more than 2.5 million congregate meals to almost 65,000 clients, served another 2.5 million home-delivered meals to about 22,000 clients, provided 521,000 units of information and referral services and about 775,000 units of transportation. So, if you are looking to provide a case for increased funding in your program and you want to show what you do with the limited dollars that you're given, you can use your PPR data to support that. And if you need any assistance in getting that PPR data, you can always contact your regional administrators or ACL Central Office, and we can help you make a case for increased funding, not necessarily in Older Americans Act funds, that would be something we are not allowed to do, but in other rounds, if you're looking to apply for other funding.

And so Part C is our caregiver programming, and with those grants, you all supported 399 full-time staff, provided 245,000 units of respite to over 3,200 people, and there's a lot more caregiver data, but it was—it's almost too much, so I just included two services here. And the same was actually—the same can be said about Part A, there was a lot more services that you provide numbers on, but I just pulled out some of the highlights. So the information—caregiver information services, almost 200,000 were provided to 41,000 clients. So you all—I guess I just wanted to call out these numbers because it shows the work you do in just one year, and it's pretty dang awesome.

Also, I guess I would just say, if this data looks weird to you at all, which it probably will not because it's at the national level, this is all Title VI grantees, but if you were surprised with this data in any way and thought it would be different, like based on your own reporting or your knowledge of your program and other programs, basically, if we can improve your reporting accuracy and make sure that you are reporting correctly, that is a big part of our job, it's what we're here to do. So there are some changes that are coming to the PPR that will probably help improve data and reporting over the next few years, but if you have any questions about this national-level data, please let us know.

Okay, so I am not trying to get confusing here, but I do need to give you some heads-up about the FY20 PPR that's coming. So FY20 is the reporting period of April 1st this year to March 31st next year, and then all future periods going forward is not FY20, but that's what we're talking about—right now I'm going to talk about this year's FY20 reporting period, and then it applies to the future reporting periods as well. There is a new PPR form. You probably already know about this because it's had to go through OMB's PRA clearance, which is when we ask for your comments and feedback, how can we make this form work for you better? So you may have already seen the new PPR form, and we've also been talking about it at like literally every conference we go to, so this should not be super new to you, unless you're a brand-new director.

But you do need to change the form you're using starting in April, starting when you collect data in April, but you may need to even do things before April to get ready. Like if you have a—like a custom-built client tracking system, some of the reporting elements have changed, and some of the definitions of what counts as a contact have changed. So you definitely want to check out olderindians.acl.gov/grants. It's just—it's right on the front page of Older Indians, so that grants part is not necessarily something you need to remember, but we will put all of the resources available to support you through this transition to the new PPR reporting form on that website.

ACL Central Office and regional administrators are definitely available for assistance there, too. There is another change to the PPR. So I've made two slightly snide comments about our old reporting system that we currently use, and this is the last year we will be using it because, starting with the new grants, which, again, begin in April, and then have a 2021 reporting—2021 is when the reporting will open for the new grants, but you'll begin collecting data April 2020. The reporting will be done in the Older Americans Act Performance System. So that's called OAAPS. We are going to be providing lots of training on that.

I think it's also been mentioned at all Title VI conferences, it should also not be surprising that we're moving to this new system. Resources, again, for both the new PPR form and the new reporting system will be available on Older Indians, and ACL Central Office staff and regional administrators are receiving a lot of training on these—on both items so that we can support you through this change. I hope that it will be an easier experience for reporting. There are some big changes to it, so it'll, it'll be, it'll be a year. Sorry. Laura, is that better? Can you chat me, Laura?

LAURA: It got a little quieter for me actually.

LESLIE GREEN: It got quieter, okay.

LAURA: But, yeah—a couple people said that you need to speak louder.

LESLIE GREEN: Thanks. Is this any better, Laura?

LAURA: That's better from here.

LESLIE GREEN: Okay, thanks. I'm sorry, I'll try to speak louder. I think—okay, so that is the changes that are coming for the program performance report. I will say next month's Title VI webinar we are having, it'll be dedicated just to the new PPR form. So training will be available, resources will be available, we will be there to hold your hand through this process. Kay. That's not the end of the changes; the 425 reporting is changing slightly as well. So, again, this does not impact your FY19 reporting, just your FY20 and future reporting periods. You will use the same 425 form that you've always used, but reporting will not be done on our old system like it is going to be done this year, starting with the 2020 grants and the reporting period that opens April 1st of 2021, reporting for fiscal will be done in PMS.

So your fiscal people should already be familiar with PMS. They may even be reporting the 425's in PMS for other grants. We've just always had this separate system for our Title VI grants, and that is going away. So training will be available for that, how to do 425 reporting and PMS. It is not available at this time. It will be available in the future. We will send out announcements about it. We also are not trying to confuse you, though, with the fact that you still have your FY19 reporting to do in the old system. So this is just a heads up that things are changing for the 425 reporting as well, but no changes are required at this time on your part.

Okay, and the last thing I am going to cover today, it's a few slides, but it's our updated purchase—large purchase request policy, and this is definitely relevant to this time of year, the grant closeout time, because, hopefully, you'll all be spending down your grant funds, and you might have some large purchase requests with those grant funds that you are definitely spending by March 31st. So there is a federal policy that equipment purchases exceeding \$5,000 must receive prior approval from the awarding agency, in this case, ACL, prior to their purchase, and equipment is defined as tangible, personal property, including IT systems, having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more. So that's where we get that \$5,000 threshold.

So if you have a purchase request that is \$5,000 or more, you will want to work with your regional administrator to complete the required information. We ask for some basic stuff, like your contact information. So we also ask for specific things about the purchase, that I'll go over in two slides. You should not purchase the equipment until you receive written prior approval from ACL, and once you do get that approval from ACL, you'll want to follow your own tribal organization's preparation policy. So the first step is working with your RA to get that request to ACL Central Office, and then you would wait to hear back from ACL Central Office, it will be the Office of Grants Management.

At the current time, it's Damian Francis who you'd be receiving a message from. He's our person in charge of approving these requests, and you would get that, and then you could follow your own policy. So what we ask for in this request is a few items, nothing—I don't think—too complicated. So we need your grant's name, the name of the tribe, we need your contact information and grant number, we need three written bids for the same piece of equipment and an indication of which bid you are choosing. If you are incredibly rural or if you have some problem obtaining those three bids and can only get one or two bids, that's okay, you just need to let us know why.

You'll also want to describe the intended use of the equipment and how the equipment will benefit the Title VI program. We also ask for the percentage of funding and time the equipment will be used by the program. We ask if the equipment can be purchased with other

funding sources other than our federal grant funds. We ask you to provide an analysis of lease and purchase alternatives. I have seen grantees write in, leasing is not an option for us because the tribal policy prevents us from leasing, which is totally fine. We are not looking to—again, we are not looking to turn these requests down, we just need certain information so that we can approve them.

And we also—I think the final thing is the buy-American requirement; we need you to attach information that indicates the equipment is produced in the U.S. And there's not like a super high bar on these things; if you can just indicate like that's it's an American car, if you were purchasing a vehicle. Again, we're trying to get these things turned around quickly to you and also approved. We want the money spent, but we just need to check some boxes on our part. And so what happens after you submit this information to your regional administrator? I wanted to go over this quickly. It seems a little detailed, but I wanted to share it with you just because, in the past year, we have had a problem getting these back to you all in a timely manner, and I do apologize for that.

I know it's impacted your ability to purchase some of these items when we have slowed you down, so I wanted to include this like procedure about how we do it here so that you know what's happening and also just a heads up that we should be able to turn these around much quicker going forward. So after the regional administrator gives the request to our office here in Central Office, it's reviewed, and we recommend approval for it or go back to the regional administrator to ask for more information so that we can approve it, then we forward it to the Office of Grants Management. They take a look at it and make sure it meets their requirements, and then they will respond directly to you, and usually cc your RA, letting you know that the purchase has been approved.

I have seen these being turned around I think like in a day now, whereas before I know it was weeks or months, so I think we've improved there, and I'm sure—I think that's going to continue, too, so. I—this—I did want to mention, this information is also available on Older Indians. There is like a template that you are welcome to use. It is not required in any way. It is just provided so that you can have all the information in one place that we are asking of you for these large purchase requests. It's just a template, and it's not required, but it is on our website, Older Indians. So you can just fill that out and send it to your regional administrator if you have a large purchase you need to make.

So I've mentioned regional administrators so much in this call, and I apologize for the picture down here not coming through, but here are your regional administrators; Jennifer Throwe for Region 1, which covers Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island. Rhonda Schwartz covers Regions 2, 3, and 4, which is New York, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Amy Wiatr-Rodriguez is Region 5, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin. Derek Lee covers Region 6, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Lacey Boven is Region 7, covering Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska. Percy Devine is Region 8, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. And Shelly Zylstra has the very big regions of 9 and 10, so that covers all of Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Alaska, Iowa—Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

So these people are always available to answer your questions, as are these people in ACL Central Office, so Office for American Indian Programs. As you may have seen in Cynthia's Friday newsletters, our office is growing. It used to be just Cynthia and Cecilia, and they did an

amazing job holding things down and moving things forward, [chuckles] to mix metaphors, and then I joined relatively recently, and just in the past three months, we've had two additional new staff join us, David Long and Jasmine Aplan, and they've already been amazing contributions to this team.

So feel free to email any of us or call us with questions. [Unintelligible]. Alright, Q-and-A time, if everybody is still awake. And I will say, I do not do well on the spot, so if I can't answer your question now, please be patient with me, and I will be able to follow up in writing if you can give me your contact information, or you can send me an email, or, again, any of the people listed on the previous two slides, and I will keep those slides up as we go through the question-and-answer session so that, if I'm not giving you a response you like or one that makes sense to you, you can contact someone else. Hopefully my responses will not be that off-the-wall, though. So, operator, would you please open the line?

OPERATOR: We'll now begin our formal question-and-answer session. If you would like to ask your question, please press star-one on your touchtone phone and record your first and last name. To withdraw your question, you may press star-two. So, once again, to ask your question, please press star-one on your touchtone phone. One moment for the first question.

LESLIE GREEN: Thank you.

OPERATOR: The first question is coming from Bernetta Miller, your line is open.

BERNETTA MILLER: Hi, Leslie. Do you guys have a date yet when the new training is for the new form, the new PPR form? Is there a date yet set for that?

LESLIE GREEN: Yes, it'll be—thank you so much, Bernetta—it will be next month's monthly webinar, so let me get my calendar up—and, Laura, correct me if I'm wrong—but is it March 11th is our next webinar? Is that right, Laura?

LAURA: Yes, that's correct.

LESLIE GREEN: Yeah, so March 11th will be a webinar on the new PPR.

BERNETTA MILLER: Perfect, thank you.

LESLIE GREEN: At 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

OPERATOR: The next question is coming from Cynthia. Your line is open.

CYNTHIA: Oh, thank you. I was going to ask the same question, but I missed the date, March 11th—did you say March 11th?

LESLIE GREEN: Exactly, yes, Wednesday, March 11th at 2:00 p.m.—Eastern Time, sorry.

CYNTHIA: What time do we sign in by, the same time like today?

LESLIE GREEN: Yeah, I noticed a lot of people started to get on at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time today. The webinars always start at 2:00 p.m. Eastern, we just open the lines early so that like the presenters can log on. But the information, the webinar, the presentation will start at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

CYNTHIA: Okay, that was my question, thank you.

LESLIE GREEN: Thank you so much.

OPERATOR: The next question is coming from Monica. Your line is open.

MONICA: Hello. Do you have a copy of the PowerPoint available, or will that be saved on your website as well?

LESLIE GREEN: It will—[chuckles] it will be on—sorry, I'm—it's a very simple question, and I'm laughing at myself because I don't have a simple answer. It will be on Older Indians, on our website, within two weeks. We have to make sure it's 508-compliant, so it's readable or accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you would like a copy before that, I can certainly email it to you. You can email any of the people on the screen right now or any of your regional administrators, and I can make sure all of them have a copy of it as well.

MONICA: Oh, thanks. I'll send a note to Amy. Thank you.

LESLIE GREEN: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Once again, if you do have a question, please press star-one on your touchtone phone. The next question is coming from Luciano. Your line is open.

LUCIANO: Okay, my question is to request for large items, like I want to purchase a vehicle.

LESLIE GREEN: Yeah!

LUCIANO: Is there a form that I—because I've talked to Cecilia before when you guys had the conference in Minneapolis. Because I'm a new director here at Santo Domingo Tribe, and—

LESLIE GREEN: I know you, Luciano. I hear you, yep, [chuckles] Luciano.

LUCIANO: Is this Leslie?

LESLIE GREEN: Yeah, hey!

LUCIANO: Hi! Yes, because I tried—I sent an email to Cecilia about the request for the two vehicles. I haven't heard anything yet.

LESLIE GREEN: And that is—thank you so much for that question, Luciano. It's a new like procedure that we have in place to make sure that these get routed where they need to go in a quick way, and now that we have additional staff, we are able to do that faster. So the form—or, sorry, it is not a form. It is just a template that, if you would like to use it, you can go to Older Indians, and there's a template available on the website that shows you the information we need from you to be able to approve the request. So if you fill that out and then send it to your regional administrator, who is Derek Lee . . .

LUCIANO: Okay.

LESLIE GREEN: . . . he can get that routed where it needs to be, and you should hear back relatively quickly, as long as we have the information that's needed.

LUCIANO: Yes, the only thing is I only have one quote from an agency here in the State of New Mexico, which does the shuttle busses, and it's with Creative Busses, and I tried going to other dealerships, they don't do the shuttle busses. So I only have one quote—price quote on this. So is it okay if I just submit that one?

LESLIE GREEN: Yes, so there is a space on the template that says, attach three different bids, in the little space that's there, you would just write, was only able to obtain one bid for the reason that you stated.

LUCIANO: Okay, okay. And I'll go ahead and do that this afternoon or tomorrow and submit it to you. And then you talked about—somebody about Donovan Francis or . . . ?

LESLIE GREEN: Damian Francis is the person who works in ACL's Office for Grants Management. So when we receive your purchase request, we send it on to them because they're the like official approvers, since they're the ones that like work for ACL Grants Office and can officially make those kinds of decisions, so you may see an email coming back from Damian Francis. That's why I mentioned his name, because you might get an email directly from him instead of your regional administrator or another name that you're familiar with. So damianfrancis@acl.hhs.gov is the person approving all of our purchase requests currently.

LUCIANO: Okay, so the first thing I need to do is contact or send it to Derek Lee, and from there, it will go through within a day or two, right?

LESLIE GREEN: That is how things have been happening in the past, that's how quickly they've been happening. We've been able to get them over to the grants office very quickly lately, and then they have been turned around by the grants office very quickly as well. I don't know what their workload is like in the coming months, so I don't know how quickly they'll be able to be

turned around, but we're on a pretty good streak now. So, yeah, I would say you should hear within a week. And, if you don't, you can always write us back.

LUCIANO: Okay. Because the thing is, I—it's almost like the end of the month of February, and I want to get—purchase these two vehicles, and—

LESLIE GREEN: Yeah, we want you to purchase them, too. We want you to spend your funds, please, on, of course, allowable costs.

LUCIANO: Yeah, because the thing is we need it for transportation for picking up clients for congregate and stuff like that, transportation for recreational, to go out shopping and stuff like that for the seniors. So that's the reason why we need these two new—the vehicles we have are in the 80s.

LESLIE GREEN: Uh-huh.

LUCIANO: —very, very old.

LESLIE GREEN: Wow!

LUCIANO: And I don't trust them to go out of the pueblo to go into the city, so that's why I'm trying to get new vehicles. Since we have excess money available, I want to purchase them. I want to purchase one through Title VI and one through the caregiving program, so—

LESLIE GREEN: Okay, and—yeah, and if you were going to use it—if you were going to purchase it with caregiver funds, you would need to make sure it was tied to caregiver activities.

LUCIANO: Okay, yes, it's going to be tied in with both of them [phone ringing] okay.

LESLIE GREEN: Okay, thank you, Luciano.

OPERATOR: The next question is come from Sarah. Your line is open.

SARAH: Hi, Leslie, this is Sarah from New Mexico, San Felipe Pueblo—

LESLIE GREEN: Hi, Sarah!

SARAH: —to be specific. I was just wondering, with all these new—the new database, the new PPR system, all that stuff, will there be a new guidance coming out as well? Because I know that the guidance that's available on Older American—Older Indians is reflective of the current PPR system, and I think it would be valuable for a lot of the new directors to have something to refer to as we go through this transition of change for the new system and, you know, the new requirements under the PPR.

LESLIE GREEN: I completely agree, Sarah. Thank you so much for bringing that up. And I am going to try and share my screen right now to show you where we have put things on Older Indians. And they've just been put there recently. And I know our website does not always change very much, you know, very frequently, so I can understand if anybody hasn't been to this site in a while, but there has been some updated information. I'm showing it now on my screen, if everybody can see it. So here's the updated policy for the large purchase requests. You can click there, and the template is here. This is all just on the front page of Older Indians. We also have an update on the PPR.

We've got a comparison—and I apologize for the title of this, we need to get this retitled—but it's a comparison of the old PPR form and the new PPR form and where there are elements that are different, elements that, you know, were in old form but not the new one, ones that are in the new form but not the old one, and ones that have changed, so we call that out in this sheet right here. And then this link is just a little bit about the changes that are coming. So it does link to OAAPS, which is, again, that new online reporting system. Nobody has access to that yet. So like no grantees can access that yet. You're—we'll talk about that later, about how you'll be getting access to it, but if you just wanted to see the website, it's linked here. The new PPR form and the instructions for the form are also linked here.

SARAH: So the manual that came out in the 70s is still going to be used as we transition into this new system? I know, a couple years back, there was talk about updating it because it was when, I guess, Title VI first became established, and that's what I was referring to. Because I know a lot of directors use that as a reference for definitions, for examples, for, you know, a variety of different things, and I guess my deal is, if you're going to update the PPR and the system, I think the manual itself should be updated as well.

LESLIE GREEN: Thank you so much, Sarah. I totally agree, and that is a project—that's kind of on me that that hasn't happened yet. Cynthia did ask me to do that, and then, with the applications this past year, it got pushed to the backburner, but I can make that a priority now that the applications are almost through their review. We have a date, actually our whole team, to work on the manual, so it will be updated overall soon. But even sooner than the whole manual is updated, the PPR guidance in the manual will be updated. That is being done out of a different office than ACL, and the like appendix and reporting forms in the manual will be updated. I guess, were you looking—would you, Sarah, want it with an updated version like linked online? Because I—or are you imagining that we would send out hard copies to like—

SARAH: I have a hard copy, and I do also access the online one. But I'm just thinking of all the directors who don't have the technical support or the technical equipment to access the one online, so I think having something more hard copy available to everybody would be beneficial.

LESLIE GREEN: Okay, okay.

SARAH: Because I know, when I'm out of the office, I leave it for my staff to reference, if they need to.

LESLIE GREEN: Okay. Thank you so much, Sarah. I will make a note about that.

SARAH: Okay. And then, the last question I have is in regard to the funding, I know this is a big issue for me and a couple other program directors, Title VI program directors, and we brought this up in the tribal consultation, it is my understanding that there is approximately 17 new tribes that have applied for funding, and my question is, with the increase in appropriations to Older Americans Act, which Title VI is a part of, with the new grantees, how are you planning on funding them, or is there enough funding for, you know, everyone to get sufficient funding to operate their Title VI programs? Because I just don't—it worries me that existing grants, the grantees depend on these funds, but then we have new grantees who are also needing these funds, so one of the points that we were making was to prepare adequately, and I just don't want to have anybody lose money that is really operational dollars for them.

LESLIE GREEN: Yeah, thank you, Sarah. You're a great advocate. I hear you, and I totally agree with you, and . . . so, yes, you're right, there are about 17 new applicants. Some of them are current grantees that have just like changed consortium members, so they're considered a new grantee. So it's not 17 new tribes, but there will be probably 13 additional grantees. And, as I mentioned, we are pretty much with a little bit of extra money, pretty much like flat funded since FY19. So FY20 funds are not going to be that different from FY19 funds—

SARAH: Okay, with that, that's not going to affect training dollars, is it?

LESLIE GREEN: No, like national conference and cluster training type stuff?

SARAH: Yeah, we've been having discussions with a number of people, and that was one of the things that was mentioned, was that it was recommended that, if there isn't enough money, to take from the training dollars, which kinda scares me because then we depend on your webinars and your cluster trainings, and the—

LESLIE GREEN: Yeah.

SARAH: —conference for a lot.

LESLIE GREEN: Yeah. Yes, good question, and, no, there's no—for FY20, we're still planning on doing the national training. It's going to be in Reno in August. We'll still do cluster trainings. We'll definitely still do webinars. Just for your information, I'm not sure if this is helpful at all, and I really do appreciate your questions, and I totally agree with everything you're saying, we are trying to develop a tribal consultation policy here for ACL, like so that we can go to people like you with decisions or questions exactly like the ones you're talking about, like, hey, funding is flat, we've got all these new grantees, how—what kind of changes do we need to make, or how should we—what should we do when new grantees comes into the Title VI program next cycle, how should we deal with that? So, in the future, we hope to get more direct input from the tribes on those issues. But, in the meantime, I know you know Cynthia, and I'm sure—I think you're one of her, quote, unquote, daughters, so I'm sure that she is already aware of this,

but if you want to reiterate this concern directly to her, I'm sure she would love to have a conversation with you about that.

SARAH: Yeah, I emailed her, but she hasn't responded to me.

LESLIE GREEN: Yeah, she's been so busy. All these—the new staff are helping her out, but, yeah.

SARAH: All right, thank you.

LESLIE GREEN: Thank you, Sarah.

OPERATOR: And once again, to ask your question, please press star-one on your touchtone phone. One moment for the next question. [Pause] And, at this time, we have no further questions in queue.

LESLIE GREEN: Okay, then I will wrap up since we're about to the end of our hour. Thank you so much—

LAURA: Leslie, I'm sorry, this is Laura, but I just forwarded to you, there were a couple that came in in the chat. I don't know if you can see your chat, but there were a couple more questions there.

LESLIE GREEN: Thank you, Laura.

LAURA: Sure.

LESLIE GREEN: Oh, yeah, I'm going to—[chuckles] to not answer those questions because I—those are questions that I will try to create a slide for and attach to this presentation because those are good questions and I am not—I need to get additional guidance on those, but—

LAURA: Okay.

OPERATOR: And we do have another question in queue, if you would like to take that.

LESLIE GREEN: Ah! I really was trying to get out of this. Okay. Please, go ahead.

OPERATOR: Cynthia, your line is open.

CYNTHIA: Oh, this is Cynthia Little Voice again from the Ponca Tribe in Oklahoma.

LESLIE GREEN: Hey, Cynthia.

CYNTHIA: Getting back to the purchase a vehicle. I'm also a new director. I was a director many years ago, and then I retired, and now I came back, and I can see how everything is changing or has changed, seven years ago. And I was interested in more information on the purchase of vehicles, how do I obtain that maybe take up your time to be talking to you today, how do I get that information on just purchase a vehicle?

LESLIE GREEN: Sure. So if you're—if you need a vehicle like that's, you know, the use of it would be related to nutrition, supportive service, or caregiving programming, you can request a large purchase through your regional administrator. And you said you're Ponca of Oklahoma?

CYNTHIA: Yes.

LESLIE GREEN: Okay, are you on the webinar component right now, or are you just on the phone?

CYNTHIA: I'm on the phone, but my computer was down from yesterday to today because all the computers went down, and they just set it back up for me. Would you like my email address so you can . . . ?

LESLIE GREEN: That would be wonderful. Yes, please.

CYNTHIA: It's poncaelders55@gmail.com.

LESLIE GREEN: Okay, elders55@gmail. Okay, so, yeah, you—we'll just fill out a little bit of paperwork and submit the request to your regional administrator, and then he will send it on to our office where it will be recommended for approval, if everything is in order, and then, when you receive the approval from ACL, you can go ahead with that purchase.

CYNTHIA: Okay, thank you.

LESLIE GREEN: Thank you, Cynthia.

OPERATOR: No further questions from the phone at this time.

LESLIE GREEN: Okay. [Chuckles] Cool. Thank you all so much for your time. This webinar will be available on Older Indians within two weeks, but I will also send a copy of it out to your regional administrators so you can request one from them, they are on the screen right now, and then also request a copy of this from any of these individuals as well. So, thank you, and I will see you in Reno in August. Take care.

OPERATOR: This will conclude today's conference. All parties may disconnect at this [audio cuts out]